

# Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

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## No jobs Slums Riots



# GUILTY!

**THE TORIES live in a different world. At their annual jamboree in Blackpool, the rich celebrate their good fortune. For this smug minority, the last six years have seen the money rolling in.**

For everyone else, they have been six years of misery. While big business profits have soared, unemployment has reached an all-time record. While the Thatchers can buy a £500,000 luxury house, the rest of us live in housing that needs £20 billion to bring it up to standard.

While Thatcher proclaims that "last year this country had the highest standard of living of all time", inner-city areas are erupting in violence, as young people vent their fury against the hopeless future they are offered.

In the Tories' dream world, all that is needed is better 'marketing' to promote the benefits of their policies. Nothing is ever their fault. Lord Young, Employment Secretary,

blames employers for being "too soft over pay demands" which will amaze low-paid trade unionists. Party vice-chairman and millionaire, Jeffrey Archer, blames unemployment on the unemployed "who don't want to do a day's work or have found a scheme for collecting unemployment benefit and a little bit over the top."

### Racist poison

On the fringes of the Tories, another scapegoat is being sought. Harvey Proctor MP has demanded that blacks living in Britain, most of them born here, be paid £7,000 to be sent 'home' to 'their own countries'. His only motive is to spread the poison of racism, by implying that black people are responsible for the Tories' failures. His bigotry is shared by many of the police who are conducting brutal attacks on young blacks.

The Tory government are guilty of creating mass unemployment, rising poverty, and a climate in which young people, especially blacks, have nothing

to lose, nothing to gain. There are millions of angry, desperate people on the streets of Britain. It is up to the labour movement and its young activists to reach this dispossessed generation and convince them that understandable though it is, taking on the police on the streets is not the way out of the nightmare.

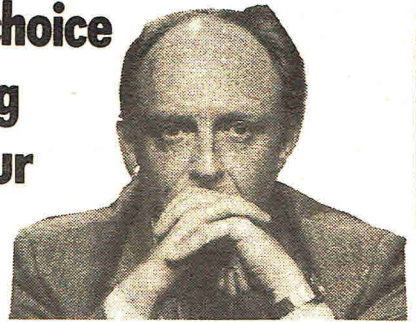
It is up to the Labour leaders to show there is a way forward, to follow the example of the miners and the workers of Liverpool and demonstrate that Thatcher can be beaten.

A Labour Party committed to socialist policies can draw these millions into its ranks to play a historic part in transforming society from one of waste, futility and despair, to one where a job is the right of all, poverty is eliminated and power is in the hands of the working people who create society's wealth.

By Pat Craven

## Inside...

The choice facing Labour  
8-9



Tottenham anger flares  
2



### Read Militant, sell Militant

ALL EYES are now on *Militant*. The Tory press is daily attacking the paper and the principled stand taken by its supporters on Liverpool City Council. In Liverpool itself there has even been an anti-*Militant* demonstration of Tories, Liberals and other opponents of the labour movement. At Labour Party conference Neil Kinnock denounced Liverpool councillors and *Militant*.

But the response of active workers and young people is to rally behind the paper that fights back. The *Militant* offices have received telephone calls from workers appalled by Kinnock's attack who want to know how to receive copies of the paper.

There are thousands of potential new readers looking for *Militant*, not just in the big cities either. Last week 15 were sold in an hour in the little town of Hertford.

The message to every seller must be—do not let the attacks on your paper go unanswered. Give our opponents the best reply possible. Get out this week and sell the paper. Boost *Militant's* circulation and influence.

By the Circulation Manager

Third National Rally  
The full programme of entertainment  
Back miners amnesty  
Support Liverpool council  
**Book now—only three weeks to go**  
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(Deputy leader, Liverpool City Council)  
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Tickets £3  
Labour to power on a socialist programme



### Militant Third National Rally

21st Year celebration  
Sunday 3 November, 1985

Royal Albert Hall, London SW7

All tickets £3 (Cheques to "Militant Rally")  
(Crèche available, but places must be booked)

Doors open 11am

# Tottenham anger flares into riots

ONLY A week after the shooting of an innocent black woman in Brixton, Cherry Groce, another, Cynthia Garrett of Tottenham, North London, has died during a police raid.

The inevitable anger and outrage felt by the community flared into riots in and around the nearby Broadwater Farm estate.

Mrs Garrett's son Floyd was picked up on Saturday afternoon by police on Tottenham High Road. He was later taken to Tottenham police station and charged with an assault on a police officer.

The car Floyd was driving was not stolen, yet police were sent to the Garrett's home supposedly looking for stolen property. None was found. During the search,

Mrs Garrett was pushed to the floor where she lay dying from what was apparently a heart attack, while police continued to search the house.

A peaceful demonstration led by members of the Garrett family was held outside Tottenham police station at 2pm on Sunday afternoon and a meeting was later held at the Broadwater Farm community centre where community leaders spoke.

## Pushed

Violence flared on Willan Road leading onto "The Farm", as it is locally called, and spread into neighbouring streets. Police were bombarded by black and white youths with stones, concrete slabs and petrol bombs as they forced rioters onto the estate and cordoned it off.

Grocery shops were

broken into and food stolen. At this stage shot guns were fired at the police. Rubber bullets and CS gas canisters were produced from police vans, but not used. Later, as the police gained control of the situation and moved on to the estate, the community centre was broken into and smashed up by police officers in riot gear while terrorised community leaders stood helpless.

No one, least of all socialists, can condone rioting. But on an estate where more than half of the 16-8 year olds are unemployed, where police automatically treat blacks as 'suspects', it is understandable that the brutal use of the police force can easily spark off rioting where any available weapon is used.

There must be an independent enquiry with full participation of the local community. This demand must



Riot police in Tottenham, Monday morning

Photo: Philip Gordon (Reflex)

be linked in with that for the police to be accountable to the elected local authority.

But the underlying conditions of unemployment, bad housing and poverty, which are the symptoms of a capitalist society in decay can only be removed by the socialist transformation of society.

It is understandable that youth become cynical

towards a labour movement whose leadership on the most part fails to fight for socialist policies to change their living conditions. But the riots in 1981 did not solve our problems either. Powerless police committees have been set up since and, like the one in Haringey, the police usually refuse to discuss with them.

Working class youth must

join the fight to transform the labour movement, which has the muscle to effectively take up the issues of police brutality, racism, unemployment and bad housing, into one which will lead the working class in the struggle for a socialist society.

By Derek Richards (Edmonton LPYS)



'Outside political agitators are behind this trouble'

(Met Police Commissioner Sir Kenneth Newman)

# CP applaud Kinnock

THE LEADERSHIP of the Communist Party has joined the Tory press in applause for Neil Kinnock's attacks on the miners and the Liverpool councillors.

At a press conference in Glasgow, general secretary Gordon McLennan called the Liverpool City Council's policies "disastrous" and "grotesque". Anxious not to seem to be tail-ending the Labour leader he said he was not "a latter-day convert to Kinnockism", but had "first raised these criticisms a year ago."

## Labour

He was "very pleased that the Labour leader had said what he did at the party's conference last week".

Blaming "the Militant Tendency for tactics which had divided trade unionists in Liverpool", he said: "They have created a potential situation of bankruptcy and disenfranchisement that could open the way for

Liberals and the SDP to walk in and pick up the pieces".

Not a word of blame is attached to the Tory government for its robbery of £360 million of rate support grant from Liverpool. There is nothing about the jobs saved and the houses built by the council. He ignores the support built up among the council trade unions.

And what is his alternative? "Communists support Labour councils which have found other ways to resist the Thatcher government cuts", he said. There are no such councils. All other Labour authorities, except Lambeth either implemented the Tory cuts or postponed them until next year by means of 'creative accounting.' These are the ones which McLennan supports. Liverpool had no 'other way.' McLennan's policies would lead directly to sackings and cuts in house-building and services.

Do CP members in the

building industry and the council workforce support a leader who is advocating a policy which would lead to the sacking of their workmates?

As bad as McLennan's attacks on the miners' resolution to the Labour Party conference. "Very unfortunate", he says it was, "a tragedy as far as the miners are concerned... These motions should have concentrated on immediate questions like victimisation and pit closures rather than on what a future Labour government should do".

## 'Unrealistic'

A similar line was taken by the CP's Industrial Organiser, Pete Carter. In Focus (12 September 1985) he wrote: "the demand for retrospective annulment of all the legal and administrative actions arising during the dispute was misguided and unrealistic." "The adoption of

mistaken sectarian positions by the trade union left merely serves to justify a drift to the right by such people as Norman Willis and Neil Kinnock into positions that they don't want to be in."

The NUM leaders and the left are thus blamed for the "drift to the right," while Willis and Kinnock are absolved of responsibility. Carter goes on to condemn the demand for a general amnesty for jailed miners— "To classify all those imprisoned during the strike as 'political prisoners' implies that any action however individualistic, irresponsible or destructive is beyond criticism if perpetrated by members of a certain trade union." Then he attacks the demand for reimbursement of funds by the next Labour government as embodying "a concept of clientelism (sic) and patronage which should be an anathema to anyone seriously committed to a democratic and socialist society."

These comments confirm the CP's position on the right of the labour movement, certainly to the right of the Labour Party conference.

# Brixton shooting—enquiry demanded

ABOUT 60 people attended a meeting on 3 October in Lambeth Town Hall to discuss the events around the police shooting of an innocent woman, Cherry Groce, in a dawn raid on her home in Normandy Road, Brixton.

A spokesman for the Groce family said that he understood what had happened over the previous weekend but they could not sympathise with anything that might hurt innocent people or put them at risk.

It is now overwhelmingly in the interest of workers and youth in Brixton that a completely independent inquiry, with the full involvement of the local community, is held to look into the shooting incident as well as the general methods and behaviour of the police.

A member of the Brixton Legal Defence Group (which helps to co-ordinate the work of solicitors) gave a report on the number of those arrested. (At the time, 222 arrests had been notified to them. 180 have been

charged, 22 remanded in custody, 15 released without charge, and seven cautioned).

Even school children were being picked up at bus stops after school and taken down to Brixton or Kennington police stations for interrogation and then being released. In many instances police had arrested innocent people who were just standing outside shops, long after those shops had been looted.

Emerson Webster, a member of the Groce family support group and Militant supporter, spoke from the platform and outlined the demands and proposals for the future. It was agreed that a march through Brixton would be held, and funds would be raised to help the family (which includes six children) and also to help the legal defence of those arrested over the weekend of the 28-29 September.

By Kevin Fernandes (Vauxhall Labour Party)

# Bishops answered

THE NEWLY formed anti-racist Merseyside Action Group was quick to reply to Liverpool's bishops who claimed that the appointment of council race relations advisor Sam Bond was partly to blame for the disturbances in Liverpool 8.

They pointed out that the troubles were sparked off by an incident earlier in the day at the city's magistrates Court, and later escalated after the paramilitary tactics of the police who entered Liverpool 8 in massive numbers.

Only a few people were arrested, but many were badly beaten up by police chanting racist abuse throughout the operation.

It was this kind of provocative police action which led to the disturbances in 1981. Even the police

superintendent in charge of Liverpool 8, Jim O'Hara, acknowledged that police tactics were largely to blame. In an article in the Observer, he talks of the 'provocative' and 'overzealous' tactics of the Special Police Units.

This is confirmed by the accounts given by local people. On the morning after the disturbances dozens of people, both black and white, visited Sam Bond's office to complain about the level of police brutality and the unwarranted police invasion.

If the bishops want to make political attacks on the city council that's their business, but they shouldn't use the black community as pawns in their political game.

By Bob Lee

## Liverpool council battle

# Hamilton defends principled stand

**MILITANT** interviewed JOHN HAMILTON, the leader of Liverpool City Council after the one day strike on 25 September by the council's workforce in support of the campaign to defend jobs, services and homes.

*How do you see the response of the Liverpool workforce?*

I think that there is a very cool but determined response from the workforce. They've seen the issue and they see it very clearly, what with all the bally-hoo of the press. The issue is about their own jobs, their future and the well-being of Liverpool. They see the need for the resources which have been taken from us by the government. I think the workforce, in a determined mood, support us in what they think is the best way to get a return of financial resources to the city.

*How do you see the response of the general public as a whole?*

All the opinion polls that have recently been taken show overwhelming support for Liverpool City Council—that it is right in its policy. They show that Thatcher's government is wrong to take away money from Liverpool and that we are right to demand that the money should be returned.

*How do you feel about being made a criminal for standing up for what you believe in?*

I don't wish to be made a criminal. I never wanted that, I have regarded things like breaking into people's houses and robbing them of their goods and chattels as criminal. As far as I am concerned I don't want to break into their houses and steal things off them. I want to give them resources. I want to give them a house. Now that's not criminality in

my opinion, that's generosity if you like but it's also common socialism, common humanity.

*How do you feel about being made bankrupt and possibly imprisoned?*

I have never had that experience before and I have worked all my life for what little I've got. But everybody has to face at some time or other a decision. A man like Nelson Mandela in South Africa could decide that he wants his freedom, if he gave away certain of his principles, but he has not chosen to do that. Myself I don't want to give up my principles either.

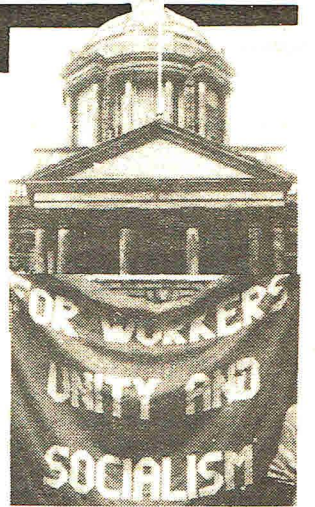
*Over the last few weeks we have seen the media campaign which has suggested that the Labour council is leading the city into mayhem and into a situation where it will never be resolved.*

*What is your answer to this?*

As far as I'm concerned Liverpool is going down this path by the choice of the people. The councillors may be leading the people, but it is a free choice of those people. When you saw the demonstration today, I couldn't demand that everyone of those people join that demonstration. That was their own free choice. One has to realise that the workforce in that demonstration were there because they believe in what they are doing.

*How do you see the fight being taken up now both locally and nationally?*

As I see it we've now got a resolve. We are clearing up all sorts of issues. We are now in the run up to a fight where we must win not only for Liverpool but for the rest of the country.



### The great golf-brolly revolt

THEY CAME in their thousands. About 2,000 to be exact. Liverpool Pierhead had never before seen such an array of full-length sheepskin coats, Moss Bros suits, tweeds and deer-stalkers. The Liberals of 'Muesli' Hill, Conservatives of Crosby and Formby and the middle class of Merseyside gathered to "stand up and be counted" and condemned the militant menace to civilisation as they knew it.

They had assembled their "ordinary people" of Liverpool, had conjured up 70,000 leaflets (without a publishers' imprint), hired a £600 aeroplane advert to fly around the city all day Saturday and had somehow managed to get thousands of pounds worth of free publicity in the local radio and press.

They crowded—as much as was humanly possible considering so many people were carrying six foot diameter golfing umbrellas—around the Pierhead to hear the ritual denunciations. They got what they came for, as one speaker after another bawled out their abuse at *Militant*, at the Labour Party and at Derek Hatton personally.

Only one speaker slipped up when he accidentally mentioned, as he put it, Derek Hatton's "one good point". "At least" he said to frozen glares from his audience, "he has brought jobs and houses to the city". Didn't the speaker realise who he was addressing?

But unaccustomed as he was to public speaking he soon realised the error and quickly recovered. His little mis-hap had only lasted but a few tense moments, before he was off on his tirade again, snarling and slaving about doom and destruction.

The audience was certainly no majority, but they were for the most part silent. They were often drowned out by the hundred or so supporters of the council who had stationed themselves strategically near the front.

It wasn't just coincidence that the organising meeting of this "Liverpool against the Militant" called by local business people was attended by Sir Trevor Jones and Chris Hallows, the leaders of the two 'Tory' parties in the city. It remains to be seen how this fur-coated counter-revolution will swing the city behind cuts and redundancies. I pondered on this as I walked the quiet empty streets back to Toxteth. Meanwhile the tunnel to Wallasey and the road to Southport were choc-a-bloc with company cars on their way home.

By John Pickard

## Labour parties back Liverpool strategy

LIVERPOOL COUNCIL'S stand against the government has generated support from Labour Parties and trades unions from all over the country.

At its meeting on 17 September Wokingham and Bracknell Trades Council passed a motion expressing "its total support for Liverpool City Council and its staff in its stand against the government" and agreed to send £20 to "continue the struggle".

East Berkshire Constituency Labour Party agreed to support Liverpool's fight and donated £55.

North Bedfordshire District Labour Party unanimously passed a resolution from Bedford Labour Party Young Socialists which "applauds the socialist council in Liverpool for providing hope in a city sliding into despair at bad housing and unemployment which have characteris-

ed the city for decades."

The Wakefield Metropolitan District Labour Party voted to fully support Liverpool council in its fight with the Tory government. An emergency resolution from Wakefield LPYS called for unity within the council unions and for the setting up of support groups. It also called on the District Council in Wakefield to establish cash collection points and organise publicity for Liverpool.

The resolution called on the "next Labour government to repay the fines and invalidate bankruptcy and disqualification." Only two people voted against the resolution reports Rachel Turner, Wakefield West LPYS secretary.

North East Leeds Labour Party has expressed its total support for the struggle in Liverpool in a resolution passed at its September General Committee meeting.

The Party donated £50 to the Liverpool District Labour Party appeal fund, reports Darrell Kavanagh.

Get your Labour Party, Young Socialist or trade union branch to support Liverpool council's fight, and send donations to the campaign fund.

A meeting of the Barking and Dagenham Campaign Against the Cuts unanimously passed a resolution giving "full support to any local authority and any individual councillor finding themselves in difficulty as a result of Tory legislation."

"We furthermore congratulate Liverpool City Council under the leadership of councillor Hamilton and councillor Hatton on their principled stand," reports Jim Bailey, acting chairman, Barking and Dagenham Campaign Against the Cuts.



Young Socialists, members of NALGO who work for Liverpool council lobby Labour's conference in Bournemouth. Photo: Dave Sinclair

## Canvassing campaign planned in strife-hit Garston

THE GARSTON area of Liverpool has seen the effects of what a Tory government can mean to ordinary working people.

Unemployment on some estates is reaching 70 per cent. Before the Labour Party in Liverpool came to power in 1983 there were no facilities whatsoever for the unemployed.

Now the Labour council has started to tackle some of the worst housing in Western Europe. Some of the four-storey slum dwellings notorious in Garston will never again imprison workers and their families. New houses and bungalows have replaced them and hundreds of other council houses have been renovated. A new sports centre with the latest equipment has recently been opened which is seen by many of the locals as the first glimmer of hope in a community decimated by Tory and Liberal mis-rule in the city.

There will be a mass canvassing in Garston on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 October.

The District Labour Party is organising six mass canvasses to cover the constituencies between now and the beginning of December. The party has set up a full-time office and telephone to co-ordinate a city-wide campaign to explain the council's case and counter-act the press and media.

● In a canvass held in Speke, where 71 houses were visited, 58 supported the council, eight were against and five were out. There was an excellent response to leafletting in Garston market where one old woman said that her daughter was working for the council. She realised that the redundancy notices did not mean she was being thrown on the dole, but that this was a struggle to save jobs.

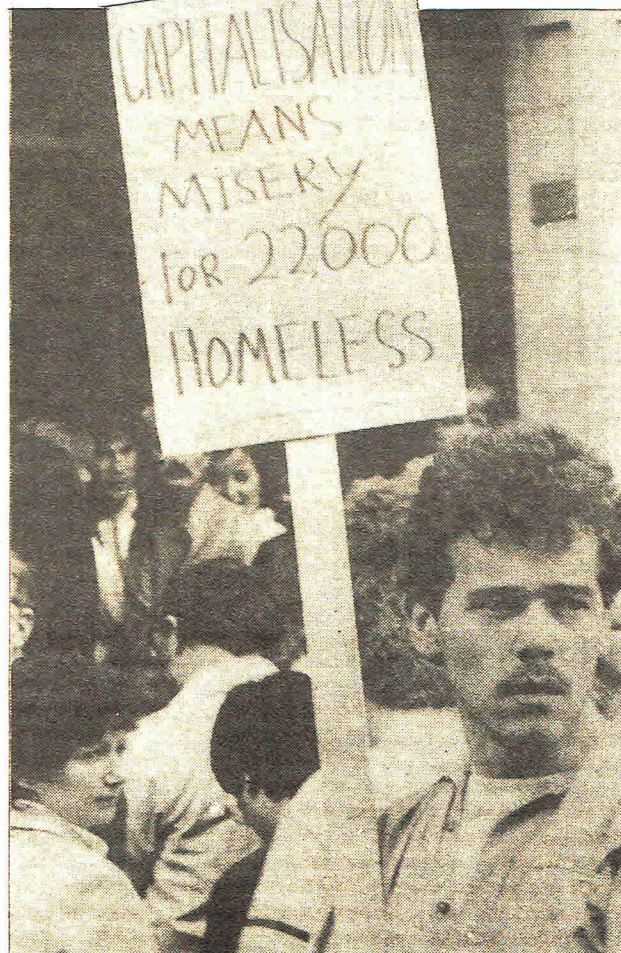
By Gerry McKinley

## Manchester March

MANCHESTER Labour Party Young Socialists and Manchester Liverpool Support Group are calling a demonstration on 19 October aimed at the city's youth to galvanise support and solidarity for Liverpool council.

The demonstration also has the backing of Manchester City Council and will start at 2.15pm at the Manchester Polytechnic Students' Union, All Saints, Oxford Rd.

The demonstration will end in a rally to be addressed by Terry Fields MP, a Liverpool City councillor, Manchester City councillor John Byrne and Tony Cox from the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign.



General and Municipal Union workers lobby mass meeting of Liverpool council NALGO members before the one day strike in support of the council. Photo: Dave Sinclair

# Militant

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## Thatcher's time-bomb

FOR THE second time since Thatcher came to power, a wave of violent eruptions has swept through Britain's inner city areas. The despair of young people facing a lifetime of unemployment, poverty, slum housing, police harassment, and, for the young blacks, racial abuse and discrimination, has exploded into violence.

Rioting, looting, assault and petrol bombing cannot be condoned. They are a blind, futile expression of rage and frustration. But the blame for these explosions rests squarely with the Tory government and the capitalist system which it so enthusiastically promotes. The de-industrialisation of Britain presided over by this government and the consequent cuts in social services have led to the creation of ghettos of the poorest and most deprived victims of the Tories' philosophy of leaving society at the mercy of market forces.

The Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham is a typical example. Built only 15 years ago, it rapidly became the area for the unemployed and the poor. Officially the level of unemployment is 25 per cent, but for those between 16 and 19 it is more than 50 per cent.

As in so many of the poorest inner city areas, more than half the residents are black. On top of all the other social problems, they face the racism of the police and years of abuse and brutality. The callous indifference of the police who raided the home of Cynthia Jarrett, walking over her body while continuing to search for 'stolen goods' was

typical. This was the match which ignited the explosive potential of the area.

It was inevitable when the riot police invaded the estate on Sunday evening that there would be retaliation from some of the young people. Drug-pushers and other criminal elements may have played a part. There can emphatically be no defence for the burning and looting of local shops and houses and violence against local residents. But the prime responsibility for the injuries and death which followed lies with the police and the Tories.

The police, the press and Tory ministers are now baying for a crack-down. Plastic bullets and tear gas were ready for use in Tottenham on Sunday. It can only be a matter of time before these deadly weapons are unleashed. After the Brixton riots four years ago, Lord Scarman's report called for more sensitive policing methods, with more community involvement. This was never paid more than lip service. Now the spokesmen of the ruling class are not even talking of such measures, because they know that in Brixton, unemployment and poverty have got worse since 1981. No change in policing methods could overcome the social crisis for the young unemployed.

As well as increased police intervention on the streets, there is a threat to use the riots to attack labour movement activists, by insinuating that they are involved in fomenting trouble. Police chief Sir Kenneth Newman talked of "agitators... trying to stir up trouble... who were thought to be Trotskyists or anarchists". Norman Tebbit claimed that very large and influential elements of the Labour Party "seem to spend so much time on attacking the institutions which protect the citizen, namely the law and the police force."

The Times spelt it out: "Those hard-faced leftists de-

nounced last week by Mr Kinnock are no strangers to the idea of urban insurrection and some of them, perhaps, to its practice. These groups must be hunted, and their intermingling exposed. They are as alien to the political traditions of post-war Britain as the vicious assaults of the past weeks have been to the peace of its streets."

Marxism, and Militant in particular, has never wavered in its condemnation of tactics of "urban insurrection". Bombs, assassinations, riots and looting have nothing to do with the kind of mass action by the working class through which society can be transformed. They are entirely counter-productive, providing the state with the pretext to intensify police repression and bypassing the very forces which can effect real change—the labour movement.

The Times rightly fears however, that the ideas of Marxism will strike a chord with those young people faced with a future which offers them nothing. They will turn away from angry violence and join the mass movement of organised labour. Once the constructive programme of a job for every school leaver, a 35-hour week and a guaranteed minimum wage is put to them, and the need is explained for a socialist programme to take over the big monopolies which control the economy, so that society's resources can be planned to provide jobs and security for all, they will be convinced in their thousands.

That is why Newman, Tebbit and The Times are so keen to smear the left with involvement in rioting. They want to confuse workers who are understandably alienated by street violence and death, but workers will see that only the socialist transformation of society offers a way out of the nightmare of Broadwater Farm and every other working class area in Thatcher's Britain.

## Purge slammed by Wales Unity meeting

**THE WALES Labour Unity Conference in Cardiff last Saturday was a huge rebuff to the witch-hunting attempts of the right wing in South Wales.**

Nearly 200 delegates and visitors attended representing rank and file Labour Party members from all over South Wales.

They came from Aberystwyth to Newport, from the TGWU, the NUM, NUR, AUEW, GMBATU and other unions and dozens of constituencies and wards.

The right wing have failed in their attempts to exclude Chris Peace and Tony Wedlake from the regional executive committee, due to the storm of opposition from the rank and file of the party in Wales. But they are turning their venom on rank and file Labour Party members with a number of witch-hunts across South Wales.

The conference proved that the rank and file will not tolerate these attempts to ex-

clude Marxist ideas. Ian Isaac, a delegate from South Wales NUM executive committee, called for unity in the Labour Party, but not unity for one man's career, or unity to play politics with the miners' struggle for jobs and Liverpool's struggle for jobs and services.

He pointed out that St John's lodge of the NUM was fighting for its life to save the pit and was being impeded by the witch-hunting activities of the right wing in Ogmere CLP. He explained that Ogmere sent the only LP conference resolution attacking Militant.

### Miners' support

There is no support amongst the rank and file for expulsions in Ogmere. Ian read out a letter from the Llwynfi Valley Miners' Support Group, registering its opposition to all the attacks on Militant.

Terry Fields, MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, replied to the attacks by Neil

Kinnock on Liverpool council. It was a travesty that the leader of the Labour Party should earn the plaudits of the press by turning his fire on the council and saying nothing about the poverty in Liverpool. "We want unity, but not the unity of the graveyard, six feet under and pointing the wrong way", he said.

Alex Thraves from Swansea AUEW, pointed out that Militant supporters were building the LP in South Wales but the right wing were attempting to prevent it. In the Rhondda, miners from Maerdy have been refused membership of the LP and in Ogmere, members of the Caerau Support Group have been prevented from joining.

Keith Edwards, president of Llanelli Trades Council, apologised on behalf of rank and file TGWU members for the witch-hunting activities of George Wright, the regional secretary of the TGWU. Keith himself had been called to account by George Wright for sponsor-



Selling Militant at Labour Party conference. Some right wingers believe selling a socialist paper is 'evidence' for expulsion.

ing the unity conference, and also for printing the decision of the TGWU conference opposing witch-hunts.

He asked why George Wright was wasting time on witch-hunts when his job should be leading the campaign against redundancies. Why wasn't George at the forefront to stop the closure of British Optical in Kidwelly?

The mood of the con-

ference confirmed that the right wing witch-hunts will fail. Campaigning on socialist policies will rebuild the Labour Party in South Wales. Dave Hutchinson, Cardiff City Councillor in Chris Peace's ward, reported that since Chris became agent the ward has been turned from being "safe Liberal" to a labour ward with 50 per cent of the vote at the last election.

## Wrekin Right attempt expulsions

ON THE eve of the Party conference the executive of Wrekin Constituency Labour Party were discussing the expulsions of six members of Telford Central Labour Party.

Four are district councillors and the others the chairman and secretary of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

The six face charges of:  
1. Selling the Militant newspaper.

2. Being a member of an organisation unable to affiliate to the Labour party.  
3. Disrupting a parliamentary selection meeting as a group.

The charges arose out of an incident at the short listing meeting (see Militant 765) when a right wing councillor assaulted two com-

rades selling papers.

At a meeting the night before the executive met, Telford Central branch voted unanimously to oppose witch-hunts and agreed to lobby the executive. Over 30 people turned up to protest, including Bill Mullins and Dugald McKinnon, both of whom have been expelled from the Party in the West Midlands Region.

The lobby so angered the chairman that he started the meeting 25 minutes early, before all the delegates had arrived.

Three of the 'accused', councillor Barry Malone, Laura White and councillor Laurence White, were allowed ten minutes to deliver a statement, then ten minutes questioning.

As Barry finished his

statement questions were fired at him for over twenty minutes ranging from: "Are you a member of the Militant Tendency?" to "where do you pick up your papers up from?"

### Adjourned

The debate which followed lasted nearly an hour, then the vote by a secret ballot was 9-7 in favour of expulsion.

The Constituency Party was adjourned till 9 October, when the other three, Jim Bell, Graham Morgan and Andy Hill, will face the same charges.

So almost immediately after adopting a candidate to fight the ninth most marginal seat in the country, the executive are going ahead

with the expulsion of members.

This campaign by the right-wing of the party is not an isolated incident; it is part of a campaign of guerrilla strikes against socialists in the right-wing dominated constituencies. These attempts must be met with a flood of opposition in the form of resolutions and letters to the constituency secretary:— B Green, 63 Leonard's Close, Donnington, Telford, Shropshire. With a copy to:— L White, 22 Chairncote, Stirchley, Telford Shropshire. Phone Telford (0952) 590856.

By Laura White and County Councillor Dave Auger

## Expulsion quashed

**MARXIST DELIA Hazrati's expulsion from the Labour Party has been quashed. She was expelled from the Havant constituency party, but was not present at the meeting at which this was decided and was not informed of the charges against her. Now National Agent, David Hughes, has written to say:**

"I am concerned with the fact that, for whatever reason, you were not present at the meetings which took the decision to expel you, and the fact that you have now moved out of the Havant constituency to live in St Helens. This would make a full enquiry difficult and expensive to conduct."

"I have therefore decided in all those circumstances to rule the decision of the Havant CLP to expel you from membership to be not effective."

Although this decision has been reached for technical reasons rather than a change in policy by the National Executive Committee, it shows that local witch-hunts can be defeated if a consistent campaign is waged to expose the unconstitutional manoeuvres used by the right wing to try to expel Marxists from the party.

## New office for YTURC—cash appeal

THE YOUTH Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) has just acquired a new office with London SOGAT.

Four months ago YTURC was ordered out of its office at Labour Party headquarters. It will now be able to continue its work in exposing the abuses of the Youth Training Scheme and campaigning for real jobs for youth.

YTURC's immediate plans include a lobby of the Department of the Employment with the parents of trainees who have died on YTS schemes; a campaign against the Tories' plans to abolish wage council protec-

tion for young workers; and a big drive to unionise YTS trainees when the 'new' two-year YTS is brought into operation in April next year.

YTURC appeals for all outstanding bills for leaflets and posters to be paid, so that our work is not hampered. Donations are urgently needed and speaking tours should be arranged to raise money.

Send donations to YTURC's new address: Caxton House, 13-16 Borough Road, London SE1 0AL. Telephone: 01-928 5547.

By Tony Cox (Secretary YTURC)

**Smash apartheid Smash capitalism**

# Labour backs links with S. African unions

**DESPITE THE opposition of the Labour leadership, conference gave overwhelming support for a call for unions to form direct links with South African workers.**

Earlier in the debate a standing ovation was given to Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress in solidarity with South African workers and the fight against apartheid. Delegates cheered the stand by Southampton dockers who refused to handle South African military equipment and the proposed Co-op ban on the sale of South African goods.

However, there were raised eyebrows when the Labour leadership presented Oliver Tambo with a miner's lamp to commemorate his visit, after Kinnoch's attack on the NUM leadership.

The only composite on S. Africa, moved by Paisley West and Walsall South Labour Parties called for the British labour movement to form direct links with the

workers and youth of South Africa. Delegates outlined the class nature of the struggle for national liberation in South Africa and the need for the socialist revolution to complete the emancipation of the black oppressed.

In sharp contrast to the vague NEC statement which promised no effective action against apartheid, the composite called for the breaking of diplomatic links and the imposition of economic sanctions.

## Pension funds

John Jones of TASS attacked the resolution on the grounds that it would frighten away the "religious groups, whites and community organisations" from the fight against apartheid. When he criticised it as the "simplistic line of revolution" from "some small grouping or tendency" there were groans from the audience. Conference had had enough of anti-Militant rhetoric as a substitute for political argument.

But the best received

speech was that of Peter Heathfield of the NUM when he called on all union affiliates to offer fraternal relations and direct links with South African workers.

He called on trade unionists to bring to an end all investment in South Africa by pension funds on which they were represented even if this meant breaking the law that maximum profits should be the only criteria for investment.

The resolution was passed on a card vote by 3,516,000 votes to 2,699,000, with backing from the miners, the

Transport and General, the General and Municipal, the railworkers, SOGAT and the National Communications Union.

It was a significant result against the opposition of the Labour leadership and some sections of the left and the previous 'advice' of the National Executive to Labour Parties against the Southern African Labour Education Project and their call for direct links. SALEP held a very successful fringe meeting with over 60 present which collected over £105.

## Purge and prejudice

INTERESTING TO see the delegate from Ogmores CLP in action at conference. This party has started a purge of Militant supporters including miners who were on strike for a year and whose colliery St Johns is at risk from MacGregor's axe.

Mr Evans the Ogmores

delegate first spoke in the women's debate, which he thought was a waste of time. They should have been discussing the "wrecking influence" of Militant he said, "We had a resolution on this but we forgot to post it". He felt in his pocket for his garlic and crucifix when he men-

# Labour Party 85 Conference



Photo: Derek Speirs (Report)

Workers from Dunnes in Dublin, striking for a year against apartheid goods will be pleased at the internationalist policies passed by the conference.

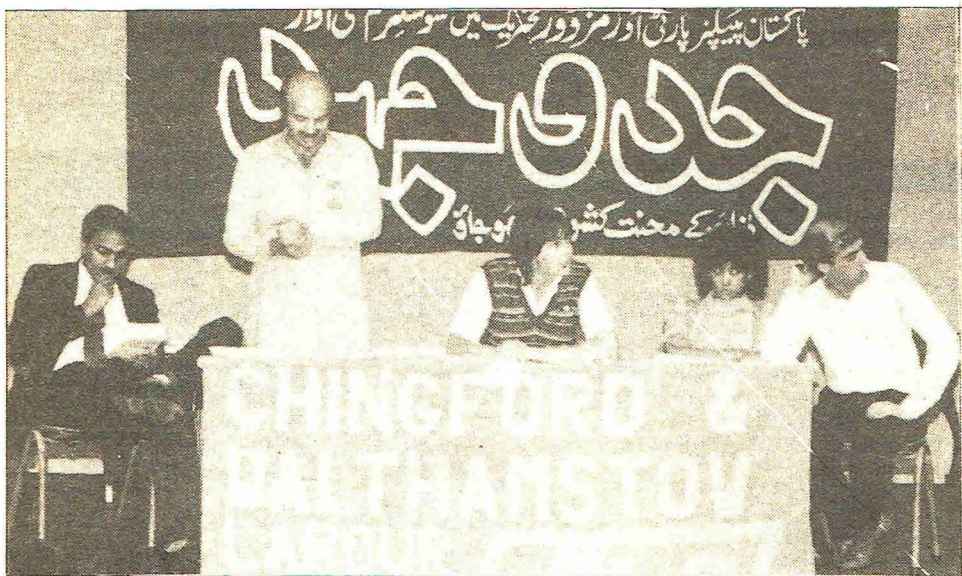
tioned Militant, but he'd forgotten them too.

Next intervention was on gay rights. Once more he said it was a waste of time discussing such issues, they should be discussing the evils of Mili-

tant. Gays, he said, were sick and spread Aids.

These are the kind of prejudices which the right wing are basing themselves in their fury against Militant.

## How to fight racism



The LPYS/Struggle meeting in Walthamstow

**THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists and supporters of Struggle, the voice of socialism in the Pakistan People's Party, are holding joint meetings.**

They are linking the fight against racist attacks in Britain with socialist opposition to the brutal Zia dictatorship in Pakistan.

In Rotherham, Raja Gazanfer of Struggle spoke of the 'divide and rule' tactics employed by the British ruling class, how the bosses used immigrants as cheap labour during the boom and then as scapegoats for their own crisis. Racism, he said, is inherent in the capitalist system and therefore the fight against racism is the fight against capitalism.

Qayam Bhutt of the PPP Workers' Steering Committee, in exile from Pakistan where his children are being held by the regime, appealed to the Pakistani community to forge close links

with white workers by getting involved in each others struggles. This was supported by Linda Douglas of the LPYS.

In Walthamstow, over 150 people called on the Labour Party and Trades Council to set up a joint anti-racist committee to spearhead a massive propaganda campaign to counter racism throughout the borough of Waltham Forest.

## Breeding ground

A call for a special unit of the police to deal with racist attacks was discussed. But as the LPYS resolution pointed out, the real question was who controlled the police. Until the police come under democratic control of the labour and trade union movement and the community, then their operational policy will never reflect the interests of working class people.

Elaine Etim, convenor of the Merseyside Anti-racist Committee, said that the fight in Liverpool against

cuts in council spending was inextricably linked to the fight against racism. Unemployment and bad housing form a breeding ground for racist attitudes. Liverpool City Council are spearheading a fight against these conditions.

By Kevin Gill and Helen Redwood

Please support the demonstration against racist attacks, Sat 19 October, 11am Coronation Gardens, Buckingham Road, London E10, near Leyton Tube station.

## Nottingham school strike

HUNDREDS OF Nottingham school students were involved in strikes and protests last week.

By Wednesday about 700 students were on strike at a number of comprehensives, with pickets of 3-400 at one school. At least 23 school students were arrested during the week.

## Youth trainees campaign for £55 minimum wage

THE HULL Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC)—supported by LPYS branches and trainees. Before the meeting, YTS schemes were leafleted and Labour Parties and local council trade union branches approached.

We have met with some success. On 9 September the Hull City District Labour Party passed a resolution calling on Labour-controlled Hull City Council to pay £55 per week to all YTS trainees who work for the council.

This was the result of an

excellent lobby by YTURC—supported by LPYS branches and trainees. Before the meeting, YTS schemes were leafleted and Labour Parties and local council trade union branches approached.

## Union rates

£55 per week on YTS would not only improve trainees' living standards, but would also help to safeguard trade union rates

and conditions amongst the council workforce.

Unfortunately, leading Labour councillors have argued that the council can't afford it and that the Labour Group on the council would throw the proposals out.

But we will continue to put pressure on to ensure they abide by the District Labour Party's decision.

By Ray Duffill  
(YTURC Spokesman, Hull)

## Students—back Liverpool council

THE MERSEYSIDE Area Student Organisation (MASO) conference to build solidarity with Liverpool City Council is beginning to win support. NUS UK is supporting the conference, together with the South East Wales Student Association and Glasgow Area NUS.

The conference featuring speakers from the Liverpool Labour and Student movements, will discuss practical measures such as setting up support groups, raising money and organis-

ing a speaking tour to explain the issues. There will also be a display of the council's house building programme.

Labour student activists will welcome the support of the Labour-led NUS Executive. However the limitations of that support are now becoming apparent. The executive voted to advertise the (MASO) Conference in NUS News. Yet in the current issue (October 7) there is no mention of the conference. The next issue comes out on October 21st, AFTER the Conference.

The article in NUS News contains misleading

statements and inaccuracies. It says at one point that "a Council resolution to increase rates by 20 per cent was objected to by council workers' shop stewards and a compromise of 9 per cent was decided."

This is wrong. At no time did the Council advocate a 20 per cent rate increase. The Labour group discussed a 17 per cent rate rise, but discounted when it became clear that a massive rate increase would be necessary to compensate for Tory cuts.

Phil Woolas, NUS President, has refused to attend the MASO conference, instead he will be attending a media broadcasting conference.

Labour students must run a campaign to force NUS to seriously take up the question of Liverpool. Build support by calling a general meeting of students in your college to elect five delegates to the MASO conference.

By Jackie Bates  
(MASO Convenor)  
(Details page 6)

Thursday putting the case for supporting the teachers' action, and attacking Tory cuts. Unfortunately NUT officials turned down requests to put their case to the students.

The Nottingham NSSU is to hold a meeting to bring the school action together, and meetings are planned between the NSSU and a pupils' union set up in Nottingham.

## Tory Party conference

Thatcherism  
under siege

THE USUAL display of stage-managed unity at the Tory Party conference in Blackpool this week masks underlying divisions within the party and the developing crisis within the its ranks as a result of the dismal failure of Thatcher's economic policies and the fact that the next general election will probably see the Tories defeated.

BOB WYLIE examines the Conservative Party in the context of the crisis of the British capitalist economy and looks ahead to its stormy future.

5 March 1985, when the miners went back to work, seems a long way off and the 'glorious days' of the June election victory seem to come from another age entirely. The Brecon and Radnor by-election in which the Tory vote plummeted by nearly 8000 on the general election performance and the Tory share of the poll fell by 23 per cent was their worst by-election performance since Rochdale in 1958 or Orpington in 1962.

The *Financial Times* in a 25 July editorial commented: "It is almost as if the Conservative Party has visibly lost its way and no longer knows collectively what it is doing", whilst another article captured the present day panic of the Thatcher cabinet with the statement: "Mrs Thatcher shows every sign of having ended up like many before her, incarcerated in the Downing St bunker emerging from time to time to shout abuse at the nation in general or make an ego building trip to a foreign capital".

When we were told by many on the left of the labour movement that the 1983 General Election could mean that the Tories would be in power for at least a decade, when the guru of Neil Kinnock, professor Hobsbawn of the Communist Party, interpreted the result of the miners' strike as an indication of the omnipotence of Thatcherism, we disagreed.

The emergence of Thatcherism is a reflection of the decline of the British ruling class on a world scale and a mirror of the present day crisis affecting British capitalism.

There was a time when the leaders of British capital were genuine world figures, but from the heights of Asquith, Lloyd George and Churchill, the present day British capitalists are reduced to relying on the grocer's daughter from Grantham. There was a time when the strategists of capital in Britain calculated in decades and governed millions; as the blunders of the Tory cabinet in July indicate, they cannot plan weeks in advance or satisfy the opinions of their own people.

Harold MacMillan the former Tory prime minister, said recently that the Tory government was a brilliant tyrant surrounded by mediocrities. Gone forever are the subtleties of former Tory rule, gone forever are the "one nation Tories", with an ability to appeal to consensus and change tack when necessary. Instead we have the present day Tsarina and her Cabinet camarilla capable of playing only one tune.

The myopic, blinkered blunderings of the Tory leadership shown in the calendar for 1985 indicate



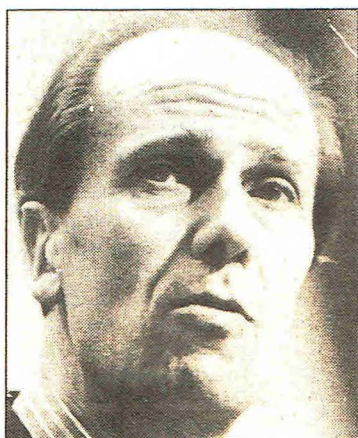
Angry protest in Leicester in January when Thatcher visited a job centre.

Photo: Mark Salmon

that steady hands are no longer on the wheel. Their inability to judge and decide are a factor in their piling of calamity on calamity all in an apparent state of oblivion.

In a speech made on 24 July Norman Tebbit predicted that it was a reasonable scenario to assume that the present government would still be in office in the 1990s and might even enjoy a fifth or sixth term.

Five days later, in a truly 'Spitting Image' like interview on *Newsnight*, Thatcher explained to the nation: "Last year this country had the highest standard of living of all time, the highest manufacturing investment of all time, the highest retail spending of all time. We have managed the economy well. We have kept our promises."



Norman Tebbit

Although the personal qualities of the present Tory leadership are a factor governing the events of the past and affecting the developments of the future, the road between "you've never had it so good, MacMillan and the 'one nation' Tories" to "Thatcher and there is no alternative" has been fashioned by the chronic, deepening crisis of British capitalism.

Politics is concentrated economics. The emergence of Thatcher and the class brutality of her economic policies have been dictated, not by personal follies, but by the laws of capitalism in crisis.

The era of reformism, the time when capitalism could give reforms to the working class, when there was economic growth and high profits, is over. MacMillan could give. Thatcher has been forced to take away.

It is not a question of the mismanagement of the economy as most of the leaders of the labour movement suggest but the stark question of who shall pay for the crisis—the workers or the bosses?

After six years of monetarist prescription, the stark failure of Thatcherism can be seen in the continuing feature of permanent mass unemployment in Britain. Over one-third of young men in Britain between 18 and 19 are unemployed. In Northern Ireland one in five are without work. In Wales, Scotland and the North the figure is one in six, whilst even the so-called prosperous south-east there is one in ten looking for a job.

A recent *Financial Times* article (17 July 1985) stated: "Manufacturing employment in the UK is now little more than a rump: it accounts for only 26 per cent of all jobs", and "it will take 21 years to restore dole queues even to 1979 proportions".

In an even more blunt assessment, a recent National Economic Development Organisation report said: "Unless government policy changes immediately, Britain will continue to decline to Third World status. Britain is at the point of industrial no return".

These facts of capitalism in crisis are the reason for a government which wants to smash the welfare state. They are the reason for a government which has reduced spending on housing by 54 per cent in six years. They are the reason for a government which seeks to reduce benefits to the poor and sick in order to give more to the rich and super-rich. And they are the reason for a government which has a conscious strategy to break the labour and trade union movement.

"A defeat of the miners would break the fighting spirit of the labour movement's crack regiment... the practical and symbolic value of that is without price".

These words, simple and cogent from the *Financial Times* of 10 July 1984 expose all the lies and hypocrisy of the Tory leaders that the NUM dispute was about the price of coal. It was about the class struggle—they and us. It was about the Tories attempting to break the trade union movement in Britain in order to prepare the way for more savage attacks in living standards and services as a means to boost profits and attempt to save

their economic system. The government gained a victory of sorts, which will be temporary, but which nonetheless was only gained at tremendous cost.

The Tory Cabinet emerged like a boxer from the ring who had won on points but who has sustained such terrible gashing wounds in victory that his strength and fitness were permanently damaged, much like Joe Frazier who beat Ali in their first encounter, but who was never the same again.

**"We have managed the economy well. We have kept our promises. We don't talk a lot, perhaps we should talk more... Last year this country had the highest standard of living of all time."**

**Thatcher, *Newsnight* BBC 2, 30 July, 1985**

The naked class brutality perpetrated against the mining communities has opened millions of eyes. It has been the qualitative feature convincing a whole section of the working class that there is no future for them under the continuation of the Tories as well as sending shock waves through sections of the ruling class.

The Bishop of Durham, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Oxford dons, one way or another, have declared that Thatcherism is too dangerous for the stability of class relations in Britain. The cataclysm of the miners' strike has brought about the formation of the Centre Forward Opposition group which in turn is a harbinger of an eventual split in the Tory party in Britain.

The events of the miners' strike have produced a sea change in the attitudes of people in Britain. This, mixed with the Tory blunders on the welfare state review and top people's pay explain why Thatcherism now seems under siege. The miners' strike, particularly in its aftermath, has raised class consciousness in Britain to new levels. Those who argue differently, quite frankly, have to explain the reason behind the astonishing majorities achieved in recent union ballots for the retention of the political funds.

Thatcher has suffered the cruel lessons of the laws of dialectics. Her virtue of firmness is now seen as intolerance, her resolution now seen

as stubbornness, her insistence there is no alternative as chronic inflexibility and her avowal of payment for results as a crass indifference of the lives of ordinary people. All things change to their opposite.

Such is Thatcher's personal unpopularity at the moment, it cannot be assumed that she would be leader of the Tory party at the next general election. It is most likely that she would be removed after a general election defeat, but if her personal standing continues to plunge, a 'night of the long knives' in some shape or form could not be ruled out. This would make way for a more acceptable Tory face, like Walker or even Heseltine to lead the Tory party into the next general election.

On current trends it seems likely that Labour will win the next election. But if Thatcher remains as leader of the Tory party, encased in a monetarist bunker, then there would be a crescendo of support for the Liberals/SDP, trumpeted by the kept press of big business in order to try and prevent a Labour majority.

In much the same way as the opinion polls were manipulated at Brecon to stampede Tory voters to the Liberals to prevent a Labour victory, a hung parliament could result on a national scale as a consequence of the Tory vote collapsing into the Alliance.

Thatcherism represents a warning for the labour movement of what the future might hold. It is not coincidence that the phrase 'the enemy within' was first coined by the Nazis in Germany in the early 1930s in reference to the role of the Socialists and Communists then. There is in the methods of Thatcherism the outline, faint at this stage, of a future dictatorship based on military-police methods.

That, in essence, is what rule by Cabinet dictat, the abrogation of local government democracy, the emasculation of trade union rights, the emergence of a nationally co-ordinated riot control police force and the extension of the activities of the Special Branch and internal Secret Service all indicate.

A move in such a direction would be preceded by a split in the Tory party with the emergence of an ultra-right ultra-reactionary party which would unite all the base elements in British society. The political complexion of such a movement is seen in the outlook of the leadership of the Federation of Conservative Students today.

Thatcherism has created an unbridgeable chasm between the classes in Britain. What that means for tomorrow is social convulsions the like of which have never been seen. On the scale of the coming decades it means a fight to the finish between the forces of capitalism and the forces of the labour movement in Britain.

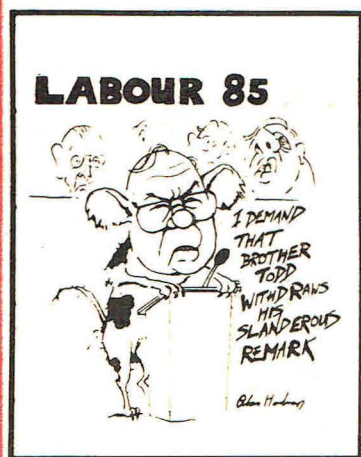
# The choice facili

**MILLIONS OF workers will have been watching the Labour Party conference in Bournemouth last week. Unemployed, low-paid, victimised trade unionists, black and Asian workers: all will have been looking for an answer to the crushing problems they face in Tory Britain.**

The conference week itself saw the announcement of the highest level of unemployment in British history. It saw the rising barbarism of the inner cities; the conference began as the dust was settling on the smouldering rubble of Brixton and ended as the fuse was lit for Sunday's explosion in Tottenham.

But the smell of burning petrol by-passed the party leadership. They were content to use the conference as a platform to address the Tory media, looking for benign acceptance of their policies from the ruling class. The majority of rank and file delegates however, who every day rub shoulders with the reality of life in Tory Britain, were seeking socialist solutions. The resulting contradictions saw the most tumultuous Labour Party conference since 1945.

Labour Party conference is always a rough barometer of the attitudes and feelings of the working class. This year this indicator was more distorted than usual. The delegates represented the process of transformation that is happening in the Labour Party. A class polarisation is taking place. Those constituency delegates from middle class and professional backgrounds, mainly from the south and 'gentrified' city areas, have sped from left to right following in Kinnock's trail in the few years they have been in the Labour Party. On the other hand the trade union delegations were split as rank and file trade unionists battled against their union tops and officials to get the true voice of the industrial workers heard in the conference hall.



Added to this, genuine debate was stifled with the stage management of the conference. The chairman, Alan Hadden, showed a predilection for union general secretaries and others who would not upset the leadership's predestined media presentation. For example, in the local authority debate, out of all the Merseyside delegates who were on their feet wanting to answer Kinnock's distortions of the Liverpool struggle, the chairman just happened to find two anti-council delegates from Liverpool.

The miners received similar treatment, with a whole string of general secretaries being called up. Conference only secured the chance for Ron Todd to speak in favour of the miners after rising to its feet in angry protest.

Conference had begun in a spirit of unity, right up until two-thirds

By Bob Wade

of the way into Kinnock's speech. To begin with there had been enthusiastic applause for Kinnock, displaying the movement's confidence that Thatcher would be beaten at the next election. Yet this was shattered in seconds when Kinnock switched from the real task of attacking the Tories to making an outrageous attack on Liverpool City Council. The conference was further split from top to bottom by his assault on the National Union of Mineworkers.

As the press and television showered Kinnock with adulation they did not relay the bitter anger of conference delegates. The television cameras did not show the miners' wives weeping tears of rage at Kinnock's smug denunciations of the NUM. This bitterness will return to haunt Kinnock in the future; the miners for one will never forgive or forget.

The multi-national controlled media is now churning out opinion polls to 'prove' to Kinnock he has taken the right path.

While the recent spate of contradictory polls show the volatility in society today, socialists should be wary of opinion polls presented by the media. For a start they are selective, they only want good news. The recent poll in Liverpool which showed that support for the City Council had increased to 55 per cent was of course quietly ignored.

These polls can be massaged by the Tory media to show the results they require. The *Times* for example on 5 October, headlined the findings of a MORI poll as "Voters like Kinnock's tough new stance". The poll claimed that 61 per cent of Labour supporters thought Kinnock's "tough line against the Militants and miners" would help Labour at the next election. Yet closer inspection of the same poll showed that of skilled workers interviewed ("this group holds the key to any election" admitted the *Times*), only a third were impressed by Kinnock's speech, while 43 per cent thought "the conference would not help"! Polls such as these—which also gave Labour a two point lead over the Tories—show Labour will win the next election *inspite* of the leadership, not because of it.

MORI's findings on the views of skilled workers—the Labour Party and trade unions' bastion of support—represents the dismay of workers at the disruption of the unity of the movement. They do not want a return to the disunity of the early 1980s caused by the right wing's witch-hunting antics. At the same time the labour movement will not bow down to preconditions laid out by the right wing for the sake of unity at any price.

As Ron Todd of the TGWU said in the miners' debate when the leadership tried to play the 'unity card': "Yes we want unity, yes we want a Labour government, but not at the price of betraying the National Union of Mineworkers." Similarly, the movement wants unity but not at the expense of democratically agreed socialist policies.

'Power at any price' is an



Delegates stand and applaud after Derek Hatton withdrew the Liverpool motion "in the interests of party unity".

uninspiring rallying call for the labour movement. It is not sufficient for the leadership to say 'don't rock the boat' and when Labour gets into office we'll see what we can do. The movement wants direction as it faces the Tory onslaught now. It wants a commitment from the leadership for socialist change when it gets in power.

The urge for unity by the labour movement was expressed at the conference in the explosion of standing ovations and cheers when Deputy Liverpool Council Leader Derek Hatton agreed to withdraw the Liverpool motion in the local authority debate, in the interests of party unity. The right wing accuse *Militant* of being 'splitters' while Kinnock in his speech derided the "tendency tacticians" of Liverpool. Yet delegates saw it was the astute tactics of *Militant* and Liverpool council supporters that restored unity to the conference.

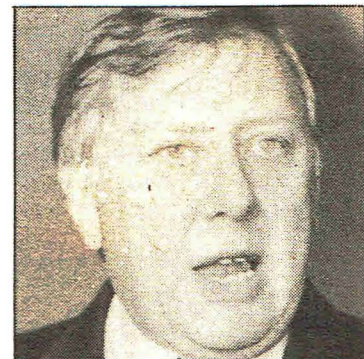
But it wasn't just anger at the distortion of the Liverpool issue or the attack on the NUM. Delegates understood that Kinnock's speech and subsequent praise from leading Labour figures was a signal to the capitalist press that a future Labour government under Kinnock's leadership would be 'safe', that they could be 'trusted with power'. It would be a government of the right wing setting out to patch up and appease capitalism, not one prepared for fundamental socialist change.

The leadership's attitude of 'principles don't win elections' smacks of arrogance and contempt, besides being profoundly incorrect. They have fallen for the lie that socialism frightens away voters. In reality if the movement united behind a socialist manifesto alongside an extensive campaign of explanation of the need to and the benefits from changing society, the Labour Party would gain massive popular support. On the other hand, an 'unprincipled' Labour government will be an easy picking for big business. A repeat performance of the Callaghan government debacle—pushing through cuts and wage restraint at the behest of the International Monetary Fund and the rich—would be an electoral disaster for the Labour Party.

*Militant* supporters in the Labour Party will be the hardest fighters for the return of a Labour

government with Kinnock as leader. But they will also be honestly explaining the towering problems such a government will face.

A 'socialist' government that sets out not to transform society but to try and squeeze out reforms of a diseased capitalist system is treading a dangerous path. With the profit system internationally spiraling deeper into crisis, the capitalist class will fiercely resist any reforms and go on to demand counter-reforms.



Deputy Labour leader, Roy Hattersley. Photo: Militant

It will put enormous 'extra parliamentary' pressure on a Labour government to shift the burden of capitalism's economic crisis onto the shoulders of the working class—further grinding down the social services, pushing up unemployment and driving down wages to defend the profits of big business. If a Labour government does not take the economic levers of control out of the hands of the capitalist class, through the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy, they will be forced to dance to the bosses' tune.

Kinnock and the right wing attack the Marxists for being 'unrealistic' for demanding the socialist transformation of society. Yet they do so in the face of the real experiences of the recently elected 'socialist' governments of France, Greece and Spain, and, closer to home, the experience of the Wilson/Callaghan government of 1974-79.

The British capitalist class know their plans to drive down living standards even further will meet enormous resistance from the mass of working people. They understand that their party, the Tories, are now totally discredited in the eyes of the electorate. They are not

confident that their 'reserve party', the Liberal/SDP Alliance—a big business and media-backed creation to act as a safety net to catch the disillusioned voters leaving the Tories in droves—will be sufficient to keep Labour out of office, or even stop a Labour landslide victory.

They had looked to a Labour government with a safe majority with dread. The ruling class realise that the next Labour government will be under great pressure from below for change and reform. The traditional right wing of the Labour Party of the Wilson/Callaghan era have been rejected by the movement: the ruling class were unsure which way the new arrival from the 'soft left', in the form of Kinnock, would jump.

Last week in presidential style, Kinnock, speaking over the heads of the movement directly to the media, gave big business the reassurance they required. The praise heaped upon Kinnock from the Tory press represented a sigh of relief from the ruling class.

Indeed Roy Hattersley—having stood against Kinnock in the leadership election in 1983—made a telling remark when he told con-



In the stage managed local government debate wanting to get in to defend the City Council delegates—a rare feat in a conference—the two, Jane Saren of Liverpool Riverside in the MP's section alongside Dr John C. Labour's spokesmen on environment.

# ing Labour

# Labour Party 85 Conference



To roars of approval Liverpool MP Eric Heffer storms off the platform after Kinnock's attack on Liverpool City Council. Photo: Militant

ference that they had made the right choice in choosing Kinnock. Hattersley's comments represented big business's understanding that Hattersley would be mistrusted by the working class. As former Home Secretary in the discredited Callaghan administration, workers would have no illusions in the type of government he would lead. Kinnock meanwhile has a left wing past and has not been tested in power, and will be looked to to provide a 'new' and 'radical' Labour government.

Indeed, there will be a honeymoon period for a new Labour administration. Workers will want to catch their breath after nearly a decade of reactionary Toryism, and the appearance of progress will be given as a new Labour government repeals the worst of the Tory legislation. But sooner or later if that Labour government tries to carry out the demands of a diseased capitalist system, it will come in conflict with the labour movement.

There may now be a few wailing voices in the movement that say Kinnock's speech shows a "further drift to the right" of the working class. At conference some frustrated delegates threatened to tear up their party cards in disgust at Kinnock's speech. But activists should not confuse the outpourings of one individual highlighted in the Tory media with the real feelings of the movement. The conference, made up of delegates representing nearly 10 million workers, remained firmly behind radical socialist policies.

The media jamboree seemed

uninterested in the fact that the Labour leadership were overturned on several occasions such as on the miners, South Africa, and numerous women's and international issues. There was much support for Liverpool City Council, demonstrated by the fact that delegations such as the National Union of Railwayworkers would have supported the Liverpool motion, had it been taken.

The tasks ahead for activists in the Labour Party is to ensure these socialist aspirations are transferred to Labour's election programme. A strong left movement is needed to continue the fight for socialist policies.

Yet the conference also displayed the disarray of the 'traditional' left wing. The *Tribune* group continues to decline following the movement to the right of Tribunites like Kinnock, along with his cohorts such as Robin Cook and their new recruit Ken Livingstone. *Tribune's* current attempt to bridge the gap between the Kinnockites and the traditional left is an impossible task. This was illustrated at the conference *Tribune* rally with Tony Benn at one end of the platform and Livingstone at the other, and an irreconcilable political gulf between them.

The smaller Labour Co-ordinating Committee, based around Peter Hain and the students, proved little more than shepherds for the leadership, shooshing constituency delegates into line behind Kinnock. They naively believe that if they go along with Kinnock, they can keep him on the left; a sort of socialist conscience perched on his shoulder.

The London-based *Labour Herald* group meanwhile attracted the largest fringe audience at the conference, giving a platform for leading left wingers like Benn, Skinner and Scargill. But despite

their claims that they intend to fill the vacuum left by *Tribune*, they failed to put forward any cohesive strategy or policies around which the left can organise.

In contrast it was the Marxists who were putting forward a clear, consistent strategy at conference. Just a few months ago of course, our opponents in the movement were telling the world that *Militant* was now ostracised by the movement and was dead and buried. This nonsense was answered at conference.

The *Militant* fringe meeting was the biggest in the paper's history, on par with the large attendance at the *Tribune* and *Herald* meetings. Over a thousand copies of the paper were sold with thousands of pounds raised for the fighting fund. Rank and file delegates, particularly from the trade union delegations, showed a willingness to discuss and grasp the ideas of Marxism.

As support for Labour grows and the election draws nearer, so workers will join the Labour Party, transforming its political and class nature from top to bottom. They will not join on the basis of sharing the leadership's contempt for workers in struggle in areas like Liverpool or the mining communities, but with an enthusiasm and thirst for socialist ideas. They will be looking for an answer to the problems they face. *Militant* will be a pole of attraction to these workers. *Militant* will be fighting as hard as any for the return of a Labour government. But it will be equally implacable and determined in its defence of Labour's socialist policies; it will be unflinching in its demand that Labour governments do not do the dirty work of capitalism, but carry through its historical task—the socialist transformation of British society.

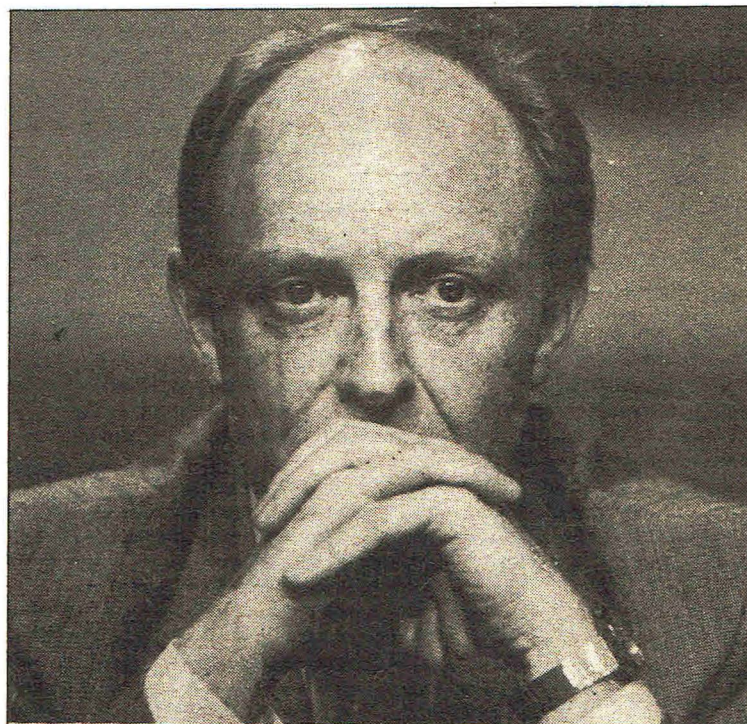
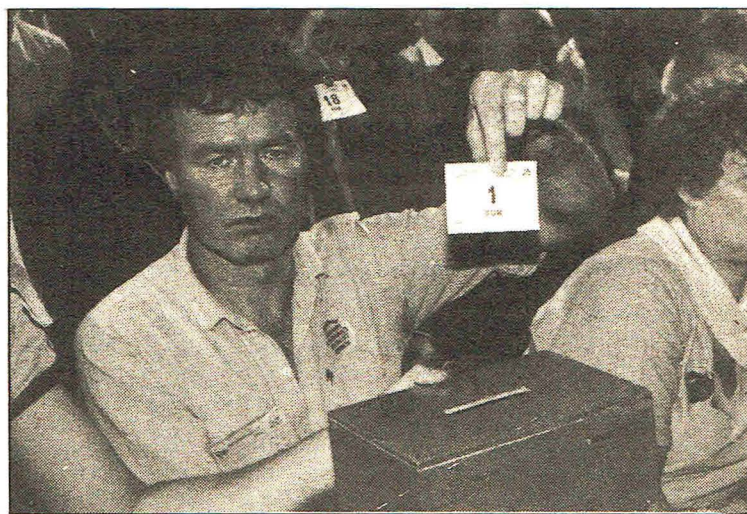


Photo: Militant

Labour leader Neil Kinnock—the Tory press applauded his presidential style.



Labour Party constituency delegates place their card votes in favour of reimbursement of NUM funds in opposition to the Labour leadership. Photo: Militant



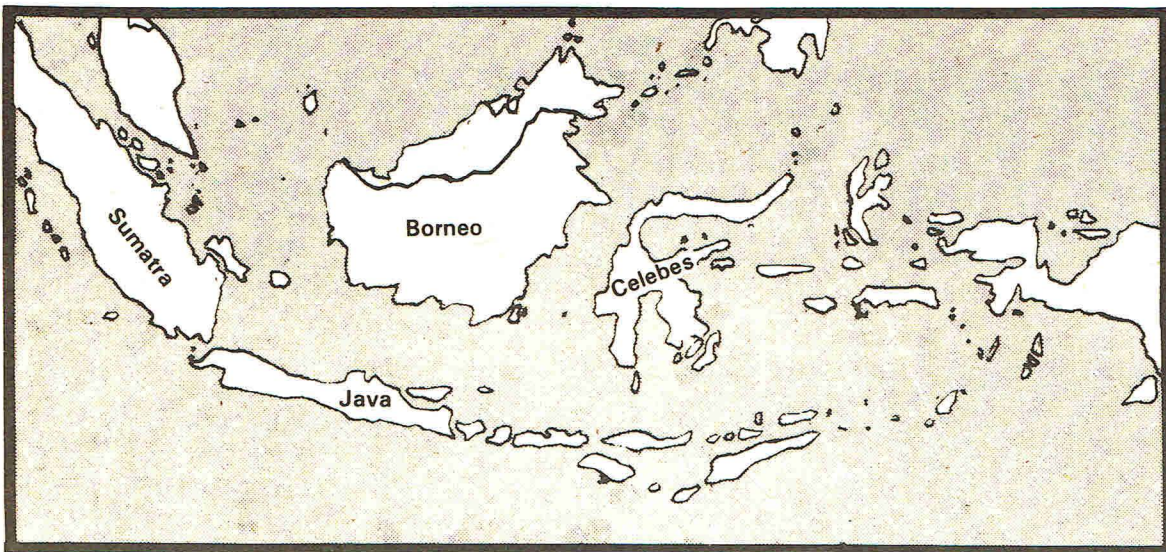
te, despite the majority of Liverpool delegates, the chairman picked two anti-council Liverpool delegates with 3,000 delegates. Here one of s pictured (far right) during the debate sitting ningham and Jack Straw (first two on left), : Militant.



Leading Liverpool councillors and MPs address the *Militant* fringe meeting, the largest *Militant* conference meeting in the paper's history. Photo: Militant



## Indonesia 1965



The knives are hidden in public. President Sukarno with generals Suharto and Nasution, who were to overthrow him, photographed in November 1965.

THIS IS the twentieth anniversary of one of the world's bloodiest military coups, the Indonesian massacre of 1965.

By Tim White

General Suharto's regime has since ruled the fifth most populous nation on earth by sheer terror. Opponents are dragged off to concentration camps. In East Timor the regime is committing genocide to colonise the islands. The dictatorship engages in periodic purges to kill off "criminals", a label with very flexible meaning for Suharto's military thugs.

Yet in the years before 1965 the Communist Party (PKI) had two or three million members, one of the largest in the capitalist world. It also had the opportunity time and again to seize control of society and start the process of socialist revolution in South East Asia.

But the PKI leaders, far from understanding the situation, advanced the idea of popular frontism, that is, a coalition between the workers' parties and a "progressive" section of the capitalist class under President Sukarno. The illusions thus spread in Sukarno's intentions meant that workers were unable to resist the military takeover, the consequent annihilation of workers' organisations and the murder of around a million Communist Party members.

The PKI gave their backing to the bourgeois nationalist leader Ahmed Sukarno who was identified with the gaining of independence from Dutch imperialism in 1949.

# Massacre of a million

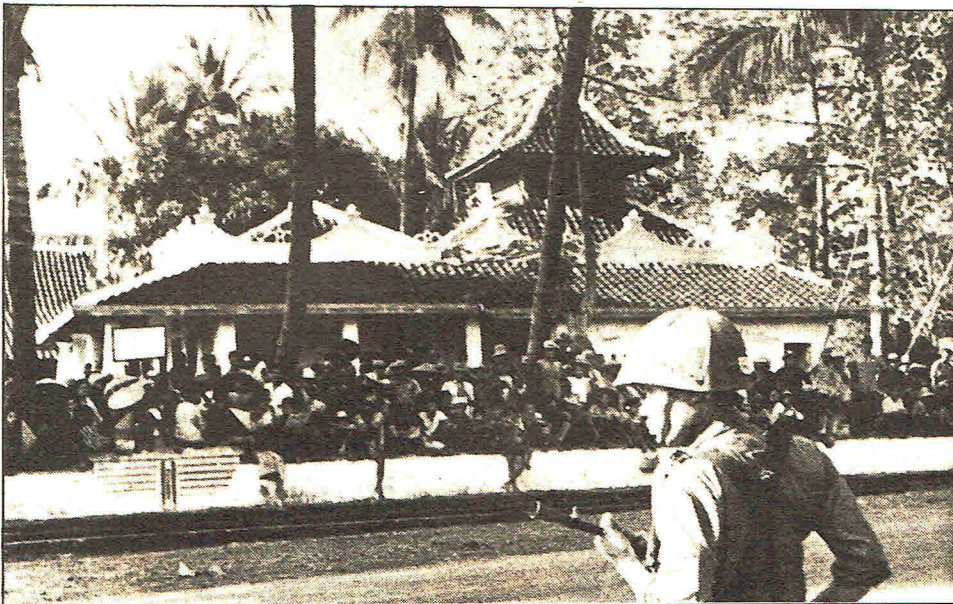
Indonesia's economy was left as it was before liberation, still dominated by Dutch monopolies. Sukarno, the new president, believed Indonesia would be impervious to Marxism and class struggle. True enough, for five years there was a class truce as workers and peasantry awaited the fruits of freedom. But the gradual disillusionment with capitalist independence prepared the ground for the dramatic rebirth of open class struggle—and the Communist Party.

## Land seized

While the advanced industrial nations saw the start of the post-war boom, capitalism in Indonesia was incapable of delivering any serious reforms. Land remained in the hands of rich landowners. Workers' wages stood still or were cut. Strikes began to develop alongside other signs of discontent. In 1957 Communists and other left wingers were elected as mayors and councillors. Unions began to grow and all the workers' organisations began to be radicalised.

By 1959 the movement reached its peak when peasants and farmworkers occupied and seized the huge plantations and the landowners were driven out. In the cities, workers seized the factories, and the working class showed their willingness to struggle for revolution.

During this period the Indonesian Communist Party PKI grew to three million members and had enormous



Villagers rounded up in a military exercise after 1965.

influence.

The mood throughout SE Asia was so tense that a revolution there would have had an explosive effect. Unfortunately, the leaders of the PKI followed the bankrupt ideas of popular frontism even though it was strong enough to have achieved power itself.

The party looked to the Peking bureaucracy, wrongly believing it to be more radical than the moribund Russian leadership. The Chinese Communist Party argued that as the tasks of the Indonesian revolution were "bourgeois" ie land reform, industrialisation, democracy, the PKI should support the 'progressive' capitalist Sukarno.

Trotsky and Lenin had shown how false this perspective was in Russia in 1917. The first tasks of the Russian revolution may have

been those previously forced through by the capitalists of Britain, France, etc but the Russian capitalists had proven themselves incapable of transforming their country.

## "Stay calm"

In Indonesia the bourgeois had been in power, displaying their impotence for a decade. The circumstances and the masses themselves were crying out for workers' rule. The PKI leaders put the brake on workers' struggles, backing Sukarno uncritically, telling their supporters to stay calm and passive while the army drove the workers off the plantations.

But the military held onto the estates themselves to increase their power in society and martial law was declared. For three years Sukarno had to balance precariously between the in-

creasing power of the army and the militant working class, who were far from crushed by the ending of the 1959 movement.

Sukarno, realising he was out of favour with the army tops, started another wave of much "progressive" talk and some popular reforms to build up a firmer base of working class and middle class support against a possible coup. The Indonesian Communist leaders cheered yet more heartily and failed to warn the masses of the dangers of maintaining capitalism and its state machine.

The army tops were only waiting for an appropriate moment to attack, and in September 1965 they brought the upheaval to a bloody end. The alleged killing of two army generals by Communists was the excuse for action.

Neither the bourgeois nationalists nor the workers' PKI had prepared mass popular resistance, and their supporters were massacred. While the army demanded Sukarno ban the PKI, they and their followers began to exterminate it.

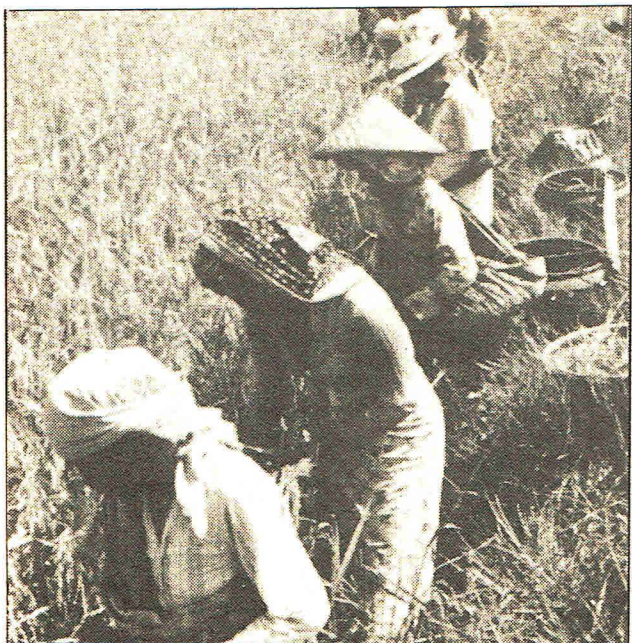
Counter-revolution took its revenge for months; around a million are believed to have been killed, mainly PKI members, the biggest holocaust at the hands of reaction since the days of Franco and Hitler.

## Half a revolution

The army used right wing Moslem gangs in the countryside to behead whole families of communists, filling innumerable shallow graves. In the cities, the army and their fascist auxiliaries caused serious sanitation problems as rivers were polluted with hundreds of thousands of decaying bodies of workers.

"Make half a revolution and you dig your own grave" Engels had warned a century before. These stark words were never truer than in Indonesia. The new regime was potentially unstable; it did not have a mass middle class base like Hitler or Mussolini had done but the workers' organisations have taken many years to recover from the horrifying massacres of 1965.

When the workers do recover, Suharto will not last for long. The Indonesian working class will then revive the heroic traditions of their movement; they will also want to learn lessons from the mistakes of 1955-65.



Plantation workers organised under Dutch rule demanded national liberation and socialism.

## The workers and the colonial revolution

**THE WORKERS' movement did not always wait hand and foot on the bourgeois nationalist movement. The Communist Party originally grew out of the social democratic wing of the nationalist Sarekat Islam (Islamic Association) after the Russian revolution.**

The party grew rapidly and took over the newly-emerged unions. As in India, workers were in the vanguard of the struggle for independence, fighting for socialism as well as national liberation. Strike movements grew in the plantations, the print industry and docks, particularly in the Javan city of Surabaya where most industry was concentrated. Despite victimisations, the unions even won concessions from the Dutch colonial administration.

Things changed with the increasing control of the Stalin clique over both the Soviet Union and the international

communist movement.

Seemingly to divert attention from developments in China, the Comintern egged on the inexperienced Communist Party leadership to an ill-prepared rising in Java in 1926. Dutch troops had little difficulty smashing the insurrection. 13,000 workers were arrested and the CP was destroyed until after independence.

The working class did not disappear. In 1933 the Dutch rulers were horrified when both Indonesian and Dutch sailors overcame imperialist divide and rule tactics by mutinying together against wage cuts. Although the officers of the ship *Zeven Provinciën* escaped from the rank and file sailors' custody and regained control after naval bombing of the ships bridge, the potential of the workers was clearly shown.

But the national liberation struggle came into the hands of Sukarno's Na-

tionalist Party (PNI) based on the middle class intelligentsia.

Colonialism had done nothing for the peoples of the Dutch East Indies. Up to 15 per cent of Holland's wealth came from these islands but food production and industry were poorly developed. But when the East Indies fell to Japanese imperialism in 1942 the nationalists' first response was to back the "democratic" Netherlands against fascist Japan, rather than using the conflict to develop a socialist or even nationalist alternative to all the imperialist powers.

Later the Nationalists were encouraged for diplomatic reasons by the Japanese conquerors. How similar they were became obvious in 1945, when the returning Dutch ruling class used Japanese troops to help put down nationalist uprisings! It took until 1949 for a weakened Dutch imperialism to be forced to relinquish its possessions.

# Nigeria's military shuffle

**THE RECENT palace coup in Nigeria installed a new military ruler, General Babangida in place of the old Buhari leadership.**

**We print below part of a letter from a correspondent in Nigeria.**

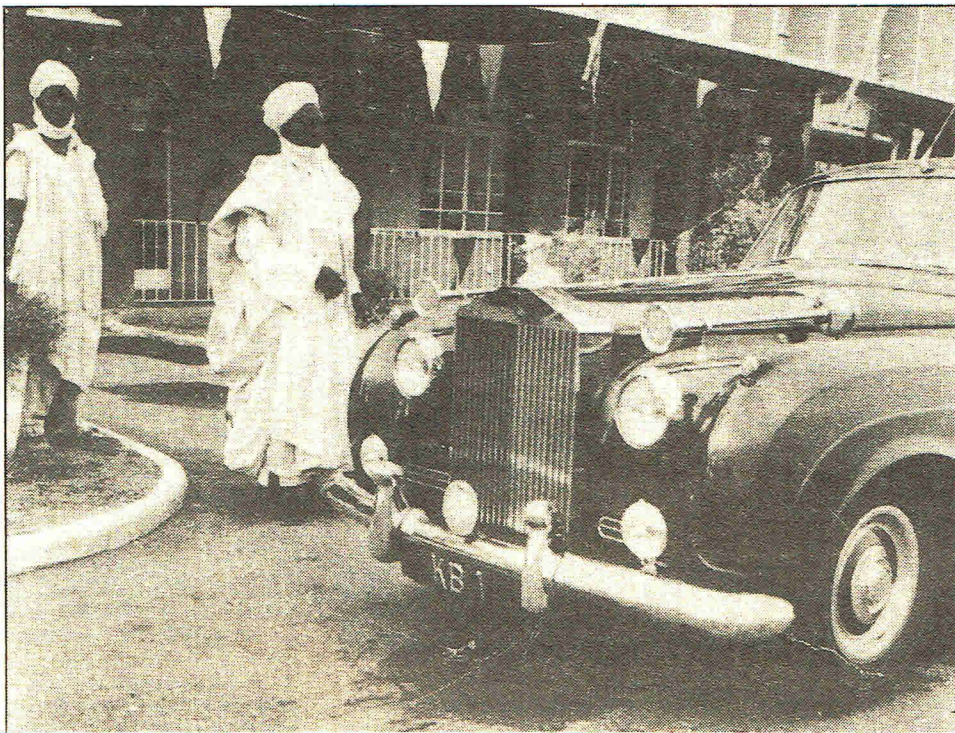
On 27 August, Nigerian working people, waking to another day of toil, were told that the military dictatorship of Generals Buhari and Idiagbon had been overthrown by a bloodless coup by their fellow top officers in the regime.

The Nigerian ruling class has not developed society, it has been satisfied by directorships of foreign companies, large salary differentials, direct looting of the treasury, etc, all of which trap the working people in the depths of life.

Virtually all sectors of this country, with a large market of over 100 million people and vast economic resources are dominated by foreign capitalist companies. Oil is in the hands of Mobil, Texaco, BP etc, construction in the hands of German and Italian companies and so on.

After many years of capitalist corruption, and demonstrations and strikes amongst the working class, the ruling parties unable to rule by "conventional" means resorted to terror in suppressing the protests of poverty stricken workers and youth.

After the electoral manipulation of August 1983 by which the ruling National Party and others held



The two Nigerias, oil-rich capitalists . . .

onto power, the more farsighted bourgeois in the army were convinced that its political representatives had squandered their credit. They executed their coup of 31 December 1983 in the interests of Nigerian and foreign capitalism.

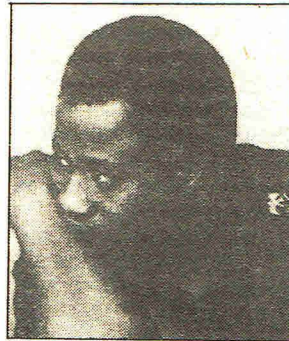
## Shadow boxing

After an initial stage of shadow boxing with the corrupt politicians, while leaving intact most of their illegally acquired property, the regime unleashed a programme of economic and political repression on working people. This wiped out the few gains previously made by the working class

There was a massive pro-

gramme of retrenchment, withdrawal of subsidies on students' feeding, and peasants fertilizer and there were oppressive taxes. Hundreds of intellectuals were thrown into jail under all-encompassing decrees devouring the political rights of working people.

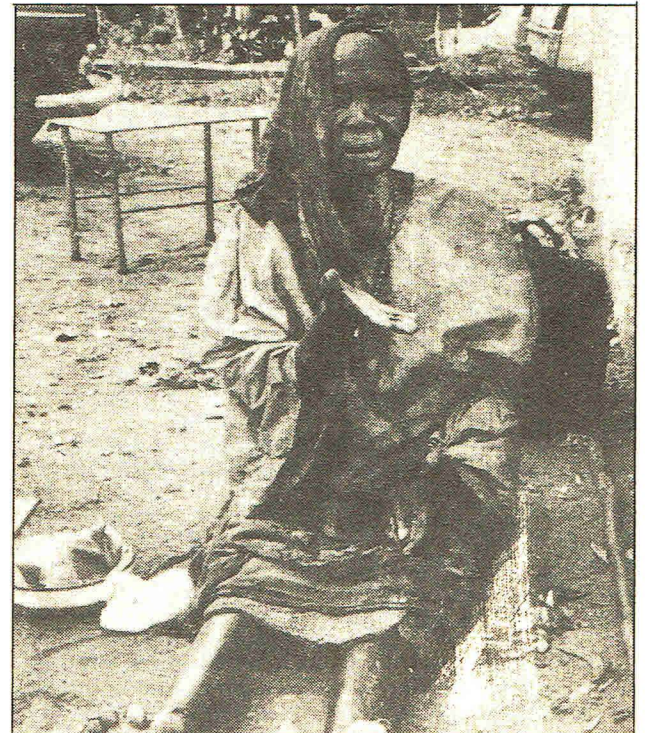
The National Association of Nigerian Students was banned, doctors', pilots' and market women's organisations followed. Insofar as the Nigerian workers were already being muzzled by the treacherous union bureaucracy the regime has so far found it unnecessary to ban the Nigerian Labour Congress (though *Militant*, 14 June shows a growing impatience amongst active



Major General Babangida.

workers).

The junta continued its reactionary march until halted by the coup. Apart from changing portfolios the new regime has much the same personnel and apparatus as Buhari. The new regime merely complained that



. . . and the poor in town and country.

## Riots in West Germany

**FOLLOWING THE killing of anti-Nazi demonstrator Gunter Sare in Frankfurt, rioting spread across a dozen cities in West Germany between 29 September and 6 October.**

Gunter Sare, an unemployed mechanic, died under the wheels of a police water cannon truck deliberately driven at the crowd. Rioting and mass protest spread from Frankfurt to Stuttgart, Hamburg, Hanover and other cities.

The original demonstration was against the National Democrats the neo-Nazi organisation. 3,000 people protested at an election rally by this small but dangerous group, who are demanding the expulsion of foreigners especially the 'guest workers' whose labour helped fuel the 'West German miracle'.

Now capitalism is in crisis in Germany and mass unemployment is back, such divide and rule ideas have an appeal to even the more 'moderate' members of the ruling class. The Christian Democrat government mobilised a large police presence to defend the fascists. They are now using the disturbances to demand harsher law and order measures.

# US workers reject give backs

**ON 27 August by a vote of 1,800 to 2,600, carpenters in the 46 northern counties of California, rejected a contract renewal that contained some severe give-backs.**

These included giving away the shorter work week (every other Friday off), making the first four per cent of inflation not count in the Cost of Living Allowance, inserting a clause allowing union members to cross a picket line without being disciplined, and allowing the contractors to make carpenters do any other trade's work for up to four hours per day.

This last clause would have led to open warfare among building trades unions, ending up with the lowest paid trade doing all the work.

Back in the early eighties, major unions accepted severe concessions in auto, steel and other industries. They found the companies used the huge savings to speculate in the stock market, rather than reinvest in their industry (with steel companies simply buying up such companies as Marathon Oil and Ringling Brothers Circus). Then the companies simply came back for more

concessions.

The mass of American trade unionists have learned from these experiences. Concessions only lead to more concessions. They solve absolutely nothing.

In the week before the vote, a small group of carpenters in the Bay Area got together and put out a leaflet explaining what the contract really meant and urging a 'no' vote. This leaflet met with tremendous interest on the jobs and in the hiring halls. Also, contact started to be made in the outlying areas, where the union tends to be weaker.

In Sacramento, where the contract proposal also included outright wage cuts, the word spread around that the Carpenters in the Bay Area would pass the proposal, and 'stab them in the back.' In the Bay Area, the word was that the proposal would be turned down, but would pass due to the vote in the outlying areas, where the carpenters would accept anything. Thus the

By John Reimann  
(Carpenters' Union)

leadership keeps the membership divided. In fact it was turned down in almost all areas.

Give-backs are dead. Only the leadership really believes that this is the answer. The recovery in the US is on its last legs. The GNP grew by a two per cent annual rate in the first half of the year. Machine tool orders recently fell by some 35 per cent. When the recession hits, the bosses will be determined to make workers pay for it.

They will only succeed to the extent that there is a lack of a real fighting leadership with a clear programme. In many unions, this is a tremendous problem, and as a result, we can expect some severe cut-backs. Many workers suffer on account of the lack of a leadership.

But these meetings on the carpenters' contact had many young members who had never participated in the union before. Up to now, many members have felt that we can 'muddle through' somehow or other by allowing the current leadership to run the union how they want. The resounding 'no' vote, and the concern expressed by many members show this is changing.

## SA union victory

SOUTH AFRICAN trade unionists in a leading ICI subsidiary, AECI, have won a significant victory.

In spite of attempts by this company to sack 600 workers at its Newcastle site and break union organisation there, the union has forced management to a dramatic climbdown and won important long-term concessions.

The dispute began last March with the submission of a pay claim by SACWU, the chemical workers' union. Facing strike action the company made their final offer and demanded that the 600 accept it or face dismissal within days. The workers and the SACWU leadership stuck to their position, resulting in all 600 returning to work unconditionally on 18 July.

The settlement involves back pay to January 1985 on the company's final offer, making a minimum wage per month of R373, including basic wages, leave pay, bonuses and overtime. The settlement also includes an agreement that AECI Newcastle will conduct joint wage negotiations with other major AECI factories nationally to unify wages and conditions.

The SACWU has expressed thanks for support from British trade unionists and socialists. SACWU also welcomed the building of strong contacts in preparation for future struggles.

## Protest against apartheid race

**A TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union member, Jim Lowe, has been dismissed at Camper and Nicholson's marina, Gosport for abiding by T&G policy on South Africa.**

He refused to work on the Whitbread 'Round the World Race', starting on 28 September from Portsmouth. It had a South African entrant, the yacht *Portatan* participating. However the race organisers attempted to conceal this fact by allowing

the boat, constructed and designed in South Africa, to fly the United States flag.

The crew and skipper are South African and raced under a South African flag in the world race of 1981-82. The race itself will stop off at Cape Town at the end of the first leg. Clearly the South African government will use this as propaganda about continued sporting links with their country.

system at home.

Jim Lowe told *Militant*:

have shown clearly which side they support in South Africa. It is up to the labour movement to show just as clearly that they support South African workers in their present struggles. Members of the LPYS have already given their full support in organising a picket line hoping to force the withdrawal of the South African boat."

PS. Around 60 people picketed the start of the race on 28 September.

# Letters

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

## Selling Militant

Dear Comrades,  
I listened appalled to Kinnock's Labour Party conference speech. My immediate reaction was to see whether his claim that workers rejected *Militant* was true. I chose a block of about 20 houses. Within an hour five *Militants* had been sold. Even a Tory (might not vote this time) bought one after a discussion. Get this Kinnock, not one door was slammed in my face, not one

worker told me to get lost. All readers must get the message, the more we are hated by those who defend the system or want to maintain the status quo, the more we are on the right tracks.

All sellers should get stuck in, the workers are there to be won. I've sold the paper from issue one, and can assure you never has the paper had such positive response.

Yours fraternally  
Bob Edwards  
Harlow

## NALGO Conference

WE HAVE been asked to publish the following statement by Roger Bannister and John Allan. It concerns a remark made at this year's NALGO conference and both have agreed that it should be published.

On 14 June 1985 at NALGO's annual conference in Blackpool there was a debate on a motion about the YTS and an amendment which sought financial backing for the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign. The National Executive Council opposed this amendment. Roger Bannister of Knowsley branch had spoken in favour of the amendment. Whilst speaking against it on behalf of the NEC, John Allan alleged that Roger Bannister had lied to the District Council (ie. NALGO's North Western and North Wales District Council) on similar matters.

The following is a letter which John Allan has subsequently sent to Roger Bannister:

26 June 1985

Dear Roger,

Further to our telephone conversation on Monday, I readily accept that the word I used at conference in relation to you was not the right one to use.

I had not prepared a speech as my role was to deal if necessary with points raised from the floor. My phraseology was therefore entirely off the cuff and might perhaps be termed debating licence in the heat of the tactical (but legitimate) manoeuvring from the floor in that debate.

Even so I should have used a less emotive term and I do apologise to you for the one I did use. If the Presi-

dent had allowed your question I would have retracted it and was in fact on my feet doing so immediately after you spoke. As you know the microphones took a few seconds to become live and did not pick me up before the President disallowed your question.

It was good of you to accept my apology on Monday and I do repeat it in all sincerity. You and I sometimes have honest differences of opinion on matters before us, but I hope this will not spoil the amicable relationship that nevertheless has always existed between us.

Yours sincerely  
John

## LEFT and RIGHT

### Inconvenient security

IN BLACKPOOL security for the Tories' annual shin-dig is so tight that police wouldn't let a taxi driver leave his cab unattended while he went to use the station loo. He was then threatened with arrest when he used a wall instead. Immediately the 156-strong Blackpool cabbies held a meeting on the station forecourt and threatened a strike if they weren't allowed to use the station convenience. Police were obviously alarmed at the security risk posed by all those Tory big-wigs having to use their legs and promised further discussions.

### Bonded labour in India

A JUDGE investigating workers' conditions in India found that several companies, including a state firm, were keeping labourers including children in cages. In one case 100 workers were crammed into a cage only 15 ft by 60 ft. They were forced to work 12 hours a day non-stop and lived on food and water unfit for animals. The minimum wage is 16.65 rupees (£1) a day yet some were only paid six rupees a day, as the rest was used to pay off big loans to their employers. This form of bonded labour is supposedly banned in India yet the Anti Slavery Society last year reported up to 100 million bonded-labourers in India.

## Decline of the health service



Photo: Neil Martinson

Barking hospital strikers fighting privatisation of the cleaning services. Privatisation is simply another way to cut spending on the health service.

Dear Comrades,

We often hear the Tories saying that they are not carrying out cuts in the health service, in fact they state they are putting more money into the health service.

I worked for East Dyfed Health Authority for four years and played a part in bringing about a union report which exposed the terrible conditions and lack of modern facilities at St David's Hospital, Carmarthen.

The report received a lot

of publicity and money was made available at the time.

That was a few years ago and things did improve, wards were redecorated and more facilities were provided. But now the chickens are coming home to roost, there will be a shortfall of cash in East Dyfed Health Authority this year of £1.7 million and next year £2.5 million.

New developments in the hospital will have to be paid for out of efficiency savings (more cuts).

At the same time as these

cuts are biting there is gross mismanagement by administrative bureaucracy. East Dyfed Health Authority pays £300 a month on taxi fares to a doctor to travel 18 miles twice weekly to cover two shifts in another hospital.

In West Wales General Hospital (Carmarthen) a ward has been moved to new buildings which are glorified prefabricated huts which cost over £250,000. Twenty beds have been lost in the move and the life expectan-

cy of these buildings is a maximum of 12 years.

If capitalism can no longer afford a decent free health service, then working people can no longer afford capitalism and the administrative bureaucrats on £20,000 a year plus who carry out the dictates of the Tories.

Yours fraternally  
Mark Evans  
NUPE (personal capacity)



Photo: John Harris (IFU)

Riots like Handsworth achieve nothing, except an excuse for more brutal policing.

### Dead-end rioting

Dear Comrades,

Looking at the present dilemma of those minority groups in the cities of England who feel that burning down communities, shopping centres etc is a way of giving Thatcher a vote of no confidence. Quite simply it has been tried and failed,

not a million miles from where I live.

What it does is give Thatcher and the bureaucratic cronies of the Home Office ammunition to introduce methods to suppress the workers.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act and immigration controls, are currently being used to stop the movement of workers. CS gas, plastic

bullets and death will become common-place and unreported if the present slide continues.

The ruling class can throw the blame onto the shoulders of workers. Join the Labour Party and campaign for socialism and jobs.

Yours fraternally  
Sean O'Neill  
West Belfast  
Young Socialists

### Forward to capitalism!

Dear Comrades,

I recently joined the Labour Party and was invited to a 'new members meeting'. The MP for Rotherham, the Mayor of Rotherham and other bigwigs in the local party addressed the meeting.

They all moaned on about how the working class isn't interested in politics. The older ones will, apparently, vote SDP/Liberal Alliance. Meanwhile the youth want

two-year YTS's and would not vote at all. They said workers were not interested in socialism and that if Scargill won support at this year's conference, the Labour Party would be "doomed".

Their latest campaign is to put two huge banners up in Rotherham town centre proclaiming: "Rotherham is enterprising". I asked what this actually meant. The unbelievable reply was that it meant nothing to the workers who do not care and will not vote. The businessmen (bosses) unders-

tand it however and it is them who will vote for us!

It is time the pale pink Tories who masquerade as representatives of the working class in Rotherham, who patronise and insult the intelligence of working people were pushed aside by fighting socialists like the LPYS who can give real answers to the problems of mass unemployment, slum housing etc, facing people in areas like Rotherham.

Yours fraternally  
Anita Davey  
Rotherham

### Support for South African miners

Dear Comrades,

The internationalism of ordinary workers was shown in Liverpool as workers dug into their pockets in support of fellow workers in the South African NUM who are fighting the twin evils of apartheid and capitalism.

In three collections at Breckside Park bins, Sheil Road Security Depot and Plesseys factory in Broadgreen, £23,67 was raised which along with a donation of £5 from Broadgreen LPYS was sent to the SA NUM.

This demonstrates the unity of workers across the world who recognise they have more in common with each other than with the bosses of their own country.

Yours fraternally  
Julie Till  
Broadgreen

### Shopworkers' solidarity

Dear Comrades,

I thought readers might like to hear of a small victory we had recently. A month ago, at my USDAW branch meeting, *Militant* supporters moved a resolution in support of the South African NUM. It called on our Executive Committee to send a message of solidarity and to donate to their strike fund.

At last week's meeting we heard that, as a result of our resolution, USDAW has sent £1,000 to the South African miners.

Yours fraternally  
Helen Gasking  
USDAW

# Wandsworth's Tory wreckers

WHEN WANDSWORTH borough council in London was won by the Tories in May 1982 it was supposed to become a model of Tory free enterprise policies in local government. Whilst the Tories fought bureaucracy and state expenditure at national level, Wandsworth was going to run a parallel campaign locally.

Both have been a disaster. But they continue their attacks on the working class. In Wandsworth in the next six months cleaners in the town hall, libraries, old peoples' homes, cooks in the homes, and caretakers on housing estates and libraries all stand to lose their jobs.

In the summer of 1984 Wandsworth

Tories reduced the caretakers on three Battersea estates down from fifteen to eight. The cost of vandalism on the estates affected was on average £9,000 per week throughout the summer months. That is more than the cost of a residential caretaker's wages for a whole year!

This small example from the Wandsworth council Joint Shop Stewards' manifesto 'Coming to Power in '86' shows who the real wreckers are in Wandsworth. But there is much more—as the shop stewards carefully detail and a Wandsworth home help explains in the interview below.

Wandsworth's experience of privatisation is a warning to all local authority workers.

One important area which highlights what this means in a service vital to public health is refuse collection. Prior to privatisation most minor roads in Wandsworth were swept alternate days. The contract specification for private cleansing reduced this to twice a week or four times a fortnight.

Under Grand Metropolitan many Paladin refuse vehicles were operating without the necessary safety guards, increasing the likelihood of injury to passers-by through tonne weight falling Paladin bins. With all their short cuts and cost cutting Grand Met still made such losses that they got rid of it. Privatisation just doesn't work!

## No help for home helps

ANN BARKER, a home help with Wandsworth council talked to Marie Walsh about the problems of her job and the extra pressures imposed by Tory cuts and threatened privatisation.

THE MONEY'S terrible—it's about £2.50 an hour. It's just not worth it. You go home on a Friday and you're not fit for anything, mentally or physically. You're just so tired.

They're advertising for more home helps, but a lot are leaving—and it's basically because of the pressure of work. It gets you down. Some have to stop because of health problems.

The job puts a lot of strain on your back. I get back trouble myself, and my doctor has put it down to the job. A friend of mine was off work for a year because of something wrong with her neck. She works in the office now.

We do hoovering, laundry, dusting, cleaning cookers—just about everything there is to do in the home apart from cleaning windows and gardening.

The conditions we work under are something not everyone thinks about. For example, some of the old people keep their living rooms hot. They're not very active and they need the warmth, but we have to work in that heat. It takes it

out of you.

Then there's the old tools we have to use. Honestly, some of the hoovers are from day one. Some of them haven't even got hoovers so you just have to cope.

As well as housework we do a lot that takes us out of the home; shopping, collecting pensions, going to the bank. We don't pay rents now, not in this area. But when a client needs clothes, for example, we have to go and choose clothes for them—even underwear and things like that.

And there's more responsibility and stress to the job than some people realise. We sometimes administer tablets. Old folk can get confused about whether they've taken this tablet or that, so you count them and keep a check.

We have to cope with all sorts of emergencies as well. We very often go in and have to phone round for a doctor. The office are supposed to do it, but they haven't got time so we do it.

One Christmas, for example, I went to one of my ladies and got no reply. I had to run to another house to

phone my office.

They said, "maybe she's gone to her brother's for Christmas." But you get to know your clients, all their little habits, and I knew she would have drawn the curtains if she was away.

Anyway, they phoned the police and an ambulance. I was waiting an hour. I wanted to break the door down, but we're not allowed to. The ambulance men did it—but that was an hour after I called in.

When we eventually got in she had hypothermia. She'd fallen over and couldn't get up and her face was all cut where she'd fallen. Even then she wouldn't let the ambulancemen help her up until she saw me.

### Increasing pressure

It shows how dependent some of the old people become on their home help. Every home help has experiences like that they could tell you about.

The job has changed so that you're mentally tired as well as physically. A lot of things are being pushed on to us that we didn't do before.

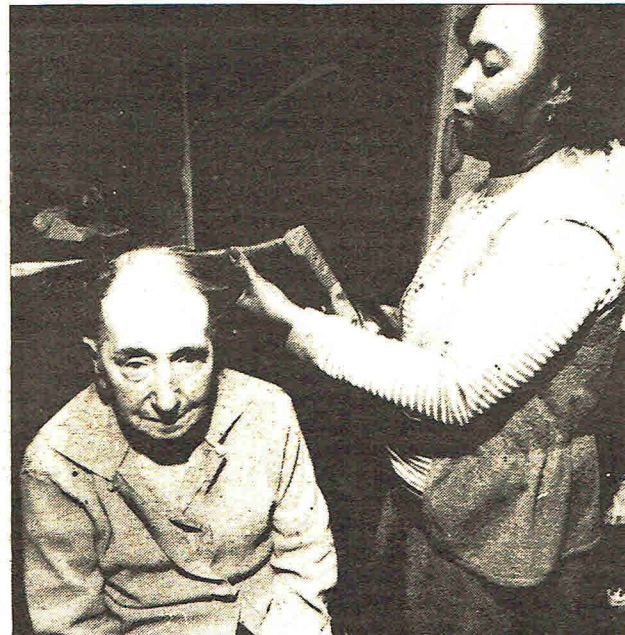
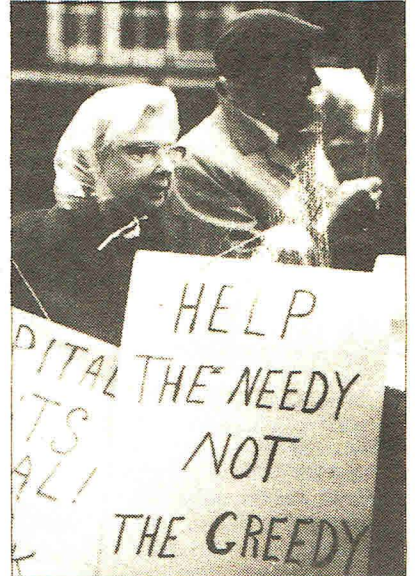
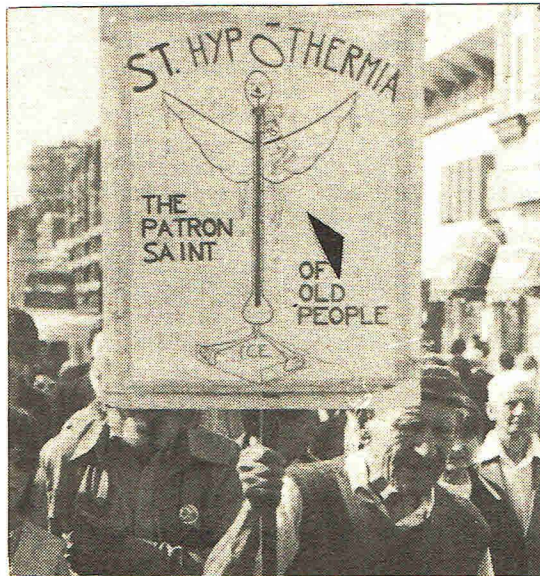
They're putting people out of hospital earlier and they send the home help in, and the district nurse maybe. But then they are short of nurses and auxiliaries, so you sometimes find yourself doing what should be their work.

On Friday, for example, one of my ladies—she's going on holiday and she hasn't had her feet washed for a fortnight, so she asked me if I'd do that for her which I did.

There's nobody else there to do it, so what can you do? You can't say "no". I do worry though that it might be pushing the auxiliaries out of a job.

The same thing often happens with hair washing, you feel obliged to do it. We're only human after all.

Cuts in the Post Office have made the job harder as well. They've shut the East Putney sub post-office. They've kept the main



Home helps provide a vital service for old people but the Tories are attacking old people at national and local level.

branch open in Upper Richmond Road, but that's further to walk and it's meant longer queues and then you're rushing around to make up time.

Some can cope better than others. They can do their own dusting and a little bit for themselves... the heavy jobs they can't do, which we cope with.

But some we need a hell of a lot more time with. Most of the clients only get one visit a week of two hours or less.

If we go to the launderette, that's 1 1/4 hours. You've got to wash the load, dry it, fold it, sometimes when you get back you'll have to air it on a clothes horse if it's not quite dry.

Another thing is thawing out fridges. You can't do that in two hours and you can't leave it thawing 'till the following week. So, out of the goodness of your heart, you have to go back next morning or in between jobs.

It all adds up to strain. You think; 'When am I down that way?'; 'Will I have time?' 'Can I do it in

my own time?'

The council cut the time to clients about a year ago. I used to do two clients in a morning, two hours for each client, and the walking time in between each client was added on to my time.

But then, the 15 minutes I spend walking was taken off one of my clients instead. Now one gets two hours and the other gets one and three-quarter hours, and they only pay me for 21 hours.

### Time cut

If you add that up for all the home helps, that's a lot of client hours lost.

But the council seem to be cutting back one way or another all the time. We sometimes have to supervise ourselves because the office staff are short. There's not always enough supervisors to answer the phone when you ring in.

We're not getting paid to supervise ourselves. We can make mistakes doing that. I don't think privatisation measures that are being talked about would work. I really don't.

I mean, I was refused two entries last week and I'm a home help seven years. They get to know you.

We work in one area and we talk to the clients about the other home helps on the patch. But still this woman wouldn't let me in. She said, "No, I'll wait for my own home help to come back, I'm alright."

If they had a private firm doing it they'd never get to know them, because there would be every Tom, Dick and Harry going in.

Before we get the job we have to give three references, and we have training; first aid for one thing. Private firms won't train people.

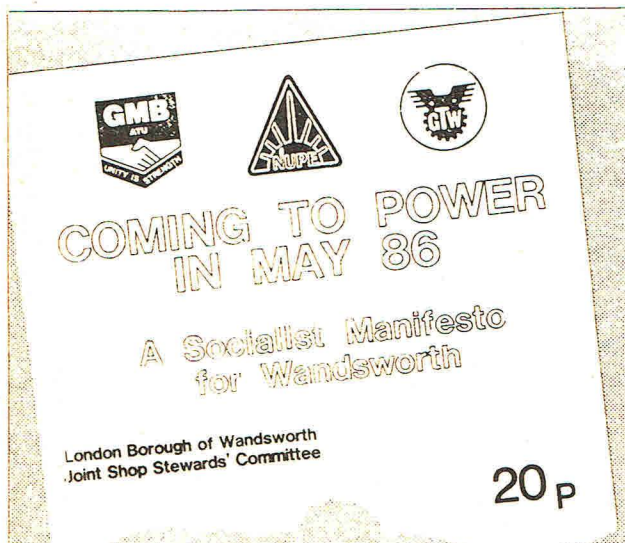
Some of our clients have life savings in their homes. The home help is in a very trusted position. But then if anything goes missing the police can always catch up with us. We're down on files. These private people aren't.

The old people are frightened to open their doors to strangers. And who can blame them—anyone can come round and say they're a home help once its been privatised.

We are the people who see and hear what goes on, because we're doing the job. So in the Joint Shop Stewards Committee Manifesto for the 1986 council elections (reviewed in Militant 767b) we just put down what we know has been cut and what is needed to put things right.

The only hope for the home help services is if Labour gets in next time. Of course, they're not going to wave a magic wand, but they've got to do better than what the Tories are doing. Social services is going to pot.

As our manifesto says, Wandsworth needs a labour council that will take the same sort of stand against the Tory government that Liverpool are taking.



## INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

# Cortonwood miners go down — Darfield Main fights on

**MINERS AT Cortonwood colliery in Yorkshire, whose fight against closure triggered the national strike, have voted not to carry on their opposition.**

The headline in the *Barnsley Chronicle* last Friday was: "Some miners could lose thousands".

This is just one example of how the press, in league with the NCB management, have been creating fear and depression in the Yorkshire coalfield, over the question of unemployment benefit next year for those who are taking redundancy.

In the same paper a Coal Board spokesman was quoted: "If we cannot make men redundant by the last day of the year, they will lose benefits. But the men will have to give us notice, depending on their length of service, and in effect the deadline is within the next couple of weeks."

The biggest contribution to the Coal Board's propaganda was the announcement a couple of weeks ago that miners at Yorkshire Main Colliery in the Doncaster area, had voted to accept the closure of their own pit.

Emboldened by this, NCB management have also attempted to try and persuade, bully and force members of other union branches to accept closure as well.

Cortonwood men voted to close their pit at the most extraordinary ordinary branch meeting ever.

It was obvious that the pit closures caucus in the branch had done its job and unfortunately done it well. Rumours were rife that the president had set up the whole meeting well in advance.

The week leading up to the meeting was a time of revelation. For the first time the management were telling the

By a Militant reporter

men what their future would be under the NCB.

The men were invited to approach the management to ask advice on possible transfer. This enabled management to claim it only responded to the men's requests, but in fact the managers' office door was open to the men until the night shift had gone underground.

When the agenda was posted for the union meeting, it became clear that there would be a vote for closure taken. There was a note explaining that a speaker from Yorkshire Main had been invited to explain why they had voted for closure and the branch secretary was to report on the situation at Cortonwood.

Standing Orders were suspended immediately after the minutes had been read and explaining to members what this meant, the secretary said: "This will allow us to get into the meat of the meeting". Which would seem to imply that he had never regarded the meeting as anything but a pit closing exercise.

Ian Ferguson, branch secretary at Yorkshire Main, explained the demoralisation at his pit and said that to fight through the review would be futile and could have led to compulsory redundancies.

Bearing in mind the demoralised state at Yorkshire Main, he should have led from the front in-

**Barnsley Area NUM demonstration**  
Speakers: Arthur Scargill, Jack Taylor, Dennis Skinner  
Morning 19 October  
Barnsley Town Centre

**Public Meeting**  
Darfield Main Community Action Committee  
At: Mitchell's and Darfield Miners' Welfare, Wombwell  
23 October, 7.30pm  
Invited Speakers: Ian Isaac (St Johns Branch Sec), Betty Heathfield, Mick Clapham (NUM National Industrial Relations Officer).

stead of meekly bowing his head. The review of Yorkshire Main could have taken up to 15 months, in which time the fighting spirit could have been rekindled.

A motion from the floor called for a speaker from Darfield Main, which at very short notice, along with members of Wombwell LPYS, had organised a lobby to try and get men to vote to keep the pit open.



Cortonwood delegate, Gary Ironmonger.

The chairman unfortunately ruled this motion out of order. The Cortonwood branch secretary then went on to explain the situation at the pit.

He told the men about the closure of the colliery, the number who wanted redundancies and transfers and he also said that the Yorkshire Main closure put 800 men on the job market and that these could take Cortonwood's

jobs at other pits.

The branch delegate on the other hand explained that the transfer figures had been inflated by pressure put on the men at the end of the strike. Many thought that they could have been made redundant if they didn't put in for a transfer. He also explained the need to stand by Darfield Main, as they had stood by Cortonwood for the 12 months of the strike.

After further discussion, the vote was taken to rescind the minutes committing Cortonwood to fight through the review procedure. The proposer of this action was the same person who had proposed the suspension of standing orders. The result was 161 in favour of rescinding the minutes and allowing closure, 72 against and 82 absentions.

The events that took place at both Yorkshire Main and Cortonwood provide two valuable lessons for the future.

Firstly: in the period between the meetings that decided to close Yorkshire Main and the meeting at Cortonwood on Sunday, virtually no word and no lead was given by the Yorkshire Area leadership.

Secondly: an open and democratic Broad Left is needed within the NUM to ensure that the situation which arose at both Yorkshire Main and Cortonwood does not occur again. If there had been a proper



Cortonwood miners on demonstration during the national strike.

Broad Left, in existence at Cortonwood, keeping morale up and organising resistance to the lies and intimidation of the board the pit would still be open and going through the review procedure.

## Campaign

The closure of Cortonwood was a direct result of the Yorkshire Main decision. The union should never have allowed the two branches to be played off against each other. This could have further consequences for the future. We must all ensure that the disillusion created by the Yorkshire Main decision is ended and we take up the fight for the pits that are still under threat.

That means that three miles down the road in Darfield Main it is absolutely vital that the mood and the morale of the miners is kept

up, that the issue of what happened at Cortonwood is properly explained to them.

On 19 October there is a demonstration organised by the NUM with Arthur Scargill, Dennis Skinner, amongst others, speaking in Barnsley, which will have Darfield Main at the front.

On 23 October, the Darfield Main Community Action Committee have organised a public meeting in the Mitchell's and Darfield Miners' Welfare in Wombwell, to keep the fight against the pit's closure going.

We would appeal to every miner and every worker in other industries to attend those two events.

For further information contact: Darfield Main Community Action Group, 17 Rimington Road, Wombwell, Barnsley, Yorks. Phone: Barnsley 757700.

## DHSS pressure too much

### Ilford

CPSA MEMBERS at Ilford DHSS office are on strike demanding more staff.

Due to government staff cuts, it is impossible to handle the work load in local DHSS offices. Payments go out late, mistakes are made, and certain jobs such as visiting are virtually closed down.

The pressure on staff is tremendous, and in offices where cuts have hit hardest the job of receptionist (the people who see unappointed callers) is the worst of all.

At Ilford the pressure got so much that the receptionists could no longer cope. This led to a strike of CPSA members demanding 28 extra staff.

The CPSA representatives asked for official backing and strike pay. Since then, the right-wing leaders of the CPSA have done their best to send them back to work.

They demanded that a group of

workers who walked out of their own accord should hold a ballot in line with Tory anti-union laws!

This was done, but it took a while to organise and as a result the CPSA National Disputes Committee refused to make the first two weeks of the strike official.

They then awarded strike pay at week at a time and the branch representatives had to go back to CPSA HQ every week for their case to be reviewed!

### 'Left' sabotage

Attempts at winning support for sympathy action in London have not been helped by the attitude of CPSA regional officials.

After regional management had conceded seven extra staff, seen as totally inadequate by Ilford strikers, the CPSA regional secretary, Colin Middleton, a member of the "Communist" Party and the so-called "Broad Left '84" group has advised the strikers to return to work.

At a regional committee meeting his recommendation against a proposal from the strikers for a day's

strike in solidarity by other London offices on 27 September was overturned by the real Broad Left members present.

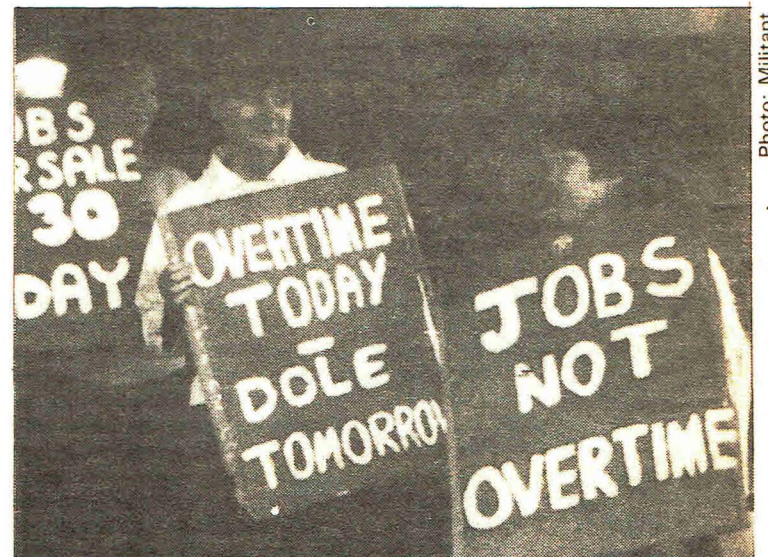
Following the display of solidarity in action by other offices in London on 27 September the National Disputes Committee extended strike pay to 8 October.

The leaders of the strike have not been demoralised by the antics of the right wing bureaucracy and "Broad Left '84" regional offices.

Supporters of *Militant* in DHSS have made a call, eagerly taken up by other Broad Left members, for an all-London meeting of local representatives on 12 October to organise a fight for improved staffing levels, as a mood of anger is building up there.

That is not to treat London as a special case—industrial action over staffing could spread to other cities. At the time of writing it seems that the meeting will go ahead, although there will be bureaucratic attempts to prevent it.

By Dave Spagnol  
(CPSA, personal capacity)



DHSS dispute in Newham against overtime workers when more staff were needed.

### Euston

65 CPSA members and 15 SCPS members at Euston DHSS have taken strike action on three Mondays running in protest at overtime being worked against the union ban.

Members are fighting to maintain the unions' overtime ban in

protest at low staffing levels. CPSA and SCPS members at Paddington are also taking similar strike action.

At a meeting on Friday the CPSA and SCPS members voted unanimously to extend the strike action to include lightning walk-outs if management this week don't withdraw the offer of overtime.

By Simon Dennison  
(Sub-branch secretary, Euston DHSS)

# Walk-outs at Vauxhall

**VAUXHALL MOTORS** is in the middle of major disputes.

At both Luton and Ellesmere Port there is the possibility of industrial action over pay.

At Ellesmere Port 3,000 workers walked out for a half a day in protest at Vauxhall's level of imported Astras whilst Ellesmere has unused capacity.

And at Luton 3,000-4,000 workers have been laid off as a result of the sacking of a worker in the trim shop. The other trim shop workers walked out and the 3,000 were subsequently laid off.

Management have already retreated to a three day suspension but this is not acceptable to the strikers.

The worker concerned had been off sick. When he returned to work he was transferred into cramped working conditions on car assembly.

Being well over six foot tall he found the work very difficult and complained first to the supervisor and then his old group leader.

He was then sacked for allegedly refusing to do the job. Not only was this not true but contrary to procedure his shop steward had not been consulted and there had been no shop steward present at his disciplining.

The TGWU are meeting on Wednesday morning to discuss whether to pursue the action against his suspension. The night shift are not going in tonight (Tuesday).

If Wednesday's meeting decides to return then there will be a mass meeting on Friday over the pay claim. If not, it will be put off. The stewards do not want the two disputes running into each other.

The pay offer is in reality 11% over two years despite management claims of 13%. They are including consolidation of bonus into basic pay. It amounts to £9 this year, £7 next.

The traditional problem of lack of coordination between Ellesmere Port and Luton appears to be breaking down a bit. An Ellesmere Port steward spoke to the Luton TGWU stewards on Monday about their campaign against the high level of Vauxhall imports.

That is an important step forward and must be developed, especially in any fight over pay.

There is, however, a lack of cooperation on the part of AUEW officials at Luton. They do not appear to be keeping their members informed or preparing them for a fight for a decent pay rise.

Unity is vital in any industrial struggle, but never more so than when taking on a giant like Vauxhall's American 'parent' General Motors. If there is a laggardly approach from the top then workers must forge unity from below.

*From Jim Carroll in Luton and Aaron Quinn in Ellesmere Port*



## Prepare for London bus battle

**BUS GARAGE** representatives from all over London met last Friday to discuss the action initiated by workers at Battersea garage against its planned closure.

They voted not to comply with management's November and future programmes. The November programme includes closure of Battersea and Walworth and affects about twenty garages in all.

A series of other rationalisations and cuts, especially to do with one person operation of buses are planned and there will also be no-cooperation with these.

The district officer Terry Allen will meet with management for negotiations over their plans. If no compromise is reached by 2 November workers refusing to accept closure of their garage will effectively be locked out.

Preparations must be made now to win support for all-out action from 2 November if management refuse to retreat.

**By Duncan Comrie**

# National backing for Silentnight

A **UNITED** call by Silentnight strikers on their leaders in the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union has already prompted further action.

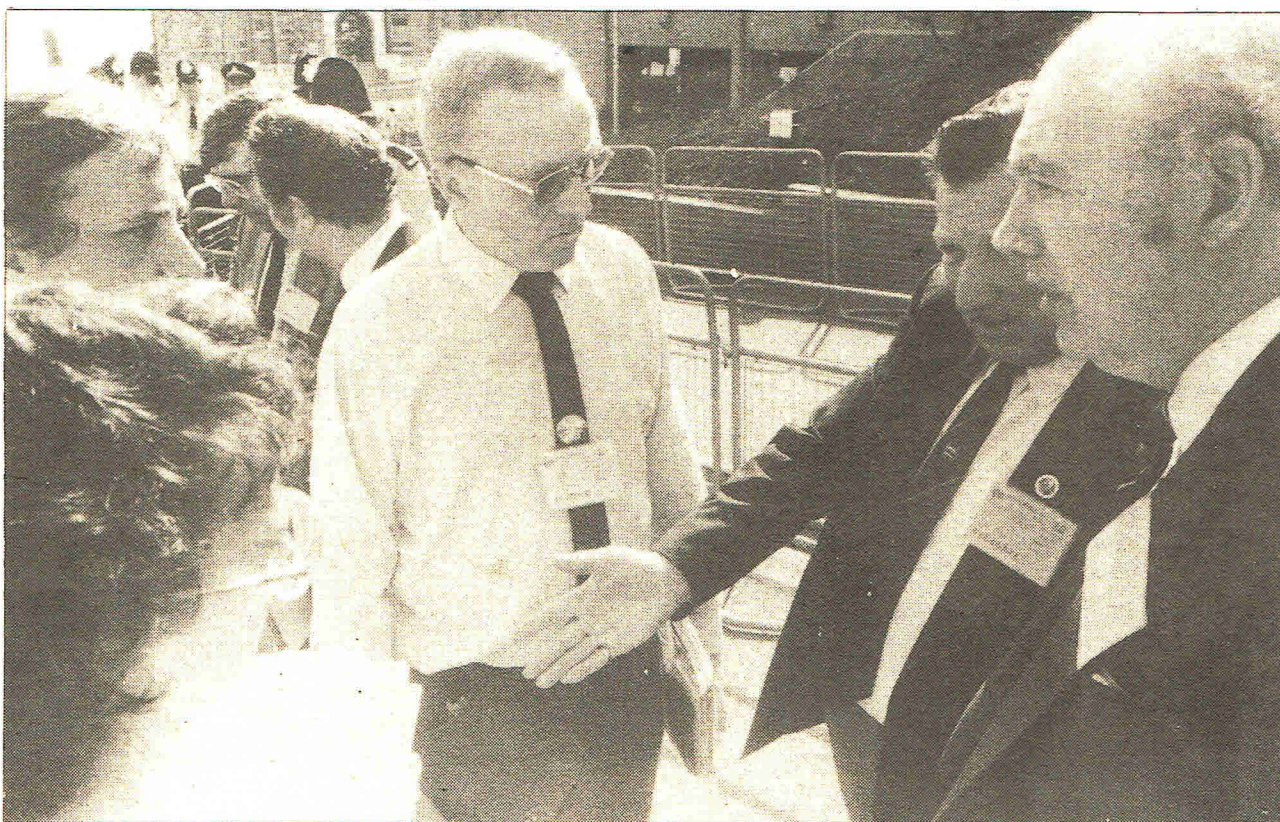
At a mass meeting on 23 September, the message was forcefully put over to the national FTAT official, Mr Coates, that members required more positive leadership and a clear overall strategy for winning the dispute.

A permanent strike headquarters has now been set up in Barnoldswick, Lancashire, and a full-time regional FTAT officer is to be permanently based there, to co-ordinate strike activities.

The union has also now provided much-needed office equipment and facilities to help with the work.

Because of the demand for supportive action from FTAT members in the rest of the Silentnight group, it has been agreed to hold a meeting of Silentnight (UK) FTAT shop stewards on Saturday 12 October.

It is hoped that this will lead to mass meetings being organised in the other factories in the group. In addition, a special meeting of FTAT organisers nationwide has been promised, specifically to discuss backing the Silentnight strike on a national basis.



Liverpool MP Terry Fields introduces Silentnight strikers lobbying Labour Party conference to rail union leaders Ray Buckton and Jimmy Knapp. Photo: Dave Sinclair

In Bournemouth strikers were lobbying the Labour Party conference all last week, raising funds and appealing for wider support from the labour movement. A number of delegates referred to the Silentnight strike when speaking from the rostrum.

In the meantime, a former

scab worker at Sutton, West Yorkshire, has joined the picket line. He announced that Silentnight shopfloor workers have very little work to do, confirming the stories of other scab workers.

Clearly the strikers' efforts have been hitting the company hard. Drivers bringing raw materials are

turning back, and the company is reported to be losing orders.

Rochdale Labour Party has now raised over £1,000 for the strike fund, including £216 at a meeting on 27 September.

A weekly strike bulletin produced by local *Militant* supporters has been well

received by strikers, who are glad to have assistance in communicating their views to other strikers and to their union officers and at public meetings have recommended *Militant's* reports.

**By Linden Stafford**  
(Skipton Labour Party)

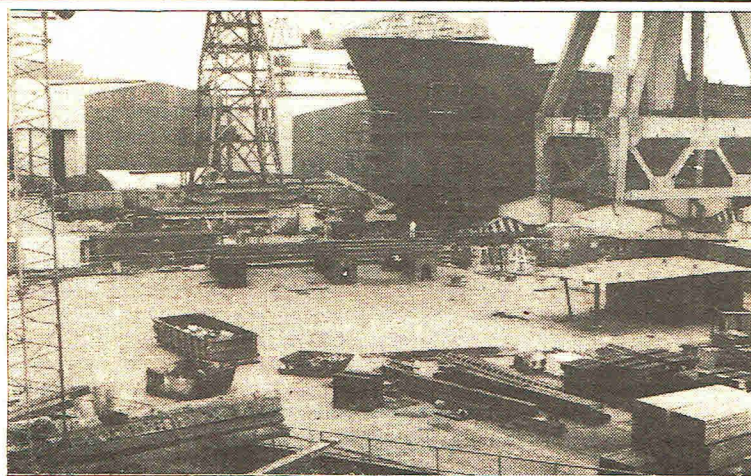
## Wallsend shipyard strike

**THE STRIKE** at shipbuilders in Wallsend on Tyne is now in its seventh week.

The men are becoming increasingly frustrated at the situation, they don't know what's going on. There's increasing anger with the national leadership, mainly because of the lack of time and effort they're putting into helping to made the strike official, especially since the men are now living on the breadline.

Striking office staff have been threatened by management about their futures if they stay out on strike. But morale on the picket line is still very high.

One man collapsed on the picket line and died on his way to hospital which resulted in cries of "murderer" at the industrial rela-



Wallsend shipyard.

tions officer at Swan Hunters who is seen as enemy number one by the men at the yard.

He is the person who insisted that the men had their tea breaks on the ships, even if it meant eating in a space no bigger than a box, full of dirt and infestation.

Rumours are rife about unions having ballots and the strike being made official but the men are still in the dark about what is happen-

ing. Shop stewards know as little as the men about what will happen.

Despite uncertainty at their situation the men are still determined to fight on. As one young shipyard worker said "There's no way I will go back to the yard as it is now. I'll stay out for as long as it takes but there's no way I'll go back now."

**By Andrew Costello**  
(Wallsend LPYS)

## This sinking system

**THE RECENT** collapse of the Sanko Shipping Co, one of Japan's largest multi-nationals, has not only shaken the confidence of the international shipping industry, but also shows the deep crisis of world capitalism.

It is unprecedented for the Japanese to allow a company such as Sanko to go bankrupt. They have a policy whereby the banks bail out companies which get into problems.

But the banks have no confidence in the future of world trade and therefore of world shipping and refused to give further credit.

The Japanese minister for Trade and Industry—also chairman of Sanko—was forced to resign his government post, which must have caused serious concern for the Japanese bankers and industrialists who have until recently, been unaffected by post-war slumps.

The 'siege' mentality will develop as countries erect tariff barriers and introduce import controls to

protect their own national interests.

Lack of confidence by the bosses worldwide in the shipping industry is reflected in recent figures. As many Tonnes of shipping were scrapped during the first six months of this year than the first six months of last year.

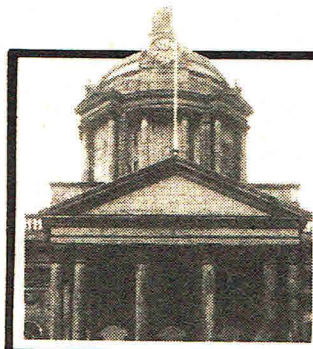
No longer are ships layed up for a spell until 'things pick up,' but are now completely scrapped.

It is estimated that if the decline continues at the present rate in the British Shipping Industry, Britain will only have 300 ships left in five years time! This decline in shipping is reflected in the overall decline of manufacturing industry in the UK.

The disastrous decline in world shipping, which is also catastrophic for the world steel and heavy engineering industries shows how pessimistic the bosses are about the future.

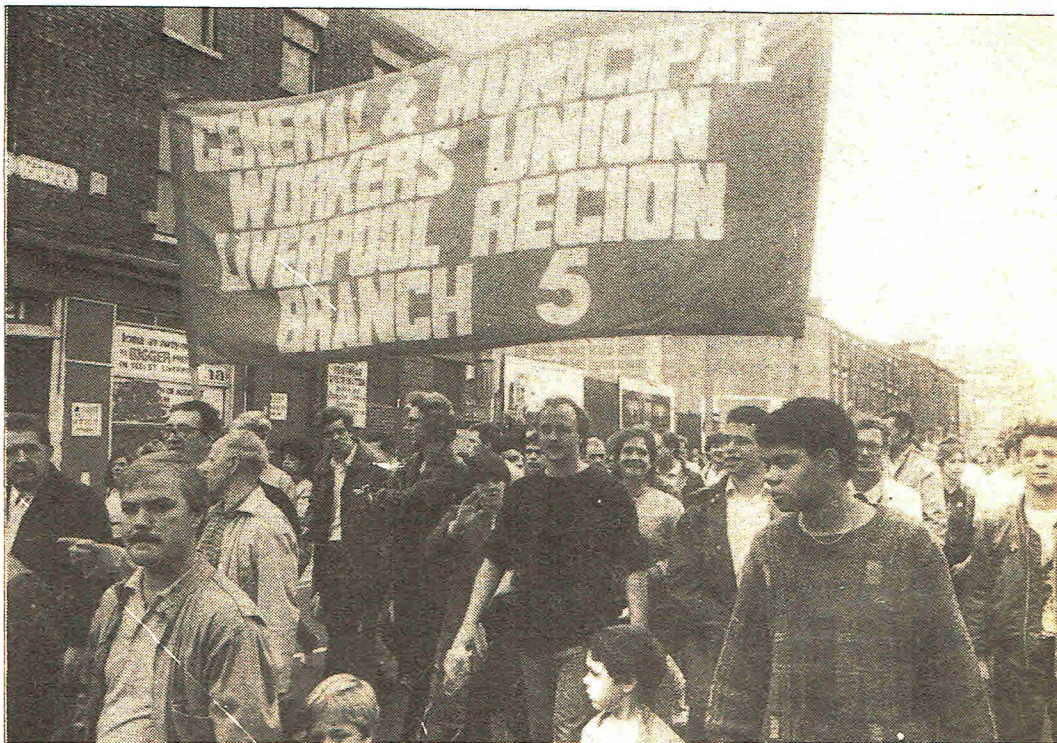
**By Julie Harris**

# Militant



**Liverpool  
Interview  
with John  
Hamilton.  
Canvassing  
in Garston. P.3**

## Liverpool prepares for battle



Trade unionists show their support for Liverpool Council on the 25 September demonstration.

PHOTOS: Dave Sinclair

**THE INTRANSIGENCE of the Tory government is bringing confrontation with Liverpool City Council closer by the day.**

The Tories' refusal to pay back the money taken away by cuts in grants is bringing financial ruin to the city. Essential supplies are running low—the council now faces a stark choice. Either it gives in or it prepares for battle with the Tories.

Despite the unrelenting barrage of press hysteria against the council, the mood in the city is hardening against a compromise.

National leaders of eight local authority unions are due to visit the city in an effort to come up with an alternative solution to the council's strategy. They will find none. The only alternative is to make cuts in one form or another. The council welcomes their visit and is prepared to open the books. But local council workers, especially in the GMBATU resent the slur on the council made by some leaders that the 90 day notices are an attempt to sack workers.

The notices are the only way of avoiding an immediate lock-out and a stop to all wages. On 26 September the Joint Shop Stewards Committee agreed "not to oppose the issuing of the notices but reaffirms our total opposition to implementing redundancies. We pledge to call for out industrial action prior to the 90 days expiring."

This resolution was overwhelmingly passed at a mass

By Bill Boyle

meeting of 1,000 TGWU members, and passed by 1,000 votes to two at a mass meeting of GMBATU.

In other words the council's strategy, backed by thousands of council workers is in preparation for an all out battle to save jobs, to save new homes built by the council. It's not a strategy for chaos or making 30,000 workers redundant.

### Changing mood

Ian Lowes, chairman of the JSSC said: "We have reached a critical point in the battle. We expect our union to back us and help us to reunite the JSSC. They should spent their time persuading NALGO, NUPE and the NUT to rejoin us in the fight against the Tories."

There are now signs that the mood in the unions previously opposed to the council is changing.

NALGO shop stewards in Social Services have voted against capitalisation as an option. (This would entail spending money allocated for next year's housing programme—in other words making cuts). Also at the meeting *Militant* supporter Angie Milburn was elected with the top vote for the vacant position on the branch executive (policy making body) of NALGO.

An angry meeting of 700 home helps, members of NUPE ended with a quick vote on a show of hands with a third of those voting supporting the council. There were a large number of abstentions, showing that many members are still considering the issues. Previously they had been denied the chance to vote by the union's leadership.

They had received no information or explanation on any of the major basic issues from their local leaders.

Deputy Leader Derek Hatton and Councillor Pauline Lowes addressed the meeting and answered questions. The councillors were given a rough ride by the members concerned about their jobs and the service they provided. **But there was no hostility to the council's basic aims.** Because of the lack of any previous explanation from the council's

side, a majority still expressed opposition to the 90 day notices.

Even so, support for the council in NUPE exists and continues to grow. The vote of NUPE caretakers was solidly behind the council. Had it not been for the role of the NUPE leadership who have attempted to galvanise anti-council feeling, NUPE members would be solidly pro-council.

The NUPE leaders are now under much pressure to keep the membership informed and more NUPE mass meetings are expected. *The National Union of Teachers has been given leave to go ahead with its court case against the council. The case will come up in three weeks and the NUT's action could prevent the council obtaining necessary loans and running out of money to pay wages in weeks rather than months.*



Councillors, facing possible surcharge and disqualification, on the 25 September march.

## Militant Defence Fund—£10,000 needed

DELEGATES TO last week's Labour Party conference were disgusted to learn of the huge legal costs inflicted upon *Militant* as a result of the High Court libel action initiated by James White, right wing Labour MP for Glasgow Pollok.

Trade union delegates were outraged to hear that a Labour MP not only owned a car collection company, but had employed TGWU members on £1.43 per hour and then refused to negotiate when they asked for a five per cent pay rise.

They were even more outraged to hear that *Militant* is now faced with a bill totalling over £10,000 for having reported the workers' case. *Militant* is clearly penalised for defending workers in struggle.

As a result many gave generously to the *Militant* Defence Fund. Moreover many assured us that they would raise it in their trade union branches and Labour Parties to send further donations to help *Militant* meet the costs.

The huge support for *Militant* amongst workers was reflected in the collections received this week—these include:

£20 collected from Notts NUM strikers from Annesley "in recognition of your support during the strike"; £16.75 from Arkwright NUM members; £10 collected from Fairley Marine workers, Isle of Wight; £13 from South Edinburgh NUPE branch members; £14 collected from Mansfield AUEW members; £25 from TGWU 1/1347 Brighton and £16 from Brighton Labour Party General Committee delegates; £10 from Woolwich LPYS, £10 from Bow and Poplar LP and £7 from Hackney DHSS CPSA.

Individual donations include £5 from Gerald White, £10 from Kevin Mullins, COHSE NEC member, plus another £20 raised from COHSE LP conference delegates. Ian Isaac (South Wales NUM EC), Tony Taylor from Coedely NUM, Bill Etherington, General Secretary Durham Mechanics, £10 each and Les Garson, Nant Garw Coke Ovens £5.

Supporters should not let up! James White has dropped his action. But we still need £10,000 to pay our legal costs by the end of this month. Send money urgently to: 'Militant Defence Fund', 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church Street, London SE8 4SB.



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