

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 25p

ISSUE 778 13 December 1985

Get the truth—
get Militant

THE CAPITALIST press are pouring out a massive stream of lies against *Militant* supporters—we must make sure workers get the chance to read the truth.

We are calling on all our sellers to turn out for a mass paper sale on 14 December. If every *Militant* supporter in the country turns out on just that day we can show the right wing our real strength and get our ideas across to thousands of new people. And don't forget to collect money for the fighting fund.

Inside...

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Answering Fleet Street lies

Expel the Tories

THIS YEAR has shown millions of people what a class-divided society Tory Britain is.

Miners and trade unionists, young workers and school students have seen a series of attacks on their rights and living standards while the rich have grown richer than ever.

Workers in Britain want the Tories out and the Labour Party should be at the head of this struggle.

Instead Labour's leaders and the right-wing National Executive Committee have played into the Tories' hands by starting to witch-hunt Labour Party members who fight for the working class.

They are conducting an inquiry into Liverpool District Labour Party for its support of Liverpool City Council's heroic stand against Tory robbery. The Fleet Street editors and Tory hacks have been handed the chance to drag the name of socialism through the mud, using the totally unfounded smears of right-wingers in the labour movement.

Labour Party policy

The District Party has been suspended and vital time wasted when all the energy of socialists is needed to combat the Tories, the Liberals and the courts.

There is a crucial council by-election in Old Swan Ward of Liverpool on 9 January. Labour councillors who followed party policy against the Tory onslaught on local government are already under attack from the ruling class. On 13 January, they are to appear in court, threatened with surcharges and suspension from office because they carried out party policy.

The District Labour Party is raising cash to fight the case. But rather than back up its own party members in

By Roger Shives



Labour Party members and trade unionists protest outside the inquiry.

Photo: Dave Sinclair.

AN AVALANCHE of lies, smears and distortions has poured out of Fleet Street to accompany the Labour leadership's witch-hunt against Liverpool.

It would take a book to answer every lie in the Tory, millionaire owned press—below are the answers to the most blatant lies:

● Lie No 1: 'Militant has intimidated people, threatening violence against women, children and the elderly.'

Fact: Neither the press nor Liverpool's opponents have come up with one case of violence. If such a 'reign of terror' existed, surely the police would be involved—there have been no such incidents whatsoever. Indeed it is *Militant* supporters who have suffered violence and intimidation earlier this year when the so-called Black Caucus used gangster tactics against the council and against black workers.

● Lie No 2: 'Militant packs the District Labour Party to get its own way.'

Fact: The aggregate policy meetings of Liverpool DLP—where all party members are allowed to attend—is nothing new but has a precedent going back 20 years. Other Labour Parties have similar meetings, such as Newcastle DLP. Only bona-fide Labour Party and trade union delegates are allowed to vote—visitors are only allowed a non-binding consultative vote.

● Lie No 3: Liverpool City Council victimised opponents amongst its workforce.

Fact: The media claims workers opposing the council have been dumped in a 'leper colony' at the coun-

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Next issue

THE NEXT issue of *Militant* will be dated 3 January 1986 and we wish our readers a Happy Christmas and a Tory-free New Year.

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Defend the socialists

Militant

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Labour in peril

THE INQUIRY into Liverpool District Labour Party is a political attack on party members, *Militant* supporters and the left as a whole. It has given the Labour Party's worst enemies the chance to emerge from the sewers to hurl every filthy lie, accusation and insult they can think of against the leaders of the Liverpool labour movement.

A Liberal Party member, a solicitor, arrived to present his "dossier" of complaints against the Liverpool Labour Party. Four Tory cabinet ministers demanded at their party conference that Neil Kinnock take action against Marxists in his party.

The Tory press, ready at any time to join in attacks on Labour has published page upon page of unsubstantiated charges, of "intimidation", "blackmail" and "rigging". The 'Communist' *Morning Star* has joined in, reporting the allegations without any comment.

Every one of these allegations has been shown to be false. If it were impartial the inquiry would have no alternative but to reject them out of hand. The Liverpool District Labour Party and the Labour City councillors deserve not the censure but the praise of labour and trade union activists for the stand they have taken in defence of jobs and services.

The enemies of Labour who have demanded the inquiry are not concerned for the good of the Labour Party, but hope to provoke a damaging internal conflict. As Tony Benn has said: "What the NEC's action has put at stake is not just the future of Liverpool District Labour Party, but the future of the Labour Party itself."

Already Tebbit has said that after Liverpool, the Manchester District Labour Party should be the next target: "they are the same sort of people pursuing the same extreme policies". Now *The Times* is demanding a far wider purge of the Labour Party. Its editorial singles out Diane Abbott and Bernie Grant, neither of whom supports *Militant*, and refers to "ideological cabals passing themselves off as general management committees". It spells out, as *Militant* has constantly warned, that the ruling class will not be satisfied just with the expulsion of *Militant* supporters. The whole of the left is threatened. Indeed in Birmingham Sparkbrook, two party members who support black sections, which *Militant* has opposed, have already been expelled, for the non-existent offence of "bringing the party into disrepute."

The Labour leaders are collaborating in creating an atmosphere of intolerance and hysteria, which has diverted workers' attention from their sufferings at the hands of the Tory government and enabled the press portray the Labour Party as in disarray.

Already the party is paying the price. The Tynebridge by-election, in one of the country's most deprived areas, should have been a Labour landslide. A programme like that of the Liverpool councillors, vigorously campaigned for on the doorsteps and at the workplaces, would have inspired workers to vote in their thousands for the Labour Party. In the event, only 38 per cent voted at all and Labour's share of the vote rose by only 1.3 per cent from the general election figure.

The results achieved by the Labour Party in Liverpool provide a dramatic contrast. Not only did the 1983 results show a swing towards Labour, against the national trend, but council election results and opinion polls since have shown a further growth of Labour support. That is because they have proved, in the language of bricks and mortar, of jobs and services, that there is a practical alternative to the Tories. When a lead is given, the workers will respond.

That is what makes so absurd the argument that the inquiry into the Liverpool Party and the expulsion of Marxists is justified in order to get a Labour government elected. The evidence is that a non-political, TV-orientated campaign with heavy emphasis on the personality of the leader and few if any public meetings, will never inspire working class voters. The attempt to purge the Labour Party of Marxism could cause Labour to lose the next general election.

A student at Newcastle Polytechnic was conducting an BBC 'exit' poll of voters at Tynebridge. After asking 100 electors how they had voted, he had to name the four party leaders and ask which they would like to see as the next Prime Minister. The Tory voters all said 'Thatcher', the Alliance voters either 'Owen' or 'Steel', but only half the Labour voters said 'Kinnock'. The other half of the Labour voters expressed no preference for any of the four leaders!

Liverpool City Council has pioneered the kind of campaign, based on policies, not personalities, which can bring victory. It is up to the party and trade union ranks to mount intense pressure on the NEC members to force them to recognise that there is no support from within the movement for their actions. The inquiry must be called off immediately. They must turn their attention to the real fight to force the Tories out of office and bring Labour to power with a Liverpool-style socialist programme.

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Liverpool inquiry

THE INQUIRY has one main aim—to gather so-called 'evidence' and allegations and use them to punish the Liverpool Party for its stand against the Tories.

The intention was undoubtedly to hold a quick inquiry, ignoring the mass of evidence in support of the DLP, and to take measures against the party and its officers on the basis of allegations from a small minority.

Officers of the party have already objected to the handling of the inquiry (listed below) where clear bias is being shown against union and party branches and individuals who support the majority in the DLP. All norms of natural justice and the democratic traditions of the labour movement have been set aside.

No cast-iron guarantee has been given for the right to answer allegations made, and most of the inquiry team consists of leading Labour officials who have

backed witch-hunts and expulsions in the past. It is a kangaroo court where the jury has been picked by the prosecution and the sentences already passed.

The whole thing has been badly organised—just the kind of allegations being levelled at the district party. Now there is so much weight of evidence in support of the DLP that it seems that the inquiry will be adjourned until the new year.

Meanwhile the district party officers and officers of the Labour Group intend to launch their strongest protest against continuing the suspension of the party into the new year, damaging Labour's chances in the Old Swan by-election and the local elections in May.

Militant calls on all sections of the party to oppose the inquiry, its methods and the suspension of the DLP, and return to the job of fighting the Tories.

DLP officers object to bias

PARTY MEMBERS, including officers of the DLP, have placed on record their objections to the handling of the inquiry which include:

1) The NEC resolution to suspend the DLP and hold the inquiry was done on the basis of unfounded allegations and statements. Roy Hattersley in the NEC meeting, at which he voted for the inquiry said there was political and "literal corruption" in Liverpool.

NUPE branch secretary Jane Kennedy has produced a 150 page dossier but despite a request for details, the DLP officers were given no written notice of any charges, rules alleged to have

been broken or other allegations.

The inquiry gave a commitment that the officers would be able to reply to any specific charges made but this commitment is not watertight (see below).

2) Some trade union branches—notably NUPE where branch officials have opposed the council, have had ample time to prepare evidence. But most branches affiliated to the DLP have had no notification whatsoever from national or regional Labour Party headquarters, and it has been left to chance as to whether or not they contact the inquiry in time to give evidence.

3) Individual Labour Par-

ty members who have contacted Walworth Road to give evidence, had their names and 'phone numbers taken but have heard nothing more. The panel will decide which individuals it will see and which it will not see.

4) Constituency Labour Parties received notification about the inquiry only days beforehand. Letters were received on WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER, saying they had to inform the General Secretary by "Wednesday December 5" (sic) of their request to appear.

5) The assistant regional organiser of the Labour Party, who has made criticisms about the running of the

DLP aggregates was present at the aggregate meetings himself. No charges have been made against this senior party official who should have given a ruling if there had been any irregularities.

6) The majority of the inquiry team have no claims to impartiality. They are on record as having supported witch-hunts against *Militant* supporters and specifically of condemning Liverpool City Council.

Tony Clarke (UCW) for example said he wouldn't judge the issue. If there was a proposal to expell *Militant* he said he'd be the first to support it.

By John Pickard

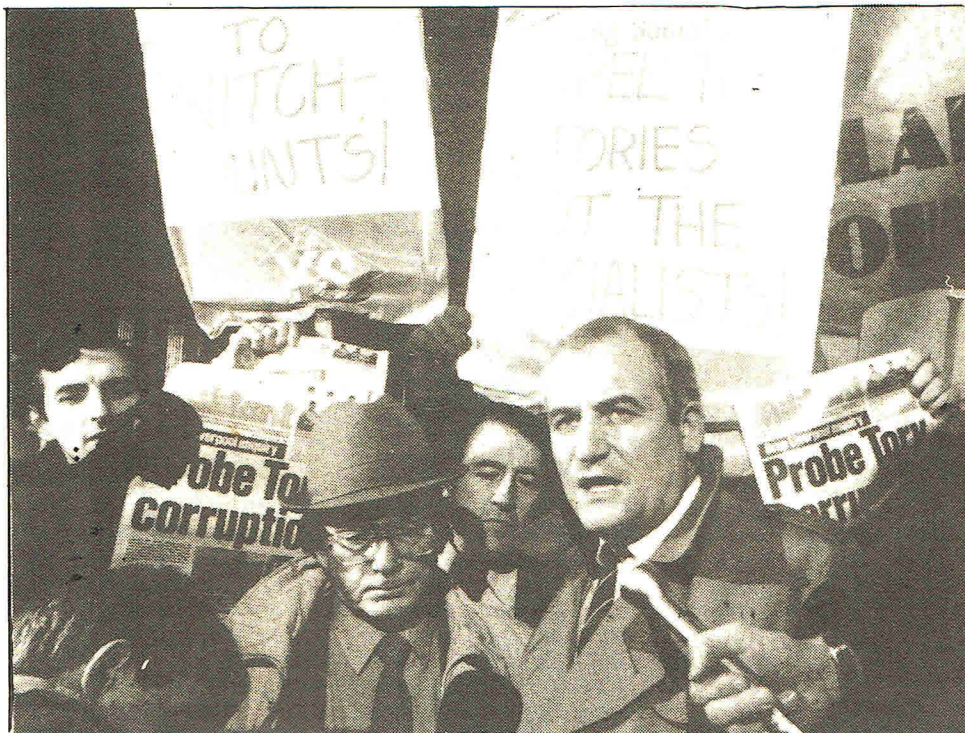
No clear right of reply given

HOW SECURE is the commitment made by the inquiry chairman that those named in specific allegations will get a chance to reply?

Charles Turnock said that those charged with specific allegations will have the right to reply face to face with those making them. But Jane Kennedy, NUPE branch secretary, said on radio and TV that she knew of no such commitment. She would almost certainly object if one were given.

The only conclusion that can be drawn is that no cast-iron assurance has been given. Labour Parties therefore must continue to insist that party members are not slandered by secret tittle-tattle and unsubstantiated charges and that adequate opportunity should be given to answer any accusations about them.

The inquiry team have been tape recording the entire proceedings, and at its conclusion, party members must insist that written transcripts are made available to Liverpool DLP, as well as NEC members, along with copies of all documents provided.



Eddie Loyden MP, DLP officers Terry Harrison and Tony Mulhearn coming out of the inquiry. Photo: Dave Sinclair

700 at party rally

EDDIE LOYDEN, MP, opened last Friday's Liverpool Labour Party public meeting to the applause of the 700-strong audience when he attacked the decision to hold an inquiry.

"It is an indictment of the NEC that it has chosen to suspend and hold an inquiry into Liverpool District Labour Party. Instead it should be calling in the Liverpool City councillors and giving them a medal each for their stand against the Tory cuts".

The mood was sober but enthusiastic. An appeal by Terry Fields MP raised £17,000 in cash and com-

mitments to defend the councillors against the threat of surcharge. The meeting was addressed by John Hamilton, Derek Hatton, MP Bob Wareing and MEP Ken Stanton.

Eric Heffer MP said that Liverpool council was the only one in the country that had actually stood by party policy. He quoted from the annual report of the 1985 Labour Party conference: "Authorities should construct a budget in '85 to '86 in accordance with local wishes, even if they be out of line with central government. . . Non-compliance could mean either being unable to set a budget or running out of money."

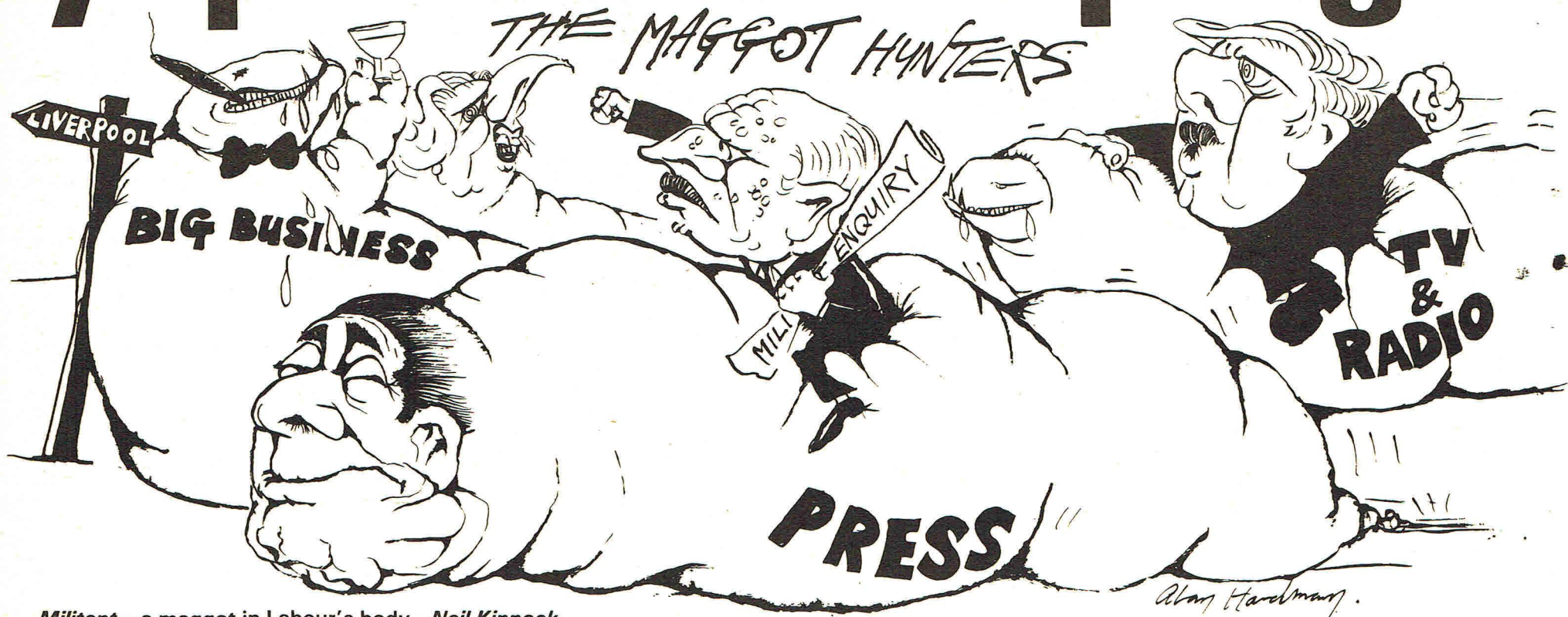
"What crime then have Liverpool councillors committed? Our only crime", said Tony Mulhearn, "is that we have increased the number of delegates to the DLP, we've got the most active Labour party Liverpool has ever seen and we've achieved the maximum involvement by the rank and file, the trade union and Labour Party members".

Tony Benn attacked the decision: "What the NEC's action has put at stake is not just the future of Liverpool District Labour Party, but in fact the future of the Labour Party itself".

Messages of support were brought from the LPYS by Frances Curran, the Young Socialists' representative on the NEC.

By Neelam De Freitas

Party-prelude to a purge



Militant — a maggot in Labour's body — Neil Kinnock

Liverpool Party is 'most democratic'

TONY MULHEARN, president of the DLP, John Hamilton, treasurer, Terry Harrison and Eddie Loyden vice-chairmen, and secretary Felicity Downing were interviewed by the inquiry team.

They provided precise and detailed answers to the questions. Most of these were about how the Liverpool party was organised. They wanted to know how unions affiliate, how unions notify the DLP of delegates, how delegates are admitted to the meetings, how voting happens and the role of aggregate meetings (which

seemed to be regarded as highly suspect), how notices are sent out for meetings, how agendas are circulated and the relationship between the DLP and the Labour group.

Aggregates

The officers explained that DLP meetings are held regularly on the first Thursday of the month and that aggregate meetings are called when there is seen to be a need to involve as many members as possible. However, voting in these meetings is by delegates—visitors only have a con-

sultative vote.

Normally there is a large majority for either one view or another. The precedent for such aggregate meetings, the DLP officers explained, go back 20 years to the old municipal policy conferences. For as long as anyone present could remember all members of the party, whose party cards are checked at the door, had been able to attend a policy conference, but with voting restricted to delegates.

The DLP officers stressed that all DLP meetings and activities followed party rules. The role of the DLP as the policy making body and

the Labour Group's role of implementing that policy and reporting back was emphasised to the inquiry.

The inquiry team were asked about the scurrilous accusations some of which were made by the party leadership and asked if those accusations were any part of the inquiry's remit, but they were told that the inquiry had no part in any accusations.

Its a shambles

IT IS ironic that the inquiry which probed and interrogated District Labour Party officers for any signs of inefficiency and poor organisation should itself be such a shambles. The hearings began at about 2pm on Sunday and were still going on at 9pm.

Appointments for interviews were often as little as 15 minutes apart, so the inevitable happened and the inquiry fell behind schedule. After the first day it was two hours behind and some Party members who had waited hours were told they might have to be seen after Christmas. Two days are clearly not enough.

The inquiry panel questioned the DLP on, among other things, the checking of credentials at the door of the DLP meetings. Yet they didn't check the door at their own inquiry. When the Labour Group went in to see them one DLP liaison officer was barred because she was not a councillor, while another, also not a councillor was allowed in.

Vauxhall ward in Riverside is currently outside the constitution, because despite the insistence of Regional Labour Party, it has refused to allow people to join. Despite this, the inquiry agreed to take evidence from the ward officers, including Paul Orr, a right wing relic from the Braddock era, who recently voted with the Tories and Liberals for a budget of cuts.

NALGO branch condemns the inquiry

Liverpool City Council's white collar union NALGO has condemned the inquiry.

At its annual general meeting on Tuesday night it passed a resolution deploring the Labour leadership for its action when an important council by-election is pending and the councillors face massive fines and even imprisonment for breaking Tory laws. It resolved to take industrial action if the councillors are banned from office or imprisoned.

An attempt to amend the resolution cutting out reference to the inquiry was rejected.

Resolutions in support of the courageous stand taken by Liverpool Council are flooding in from Constituency Labour Parties, LPYS and trade union branches up and down the country.

Opposition

The Executive Committee of Bristol East CLP for example condemned the Labour Party NEC's decision to suspend and investigate the Liverpool District Labour Party and has declared its total opposition to the expulsion of socialists from the party.

Deptford CLP similarly condemned the inquiry, demanded that the NEC lifts its suspension of the Liverpool Party and warned "that any attempt to launch a witch-hunt against members of the party will be vigorously opposed".

In Liverpool, the GMBATU branch 200 passed a resolution condemning the inquiry and pointing out: "We totally reject claims of violence and intimidation at DLP meetings and call on the GMBATU executive to publicly support the union's elected delegates".

The National Communications Union (Liver-

pool internal branch) has written to the Labour Party pointing out that none of their delegates had ever made any specific complaints about intimidation or about alleged irregularities at the DLP.

The Liverpool Labour Group expressed total opposition to any expulsions of councillors or members of the Labour Party while Riverside CLP pointed out that: "While this CLP had had serious policy disagreements with the DLP it refutes allegations of vote rigging and personal threats by senior party officers of the DLP... The CLP believes that the inquiry, if conducted fairly, will clear the DLP of allegations of serious malpractice and improper behaviour."

Other resolutions supporting Liverpool Council have been passed by the following bodies:

North West Region: Liverpool JSSC, Liverpool NALGO, ASTMS (Shipping) North West, Garston CLP, Mosley Hill CLP, Manchester Women's Council, Withington Women's Section, Withington CLP, Chorlton CLP, GMBATU No 5, Liverpool Labour Group, Blackley CLP, TGWU 6/31.

Yorkshire: AUEW TASS no 11 Divisional Council, Sheffield Hillsborough CLP.

London Region: London Region Executive, Bethnal Green CLP, Vauxhall CLP, Hammersmith CLP, Hampstead CLP, Hackney South CLP, Brent East CLP, Deptford CLP.

Bristol East Executive: Thamesdown DLP.

West Midlands: Ladywood CLP, Coventry North West CLP.

Scotland: USDAW, East Scotland (Tesco) Shettleston CLP, Scottish Region LPYS.

Others: Basildon DLP, Ipswich DLP, Ipswich Women's Section, Bedford CLP, Luton North CLP, Brighton CLP, Eastbourne CLP.

NEC's action 'disgraceful'

MANY LIVERPOOL Labour Party members see the inquiry as a waste of time and a diversion from fighting the Tories and Liberals.

Paul Astbery, delegate to the DLP from the Garston constituency:

"There is absolutely no need for this inquiry. Liverpool District Labour Party runs the most democratic party in the country and these are the views of the Garston constituency.

"No one is being specific about any charges but references are being made to intimidation. I have never witnessed this in all the time I have been on the DLP.

"Liverpool has a proud tradition in the movement of fighting for socialist policies to

defend jobs and services".

Jimmie Hollinshead, member of GMBATU branch 5 and delegate to the DLP in that capacity:

"I am extremely disappointed with the actions of the NEC, having gone through a battle where we have had to fight the Tories to defend jobs and services in Liverpool, to be suddenly turned upon by our own leadership is disgraceful.

"The campaign Liverpool Labour Party has conducted has been an inspiration to workers up and down the country".

By Neelam De Freitas

Grilled on political views

OFFICERS OF the District Labour Party, constituency parties, councillors and trade union officers have been questioned by the inquiry concerning the conduct and constitution of the DLP and its relationship to the Labour Group.

The answers have confirmed that the well-established traditions of running the Liverpool party has made it the largest, most democratic in the country, with the greatest degree of rank and file participation. There is no excuse for closing down the DLP and launching such an expensive and time-consuming inquiry at this stage.

However, many of those up before the panel were also asked about their political

views. Chairman, Charles Turnock, and former left, Tom Sawyer were prominent in demanding: "Are you a member of Militant Tendency?"

Turnock at one point suggested that selling *Militant* was an expulsion offence, only to be corrected by Audrey Wise who pointed out that the NEC ruling merely barred Labour Parties from providing 'facilities' for sale. Some of those questioned objected to being quizzed about their political views which should in any case have no bearing on their evidence. Others questioned the definition of "Militant supporter"—would it include Tom Sawyer who once spoke on a *Militant* platform? Or

Labour Party regional official Peter Killeen who has bought the paper more than once in the past?

One particularly disgraceful line of questioning revolved around the DLP having allowed a guest speaker—Nimrod Sejake a South African trade unionist and a personal friend of Nelson Mandela. The panel disapproved of Nimrod speaking because of his association with the Southern African Labour Education Project.

It seems that it is not enough that Nimrod should be jailed, separated from his family for 20 years and banned by President Botha for his political activities—he now has to be banned by President Turnock.

Liverpool council by-election

Vote Labour in Old Swan

ON 9 January in Liverpool, a crucial city council by-election is to take place, in the Old Swan ward. It has been caused by the tragic death of Peter Lloyd in an accident on holiday.

The Labour candidate is Ann Hollinshead, who has been the county councillor for the area for five years.

Like every other area of Liverpool, Old Swan has benefited from the council's policies. It contains three housing action areas and a new sports centre which is due to be built next year.

Canvassing is taking place every Saturday and Sunday at 11 am from 85 Fitzgerald Road, Liverpool 13. For details contact Mary Jennings on (051) 709 4878 or Danny Krumbein on (051) 220 9690.

SINCE LABOUR was elected in 1983 Liverpool City Council has:

- ★ Stopped a three per cent cut in the council workforce, saving 1,000 jobs.
- ★ Created an extra 1,000 jobs in day-care facilities, nurseries, etc. It has taken on a further 100 YTS trainees, topping up their wages to £52 a week with proper training and a guaranteed job at the end of their scheme.
- ★ Plans a £100 a week minimum wage and a 35-hour week for all council employees.
- ★ Started building 2,369 new municipal homes.
- ★ Committed £51 million in grants to home owners, £12.7 million improvement funds for Housing Associations and Co-operatives and £3.6 million to improve the environment of Housing Association areas.
- ★ Six new nursery class projects are being built.
- ★ Built four new sports centres.



Above: canvassing in Old Swan in new housing built by council. Below the council has a policy of replacing old tenements with houses and gardens.



City and black groups fight racism

THREE representatives of Liverpool's Black Caucus presented 'evidence' to the inquiry team. These self-appointed 'leaders' of the black community were a senior sociology lecturer, a manager of a local employment agency and a former director of a further education college.

Much of their evidence repeated their now-familiar distortions surrounding the City Council's appointment of Sampson Bond as Principal Race Relations Advisor.

They claim Sam Bond was not qualified for the job, but fail to point out that apart from having better academic qualifications, Sam bond

has a wealth of experience of fighting racism at grass roots level. He has probably been involved in more black struggles than any of the other candidates.

They say the DLP has refused to listen to the black community. Yet nothing could be further from the truth.

As the DLP points out in its own evidence, the overwhelming majority of the city's black organisations and community groups fully support the City Council and back Sam Bond's appointment. 21 black organisations have now set-up a joint campaign with the City Council to combat racism and

promote equal rights for black people within the city.

Far from being "representatives" of the black community the black caucus and their supporters are nothing more than a tiny clique of middle-class blacks who have been only too willing to employ the services of thugs to attack members of the labour movement and blacks who oppose them.

The DLP catalogues the threats, intimidation and violence perpetrated by supporters of the Black Caucus since the dispute began.

Meetings have been broken-up and individuals assaulted. One person was detained in hospital following an un-

provoked attack on a group of Labour party members by Black Caucus supporters.

When the enquiry team returns to Liverpool it will hear evidence from black Labour Party members who have been victims of violence by Black Caucus supporters. They will also be told of the immense damage NALGO's boycott of Sam Bond is causing to the black community because of the delay in implementing vital anti-racist measures.

By Bob Lee

Bilge in the press

LAST SUNDAY saw Derek Hatton travelling to address the NUS conference in Blackpool (where he topped the poll as guest speaker).

He then went on to to speak at a Labour Party meeting in the same town. Immediately he went to London to appear on Breakfast TV at 5am. Then he's back in Liverpool in the morning for council business.

He regularly goes out in the early morning and comes back late at night, attending meetings and seeing to council business.

But he gets no prizes for being one of the most hard working and energetic politicians in the country.

The Fleet Street press continue to pour out bilge on Derek Hatton and other socialists in Liverpool including supporters of the *Militant*.

These people who disgrace the journalists' profession are too cowardly to present the facts—just pages of lies and invention. This week's prize for gutless journalism goes to the *Express* whose all-expenses-paid scribes apart from their usual drivel, have come up with the amazing revelation that Hatton likes boxing and drives a Volvo.

Hatton's travel allowances are high because of the work he does. A good proportion goes back into the District Labour Party's funds.

What the Tory press and media really can't stomach is that there is nothing out of the ordinary about Derek Hatton apart from the hard work he does for the labour movement. Even more revolting to them is that he sticks to what he believes in and carries it through to the end.

Shorter week for town hall workers

LIVERPOOL COUNCIL'S record as an employer has been decried by its opponents who have made accusations of favouritism towards sections of the workforce.

But the facts are that the council has gone out of its way to improve conditions and support suggestions for changes put forward by the union branches.

A 35 hour week has been negotiated by several sections of the workforce and other agreements are in the process of being reached.

In some cases self-financing agreements have been reached, where the same work is done for less hours with no loss of pay. These agreements have not been made solely by the GMBATU, but involve several unions. In the recreation and open-space department, the G&M, T&G, AUEW, UCATT and

NUPE are involved.

There has been no discrimination between the unions. Better conditions have been won by those who seek them.

In the city markets section where a reduction in the hours was agreed by three unions including NUPE the councillors adjudicated in favour of NUPE against the council officers who were opposed to the agreement.

In education, the area most closely associated with NUPE official Jane Kennedy who has virulently opposed the council, GMBATU members have successfully negotiated a 35 hour week after proposals they put to the council. The council has offered to negotiate a similar deal with NUPE if the union comes up with proposals. So far it has not.

By Harry Smith
(Liverpool Councillor)

Defend Labour councillors

LIVERPOOL LABOUR councillors come before the law courts on 13 January as a result of their defence of jobs and services in the city. Some stand to lose their livelihoods as a result, and could be disqualified from office. They have been surcharged £106,000 for the late setting of a rate.

A fund has been set up to cover the £100,000 solicitors' costs to which all Labour Party and trade union organisations nationally are being asked to donate.

In response to the appeal for cash members of GMBATU branch 5 voted at their branch meeting last Wednesday to raise £10 per member for the councillors defence costs, reports Carl Hodgson, G&M No 5. Despite the fact that Christmas is only around the corner and many workers will be feeling the pinch, shop stewards were arriving at the branch union office two days later carrying wads of £10 notes with solid support being found almost

everywhere money was collected.

Send your donation whether from your Labour Party, LPYS, trade union branch or a collection from your workmates to: Liverpool Fighting Fund, Account number 41269011, c/o councillor Tony Hood, Chairman's room, Room 42, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool L69 2DH.

By Dave Warrell

Council critic defeated

AN ATTEMPT by prominent Liverpool City Council critic Ian Williams to get his railway union branch to back the NEC inquiry has been heavily defeated.

At the meeting of the Liverpool No 5 branch of the National Union of Railwaymen on 4 December, he put forward a resolution which accused Liverpool District Labour Party of having "failed for whatever reason to provide informed decision-making and responsible leadership" and that

the NUR should "reluctantly accept the justification for the NEC's inquiry into Liverpool DLP".

Williams is the NUR No 5 representative on the DLP. Yet while the NUR No 5 consistently backed the DLP and City Council in their fight against the government, Williams has been busily whipping-up opposition to the council, with numerous articles and letters in journals like *Tribune*, *New Statesman* and the *Guardian*. He even got in a trip to London to address the

Tribune Group of Labour MPs.

It is therefore hypocrisy on his part to talk about "reluctantly" accepting justification for the NEC's kangaroo court, when it is his actions that have done so much to inspire it.

This resolution was his first attempt to win the NUR branch's support for his campaign against the council. These trade unionists hammered his views out of sight.

By a Militant reporter

Leicester threat hammered

LABOUR PARTY members in Leicester responded sharply to a report in the *Leicester Mercury* stating that a "former *Militant*" had supplied Leicester West CLP Executive with names of *Militant* supporters for expulsion.

Immediately the local and national press was contacted and a public meeting called to campaign against any attempt at a local witch-hunt. Members of the executive were contacted to discuss the article.

The Executive Committee recommended (with no votes against) that: "The EC does not consider the issue raised in the (*Leicester Mercury*) letter to be of concern to the CLP and therefore recommends no action is required

at present". The Executive also said that no party rules had been broken.

When the party's general committee overwhelmingly backed this resolution the meeting broke into spontaneous applause. *Militant* supporters in Leicester had earned respect in the Labour Party for their work, particularly at election time, and the fraternal way they debated policies in the party.

However, an article in *The Guardian* later hinted that an individual party branch in Leicester West may move expulsions at a later date, despite the clear opposition to witch-hunts.

Militant supporters will fight any purge and feel confident that their support in the area will grow.

UDM back witch-hunt

THE STRIKE-breaking 'Union of Democratic Mineworkers' are backing the witch-hunt.

Nottinghamshire *Militant* supporter Jean Harrison was barred from a meeting of Forest Town branch of Mansfield Labour Party last Sunday and has effectively been suspended from the party. Forest Town chairman, Brian Marshall, Labour councillor and local UDM activist has alleged irregularities when Jean Harrison transferred her Labour Party membership from London in July.

Marshall has been worried recently about the influx into the party of miners who backed the strike in Notts and members of local Women's Support Groups.

He made a hysterical attack at a recent Labour Party Executive meeting about "people with £2 vendettas" (referring to miners who only paid £2 membership because they were on strike). He claimed they had a grudge against anyone who worked during the strike(!)

Local MP Dn Concannon and UDM members like Marshall are trying to maintain their hold over Mansfield Labour Party, but they are losing ground. These attacks will only encourage more workers, particularly the youth and NUM members, to join Mansfield Labour Party.

By Paul Shawcroft

Fury mounts at Knowsley NEC inquiry

THE DECISION by the Labour Party leadership to hold an inquiry into Knowsley North Labour Party was taken on the strength of a single resolution from one branch.

The resolution was not sent to Knowsley North constituency but directly to the NEC. Such resolutions have in the past invariably been returned with a note advising that: "The NEC does not accept resolutions or correspondence from members' branches, but only from constituency parties". There are, it seems, exceptions to every rule.

The irony is that it was from this particular branch that ten or so EETPU delegates—with addresses in Prescott, Knowsley, but trade union branches in some cases in the Midlands or Kent—came into the constituency just one month prior to reselection being announced.

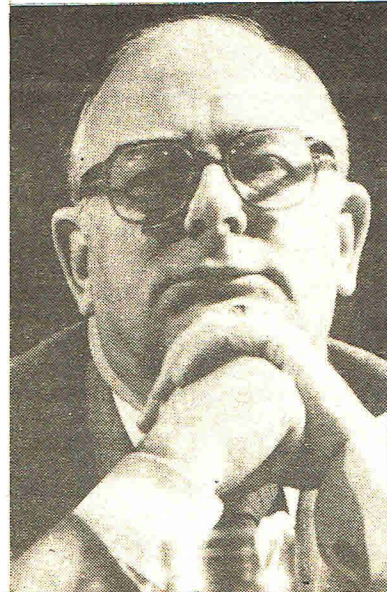
If the NEC spin out the suspension of the reselection until June, the sitting MP Robert Kilroy-Silk under party rules will escape the contest.

Knowsley North has also been informed that it cannot hold a special meeting to discuss the reselection issue and that they cannot discuss reselection without an NEC representative being present.

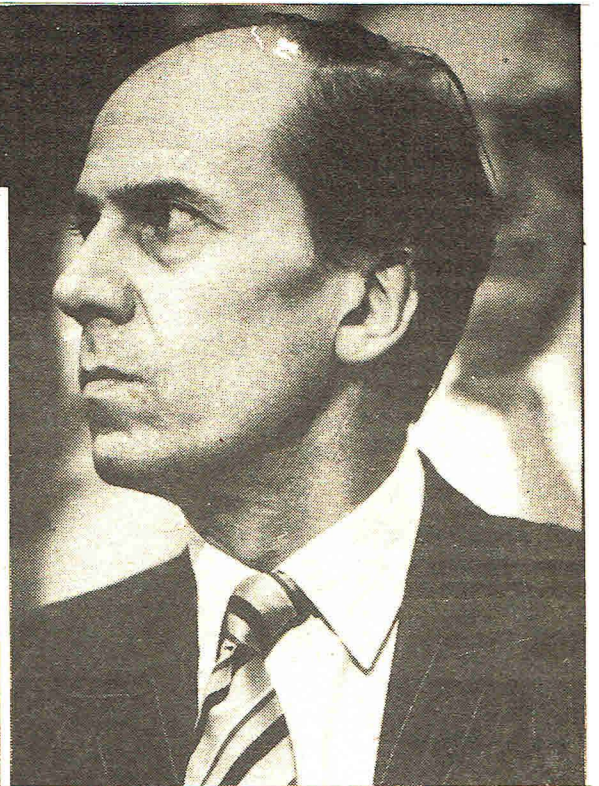
The NEC's intervention, like its disgraceful attack on Liverpool City Council, constitutes the denial of the democratic rights of party members. It is bitterly resented in Knowsley North as are the sitting MP Robert Kilroy-Silk's attacks on them in the gutter press. They are determined not to be hijacked by right-wing manipulation.

Right wing's new allies: the Tories!

Photo: *Militant*



Dennis Howell, Labour MP for Birmingham Small Heath.



Tory Party chairman Norman Tebbit—asked for help by Howell. Photo: *Militant*

THE RIGHT wing are now looking for 'evidence' against *Militant* from a new source—the Tory party! Right-wing Birmingham Small Heath Labour MP Dennis Howell has, incredibly, written to Norman Tebbit, chairman of the Tory party.

At the Tory party conference Tebbit said Kinnock should take action against *Militant* otherwise Birmingham and Manchester would go the 'same way as Liverpool'. Howell wants the evidence behind his statement. He told the *Birmingham Post* (3 December): "I hope he has some substantial evidence to back up his claim. If he has, he has a clear duty to hand it to us so we can take action about it".

Tebbit

At that conference Tebbit along with Thatcher and other Tory cabinet ministers all demanded Labour leader Neil Kinnock expel *Militant* supporters from the Labour Party. The ranks of the labour movement have drawn the conclusion that if the Tories are calling for *Militant*'s expulsion, then that could only be detrimental to Labour's interests. It

also exposes where the real source of the witch-hunt comes from—the Tories and big business.

Yet the right wing, backed by the Labour leadership, have followed the capitalists' lead and are prepared to plunge the party into chaos, now even asking the Tories to help them. The sort of 'evidence' that would be forthcoming from the Tory party can be imagined.

The right-wing are continuing their assault. In Wrexham Chris Johnson has been expelled and June Johnson

suspended, chiefly for selling *Militant* on a public demonstration. The right-wing ignored the fact that it is not unconstitutional to sell *Militant* on the streets. In Macclesfield three party members face expulsion this week.

As *Militant* warned, the witch-hunt would not stop at the Marxists, but go on to victimise all left wingers. Already in Sparkbrook Labour Party, two supporters of Black Sections—Amir Khan and Kevin Scally—have now been ex-

pelled. *Militant* has continually opposed the setting-up of constitutional Black Sections, but we totally condemn the right-wing trying to settle political debate and arguments within the party through expulsions.

The right wing and the Labour leadership—and behind them the Tories and big business—will not be satisfied until socialism has been purged from the party. But the anger of the party's ranks is mounting—the right wing will be stopped in their tracks.



Jack Straw MP. Photo: *Militant*

Straw's ward rejects him

LABOUR MP Jack Straw, who called for the expulsion of Liverpool councillors Derek Hatton and Tony Mulhearn, has been condemned by his own ward Labour Party branch.

The Oval ward of Vauxhall Labour Party passed a resolution at its December meeting which attacked the Liverpool inquiry, saluted the city council's fight against the government, and disassociated itself from the comments of Jack Straw, saying: "...Jack Straw's time and energy would be better spent attacking the real enemy—the Tory government and their policies of mass poverty".

The resolution was passed unanimously.

AUEW leaders fail to stop Coventry success

THE LEADERS of the engineering union, the AUEW, got a well deserved reply to their attempts to sabotage a Coventry Labour party meeting on Liverpool—a meeting packed to overflowing.

Coventry South East Labour Party had booked a room owned by the AUEW for the public meeting with speakers Tony Mulhearn and the local MP Dave Nellist. But then the AUEW Executive Council instructed the local full-time officer to tell the party the room was "no longer available". The meeting went ahead elsewhere—on Monday night 200 people packed into the hall.

This is just another example of how out of touch the right-wing of the AUEW leadership are with the ranks of the movement, including their own members, Ken Cure of the AUEW Executive at the November meeting of the Labour Party National Executive tried to block the endorsement of sitting MP Dave Nellist as the Parliamentary candidate for Coventry South East. Cure was defeated—NEC members noted that Dave Nellist, far from being 'unpopular', received the highest number of nominations of any West Midlands MP—19 of them from AUEW branches!

Right break rules

THE RIGHT-wing accuse *Militant* supporters of breaking the Labour Party constitution—yet it is they who are riding rough-shod over the party's rule book.

Where expulsions have taken place any pretence that it is an 'organisational' matter are brushed aside when the right-wing bend, break or ignore the rules so they can push through their political purge of the party's socialists.

Injunction

In Stevenage and Cardiff South Labour Parties, a total of 12 *Militant* supporters face expulsion this week. Those threatened in Stevenage are seeking legal action to stop these unconstitutional attacks—it is not without irony that Labour Party members can find more justice in the capitalist courts than the star chamber being run by the right-wing.

In Stevenage for example the recommendation for the expulsion of ten *Militant* supporters was made at an unconstitutional meeting of the party's Executive Committee. Members of the EC were not given seven days notice of the meeting, while the rights of Labour Party members facing expulsion,

as outlined in rule 16 part 3 in the party rule book, have been ignored—as it has by the right-wing in witch-hunts up and down the country.

In Ipswich an attempt to expel Roger and Teresa McKay is under way. Both are long-standing party members—Roger for 13 years and Teresa McKay for 25 years, and a former full-time worker for the agricultural section of the TGWU. The officers of Ipswich Labour Party interviewed the couple over their involvement in a *Militant* readers' meeting. The officers inferred they had been instructed to do so by the party's executive. After the interview it was discovered that the party Executive made no such instruction and was not even told of the interview when it met the next evening. Already Ipswich Women's Council has unanimously condemned the action, and will put a resolution to the whole party.

Meanwhile in Newcastle-under-Lyme Labour Party, where a *Militant* supporter has already been excluded from the party, a new attack has taken place. Martin Hockin moved house within the constituency. Yet although already a local Labour Party member, his new ward will not accept him! This breaks Clause III of the party constitution.

Sell Militant...

WORKING PEOPLE fought for generations to win the right to read and produce their own newspapers.

They faced ferocious repression with tremendous heroism, they sacrificed their money and time and faced imprisonment and death before workers won the limited freedom of the press we enjoy today.

One of the most heroic campaigns was fought by a paper called the *Poor Man's Guardian*. During the 1830s the government had imposed a tax of fourpence on all newspapers to price them out of the reach of workers. The *Poor Man's Guardian* refused to pay and was forced

underground.

Thousands of workers flocked to its defence and volunteered to sell the paper. Some dressed as monks and nuns to avoid arrest. The press was hidden and papers were smuggled out of the print shop in coffins to try and fool the authorities.

This scheme was foiled when the families in surrounding houses informed the authorities that they thought there was an outbreak of plague.

Over 700 people were arrested for selling papers which had not paid the tax but volunteers continued to flood in. The support was so great that the bosses were forced to back down and repeal the tax on papers.

Sections of the labour leadership seem to have forgotten the sacrifices made by our class to win the right to sell newspapers. They are trying to expel people for selling papers that put the workers case. We don't ask our sellers to dress as Marxist vicars and we won't deliver paper orders in coffins. But if we show that thousands of people will turn out and sell our paper we can make them back down.

A massive turnout for sales on 14 December will show the right wing our strength and be a tribute to the sacrifice of past generations.

By Dave Fryatt

This week:
£2,573

Quarter ends
31 January

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 London South West	550		1200
2 Southern	979		5450
3 London West	477		2750
4 London East	459		3350
5 Manchester/Lancs	599		4200
6 Scotland West	487		3800
7 East Midlands	381		3050
8 Humberside	253		2150
9 Scotland East	260		3100
10 South West	166		2150
11 Eastern	224		3450
12 Northern	323		4650
13 West Midlands	284		4500
14 London South East	115		2200
15 Merseyside	366		6850
16 Yorkshire	293		5650
17 Wales East	101		3050
18 Wales West	96		2950
Others	4241		5500
Total received	8762		70000

... Finance Militant ...

WE ARE half way through the quarter already and South West London are way out in front in the league table. But there is still plenty of scope for other areas to catch up!

With the season of merriment upon us don't forget that in the 'goodwill stakes' our Fighting Fund needs to be top of your Xmas present list. Send us a Xmas tenner and ask your friends to do the same.

You can help us have our best Christmas ever with a massive push selling our cards and calendars and organising Christmas parties.

Our winter draw tickets are proving as popular as ever but by far the best sellers are from the Dorset area. Write and tell us if you think you've sold a record number of books.

Once again the largest number of contributions comes from individuals reac-

ting against the disgraceful attacks in the Fleet Street press and by Labour leaders, on long-serving members of the Labour Party.

Our paper is written and paid for by ordinary working class people, and it is this very fact that frightens the bosses, the Tories and Labour leaders more than anything.

This week a special thanks

DONATIONS THIS week include:

Jim Lawley, Southall £5; Eve Orpen, Bristol NUPE Exec. £2; Mike Hulin, Bristol TGWU £2; Workers at British Aerospace £5.93; £5 from a Birmingham bus driver; M Mulheron, Glasgow GMBATU £2; Jim Mullin, Cambuslang, unemployed 75p; John Wilson and John McLindon, Blantyre gave £1.75; Samantha Young aged 13 from Hornchurch proceeds from selling note pads; Steve Fawcett, Nuneaton NUM 40p; Ivan Moldaczuk, Coventry UCATT £1.

goes to MJ Murphy from East London who sent us £40 for one Calendar with a note: "Rest of money to fighting fund to ensure victory in Liverpool and victory in 1988 elections. Good luck". That simple message sums up the sentiment behind all the donations we receive no matter how large or small.

Billy Jackson, Keresley, sacked miner 50p; workers at Self Changing Gears, Coventry £8.25; Paul Forgiore, Kent £2; Pre-Xmas sponsored non-drink in Merseyside raised £40.70; Pat Cortesi, Hampshire gives £1 every week; Charlie Allom, Ryde OAP 50p; B Dodds, Newcastle NUR £1; Norman Turnell 50p; Steve Milburn/John O'Neil £10; Steve Sanderson 75p and Rob Dennison £21 all from Newcastle; Ian Campbell and T Fearon from Harlow paid £1 each for paper.

By Ruth Campbell

... and help us grow in 1986

MILITANT SUPPORTERS in Sussex have given us £500 to help us to defend and build our paper. This week's total shows the way our supporters respond to the attacks on Marxism.

The *Guardian* reported last Monday that Reagan's \$18 million slush fund 'to promote democracy around the world' has been used to help out three organisations in Britain. One recipient was

the Labour section of the British Atlantic Committee which includes Frank Chaple and Roy Mason as members.

\$49,000 was given to this organisation whose activities include lobbying for NATO among European trade unionists. The biggest grant, of \$129,000 went to the *Soviet Labour Review*, for their anti-Communist newsletter.

Unlike these organisations, our paper gets no hidden grants to help spread our ideas. We declare openly the source of our money. It comes from the pennies and pounds of workers who want to see an end to capitalism and want to build a socialist future.

If you support the ideas of *Militant*, then NOW is the time to help us build by making a donation. An

ads

CLASSIFIED

15p per word, minimum 10 words.

SEMI-DISPLAY

£2 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free.

All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

ABERYSTWYTH: Weekly *Militant* discussion groups. Details, phone Alan Huyton on 615911.

SWINDON *Militant* Marxist Discussion Group meetings held monthly. Phone Martin on 24796 for details.

MORECAMBE MILITANT Readers' Meeting. "Support Liverpool, fight the witch-hunt". Speaker: Peter Harris (expelled member of Blackburn Labour Party). Venue: Queen's Hotel, Queen Street, Morecambe, Monday 16 December, 7.30pm.

UXBRIDGE *Militant* public meeting: Lessons of Liverpool, Monday 16 December, 7.30pm. West Drayton Community Centre, Harmondsworth Road, West Drayton. Hear: Gerry Lerner. See: Liverpool video.

BLACKBURN *Militant* public meeting: Wednesday 18 December, 7.30pm. "Support Liverpool, oppose the witch-hunt". Speakers: Margaret Crear (LP National Women's Committee, personal capacity), Silentnight dispute speaker, one of Blackburn 6 expelled. Venue: Trades Club, St Peters Street, Blackburn.

BALHAM: *Militant* public meeting: "Black people, the police and the riots". Speakers: Emerson Webster (Groe Family Support Group), Paul Young (Tooting Labour Party Young Socialists) at: Gateway Community Centre, Oldbridge Road, Balham on: Thursday 12 December, 7.30pm.

WAKEFIELD *Militant* readers' meeting at Wakefield Labour Club, Thursday 19 December, 7.00pm. Speakers: Liverpool councillor and Rachel Turner (LPYS), "Liverpool—the fight continues!"

CPSA London Broad Left Christmas Disco, Saturday 14 December, from 7.30pm. At the Danes Pub, Eagle Street, London WC1. Nearest tube: Holborn Kingsway. Tickets £1. Pay on the door or through London CPSA BL supporters.

MILITANT CHILDREN'S PARTY: Saturday, 4 January 1986, 2.30pm to 6pm, John Marshall Hall, Blackfriars Road, London SE1. Any ages welcome. Ring Marie Walsh on (01) 767-6061 to let us know who's coming. If possible please bring £1 for each child. Party, food, games, entertainment and any special turns anyone wants to do!

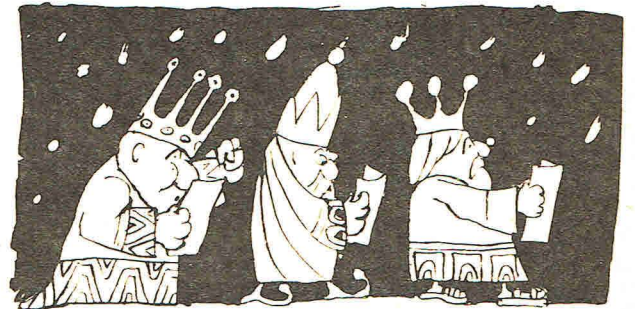
There will be a social afterwards at the same hall. Make a note in your new diary and come along. Bring your own drink and we'll provide the food and entertainment.

LIVERPOOL VIDEO 30 minutes on the achievements of the council and how the struggle developed. £5 to hire plus £5 deposit. £10 to purchase. Order from WEG, c/o 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

1986 DIARIES 60p, address books 60p, bookmarks 40p, plastic paper sleeves 20p, sew on badges 40p. Cheques to *Militant*, 10 Rodney Ct, Anderson Drive, Sholing Southampton SO2 8BV.

NOW AVAILABLE 1986 *Militant* poster calendar. £1.00 each plus postage and package. 50p each on orders of 10 or more—profit to your area Fighting Fund. Orders to 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London, E9 5HB. Cheques payable to *Militant*.

ENAMEL *Militant* badges: now available. Cost £1. Bulk orders (10 or more). Cost 75p each + 25p post and package. Contact: Fighting Fund Department, 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.



Get wise with World Socialist Books

World Socialist Book tokens

Send 17p for the card plus the amount you want to give. Ideal for socialists. redeemable for anything on our list at World Socialist Books only.

BIRMINGHAM Xmas rally, Saturday 14 December. Doors open 10.30am. Tickets £2 & £1. Carrs Lane Church Centre, Nr. Marks and Spencers, Carrs Lane, Birmingham. Featuring Liverpool and South Africa. Speakers include: Harry Smith (Liverpool councillor); Bev Simpson (Southern African Labour Education Project). Plus: Video *We Live Like Dogs*, struggles of black mineworkers in South Africa. Video: *Battle for Orgreave*.

And food, stalls, etc. Crèche available.

YOUTH Trades Union Rights Campaign, Christmas Five-a-side Tournament. Appearing these teams and many more: * Madness * Style Council * NME * DJ's. On Friday 13 December 1985 from 6pm to 10pm. Brixton Recreation Centre London SW9. Tickets £3 waged, £1.50 unwaged. From YTURC, Caxton House, 13/16 Borough Road, London SE1 0AL.

LONDON LPYS Xmas Party. Saturday 21 December. 7.30pm to Midnight. Florence Nightingale pub, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 (near Waterloo station) £1.50 waged. 75p unwaged. All welcome.

Militant Winter Draw

Registered Promoter: D Smith, 14 Station Road, Brightlingsea, Essex. £1,000 worth of prizes to be won.

1st prize Video Equipment worth £500.
2nd prize Stacking Hi-Fi worth £300.
3rd prize Portable TV worth £100.
4th prize—5 prizes of £20 worth of socialist books.

The draw takes place on Saturday 4 January, 1986. Price of tickets: 10p (ten pence). All counterfoils, cash and unsold tickets to be returned to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscoth Road, Hackney, London E9 by first post Saturday 4 January, 1986.

LAMBETH: *Militant* meeting: "Stop the witch-hunt". Wednesday, 18 December, 7.30pm, St Matthews Meeting Place, Brixton.

WARRINGTON: *Militant* Marxist Discussion Group, Tuesday, 17 December, 8pm on "Lessons of Liverpool", General Wolfe Pub, Church Street.

This week: £1,089

£	£
Eastern	4427
East Midlands	4483
London NE	5114
London NW	5317
London SE	2905
London SW	2417
Lancashire	1060
Manchester	3312
Merseyside	6553
Northern	4755
Scotland East	2623
Scotland West	2840
Southern	6413
South West	1501
Wales East	2616
Wales West	2051
West Midlands	3298
Yorkshire	2937
Humberside	3739
National	1339
Total	69702

unemployed comrade in Dundee sent us £30 this week. Other donations include £20 from a Southend supporter, £52 from readers in Edinburgh, £30 from Bristol, £42 from Manchester and £105 from supporters in Merseyside. Also thanks to a Teesside comrade for £26.40 'week's income'.

Make sure your tenner or 'week's income' doesn't get caught in the Christmas post. Send it off this week.

What Labour should be investigating

First part of a two part article

THE SOCIALIST movement has constantly to bear the brunt of slander, lies and distortion. The capitalist press—owned by five millionaire tycoons—faithfully defend the privileged position and interests of the ruling class with whatever foul means are at their disposal.

The Labour Party was originally founded to represent the interests of ordinary working people in Parliament. It was constructed out of the sweat and sacrifice of tens of thousands of workers. These early pioneers were prepared to work without any thought of personal gain, devoting money and energy to build up their party.

The giants—Keir Hardie being perhaps the most famous—faced a barrage of lies and slander for their socialist beliefs. Hardie made the point repeatedly, that if the capitalist press praise you then you must have done something wrong.

Gutter press

Today, we are witnessing one of the dirtiest press and media campaigns against Liverpool City Council, the District Labour Party, its representatives, and *Militant*. There are few occasions when the yellow gutter press: the *Mail*, *Express*, *Sun* and *Mirror* have stooped lower. For some editors it seems, no lie can be bigger, no slander filthier for them in their attempt to discredit the ideas of *Militant* and socialism.

All this is to be expected from the movement's enemies, but scandalously sections of the labour and trade union leadership have thrown their weight behind this vile campaign.

Following Neil Kinnock's attack on the self-sacrificing Liverpool councillors as 'maggots', Roy Hattersley joined in with the totally unfounded smears of "personal and political corruption in Liverpool". Even before the inquiry met the deputy leader had found the Liverpool party guilty.

The rank and file have the right to demand where the NEC inquiry was when genuine cases of corruption that blackened the movement's name were unearthed, particularly the Poulson scandal and the corruption in South Wales.

The capitalist class, in order to guarantee 'moderate' and loyal backers in the ranks of the labour movement—in a thousand and one ways—do attempt to corrupt, pamper, wine and dine, bribe and buy-off individuals and leaders.

By Rob Sewell

They encourage and build links between Labour 'representatives' and big business plus their secret agencies.

This has been well documented. The Labour Party and trade unions must be warned of these links, as they are a threat to the interests of working people. It is the Parliamentary Labour Party—and not the Liverpool DLP—that has become an often successful target for such action.

As was recently confirmed: "The Department of Trade investigation into the John Stonehouse group of companies, drew attention to the way individuals (MPs) were induced through dinners in splendid surroundings in the Palace of Westminster to become directors of those companies". (*Listener*, 3 December, 1981). (John Stonehouse is a former Labour MP, sentenced for fraud.)

Some Labour MPs have succumbed to such offers. In most cases this is quite legal but many rank and file members would consider this leads to unacceptable political subservience to business interests. These perks are well documented and the links between MPs and the 'corridors of power' are boasted about freely in company brochures. For instance, the Lloyd-Hughes Associates offer "unrivalled links with and insights into the corridors of power", including development of contact "at all levels, up to senior officials and Ministers".

They claim also to have 'master minded' Parliamentary campaigns; to have organised lunches and receptions attended by former Prime Ministers Wilson and Heath, and by the Queen's Principal Private Secretary and top civil servants; and to have inspired questions by MPs "to obtain information for our clients or to help in presenting their case". That company is not alone in making such claims.

Not satisfied with the large Parliamentary basic salary of £16,904 (in January it will rise to £17,702) or the max-

imum £7,133 subsistence and accommodation allowance, or the £13,211 secretarial allowance—that's well over £37,000 a year... or £710 a week—a number 'employ' their wives, or have American students supplied free of charge to act as researchers or secretaries.

Apart from subsidised meals there is the 28p per mile car allowance (42p for cars over 2,300 cc), the free journeys between Parliament and the constituency, nine rail/air warrants for the secretary, and the 15 free journeys a year for their spouse to visit Westminster.

Financial perks

On top of all this Parliamentary income, there are enormous financial perks from regular newspaper articles, TV and radio appearances. Roy Hattersley, for example, who has made unsubstantiated allegations of 'corruption' in Liverpool has done very well for himself:

"I call the rich the top 15 per cent who earn £20,000 a year or more... compared with the constituents I represent they are bloody rich. It's a different world they live in" says Mr Hattersley and he should know.

It was reported in *The Times* (27 July, 1985) that he gets £80,000 a year from regular columns in *Punch* and *The Guardian*, broadcasting fees and books (he signed a contract to write a history of the Labour Party which could net him £40,000 plus. To make ends meet, his wife brings in around £24,000 a year as an assistant education officer with the ILEA. Life is really tough for the top five per cent!

Last Christmas, our Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer flew to Madeira with a close personal friend, Charles Williams, the then chief executive of the London branch of Henry Ansbacher, to advise in the establishment of a 'freeport'.

According to Mr Williams—who was in March made a Labour life peer—Ansbacher paid the entire bill. Hattersley insists he paid part of it. He says he never received a fee, but was asked to go because of his knowledge on EEC matters when a minister between 1974 and 1976. Hattersley, however, failed to note the trip in the Members' Register of Interests. His office says this was an 'oversight'. Oh well, he probably had Liverpool on his mind. All this is

quite normal for a busy MP, but it puts him in 'a different world'.

Many other Labour MPs have extensive business interests which have been detailed in *The Business Background of MPs* by Andrew Roth: "Against this background it is clear that the Commons is increasingly inhabited by people with economic connections of one sort or another".

In 1965 Jim Callaghan remarked about Tory MPs: "I do not think of them as 'the Honourable Member for X or Y or Z'. I look at them and say, 'investment trusts, 'capital speculators' or 'that is the fellow who is the Stock Exchange man who makes a profit on gilt edge'.

"I have almost forgotten the constituencies but I shall never forget their interests. I wonder sometimes who they represent? The constituencies or their own friends' particular interests."

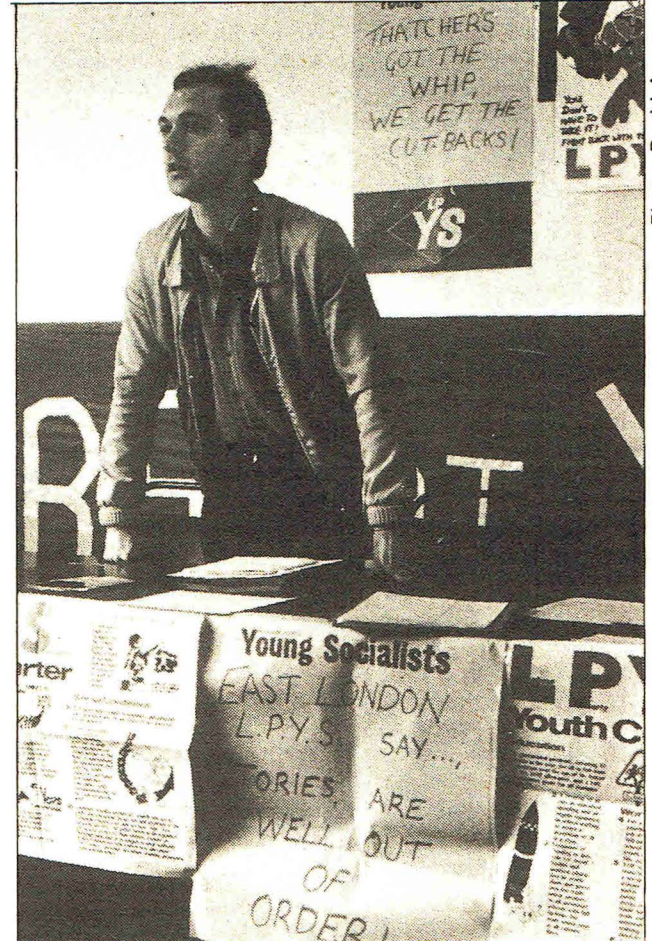
Unfortunately the same charge can be made against many Labour MPs. Again Callaghan should know. He later developed a close relationship with the businessman Julian Hodge who made a fortune from banking and pyramid selling (made illegal in 1973). In 1970 Hodge was knighted. Between 1972-74, Callaghan served as a director of Italian International Bank, formed by four Italian banks to exploit the international money market.

These business links of MPs and Labour leaders in general, open them up to patronage and in some notorious cases real corruption. The right wing have always attempted to hide such malpractices, due to the involvement of many of their acquaintances.

Militant is proud of its record on democracy in the labour movement. That is why on our banner are the demands for the regular election of all labour movement representatives, with the immediate right of recall; that the representatives of the labour and trade union movement must live on the wages of the people they represent; and that all expenses must be vetted by the movement and any fees from articles, TV, etc be donated back to the movement.

To be continued in the next issue where we shall deal with the Poulson case and involvement of a Labour leader which was never investigated.

Youth Officer under attack



Andy Bevan

THE DIRECTORS of the Labour Party, by proposing to scrap the job of National Youth Officer and remove Andy Bevan, will turn the clock back nine years, to the splits and divisions created by the right-wing in the Party over his original appointment.

When Andy Bevan became National Youth Officer in 1976 it provoked outrage from the right-wing, including Jim Callaghan, then prime minister, because of his support for the ideas of the *Militant* newspaper.

Jim Callaghan appealed personally to each member of the NEC to reject the appointment, prompting the *Daily Express* on 24 November 1976 to report:

"By challenging Bevan's key job inside Transport House, Mr Callaghan had put his authority of Labour leader on the line. Although appointed in September 1976 Andy was blocked under right-wing influence by the trade union and the National Union of Labour Organisers, and didn't take up his post until January 1977." The right-wing campaign of intimidation had failed and Andy was appointed.

Increase

In the nine years since he took office, Andy has presided over an increase in LPYS branches from 341 to almost 600. He is responsible for administering all those branches, organising the National Conference which attracts 2,500 delegates and visitors, and at the moment is also planning a campaign in conjunction with the trade unions to recruit young workers into the LPYS. He also pioneered the successful Annual Summer Camp which is usually attended by over 600 young people.

The new attack began as a proposal to merge the posts of Youth and Student organiser but the LPYS pointed out that it would be impossible for one person to do both jobs. So a new pro-

posal was made to create an administrative assistant to the youth and student organiser. This contradicts the original reason given for scrapping the job of National Youth Officer—that they needed to cut back one job.

The LPYS officers believe that this is a politically motivated attack, with the intention of removing Andy and appointing someone hostile to the ideas of the LPYS who, instead of helping YS branches to develop, would obstruct and stifle ideas.

Democratic

The LPYS has a proud democratic tradition and would resist any attempt to bring the undemocratic and bureaucratic measures used in the student organisation into our ranks.

Andy Bevan, who on 4 December was elected Chairman of the TGWU branch which contains about two-thirds of the staff at Labour Party Headquarters and holds the position of Convenor of the Joint Trades Union Committee has made his position clear: he does not want to move.

He has the full backing of the Young Socialists and is likely to receive the support of the staff at Walworth Road. Every LPYS member and branch must protest at this political attack. Constituency Labour Parties and Trade Union branches, must also be approached for their support.

The LPYS has consistently fought against and exposed the Tories policy on youth. We do not want to spend valuable time and energy on internal questions. But this attack cannot be allowed to succeed.

Left MPs condemn investigation call

FORMER left-winger Michael Foot has backed a right-wing attempt to take the witch-hunt into the Parliamentary Labour Party.

On Wednesday right-wing MP for Ogmore Ray Powell demanded there be an investigation into MPs who support *Militant*. He was supported by the former party leader Michael Foot and right-winger Alan Williams.

Left-wing MPs strongly opposed the move. Dennis Skinner said if there were to

be any investigations they should look at all groups like Solidarity, Tribune and the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, and especially at the CIA-funded Labour Committee on Transatlantic Understanding, exposed by the *Guardian* on Monday 9 December.

Bob Clay said if there was going to be talk about corruption he would "open up a can of worms" into what was going on in the North East.

Ernie Roberts condemned

the witch-hunt and said the leadership should fight the Tories.

Maxwell

Dave Nellist asked why, if the leadership were looking for people to expel, they accepted "the grotesque spectacle of a Labour Party member scuttling around Fleet Street handing out redundancy notices in a chauffeur-driven limousine"—why was *Mirror* owner Maxwell still in the

Stop the witch-hunt

MARX AND Engels in the 'Communist Manifesto' stated that all the forces of the Old Order were rallying to exorcise the spectre of scientific socialism that was haunting Europe.

Today an unholy alliance has been formed of Thatcher, Tebbit, the church leaders, Owen and Steel to exorcise the same spectre of Militant.

The filth pouring out from the scribes of Fleet Street against *Militant* demonstrates their fear for the future.

Unfortunately the Labour leaders have allowed themselves under the pressure of the capitalist media, to be drawn into this web. Even more regrettable are the actions of the 'careerist left', as the *Daily Telegraph* described them who have tailed behind this slanderous campaign.

The gaping crisis of British capitalism, resulting in mass unemployment and social decay, has opened a new chapter in British history. The irreversible collapse of manufacturing industry—the real bedrock of wealth—represents a terrifying nightmare as the stop gap of oil production goes into steep decline. Within five years the £5 billion surplus from oil will be drastically diminished.

New slump

On the horizon is a new world slump, which will further exacerbate the crisis in Britain, pushing unemployment up to levels undreamed of in the past.

Under these conditions, the old ideas of gradual reform will be exposed, as austerity measures are demanded by the ruling class as a way out of its dilemma. A Labour government coming to power in 1987 or 1988 will be under totally different conditions from the past. It will be a government of crisis, subject to enormous pressures from the capitalists and workers.

Even before coming to power, the Labour leaders have begun to abandon reforms and water down the Party's programme. As in Greece, Spain and France they will be forced to abandon any promised reforms and introduce a programme of cuts. Such measures will provoke enormous resistance from the rank and file of the trade unions and Labour Party. Foreseeing these conditions, the ruling class, together with the trade union and Labour leadership, fear to the bottom of their hearts the growth of Marxist ideas.

They see the real danger for them in *Militant's* ideas being confirmed in practice.

From their point of view, such was the danger in the events in Liverpool. The strategy of *Militant*, if seen to be successful, would have completely undermined the methods and approach of the labour and trade union leadership. The idea that "militancy pays" would have been graphically confirmed. The policy of capitulation

"The leaders of the Labour Party, rather than conducting witch-hunts within the party, should lead the real witch-hunt against Margaret Thatcher and the Tory government"

Arthur Scargill—speaking at Darfield Main Community Action Group victory march and demonstration on 7 December.

"What the NEC's action has put at stake is not just the future of Liverpool District Labour Party, but the future of the Labour Party itself"

Tony Benn MP—speaking at Liverpool City Council Labour Group public meeting on 6 December.

to the Tories, of the "dented shield" policy of cuts and redundancies would be exposed to all. That could not be allowed to happen!

To their shame, Neil Kinnock, Cunningham and Straw were prepared to back commissioners being sent by the Tories into Liverpool and even the use of troops to crush the resistance of the city council—and *Militant* in particular.

With the growth of *Militant*, the capitalists dread the prospects of a 'Liverpool situation' opening up nationally. Such a perspective also terrifies the Labour leaders. The present witch-hunt, which threatens to rip the Labour Party apart, is their response to *Militant's* growth. They hope they can isolate and crush the ideas of Marxism before it is too late.

Even the soft lefts around Blunkett, Sawyer and Livingstone see Marxism as a threat to their positions. They have acted as a 'left' cover in the purge against *Militant*. Whereas in 1982 these



Neil Kinnock

'lefts' were prepared to pay lip-service against organisational attacks on *Militant*, the growing strength of Marxism has driven them *en masse* to the right.

The witch-hunt, however, despite all the resources of the capitalists and their shadows in the labour movement, is not predetermined. It is a living struggle of material forces.

The launching of a purge at this time is very unfavourable for the witch-hunters. The desire for unity within the labour movement to fight the Tories is very strong and will get stronger the nearer we approach the election. There is much opposition amongst the rank and file if the issues are clearly presented to them.

The attacks in the 1950s against the Bevanites were not effectively fought within the Labour Parties or the unions. Today, *Militant* has learned the lessons of those years and will take the campaign to all corners of the movement, into the factories and onto the estates.

If there is no other alternative, where the rules and constitution are ignored by the witch-hunters, then legal action will be taken as an auxiliary to the political campaign.

It is fear of our ideas and the determined stand that our sup-

Defend soc



The five members of the *Militant* Editorial Board, Clare Doyle, Peter Taaffe, Lynn Walsh, Ted Grant and Keith Dickinson, expelled from the Labour Party.

porters have taken that has provoked these attacks. The interests of Liverpool workers had to be sacrificed by the collaboration of the Tories, Liberals and the Labour and trade union leaders, in their attempt to crush *Militant*.

Principles

Militant will never change its socialist ideas. We will never abandon our principles. We will continue to tell workers the truth. All other trends can run for cover or capitulate. *Militant* was founded to defend the ideas of Marxism and campaign for socialist policies that will put an end to the nightmare of capitalism. We will never deviate from that task, whatever the immediate outcome.

We are confident that in the long run, on the basis of the harsh experience of capitalist crisis, the Labour Party and trade unions in Britain will be transformed and retransformed. The ideas of Marx-

ism will increasingly gain support. A majority in the mass organisations of the labour movement can be won to *Militant's* position.

The capitalists and their hirelings want this stopped at all costs. That is why we are faced with a continual barrage of lies and slander at the present time. They hope to crush *Militant* now before it is too late. We are confident they will not succeed.

All obstacles placed in our path will be swept away. Nothing will stop the unconscious will of the working class to change society. *Militant* will play a decisive role in the titanic struggle opening up in British society.

This witch-hunt will be defeated, provided all the opportunities are grasped by our supporters. Not only correct ideas are necessary, but iron determination and will. With such a combination we will be victorious!

By Rob Sewell

Militant pub

Gateshead: Thursday 12 December at 7.30pm. Caedmon Hall, Gateshead Central Library. Speaker Terry Fields MP.

Macclesfield: Thursday 12 December at 7.30pm. Nags Head, Waters Green. Speaker: Lynn Walsh.

Edinburgh: Monday 16 December at 7.30pm. Assembly Rooms, George Street. Speakers: Cllr Harry Smith and Mark MacManaman (GMBATU steward).

Cardiff: Monday 16 December at 7.30pm. Central Hotel. Speakers: Terry Fields MP, Rob Sewell, Chris Peace.

cialism

The bad old days

THIS IS not the first time that the Labour Party leadership has been involved in disciplinary action against rank-and-file activists.

In the 1950s, under the domination of right-wing trade union leaders, newspapers were proscribed, members expelled and even, according to Ian Mikardo MP, "MI5-style dossiers were kept on all the prominent left-wing members of the party".

These days were recalled in 1982 by Jo Richardson MP in an article in the *Militant Witch-hunt Special*, which is reprinted below:

I REMEMBER the days of Will Lawther and Arthur Deakin, who sought to rule the Party by bullying tactics, the "shut yer gob" attitude.

The NEC at that time had a special inquiry sub-committee which interrogated potential candidates if they were unknown, or if they were known to have deviated from the NEC line. I fought Monmouth in the General Elections of 1951 and 1955 and Hornchurch in 1959. Some time after that I was renominated to List B of Parliamentary Candidates by my party. My endorsement by the NEC was vetoed by Hugh Gaitskell because he had seen a report in a local Hampstead paper that I had attacked his views as leader of the Party at a local meeting organised by the Young Socialists, and the matter was referred to the Inquiry Committee.

I was summoned to a meeting without knowing what I was being accused of. The late Bessie Brad-



Jo Richardson MP

Photo: Mark Pinder

dock was in the chair, flanked by the late Sara Barker, then National Agent, and Ray Gunter. I seated myself and produced a notebook. The dialogue then went like this: Bessie: "What are you doing with that?"

Me: "Taking notes, of course." Bessie: "That's not allowed."

Me: "But surely, since I've been summoned to meet the Inquiry Committee, I'm entitled to note what is said?"

Bessie: "I'm ruling that you will take no notes. The only notetaking will be ours and will form the basis of our report on you to the NEC." Me: "But I don't know why I'm here, and if you are reporting me to the NEC, and for some reason it's an adverse report, natural justice demands that I ought to have an accurate note of the proceedings."

Bessie: "I've told you. I forbid you take notes."

Me: "In that case, I'm going."

And I left.

Some months later, a further attempt was made by Ray Gunter to reconstitute the meeting. I was

again told I couldn't take notes, and again I left.

Nothing further happened. I remained unendorsed for list B until Hugh Gaitskell died. I reapplied for list B, and was endorsed without question.

Less authoritarian

Over the past few years, the NEC of the Party has been moving slowly towards a more democratic and less authoritarian structure. The growing voice of Labour Party members at local level in wanting a say in their choice of Members of Parliament, the wider franchise in the election of the leader of the Party, and the attitude of the NEC in wanting to retain members and to accommodate varying views in the Party, instead of looking for grounds to expel them if they deviate from the NEC's line has been a healthy and libertarian process.

I don't want a return to those authoritarian days. I hope no-one else does either.



Photo: Militant.

c meetings

Leicester Monday 16 December at 7.30pm. Fosse Neighbourhood Centre, Martle Road. Speaker: Keith Dickinson.

West Drayton, Uxbridge. Monday 16 December at 7.30pm. Community Centre. Liverpool Speaker and video.

Southampton: Wednesday 18 December at St Matthews Hall, St Mary's Road. Liverpool speaker and video.

Blackburn: Wednesday 18 December at 7.30pm. Trades Club, St Peters Street. Speakers: Peter Harris, Margaret Crear.

Manchester: Thursday 19 December at 7.30pm. Town Hall, off Albert Square. Liverpool speaker and Lynn Walsh.

Sunderland Thursday 19 December at 7.30pm. Sunderland North Labour Club.

Wakefield: Thursday 19 December at 7.30pm. Wakefield Labour Club. Speaker: Liverpool City Councillor.

Medway: Thursday 19 December at 7.30pm. Edward VII Pub. Speaker: Tim White.

Ealing: Tuesday 17 December at 7.30pm. Southall Town Hall. Speaker: Keith Dickinson.

What we stand for

- The immediate introduction of a 35-hour week without loss in pay as a step towards the elimination of unemployment.
- Reversal of all Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works on housing, education, the health service, etc.
- A minimum wage of £115 a week, including pensioners, sick and disabled people.

- Opposition to the Tory government's anti-union laws and the reversal of attacks on the trade unions.

Democratic workers' control and management

- Massive cuts in arms spending. Support for unilateral nuclear disarmament, but with the recognition that only a socialist change of society in Britain and internationally can eliminate the danger of a nuclear holocaust.
- Workers' management of the nationalised in-

dustries. These should be run on the basis of one-third of the places on the management board coming from the unions in the industry, one-third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole, and one-third from the government.

Socialist plan of production

- Total opposition to the dictatorship of the Fleet Street press who pour out their poison daily against the labour movement. We propose that a Labour government should nationalise the newspaper printing plant facilities, with access to these facilities being given to political parties in proportion to their votes at elections.

- Nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, including the banks and insurance companies which control 80 per cent to 85 per cent of the economy. This should be through an Enabling Bill in Parliament with minimum compensation on the

basis of proven need.

- A socialist plan of production democratically drawn up and implemented by committees involving the trade unions, shop stewards, housewives and small businessmen.
- Opposition to the capitalist Common Market, the EEC. For a socialist United States of Europe as a step towards a World Socialist Federation.

If these policies were taken up and campaigned for by the Labour Party and the trade unions they would win overwhelming support.

Labour to power on a socialist programme

Mobilisation of the labour movement on these policies would bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government committed to the implementation of a thorough-going socialist programme in the interests of working people.

South Africa

COSATU-A focus for working class power

THE LAUNCH of the Congress of South African Trade Unionists (COSATU) is a giant step forward for the working class of all Africa.

In the very centre of racist and capitalist reaction, black workers have built the strongest and most democratic trade union movement on the whole continent.

It is a new milestone in over 12 years of a struggle for independent democratic trade unions which has had a high cost in lives, detentions and bannings. The organised black workers now have huge confidence and maturity to tackle the enormous tasks facing them.

Although it represents greater industrial strength than any previous federation, the formation of COSATU is fundamentally a political act. The "Congress" in its title recognises workers' basic striving for political unity under the banner of the African National Congress (ANC).

At the launching rally, COSATU President Elijah Barayi gave the Botha regime six months to abolish the hated pass laws or face

By David Hemson

mass pass burnings. With adequate preparation, this campaign could show in practice the federation's potential for mobilising working-class power, and secure a historic victory.

Determination

Eventually, Barayi predicted, COSATU will take over from President Botha and nationalise the mines and big industry. Barayi boldly raised the central task for the workers' movement—the building of workers' power to lead all the oppressed to overthrow the apartheid regime.

COSATU has a vital role to play—at present by consolidating the revolutionary determination revealed among workers, youth and

women in the last 15 months of struggle.

The federation inherits a legacy of conflicting political tendencies. Creating trade union unity has taken more than four years because of these obstacles. However, every stalemate was broken by the forward movement of the workers, and the pressures on the leadership from below.

The establishment of COSATU itself reflects a general shift to the left. Now, within COSATU, the struggle opens up for the predominance of bold and clear revolutionary policies.

A reformist section of the trade union leadership have dragged their feet on political questions—ranging from local community struggles to the general struggle for democracy and socialism.

Believing that the ruling class was set on a path of reform, these leaders argued that the unions should stay out of 'populist' movements such as the United Democratic Front because these were led by the middle class and did not raise workers' demands.

When the UDF was formed in 1983, *Inqaba ya Basebenzi*, voice of the Marxists in the ANC, called

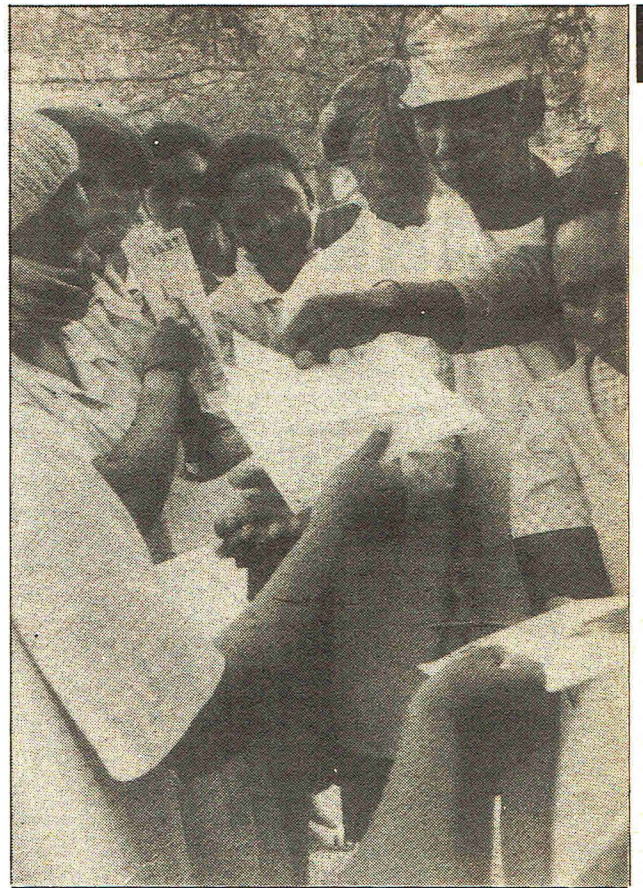
for the unions to enter the UDF and on the basis of their strength to transform the organisation under working-class leadership.

The reformist trade union leaders' perspective is for talks and deals at the top, which would make the ANC leadership the government through negotiations and defend capitalism as happened in Zimbabwe. The unions, they said, should hold back from politics now and prepare to defend workers' interests under such a regime.

Life or death

This approach is entirely false. The ruling class will not 'hand over' to an ANC government. To achieve national liberation, the apartheid state must be overthrown—which can only be achieved if the working class assumes the leadership of the political struggle against Botha's regime.

A more radical current in the democratic trade unions reacted against this conservatism by endeavouring to combine factory organisations with community struggles—consciously reviving the traditions of the SACTU unions in the 1950s, and of the ANC.



Organisers give out leaflets to build up the democratic trade union movement.

SAAWU in the Eastern Cape initially attracted tens of thousands of workers along these lines—but it failed to sustain secure bases in the workplaces. It was soon engaged in a life-or-death struggle against the employers, Sebe in the Ciskei Bantustan, and the Botha regime. Possibly hundreds were killed by armed gangs, the police and army.

The SAAWU-type unions immediately affiliated to the UDF in 1983—but failed to struggle in it for clear class policies for national liberation and socialism. As the UDF was not transformed, serious clashes have opened up between the revolutionary youth of the UDF and the

reformist wing in the unions outside the UDF.

"Unrealistic"

After the successful Transvaal general strike in November 1984, this wing of the union leadership set their face against further such actions. In March in Port Elizabeth for example they refused to support UDF youth calls for such action around demands for troops out of the townships, the abolition of general sales tax etc. They said they were "unrealistic". But they found themselves frighteningly isolated when the stay-away was strongly supported by their members.

The best traditions of socialist struggle



Nimrod Sejake, founder member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions in the '50s.

THE FORMATION of COSATU, uniting half a million trade union members, takes up the workers' struggle for democracy and socialism that SACTU was forced to leave off after the 1950's. The big difference is that COSATU has ten times the forces.

The fact that the workers have now rejected the name South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) for their new federation is not a rejection of the past traditions of SACTU. But it is a rejection of a link to an exiled "leadership" which has failed to build inside the country.

The leadership has opposed international workers' links with the unions making up COSATU and denigrated the workers' leadership emerging in the country. COSATU now embodies all the best traditions of

SACTU. All sections of the workers to whom SACTU could historically lay claim are now in COSATU. The use of the word "Congress" in COSATU shows the workers want to build the ANC as a force for transforming society.

The exiled "SACTU" leaders have now served their time and can no longer lay false claim to leadership of the movement in the country. They should now give unqualified support to COSATU as the recognised trade union body of South African workers nationally and internationally.

SACTU is now dead: long live COSATU!

By Nimrod Sejake, (Founder member of SACTU, ANC treason trialist, and secretary of Transvaal Iron and Steel Workers' Union in the 1950s)

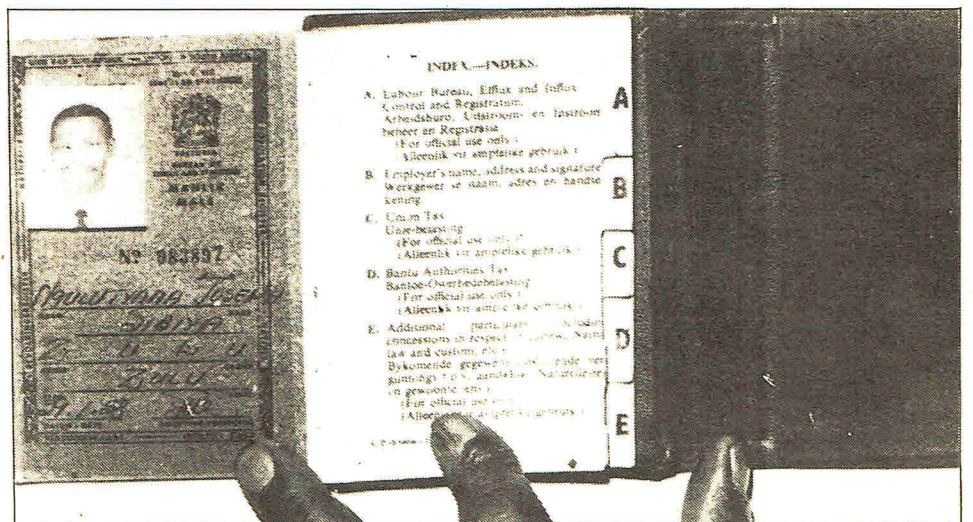
The tasks ahead

COSATU CAN now heal the breach between the youth and the organised workers, by well-prepared but determined campaigns of action. The coming together of hundreds of thousands of organised workers will itself begin to build new loyalties, resolve old tensions, and create fresh approaches.

As Cyril Ramaphosa, NUM general secretary, told the inaugural rally: "COSATU must contribute to the liberation struggle without losing its support on the factory floor." Unions like the NUM and MAWU (Metal and Allied Workers Union), who have already played a key role in hastening the formation of COSATU, can now take the lead in the struggle to implement a bold workers' programme.

Workers' party

Only one significant union grouping remains outside COSATU, the "black consciousness" unions of CUSA and AZACTU which during



The hated passbook—every few minutes, someone is arrested under South Africa's pass laws.

the unity talks repudiated COSATU's non-racial class approach. They believe in "blacks-only" unions, and "blacks-only" leadership, and that it is impossible to organise white workers.

They have been able to gain a minority echo, in part by pointing to the conservative role that some white intellectuals have played within the democratic union movement.

However, if the COSATU

With campaigns of action around industrial and political demands, the organised workers and the heroic youth could be firmly joined together in struggle.

leadership shows the way forward boldly, these "black consciousness" leaders, who are fearful of serious struggles, will rapidly lose any base of support among the workers.

Enormous hopes are now heaped on COSATU by black workers and youth. Apart from the key anti-pass campaign, its programme builds on demands already (though unevenly) put forward in the movement: lifting the state of emergency, withdrawal of troops from the townships, unconditional release of political prisoners and detainees, support for disinvestment.

With campaigns of action

around industrial and political demands, COSATU could reach its target of a million members within a year. The organised workers and the heroic youth could be firmly joined together in

struggle.

The forces would begin to be prepared for tackling the central task of overthrowing the apartheid regime, establishing a democratic workers' state and ending capitalism.

The more actively involved COSATU becomes in tackling this task, the more the advanced workers in it will see the need for an expressly political organisation of their class to lead the way to power. That in turn will raise the necessity in practice of the workers and youth building the ANC on firm proletarian lines, transforming it into a mass revolutionary workers' party with a socialist programme.

The formation of COSATU will be seen as an enormous step forward in the battle against the monopolies and the Botha regime, and a beacon for African workers to the North labouring under one-party dictatorships and state-controlled unions.

Stepping back in time

IN APRIL, Alan Garcia of the traditional party of the Peruvian masses, APRA, became President after an election where the parties of the right were crushed.

Town and country are crying out for change. In the first of a series of articles, Steve Higham looks at the rural problems facing Peru.

A FEW families in Peru own estates larger than Belgium. Other landlords have to survive on estates less than half that size.

Served by butlers, maids and cooks, protected by a Roman Catholic hierarchy which refuses to support any land reform, the top 40 families can afford to collect original Goyas and Matisse's.

Even the Pacific Ocean beaches are fenced off for their water-skiing, 'freedom of the seas' does not include a poor man or woman's right to have a dip. Social relations are like those in the age of the conquistadores. Visitors to a Peruvian *hacienda* feel like they have stepped through the pages of a history book.

"Dangerous" education

Daily calendars are meaningless; time seems to be measured in seasons and years. The peasant who saddles the horse, the labourers in the field, the women in the kitchen were all born on the hacienda and all will die there. You won't find Matisse's in their homes.

There are no schools. Education is discouraged; it is by no means rare for proprietors to evict tenants who learn to read, they are potentially dangerous, not least because only the educated are allowed the right to vote.

Homes are unhealthy, without running water or sewerage system and with electricity only in the largest towns. Even fewer cities have hospitals or clinics. Most country women give birth with only neighbours to aid them; rural infant mortality is four times that of the cities.

Some peasants are small landholders; others rent land, paying in crops or cash; others are wage labourers on plantations or haciendas.

Some are virtually serfs,

paying for their land with labour, as in fourteenth century England.

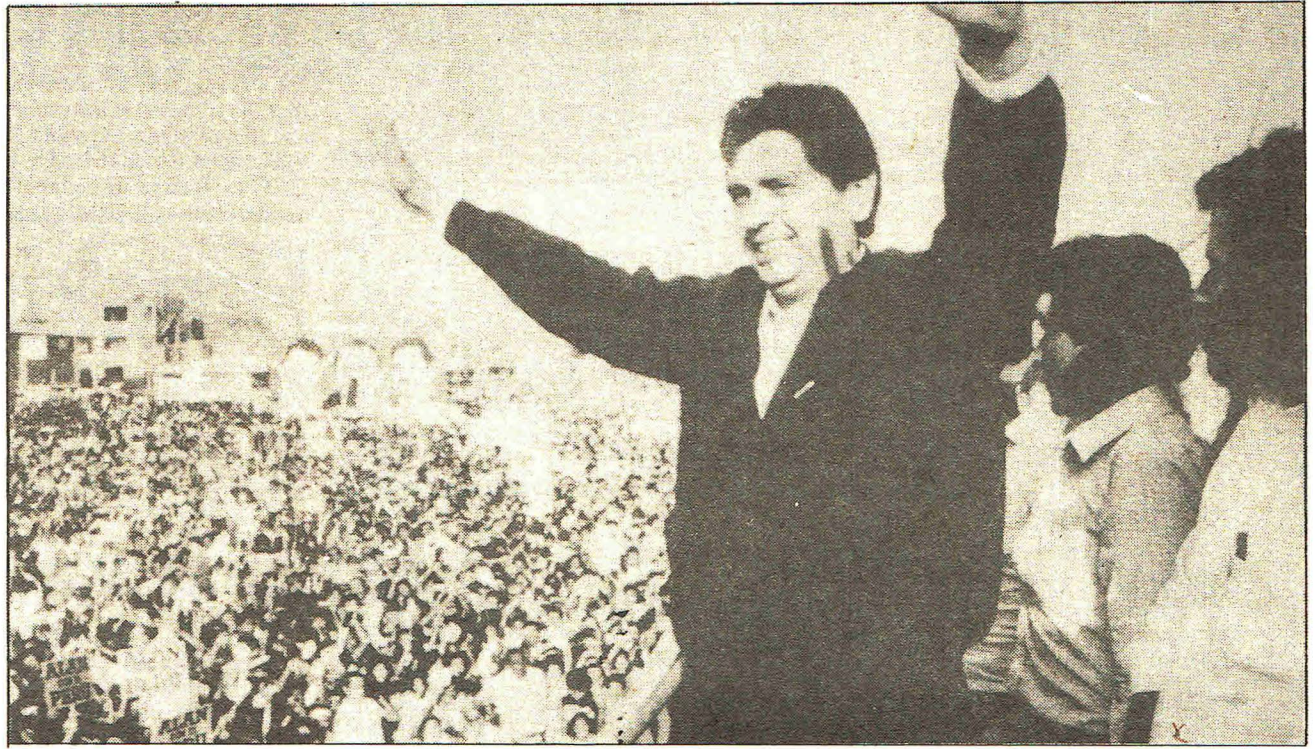
Half of Peru's population is dependent on the land. Marxists are in favour of distribution of land to the poor peasants and labourers, not just because of sympathy for sufferers of barbarous conditions but because only on this basis will the villages increase the production of food to feed the cities and drag the villages into the 20th century.

But these near-feudal relations exist within a capitalist world market. Only 20 per cent of arable land is properly cultivated so food is imported. The poverty is not due to the unkindness of nature. Despite the greed of capitalism the sea off Peru is still rich and the country has enormous mineral wealth. Peruvians see little of the benefits.

Half the country is forest but pine is imported from the USA. It is cheaper and quicker than transporting it from the mountains to the city because the land owners have done nothing to modernise the countryside.

This accounts for the serious land erosion (even the Incas tried to overcome this problem), the lack of an infrastructure like roads and rail lines and the rarity of good farms and equipment. The land bosses have preferred to extend their interests into banking and filter their fortunes abroad in a flight of capital without precedent in Peru's history.

Most are absentee landlords living in Lima; they probably wouldn't know a plough if they fell over one. Yet they monopolise the best farmland. In the Chicana valley, a prime sugar area, four latifundists (estate owners) own over 90 per cent of cultivated land; one of them controls 51 per cent. They absorb smaller concerns through refusing



Alan Garcia speaking at a rally in Lima after the April elections.

water for irrigation. Yes, these tyrants own the sources of the valley's river.

Peasants do not always appreciate these property rights, showing their disapproval through occupations, riots and land seizures such as that in the 1975 general strike which attracted 50,000 peasants in Arequipa.

Fake reform

In 1968 a military coup under General Alvarado overthrew the first corrupt civilian regime of Belaunde Terry. While making rude remarks to US leaders, it was the most blatantly pro-imperialist government,

kowtowing to American political and industrial interests.

This junta introduced an 'agrarian reform' law, which significantly was supported by the Communist Party of Peru. In their words: "despite its limited and petit bourgeois character and its slow pace it corresponds to the aspirations of the peasantry and the people as a whole".

What did this measure entail? Certainly it provided for peasant co-operatives. But when the military expropriated land, these co-operatives were forgotten and land was passed into the hands of...the military.

Even though they were illiterate, peasants could understand that the landlord had simply swapped his suit for a uniform, nothing else had changed.

Into the towns

The most productive land in irrigated zones was not to be taken. Neither was that of the owners said to pay 'decent' wages. Those expropriated got compensation to invest in industry and banking. So landlordism and capitalism now have an even more intimate relationship. The CP put its muscle behind this sham scheme.

With the connivance of

Moscow they had abandoned the basic revolutionary demand of land to the peasants.

The rural crisis, the continuing existence of the latifundias, has forced more and more peasants into the cities and towns, swelling the urban population from 35 per cent in 1940 to 52 per cent today. Working class forms of struggle are more and more obviously central to the future of the Peruvian masses. The working class here has immeasurably more weight than in Russia in 1917.

Future issues will look at the cities and at political developments in Peru.

Canadian bank workers resist offensive



Union protest at the Commerce Bank's Toronto HQ.

ON 12 November a thousand delegates from the conference of the Ontario Federation of Labour stormed the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce HQ in Toronto. They handed out leaflets, chanted "contract now" and sang "Solidarity forever".

They were giving support to the 250 workers at the bank who have been on strike for five months. The bank's 32,000 employees have had no wage increase since 1981, despite assets in excess of Can\$75 billion and \$789 million profits in the last financial year.

The bank owners want a further two years of a wage freeze, absolute control over hours worked to facilitate more part-timers and compulsory overtime and absolute control over promotions, demotions, hiring and firing. This and the refusal to accept the union, led to the strike, launched with a 24-hour sit-in in June.

Only 60 of the 7,500 bank branches are organised. A victory at Commerce would open the door to unionise the 150,000 Canadian bank employees.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is giving \$300 a week to each striker. Toronto Labor Council

organises a mass picket at a different Commerce branch each week. The strike is solid and workers in another section of the Bank now express a wish to organise.

Union members benefit

As in the USA, big business has sought to cut living standards and weaken the unions. Resistance has been strong in Canada. A higher percentage, 42 per cent, of workers are organised compared to 19 per cent in the US. Labour also has its political wing in the New Democratic Party.

Union membership has

stayed steady despite 11 per cent unemployment. Workers can see that between 1981 and 1984, union wages rose 27 per cent compared to 14.6 per cent in non-union firms. The CLC must use its power to win this dispute through cutting off power, communications, etc. They must not be left on the picket line for nine months like the Eaton strikers were last winter for lack of central backing.

Messages of support to: Union of Bank Employees (Commerce Strikers), Local 2104, 15 Gervais Drive, Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 1Y8.

Workers' leader in jail

ON 4 December the police banned a peaceful mass rally organised by the left parties in Sri Lanka under the right-wing United National Party government's blanket powers.

A crowd of about 1,500 workers refused to disperse, so the police baton-charged the crowd and arrested left leaders.

Brother Wickramabahu (Bahu) the general secretary of the Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) a Sri Lankan workers' party was arrested for "possessing anti-government leaflets". All the other leaders of opposition parties have been released from prison except Bahu who is still in remand without being charged.

Despite a severe attack of

asthma the police have refused to release Bahu for medical treatment. Bahu and the NSSP are getting this brutal treatment because of the major role they have played in opposing the UNP government since it came to power in 1977. The NSSP is also the only workers' party to defend the rights of the Tamil minority against government persecution.

The NSSP in Britain are appealing to the British labour movement to aid comrade Wickramabahu by immediately sending telegrams and letters of protest demanding Bahu's release to President JR Jayawardene, Presidential Palace, Colombo, Sri Lanka with copies to NSSP (UK), 6 Ockendon Road, London N1 3NP.

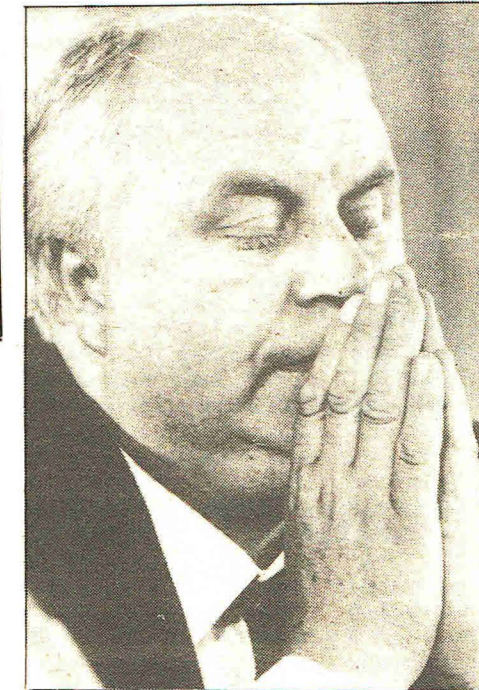
Who said:

1. "In the end a military dictatorship may turn out to be the only hope for England. The difference is that unlike the Chileans we have the American military on our soil. If the Americans should try to overthrow a democratically elected... Labour government by force... an English patriot would face a truly agonising choice: whether to support the Americans or resist them".
2. "Mrs Thatcher shows every sign of having ended up like many before her, incarcerated in the Downing Street bunker emerging from time to time to shout abuse at the nation in general or make ego building trips to a foreign country".
3. That being a minister was: "... an extremely expensive interruption of my business career".
4. That black and Asian workers came from "bongo bongo land".
5. "I know what being unemployed is like, and a lot of it is getting off your backside and finding a job".
6. Of the NUM leadership and the miners' strike: "There should have been early condemnation of the violence".
7. On the same page: "the government has been rightly lambasted for its bungling over the Sterling crisis" and "A cheap pound is the best boost the economy could have".
8. "This branch welcomes the establishment of Black Sections within the Labour Party as the first stage in the re-alignment of British politics on racial lines".
9. That financing Eddie Shah's new paper was: "from a commercial point of view a very good project".
10. "If people in England think it is cold they should be here in Gstaad".

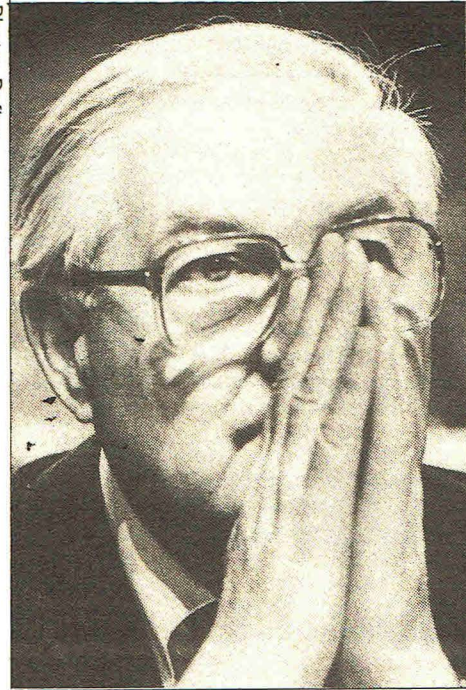
Christmas Quiz



41. Where is this. 42. Why are they doing it.



43. What is Willis praying for.



44. What is Callaghan praying for.

Do you know:

11. The three educational institutions that this year had students battling against racists.
12. The name of the murdered CND activist who was linked to the Belgrano inquiry.
13. Why Sir John Hoskyns, director general of the Institute of Directors, thought there were only really 1,250,000 unemployed in Britain.
14. Where the biggest concentration of London's rat population is.
15. How many peace protestors have been arrested between September 1981 and September 1985 (to the nearest thousand).
16. How many youth have died on the YOP and YTS government training schemes since 1979.
17. What proportion of the British labour force are now employed in manufacturing.
18. Which three unions did not ballot their members in the Liverpool strike vote in November yet declared they were against the strike.
19. The name of the programme banned by the BBC which led to a day strike by television workers.
20. How many Labour authorities were rate-capped this year.



45. Who is the Anti-Apartheid protestor on the right



46. Where is this mudbath

Labour — who said:

21. School students were a "bunch of daffies" following "irresponsible leaders" and why.
22. "I call the rich those who earn £20,000 a year. It's a different world they live in".
23. "We don't want people on part-time motor mechanic courses being allowed membership..."
24. "The YTURC is genuinely committed to mobilising and informing young people. My view substantially concurs with the view of YTURC".
25. "Any employee injured or killed by defective plant or equipment supplied at work is on a marvellous wicket".
26. That he was: "very pleased that the Labour leader had said what he did at the party's conference".
27. "... don't deck the young generation of this country with impossiblist promises and with fantasies of what's on offer".
28. "Virtually the whole of the press, including the *Mirror* group, the *Guardian* and the *Observer* is against *Militant*... There's nothing wrong or evil in that".
29. "Liverpool in 1984 showed the importance of campaigning tactics and the value of mobilisation and a propaganda victory which lifted the morale of many people throughout the party as well as local government".
30. What did John McDonnell of the GLC describe as a "sort of soft-left origami".



47. What event brought together these right-wing 'patriots' (above) and the hysterical Tory middle class (insert) and 48. What were they demanding Neil Kinnock must do.



49. Who were these flowers for.

International

31. Who thinks he was "appointed by God to fight Marxism".
32. Which US star gave \$20,000 to the Durham Miners' Wives Support Group.
33. Which Prime Minister told a May Day rally that the "Militant Tendency are infiltrating subversives" into his country.
34. To which country did Thatcher offer officer training courses at the British Army College in Camberley.

35. Who said: "Our armed forces are democratic and within the constitution".
36. Which two far eastern countries did Thatcher praise as "success stories".
37. What was the name of the president toppled in the March coup in Sudan.
38. Where did school students strike against the deployment of Pershing missiles.
39. How much did the Thatcher government initially offer in aid in the aftermath of the Mexico City earthquake.
40. Which African country recently changed its name to Burkina Faso.

ANSWERS: Page 12.



50. Where was this rare sight.

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Welsh miners' Marxist vote

THE MAGNIFICENT vote for Ian Isaac in the South Wales NUM ballot for Area President represents a great step forward for Marxism in Britain. The result has rocked the NUM establishment.

Well known throughout South Wales as a *Militant* supporter, and campaigning openly on a clear class programme, Isaac won 2,600 votes—20 per cent of those cast.

But according to our information it appears the Area leadership are attempting to belittle Isaac's performance by informing the lodges of the total votes received by Des Dutfield and Terry Thomas after adding on the second choice votes of those who voted for Ian Isaac.

In other words, no breakdown of the votes received in the first round has as yet been circulated. Perhaps the leadership hope that this tactic will obscure the fact of the vote for current Area Vice-President, Terry Thomas indicates a feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the rank and file with the existing leadership at Area level.

Ian Isaac based his campaign around the call for a fighting leadership armed with a strategy to fight pit closures. Some 10 pits have closed or merged in South

By a Militant reporter

Wales alone since the end of the national strike.

Clearly, there is a dire need for the union to develop ideas and tactics to roll back the tide, before demoralisation takes its toll.

Already, the mood amongst older miners appears to be towards acceptance of redundancy. The uncertainty hanging over the coalfield as a whole as a consequence of the NCB's ruthless drive in the name of 'profitability' is having its effect on moral. However, a clear lead, from the top could cut across all the Board's efforts.

Average wage

St John's Lodge activists campaigning for Ian Isaac reported that his leaflets were received with great enthusiasm from many miners at pits across the coalfield. In particular, the call for a 'Miners' president on a Miner's wage' gained a tremendous echo at those pits where the leaflet was issued before being banned by the executive.

A faceworker from Cwm

colliery commented on the fact that young miners and those who were active in the national dispute at his pit appeared to be solidly behind Isaac. The ideas of Marxism also appear to have drawn enthusiastic support among the rank and file at Cynheidre Colliery.



Ian Isaac.

Isaac's personal campaign trail taking in collieries and workshops such as Betws, Blaenant, Six Bells, Cwm, Lady Windsor, Tredegar, Tower and Ammanford stores, amongst others, brought excellent results. There is every reason to believe that a Marxist President could have been returned were it not for the blocking campaign of certain lodge committees and the attacks from Area Headquarters.

Some lodge committees refused to allow any of the three candidates to address their membership in the pit canteen or at general meetings. Others had a



Mass turnout of Labour Party Young Socialists and *Militant* supporters to support S Wales NUM defending its headquarters in Pontypridd after the funds were swaggestered during the strike. Executives' attitude changed when they saw growing support in the union for Marxist ideas.

policy of allowing speakers only if all three "intimated" a desire to speak. Others would only allow their own nomination. Thus, Isaac was unable to reach the rank and file in parts of the coalfield.

Worse still, outgoing president Emyln Williams in a conference of lodge committees, launched into an attack on Ian Isaac and St. John's lodge, alleging 'outside interference' in the election campaign. A circular to this effect was also sent through the coalfields.

Emyln's actions during the course of the election campaign has marred his proud record as a left-wing trade union leader. No one other than St John's NUM member or rank and file miners at other pits campaign on behalf of Isaac.

However, Neil Kinnock did appear on television to sing the virtues of his 'old friend' Terry Thomas—although not wanting to interfere with the selection of course.

And the press did their utmost to influence the ballot. The *Western Mail* stressed that the election was a two-horse race between a 'Kin-

nockite' (Thomas) and a 'Scargillite' (Dutfield). The other candidate (Isaac) was referred to repeatedly as an outsider and a *Militant* and a 'Hattonite'. The day before the ballot, half of the front page of this newspaper was devoted to an article headed 'Labour suspends Hatton Militants'...

Terry Thomas followed on the example set by the press and issued a leaflet which included the statement "...we must isolate the extremist groups who feed off the miners and the Labour Party".

Right rejected

His poor showing, given the advantage of already being vice president, is an indication that South Wales miners reject witch-hunts and the bankrupt ideas of the right wing with whom Kinnock and his followers are merging.

The election of Des Dutfield shows S Wales miners preference for a candidate with a fighting reputation. Nevertheless, anyone who may have believed Dutfield to be a 'Scargillite' will have

been disappointed by his remarks broadcast on the radio after his victory.

When asked how he saw a campaign of resistance to pit closures being developed by the union, his response was to say, firstly, that the NCB intended to keep certain units anyway and, secondly, that the union would have to campaign to get the conditions for a return of a Labour government.

Only the Marxist candidate, Ian Isaac, put forward a programme and strategy to fight closures.

However, ideas alone are not enough. They must be backed up by organisation. The left vote indicates the potential for rank and file involvement.

The existing national Broad Left should now open up its doors, it must become a mass organisation pulling in all those who played a role during the national strike. An open, democratic Broad Left would be able to cut across the bureaucratic divisions within the union. This is the only way to strengthen the union to resist the many attacks it faces and rebuild its unity and power.

Silentnight - from picket to parliament

SILENTNIGHT chairman Tom Clarke had hoped that the nation would remain ignorant of his sacking of 500 strikers last July. Unfortunately for him, after six months of strike action, a three-hour debate on the Silentnight strike was held in the House of Commons last week.

A Labour Party motion condemning the company and calling for full support for the strikers was defeated by only 95 votes, with 167 MPs voting in favour. The motion also called upon the company to lift the dismissal notices and negotiate, and upon the government to use its influence to bring an end to the dispute.

Victorian

Clare Short, moving the resolution, asked "whether the government intend to return us to the nineteenth century industrial relations", and commented that Tom Clarke was until recently president of the local Tory Association.

Dennis Skinner pointed out that the Silentnight workers had difficulty in making ends meet even when they were in work. As he said, "They have done everything according to the law, yet they have been kick-

ed and battered by their employer, with the connivance of the government". This, he said, was the latest example of government attacks on the trade union movement.

Dave Nellist drew attention to Mrs Thatcher's personal support for 'Mr Wonderful' and his style of management: "That is precisely the Victorian attitude that she tries to develop in Britain—screwing everything out of workers and being hell-bent on attempting to smash trade unions".

He, like Dennis Skinner, appealed for financial help for strikers' families, but also emphasised the need for "increased industrial support to end the strike as soon as possible with victory for the workforce".

Dave Nellist also suggested that the low share price of Silentnight might tempt City financiers to take the firm over, sack the scabs, re-employ the workers and return the firm to profitability.

"The workers of Silentnight", he stressed, "have created the wealth of the company. The Clarke family coverts that wealth into the dividends that they receive from their share ownership. The Clarkes are filching the wealth that the workers of Silentnight create".

One Tory MP, Mrs

Elizabeth Peacock, declared her interest in the debate—that a Silentnight group firm, Lay-E-Zee, was in her constituency, that she was a consultant to the National Bedding Federation, and was also a shareholder in Silentnight!

Tories

Tory MP for Skipton and Ripon, John Watson, confessed that: "Some aspects of the management's handling of the dispute in the early stages left a considerable amount to be desired". He also claimed that at the previous Saturday's rally in Barnoldswick over 50 per cent of the people there were selling or reading the *Militant* newspaper!

The Tory government spokesman, Peter Bottomley, refused to accept that the government should intervene, but it was hinted that Silentnight management should attempt to negotiate with the strikers through ACAS.

Since the debate, the two local Tory MPs, John Watson and John Lee, have told a local newspaper that they are considering a 'joint initiative'. This, however, seems to entail persuading Tom Clarke to take back just some of the strikers—those whose skills were 'sorely missed'—and asking shop stewards to call off the pickets!

SILENTNIGHT strike supporters are planning to visit shops selling Silentnight beds, pointing out to prospective buyers that the beds have been made by temporary workers taken on only recently, and that they might have doubts about the quality of the beds and promptness of delivery.

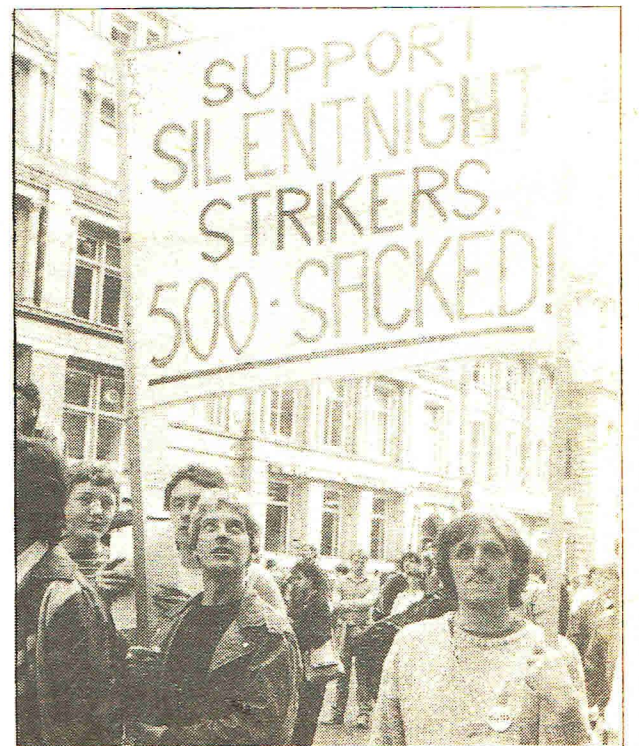
They will suggest that prospective buyers should discuss the matter with the sales staff, or ask for a tour of the Silentnight factory.

Blacking of raw materials is progressing. The Belgian firm Bekaert, after approaches from their union members, have agreed to stop supplying Silentnight with mattress ticking. Dockers at Hull are not only stopping timber from overseas but also checking that there are no Silentnight beds in the containers they handle.

Xmas coming

In Rochdale last week, Billy Bragg gave a benefit concert for Silentnight strikers, to show his solidarity with them, and to help raise money for the strikers' families.

As Christmas approaches, and with bleak financial prospects for strikers in the coming new year, it is vital



that the labour movement ensures that no strikers find themselves unable to support their families.

The Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union have had some success with their 'Adopt a Family' scheme, but over 100 families have still not been adopted. Any Labour or trade union group who would like to 'adopt' a Silentnight family should write to: Stephen Burns at the FTAT Strike Committee,

c/o The Weavers hall, 9 Frank Street, Barnoldswick, Lancashire.

As the temperature falls and the winter sets in, pickets outside the Sutton and Barnoldswick factories need the reassurance of adequate financial support, as well as the promise of further industrial support from fellow trade unionists.

Reports by Linden Stafford
(Skipton Labour Party)

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Rosyth workers
lock-in Lamont

ON MONDAY 9 December, Tory minister for defence procurement, Mr Norman Lamont, visited Rosyth dockyard to view the spoils of privatisation of the management of Rosyth.

The workforce responded by spontaneous walkouts from all the major factories and over 1,500 workers besieged the minister in the main office block inside the yard.

He attempted to escape through a number of exits but every doorway was barred by the workers. Eventually Ministry of Defence police fought their way through the demonstrating workers and forced an exit.

In the interim the workers had stoned the building breaking windows and had also attempted to overturn the car of the port admiral who is in charge of the naval base.

The mood of the workers varied during the day. Mostly it was a light-hearted determination to give Lamont a lesson. Anger mounted when they made attempts to force a passage out.

Anger

The intention was to keep them blocked in as long as possible. It was when the police heard plans being made for the next shift to take over the blockade that they made their most determined bid to free Lamont and Co.

The police employed tactics used against the miners, driving vans at the demonstrators in order to clear a path for the minister. The workers' anger was quite understandable given the circumstances and that despite demonstrations hav-

ing taken place, and a one day strike, the Tories are still determined to press through their bill for the privatisation of the Rosyth management.

A team has been put together made up of the managing directors of Devonport dockyard with other leading naval officers and civil servants to tender for the contract.

This of course has outraged the workforce at Rosyth who are determined to stop the privatisation going ahead, which would mean at least 800 redundancies, the loss of all pension rights and also the ending of the bonus scheme.

It is now clear to the workers that despite the sweet-talking of union officials like Jack Dromey the battle will not be won in parliament or through polite negotiations. Monday showed the determination which exists to resist privatisation.

Walkouts will take place any time private contractors attempt to have a look round the yard and also strikes will take place if the Tories attempt to press ahead with their plans.

Significantly, despite attacks by the bureaucrats, the strategy of the Rosyth Dockyard Broad Left is increasingly seen as the only practical one. Resolutions have recently been agreed by the convenors based on a strategy of industrial action.

The job now is to ensure the campaign reaches every worker, not just in the dockyard but throughout Fife, so that the Tories face the full might of the working class in the area defending jobs and their community.

By Bruce Wallace
(Abbey View Labour Party, Dunfermline)

Teachers' unity needed on the march

IN ILEA Division 1 an historic march and rally took place on 2 December. The NAS/UWT and NUT joined together for the first time to demonstrate their solidarity in the continuing action over this year's pay claim.

After a march through Hammersmith shopping centre 300 teachers were addressed by local leaders from both unions and a parent company.

A short discussion from the floor emphasised the need for both unions to stand firm on the claim in the face of the re-organisation of the Burnham Committee, which has

removed the NUT majority.

NAS members, in particular, were emphatic that their leadership must not capitulate on Burnham after 9 months of action. In some schools both union reps had called a joint meeting of NAS/NUT members and these had been enthusiastically attended, and sent a good representation on the march.

By Pauline Gorman
(West London NUT)



10,000 on Scottish teachers march in Glasgow Thursday 3 Dec.

Scottish schools' one-day strike

THE determination of Scottish teachers to win their campaign for decent salaries and conditions was graphically displayed by last week's strike action.

Support from classroom teachers was absolutely solid and in Glasgow over 10,000 marched to a rally and applauded speeches which affirmed that our eighteen month campaign would not be sold out for any pittance of a pay award.

It is clear, however, that moves are afoot to concoct a "deal" which could be put to teachers over the vulnerable Christmas period.

A number of meetings have already been held between EIS officials and the Scottish Office in order to "clarify" certain "understandings" with

regard to the "churches' initiative".

Beware "Santa-Younger". Any package offered at this stage would be an attempt by the Secretary of State to buy off the unions' threat to the exams but without any real gains to ordinary teachers.

Salaries would be linked to discussions on conditions which could only lead to a deterioration of same.

The possibility of an offer makes clear, however, that the government is indeed worried by the dispute.

Council elections

The Tories face the possibility of being wiped out at next May's Regional Council elections and the teacher's campaign is a major influence.

All the more reason, therefore, that teachers should be stepping up the campaign. It is a testimony to the willingness of teachers to fight for their case that despite the protracted nature of the campaign they are still willing to take to the streets and at every turn have voted for an escalation of the action.

Unfortunately their resolve has not been matched by the leadership. Despite public rhetoric about building the struggle, the fact remains that the Executive have kept a firm rein on the running of the campaign and continue to keep the level of action low.

Now is the time to change that. The post-Christmas period will be vital to the success of the fight. Contrary to some advice being given, this dispute cannot

run for ever.

The goodwill of parents and the support of other trade-unionists, handsomely enjoyed at the moment, will begin to falter if the EIS is not seen to adopt a strategy aimed at victory—rather than simply maintaining the campaign.

Escalate

A steady escalation of direct strike action, organised on a rota basis and involving all the members, is required. John Pollock, EIS General-Secretary, has spoken of closing down Scottish education. This can only be done through the withdrawal of labour. 1986 must see such an escalation.

By Larry Flanagan
(Lanarkshire County Committee, EIS)

Not so perky at porky

CHRIS RIDGE spoke to Jim Quigley, deputy senior steward, Queens Drive site and Phil Spencer shop steward, about last week's pay strike by TGWU members at one of Nottingham's biggest employers, Pork Farms.

PORK FARMS have just bought out one of their competitors, Bowyers. The Queen Drive factory's profits were up 42 per cent in the year ending 31 December 1984.

On 21 June 1985 the *Financial Times* reported that Pork Farms made £11 million clear profit. Northern Foods, the parent company made £54.3 million.

This year's claim was for 20 per cent, an average £20 a week before tax. The company's first 'final' offer of 6.75 per cent was rejected by 10 to one. The second 'final' offer of 7.1 per cent was thrown out by nearly 60 per cent of the workers.

As soon as the result was announced the afternoon shift of Queen's Drive, the

biggest factory, walked out and successfully called on the night shift to support them.

On Tuesday the shop stewards' meeting called for a full strike and nearly all the 1,700 production workers were soon out. The mood was excellent and hundreds joined the picket lines.

Intimidation

Management were worried about losing contracts and began putting the frighteners on, with phone calls and home visits, telling people everybody else was going in.

They paid for coaches and taxis, so the strike committee called a mass meeting to cut across these dirty manoeuvres.

We were worried about

the mood because of management's propaganda but about a thousand turned up and at the start the majority wanted the strike to continue.

Unfortunately the message from the platform, especially from the full-time TGWU official was that the strikers couldn't win.

Management confused people saying the strike wasn't official. The stewards had the mandate of two ballots and recommended recognition would follow. The T&G official didn't make that clear and said that after 40 hours negotiations, a strike wouldn't achieve any more.

Straight away confusion and arguments broke out amongst the strikers. The pickets knew it was biting hard, nothing, not even stationary, went in or out of Queens Drive. The milk and postmen turned away, the majority of drivers who weren't involved in the claim wouldn't cross picket lines either.

The shareholders were

panicking, 16p was wiped off the share prices of Northern Foods in two days and we knew that Pork Farms did most of their business over Christmas.

But because of management's propaganda some people had gone back before the meeting. The confidence of a lot of the others had gone and they decided to go back.

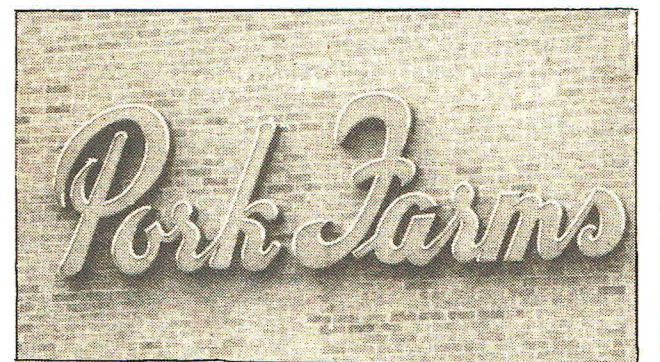
Orderly retreat

The rest of us decided it was better to end the strike with an orderly return to work rather than let it all end in a shambles.

When we went round the plant to tell the other pickets some of them broke down in tears, the strike was obviously hitting hard because there was no work for Queens Drive until Tuesday.

Management were well organised, what we needed was a fighting union with a leadership just as organised and determined.

We would like to see full-time officials elected and liv-



ing on our kind of wages so that they properly represent us and we will be preparing for the elections of shop stewards and branch officials in January.

Stop Press: *Militant* has since received reports that twelve workers have since been suspended and that 200 redundancies have been announced.

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Militant

Welsh miners

Page 14

Rosyth Dockyard

Page 15

Victory at Darfield Main

Miners and community save pit

ON 6 December the Coal Board announced they no longer intended to close Darfield Main colliery in Yorkshire.

By Simon Duerden

Although they want 50 voluntary redundancies, the extra £5 million of investment promised would give the pit a reasonable future.

This is a marvellous victory, particularly for the NUM branch and the Darfield Main Community Action Group. It shows it is possible to defeat the NCB.

The next day's rally, previously arranged to protest against the closure was turned into a victory parade. About 500 people marched through the streets of Wombwell behind four NUM branch banners.

The NUM and the mining communities must learn the lessons of the campaign to save Darfield Main.

Darfield was fortunate in that the two other major pit unions, BACM and NACODS, also opposed the

closure, and in addition, the pit has a long life and is potentially profitable. However these facts did not guarantee a successful fight. Drawing from the magnificent nine-month battle at St John's colliery in South Wales, a very active community action group was set-up to take the struggle for the pit's future into the local community.

During the national strike, massive support for the NUM was shown in many mining communities but much of it has remained untapped since the end of the dispute. A bridge has to be found between the NUM branch and the community.

Community Action Groups fit this bill ideally. No pit is safe from the threat of closure during the next few years so similar action groups must be established throughout the coalfield.

The local Darfield Main NUM branch remained 100 per cent solid against the closure threat despite all the NCB's attempts to provoke a closure vote. Even as other pits in the Yorkshire area caved in, Darfield Main refused to contemplate defeat.

This too is an important lesson, as the NCB will only close a pit if they can demoralise the local miners.



On the victory rally, 7 December.

But the fight still goes on. Miners at Darfield must guard against complacency, because the NCB will attempt to close the pit in future. Nearby Kinsley Drift colliery is also fighting closure. The Darfield Main Community Action Group will continue its activities, with one of its priorities being to build support and solidarity for Kinsley Drift.

Divisive tactics

Already the NCB are up to their, divisive and vindictive tactics. Following a massive majority in an NUM ballot to fight the closure, the NCB

cancelled the redundancies of some miners, even some who only had a week left to work. This is a clear attempt to turn miners against the ballot decision.

The NUM must keep the branch united and explain the NCB's dirty tricks to the membership. A local community action group is also urgently needed to tap the community support.

Darfield's victory will give a massive boost to the whole area of Wombwell. It will raise the morale of all miners and help destroy the NCB's pet union, the UDM.

Expel Tories

From Page One

Liverpool, the NEC has decided to treat the councillors as criminals!

Labour's leaders have already attacked the miners and Liverpool's councillors and workers, sneered at school students fighting for a future, and derided socialist demands as 'impossibilism'.

If they do not stop these attacks on Liverpool, the Tory press will point at every socialist and every socialist policy in the party and demand that Labour's leaders remove them.

We call on all Labour Party members and trade unionists to oppose the witch-hunt. Make sure your Labour Party, LPYS, trade union branch or shop stewards' committee passes a resolution against the attacks. Defend Liverpool District Labour Party. No to the witch-hunt! Join the fight for socialism!

Fleet St. lies

From Page One

cil's Green Bank Park site. Only eight such workers have been transferred to this site—because their fellow workers refused to work with them after they broke strikes and union decisions. Their unions negotiated the transfer with management.

● Lie No 4: 'Deputy leader Derek Hatton is making thousands by claiming expenses and as well as being paid for working for Knowsley council'.

Fact: The Fleet Street journalists and right wing MPs who claim Hatton has an 'exotic lifestyle' earn thousands more than he ever could. Of the council attendance allowance paid to Hatton, after tax, three quarters is paid back to Knowsley council for the time he is not working for them. Hatton pays an amount equal to the responsibility allowance paid to him as deputy leader, to Labour Party funds. His travel allowance, which is fully audited by law, covers the innumerable travel expenses he has incurred addressing meetings on behalf of the City Council as part of their campaign.

A campaigning budget for a campaigning LPYS

THE DIRECTORS of the Labour Party are to propose big cuts in the budget of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

By John Hird
(LPYS National Chairman)

They will call on the Party's Finance and General Purposes Committee to cut the LPYS budget from its pitiful £14,000 to a disgraceful 11,000. There is also a proposal to abolish the subsidy for *Socialist Youth*.

But when LPYS officers heard this news and issued a press statement, the Labour

Party HQ denied any such decision had been taken. If that is true we call on Youth Sub-committee officials to categorically say that our budget will not be cut, but increased along with every other section of the party.

The uncertainty shows the issue is not cut and dried. The YS can beat off this attack as it goes through the committees. Already letters of opposition and resolutions from YS members and branches are being sent to Walworth Road. Young NUPE members will want to tell Tom Sawyer, Chairman

of Labour's Youth Sub-committee that NUPE's representative on the NEC should not take part in attacking the Party's youth wing.

The youth budget should be put in context. The directors plan to spend £164,5000 on opinion polls. The party spends £98,000 on photocopying!

Worst of all the people who propose these reductions get a salary of around £21,000. Most party members would prefer their subs to go on a campaigning youth section than on

bloated salaries.

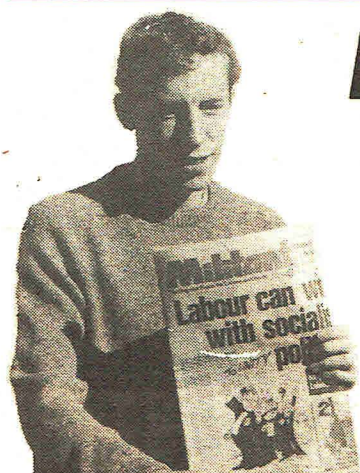
The last LPYS National Committee was angry that it had to spend time fighting off attacks on our budget, on Youth Officer Andy Bevan, (see page 7) the threatened expulsion of Wales NEC member Tony Wedlake and the closure of YS branches. We are being attacked for our campaigning work, for our understanding that capitalism is "impossible" for the youth to endure and that socialism is not only possible but essential.

There are five million

youth and first time voters to win to socialism. The LPYS have organised a petition against the proposed cuts to go to every constituency Labour Party and union branch.

Save our resources!

Don't attack Labour's foot soldiers who can win the next election for Labour. We pledge we will fight to save our resources and keep on campaigning for a socialist future.



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