

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 30p

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MAY DAY

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special issue

May Day feature—pages 9-12

STOP the Liberals and Tories



THE THATCHER government has done its utmost to smash local services. It has stolen £21.9 billion from local authorities since 1979. Meanwhile Tory councils, and those controlled by the SDP/Liberal 'tories in disguise', have savaged their own local provision with relish.

By Tony Mulhearn
(Expelled Liverpool Labour councillor)

Tory Councils in action:

- ★ The cold hearted Tory Berkshire County Council openly humiliated the children receiving free school dinners at Christmas. They had to pay 50p for a turkey dinner with the other children, otherwise it was sausages and potatoes.
- ★ Herefordshire & Worcester County Council has abolished all nursery education.
- ★ Several Tory authorities have abolished school meals, like the London borough of Merton. All they provide is a few sandwiches (to meet the legal obligations) for the handicapped and poor children.
- ★ Tory councils have enthusiastically privatised services, handing them over to their friends in the private sector, without checking much beforehand on their efficiency. Wandsworth gave responsibility for street cleaning to the notorious Pritchards. Now the council has been forced to take the contract away from them, because the standard of cleanliness was not high enough.

Inside...

Bermondsey's message to Maggie

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MI5 scandal

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Send cash now!

WITH £ 30,850 in so far, we appeal to all our readers to send us a special May Day donation. But don't stop there! Ask your workmates and relations. Raise money on all this weekend's activities—the May Day demonstrations and rallies, the estate canvasses and bank holiday events.

Take our appeal into every workplace, housing estate and college, to help make this another massive total for our funds.

Liberal Councils in action:

- ★ When the Liberal and Tories ran Liverpool 4,500 council jobs were slashed, and the city ended up with the highest rents in the country. Between 1979 and 1983 they built no council houses at all.
- ★ The Liberals in control of Tower Hamlets are racially discriminating against Bengalis in the allocation of accommodation. And the council is selling off council estates to private developers. If they keep up the present rate, 15,000 (50 per cent of the total) will be gone in four years.
- ★ Liberal councillors kept the Tories in control of Hammersmith and Fulham for eight years, till Labour won it back in 1986. They even supported the Tories privatising old people's homes.

The Tories and the Alliance have to be stopped, locally and nationally. To secure and extend local services Labour councils must be returned, pledged to a programme of no cuts and no job losses. But they will need a Labour government at the earliest possible date, to restore the money taken from them and provide extra resources to meet the needs of the local communities.

But 7 May is not just the normal local government election. Thatcher may be deciding the general election date on the basis of the local results. The council elections provide the opportunity to get the Tories on the run and provide the springboard for Labour to launch its campaign for victory at the general election.

Labour supporters must ensure the best possible result for the party in the local elections, as a preparation for the coming opportunity to get the Tories out nationally.

Vote for Labour councils

Militant

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Reject tactical voting

THE TORY press have been energetically campaigning to ensure Thatcher's re-election. They have cynically publicised the idea of tactical voting, hoping to demoralise Labour voters. Incredibly, some of Labour's defeatist right have also advocated it. They have already given up hope of outright victory!

The SDP/Liberal Alliance has been presented as the alternative to both the 'established' parties in order to catch fugitive Tory voters and destroy Labour's vote.

The Alliance has made good use of similar campaigns in the past, especially in by-elections. The Liberal Party has even produced an exceptionally cynical pamphlet telling election agents how to get a tactical voting bandwagon

going: "Try not to get bogged down in detailed policy arguments", it advises. In fact, it does not mention one single policy!

Such campaigns would never be successful without the assistance of the media. In Greenwich, the 'bandwagon' was started rolling by a *Newsnight* poll which reported that just 27 people had changed their minds! Then the Tory press joined in to kill off Labour's votes.

The current tactical voting propaganda is designed exclusively to win Labour votes to the Alliance and thus give the Tories a majority. So it is particularly disgraceful that some Labour MPs and other luminaries are joining in with it.

Frank Field MP, long a bitter opponent of *Militant*, has advocated voting for the Alliance in constituencies where Labour runs third. He claims many Labour MPs agree with him but dare not say so and admits this strategy might lead to a hung parliament.

Stuart Weir, editor of the Party's trendified journal *New Socialist*, uses its pages to call for "a broad anti-Thatcher movement of tactical voting." For good measure, he also adds his voice to the Alliance's call for electoral reform.

Finally, in the even trendier columns of the Communist Party's *Marxism Today*, Eric Hobsbawm calls for "a vote for the candidate who offers the best chance of beating the Tories, whether Labour or Alliance", and accuses op-

ponents of such action of "betraying the British people, not to mention democracy and the labour movement". Neil Kinnock once called Hobsbawm "my favourite Marxist" because this 'Communist' provided him with a theoretical sounding justification for watering down Labour's programme.

Now the pink professor has accomplished the apparently impossible feat of ending up on the Labour leader's right. And with a 'Communist' Party card still somewhere in his filofax!

TGWU General Secretary Ron Todd has rightly condemned those who have given up hope of Labour victory. By campaigning on the issues that matter to workers, Labour can win back any ground it may have lost.

The only way to answer the argument for tactical voting is the socialist way. Labour must explain that the Alliance parties and the Tories are all representatives of big business, as Owen has shown by declaring his readiness to work with a Tory government. It must expose the Alliance's record when in control of councils like Liverpool and Tower Hamlets.

The Alliance's pro-capitalist policies would repel the majority of voters if the Labour leaders explained what they were. Socialist policies to provide solutions to workers' everyday problems would win Labour an overwhelming majority in the general election.

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Tories dig the dirt

A FURTHER pointer to a June election is the circulation of a document to all Conservative candidates which spotlights the Labour controlled London boroughs and gives a blow by blow account of the 'divisions' in the London Labour Party.

It highlights Patricia Hewitt's letter—leaked earlier this year to the *Sun* of all papers—attacking the 'loony left'. The Tories cannot believe their luck in having such a gaffe handed on a plate in the run up to an election.

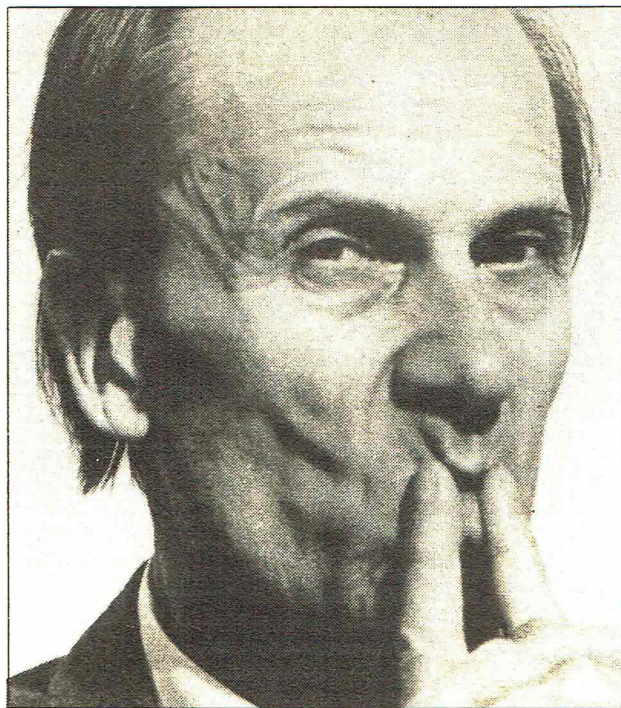
The report tries to 'dig the dirt' on each of the London boroughs, criticising for example Southwark council's record on rent arrears or Newham's number of empty council properties.

In most cases, however, the problems catalogued by the Tories are a direct or in-

direct result of the government's cuts and the increased levels of social deprivation now found in the inner cities thanks to the Tories' economic policies.

Tebbit and Thatcher will use the 'loony left' tag against Kinnock in the General Election. Yet this document does not simply regurgitate the lies of the tabloid papers (see left) to attack the left, but condemns the councils for their actual record of defending and improving services and standing by local people against the government, the police and Thatcher's policies.

The Tory strategists realise that despite their intense daily propaganda against the left, Labour is returned to power in these boroughs by inner city workers who know where their best interests lie.



Tebbit, hoping to exploit 'loony left' stories.

Fleet Street myths

OVER THE past year, with Liverpool City Council removed from the front line by the Tory law courts, the press have turned their rabid fire on the London boroughs. A day does not pass without some horror story of 'loony London' boroughs hitting the headlines.

But the stories usually have one thing in common—besides all being reactionary and racist, they are usually totally untrue. A report issued last week by the Association of London Boroughs exposes these reports as total myths conjured up by imaginative journalists. For example:

"Baa, Baa black sheep—one of the oldest children's nursery rhymes—has been banned by a left wing council as 'racist'. Playgroup leaders have been told that in the future children should sing 'green' sheep." *Daily Mail*.

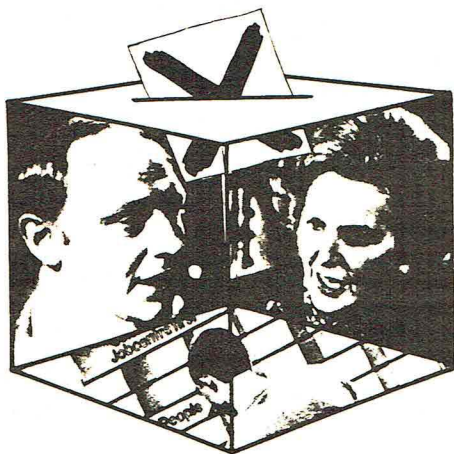
FACT: Totally untrue. The whole story was based around the alleged comments of an individual nursery worker in Islington and is not nor has ever been Islington council's policy.

"Children's Wendy Houses at schools in Ealing have now got to be called 'home corners' to avoid

sexism" *Daily Express*.
FACT: This has never even been discussed by Ealing council.

"A Loony Left wing council has ordered sewerage workers to ban the word manhole because it is sexist and use Access Chamber in its place. A spokesman for Hackney council, East London, said yesterday: "The word manhole is an insult to women". " *The Sun*.

FACT: The story, along with the quote, is a total invention and exists only in the imagination of the *Sun* journalist.



ELECTION COUNTDOWN

'Vote against Labour candidate' says Labour MP

FRANK FIELD, Labour MP for Birkenhead, has publicly supported tactical voting and called for a vote against a Labour council candidate in his constituency.

But his local Labour Party, with only four votes against, has passed a resolution dissociating itself from his remarks and calling on Labour supporters always to vote Labour. Even the majority of the

Local party backs Atkin

DELEGATES ARRIVING at the emergency meeting of Nottingham East Labour Party's general management committee found Central TV cameras waiting for them.

News bulletins the next day gave the impression that the local party was heading for a clash with the national executive committee over its prospective parliamentary candidate, Sharon Atkin, and her support for black sections.

They then quoted remarks she allegedly made at a rally two weeks previously, adding that these were "more likely to get her into trouble with the NEC".

right wing voted for it.

At the meeting, Field denied he was going over to the Alliance: We "weren't going to have it that easy", he told us: "Birkenhead is not a happy Labour Party, but maybe that's just me; maybe the chemistry is wrong".

He regretted that Labour had not put forward the anti-union laws that the Tories are now pushing. But his problems within the party are not that his views are so anti-socialist, but that the Trotskyists "have the constituency by the throat".

In reply to a question he magnanimously declared that "not all, only some of the Labour Party are a pain in the arse".

This was a blatant attempt to blow up divisions within the Labour Party on the eve of an election in an area with a Tory MP. The meeting approved a statement in Sharon Atkin's name which emphasised her "overriding interest in getting Labour into government":

"Nothing can be allowed to stand in the way of this... I believe that at the present time the best interests of the black people and the community as a whole will be served by returning a Labour government".

The statement also reaffirmed support for black sections. *Militant* supporter Chris Ridge opposed this, saying it was not the way to win the support of black workers or increase their involvement in the party, and is divisive.

But he was firmly opposed to attempts by the Tory media to divide and discredit the Labour Party and equally determined to get the Tories out of Nottingham.

Geoff Barker, the councillor whom Field opposes because he is a *Militant* supporter, has challenged him to debate with him in the ward where he stands.

On the doorsteps, canvassers have found tremendous resentment at Field's remarks. "Does this mean we've now got to vote Liberal?" has been their puzzled response to his latest outbursts.

Field has found some support however. The Liberal who will be standing against him in the general election has written congratulating him on his comments.

By Dave Clarke
(Birkenhead Labour Party)

Llanelli investigation

LLANELLI LABOUR Party have voted to investigate Muriel Browning, a member who has given 42 years of loyal service to the party.

The 'loony right' made sure that their forces turned out. A worker in one factory said that the right had been recruiting trade unionists into the party and on to the general management committee 'to expel *Militant* supporters' (not even to get rid of the Tories).

There is no way socialists in the party will stand by while the right wing try to expel a lifelong socialist who has sweated blood to build the local party.

There is widespread passive support outside the Labour Party for Muriel Browning. People ask why she is to be investigated after 42 years. *Militant* supporters will turn this passive support into active support by recruiting into the Labour Party on the basis of socialist policies to defeat the Tories.

Militant Public Meeting
11 May 7.30pm
Llanelli Parish Hall
(opp British Legion)
Speaker: Peter Taaffe

March against nuclear menace



Photos: Dave Sinclair.

Tutti Frutti's star Robbie Coltrane leads Saturday's march against both nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Hands across Britain

IN 'Hands Across Britain' on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 350,000 people intend to form a human chain from Liverpool to London to protest at the level of unemployment.

At a time when the Tory government is using every statistical trick to produce an unemployment level below two million before the general election, this demonstration is timely.

It will focus attention on Thatcher's appalling record on jobs. No fiddling of figures nor yet more phoney schemes can hide the human misery which has been inflicted on a generation by this government of the bosses.

Monday's human chain will be a powerful answer to the government ministers and hacks of the Tory press who are trying to discover a 'recovery' in Britain's economic fortunes. For the four million or more actually unemployed, Thatcher's Britain offers no hope.

The demonstration, however, is hamstrung by an insistence that it is not party political.

"The organisers" says Labour Party general secretary, Larry Whitty, "are keen to ensure that the project does not become identified with any particular political party".

Jimmy Savile drew a parallel with the reactionary 'I'm Backing Britain' campaign of the sixties. He admitted that "we as a campaign do not have the power to do anything. We can only say something".

This was the approach of the 'Hands Across America' campaign against poverty, which degenerated into a farce when it was joined by the chief reason for poverty in America, President Reagan.

Unless the enthusiasm behind this campaign is channelled into a political campaign to get the Tories out and a Labour government with socialist policies elected, 'Hands Across Britain' could be soon forgotten.

By Pat Craven



Nurses lobbying Thatcher on a visit to Guy's Hospital, London.

Attention all Health Service workers

Next week's paper, issue No 846, will carry a special feature on the health service. Why not increase your regular order for extra sales at hospitals and clinics in your area or take out a bulk order for your union branch or to sell amongst the staff and friends.

Please extra copies of issue No 846

Please send bulk order for trial sale of issue No 846

Special discount	5 copies	£1.50 post free
rate for bulk	10 copies	£2.50 post free
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Cheques payable to *Militant*. Return to 3/13 Hespscott Road, London E9 5HB.

Note to regular sellers: Why not visit your local hospital, ask to see the shop stewards or convenor to advertise next week's health service feature? Follow the example of the Manchester sellers and get weekly bulk orders.

Nurses' election bribe

"IT'S LIKE the first cuckoo of spring, isn't it? It's the first bribe of the election campaign", was how a highly experienced nurse described the pay deal which gave the full rise recommended by the 'independent' review body. "Usually they hum and haw for ages and then give you nothing. Mind you, this is next to nothing."

The biggest increase for nurses was 12.7 per cent for ward sisters, but a judge who got a 'small' 4.8 per cent 'top people's' rise still got £65 more a week.

"None of us will ever see that sort of money. This bribe isn't aimed at the nurses. They just hope we won't make a fuss during the election. There's nothing for other hospital workers. The press show us as angels, but I'd rather they'd call us devils sometimes and just treat us right."

"They want to give the impression that the Tories care. It certainly won't get my vote. It's not just pay; it's pessimism about the future of the NHS. Quite a few of my friends have gone to Australia because pay is better and you're not always worried about whether your hospital is about to close down."

MI5 scandal

Smears, lies and murders

THE ATTORNEY General's desperate move to suppress leaks from former MI5 agent, Peter Wright's, book exposes the Tories' panic at revelations of the security services' underhand and undemocratic actions.

By Jeremy Birch

The Tories are petrified that in a pre-election period, the lid will be lifted, even just a little, on the activities of the security services, and the involvement of leading Tories.

They are concerned about fresh details of MI5's plots against democratically elected Labour governments, including the allegation that Tory MPs, Winston Churchill and Sir Stephen Hastings, received material illegally gathered by MI5 to use against Labour.

The security services are an arm of the capitalist state, employed not primarily to counter foreign espionage, but to neutralise any threat to the ruling class from the labour movement at home.

Firm evidence is emerging, not just from Wright's book, of bugging, intercepting mail, black propaganda schemes to discredit individuals and even assassination plots and bombing campaigns, by the security services.

All this illegal and menacing behaviour is a direct threat to the labour movement and the democratic rights it has fought for. If they are prepared to plot against a right wing Labour leader like Wilson, there is no length to which they would not go to protect capitalism from a leftward leaning Labour Party.

According to the leaks, Wright's book reveals that 30 senior MI5 staff plotted against Wilson. This was without the knowledge of Labour's then Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, who constitutionally had charge of the security services.

When Wright told his superior about the thirty, he was told that no action would be taken and they had to be protected. Dale Campbell Savours, in an early day motion, has identified one of these MI5 agents as Harry Wharton.

Two other former security service officers—Colin Wallace who worked for the army's information policy unit (which was responsible for black propaganda) and Fred Holroyd of military intelligence—have made equally disturbing disclosures.

Tory Northern Ireland spokesman, Airey Neave, wrote to Wallace in 1976. He requested more 'information', which that unit had concocted, concerning Russian influence on Labour's policy on Northern Ireland.

This counter-information unit, according to Wallace, was also involved along with MI5 in an attempt to smear obstructive Loyalist politicians with the homosexual scandal at the Kincora boys' home in Belfast. Yet Merlyn Rees, the Labour Northern Ireland secretary of the day, had no knowledge of any British security services unit operating in the North to discredit people.

Later when Thatcher appointed retired MI6 chief, Maurice Oldfield, as security co-ordinator in the North, he too was falsely linked with Kincora. His biographer maintains that MI5 wanted Oldfield removed from the

province, because he was 'soft' on assassinations and would not countenance the activities of E4A (the wing of the Royal Ulster Constabulary that John Stalker was sent unsuccessfully to investigate).

But Wallace and Holroyd also allege that Loyalist paramilitaries were engaged to carry out bombings in Dublin, for which the IRA would be blamed, in order to pressurise the government in the South to introduce repressive legislation hampering the Provisionals. Holroyd maintains: "People were being assassinated in Ireland on an official/unofficial nod and a wink basis."

Now Wallace asserts that not only were the security services trying to besmirch Ian Paisley, but they were planning how to assassinate him.

Militant has long warned that the British state forces have been able to perfect in Northern Ireland, alarming techniques that are increasingly being used against the working class here. Peter Wright also served in Northern Ireland, and his book contains more revelations about the security services' operations there, which could be embarrassing to the Tories.

Wallace, Holroyd and Wright confirm that the security services operate above, beyond, outside and against the law. Elected governments and legal niceties are no constraint on their actions in defence of the interests of the capitalist class.

No control

Tony Benn and other left MPs have demanded a Commons debate on Wright's allegations. But previously Callaghan, when he took over as Prime Minister, denied any plot or bugging of Number 10, in effect rubbishing Wilson's own complaints of victimisation.

Initially Neil Kinnock condemned the government for not-being even-handed, for trying to ban Wright's book while allowing the publication of others also based on inside information from security service agents. On that basis no book would have been published, and no confirmation of the reactionary plot against Wilson would have appeared.

Now if properly used, the Labour leaders have a powerful election weapon in their hands. Why are the Tories so intent on a cover up of Wright's allegations? Has there been collusion between Tory politicians and the security services in undemocratic activities against elected Labour governments? Why is no-one being charged for treason? Who controls the security services and in whose interests do they operate?

Labour must go on the offensive. The Tories and their supporters within the security services cannot be trusted. The only defence of democratic rights lies in the strength of the workers' organisations themselves. They should initiate a labour movement inquiry into the security services, asking all those who feel they have suffered at their hands to give evidence.

A new Labour government must commit itself to the disbanding of MI5, the Special Branch and the other organs of repression. As part of a thorough going socialist programme, it must bring the economy, industry and the state under the democratic control of the labour movement.

MAY 7 council elections

Defend jobs and services

THE TORIES and the press pundits will be looking at the results of the 7 May council elections to see whether now is the time for a general election.

But for ratepayers, and particularly council tenants and council employees this will be more than a dry run for a parliamentary poll.

Since 1979 this government has reduced its contribution to local authority spending from 59.6 per cent to its present level of 44.3 per cent. This has hit hardest at Labour authorities, precisely the areas which have suffered most from mass unemployment and the other ills which Tory govern-

ment has brought. Labour voters and supporters will be fighting to get rid of Tory councils who have cut back on jobs and privatised services at the expense of



their employees and working class ratepayers.

Labour Parties will be fighting to stop the SDP Liberal Alliance. These second string Tories are exploiting their totally undeserved 'radical' image to gain seats and then im-

plementing reactionary policies.

Many Labour voters will also be pushing to ensure that a successful Labour local council follows the lead of the sacked Liverpool councillors in fighting for jobs and services.



No capitulation in the face of Tory ratecapping legislation.



Campaign to force the government to return the millions they have stolen from local authorities and increase resources for local services.

Liverpool Labour fights to defend gains

LIVERPOOL LABOUR is fighting a bitter battle to regain control of the city "It got a lot better under Labour and the Militants. A lot of jobs were created. There was a great amount of improvements. You can just drive across the city and you'll see so many... Now it's all going to stop if this lot get their way," one Liverpool building worker told a Labour canvasser. He had been laid off after the court-imposed Liberal council had stopped the contract he was working on.

The courts have given invaluable help to the Liberals. The disqualification of 47 Labour councillors has meant Labour is defending 46 seats while the Liberals only have to defend ten. This means they can concentrate their meagre supply of activists in six or seven key marginal Labour seats while Labour must fight right across the city.

the weakness of the national leadership.

Caretaker leader, Keva Coombes, has failed to combat the Liberals' vicious propaganda. So a group of Labour candidates is asking for a meeting with him to insist that he concentrates on Labour's achievements and the Liberals' crimes.

The national Party's obsession with "seeing off *Militant* in Liverpool" has also hampered the campaign. With the District Labour Party suspended, democratic discussion on the policy to fight the election has been lacking. This has meant that the campaigning mood of past years has not been generated in the local labour movement. Keva Coombes admits "there has been no machinery, staff, offices or money for the remaining 11 councillors." The blame for this lies with the disgraceful role of the national Party leadership and their hired gun in Liverpool, Peter Kilfoyle.

Opposition

The Tories scarcely count in Liverpool any more. They have gone from the largest party on the council in 1973 to the smallest today.

The Liberals are making the most of the vicious campaign waged against Liverpool council over the last four years. Their slogan "A change for the better" hints that under them all will be calm and tranquility. Their past record in office shows otherwise.

A bedrock of Labour support exists, because of the achievements of the 47 disqualified Labour councillors. But it is urgent that the Party campaigns to defend this record and presents an alternative to

The 15 Marxists standing are far from "second rate" as Keva Coombes is reported to have said. They will campaign might and main for a Labour victory and take their places on the council to advocate the continuation of the policies of the last four years.

Given the political consciousness of the Liverpool electorate, the campaign being waged in some areas of the city and the record Labour is defending, Labour can still have control of the council after the May elections.

By Martin Lee
Garston Labour Party.

The vicious face of Tower Hamlets Liberals

TOWER HAMLETS Liberal council say they are not racist. But photocopies of passports, lists of dates when families were out of the country, and even photocopies of mail can all be found in the Liberal council's files on homeless families.

The council is stepping up its attacks on the Bengali community. About 90 Bengali families have now received letters saying they are voluntarily homeless as they have given up homes in Bangladesh. The council says that it will accept no responsibility and has begun proceedings to turn the families out onto the streets.

The council's actions have been widely condemned. Even Liberal leaders have tried to distance themselves from their showpiece inner city council.

Ruthless

Many of the 90 families were completely unaware what was happening to them. Letters were sent in English only and some families only knew they were being evicted when told by their landlords. At most of the interviews which determined whether families were voluntarily homeless no Sylheti speaking officer was present. At some it appears that information was obtained by speaking to the children. Council staff have been told to inspect the passports of Asians who apply for jobs with the council to check their "eligibility to work in this country".

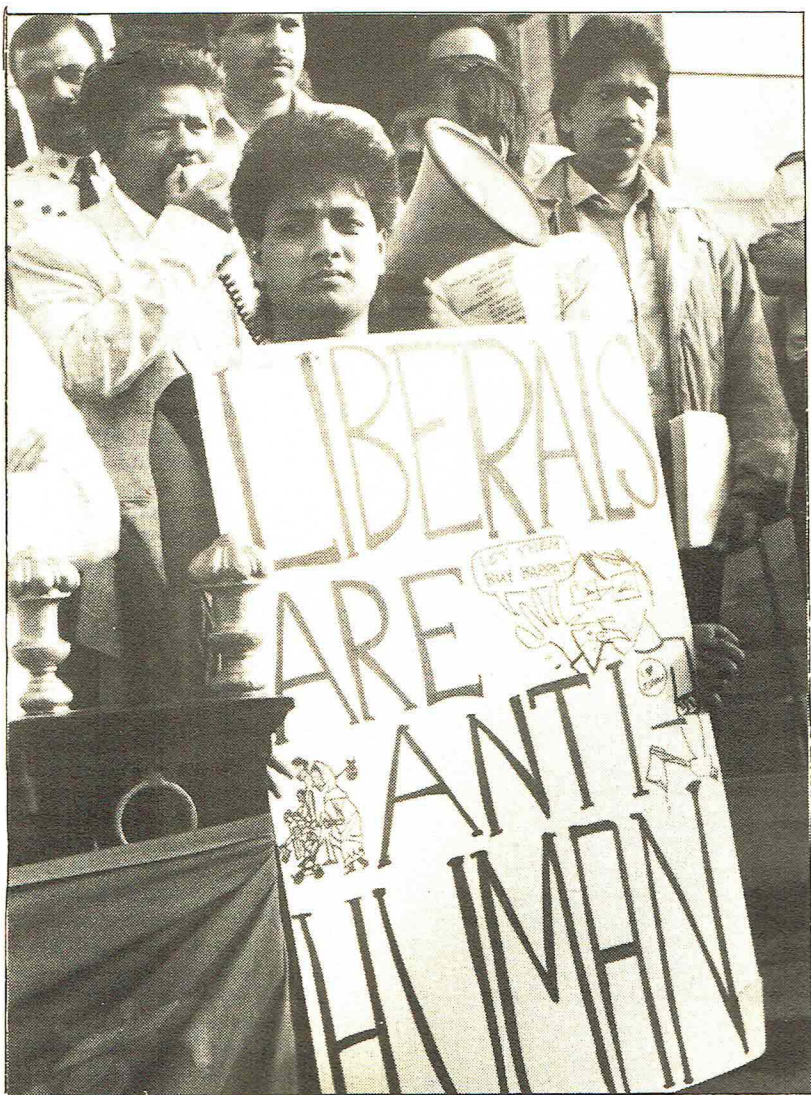
One Tower Hamlets resident, who had worked with the ILEA for a number of years, applied for a job with the council and was shocked when he received a letter asking him to send a copy of his parents' passports. The officer said in the letter that "this is to enable me to ascertain your eligibility to work in this country. At this point I would also confirm that we will not go ahead with this appointment until we receive the above mentioned document".

The Liberal Chair of Housing, Jeremy Shaw, has promised to continue these policies which he says are "legal and popular".

At the battle of Cable Street in 1936, the people of the East End showed what they thought of racially divisive policies, by driving Mosley's Blackshirts off the streets.

The labour movement in Tower Hamlets should organise now to drive the Liberals out of the town hall.

By Dave Fryatt
(Bow and Poplar Labour Party)



THE FURY of Tower Hamlets' Bangladeshi community boiled over at a council meeting on Monday. The Liberals' refusal to even debate the homeless families issue provoked an occupation and the Liberals called in the police. The speed with which van loads of police and even a police helicopter arrived seems to confirm that the operation was planned in advance. The police behaved brutally; truncheons were drawn, Labour councillors and protestors alike were dragged from the chamber and some were thrown down the marble stairs of the Town Hall. The local community responded with a picket of the police station until all the arrested were released.

Tower Hamlets Labour Party Young Socialists

সেবার পার্টি ইয়ং সোসিয়েলিস্টস

Public Meeting
FIGHT THE LIBERAL RACIST POLICIES
TUESDAY 5th MAY at 7.30
at ST. HILDAS IN THE EAST CLUB ROW E2
SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED

Tories hated in Brighton

MARXIST KATE PACKHAM is standing in the Brighton Kemptown ward of Tenantry. Canvassers have found a tremendous hatred of Thatcher in particular and the Tories in general. There's no indication of the massive popularity the Tory press's opinion polls suggest.

The working class Labour vote is holding up well, but there is also confusion on Labour's programme, par-

ticularly the policy on defence and local government. "Extremism" has not been an issue, whereas the weakness of the Labour leaders in fighting the Tories has led to some illusions in the Alliance parties. As one woman said "I want to get rid of Thatcher, but Kinnoek isn't going to do it."

By Martin Smith.
Brighton Kemptown Labour Party.

Loony right's sabotage

THE LOONY RIGHT continue their sabotage of Labour's local election campaign. In a number of areas, councillors who have been deselected or left the Party are now standing against Labour. In Mansfield, the so-called Moderate Labour Party has been cobbled together from ex-Liberals and Labour splitters, who complained of an influx of NUM members and militants into the Party during the miners' strike.

This pathetic cry has been taken up by deselected councillors in the Yorkshire town of Featherstone. "One had stood previously as an independent against Labour. When defeated he joined the Labour Party and was elected as a Labour Councillor. This character once had the nerve to tell a *Militant* sup-

porter that he should leave the Party and stand under his own name!" our correspondent reports.

In Langbaugh, the Arthur Seed saga continues. The ex-leader of the Labour group has picked two Labour candidates out for special attention and is standing as "Labour against Sue Jeffry and Sylvia Szyntai". Five other right-wingers are standing against official Labour candidates there.

Manchester council Labour group have removed two councillors from their positions, because they refused to vote for a budget that included a 20 per cent rate rise and a £1.50 rent rise. John Nicholson has been removed as deputy council leader and John Byrne as chair of the personnel sub-committee.

Real training and real jobs not slave labour

ALL THE Tories' threats to force young people on to 'training schemes' are part of an overall strategy.

The Ridley plan in the '70s aimed at weakening the unions step by step. The Fowler plan is to undercut union rates and conditions further by conscripting young unemployed people on to low paid work schemes.

The 'private enterprise' University of Buckingham have just issued a report commissioned by the employment ministry. They say there is no reason why Britain should not have a 'workfare' scheme where you would lose benefits if you refused to work on government schemes.

They say it would cut the dole queues and give work habits to young people. Most importantly, it would encourage employers to offer low paid jobs to desperate young people who wanted a fraction above workfare wages.

With an election in the offing, the government say they have more "positive" ideas. In reality they have gone a long way down the workfare road already.

They have introduced JTS. They can suspend benefit altogether if you fail to attend a 'Restart' interview.

If you go to the interview but don't take a job or 'training' offered, you will be suspended for 13 weeks and get a reduced rate of supplementary benefit. When your 13 week stretch ends you will be given the same Hobson's choice again... and again .. and again.

A new rate of youth dole for the under 25s is due in a year's time under the Fowler proposals. Already when you first sign on, you get a questionnaire asking for details such as how little money and how poor conditions you're prepared to put up with.

The special claimants advisers have been told to concentrate particularly on young people and women. It won't stop there, though. Disabled workers are already being forced off invalidity benefits on to low paid 'light work' on the grounds that it is unreasonable to expect the same skill and wages as your last job. Redundant skilled workers could be forced off the dole if this was applied to unemployed workers and Restart.

Labour and the unions must fight these proposals and make the Tories' abandonment of youth a major issue in the election.

By Nigel Wheatley

Todd's stand against JTS

RON TODD, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union is considering resigning from the Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

The decision came after the government refused to give any training allowance to unemployed workers going on the Job Training Scheme.

After an executive decision to withdraw support from JTS, branches, districts and regions would refuse to operate JTS in workplaces organised by the TGWU. All TGWU members would applaud this decision against the super-exploitation of youth and a threat to all workers' jobs and pay.

To fund the schemes with no extra resources, the MSC plan to switch money from the Community Programme

(CP) schemes. At present MSC pay 'management agents' £65 a week. These agents will now just apply to be JTS agents but without any control by MSC boards.

Workers on CP schemes under 25 face the threat of having their wages slashed to supplementary level. Employers will be tempted to sack adult workers on union negotiated pay and replace them with JTS workers.

Ron Todd says the TGWU wants "the unemployed put back to work on proper jobs with proper rates of pay." I would agree. The union has the resources to lead a campaign with the LPYS against JTS, YTS and for proper jobs with a minimum wage of £125 a week.

By Bill Mullins



Photo: John Harris (IFL)

Community Programme workers in Birmingham. More government schemes to replace real jobs.

Work schemes at expense of real education

IN JANUARY this year, the Student Association at Ayr college came across a cutting from a local newspaper. It described how Strathclyde Regional council would widen the availability of further education to certain groups like the disabled and spouses of the unemployed. This is to be paid for by restricting the Bursary award paid to full time students.

According to Strathclyde region, the reason for this restriction is the high failure rate among further education (FE) students in three of the region's 20-odd colleges. In 1987 the Bursaries were issued late (for the third year in a row).

Students pointed out that the majority of FE colleges did not have disabled or creche facilities. The region's response was to state that these people wouldn't be taught in colleges, but in Outreach.

Cutting courses

This involves teachers leaving colleges to teach in community centres and the like. However, what worries the student unions is that there is no mention of who will be teaching the classes the teachers must leave behind in the colleges. There are only two possibilities, to employ more teachers or cut classes and courses.

Cutting classes and courses doesn't stop there, it leads to fewer full-time and more part-time teachers. It leads to fewer students in colleges, which in turn leads to canteen closures and staff redundancies. If this document goes through, it paves the way for the privatisation of the FE colleges.

Twenty-five per cent of FE college courses are already being handed over to the MSC to be used for their YTS trainees. In England and Wales, the polytechnics have been taken out of the control of elected local authorities and placed under the management of central government. The future for our education system is bleak unless someone is prepared to stand and fight.

On 8 April occupations were held in several of the region's colleges. The following day, for the third time this year, students demonstrated on the streets of Glasgow against these proposals.

There is a clear mood among the students in the West of Scotland. They are not prepared to see their education system flushed down the drain.

With the example of Liverpool and the magnificent victory of the Spanish school students still fresh in our minds, Further Education Labour Students supporters will be pushing for a socialist Labour government to implement a socialist education system open to everyone as a right and not a privilege to the rich, or as a training ground for the capitalists and their YTS or JTS schemes.

By Martin Barr
(President Langside college SU)

Manipulating figures

THE TORIES are desperate to see the official unemployment figures dip below three million before they announce the date of the election.

They want to force even more young unemployed on to slave pay schemes like Job Training Scheme (JTS).

"I think we shall very soon be putting to the electorate whether young people who neither stay at school, nor take training, nor take a job, are entitled to receive supplementary benefit." Mrs Thatcher said in parliament last week.

The Tories are trying to make today's school leavers into a low pay forgotten generation who can cut wage rates and conditions all round. The School Students' Union are calling a day of action on Thursday 14 May to make sure every school leaver knows what the Tories have in mind for them and joins the fight back.

Leaflet artwork available from SSU, 102 St Pancras Way, London NW1.

6.2 MILLION YOUTH FOR LABOUR

Labour Party Young Socialists

WITH ONLY four weeks to go for Labour's youth consultation exercise it's essential that all Labour and trade union movement organisations send the positive LPYS proposals in to Walworth Rd.

The LPYS conference last week overwhelmingly supported a resolution outlining the YS proposals—the NEC must take notice of the feelings of Labour's youth section.

However a recent circular sent out by Larry Whitty (see inset) to all affiliated trade union general secretaries, clearly shows that the NEC are totally disinterested in a proper and thorough consultation

within the movement. It goes against all the democratic traditions of the Party, the best response to this would be for all LPYS members to approach their trade unions to get support for the LPYS.

In the past week the LPYS have received support from Keighley no.9 AEU branch and Kingston branch TASS.

As well as these successes, Leicester West, Newham South, Newham North West, East Berkshire, Bow and Poplar and Portsmouth North and South constituency Labour parties have all supported the LPYS proposals. Has

Only four weeks to go

your Labour Party discussed the LPYS's proposals yet?

At least ten LPYS branches have sent in resolutions in the past week including Glasgow Hillhead YS who supported the LPYS proposals by 11 votes to 2. This is all the more significant if you consider that it was Glasgow Hillhead CLP that moved the initial pro-Sawyer resolution at last year's Labour Party conference!

It must also be remembered that branch Labour Parties and Labour Clubs can all send resolutions in, as they are part of the consultation process. So why not follow the example of Radlet ward in Hertsmere constituency which opposed the NEC

Dear Colleague,

YOUTH CONSULTATION

I understand that the Young Socialists have circulated a letter dated 27th February, seeking a meeting with General Secretaries concerning the Consultation on the Party's youth organisation.

It is, of course, up to individual unions to decide how best to undertake this Consultation.

I should make it quite clear, however, that the NEC have not approved the circulation of this letter, or that the LPYS contact General Secretaries.

Rather, the NEC have laid it down that the NEC Consultation paper should be recommended as the only basis for discussion. The Consultation exercise is being undertaken by the national Party and not by any section of the Party.

Yours sincerely,

J.L. Whitty,
General Secretary.

proposals and collected £6.75 for the LPYS or Bell College Labour Club which has supported the LPYS proposals.

Remember, only four weeks remain, the future

of Labour's youth hangs in the balance, send in the resolutions and we can win! Rush in resolutions by 22 May to Joyce Gould, 150 Walworth Rd, London SE17 1JT.

Sell Militant

MILITANT SELLERS were out in force last week in Bradford. By Sunday afternoon a magnificent 301 papers had been sold on the Thorpe Edge estate using the feature on housing conditions there.

Sellers reckon that one in four households have bought a copy so far. They are pushing to get a record sale of 500 within the week.

"We've seen nothing like it" said exhausted sellers: "Things got off to a slow start on Friday, but then sales rocketed, with 99 sold on Saturday afternoon alone. Everyone was really pleased with the feature. We've never had so many out selling at one time before."

Support is growing on housing estates around the country. Andy Gough from Wakefield reports that "sellers out canvassing for the local elections are having great success. One sold five copies in just one street. At the first door he was greeted with 'Up the Reds' and a sale at the solidarity price of £1. After that it was easy." Sellers in Brighton report their best ever sale of 240 with the North/South class divide feature.

Support

Selling *Militant* whilst canvassing for Labour gives the chance to explain *Militant's* policies and answer the lies of the Tory press. If you are not a seller yet, then why not write to us for a bulk order? Ask your friends and relatives to take a copy or knock door-to-door along your street. Ask local sellers for details of activities in your area.

By Ruth Campbell

'Evil' smear on single parents

TORY MINISTER Rhodes Boyson recently made the outrageous statement that "the intentional one-parent family is probably the most evil product of our times."

The right-wing former headmaster, lecturing single parents as if they were a class of wicked schoolchildren, blamed them for "violent crime, football hooliganism, mugging and inner-city revolt". "Boys" he said can generally only be civilised by firm and caring fathers."

"Single parents" he alleged, "have had their case so well made that they have expanded their subsidies from the public purse from some £15 million in 1960 to some £1,000 million in 1983."

On behalf of all those struggling single-handed to bring up their families, who will have been enraged by these remarks, **ALAN HORNE**, (left) a single parent from Loughborough, answers back.



BEING A single father is not all a tale of woe. After all few men get the chance to raise their children when they divorce, so I count myself lucky. But what really angers me is the way that capitalism punishes me and the kids because I am doing this. The winter before last we were living in a one-bedroomed private flat. There is not room to list all its faults, but for example, once a fortnight I used to mop the mould off the bedroom wall, the stairs were open on one side, and dangerous for small children, the only heat was from a calor gas heater and there was no garden.

"How can you feed two children and equip a house on £41.70 a week social security?"

Yet it took pressure from social workers, health visitors, etc. before the council would even inspect the flat. Months later, last spring, I was given a council house.

Sixty per cent of Britain's million or so single parents live in council houses and because we rely heavily on public housing, half of Britain's homeless are headed

by a single parent. There just aren't enough council houses to go around.

Grants from the DHSS have equipped the house, nothing special but it is warm and homely. Most of these grants have been abolished now. I don't know what people being housed this year will do. How can you feed two children and equip a house on £41.70 a week social security?

It is an accepted myth that delinquent children come from broken homes. Yet various studies have shown that differences in behaviour and achievement are due to differences in class, housing, poverty and discrimination.

Tory attacks

Two thirds of families on supplementary benefit and half those on family income supplement are one-parent families. Rhodes Boyson's comments are really just an attempt to mask the Tory attacks on our living standards.

Single parents on average are considerably poorer than two-parent families. Because

"I don't suppose Princess Margaret had to buy clothes at jumble sales or the Oxfam shop after her divorce."

they are more dependent on benefits, the Tory cuts have affected them particularly badly, and those in work have childminders' fees to pay. Single parents' weekly income was just 42 per cent of two parents' in 1983.

Of course it is not the same for everyone. I don't suppose Princess Margaret had to buy clothes at jumble sales or the Oxfam shop after her divorce.

As a working-class father bringing up his children, I face most of the problems working-class women do. Raising children alone presents extra problems. You have less chance to unwind and it's harder to go out in the evenings. The workload of two parents falls on the shoulders of one. So nurseries are especially important.

In this area though, one nursery of around 50 mainly part-time places, covers a population of around 100,000. What is more, it's run by the social services department as a kind of 'family first aid centre'. Why should I have to accept being labelled as a 'problem

family' to use the nursery?

Another myth is that single parents are all 15 year old schoolgirls. In fact, as the Tories well know, of 930,000 one-parent families in 1983 (according to the Office of Population and Census Surveys) just 180,000, or 19 per cent, were women who have never been married. Many of these will have lived with their children's father at some time. The bulk of single parents are divorcees. Thirty per cent of all marriages end in divorce.

Full and equal

My children have long since come to terms with my divorce. The greatest problems single parents face are poor housing, spending cuts, poverty, prejudice and isolation from society. If the Tories were really concerned about my children, they would tackle these problems, but as representatives of big business, that is the last thing they will do.

I am not asking for charity—just the right to be a full and equal member of society.

Left and Right

New rates of inequality

IF THE Tories were re-elected, the Community Charge, or poll tax, now being introduced in Scotland to replace rates, would be extended to England and Wales.

It is easy to see why some Tories are so keen on it. Under the present system, the Thatcher family would have to pay £3,060 a year for their new £500,000 house in Dulwich. The tenants of a council house in the area pay, on average, rates of £317 a year.

Under the new set-up, a couple with no children over 18 pay a total of £1,136 regardless of the type of house. Thus while the average couple in a council house would be paying £819 more, the Thatchers would be paying £1924 less.

Maid in Hong Kong

WEN WEI Po, the pro-Peking 'Communist' trade union newspaper in Hong Kong, has praised the colony's government "for introducing measures which will probably help protect the interest of local workers".

The 'measures' will reduce foreign domestic workers, most of them Filipinos, to little more than domestic slaves. Maids who leave their employers within the first two years of a contract to seek work elsewhere

will have to leave the territory within two weeks. 3,000 may be liable for deportation immediately.

The maids have held a protest, condemning the measures as 'racist' and condemning the Philippines government for accepting them. They complain that already many maids are exploited, harassed and abused. One was reported to have had to share a room with six dogs.

The new measures will give employers a licence to exploit or abuse their maids knowing that they will have been forced to leave the country before any complaint can be investigated. This is what these 'communist' union leaders are welcoming!

Ban one, ban them all!

NEWHAM NORTH West Labour Party has confirmed its policy of not allowing *Militant* to be sold during the election campaign. But this was not enough for some General Committee delegates, as the meeting, on the Chair's casting vote, went on to ban the sale of *Labour Weekly* and *Socialist Youth*, the party's official papers, as well.

At this rate of progress, canvassers will be travelling light round the doorsteps, though it is yet to be discussed whether Labour party leaflets will be acceptable to distribute to the voters.

Single parents demand:

- ★ Nursery places on demand, open 24 hours a day to allow single parents to work.
- ★ Qualified supervision for children during school holidays.
- ★ £120 a week minimum social security or a job at a living wage.
- ★ Massive increase in house building.
- ★ Restoration of spending cuts.
- ★ Creche facilities at labour movement activities.
- ★ The Tories out.
- ★ The nationalisation of the monopolies to plan Britain's resources for the benefit of all, not for the private profit of a few.

Thanks, Sir Jim

LAST WEEK the ruling class settled a debt to one of its most faithful servants. Arise Sir James Callaghan, Knight of the Order of the Garter!

By Andrew Price
(Cardiff South Labour Party)

A delighted Jim told the press how thrilled he was that the Queen herself had decided upon this accolade.

The ruling class have always understood how to defuse the leadership of the labour movement, through wining and dining, fat fees from the media, directorships and, above all, titles and seats in the House of Lords.

A survey of his career shows how well James Callaghan served British capitalism, how shamefully he treated the movement which gave him everything and how he trod the well-worn path of Labour's right wing -- the emancipation of the working class one by one starting with himself.

Money-lenders

From his beginnings as MP for Cardiff South in the 1945 parliament, Callaghan was always at home with the right wing of the party. From 1951 to 1964 in the long years of opposition, he kept the wolf from the door by being paid as a spokesman for the Police Federation.

Always one to proclaim his Christianity, he conve-

niently forgot his mentor's action in throwing the money-lenders out of the temple and forged a lifelong friendship with Cardiff merchant banker, Julian Hodge. In the early seventies, Callaghan and Hodge actually brought forward a scheme to turn Labour Party members into unpaid insurance agents for Hodge and were amazed when the party conference told them where to put the scheme.

Always a witch-hunter, Callaghan spent most of the fifties trying to get Aneurin Bevan and his supporters expelled for being 'a party within a party'.

In the sixties, as Chancellor of the Exchequer he enacted Tory economic policies and then as Home Secretary some of the most blatantly racist immigration controls Britain has ever seen.

In the seventies, as Prime Minister, he pursued policies of wage restraint and cuts in social services. These measures slashed living standards and were applauded by the capitalists, but bitter-

ly opposed by the labour movement. In desperation, trade unionists in the winter of 1978-79 took to industrial action.

Having no further use for Callaghan, the Tories brought his government down in April 1979 and in the ensuing general election Labour was routed.

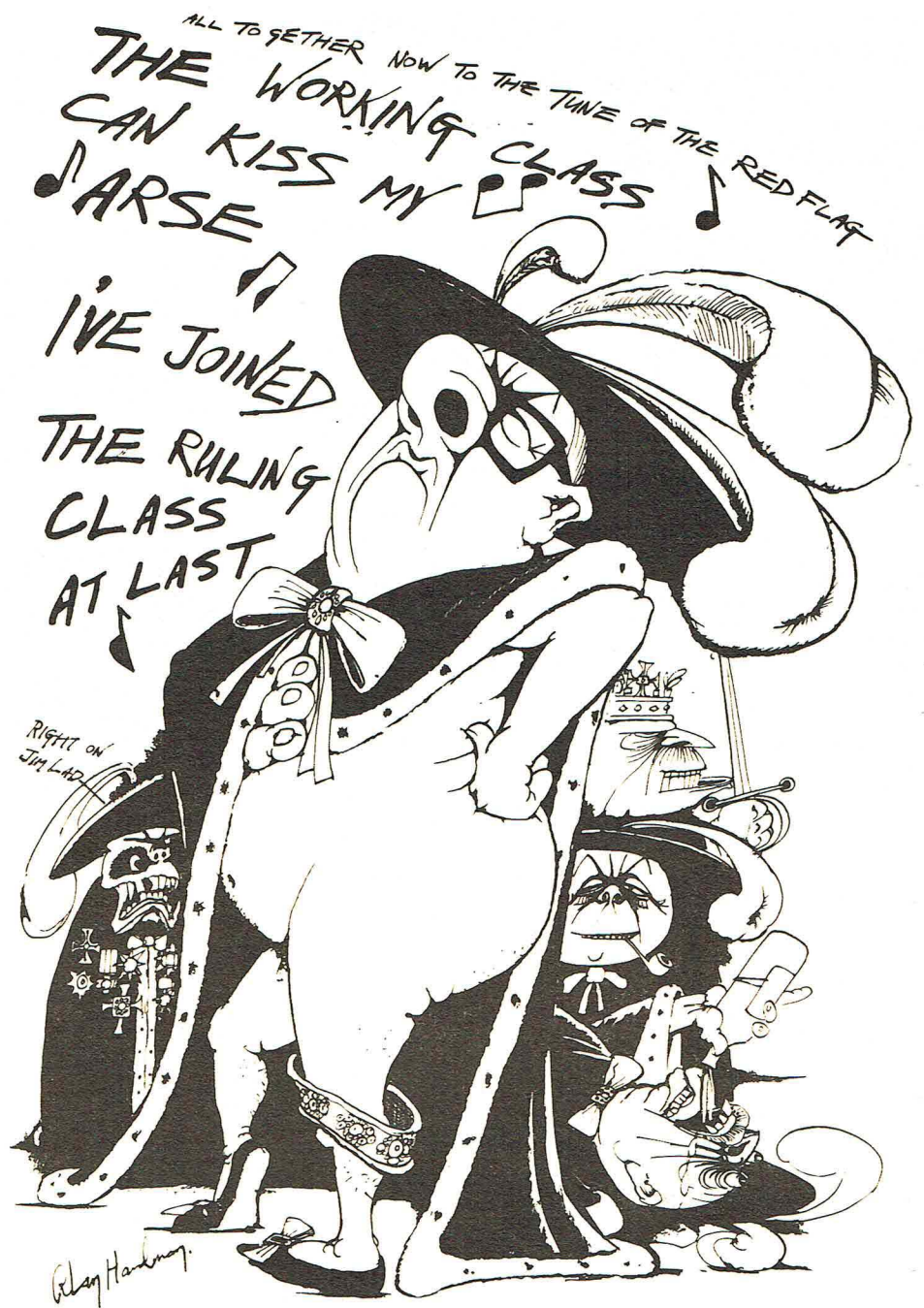
Bitter at the 'ingratitude' of the voters and angry with the trade unions, Callaghan retreated to the back benches. Rarely did he make speeches denouncing the Tories, but chose to attack 'the enemy' within the labour movement.

Sabotaged

In 1986, his local party in Cardiff South was forced to reinstate three expelled Marxists and foot a legal bill of £3,000.

In 1983 he deliberately sabotaged the party's election campaign by publicly supporting the Tories over defence, and he has attempted to do the same again this year. Yet contrast the silence of the right wing over Callaghan with the expulsion of Marxists in Liverpool.

In the coming class battles in Britain, a new generation of class fighters will transform the Labour party and put the Callaghan years firmly into the dustbin of history.



Labour needs the unions to defeat the Tories

THE SCOTTISH Trades Union Congress traditionally sets the agenda for all the union conferences which follow, culminating with the TUC and the Labour Party.

This year the proceedings in Perth were dominated by the forthcoming general election. Every trade unionist knows how disastrous it would be if the Tories were allowed back. It could mean privatisation of the mines and the railways, VAT on food, more curbs on union freedom and the introduction of compulsory cheap labour schemes for the unemployed.

A campaign to get Labour elected was every delegate's top priority.

But even at the level of the union general secretaries,

there was disquiet at the party leaders' performance and poor showing in the polls.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union, demanded that unions be given a more prominent role within the party: "Without the enthusiasm of trade unionists the party would become a vehicle without an engine".

He called for the party to return to basics and campaign on three major themes: "its programme to create a million jobs in two years; its strategy to boost investment in manufacturing industry; and the national minimum wage which is part of Labour's anti-poverty programme".

George Bolton, Scottish miners' vice-president called for hundreds of factory gate meetings and hundreds of

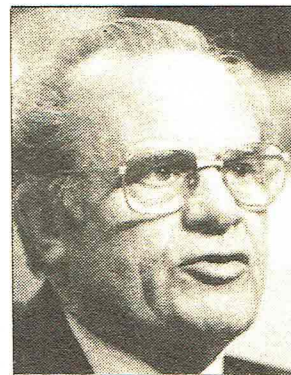
thousands of leaflets.

Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, echoed Edmonds' call for more union involvement in the Labour Party. "A further term of Thatcher government" he said, "would be unbearable. The unemployed, the old, the sick and the needy are in desperate need of real solutions".

Desperate

But he also urged the party to broaden its campaign to appeal to the compassion of those fortunate to remain in employment with a decent wage, as well as to the victims of Thatcherism. "We have to fight standing on our feet, with a belief in what we are about".

He said: "This is the last



Ron Todd.

opportunity we have got to remove this Tory government. What bothers me is we have got to get our people to stop hanging their heads down. Some party officials and MPs are like rabbits frightened by a weasel".

These leaders were reflecting the concern of their activists that instead of going on to the offensive, the

Labour leaders are diluting their policies in response to the barrage of propaganda in the Tory press.

Union leaders

Some of the union general secretaries, however, are very late converts to this idea. They share much of the responsibility for the rightward drift of Labour party policy and the lack of a fighting campaign. Most of their union colleagues on the Labour Party National Executive Committee (NEC) have consistently voted with the right.

It was always inevitable that what began as an organisational attack on Marxists and other left-wingers would lead to a political attack on the policies they stood for.

Edmonds' union leader-

ship has been in the forefront of the witch-hunting efforts of the right, which have caused the "internal wrangling" which he now demands the party stop.

Rather than complain at the inevitable political price the party is now having to pay for the prolonged witch-hunting of Marxists, Edmonds and Co should be telling their representatives on the NEC to vote against any further attacks on *Militant* supporters and throw all their efforts behind a campaign for a Labour victory.

The STUC can set the movement on course for a national mobilisation of union members throughout the country to drive the Tories out.

By Andy Paterson
(Delegate Falkirk District Trades Council)

Fighting Fund

This week
£5077

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 South East	1360		2250
2 London	3610		9350
3 South West	642		1900
4 Eastern	1019		3200
5 East Midlands	1044		3250
6 Southern	985		3050
7 Wales	1381		4800
8 Scotland East	558		2800
9 Northern	860		4600
10 West Midlands	921		4750
11 Yorkshire	1613		8300
12 Manchester/Lancs	710		3850
13 Merseyside	1380		7500
14 Scotland West	262		3500
Others	13551		6900
Total	29894		70000

One week left to reach the target

ONE WEEK to go until the end of the quarter, and May Day weekend is an ideal opportunity to round off the quarter with a bang. Get along to local events and marches with your papers, stickers and tins.

Sellers in Ogmore raised over £10 last Friday selling our new *Kick out the Tories* stickers at the market. After their success in raising cash for the LPYS conference—£88 round the pubs in one day—they are planning a Fighting Fund collection. What's the support for *Militant* in your local?

Portsmouth sellers are planning a collection in the bars and cafes in the Poly in the students' grant week. We know students are hard up, but a donation to *Militant* is the best investment in the future you can make.

As soon as you get this special May Day issue, don't keep it to yourself. A new supporter in West London sold his first five papers for £1 each.

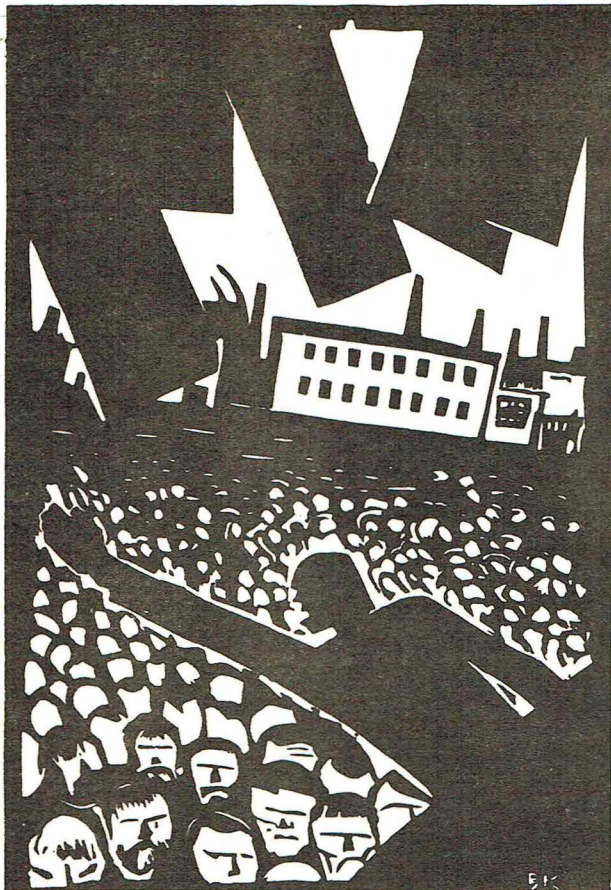
Have a plan of action for the weekend. Organise workplace sales. Ask all your

workmates for a donation. Draw up a hit-list of supporters and ask for £5, £10, £20 or more for our Fighting Fund. On Saturday set up a stall in the town centre, with posters, placards, buckets and stickers.

Celebrate your success with a social on Saturday night and finish off with an estate sale on Sunday. Ask every buyer to show solidarity by paying £1 right away. The deadline is first post, Wed 5 May. Try and make your area the best in the country. Good luck!

Thanks to Chile Socialist Defence Campaign supporters for £20; South African supporters for £30; supporters from Spain, France, Germany and the Netherlands for £66; and Japanese supporters for 4,000 Yen—all from the LPYS conference.

Also Nicola Pieterse, Cornwall, £50; Rodney Ballard, Gedling NUM, £40; NUT conference collection, £128; Connie Thorpe, Birmingham, £10; supporters in Pork Farms, Nottingham, £1.79.



MAY DAY Greetings

Workers forward in international solidarity to the dawn of socialism
Fraternal greetings from Peterborough Militant supporters



HACKNEY COUNCIL MILITANT SUPPORTERS

No cuts in jobs or services! Trade union unity to fight privatisation and Tory attacks!



Forward to a socialist Labour government, the reinstatement of of Liverpool and Lambeth councillors and an end to the attacks on Birmingham Labour Party et al
Harlow Trades Union Council



May Day greetings to all comrades, especially the "magnificent 47" Liverpool Labour councillors. Their sacrifice is a beacon for us all in the fight for true socialism

Bow and Poplar LPYS salute the memory of Ivin Mazala
 Martyr to socialism
 "We will never give up the cause you died for"

Popular capitalism means 4 million jobless; cuts in education health and welfare; wealth for millionaires; misery for millions.
 Popular socialism can give us jobs, homes, education, health care and welfare and banish misery for millions.
 May greetings from *Militant* readers in Arundel CLP

Sheffield Manor *Militant* supporters send May Day greetings, support and solidarity to workers of the world in the struggle for socialism. The future is ours!

Tories out! Labour to power on a socialist programme
East Dorset Militant supporters

Sheffield Hillsborough *Militant* supporters send international fraternal greetings

Sheffield *Militant* council workers send fraternal greetings to our comrades fighting cuts in jobs and services

Bell College Labour Club
Nationalise the Caterpillar!

Who took the hooray out of the Henrys?
Oxford East LPYS

May Day greetings from Reading's radical Labour Party Young Socialists—Keep up the struggle for socialism!

Leyton LPYS say No to Sawyer's proposals! Build a mass LPYS! Tories out in '87!

Wakefield Militant supporters say forward to a twice weekly paper!

Sittingbourne *Militant* supporters
 "Forward to the future with the youth"

Fraternal greetings from Walthamstow CLP St James' Street branch
 Forward to socialism

May day greetings from Surrey area *Militant* supporters—Lingfield, Epsom, Guildford, Horsham, Redhill, Oxted.

Arm the workers with socialism! Forward to a daily *Militant!*

★ Fight racism, workers unite
 ★ Support the march in Leicester, 2 May ★ Leicester East *Militant* supporters ★

ISWYN MILITANT SUPPORTERS
 The labour movement needs a leadership it deserves, not one which shrinks from socialist policies.
 No more careerists, we want workers' representatives on workers' wages.

Forward to a twice-weekly Militant! May Day greetings from Stevenage Militant supporters in: Broadwater, Bandle Hill, Pin Green, Bedwell, Shephall and St Nicholas Labour Party branches

Corstorphine North Labour Party send fraternal greetings.
Socialism in our time

Crosby Militant supporters say 'Support the Liverpool 47'

★ Leicester East LPYS
 ★ Youth 'Vote Labour!'
 But Labour must offer the youth a socialist alternative

Nottingham *Militant* supporters
 Labour to power on a socialist programme

Smash the Tories!
 Forward to a daily *Militant*
Leith LPYS

Jesmond Militant supporters (Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central CLP) send fraternal greetings to all socialists in Britain and overseas.
 ★ Forward to a twice weekly *Militant!* ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme!



Chilean youth battle with police during the Pope's visit.

Workers in struggle around the world

MAY DAY is traditionally the time to celebrate workers' solidarity and internationalism. It is a day for workers in every country to raise their heads from the vital daily battles at home, to review the struggle for socialism internationally.

By Jeremy Birch

On May Day 1987 the tremors of coming revolutionary storms in every corner of the globe can be clearly felt. The struggle of the organised workers, students and school students has reached everywhere.

Even on the tiny island of Fiji a Labour Party-led coalition pledged to a "nuclear free Pacific" has just been elected.

World capitalism is proving itself incapable of guaranteeing the basic needs of the masses. Even the 'boom' of 1983-6 is described by capitalist economists as a "growth recession".

The IMF has slashed its forecast for world economic growth for 1987 from 3.5 per cent six months ago to 2.3 per cent now. Currency speculation, debt crisis, the credit explosion, a drift towards trade war—all the preconditions for economic crisis are maturing.

The economic recession of 1979-82, and the mass unemployment it brought in its wake, came initially as a profound shock to the workers in the advanced countries. They had grown up in the now vanished post-war era of full employment and rising living standards.

A new recession will enrage the workers. A new twist to the spiral of closures and redundancies will incite fresh upheavals, more bitter than the British miners' strike. The semi-insurrection in the small Spanish town of Reinosa is a sign of things to come.

The capitalist world is entering a qualitatively new period of irreversible

economic decline and intense class warfare. The era of capitalist decay, wrote Lenin, is one of wars and revolutions.

In Western Europe a fundamentally new stage has been reached. 1987 began as a year of strikes and demonstrations. Workers and youth have been compelled to mobilise in their millions against the counter-reforms of 'socialist' as well as conservative governments.

Following the momentous victory of the French university students (after just nine months of a conservative administration) the Spanish school students took to the road of struggle. Their union, under Marxist leadership, staged two one-day school strikes, a four-day strike and then a whole week of action, in the space of two and a half months.

Once they began to link up with the industrial workers, the government capitulated to their demands.

Spanish prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, had felt completely secure. The parliamentary opposition had apparently collapsed; Marxism seemed 'purged' from the Socialist Party. He foresaw no obstacles to his programme to stabilise capitalism.

Now Spain is entering a pre-revolutionary crisis, and stands at the forefront of the struggle of the European working class. Inspired by the school students, one section after another of Spanish labour has taken action. Frequent battles with the police confirm the workers' lack of fear of the state forces.

The Greek workers too have maintained mass activity against the retreats by their PASOK government. In Belgium the miners and other sections have engaged in militant strike action.

Workers and youth in Britain will be just as prepared to defend their rights and conditions against any government that threatens them.

In the third world countries, the soaring

debt burden (now over \$1,000 billion), the collapse of commodity prices and the protectionism against their exports—so cutting off the life-line of foreign exchange—have allowed no respite from economic crisis. 1985 saw a \$74 billion net transfer of resources from the under developed to the developed world—"a blood transfusion from the patient to the doctor," said the Brazilian ambassador to the USA.

Not one country in Latin America has escaped the wrath of the masses against IMF-imposed austerity. This year has already seen a general strike in Ecuador, troops called out against striking oil and port workers in Brazil, a hunger strike by the militant Bolivian tin miners and, in Mexico, the largest student protests for twenty years, coupled with demands from the unions for repudiation of the crippling foreign debts.

Campaign around the old slogan: "Workers of the world unite."

In Argentina a mass mobilisation of workers foiled a military coup. In Chile the heroic struggle against the Pinochet dictatorship continues.

Asia, too, is caught up in deepening turmoil. In semi-developed South Korea mass student protests are underway. In the Philippines, where elections loom on 11 May, the revolution is still unfolding.

But the most impoverished millions of

Asia and Africa are being reduced to penury and starvation. A new world recession is literally a matter of life or death for many. Hence food riots in Zambia, student upheavals in Nigeria and even a police strike in Senegal.

The mighty sweep of the revolutionary process is truly worldwide.

In the Stalinist countries, the slumbering giant of the East European proletariat is awakening. A virtual strike wave has forced its way into a number of countries of the eastern bloc: lightning strikes in Hungary against price rises, a series of strikes in Yugoslavia (where the miners are still out), strikes and go-slows in Romania, and threats even from the state-run unions in Poland of strikes against price increases.

The choking-up of the economies of Russia and Eastern Europe by the stranglehold of the bureaucratic elite has compelled Gorbachev, on behalf of the bureaucracy, to force through 'reforms'. In the face of economic slow down, threats to living standards and growing discontent, he has been compelled to lean on the workers to strike blows at the worst excesses of bureaucratic mismanagement and corruption.

But the flexing of the muscles of the East European workers shows the dangers of even talking about 'reforms'. The workers are emboldened to strike out for their own demands, and are preparing to settle their scores of generations with the bureaucracy that is fastened on their backs.

But as Marxists survey this magnificent stirring of the oppressed, it is clear in country after country that determined and far-sighted political leadership is needed, worthy of the masses' willingness to struggle. On May Day 1987, more than ever before, the task is to campaign for a Marxist programme around the old slogan: "Workers of the world unite."

Spain

Reinosa, a town in revolt



A VIRTUALLY insurrectionary situation grips the Cantabrian village of Reinosa. The village is practically under military occupation. Armoured cars patrol the streets, helicopters fly overhead and armed police occupy all strategic points. There are only 13,000 inhabitants, yet 360 Civil guards have been brought in from all over Spain, along with 50 vehicles, 8 armoured cars and 1 helicopter.

The police provocatively patrol the streets with arms, use tear gas, body search the women, smash shop windows and car headlights, throw smoke bombs at houses, burst into bars and lay into everyone present with truncheons. They have even beaten up eight year old children. They shout to the townfolk: "So far it's one nil, but we'll get even".

Barrionuevo, the 'socialist' Minister of the Interior, defended this monstrous behaviour: "The presence of the security forces in Reinosa is justified by the desire that rights and liberties be respected" (El Pais, 8 April 1987)

Once again, on 15 April, at least 20 people were injured in further clashes. Local doctors reported old and young injured, some savagely beaten. Yet the workers on one occasion surrounded the police and forced them to seek refuge in the armoured cars!

During Easter week the country was brought to a standstill by what was, in effect, a general strike of all transport and the Spanish tourist trade lost more than £175 million as a result.

Students demonstrating in Valladolid caused traffic jams. The Metro workers in Madrid were on strike. Some workers even resorted to sabotage—in Barcelona a train was derailed, while a Madrid railway line was sabotaged by cutting high tension wires.

The Spanish press reads like a strike bulletin: there are strikes in General Motors in Zaragoza, at the Renault plants in Valladolid, Palencia and Seville. 80 per cent of building workers are out on strike. The miners' strike has spread from Asturias to Leon. Clashes, equally brutal as those in Reinosa, have taken place at

the bay of Cadiz. In the AESA shipyards of Cadiz, out of 3,400 workers, 2,100 are threatened with losing their jobs. In the clashes workers have been hit with rubber bullets and the workers' suburbs have been besieged by the police.

Yet even the police are taking strike action! In Easter week there was a sit-down strike of the riot police and they threaten further action. On 4 April there was a strike of the municipal police with a demonstration of 2,000 in the centre of Madrid for a wage increase. The Metro police have also been on strike.

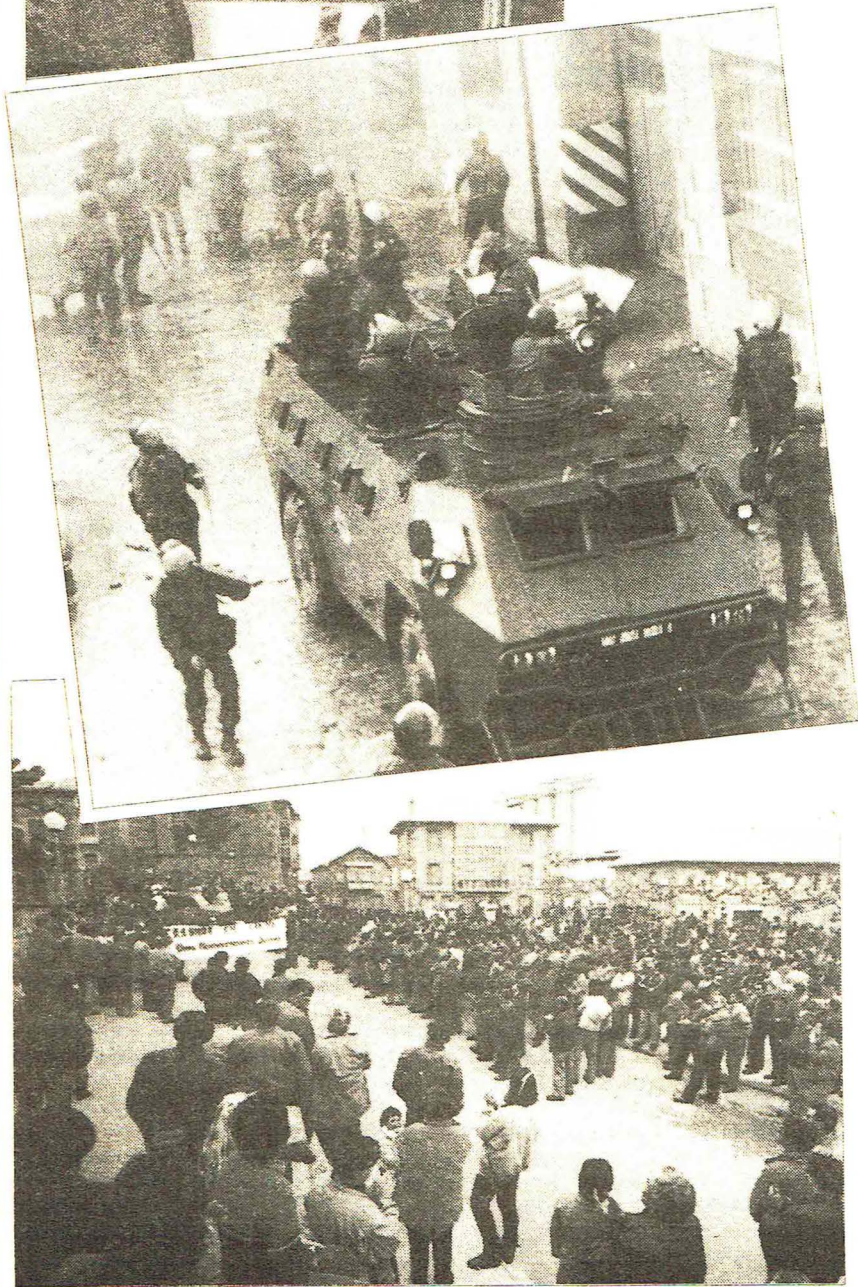
The Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez, is widely criticised as being completely out of touch with the situation. His only idea is to introduce anti-strike laws. Everyone, including the capitalist press, comments that Parliament is irrelevant and that power is on the streets.

Conflict between the government and the Socialist trade union, UGT, has sharpened. For the first time ever, the union decided not to call on workers to vote for the Socialist Party.

This workers' movement has been sparked off by the victory of the students' movement earlier this year. In an interview with El Pais Nicolas Redondo, leader of the UGT, asked: "Why do the workers not have the right to a wage rise, in the same way that the students' demands were attended to?"

The capitalist press acknowledges: "The first demonstrations of the students and the concessions achieved by them, pointed the way for the rest of society. The day that Felipe Gonzalez's government lost the respect of the school kids, it lost the respect of everybody."

From correspondents in Spain



Workers' c

THE 'REBELLION' by Argentinian junior officers last week has sparked a new revolutionary wave reflecting the profound crisis gripping Argentina and Latin America. Unreported in the capitalist press, was the pouring onto the streets of workers, unemployed, youth and even middle class layers, who decisively repelled the reactionary movement of the officer caste. It was not Alfonsin's 'skill', 'shrewdness' or 'intelligence' but the working class, which defeated the officers.

When news of the scale of the 'rebellion' became clear thousands flooded into La Plaza de Mayo to demonstrate their opposition to the military. More significantly thousands of workers surrounded the largest military school in Argentina, El Campo De Mayo.

TV broadcasts urged viewers to turn off their sets and go into the streets. The General Secretary of the CGT trade union federation threatened with a general strike. The determination of the workers to prevent any return to a military dictatorship was vividly shown by events at El Campo de Mayo. Memories of the torture, death and repression, still vivid in the minds of the workers, ensured they had the confidence necessary to stop a coup.

When officers at the school threatened the crowd with a tank

gun, far from it intimidating workers, it provoked an outburst of anger and an attempt to breach the gates. Riot police sent the workers were forced down their weapons, in some cases even being disarmed. It was a victory which forced the officers back down. Had they continued they would have provoked an insurrectionary movement.

Peronist leader

Fearing such a development the capitalist class, through Alfonsin opposed this attempted coup. At the same time, they wanted to regain control of the situation. Above all, get the masses out of the streets.

As Alfonsin said on returning to La Plaza de Mayo from a military school: "I have as my aim people who have been in the streets of Mayo to leave... and I ask a question to your houses: do you want your children to celebrate a day of peace". He was given full support by the Peronist leader of the traditional mass movement, who was speaking before him at El Campo de Mayo.

Above everything else, Alfonsin, acting for capitalism and imperialism, has attempted to 'bring order' and prevent a conference which would certainly have developed, resulting in a defeat of the military.

Junior officers facing torture committed during

Mass move

South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA'S military raid into Zambia on Saturday followed hard on the heels of last week's savage police attack on striking railway workers, in which at least six were shot dead.

The dismissal of 16,000 strikers was announced on Wednesday. Within hours police were attacking a union meeting at Germiston, shooting down workers who resisted.

Then came the police assault on Cosatu House, headquarters of the Congress of SA Trade Unions to which the railway workers' union, SARHWU, is affiliated.

A trade unionist present in Cosatu House, in a report exclusive to Militant, describes how the police wrecked the building. On the pretext of looking for railway workers, every door was smashed, every cupboard ransacked and masses of documents seized.

"Were they expecting to find railway workers in filing cabinets?" he asked.

This latest and most provocative attack on the independent trade union movement has exacerbated the tension in South Africa in the run-up to the whites-only election on 6 May.

Isolated struggles are flaring up all around the country. In Soweto, a partial general strike was organised by the youth last week as the 10-month-old rent strike continues. At Randfontein Estates and Western Areas gold mines, 24,000 black mineworkers have come out on strike against planned redundancies.

The fact that the railway strike itself was sparked off by the dismissal of a single worker is evidence of the enormously combative mood.

The government, well aware of the minefield it is treading, has taken the unprecedented step of proclaiming the first Friday in May as Workers' Day.

Last May Day, the black South African workers led the movement world-wide with a general strike of two million. This year Botha is 'cleverly' trying to sidestep a similar challenge—May Day just happens to fall on the first Friday!

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Defeat officers coup

Argentina

ing the military dictatorship have demanded measures against senior officers. The government as a result has made major concessions.

General Chief of Staff Erenu, oriented towards Alfonsín, has been retired along with 15 of 30 serving generals. As significantly, all trials of officers accused of crimes during the 'dirty war' have been 'suspended' by the Supreme Court. The officers are in effect all claiming that the official estimates of 10,000 'disappeared', and torture were the results of 'orders' being implemented—a crude attempt to save their own skins from the limited action that has been taken against the military by Alfonsín's administration.

Revolution sometimes needs the whip of counter-revolution. In these explosive developments the revolution in Argentina has been given a new impetus and the working class a warning.

Under such conditions the threat of further attempts by the military will hang over the working class in the future, despite the strength which it now has to repel them. Conditions for a stable capitalist democracy do not exist in Argentina or throughout Latin America.

The foreign debt of \$51 billion, and the general crisis in Argentina, have already compelled ruthless attacks in living standards against the working class. Eight 24 hour general strikes against Alfonsín's austerity measures have already taken place in the last three

years since the Radicals came to power.

Alfonsín's government prior to recent events was in a state of crisis, losing authority and support. The Peronists seemed likely to make substantial gains and take a majority in partial parliamentary elections scheduled for September 1987.

However, in the face of the country's developing economic and social crisis, the Peronist leadership have been terrified of coming to power and unleashing an explosion of expectations, which they would be incapable of satisfying. So desperate have they been to avoid it if possible, the CGT leadership have collaborated with Alfonsín in establishing a 'social pact' to limit wage rises. The parliamentary faction was preparing to accept a 'coalition government' under the guise of preparing constitutional reform.

Workers' opposition

Under such conditions, with the Peronists making no attempt to distinguish themselves from Alfonsín in the recent events, there could develop an attitude of contempt for all political leaders, and a possible widespread abstention in the coming elections. The concessions given to the military (which seem likely to result in the sacking of Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena) have met with stiff opposition amongst many workers.

In the Plaza de Mayo Alfonsín referred to officers involved as "mistaken heroes from the Malvinas war", and was booed by the hundreds of thousands present.

The crisis over Easter in Argentina is a prelude to a new period of crisis and struggle by the Argentine workers. Such events will give rise to a shift to the traditional Peronist movement and its eventual coming to power.

In the course of such struggles it will be necessary to clarify a class programme to transform society—to break the grip of imperialism and the national capitalist class over society, and the power of the officer caste within the state; to nationalise foreign and national monopolies and banks under workers' control and management; for trade union rights for the armed forces, election of officers, and all military bases under trade union control with the establishment of a trade union militia.

Only then will the threat of a return to a military police dictatorship be lifted from the heads of the working class. Such a transformation of Argentina would detonate a movement throughout the continent, posing the prospect of the establishment of a socialist federation of Latin American states.

By Alejandro Rojas



Government unbowed

now a crucial responsibility on the shoulders of the COSATU and African National Congress leadership to show a way out of the dangerous impasse between the masses and the government.

Following the brilliantly successful one-day general strike on 1 May and 16 June last year, a two-day general strike for COSATU for a two-day general strike involving huge numbers of workers and youth against the killings, and take forward the wage campaign.

Leaders who hesitate to 'confront' the government should be pointed out that failure to do so now will be interpreted as a sign of weakness, and pave the way for more vicious attacks in the future.

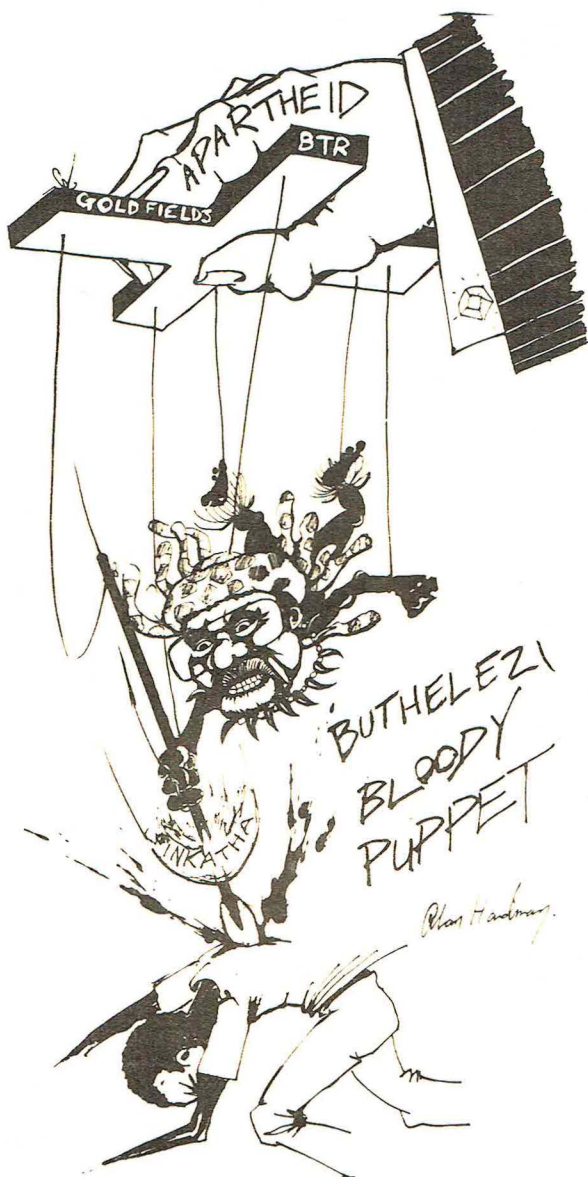
To smash Pretoria's murder machine and to build up in the factories, townships. Millions of workers and youth should be prepared to fight like lions if they do not have a clear programme of action.

Confusion

At present, confusion and divisions are being created by the ANC and Communist Party leaders' 'compromise' with so-called liberal capitalists. This gives an opening to pro-capitalist forces, such as Gatsha Buthelezi, to temporarily following among the less aware workers who still hope that a settlement can be reached without the need for revolution. Divisions would be dispelled if the ANC came out clearly behind the demands of the majority of Congress activists to end apartheidism. This would solidly unite the workers, and for the first time offer a real alternative to white workers who cling to Botha—they can see no other option.

Internationalists and socialists should rally to the defence of COSATU and the workers, and give them full encouragement in the struggles ahead. Messages to: Box 1019, Johannesburg 2000, SA.

By George Collins



Militant/Inqaba meeting in memory of Ivin Malaza

South African worker-militant shot in the back by an assassin hired by UWUSA, the scab 'union' controlled by Gatsha Buthelezi.

Time: 7.30pm, Tuesday 5 May

Venue: North Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road, London SE 15.

Speakers: Tyrone Simpson (*Inqaba*), Frances Curran (*Militant*).

Ivin Malaza Memorial Fund

Donations to help support Comrade Malaza's family and continue his work should be rushed to: Cllr L. Faulkes, 143B Amhurst Road, London E8 2AW. Cheques payable to: Ivin Malaza Memorial Fund.

May Day greetings

Supporters of *Inqaba Ya Basebenzi* journal of the Marxist Workers Tendency of the ANC, in COSATU, SAYCO (South African Youth Congress) and the UDF send revolutionary greetings to *Militant* and its supporters

- ★ Tories out!
- ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme!
- ★ Solidarity with South African railway workers!
- ★ Support SA workers fight for a R140 a week national minimum wage and a 40 hour week!
- ★ Build a mass ANC on a socialist programme!
- ★ Forward to twice weekly *Militant*!



Militant May Day special

How May Day began

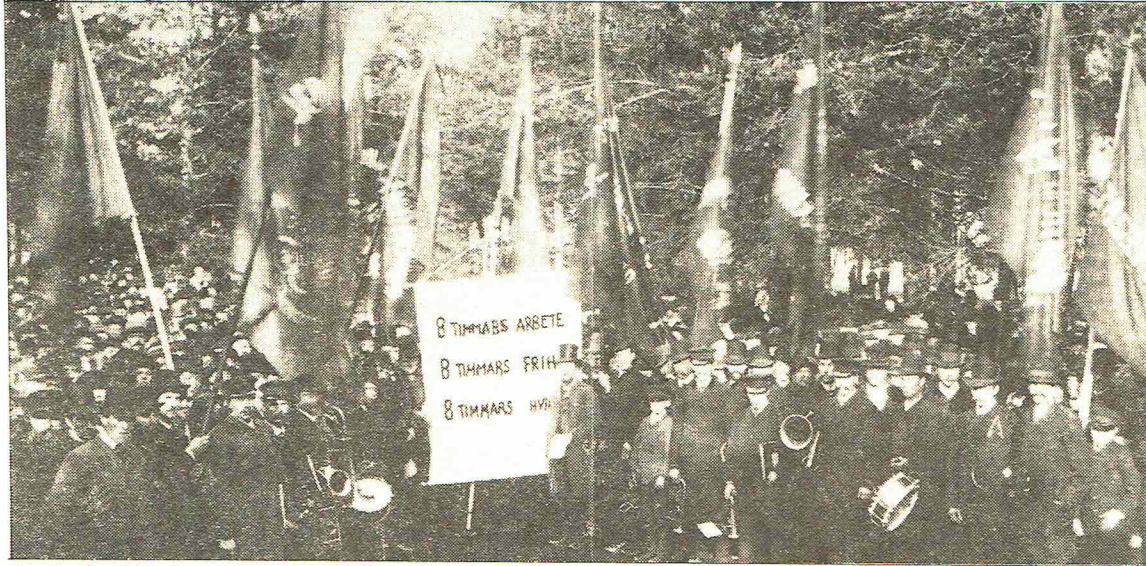
ON 27 MARCH a Tory motion to replace the May Day holiday with a 'Churchill Day' was brought in the House of Commons. DAVE NELLIST, Labour's Marxist MP for Coventry South-East, opposed it and explained the historical significance of May Day in the workers' movement. We reprint an edited version of his speech.

THE ORIGIN of May Day was in 1886 in America when 350,000 workers in more than 11,000 establishments downed tools in a demand for an eight-hour day.

The centre of that movement was in Chicago, which was the fastest-growing city of its day, the Mexico City or Caracas of America. It had a huge, developing factory system in which workers worked between 10 and 18 hours a day.

In 1868, the United States had passed an eight-hour law, but during the next decade and a half it was enforced only twice. In the autumn of 1885 one of the workers' leading union organisations, the Knights of Labour, planned rallies and demonstrations for the following May to enforce a law that the employers, especially the railway barons, treated with contempt.

The slogan of the day was, in the words of one of the songs of that movement, "eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for



On the first May Day, huge numbers of workers in many countries rallied to the call. This picture was taken in Sweden on 1 May 1890.

what we will". Those words are almost identical to those used by British trade union leaders of the time, such as Tom Mann of the engineers.

On 1 May 1886, the first national general strike in American history took place. As a direct consequence, more than 500,000 workers saw their hours of work substantially reduced—in many cases down to an eight-hour day with no loss in pay.

The employers lost no time in preparing their revenge. On 1 May the *Chicago Mail* named two union leaders and stated:

"Mark them for today. Keep them in mind. Hold them personal-

ly responsible for any trouble that occurs. Make an example of them if that trouble occurs."

That time was not long in coming.

On 3 May, 500 police herded 300 scabs through a picket line at International Harvester's. When the pickets resisted, the police opened fire and several workers died.

A protest meeting was organised on Haymarket square and towards its end, in pouring rain and with only a couple of hundred of workers left, the police arrived to break it up. A bomb was thrown. It was never established by whom. Seven police officers and an unknown number of workers died

in that assassination.

Hundreds of union activists were arrested throughout the country and eight union leaders were put on trial. Seven of them had not been at the demonstration, and the eighth was the speaker on the platform, so he could not have thrown the bomb.

Legality was never the aim of that trial; revenge was. The *Chicago Tribune* of the day gave the game away with the headline: "Hang an organiser from every lamp-post!"

The trial was absurd: the jury even included relatives of the dead policemen; witnesses and jurors were bribed; and the judge played

noughts and crosses with young society ladies during testimony. A local businessman summed up the employers' view with the words:

"I don't consider these people to have been guilty of any offence, but they must be hanged...the labour movement must be crushed. The Knights of Labour will never dare to create discontent again if these men are hanged."

International protest followed the inevitable verdict of this scandalous frame-up and judicial murder. Huge meetings were addressed in England and Wales by people including Eleanor Marx, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde and William Morris. The city council of Paris protested at the "political crime", and when five of the union leaders were executed, a quarter of the population of Chicago turned out for the funeral.

From that day on, 1 May has grown to an international day of solidarity among working people. Its first celebration took place in 1890 on the slogans of "An 8-hour day", "International solidarity" and "Against militarism".

As workers emerge from tyranny and repression in whatever country, they adopt that day as theirs. The most recent example is perhaps the most downtrodden, exploited people in the world—the black workers of South Africa, especially mineworkers who in the past three years have struck for the demand that May Day be a paid public holiday.

Chile

Youth brave torture and death

WITH DEATH and repression Pinochet's military dictatorship has tried to wipe out every last trace of 'comunismo'—ie working-class struggle—in Chile. It has failed. Instead, wave after wave of struggle has left it completely isolated. The depth of mass hatred of the regime, and the potential for future revolutionary struggle, is shown by the following interview with a Chilean 12-year-old school student—expressing the mood of militant youth the world over.

"How many are there in your family?"

"There's my mother, my grandfather, my grandmother, my uncle and me."

"Are they in work? What do they do?"

"My mother is a shop assistant, my grandfather sells avocados door to door, my grandmother is a housewife, my uncle is in the eighth year at primary school."

"What problems do you have at home?"

"Money problems. It makes my grandmother, who does the housekeeping, very tense. She has to make the money last all month. For example, when I need an exercise book, she tells me that she hasn't any money and to ask my mother."

"My mother is very depressed and she hardly sells anything at

work. She's paid according to what she sells. She wants to help my grandmother and all our family, but she can't because the money just doesn't last the month."

"Just in travelling she spends more than 2,000 pesos and I don't know how she manages to eat and keep herself. She works 12 hours a day, including all day Saturday and because of this she's got varicous veins. She's 28 and she's going out with an unemployed lawyer. They want to get married but they haven't got the money."

"And how are you affected by the way things are?"

"As a boy, I don't think that I have the right to express my ideas."

"At school I only have one friend who shares my political and social ideas. We are the only two who dare to speak, that's why the students who support the govern-



Chilean youth on the barricades, defying the regime. A serious mobilisation by the workers' leadership to topple Pinochet would find a massive response and sweep the dictatorship aside.

ment (the children of army officials) treat us as being 'political'.

"They elected me president of my class, but because I'm against the government they want to take the position away from me."

"As for the health service, most of the clinics are short of facilities and so epidemics of scabies and lice have broken out."

"Pregnant women don't have enough to eat and give birth to underweight babies, with heart problems and other illnesses."

"What other things worry you?"

"I can see how the *pacos* (police) lay into demonstrations. I feel helpless—I want to fight them and vent my anger which they themselves have caused but there are *sapos* (government agents) who prevent this by torture or often killing people."

"What do the teachers say?"

"Well, the majority of the teachers don't dare speak out for fear of losing their jobs. At another school, one teacher had his throat

cut. Our social science teacher knew who'd done it. She knew but was afraid to say."

"Later it became known that a large number of high-ranking police officers took part in this terrible murder."

"How do you think things can be solved?"

"First I think Pinochet has to go, in that way the majority of problems will be solved. We also have to kick out the bosses and the army. I think that if we are united

nothing could stop an indefinite strike. With just a week's general strike Pinochet would definitely go."

"What would you say to young people and workers in Britain like you?"

"I'd say that they should work together as much as they can to collect money to help Chilean comrades and overthrow Pinochet. With talks, slides, papers and pamphlets."

Build links between British and Chilean workers

Smash Pinochet!

Tories out in 1987!

For a socialist Chile and a socialist Britain

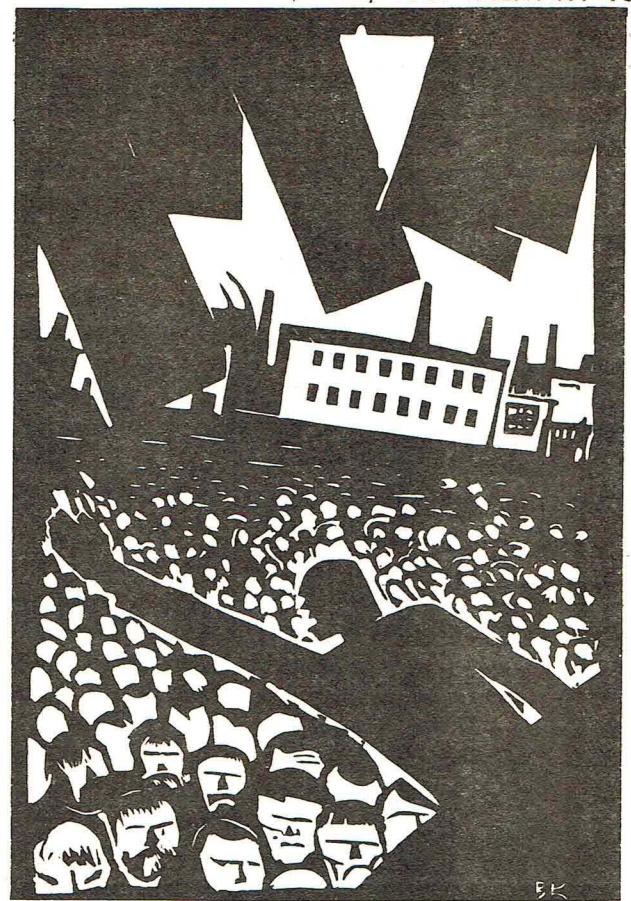
VENCEREMOS

Chile Socialist Defence Campaign

Fraternal greetings to the labour movement from TASS Craft (Metal Mechanics) sector, Stevenage branch

ASTMS Edinburgh General branch
Striving for a democratic socialist merger with TASS. Striving for a daily *Militant* to answer the daily attacks

Bedford General ASTMS 577
Look forward to a successful democratic ASTMS/TASS merger
Victory to Labour in 1987!



MAY DAY Greetings

Socialist May Day greetings—Pilton AEU—Unity is strength

TGWU 1/1347 Brighton
Urge all our members to work for a socialist Labour government

Militant supporters on Liverpool Labour Women's Council
Work or full pay
End sweatshop labour
For a £120 minimum wage

For a national minimum wage of £120! For a Labour government to implement socialist policies for women
Militant supporters on National Labour Women's Committee

Scrap all Tory anti-trade union laws
Forward to a socialist Labour government. May Day greetings from Littlehampton branch TGWU 1/874

For a mass socialist women's organisation! Fight the Tories not the socialists
Militant supporters on the North West Labour Womens Committee

Manchester Labour Women's Council
For 24 hour childcare! Socialise housework! For the emancipation of women and the whole working class!

Arun District Trades Council
Send May Day greetings to all comrades in the labour and trade union movement

International May Day greetings to all women from **Bermondsey Women's Centre Campaign**

May Day greetings from AEU Letchworth 4 branch
Gear up for a twice weekly *Militant* and a socialist Labour government

Greetings from Further Education Labour Students and Collette Williams, the first Marxist on the NUS executive
Fighting for a socialist leadership of National Union of Students
Further Education Labour Students call on the next Labour government ★ Implement the £27 a week minimum training allowance immediately ★ Reverse all Tory education cuts

Mansfield Tramsheds Labour Party workplace branch

Send fraternal greetings to all comrades within the bus industry
Mansfield bus workers call upon the Labour government to immediately re-nationalise the bus industry within a fully integrated transport network.

- ★ 30 hour week
- ★ £150 minimum wage
- ★ No PSV to be older than 7 years—to ensure a safe and a reliable public service
- ★ Free travel for unemployed, OAPs and disabled

Secretary
Kev Cocker

Assistant Secretary
Ian Charlesworth

May day greetings in memory of Geoff Haney
Forward to international socialism
Manchester Withington LPYS

Ex Silentsnight strikers send fraternal May Day greetings and heartfelt thanks to all their supporters. The boycott continues.

On international workers' day, Michael and Jane Lee remember one of the finest; Geoff Haney, friend and comrade

Vauxhall *Militant* supporters say: 'The election is on the way, let's give the Tories a good spanking!'

We're not Maggie's "Young Teenage Slaves" No to YTS conscription
Demonstrate 14 May.
Guaranteed jobs for youth
School Students' Union

Unity = strength
Disunity = cuts
No to rent increases! Follow the Liverpool lead
Central Ward, Newham NE Labour Party

From NUPE, Brighton branch "Solidarity against low pay and privatisation"

May Day greetings from Rolls Royce *Militant* supporters—Bristol

IRSF *Militant* supporters send fraternal greetings on May Day—Forward to a socialist led tax union—Victory to striking civil servants

Swansea Militant supporters in the following wards:
Bonymaen, Castle, Cockett, Cwmbwrla, Landore, Llansmalet, Morriston, Mynyddbach, Penderry, Townhill, Uplands, Dunvant, St Thomas, Sketty
Say
No to witch-hunts
Unite for socialism

Bermondsey *Militant* supporters. Forward to a workers' MP in Bermondsey!

Fraternal greetings from supporters of 'Offensief' the Dutch Marxist paper

The nuclear fallout of the Chernobyl explosion began a year ago on 25 April 1986, but the political fallout is still affecting all parts of Europe, particularly the Stalinist states of Eastern Europe.

CHERNOBYL

a crime of Stalinism

A WAVE of anger and bitterness has swept through Eastern Europe after the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl last year. Women and youth above all are incensed at the callous indifference and bungling of the bureaucrats following the accident.

By Pete Dickenson

The initial attempts at a cover up meant that it was weeks before effective measures were taken to protect the population. This will mean thousands of extra deaths due to cancer.

The official cause of the disaster was that an unauthorised experiment on the nuclear reactor went wrong. An analysis of the events surrounding the accident points to a different conclusion - it was linked directly to the crisis of Stalinism.

By the early 60s, the Soviet Union had emerged as an economic giant. Progress was due to the planned economy despite the parasitic role of the bureaucracy causing staggering wastage - up to half of all production.

This relative progress had stopped by the time Gorbachev came to power, with growth down to one or two per cent. The needs of a consumer economy, based on high technology, could not be met by

the Stalinist system. Modern industrial processes require the integration of thousands of interdependent operations and decisions. This can't be done by bureaucrats dictating arbitrarily from above.

Until the 60s, economic growth was due mainly to the development of basic industries and infrastructure. But, for the past 25 years, the Stalinist rulers have relied more and more on imports of technology from capitalist countries to try to solve their problems.

Capitalist imports

Between 1970 and 1982 Soviet imports of technologically based products from advanced capitalist countries grew by 300 per cent. The most famous example is the giant VAZ car plant on the Volga at Togliatti, built with the Italian company Fiat. In 1978 this one factory accounted for 57 per cent of total car production. The plan of the bureaucrats was to use imports to 'prime the pump', ie one factory based on modern technology would act as a model to be copied throughout industry.

But while spending on imported technology increased three times between 1970 and 1981, economic growth fell from between 7.7 per

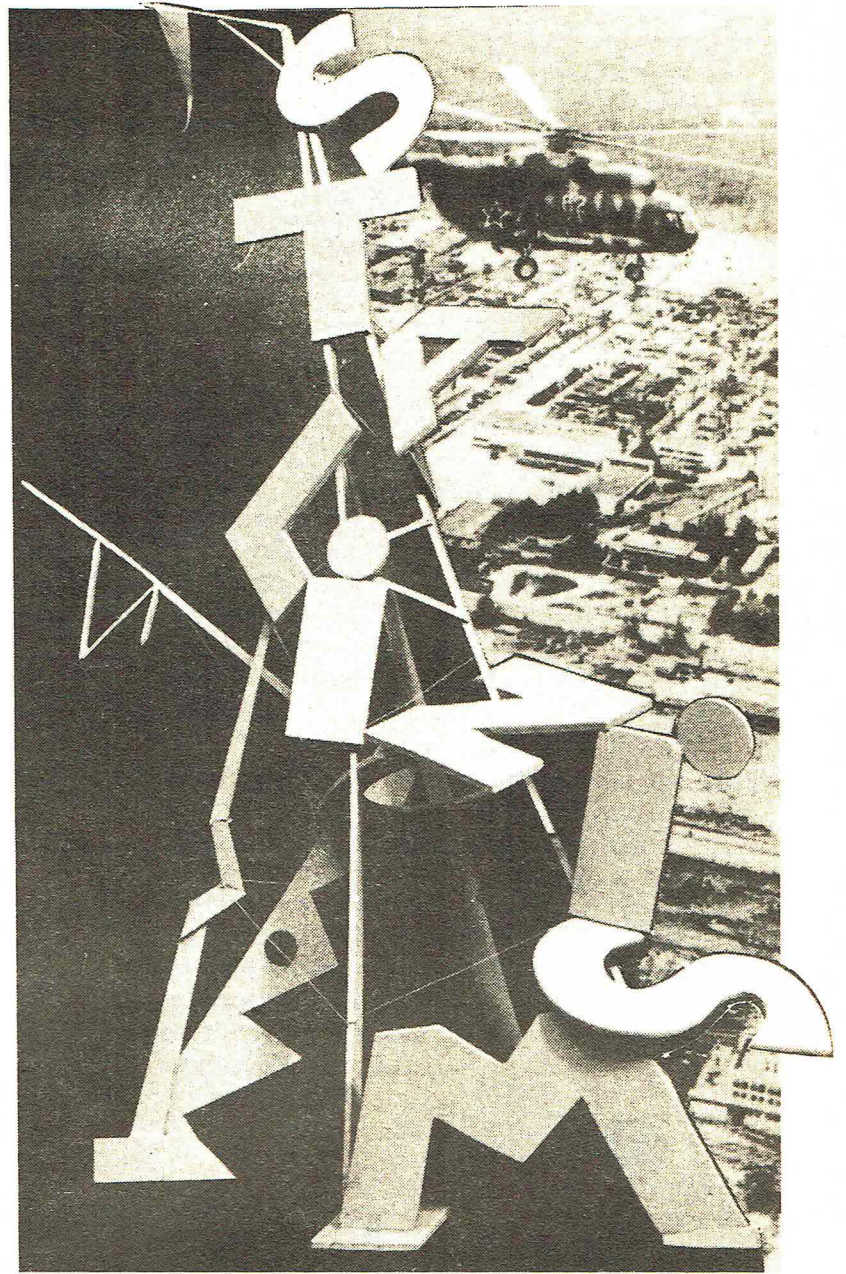
cent and 5.3 per cent to between 3.3 per cent and 1.1 per cent (higher figures from official Soviet sources, lower figures CIA estimates).

The imports of technology have to be paid for with 'hard currency'. This is earned largely by exporting oil because of the failure of the Stalinist system to produce good quality manufactured goods. Oil accounted for over half of hard currency export earnings in 1983.

At the beginning of 1986 Gorbachev was faced with a collapse in the price of oil from a peak of \$35 a barrel in 1981, to \$8 at one point. This corresponded to a loss of export earnings of \$12 billion, almost as much as the sum being spent on technology imports.

There was an urgent need to offset this loss by increasing the volume of oil exports, which meant turning to other sources of energy for domestic use. The problem was that the very large nuclear power capacity was not fully available because of technical faults causing frequent breakdowns.

Nuclear power stations are usually operated to provide base load electricity, that is they run 24 hours a day because it is difficult and time consuming to stop and start a reactor. If there are frequent faults, which means a reactor has to be switched off, its efficiency is



drastically reduced.

The experiment which led to the disaster was aimed at keeping the cooling system working even if the reactor was shut down. This would greatly speed up the process of getting the reactor going again once a fault had been fixed.

Given all the circumstances it is highly unlikely that the experiment was being done without authorisation. Everything suggests that a calculated risk was being taken,

under pressure of the economic crisis, to improve the reactor efficiency.

Despite the real possibility of another disaster, the bureaucrats intend to carry on as before. Output from Chernobyl type reactors will reach 90 per cent of previous levels this year. As the truth seeps out workers will begin to look for an alternative to the nightmare of Stalinism.

Support Australian miners' strike

AUSTRALIAN COAL miners face the prospect of a major dispute in coming weeks over the defence of their basic trade union rights.

The coal bosses are feeling all the pressures of a glut in the world coal market. Now they are moving to curb or even outlaw strikes.

They are singling out the miners in order to break the backbone of the Australian labour movement. The Miners' Federation has been at the forefront of industrial militancy in recent years, challenging the so-called "Accord" between the trade union leadership, and the capitalist class.

The attention of workers the world over will focus on this dispute. Send messages of support and donations to: Miners' Federation, 3rd floor, Labor Council Building, 377-383 Sussex Street, Sydney 2000, Australia.

Living on the streets of Osaka

KAMAGASAKI, IN the centre of Osaka city, is the biggest yoseba in Japan—those areas where day labourers gather and seek work every day. Some 40,000 people live, and 20,000 work, in 0.62 square kilometres.

In the past Kamagasaki was a pool of cheap labour. Now, with the boom of capitalism gone, it's just a rubbish dump of workers who are no longer needed in a society ruled by the laws of profit.

Most of them are homeless, and stay in doss-houses at night. The rate is from 350 to 1,500 yen per night, and conditions are awful (£1 = 230 yen). The 'rooms' are cells which a person can hardly lie in, and some have double floors so one can hardly stand.

Nowadays, many workers can't afford to stay at dosses, and have to sleep on the streets. Even here things are harder than before.

In 1985, 200 workers died on the streets of Kamagasaki.

Every morning, workers come to the Labour Centre from 5 am onwards to look for jobs. Outside the Centre are job agents' vans with placards announcing wages, conditions, etc. Workers then get into the vans when



Jobhunting in Japan: the crisis of capitalism is beginning to bite.

they are hired, and are taken off to the work sites.

Jobs wanted

Wages are usually from 6,000 to 12,000 yen a day. If workers can't find jobs, if they are registered and have worked enough in the past two months, they can get a benefit of 6,200 yen a day. But this doesn't last long, and it's jobs the workers want, not money.

Job agents often have close links with gangsters. Workers get no written con-

tracts, and are usually afraid to complain. These practices are illegal, but the police do nothing about it because they don't regard the day labourers as human beings.

Companies use day labourers for dangerous work, so if there are accidents they won't have to pay compensation. For example, one electricity company uses day labourers to clean their nuclear reactors.

Because of bad conditions, many workers suffer from tuberculosis, while outside Kamagasaki the disease

is almost unknown. Hospitals are generally reluctant to accept these workers, and they can't get welfare treatment until their condition has become very serious.

No welfare

Getting old is a serious problem in Kamagasaki. It means no more work, and sleeping on the streets without food after 20 or 30 years of the hardest and most dangerous work.

The average life of the

workers in Kamagasaki is around 50, while it is over 70 outside.

Driven by these conditions, the workers of Kamagasaki have shown great courage and determination to struggle for change.

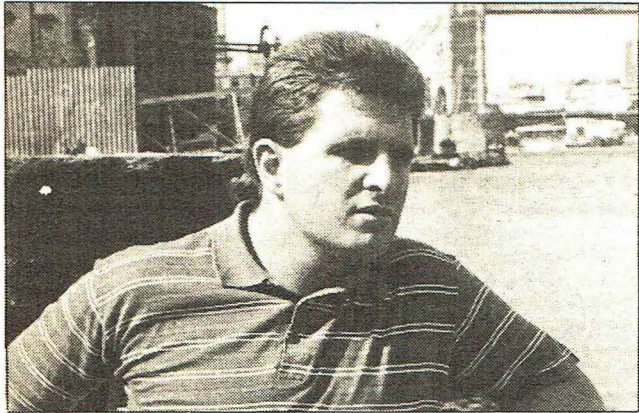
The 1970s saw a movement of the workers to organise themselves. To cope with the violent agents they formed Kamakyoto. They went to every van and made the agents promise they would not violate the conditions. Some gangsters tried to attack the workers, but they were hit back, and the workers won them over.

In 1976 the Kamagasaki Day Labourers' Union was formed to fight for higher wages, better conditions and welfare. Now the minimum wage is 8,500 yen, but still when there are few jobs the agents come up with lower wages. Now the Union blacklists the worst agents, and calls on the workers to boycott them.

Some agents take significant reductions from the wages, saying it's for food or accommodation. So for the next Spring Struggle the Union is fighting for a 9,000 yen minimum wage, and 1,800 yen maximum reductions.

From a correspondent in Japan

Bermondsey's message to Maggie



John Bryan, Labour's prospective candidate for Bermondsey.

"THOSE TENANTS who can afford to pay higher rents should be given the higher standard accommodation," Simon Hughes, Liberal MP for Bermondsey, told a tenants' meeting in the area recently.

This is typical of the stupidity we have had to put up with from our MP since he was elected in 1983. Hughes was elected with the help of a campaign of slander and lies in the gutter press.

Now Bermondsey Labour Party is looking forward to our constituency being represented by a Labour MP once again. Our candidate, John Bryan, will be standing as a workers' MP on a

worker's wage. The Party is campaigning as it has never done before.

"We've got a message for Maggie," says Debby Lonnon, for the Labour Party Young Socialists, "announce the election! We're ready and waiting to elect an MP who'll listen to the needs of youth and act upon them!"

We have collected some comments from Bermondsey people on the problems they face. We think they show why Bermondsey needs a fighting socialist MP.

By Julie Donovan
Dockyard Labour Party

Parents fight for education

"THIS MEANS I'll have to give up my part-time job. I'd have to pay a child-minder £50 a week and I only earn £60. ILEA (the Inner London Education Authority) should fight the government's cuts. They fear abolition but people would support them if they defended our rights."

So said one single-parent with two children, whose six year old daughter has been sent home from Riverside school 'until further notice'.

Thatcher's return to Victorian values means that hundreds of London school children are being sent home from school with no idea when they will be allowed back. Almost every primary school in Bermondsey is affected:

Riverside school: parents had two weeks' notice that their children will be sent home from Easter till September, because there is no replacement teacher for a reception class of 5 to 7 year olds.

Townsend school: now running on minimum staffing levels with no cover for teachers off sick. Children can be sent home without notice. Parents' action won a supply teacher.

St. Josephs school: 5 to 7 year olds will attend school on a two weeks on, one week off basis.

Other schools are running what can only be described as a child-minding service. Classes have been split, and teachers are expected to teach 5 year olds alongside 11 year olds with no extra resources. In several schools, the head is teaching full time. Nursery classes are being closed without notice.

Recently parents of children at Snowsfield school nursery occupied the building to save it from closure. At a public meeting organised by Bermondsey Labour Women's section, a parent's action group was formed. The action group has forced ILEA to hold a public meeting. Unless they guarantee children will not be sent home, parents will be taking direct action. As one parent put it, "We'll do whatever we have to, to get education for our children."

By Joanne Martin
Riverside Labour Party



A penthouse in this warehouse costs £2.5 million! The London Docklands Development Corporation has turned the banks of the Thames into a vast building site. Council flats and warehouses are being converted or pulled down so as to accommodate yuppies working in the City of London. Meanwhile, there are over 21,000 families on the council's waiting list. Future issues of *Militant* will be reporting further on the docklands' scandal. Below: kids play on the Rockingham estate.

How the rich live... and we survive

AMANDA McDONALD moved to London from Birkenhead to find work. She succeeded in getting a job as a checkout operator in a supermarket in the plush St John's Wood area. She lives in an ageing block of flats on the Rockingham council estate:

"Customers would come in and spend more on food and wine than I would earn in a week. It made me puke, coming down from Birkenhead and coming back here in the evening. They'd buy wine by the crate and they'd be talking about going off to Ascot. The boss bought his wife a brand new BMW for Christmas, even though she already had one car. One week they decided

they'd take the kids off to Disneyland on the spur of the moment. The customers would treat you like a servant on a till. For that I got £60 for a nine-hour day, five-day week.

Why I joined

"I left, but my boyfriend stayed. He tried to organise a union but didn't succeed. But he did organise a boycott of South African goods and got everyone working in the shop to agree not to handle them."

Amanda got other jobs after that, at a chemist's and as a dishwasher in a restaurant. She had to give up washing dishes when she became pregnant.

"I joined the Labour Party when I was pregnant, because I didn't want my kid to go through what I had to, fighting for education and everything.

"I was brought up a socialist. But when I joined the Labour Party, I saw Neil Kinnock back-tracking on everything. I was suspicious of *Militant* because of the publicity it's had, but I found out its supporters weren't all bogeymen and what it stands for was really what I'd been brought up to believe in.

"I'm supposed to live on £42 a week with a baby. A pair of shoes for him cost a quarter of our week's income. Now I'm having another baby and would like

to move out of our two-bedroomed flat. But my neighbour has five kids and she's been told she's not overcrowded. Rather than face up to the problems, the council turn round and say there is no problem.

"To support myself I need a job. But to get a job, I need to put my son in a nursery. Lack of funds mean there aren't enough nursery places round here. If I had a job I'd be putting back into the community. It's obvious they don't want people to be eligible for work.

"The most difficult thing is having the energy to keep fighting. But when I see the conditions around me, that makes me carry on."

Doorstep discussion

OUR LABOUR PARTY got sick of the Tory press's rigged polls. So we decided to do our own, talking to people in working class areas. The results were completely different to the ones rammed down our throats every day.

Instead of just asking, "Are you voting Labour, Tory" etc. and getting a tick in a box, we are generating discussion on the doorstep and listening to people's problems and worries. "Get her out", "She's a washout" and other unrepeatable phrases are the sort of comments we've been getting about Thatcher.

Best of all, out of 1500 people, 180 were interested in joining the party. 80 filled in application forms on the doorstep.

There was no confusion over selling off council estates; 900 were against and 100 for. Of all the issues facing their families, people felt strongest about housing, followed by the NHS. Despite all the Tories' nationalist propaganda, the vast majority said yes to sanctions against South Africa.

This is what a real opinion poll should be. So next time you're watching TV, remember opinion polls come and go, but the poverty faced by millions of families in Britain remains. The unemployed are still unemployed and the homeless are still homeless. That's what people will be voting on.

By Shareen Blackall
(Riverside Labour Party)

London *Militant*

May-day celebration

Boermund Centre,
177 Abbey Street
(off Jamaica Row)
Bermondsey.
Saturday 2 May.
7pm

Hear: Antonio Rubira
(Spanish school students' leader) followed by disco at 8.30pm.
Bar—extension to 12 midnight. £2, £1 unwaged.

End strip search torture

Dear Comrades,
I have just watched *Open Space* on strip-searching in prisons and police stations, in particular on women prisoners.
One girl of 17 was arrested on a CND demo charged with obstruction and then forcibly strip-searched in front of several male officers. After she complained she was sent a letter of apology but no action was taken. A seven months pregnant woman was on the news because she had been admitted to hospital, her pregnancy put at risk by an airport strip-search.
A few isolated cases like these come into the public eye but what about the hundreds of women (and men) on remand who are subjected to this treatment, some even being searched to the extent that the anus and

vagina are inspected.
Strip-searching is often done without good reason. It is being used as a kind of torture designed to humiliate, degrade and destroy the will of the prisoner.
Strip-searching is particularly effective on women because of our 'submissive' role in society. We are taught to be modest from an early age. One woman spoke of her dread of the weekly court visit while on remand: "It's like telling a girl she is going to be raped on Monday".
The Labour movement must fight strip-searching and campaign for its abolition.
Yours fraternally
Mara Cortesi
Isle of Wight

Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

Militant,
3-13 Hepscott Road,
London E9 5HB

Football hooligans in blue

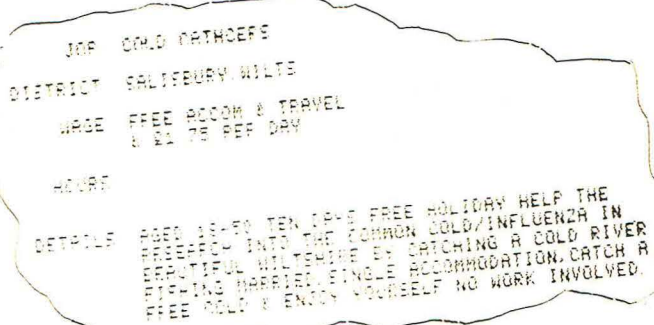
Dear Comrades,
All the national press on Thursday 9 April carried the same message in their write-up of the West Ham v Arsenal match, 'the hooligans are back'. The press tried to portray our poor police having to move in to quell fighting and then face the brunt of the fighting themselves.
The truth is, that the 'chicken run' where the trouble flared had been peaceful.

During the interval the police moved into the stand to arrest supporters who had been clowning around. Their heavy-handed tactics produced anger from the fans who tried to push the police out of the stand. Scores of police climbed into the section and indiscriminately hit out and arrested supporters. Tempers flared and fighting broke out between the police and West Ham fans.
Order only returned when

the police withdrew from the stand, at last realising that their presence was causing trouble, not preventing it.
The time has come for the police to be accountable to elected local authorities, preventing mindless police action against working people.
Yours fraternally
Tony Attubato
West Ham supporter
East Surrey LPYS

Searching for the soft South

Dear Comrades,
Whoever said there were lots of jobs 'down South' to choose from? If you did apply for this 'job' it will probably effect your DHSS claim due to being unobtainable for work. Also in this Bournemouth Job Centre most jobs were for the surrounding area from London to Cornwall.
I always thought the South West jobs were well paid, but looking at the jobs gave me an idea of the myths the media put about, eg. clerical assistant, over 18, experienced with word processors and other office skills plus artistic abilities for a very busy office, pay £3-4,000



per annum (weekly £57-£77 per week).
I was staying with a couple that had to pay £60 per week for their flat, they don't know what will happen when the summer season starts as most flats, including theirs, are holiday

flats and can treble in price. This shows the necessity now for a national minimum wage and decent cheap rented accommodation.
Yours fraternally
Melanie
Lancashire

Classified ads

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 first post on Friday, the week before publication.

- Paper sellers plastic sleeves. Minimum order 10, £2 inc postage to Militant, 8 Woodside Court, Woodside Rd, Portswood, Southampton SO2 1GR.
- Cassette tapes with two issues of Militant (one each side). Available fortnightly. Tapes £3.50 per quarter, £13 per year. To be returned or send blank C-90 tapes. Contact Dave: 14 Harrowby Road, West Park, Leeds 16. Tel: 0532 624917.

○ Martin Dean and Elena Hutchinson proudly announce the birth of our son Kieran on Saturday 11 April. The grass is green the world is beautiful...

○ ANY READERS interested in computers, with access to computers and/or modems who would be interested in a Marxist Computer Club, please contact Box No 3, 3/13 Hepscott Rd.

○ Offensiv camp in Sweden. Monday 6 - Saturday 12 July 1987. Camp takes place close to Gothenburg in the middle of a forest beside a lake. Political seminars, swimming, football, canoeing, walking etc. Bring a tent or stay in the houses. Translation to English arranged. For information write to: Offensiv Brahegatan 2, S-415 01 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel 031 844162.

○ SRI Lankan Summer Dance, at the Main Hall, School of Oriental and African Studies, Mallet St., WCI (Tube Goodge St.). Friday 8 May from 7pm. Tickets available on door or from Harry - 445 910. Adults £3, Children £1.

Poverty can damage your health

Dear Comrades,
A mother of four living on her own, attempting to survive on 'the social' recently went to the doctor's with her younger daughter.
The doctor took one look at this woman and told her she needed to go into hospital that day and he wasn't going to take 'no' for an answer!
The tests in hospital showed that this mother needed four pints of blood immediately.
Her lack of blood and general ill-health was down solely to her going without sufficient food so as to be able to feed her four children adequately.
Yours fraternally
Rebecca Hunt
Cheshire

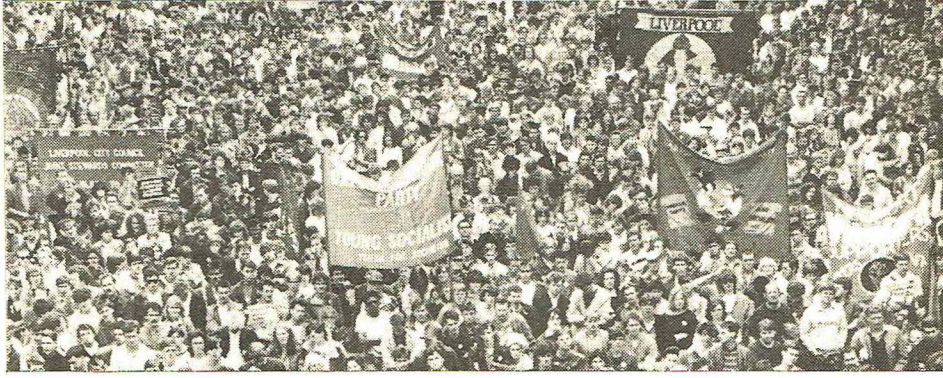
MPs out of touch Slave labour for sale

Dear Comrades,
Neil Kinnock was on TV the other day, attacking the Tory cabinet for leading lifestyles far removed from those of ordinary working people and thus being totally out of touch with the way the great mass of the population have to live.
But Roy Hattersley 'earns' more than £100,000 per year. Larry Whitty (Labour Party general secretary) sends his kids to a £3,000 a year private school - can these men understand the conditions facing working class people?

John Cunningham receives fat fees from Albright and Wilson, a giant chemical firm with extensive investments in South Africa. Many other right-wing Labour MPs such as Callaghan and Silkin have connections with big business.
All activists in the Party must fight for the policy of all MPs and party officials to receive only the wage of a skilled worker, like Terry Fields and Dave Nellist MPs.
Yours fraternally
Duncan Harris
Derbyshire

Dear Comrades,
A comment I overheard on the bus recently: Boss threatens to sack a young worker. "You can't sack me" he says "You sell slaves".
Yours fraternally
Pete Mason
Leicester West Labour Party

Liverpool NALGO's record



Dear Comrades,
At a ward meeting we were addressed by Peter Cresswell one of the NALGO leaders who went along with the Stonefrost report recommendations during Liverpool's budget crisis. Speaking on the lessons of the Liverpool crisis he began by admitting that he "certainly was not an expert on local government finance". He proceeded to imply that the crisis in Liverpool was a fictional crisis deliberately provoked by Labour leaders in Liverpool - a familiar Liverpool Echo smear.
He observed that when it came to a battle and the question of strike action in 1985 the manual workers were "Naturally prepared to fight" whilst the white collar workers "lost their confidence".
This summed up the contempt that

such NALGO leaders have for their members. In reality it was Peter Cresswell who lost confidence in his members. He refused to even allow councillors in to appeal to their members for support, by claiming they could not let 'management' (ie. socialist Labour councillors) speak to their members.
These same leaders, who are now helping the Liberal council sack Sam Bond and Beryl Molyneux, will find themselves increasingly isolated from their members who voted by over two to one to refuse to co-operate with an unelected Liberal council.
Yours fraternally
David Read
Arundel Ward Labour Party

Flying the bosses' flag

Dear Comrades,
One of the lads who works in the stock-yard at BP construction site, Easington, North Humberside related an incident to me:
The mini-bus driver entered the tea cabin and asked the mobile crane driver if he could do him a favour. He explained that management had instructed him to take down the weather-battered flag flying above the administration block, which he could not do as the flag was stuck. He asked the crane driver if he could sit on the end of his telescopic jib and jib him up 25 feet to the top of the flag pole, to replace the flag with

a new one as a big noise was coming up from London.
The full cabin burst into laughter, there wasn't a dry eye. So the driver suggested if that wasn't a good idea, was there a safety harness he could wear and hook himself onto the crane to lift him to the top of the flag pole. Again the cabin shook with laughter and a chorus of 'fly me to the moon'.
The lads explained to him they use a safety cradle for such jobs, but having no need for one in a stock-yard, they didn't have one.
Then the foreman came in to get the men to off-load and load the day's queue of lorries. The warehouse

supervisor then entered and told the foreman the main priority is, you've guessed it, leave the lorries and take the flag down.
The foreman and the fork lift driver then drive around the site asking the various construction outfits if they have a safety cradle. In the end it meant a crawler crane coming up from the beach, a gang of men stopped on the beach, ten men stopped in the stock-yard, and a queue of lorries charging waiting time, so they could change a flag for some big noise from London!
Yours fraternally
A Militant reader
North Humberside

Is boxing a socialist sport?

Dear Comrades,
With regard to the letters (Militant 843) concerning the death of school boy boxer Joseph Stricklen, the majority of points raised I would agree with, particularly Bob Stothard's point about how head guards offer no protection.
There are no doubt many ways in which boxing, particularly professional boxing, can be made safer. One example is compulsory brain-scans after every fight.
However, I disagree with Bob Stothard's point about how under a socialist society, there would be no place for boxing, where "true socialist sport" (whatever that is) could grow.
Violence is an ingrained part of many sports ie. rugby, football, hockey etc. As the Ring magazine puts it: "Does the delicate brain jelly spint and slosh any differently within the cranium when hit by a 280 pound lineman than when hit by a gloved fist?" Or for that matter, when someone gets floored in a rugby or football match.

With regard to the tragic death of Joseph Stricklen, a few factors need taking into account before the BMA and other middle class liberals start screaming for the banning of boxing again.
What was the role of the referee - did he step in too late? Was he fighting someone of a similar ability? And most importantly, how much training did he get?
If the referee did his job properly, and if he was fighting someone of a similar ability, and if he had received sufficient training then his demise seems inexplicable.
More likely it seems he received an insufficient level of training. As the Ring put it: "Boxing once again revealed what it is: highly skilled and highly dangerous, a keenly focussed public exhibition of human will and intelligence transformed into articulate energy".
Yours fraternally
Dylan Murphy
Holme Valley Labour Party Young Socialists

Manchester mood to fight

Despite media propaganda and Labour leaders' pessimism workers' anger is breaking through in a series of strikes and disputes. PHIL FRAMPTON reports:

AFTER THREE months of 1987 there have been more workers involved in strike action in the Manchester area than in the whole of 1986—or even 1985 for that matter.

All layers of the working class have been involved—health workers, engineers, seamstresses, building workers, bar staff, warehouse workers, bath attendants, clerks, nursery nurses, civil servants, telecom workers, firemen, armaments workers, teachers, college lecturers and even court clerks.

Neither has it been on one issue. Pay, shorter hours, health and safety, manning levels, flexibility, cuts, union rights, privatisation, deportation, victimisations. Even during the year-long miners' dispute there was not such a span of workers taking strike action

Cuts

Two weeks ago 500 health workers were informed by union officials that the North Manchester Health Authority would be making various cuts. They marched out and occupied the building to stop the Health Authority meeting to ratify the cuts.

Ironically they marched past workers from the Ancoats hospital occupation lobbying the Authority to reverse other cuts!

The next day 250 nursery nurses struck in a different dispute for better pay. They marched into the Town Hall chanting slogans and singing nursery songs.

Unfortunately, Manchester's left Labour leaders have capitulated in the fight against Tory cuts. They argued that there is no mood for a fight. They are blind to the picket lines and struggles of workers in their own city.

The cruellest irony is that their own employees have been taking action. GMBATU, Nupe, TGWU, Nalco, education unions NAS/NUT and Natfhe have all thrown up picket lines outside the Town Hall and other council premises.

200 bath attendants even occupied the council chamber. But still the Labour council leaders do not see the fight. Striking firemen from the council-run airport went humbly to the

Gary Knowles, NUM branch delegate, Golborne pit.

"SINCE THE strike the mood was one of keeping our heads down and taking what the NCB has given us. But in recent months a new mood has developed over bonus schemes, the UDM and other issues. Now Nacods are moving into action. More than half of Nacods members at Sutton Manor pit have recently been disciplined for various reasons and the members are angry at blatant victimisation.

At Bickershaw the NUM face teams have been refusing to train UDM men. The talk in the pit is of the need to get it together. People are saying 'We can't just sit back and get kicked from pillar to post.' Unfortunately the union leaders are just trying to hold the actions back. It shows the need to build the Broad Lefts in the unions."



Demonstration in support of Ancoats hospital strikers.

Photo: Alison Dixon.

City Labour Party only to be given two minutes, listened to in silence and sent away.

The strikes are taking place mainly despite the Labour and trade union leaders, who have fallen for the media's attempt to write off the working class.

The three-month occupation of the Casualty Department at Ancoats hospital is an example. This magnifi-

Elain Reeves, Hosiery and Knitwear shop steward, at Howards' Children Leisurewear, Middleton.

"It's the first we've ever come out in our history. Management were not honouring an agreement. They tried to cut back running-in time from 20 days to 2 days. We're out solid until the management concedes."

cent action, led by working women and housewives of an inner-city area with 50 per cent male unemployment sparked lighting strikes in North Manchester's hospitals.

The occupation sprang, however, not from Nupe head office or Labour headquarters, but from a discussion at a local playgroup.

Despite the lack of leadership the workers have learned the methods of struggle—especially from the miners' strike. If some

workers after the miners' defeat drew the conclusion that now was not the time to fight, they didn't fail to learn how to fight.

The telecom engineers immediately threw up picket lines and organised regular mass meetings. They brought charcoal barbecue burners not braziers onto the picket lines.

At the Senior Colman

workers after the miners' defeat drew the conclusion that now was not the time to fight, they didn't fail to learn how to fight.

The telecom engineers immediately threw up picket lines and organised regular mass meetings. They brought charcoal barbecue burners not braziers onto the picket lines.

Neither is this mood confined to the workplaces. Students at formerly backward Salford University shut down their college for 24 hours in February.

When school students struck on 1 April parents rang up and requested to know if they could send their sons and daughters on the strike.

On Saturday soccer fans at the Manchester City football match staged a demonstration outside the ground against the club directors. On Monday, dole claimants in Wythenshawe staged a sit-in to secure payments offered before the civil servants' industrial action.

In the inner-city there is a growing mood of discontent among the youth. Police report an 11 per cent rise in attacks on police officers. Warders describe the situation at Strangeways Prison

Manchester engineering convenor addresses a lobby of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union (Confed) executive as part of the campaign against the sale of traditional working practices by the unions. Despite the national decline engineering is still the major Manchester industry. Issues like the Confed deal and Senior Colman strike (see page 14) have produced an angry mood.

A Sogat print worker:

"The mood to fight is there. The problem is we need a decent leadership. Our members have no faith in our national or local leadership. I am getting a lot of stick at work because people come up to me so disillusioned with Kinnock. They say he's not doing anything when he should be coming out fighting. The mud the press throw about Labour is allowed to stick."

June Turner, Nupe laundry steward, North Manchester General Hospital:

"We'd had enough. No one could see the light at the end of the tunnel. We could see that privatisation was coming and that we had to do something. So we occupied the health authority meeting to prevent any further decisions being taken."

as potentially explosive, with three to a cell. Asian youth have twice descended on police stations to protest at the arrest of their comrades.

But the union tops will only feel this mood when it breaks over their heads. They have swallowed the lies of the press. Workers do not want to fight—look at last year's strike statistics! And the opinion polls.

Why is Labour languishing so low? Because everyone knows that decisive measures are required to change the situation and Labour is neither decisive for the workers nor for capitalism, its leadership is full of indecision and empty words.

A local shopworker said to me excitedly, "It's all going off. When is there going to be a general strike?" A school student asked "When is the next school strike?" A pensioner warns me of revolution if the Tories get back again.

This is the real face of Britain—a powderkeg. It is only a matter of time before frustrations and isolated strikes and other actions spill over and become generalised. Engels once called Manchester "the cradle of great workers' movements". The bosses have been warned.

Printer from a Manchester factory:

"WE ARE going through the procedure and then we will be on strike at our firm. I haven't known a mood like it in the chapel for years. I've been arguing that we should take the firm on for some time. But this time they've finally been rumbled by the workers. The mood of our workers is really buoyant. I can see people getting their confidence back."

Teachers in Bolton were so angry that they even walked out of school as a protest against a government minister's visit.

One marvellous event was the strike of a thousand Manchester council building workers who marched through the city protesting against the threatened deportation of one of their black shop stewards.

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Opposition to engineering deal



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Photo: Stef Cagnoni (Report).

Industrial Reports

Lessons from the teachers' conference

"Never has so much in education depended on the outcome of a General Election" said Fred Jarvis, General Secretary, in his closing remarks to national conference in Eastbourne last week.

In the light of the role played by the leadership of the union, both before and during conference, his words reflect the desperation of the national executive in their search for a way out of the teachers' dispute.

In spite of two years of action, backed up by ballot after ballot of the membership, the leadership has shown itself incapable of leading teachers forward.

The executive used every trick to prevent conference from stepping up action in defiance of Baker's bill. Political uncertainty, fear of the courts, union finances and professional unity were wheeled out one after another as excuses for holding back. Even a bomb scare came to their aid one afternoon and caused the loss of two hours crucial debating time!

The manipulation of conference was clearly demonstrated in the presentation of the executive's priority motion for a united campaign (with the NAS/UWT) on pay and conditions.

Delegates were left debating a strategy previously worked out in advance with the NAS/UWT leadership and were accused of be-

By Roger MacKay
(Delegate Ipswich Association NUT, personal capacity)

ing wreckers of unity when opposing it! Even a set of guidelines on how to work under Baker were unavailable for the majority of delegates to comment on.

That these were then issued to delegates as they left the conference hall minutes after the vote was taken, shows how fearful the executive were in using the democratic participation of the rank and file in decision making.

Abdication

These now infamous guidelines represent an abdication of responsibility by the leadership in the fight against Baker. Defending members' conditions of service now rests with the school reps and local associations secretaries, with local grievance procedures as a final line of defence!

It is now clear that both the leaderships of the NUT and NAS/UWT intend to comply with Baker, and the Joint Action Committee, as presently constituted, can

serve no future purpose.

Unity in action was a key demand stemming from the membership's actions in schools during the course of the dispute. For the executive to hijack that demand and revamp its meaning to restrain action was a disgrace. The arbitrary decisions of the Joint Action Committee in formulating a strategy contrary to the needs of the membership and without consultation must be condemned!

Conference decisions on other vital issues also represented a retreat by the leadership. An executive amendment to a motion from the Inner London Teachers' Association on 'no cover' was defeated, but intense pressure from the media overnight, speculating on possible court action against the union, was fiercely backed up by ex-Presidents Peter Griffin and Gordon Green the next morning and the vote on the original motion was lost. Further key debates on class sizes, instructions to members, and financial devolution were also lost.

However there were significant gains in other areas. Conference rejected both of Baker's proposals for a national curriculum and City Technical Colleges, showing a unanimous refusal to accept further attacks by the Tories on state education.

The executive's attempt to

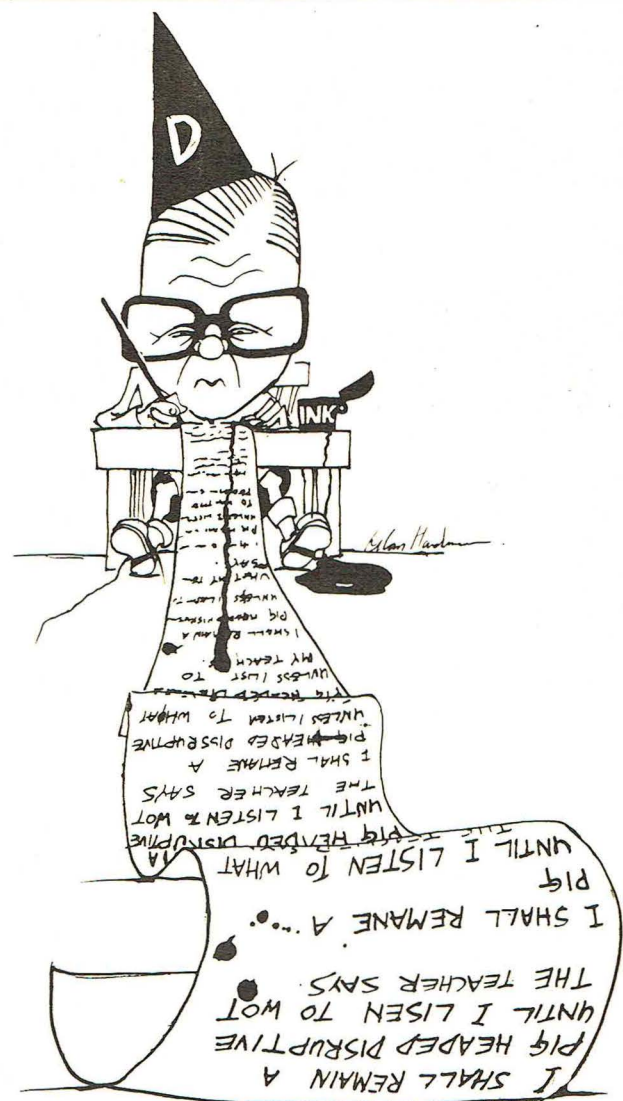
impose complete financial control on local associations was lost when conference refused to even debate the issues. This decision will be particularly important as local associations come into conflict with LEAs as Baker's bill is implemented over the coming months.

No back-up

With little or no direct back-up now coming from the leaderships, the need to organise the grass roots fight back against Baker will become evident. The Local Associations Pay Action Committee (LAPAC) has the potential to do this, as well as to organise pressure on the executive. Local associations still retain the right to affiliate to LAPAC and send representatives to discuss the vital issues still relevant.

The entire conference was over-shadowed by the issue of the ILTA expulsions and suspensions effected by the national executive in March, who disgracefully refused to let conference debate the matter. This will need to be taken up throughout the country in defence of not only the ILTA council, but of the democratic rights of all NUT members.

The necessity for a card vote on every decision of major importance was also significant. An analysis of the voting figures at Eastbourne shows no decline



in the left position, which has remained consistent over two years of action and represents the active membership of the union. This substantial minority (43 per cent) will continue to form the basis for the defence of teachers and state education.

The remaining ongoing strikes in May must be used to forge greater unity with NAS/UWT at local level. Both memberships must demand a Joint National Conference in order to build a

united fighting campaign to oust Baker. This demand will cut across the leadership's excuses of using each union's so-called 'moderation' as a stall on further action. A massive turnout at the 5 July rally can be used to the same effect.

- ★ Unity in action with NAS/UWT; demand a joint national conference
- ★ Mobilise for 5 July
- ★ Reinstatate the ILTA council
- ★ Affiliate to LAPAC

Dockyard privatisation prepares new struggles

TWO AND a half years after the proposal was first leaked the government has been successful in installing commercial management into Rosyth and Devonport dockyards.

In Rosyth the consortium of Babcocks and Thorn/EMI took over on 6 April—just as the government planned.

To be honest very few people expected anything else. If we examine the campaign against it, is hardly surprising we lost.

The campaign consisted mainly of concentrating our efforts and resources in the parliamentary avenue, with a view to persuading Tory MPs to vote against the Dockyard Services Bill.

This was an enabling bill allowing the government to hand us over to commercial management. We were trying to get Tories to vote against the Tory government. We had therefore set ourselves a difficult task, especially when you consider the government had an overall majority of over 140.

In fact it was sheer political naivety to believe that we could expect more than one or two Tory oddballs to vote against a policy which transferred assets from the public sector to private owners.

The Broad Left in Rosyth dockyard attempted to expose this anomaly and was attacked by the tradé union leadership as being divisive.

But in essence the local trade union leaders reduced themselves to no more than commenting on the campaign, keeping the

members informed of how the battle was going in London, while doing nothing in Rosyth to build a campaign.

There were one or two ideas put forward, more in opposition to the Broad Left strategy than a serious attempt at a local campaign.

One such gem was to string out 1,300 of our members across the Forth Road Bridge "to represent the number of jobs that would be lost."

Apart from the fact that that number (if we could have achieved it) would reach only half way across, my colleagues found it difficult to answer two rather obvious questions: "Who do we want to impress?"; "What if it rains?"

If the Broad Left strategy had been taken up we would have seen a very different campaign, consisting of:

- ★ Regular mass meetings to involve all the workforce
- ★ Regular mass shop stewards meetings to hammer out and democratically agree a fighting strategy
- ★ Build links with other workers in Fife, in particular with those workers under threat of privatisation.
- ★ Regular public meetings to involve the community
- ★ Convert the subsequent solidarity into a one-day general strike in Fife against privatisation

Imagine the effect a one-day general strike in Fife, involving around 20,000 workers would have had, especially at a time when the Caterpillar work-in was just beginning. That was the approximate time-scale we envisaged when we



Half day strike at Rosyth against privatisation.

first made the call.

However, what actually happened was that after the parliamentary campaign was conceded (though the workers knew it long before then) the union leaders took the campaign into the courtroom and involved some real champions of working class struggle such as Lord Denning. We called him Tom.

Not defeated

This ploy failed. It was treated with contempt by the judge who described it as "a clumsy attempt to stall the date of privatisation until a general election."

So what are we left with? Have the workers been beaten? Are we in a mood of despair? No way!

How could we be defeated when we were never really involved!

In fact our EETPU Branch social club ran a 'Vesting Day Ball'. Not to celebrate, to demonstrate that we were not despondent and will not be trampled over.

What disturbs me, however, is that Jack Dromey, national TGWU official responsible for much of the campaign, having warned us that privatisation would mean job losses, poorer conditions, etc. etc., now advises us to fully cooperate with the new management.

This is a serious contradiction. I do not believe that the workers will want to cooperate with a reduction in real wages and safety standards,

or with the introduction of work flexibilities and the removal of demarcation lines. And certainly not with any enforced redundancies.

In other aspects such as increasing wages, productivity bonus, I could go along with Jack. But that's not what commercial management is here for.

In the next six months or so we can foresee a honeymoon period, when we will be subjected to some of the most expensive modern propaganda methods in an attempt to convince us the new management are our favourite uncles.

I have a feeling, however, that all that will change when the government announce cuts in the Navy budget. The Tories will cut conventional weapons, Labour will cut nuclear. This will drastically affect the pockets of the shareholders of Babcock Thorn and consequently the attitude of management.

That will in turn affect the attitude of the members and a new chapter in our struggle will open up. It will require a far more serious campaign, involving a well-thought out, democratically agreed strategy. And a leadership with guts and commitment.

The anti-privatisation campaign was based on the theory of "what may happen if privatisation is introduced." The campaign which is about to begin will be based on the realities of privatisation. It is one we cannot afford to lose. We will win if we organise now.

By Jock Penman
(EETPU convenor, Rosyth dockyard, personal capacity)

Industrial Reports

Caterpillar workers bitter but determined

AFTER 104 days the workers' occupation at Caterpillar is over. The workers were applauded as they marched back to work.

Forced back more than anything else by their own union leaders, the 800 men returned to work angry, and bitter.

"We've been sold down the River Jordan" was the workers' response to the ultimatum which the AEU national executive presented them last Thursday. Frank Kelly, chairman of the joint occupation committee, speaking at Sunday's final mass meeting said: "For us this has ended in frustration, sadness and disappointment. Brother Jimmy Airlie was prepared to make us outcasts in this movement unless we took this decision."

The men finally had to hand back the factory to management on Monday morning. But Caterpillar will see nothing like 'normal working' over the next few months. Scores have to be settled and wounds healed.

Caterpillar worker Peter Tracey told *Militant*: "The first person who thinks he can walk all over us and say that what we did was a waste of time I will personally break his jaw." The real villain of the piece has become the AEU national executive, Laird, Jordan and Airlie in particular.

The agreement with ACAS which the AEU leaders forced the joint occupation committee (JOC) into signing has won them very little indeed. Reports from many informed sources make it clear that Jimmy Airlie's role in the last few days of this occupation was disgraceful. He threatened to wrest control of the dispute from the JOC and conduct a secret ballot or mass meeting himself. He told the workers they'd better accept the agreement or the union would isolate them and remove all financial support.

Anger

The workers realise that local leaders like John Brannan have been completely honourable and determined. At Sunday's mass meeting he received a five minute ovation from the 500 men when he said: "We are angry and have every right to be, in the end the biggest danger we faced came from our own union leadership."

"However it is the only organisation which the working class can use to fight the bosses. Not everyone comes out of this smell-



The Caterpillar occupation gained massive support from the working class, but not from the movement's leaders.

ing like roses but we at least can be proud. This is still our factory and the fight goes on."

There are three main elements to the ACAS agreement. Firstly no redundancies before 16 October (previously July), secondly, enhanced redundancy payments to all before the final closure in May 1988 and thirdly a working party to be set up under the auspices of the CBI and Scottish TUC to find alternative uses or a buyer for the factory.

As *Militant* predicted, Caterpillar management have ruled out completely the prospect of selling the factory to a competitor, whether in tractors or spare parts.

Sir Monty Finnieston, the ex-chairman of the British Steel Corporation has been talking with Caterpillar management and is reported to be considering buying the factory for £5m to build cross-country heavy vehicles. This, it should be made clear, was not part of the ACAS agreement.

The timing of this inquiry by Finnieston looks suspicious. Suddenly after 14 weeks, along comes Sir Monty, singing the praises of Caterpillar bosses. He says one of

his companies currently with a workforce of just 22 in Nairn has orders for 2,000 trucks worldwide and is going to save the biggest factory in Scotland together with 1200 jobs.

National leaders

The workers are wary because this type of project has been heard before. One Abdul Sangi, (a friend of Thatcher) used a similar scheme to con the government out of millions of pounds in Cumnock, Ayrshire. Stonefield Goomba was set up and government money was handed over to build multi-purpose all-terrain vehicles before Sangi disappeared down to London and bought a West End theatre leaving the company bust and the workers redundant.

Caterpillar workers are asking, where was Sir Monty Finnieston on 17 January? Why didn't this idea work before and how many jobs are involved? Sceptical workers refer to Finnieston as "Monty Python". But the occupation has ended and the future of the jobs and factory is now out of the men's control. All they can do is wait and

hope. Ironically, court action, sacking notices, hardship and suffering could not beat Caterpillar workers, only the AEU leadership, particularly Airlie, Jordan and Laird. John Brannan told the Scottish TUC conference: "I'm just an ordinary punter, but I don't know why the pressure my union put us under to accept this deal could not have been applied to the Caterpillar bosses instead."

Caterpillar workers now say they see Gavin Laird and the right wing AEU leadership as "organised strike breakers. We will never forget what they have done to us."

They have learned many lessons in a hundred days. The fight for a real fighting leadership is a central issue. These workers have inspired millions of others. If the AEU executive had shown one tenth of their resolve, then this battle would have finished with the victory Caterpillar workers deserved.

"It's better to fight than run away" was the message from the 1,200 Caterpillar workers to Laird, Jordan and Airlie—and more important to all workers who face attack from the bosses and this government.

News in Brief

AFTER SEVEN and a half months, the magnificent strike of 300 sacked artificial limb makers at JE Hangers is drawing to a close. The strike committee has recommended acceptance of an offer from the company of £780,000. The final approval depends on the wording and implications.

The company is not offering any workers their jobs back. The key to winning this dispute is through extending the action; this should have been done right from the start. The union leadership in TASS and FTAT, as at Silentnight, badly failed the workers.

A fuller assessment will appear in a future issue of *Militant*.

This Saturday, Hangers workers are marching through Putney to show their determination to fight. The march assembles at 10am at Telegraph Rd, Putney Heath, SW15 and moves off at 11 sharp to a rally at Bishop's Park Fulham 12.30 to 2.30. Speakers invited Joan Richardson, Alf Dubs, Ken Livingstone, Peter Hain, Cathy Wilson.

PICKETS in the A-One Feeds factory dispute have won a historic legal victory against their employers.

Strikers have been granted an injunction allowing them the right to hold a picket without interference outside the factory gates. Any threat to pickets from A-One or their agents will land them in contempt of court. It is usually the employers who take the unions to court: this time the bosses have to foot the court bills and the five strikers got compensation for assaults and threats against them and their families.

This will be a morale booster but not the deciding factor in the dispute. Three wagons a week from scab firms are entering the works. Pressure must be put on the TGWU to organise effective support for the strikers who have been left isolated pending the result of the court case. Strikers must take their case to the labour movement for maximum support.

THE 47 SACKED workers at HFW Plastics Gateshead continue their strike. Factory owner, Paul Jackson, is using the police to help ferry scab workers across the picket line in a bus.

At the mass picket last Friday, five people were arrested, fined between £25 and £40. The owner, Jackson is still saying he won't have these workers back in, or recognise the union. The mass pickets are continuing on a regular basis, and the resolve of the strikers is unbending.

In the words of striker Carol Horne: "We are not going to move until we get our jobs back, everyone feels the same".

Messages of support and donations to: HFW Plastics strike, SOGAT office, 119 Jesmond Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne.

By John Killen

FOR CIVIL servants, the Tory government has been a nightmare. As our employers, they have driven many of us into poverty and dependence on state benefits.

They have ruthlessly axed jobs and career opportunities, as an example for other employers to follow. They have starved the Civil Service of funds and resources, making it impossible to provide a decent level of service to claimants and the public.

So it is no surprise that thousands of members have taken part in the Regional Programme of Industrial Action.

This week, the Civil Ser-

Civil service strike

vice Pay campaign moved to the South West and West Midlands. As usual it began with strikes in selected DHSS and Unemployment Benefit Offices. All 14 offices in Bristol were closed, and CPSA and SCPS members brought Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry and West Bromwich offices to a standstill.

Members are working hard to make the limited regional strike programme a success but few have any illusions that this will force the

government to grant our claim.

Confidence

They know that only national all out indefinite action will ensure victory. DHSS management in particular have shown in a confidential report their fear of such a strike developing. The Tories intend just to ride out any limited action in the hope that all out action won't materialise.

Unfortunately, some

leading union officials intend to play into the Tories' hands by proposing, instead of all out action, a repeat programme of selective and regional strikes. This will not win the strike.

There is no alternative now but for the unions' leaderships to work with enthusiasm for a second ballot calling for all out indefinite strike action, giving all the necessary advice, guidance and arguments to give confidence to the members.

The ballot should begin in

the week starting 25 May so that all out action can begin no later than 8 June. Meanwhile, national rallies and demonstrations should supplement the regional action still to take place.

In particular, the unions' executives should call on other regions to join the London march and rally on 7 May. Members must be encouraged to feel their national cohesive strength. Branches and offices, irrespective of any lead being given from the top, should

organise for the rally in London.

The Tories should be made aware that the action is now moving into a decisive phase where they will not be able to ride out members' action region by region; they will be taking on the CPSA and SCPS membership committed to all out indefinite action. We can and will win.

By Steve Dunk

(Chair Inland Revenue CPSA, personal capacity)

CPSA Militant Public meeting Wednesday 6 May, 5.30pm. Royal Oak, Regency Street, London SW1. Speaker: Doreen Purvis.

Militant

Tower Hamlets' Liberals evict Bengali tenants

See page 4

Civil Service strike

—page 19

Leicester anti-racist demonstration

“THE BLACK community of Leicester have experienced a frightening escalation of racial attacks on themselves, their children and their property” concluded the Racial Attacks Monitoring Project (RAMP) in Leicester.

RAMP has documented 41 cases of racial harassment and attacks in its first twelve weeks, and these are just the incidents which come to light.

One Asian family on a mainly white estate report: “One day after we went out, a lighted firework was pushed through our letterbox. Luckily as we had forgotten something, we came straight back home and found the net curtains already smouldering and the hall full of smoke. We called the police at 7pm but they didn't turn up until 11pm.

“Our little girl has had abuse from some young people on the estate; we have had NF painted on our doors and garage. For a long time someone would get their dog to foul the pavement outside our front door. Another family on the estate have decided to move because of similar things.”

Many such cases and worse are cited in the report, and local people are angry at the police's slow response, in many cases taking no action whatever.

The labour movement must take up this kind of incident. Racism is a divide and rule tactic of the Tories and capitalist class, and the enemy of the class unity we need to get a decent life for all workers. The demonstration on 2 May will be campaigning for the following demands:

- ★ Full support for black workers who face racial violence, if necessary defence of the community to be organised by the labour movement, black organisations, tenants associations and local groups.
- ★ Democratic control and accountability of the police force.
- ★ No platform for fascists.
- ★ Unity of black and white workers to defeat racism.

March against racism

East Midlands Labour Party
Young socialists

Leicester Saturday 2 May

Demonstration and public meeting

Speakers: **Linda Douglas**, LPYS rep on Labour's national executive, **Keith Vaz** and **Jim Marshall**, Labour candidates for Leicester East and Leicester South respectively.

Assemble Cossington Street recreation ground, Belgrave at 1.30pm. March through the city centre to Highfields Youth and Community centre for public meeting at 3.30pm.

Fight racism



Getting ready for the 2 May demonstration in Leicester. Working class unity can defeat racism.

EAST MIDLANDS Labour Party Young Socialists are organising an anti racism demonstration in Leicester on Saturday 2 May marching from Belgrave to Highfields youth and community centre.

We will pass through two of the eight most marginal Tory seats in the country. The Leicester South Tory MP has a majority over Labour of just seven votes. The British National Party are standing a candidate in Leicester East because Keith Vaz, the Labour candidate is black.

A quarter of Leicester's population is black or Asian, and in the inner city areas of Highfields and Belgrave they are a majority. Many work in hosiery sweatshops; the area has very high unemployment.

16 year old Asher Pariagh, chair of Leicester South LPYS comments: “We need to show the fascists that workers will not let them get a foothold in this area. And being so close to the elections, it is a chance to rally support for the labour movement and promote real socialist ideals for all workers.”

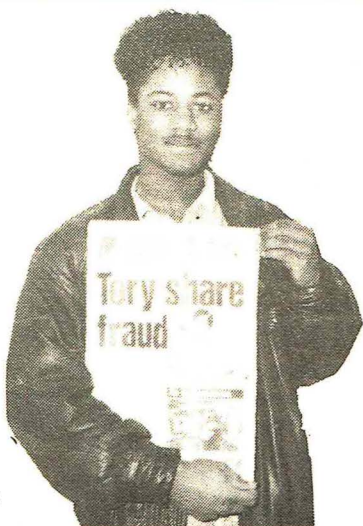
What We Stand for

- 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 £120 a week for all, including pensioners, sick and disabled people.
- A socialist plan of production democratically drawn up and implemented by committees involving the trade unions, shop stewards, housewives and small business people.
- Opposition to the capitalist Common Market, the EEC. For a socialist United States of Europe as a step towards a World Socialist Federation.
- Workers' management of the nationalised industries. 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.
- Opposition to the Tory government's anti-union laws and the reversal of attacks on the trade unions.
- 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.
- 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.

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