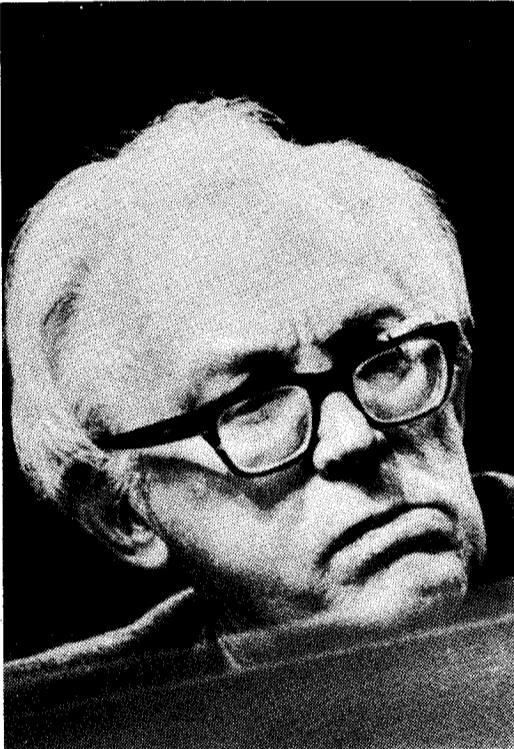


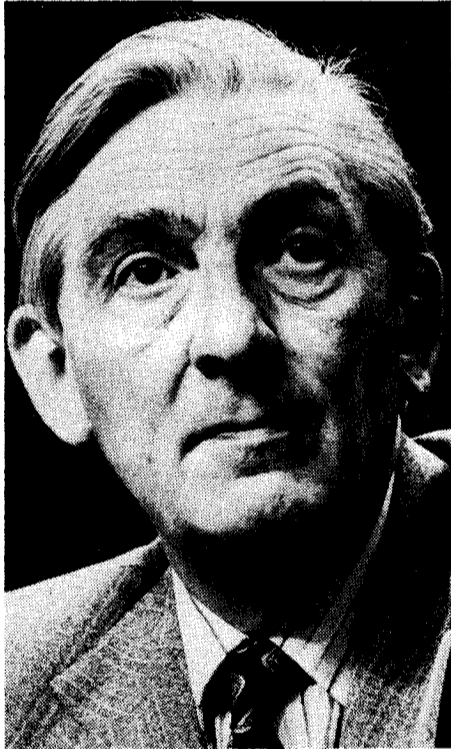
Socialist Challenge

OFFICIAL
UNEMPLOYMENT
TOTAL
LARGEST YET
3,190,621

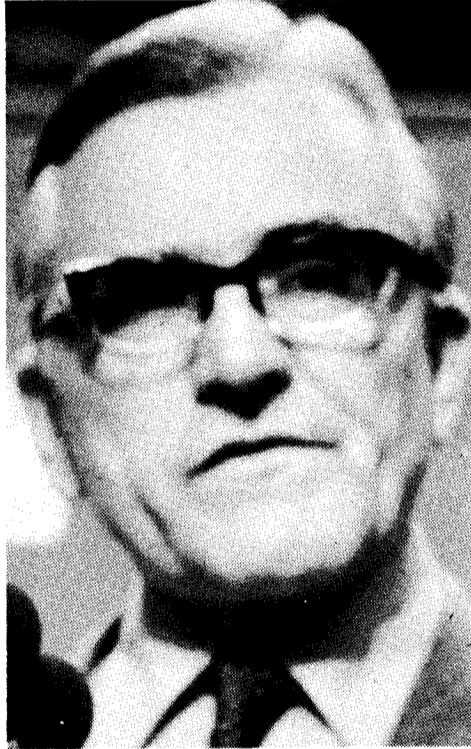
The traitors



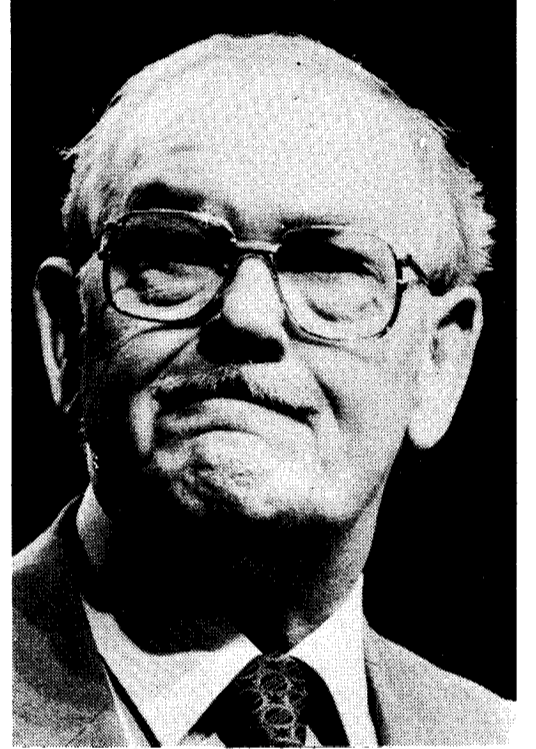
Michael Foot, Labour Party leader



Len Murray, TUC secretary

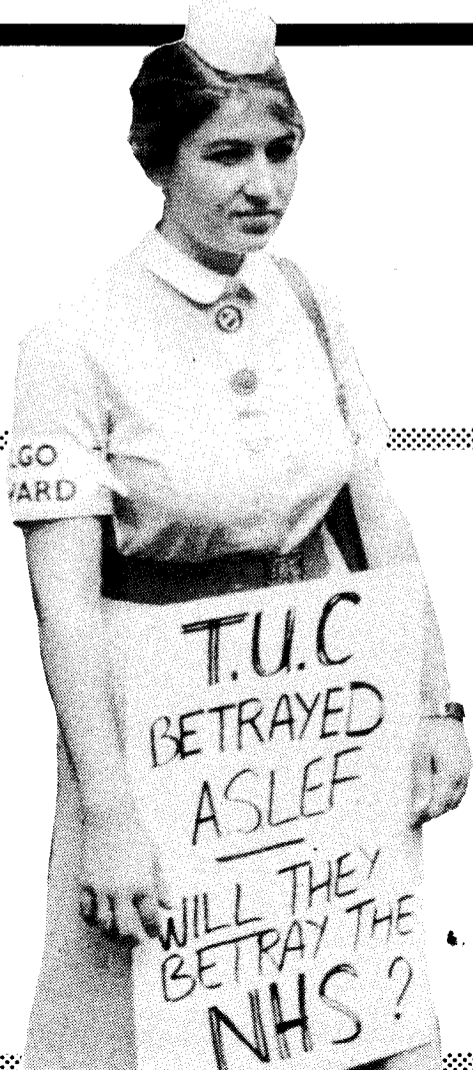


Sid Weighell, NUR secretary



Terry Duffy, AUEW secretary

sack 'em



IF IT weren't for the man in the Queen's bed, the looming spy scandal, the setback on the Falkland's war inquiry, and the determination of the healthworkers Margaret Thatcher would be feeling on top of the world.

While the Metropolitan police are proving unreliable in their jobs, Thatcher's lads in the TUC have proven very effective in theirs.

ASLEF's Ray Buckton was right. His union could not meet the Tory offensive by itself. It needed the support of the official labour movement and, despite the solidarity of the train drivers, the blossoming sup-

port of rank and file workers and thousands of pounds being poured into ASLEF's hardship fund from unions such as the miners', the Tory lickspittles in the TUC sold ASLEF out.

But more than ASLEF they sold out basic trade union principles:

- the 8 hour day
- the democratic right of train drivers to have a say in their own working conditions
- the defence of jobs while unemployment soars to unprecedented levels
- the defence of the nationalised railway network, at a time when the Tories are selling off public ser-

vices at a fast rate of knots.

Murray, Chapple, Weighall, Drain, Jackson have given a green light to the Tories. They have said loud and clear, go ahead with your plans to sell off British Rail, shed 40,000 jobs, and carry your attack to the rest of the class.

The TUC 'leaders' have said to the healthworkers that they'll have to go it alone. But most of all they've shown that they will *not* defend the unions against Tebbit's anti-union Bill due to become law in a couple of months. They also intend to sit back while the dole queues grow.

Foot, Murray, Weighall,

all of them have to go! It's not going to be easy, it means organising a struggle for democracy and accountability in the unions and the Labour Party so that these leaders are forced to act in the interests of their members — or else get out.

The labour movement needs a fighting leadership that will take on the Tories. Railworkers, healthworkers, miners and thousands of other workers have shown in action that they've had enough of this government. We have to organise now to bring it down. That means kicking out Foot, Weighall, Murray and Co.

Editorial

PO Box 50, London N1 2XP

Phone 359 8180 (Newsdesk), 359 8371 (distribution)

We could have won!

IN ONE of the sharpest battles this Tory government has launched against the labour movement, the ones who have come out with flying colours have been rank and file workers who have shown magnificent solidarity with ASLEF. Millions of workers saw the government lead a deliberate attack on jobs, working conditions and even on the existence of a major national union.

The determination of those rallying behind ASLEF makes the cowardice and treachery of the right wing bureaucrats that much more bitter. Defeat has been snatched from the jaws of victory.

The TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee put the final boot in. But the whole disgusting mob — Sidney Weighell, Terry Duffy, Frank Chapple — used every trick in the book to scab on the struggle. Right wing Labour MPs also joined in the dirty work. Michael Foot was condemned for being 'too closely identified with ASLEF'. Yet Foot himself informed the drivers that he was withdrawing his support if the TUC's 'peace formula' were not accepted.

The actions of the right in the trade unions and the Labour Party reaffirms the urgency of waging a political battle throughout the labour movement against the present leadership. The right could have been and can be defeated. Scargill, Buckton and Benn made a courageous stand in the face of the massive onslaught from the Tories and the right wing in the labour movement. But it was not enough.

The base to launch a fight against our misleaders — and hence to bring down the Tories — is there. The solidarity in action shown to the health workers, in defiance of the anti-union laws is evidence of this. So too is the growing opposition to any purge inside the Labour Party.

But when the crunch comes, the leaders of the left have not confronted the right. For the last ten years, since the struggle against the Tory Industrial Relations Act, the TUC right wing, in alliance with its friends in the Labour Party, have held back the fighting spirit of the working class. When the miners brought down Heath, we had the Wilson/Callaghan government whose right wing policies gave Thatcher victory at the last election.

Socialist Challenge has argued consistently for Labour Party/trade union action. We want all those forces who are fighting against the Tories for jobs, wages and a decent standard of living and against the witch-hunt in the labour movement as a whole, to join forces to bring our present leaders to order.

We have had ten years of betrayal, cowardice and anti-working class policies from the present leadership. Throughout, the need for the left to organise has been clear. That is why Socialist Challenge supporters are fighting for a class struggle left wing — one that will fight on the side of the workers, not the Tories, their bosses and their friends in the City.

The betrayal of the TUC and the Labour Party has to be turned into a nail in the coffin of the leaders of the trade unions and the Labour Party. There are fights to come — on rail and elsewhere. The decisive battles are yet to come.

A fighting left is essential if these are to be won. Foot, Murray and Weighall have organised the right. It is time for Benn, Scargill and Buckton to start organising the left.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

If you would like to be put in touch with Socialist Challenge supporters in your area or would like more information fill in the form below

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Age.....

Union/CLP (if any).....

Send to: Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Solidarity

'With such solidarity we could have won'

ASLEF MEMBERS felt they could have won the strike. In the days before the TUC sell out, thousands of pounds flooded into the ASLEF funds. The furniture union FTAT offered a loan of £10,000 and gave a donation of £100, the maximum allowed under their rules; the print union SOGAT sent £1,000 and AUEW-TASS £5,000. London District Council of NALGO sent letters to its 110,000 members requesting financial support and backing on picket lines. Govan Shipyard workers donated £1,000.

Support from the National Union of Mineworkers was overwhelming. President Arthur Scargill declared that the attack on ASLEF was an attack on the whole trade union movement, with the rail board acting as an agent of the Tory Government.

'We will respond with equal determination' was the message attached to the initial £10,000 donated from his NUM executive. Instructions were sent to every pit not to allow coal to be loaded on trains and encouraging local lodges to send their own donations and members to the picket lines.

Similar solidarity actions were building up in steel, engineering and car plants, GPO sorting offices, among health workers who joined ASLEF pickets and millions of other workers who saw this as an opportunity to take on the Tory assaults on their movement.

Despite the scabbing role of Weighell, NUR members and the majority of the NUR National Executive Committee were behind ASLEF. The Glasgow and West Scotland District Council of the NUR pledged full support and eighteen of the twenty six member NUR National Executive Committee made a donation to ASLEF fund.

The Annual General Meeting of the NUR also voted overwhelmingly to instruct drivers not to cross picket lines, a decision ignored by Weighell. The London District Council of the NUR, representing 7,000 members agreed to set up a lockout committee to coordinate the response of ASLEF and NUR

members in the event of the sackings. ASLEF branch officers on London Transport pledged that they would call out their drivers if the sackings went ahead, bringing London Tubes to a standstill.

Seventy one MPs signed a statement, 'We pledge ourselves ready to assist ASLEF members in and outside Parliament in any way we may be asked'. Noticeable were the absent signatures of the witch-hunters Foot, Healey and Shore.

Backing coming from hundreds of Labour Parties throughout the country who were organising collections and solidarity rallies.

Here we give just two of the many reports we received from Socialist Challenge readers of the solidarity meetings in their areas. These showed the big possibilities for united action against the Tories.

In Hackney

EIGHTY railworkers, health workers and trade unionist from local factories joined Labour Party members in a public meeting called by Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party to defend ASLEF, and support the health workers and local strikers at Hawker Siddley.

The meeting's collection was divided between the three disputes and a resolution was carried calling on 'The NEC of the Labour Party to organise a national demonstration in defense of the ASLEF drivers jobs and the continued existence of ASLEF as a union.'

'We also call on them to publically support the Triple Alliance conference called by the NUM in order to further defend the jobs and working conditions of railworkers'.

In Lambeth

'WHEN Margaret Thatcher say's we're holding onto 1919 conditions, what she means is

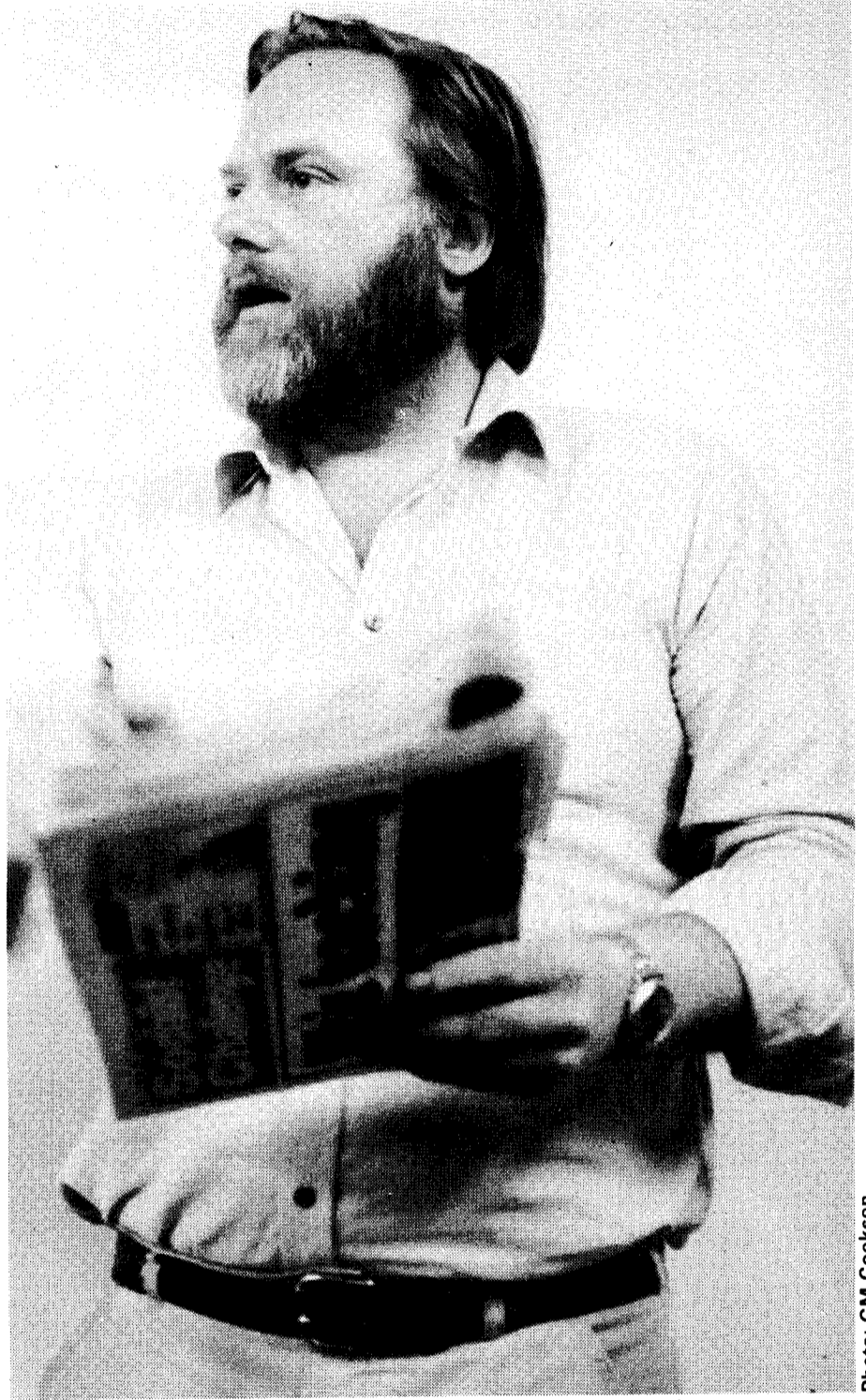


Photo: GM Cookson

Frank Gorton, Trade Union Liaison officer for Hackney North Labour Party speaks to packed meeting of rail, health and engineering workers called to defend ASLEF

that she wants train drivers to go back to pre-1919 conditions' is how Andy Flett, a driver from Waterloo ASLEF, summed up to a packed meeting organised by Lambeth Labour Parties.

The 12 July meeting was called to support the rail workers and the health workers. 100 people attended, including a delegation from ASLEF, and the health unions NUPE, TGWU and

ASTMS. Collection sheets were distributed, and individuals signed up to help picketing and arrange workplace meetings for both groups of workers.

The blackmailer who came back for more

By Pat Hickey, ex-deputy convenor, Rover British Leyland, before it was axed.

TRAIN DRIVERS back at work under the surrender terms of the TUC know that the battle is far from over. Even if union leaders were to accept every single productivity plan the British Rail Board is out to get, the Board still wouldn't be satisfied.

In fact, management's demand for higher productivity, lower wages and fewer jobs can never be satisfied. Maybe the Board has started to enforce flexible rosters thanks to its threats and bullying — and by playing on the cowardice of the TUC. But it will soon have fresh demands. The blackmailer always returns for more.

At British Leyland, we learned this lesson through bitter experience. When Michael Edwardes unveiled his first corporate plan to 'save' the company, he said 13,000 redundancies and the closure of three plants would 'put BL on the road to recovery'. The alternative? The closure of British Leyland.

The second corporate

plan needs 10,000 redundancies. Three years and 36,000 jobs later, the company announced yet another round of closures and redundancies.

Sackings weren't the only measures taken. The company's main aim was a massive speed-up. To this end, an all-out attack was made on the shop stewards' organisation. All existing working agreements were thrown out. Longbridge convenor Derek Robinson was sacked. Other convenors were threatened with dismissal.

Shop stewards were victims of similar threats.

When the speed-ups came into effect, older workers were forced out. Frequently they left their jobs under the guise of voluntary redundancy. British Rail workers can learn from this. Blackmail needs to be resisted from the start. The disgraceful role of Sid Weighell and the TUC can best be fought by a determined fight against the Boards plans. Management doesn't have a blank cheque to do as it pleases!

The implementation of the productivity plans will require the cooperation of the drivers. There will be room for resistance even at this stage. If this round is made easy, the next round will demand more. And it will be harder to resist.

A rearguard action now is the best way to keep the troops in good order for the next battles. And it's vital if the accounts with the leaders who betray are going to be settled.



'We are angry'



By Pete Grant, ASLEF, Willesden branch.

DRIVERS walked into their depots with heads held high on Monday. We were filled with pride in our union and in the wider labour movement which rallied behind the drivers to stop the Tory's plans to smash ASLEF.

But we are also angry. Angry with the right-wing scabs from the TUC who betrayed our struggle. In fact, after two weeks of all-out strike, the return to work has been forced on ASLEF after the most treacherous betrayal of the working class by our own leaders — the TUC — since the 1926 general strike.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the TUC is dominated by right wing scabs

Hand in hand with the Tory government and the British Rail Board, these scabs forced ASLEF to suspend the strike leaving train drivers to fend for ourselves, as victims of flexible rosters.

Set back

The drivers are not soundly defeated or dejected. The betrayal is only a set-back, not a defeat for ASLEF. The stated intention of the British Rail Board and the government was to crush ASLEF.

Sidney Weighell did all in his power to help these terrible twins. But ASLEF has not been crushed! And they have only partially succeeded in getting flexible rosters into operation.

The agreement reached allows the Board to operate the rosters, under protest, only at the 71 depots where they were posted last week. No new rosters will be imposed until final agreement has been reached.

Agree

The Board has had to back down and agree that the rosters will have to be negotiated. More importantly, they have had to agree that the negotiations will be within the framework of the McCarthy report, Decision 77 of the Railway Staff National Tribunal.

The Board has already complained how this decision gives them very little return and that flexible rostering under these terms is practically unworkable. Disruptions to



Miners handing over cheque to ASLEF

services are inevitable as drivers find ways to sabotage the rosters.

The left-right divide in the labour movement has come into sharp relief. The right wing union leaders have come out firmly in support of the Tory government. Tony Benn's

support on the picket lines and the magnificent solidarity of the miners and Arthur Scargill's firm stand will not be forgotten. And it has given the left in the unions a fantastic opportunity to bring to book the traitors who are masquerading as

leaders of the working class.

Drivers back at work also remember others who gave so much succour to the Tory Press. The scab drivers at our depots know that their time has come. 'Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee'.



ASLEF pickets

What railworkers told Socialist Challenge

Harry Turner, ASLEF, Manchester No.1 branch

'THIS right wing TUC lets the trade union movement down and undermines basic trade union principles. I wish every success to the 71 Labour MPs who had the guts to stand up and back us. I hope they can beat the opportunists.'

'We in ASLEF will not accept that any working class movement be denied their rights and although on this occasion it appears we have lost this battle, we will continue to fight inside the Labour Party and all working class organisations in defence of working people. In spite of Maggie Thatcher's jingoism we shall not be overcome.'

John Sidebottom, ASLEF, Longsight branch, Chairperson.

'I'm disappointed that the action has been called off. But I am disgusted with the TUC. Some of them, like Weighell, Chapple, Duffy and Sirs are nothing but traitors to their own class. If we had received the backing of the TUC, we could have won the strike and defeated Tebbit.'

'Some of the leaders put their money where their mouth is — like the MPs who supported us and Arthur Scargill. The response from the shop floor workers was really heartening. What we need now is a real campaign to rally round and get rid of some of these people who lead their unions and the TUC.'

'Although they are disillusioned, we will all be going back to work solid.'

Ronny Ogden, ASLEF, Manchester No.1 branch, secretary of Local Departmental Committee

'WE ARE absolutely disgusted with the TUC's position. They have sold us down the river one hundred per cent. The outcome of this dispute affects every working person. The TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee must be taken to task. They have given away the democratic rights of trade unionists to strike.'

Bill Taylor, ASLEF, Openshaw branch, branch officer

'I THINK we have been sold down the river by the TUC. I have not been a militant in my life and I never thought I'd have to show the TUC what a picket has to do.'

Peter Gunn, ASLEF, Manchester No.1 branch, secretary

'THE TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee has let us down. They have introduced the Tebbit Law for the Tories, and it's not even law yet. I'm speaking at a meeting tonight against the witch-hunt and I will be telling them that it's not only in the Labour Party that this witch-hunt is taking place, but in the unions as well. And it's against the interests of all working people.'

Gwyn Hyde, ASLEF, Cardiff, branch secretary

'THE TUC pulled the plug out on us. We've not been beaten by the government, nor by the British Rail Board, but by the TUC. We looked to the TUC for



Solidarity: miners and railworkers

backing and they turned us down.

'Chapple and Duffy are not prepared to support the basic principle that a union cannot accept the imposition of new working conditions without negotiation. They are Conservatives as far as we are concerned.'

'But Sid Weighell is the biggest villain of the lot. He wants to get rid of ASLEF, it's a thorn in his side. He is hand in glove with the Board.'

'If the TUC hadn't sold out this strike we would definitely have won it. ASLEF members were solid.'

'In the whole of Wales, only one ASLEF member went to work and only a tiny number of NUR drivers. Support was given by the miners and was starting to come from other unions. But we've been thrown to the wolves because the TUC thinks this is the wrong time for a General Election.'

'The government is attacking the right to strike and this will lead to attacks on other sections of workers. The health service workers will be in trouble if the TUC carries

on like this. The TUC is backing away from the government and it's a bloody disgrace.'

Colin Grey, ASLEF, Waterloo Branch, Local Departmental Committee Representative

'THE TUC decision was wrong. It will be seen as a retreat which the Conservatives and the Peter Parkers of this world are enjoying immensely.'

'ASLEF is now the sacrificial lamb because of the TUC's weakness. The ASLEF Executive Committee have come out remarkably well, they're in a canoe without a paddle — they've been cast adrift by the TUC.'

'The antics of Sid Weighell are filthy and disgusting.'

'The rank and file should continue to organise through Labour Parties and Trades Councils. They should maintain their response to other unions and support those in the line of fire. Waterloo ASLEF will be on St. Thomas' picket line. We are also encouraging our members to go to the picket lines at their local hospitals.'

Don't mourn, organise!

By Duncan Edwards and Redmond O'Neill

MANCHESTER drivers, stunned by the news that the strike was suspended, held a mass meeting last Sunday and registered their disgust with the betrayal of their struggle. The meeting of about 400 drivers passed the following resolution:

'The Manchester Area branches of ASLEF mass meeting is disgusted with the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee and condemns the committee for the lack of support shown to the ASLEF strikers. The Shadow Cabinet of the Labour Party has also failed to support the struggle and both are responsible for introducing Tebbit

through the back door of the government.'

Following the meeting, officials from a number of branches decided to launch a campaign to alert the local labour movement against the TUC's treachery. The tours of factories, district committees, union and Labour Party branches — already planned to win support for the strike — will go ahead to explain the role of the right wing TUC leaders.

A mass lobby of the North west TUC is being organised by the ASLEF branches on Sunday, 24 July. ASLEF will be calling on the meeting to dissociate itself from the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee's betrayal.

What happens next?

- The strike has been suspended, but the BR Board has not been given a blank cheque.
- The rosters already posted in 71 depots are being worked, but under protest. The Board has agreed that even these are provisional. They are subject to future joint review agreement.
- The Board now has to enter into negotiations on the introduction of the rosters on a national scale. As far as the TUC's 'peace formula' goes, any agreement will be based on the McCarthy tribunal recommendations.
- ASLEF is committed to recalling the union's Annual Delegate Conference. At the time the strike was suspended, the executive had not yet decided what it will be recommending to the conference.
- ASLEF will have to get the backing of conference to enter into negotiations on the rosters.

Israel's 'minorities'

By Ros Kaplan

A FEW YEARS AGO if you'd asked an Israeli who and where the Palestinians are, you'd have been met by derision and a denial that such a people existed. The Israeli state had said so, rewritten pre-1948 history, changed Arab place names to Hebrew and destroyed the tell-tale signs of another people's history and existence in what was now Israel and what used to be called Palestine. Over 350 towns and villages were razed to the ground. Arab 'Jaffa' became 'Yaffo' — being turned into a trendy ethnic district for artists, cafés and night clubs ...

Yet the Palestinians remain — cleaning streets, working as garage attendants, on building sites, in restaurants, canning fruit in factories, cleaning hospitals and as seasonal workers in kibbutzim fields.

The state calls them 'minorities' — a euphemism for Arab. According to the state there are no Arabs — only Muslims, Christians, Druze and Bedouins.

They are the Palestinians who managed to escape expulsion by the Israelis after the '48 war — the fate of 800,000 of their people. 170,000 remained and for years were forgotten. They were concentrated in the villages in the Galilee, Triangle area and the Negev desert.

Today these areas are still predominantly Arab despite state plans to 'Judaize the Galilee' and move the Bedouins off the land; the population has risen dramatically to 500,000.

From 1948-65 the Palestinians in the new state were subject to the Emergency Regulations of 1945 (a legacy from British colonial rule once used against the Palestinian Jewish community) — in effect it meant military rule which held them as prisoners in their villages — no travel without military permits, imprisonment without trial, political organisations banned, and for a farming people worse still — their lands confiscated.

This policy in part reflected the colonial aims of the new state. Unlike South Africa, which was built on the oppression and exploitation of the black people, Zionism sought to expel the indigenous population, isolate the ones who remained and replace Arab labour and business with exclusively Jewish labour. The Histadrut — General Federation of Hebrew workers in Eretz Israel — was set up in the 1920s to specifically keep out Arabs from the labour market. The Emergency Regulations restricted the



Wall spells out the message



The Occupation of East Jerusalem is an outrage to the Arab world

movements of Palestinians to Jewish towns. Today there are only 6 mixed (Jewish/Arab) towns in the whole state.

Between 1948 and the sixties a struggle in the Israeli Zionist establishment raged over whether to isolate or exploit the growing pool of Arab labour. The 'exploit them' camp won. Employers and the state cast a greedy look at this potentially exploitable labour force with few if any rights, that would out of necessity take lower wages than Jewish workers and who could be laid off first in a recession which would protect Israeli jobs and material privileges and provide profits for the ruling class. In the sixties the Histadrut took in its first Arab members — and even changed its name to the General Federation of Labour!

1967 marked a new phase for the 'Israeli' state. They occupied the remainder of pre-48

Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza Strip) and a part of Syria, the Golan Heights. The occupation meant not only more land — but an added 1 million Palestinians under direct military rule (note, in 1967 they said they were only going to stay a few days — 15 years later they are still there and are now saying the same about Lebanon!) The military and administrative apparatus needed to maintain a colony and the elevation of Israel to a junior imperialist ally with an escalation of US arms and money, meant that a large section of the Israeli workforce was needed to run this. It left the Arabs as a more decisive factor in the economy. The potential Arab workforce is now one third that of the Jewish even though they are one sixth of the population.

The Palestinians inside the 'Green Line' (1948 borders) are only about one half of the total Arab

workforce now employed inside Israel. The rest come from the Occupied Territories. They are the Israeli Bantustan. It is estimated over 80,000 workers travel into Israel every day — they are not permitted to stay overnight.

The massive land ex-

propriations in the territories (contrary to international law) for military and settlement purposes has created a large pool of mobile labour. Farmers and now a new working class are often hired on a daily basis under miserable conditions, for lousy wages, paying taxes to the Israeli state and getting nothing in return — no social security, fringe benefits, health care and so on. Just like the Arab villages inside Israel have become workers' dormitory towns so the territories are a labour exchange for Israel.

The Israeli state depends very heavily on the Arab workforce. They are crucial to the economy. The official numbers of workers is probably lower than reality. They mask the numbers who are not registered, or work seasonally in agriculture or factories — like the 14 year old girls from Gaza who pack fruit in Tel Aviv and the Arab women who work in sweat shops in the villages for the Israelis.

The 1960s saw another significant development — that of the Palestine Liberation movement. In 1964 the PLO was founded. It became the political expression of several million Palestinians living mostly in the Arab world as exiles to fight to return to Palestine. The liberation movement and the occupation of the rest of Palestine ended the isolation of the Arabs in Israel. The desertion of the Arab countries, the attack and expulsion of Palestinians by King Hussein in Jordan (Black September 1970) showed the Palestinians they were on their own in the fight against Israel.

Lebanon

The seventies inside Israel saw the founding of the Arab Nationalist movement amongst the Palestinian students in Israeli Universities and Abn al Balad (Sons of the village), the nationalist movement in the villages — leaders of both have been in and out of prison and some under house arrest for two years.

For 15 years the people of the Occupied Territories have waged a long and hard struggle against military rule, through strikes and demonstra-

tions, and the latest and most militant uprisings in the last seven months have been met by the most violent Israeli retaliation since the battles in Gaza in the early seventies.

The invasion of Lebanon has arisen out of the Israeli policies toward the Palestinians — such policies demand the destruction of the PLO. In 15 years the Israelis have been unable to impose their will on the Occupied Territories. The Milson civilian administration is no better than the previous military rule, the Israeli collaborators in the Village Leagues are hated, the population is solidly behind the resistance, and the Arabs in Israel are identifying more and more with, and supporting, the rebellion in the territories and the general strike in the Golan.

Many Israelis are aware of the potential threat from Arab workers if in the future they organise other workers against the state. More immediately, Sharon and Begin believed that a defeat of the PLO in Lebanon would mean an end to the struggle of Palestinians under their rule. They give no credit to local initiative and organisation. The PLO in the last year did not break the ceasefire — they succeeded in imposing it on all factions within the movement and was succeeding in its aims to be taken as a serious political force in the negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israelis didn't want this — and therefore attacked. It was Israel's plans for the territories that prompted them to launch genocide in Lebanon although it is true that there are other reasons long standing on Israel's agenda — territorial aims and the establishment of a Christian Maronite (Phalangist) state in Lebanon to be a future accomplice with Israel in patrolling the Middle East.

Even the defeat of the PLO in Lebanon will not end the resistance of the 1 1/4 million Palestinians under Israeli rule. Although it will be a big setback, it can recover given the building of a world-wide solidarity movement that supports their fight against Israeli occupation.

Labour Committee on Palestine

A LABOUR Committee on Palestine, comprising Labour Party activists, has been formed to campaign, inside and outside the party, in solidarity with the Palestinian people and the PLO and against Zionism.

The committee opposes the Zionist Israeli state as a racist, exclusivist and expansionist state. Its first public activity has been to picket the El Al offices in London's Regent Street.

A public meeting is being organised in London's County Hall this Friday evening, July 23. The committee is to hold a fringe meeting at the Labour Party conference and its founding conference will be in the autumn.

The LCP can be contacted c/o 28 Carlton Mansions, Holmleigh Rd., London N16.

**Public Meeting
Solidarity with the
Palestinian people!
Israel out of Lebanon!
Recognise the PLO!**

County Hall, London
Friday 23 July 7pm

Speakers: Ken Livingstone, Stuart Holland MP,
Palestinian and anti-Zionist Israeli speakers

International 'Debating Socialism'

Weekend October 23/24 Central London venue

- * Bea Campbell & Val Coultas debate 'Sweet Freedom'
- * Ken Livingstone, Frances Morrell & Alan Freeman debate 'The New Labour Left'
- * Mike Davis on 'Exterminism & the Cold War'
- * Ernest Mandel on 'Socialist Democracy'
- * John Harrison on 'Economic Crisis'
- * John Ross on 'Break-Up of British Politics'
- * Bernadette McAliskey & Perry Anderson also invited

Tickets: Just £4 for whole weekend, £2.50 per day. Creche provided.
Write to: International 'Debating Socialism', PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Mark the date in your diary now — 23/24 October!

Spread the strike

By Bob Pennington

EVERY HEALTH worker must be asking: 'If that's what the TUC do to the railworkers, what can we expect?' It's a good and a sensible question. For the workers to rely on the good offices of Len Murray would be kissing goodbye to any hopes that they may have of bettering the present offer.

But does that mean that these workers now face a long up-hill battle on their own? That must not be the case. The health workers and their allies can, and must, take advantage of the enormous goodwill that exists in the labour movement for the case of the NHS staff. Furthermore, that goodwill has been more than words and messages of solidarity. Miners, dockers, steel workers, transport workers and others, have downed tools and marched in alliance with the health workers. They have been prepared to lose money and to defy the laws on picketing, in the cause of another group of workers. That is a power-

ful base from which to build, and it contrasts with the meanness of spirit that chokes the corridors at Congress House.

Solidarity

These workers recognise that more than a wage claim is at stake. The measly increase offered by the Tories, according to Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, means a freeze on new money for growth in the NHS until 1985. Recruitment, in a sorely understaffed NHS, is to be further cut back. Ancillary workers' jobs are to be cut and NHS services are to be handed back over to the private sector.

The working class is

faced with an onslaught against the trade unions and a determined attack by the Tories against the idea of a free health service for all. Because this is being more and more recognised by the activists in the trade unions they have seen the importance of rallying round to defend the NHS. This support has to be built on. Health workers have to tour the workshops, the coalfields, the docks, the building sites and the offices asking for solidarity strikes.

Nationally the health unions should, in alliance with unions like the miners, convene a conference of all labour movement organisations that support the 12 per cent claim, and are ready and willing to take action to defend the NHS.

This is the best, in fact, it is the only answer to Thatcher and her government, and of course to those super-scabs who sold out ASLEF, and who given half a chance will do the same to the hospital workers.

South Wales workers take action

WEST GLAMORGAN hospital and health workers with only one exception decided to take strike action in support of their pay claim. In Neath there were emergency services only and Neath General Hospital was picketed by 170 workers from NUPE, NALGO, ASTMS and T&G. In Swansea there were strong and lively pickets at all the hospitals. The main hospital Singleton provided emergency cover only and a picket which began at 6am ensured that any blacklegs would be unable to go into work unobserved.

Singleton Hospital was also able to send women to support other pickets in the area such as the one to Morriston Hospital. Here there was support among the membership for the nationally called strike action but due to weak and uncertain leadership from union officials the hospital had actually voted against striking. It was the only hospital in the entire county not to strike.

The picket which had

representatives from NUPE and ASTMS persuaded postal services and non essential supplies to respect the picket line. At a city centre hospital, Mount Pleasant, a NUPE steward Gwyn Jones said the porters and kitchen staff had been determined to take industrial action. The hospitals domestics also were on strike.

At Central Clinic two speech therapists, both members of ASTMS staged a picket which several of their colleagues mostly office staff

and members of NALGO and the post office refused to cross.

Ambulance drivers in the county were responding only to emergency cases. The breaking of the rail strike has convinced many health workers of the need for support from the trade unions and members of the labour movement.

In West Glamorgan, the NHS strike has had support on the picket lines from British Steel, Superheaters Works, T&G public transport and NUM Brynlliew, all of which had representatives on the picket line. In addition the bus workers have decided on an hour's stoppage in sympathy.

On Wednesday 21 July there was a rally called by NUPE. Representatives from other unions as well as from the womens movement and labour movement, were expected to attend.

Civil servants threatened

CONFIDENTIAL memo circulated to officers in charge of all Inland Revenue offices and presumably other departments dated 14 July 1982 referring to the TUC call for general support for the health service unions on 19 to 21 July. It states 'Hitherto unauthorised absence for industrial action has normally been dealt with simply by stoppage of pay but it has now been decided for all departments, that if it occurs in furtherance of a dispute outside the civil service, staff will in future also be liable to disciplinary proceedings.'

Management has been asked to notify immediately any staff who either take absence from work or appear to have committed breaches of the rules of conduct. This last rule could include going on demonstrations or pickets, since tens of thousands of civil servants are restricted from engaging in any political activity.

A hard life

A TUC spokesperson complained last Friday: 'Our minds are so heavily concentrated on the rail dispute we'd almost forgotten there was a healthworkers' dispute.'

For the overworked bureaucrats at the TUC, selling the railworkers down the river was obviously an exhausting business, which has meant that the NHS unions have to wait before the TUC leaders could concentrate their minds on how to sell them out!



An admirable sentiment!

London trade unionists demonstrate in support of the healthworkers.

5,000 militant trade unionists marched through the streets of London on Monday in solidarity with the healthworkers. Kent miners, post office workers and Rolls Royce workers were amongst the many who came out. Anger was expressed not merely toward the Tory

government but toward the sell out policies of the Trade Union leaders especially Len Murray who did not dare show his miserable face on the platform.

'More Arthur Scargills is what we need' was the echoing cry of the day.

The speaker from Pad-

dington ASLEF promised continued support to the healthworkers and got a fantastic response. 'We won't let you down like the TUC let us down. If we've had the support from the TUC we could have won our dispute on the rail. We weren't let down by the rank and file but the TUC General Purposes

Committee.'

Ray Buckton sent telegrams promising that the railworkers would live to fight another day.

And if the demonstration is anything to go by the healthworkers will be with them.

Labour Party Witch-hunt

Left divided over witch-hunt

By Alan Freeman

DEEP tactical divisions surfaced in the Labour Party left this weekend over the witch-hunt

At a tense six hour meeting on Saturday 17 July the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy's executive committee decided to place three 'alternative options' before the Labour Party conference in the form of amendments to tabled resolutions.

The meeting supported the first and third of these options — which rejected the Labour Party NEC's register and its report on the *Militant* tendency — in line with the democracy campaign's policy, which is to oppose expulsions and boycott the register.

But 'option two', as it became known, provoked a heated debate and was eventually passed by only twelve votes to eleven. After an angry discussion on Sunday at a consultative meeting called by CLPD to discuss action against the witch-hunt, substantial changes were made.

Victor Schonfield reported the democracy campaign's decisions to a consultative meeting on Sunday attended by several constituency Labour Parties and pressure groups within the Party, including the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign, Labour Parliamentary Association, Labour Action for Peace, Independent Labour Publications and the National Association of Labour Students. He argued that if Labour's conference failed to reject the register outright, CLPD had to adopt flexible tactics.

Option two was a 'fallback' resolution which called on Labour's NEC to amend Clause Two of the constitution dealing with conditions for membership. Such a move would delay any action for a year and place ultimate control over expulsions in conference's hands.

Most delegates at the meeting, slated this proposal, dubbing it a 'pseudo democratic register'.

Mandy Moore of the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign dissociated herself from Saturday's decision, which she had voted against.

'We cannot accept the stipulation that our group should be open to any Labour Party member,' she said, going through the proposal point by point.

CLPD's 'option two'

THE TEXT which follows was proposed by the majority of the executive of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy on Saturday 17 July, as a 'fallback' option if Labour Party conference failed to oppose the register.

After Sunday's consultative meeting, at which this text was severely criticised, substantial changes were made.

The text is cast in the form of an amendment to a resolution already on the conference agenda.

Line 17: Add at end:

Accordingly it instructs the NEC to suspend implementation of the recommendation of the Militant Tendency Report. In particular Conference rejects the principle of giving the NEC absolute powers to determine the conditions under which groups of Labour Party members may organise within the Party. It instructs the NEC to bring forward amendments to Clause II (3) of the Party Constitution on the following lines:

Line 3 (as per September 1981 printed Party Constitution)

Socialist Challenge 23 July 1982 page 6

'We are not open to anti-abortionists.' Nor could the abortion campaign accept point (e) which would entitle anti-abortionists to attend as observers.

'The Labour abortion campaign is not prepared to end its association with international organisations, whether or not approved by the Labour Party,' she added. 'The abortion campaign is international and we have indispensable contacts with women's organisations abroad.'

Finally, the Labour abortion campaign would not divulge membership lists which could fall into the hands of anti-abortionists.

Reg Race, MP agreed. The witch-hunt was happening, he said, because the right wing had lost control of the party but the left wing had not gained it. The right wing was therefore preparing to expel the left piece by piece until it regains control, if necessary by removing all who oppose it.

Estimating that around 40-50 MPs opposed the register, he said that the only sensible tactic was to boycott the register and refuse to co-operate with its implementation.

'Once you concede the register,' he said, 'you immediately isolate *Militant*.' The right wing could then pick off opponents one by one.

Leading figures from the Labour Parliamentary Association backed the boycott proposal, saying that they would support any Constituency which refused to expel people. If CLPD's 'option two' were carried, they said, the Labour right would leap at it with open arms, and use it to expel people and claim authority from the democracy campaign.

This was amplified by a delegate from the broad left in the healthworkers' union COHSE. Her executive — controlled by the right wing — would gladly vote for option two. 'It is not really an alter-



Labour Party Conference

native at all,' she said, 'but a witch-hunt in another guise.'

No vote could be taken because the meeting was consultative. Socialist Challenge supporters met with very broad agreement when they said that, had the CLPD executive not put forward option two, there would have been a real possibility for a united campaign by the left around the principle of non-cooperation with the register, and a refusal to accept expulsions. The way to construct such a united campaign, they argued, was to support three initiatives which sought to co-ordinate action: *Militant's* open conference on 11 September; the conference convened by Hackney North Labour Party and the 'Unregistered Alliance', a

broad co-ordination which had been formed to link up all organisations refusing to register.

Keith Lichman of Hackney North explained why his party had called a conference. 'It is the Constituency Parties who will first face the threat of expulsions and possible sanctions if they refuse to comply,' he said. 'Our party simply will not operate in this way. We cannot do it. So we want to co-ordinate action between those Constituency Parties who take the same stand. We hope to write to all Constituency Parties to ask them to attend a meeting on 4 September.'

'This will establish some form of co-operation, call a full conference in October after the Labour Party conference, and will seek to

argue for a boycott policy at *Militant's* conference.'

Bob Labi of *Militant* dissented, arguing that if individuals were expelled from the Labour Party it was better for their constituencies to accept, rather than risk suspension and disaffiliation.

The delegate from Tottenham Labour Party probably best summed up rank and file feelings when he explained his reaction to voting for expulsions. 'My brain might accept the arguments,' he said, 'but my arm would simply refuse to go up.'

Letter from Hackney North to all Constituency Labour Parties



Ernie Roberts

Hackney North and Stoke Newington Constituency Labour Party

Member of Parliament: Ernie Roberts M.P.

12th July 1982

Dear Comrade

Labour Parties Against the Witch-hunt

The NEC's report on the Militant Tendency and its recommendation to form a register of groups working within the Party is a transparent attempt by the right to witch-hunt and destroy the Party's radical wing. It aims to achieve by bureaucracy what it could never do by democratic means.

There are few Militant supporters in our Party. We have, nevertheless, written to the NEC informing it that we will not co-operate with the report's recommendations, and will not register or expel anybody.

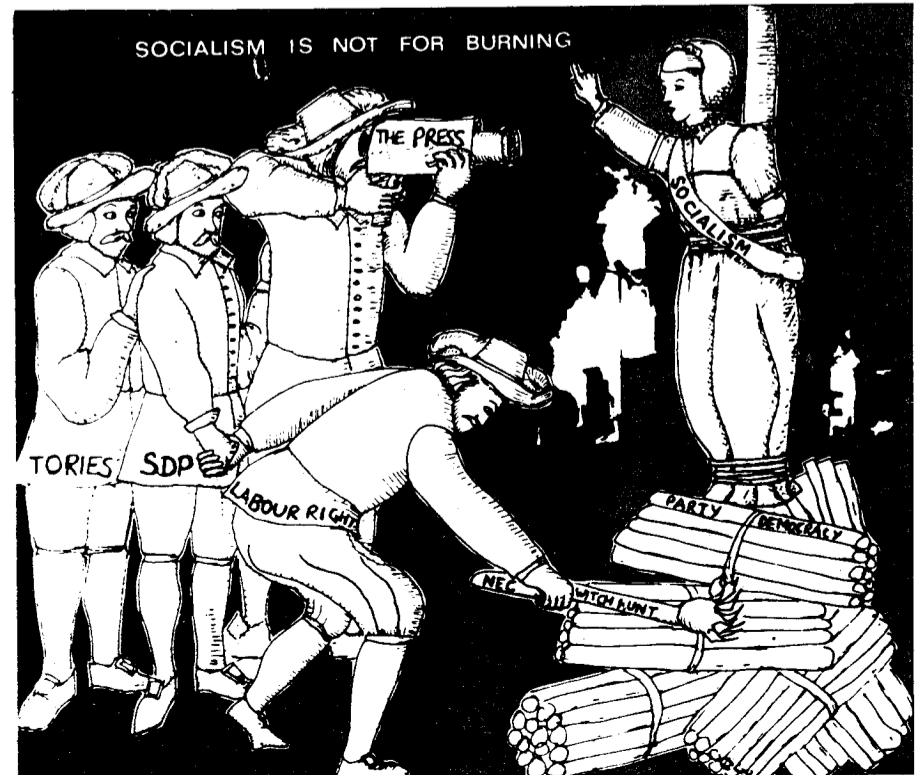
We urge your Party to:

- 1) Support our position against the witch-hunt
- 2) Write to the NEC expressing your refusal to register or expel anybody, if you have not already done so
- 3) Send delegates to a co-ordinating meeting of *Labour Parties Against the Witch-hunt* on Saturday, 4 September at 2.00pm at County Hall, Westminster, to plan how to promote this policy throughout the Labour movement, including the conference called for 11 September, to which we warmly encourage Parties to send delegates
- 4) Agree to co-sponsor a conference of *Constituency Labour Parties Against the Witch-hunt* to be held on Saturday, 30 October at County Hall
- 5) Complete and return the reply slip below

Yours fraternally,
Keith Lichman
Vice Chair

- Constituency Party.....
- Secretary.....
- Address.....
- 1. We oppose the witch-hunt and will not register or expel anybody
 - 2. We have written to the NEC informing it of our refusal to register or expel
 - 3. We will send _____ delegates to the co-ordinating meeting of Labour Parties Against the Witch-hunt on 4 September at County Hall
 - 4. We agree to co-sponsor the conference of CLPs Against the Witch-hunt on 30 October
 - 5. We enclose a donation of £_____ towards the expenses of setting up the Campaign
 - Delete as necessary

Please return to: Hackney North & Stoke Newington CLP, 28 Beatty Road, London N16



Delete all after '1946' - ... will be free to conduct pressure group activities providing that:

- a) their aims are consistent with Party's objects as defined in Clause IV
- b) are not engaged in the promotion of Parliamentary and Local Government Candidates other than those endorsed by the Labour Party;
- c) their structure is open and democratic;
- d) any Labour Party member is free to join them;
- e) any Labour Party member is entitled to attend their meetings as an observer;
- f) do not operate their own internal discipline or are associated with any international organisation not supported by the Labour Party or the Socialist International;
- g) details of their aims, officers, employees, membership and accounts are submitted annually to the NEC;

Any group found by the NEC to be in breach of these rules should be given a period of not more than three months to put an end to such infringements and may be ordered by the NEC to suspend its activities, but the final decision must be left to the Party Conference that immediately follows any such decision by the NEC.

What makes Foot run?

By Brian Heron

THE PRESS has been in a quandary for a week: is Michael Foot to be labelled a hero or a villain? The *Guardian* for 15 July, commenting on his bewildering gyrations, said 'Mr Foot will have alienated those who thought the attack should never have been made, and those who expected him to deliver, while leaving the world at large in a state of total confusion.'

He was acclaimed for his handling of the witch-hunt against *Militant*. Then he backed down on Tatchell. Next he pitched in for ASLEF, infuriating Weighell and Roy Hattersley; so Weighell publicly attacked him. Hattersley simply denied that the Shadow Cabinet had taken any such position on the rail dispute; and by the weekend Foot had made a special call to ASLEF headquarters withdrawing his backing from the strike.

Fight

This succession of flipflops has an explanation: Foot is the faithful servant of the trade union

bureaucrats. When they are at each other's throats, he does what he can to keep them together.

Most of the TUC were unhappy about the Tories' handling of ASLEF. They are no longer consulted at Number 10. Government attempts to crush the unions without consultation leave their leaders with little to do: so they have to get in on the act. Foot voices their concern.

In the case of Peter Tatchell, Foot had to correct a previous mistake. On the floor of the House of Commons he had rashly announced that Tatchell would 'never' be endorsed as a candidate. But these days he has other interests

to consider; at the 4 July meeting with union tops, which stitched up union block votes in favour of the register and the attack on *Militant*, mainstream Bennites in the Party and unions were not the target. They are still too powerful. The decks had to be cleared for an offensive concentrated on the 'hard' left.

Top

This offensive has two realisable aims. It would smear the Bennites — and Benn himself — by association with 'secret caucuses of revolutionaries', hopefully diminishing his appeal in the workers' movement. Secondly, if carried through, it would make people think that Labour's doleful showing at the polls has been produced by left conspiracies, rather than by Michael Foot and Denis Healey.

The way would then be clear to reverse those policy gains — on unilateralism, the EEC and incomes policy — which have made the Party unfit to govern on behalf of the British establishment. But for the moment the decks must be cleared to carry through the attack on *Militant* and the far left. If that creates the right atmosphere, the Bennites are next.

Right

The right wing are more than usually cynical about their motives. In public they argue that Labour can win the next election by ditching *Militant*; but a successful witch-hunt would be a final nail in Labour's coffin. The register is in fact an attack on the *whole Party* — not just the left. The likes of Duffy are willing to accept a crushing defeat if they think they

can crawl back into favour with the establishment.

Power

Much of the right's support at Labour Party conference will come from those who do not understand that their proposals will open a civil war in the party, who imagine it will buy a quiet life and win the next election.

The more serious is the resistance to the witch-hunt, the more difficult it will become to maintain this momentum. The best way to defeat the right wing is therefore the most thorough and determined refusal to implement it, at every level of the Party.

Michael Foot may be caught in the middle by the trade union bureaucrats: the rest of the left need not fall into the same trap.



He who pays the piper ...



... calls the tune. Left, Healey. Right, Foot. Above, Len Murray and chorus.

Socialist Challenge FUND DRIVE '82

Week's Wages campaign — over £10,000!

By Davy Jones

MORE than ten thousand pounds has now poured into our campaign for a weeks wages for Socialist Challenge from our supporters. And again our Brent supporters have done us proud raising a full ten per cent of our total with a magnificent £1140.

We explained when we launched the fund almost two months ago that we faced a huge rent increase and mounting debts in our struggle to produce a weekly paper fighting for the interests of working people. So we asked all our readers and supporters to dig deep into their pockets and to send us a week's wages.

We have not been disappointed. It's not just those in well-paid jobs who have sent us money. We've had pensioners sending in their weekly cheque, people on the dole sending us their paltry weekly giro, as well as the low paid like nurses and health workers.

We're keeping the fund open for another few weeks because we've had promises for another couple of thousand pounds. We want our supporters to rush us the final instalments from their areas. And we would ask all our readers, not just our regular supporters and sellers — can you afford to send us a week's wages? Can you afford not to send us a week's wages?

Des Stevens from Surrey answered those questions like this in a letter we have just received: 'I have just read your appeal in last week's issue and I enclose a cheque for £5 for your Fund Drive. I would have made it more but the filthy capitalist system refuses to increase my wages to date, even though I have not had a wage rise for a whole year.'

'Also, due to the manipulation in the last budget of the capitalist money system, I actually take home less now than I did before April — surely they can only be described at best as being lower than the urine of sewer rats.'

'However your paper *MUST* go on — society needs it, including me'

Below is a list of contributions by area. Our thanks to everyone who has donated.

WEST MIDLANDS		Nottingham	290.00
Birmingham	£887.00	Bolsover	0.00
Coventry	50.00	SOUTH WEST	
Wolverhampton	0.00	Bath	50.00
Leamington	0.00	Bristol	96.00
NORTH WEST		Oxford	180.00
Liverpool	30.00	Swindon	55.00
Manchester	1107.55	Exeter	50.00
Preston	160.00	SOUTH	
SOUTH WALES		Brighton	0.00
Cardiff	355.00	Portsmouth	0.00
Swansea	135.00	Southampton	0.00
Newport	250.00	Crawley	0.00
SCOTLAND		LONDON	
Edinburgh	289.50	Ealing/Southall	548.00
Glasgow	299.55	Hillingdon/Hemel	239.00
Aberdeen	129.55	Hackney	679.00
NORTH EAST		Tower Hamlets	210.00
Newcastle	105.00	Newham	60.00
Middlesboro	100.00	Islington	388.40
YORKSHIRE		Camden	255.00
Leeds	100.00	Haringay	50.00
Sheffield	265.00	Lambeth	192.75
Wakefield	20.00	Southwark	215.00
Huddersfield	0.00	Wandsworth	213.00
Rotherham	0.00	Lewisham	88.00
York	0.00	Brent	1140.00
EAST MIDLANDS		Individuals	780.00
Leicester	53.00	TOTAL	£10,115.25



NEW BADGE OUT

'Unregistered Socialist'

Black and white on red background 25p plus p&p; orders over 50, 15p post free. Send your orders in now to PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Cheques and POs to Brent Readers Group.

BRISTOL WEST LPYS RALLY

Fight the Tories!
Defend Our Unions!

Speakers: Tony Benn, Stephanie Glover (COHSE) Ray Davies (ISTC) Cliff Williams (AUEW NC & LPYS)

Central Hall, Old Market, Bristol
7.30pm, Friday 30 July.



WHAT AS WERE FIG

THE ASLEF drivers stood united and solid in a strike on...
outline the most important.

Defend the unions

OVER 25,000 ASLEF and NUR train drivers were threatened with the sack if they didn't return to work. Before being reinstated, drivers would have to sign individual statements accepting management's terms. What was at stake was the right to strike and the right of trade unions to collectively negotiate and act for their members.

If an entire workforce can be sacked and its union smashed, then no worker and no union can feel secure. In the USA, Reagan sacked all the air traffic controllers, their leader taken to prison in chains and their union PATCO bankrupted. This is what Thatcher and Tebbit are trying to do here.

Defend jobs

THE rail industry like many others has already been devastated by job loss. Over 15,000 jobs have gone in the past two years and are still disappearing at the rate of 1,000 a month.

The British Rail Board plans to use the six productivity items being forced on ASLEF and the NUR to get rid of 40,000 jobs from all grades in the next five years.

The Tories are using unemployment as a bludgeon to beat the unions with. They reason that no one is going to fight for jobs, wages and better working conditions while there are over three million waiting in the dole queue. ASLEF proved them wrong. The government, press and BR pulled out every dirty trick against them, including the threat of total closure of the rail network and mass redundancies. But ASLEF members stood firm.

Improve working conditions

'I HAVE been a train-driver's wife for forty-two years. My life, like my husband's has been ruled by the railway timetable — and what a timetable!

'Over the years I've got used to it — not flushing the toilet if he's sleeping in the day, vacuuming at night, eating Christmas dinners by myself, pleading with the neighbours to turn the television down.

'There's just no room in our lives for any more "flexibility". Our lives just wouldn't be worth living.'

British Rail screams about the rail union's disregard for the poor



Pickets at British Rail's Stratford depot. But consider the facts. What effect does the present system of shift work mean for the train driver which will be worsened by flexible rostering proposals.

96 per cent of train drivers work shifts. These are the effects: **HEALTH** disruption of body time (circadian rhythms), sleep loss, poor quality sleep, digestive disorders, gastric and duodenal ulcers, constipation and diarrhoea, respiratory problems, low back pain, neurosis, cardiovascular disease, chronic fatigue, depression, irritability.

SOCIAL accidents, disrupted social and family lives, domestic friction, strained sexual relations, higher divorce rate, loss of contact, loneliness, social and political passivity.

In the interests of health and safety, rail drivers should be working shorter early and late shifts to make a 33 hour week, counting hours worked before 6am and after 10pm as two hours instead of one; the irregularity of shift patterns should be reduced; special facilities should be made available, especially catering, rest rooms and transport to and from work.

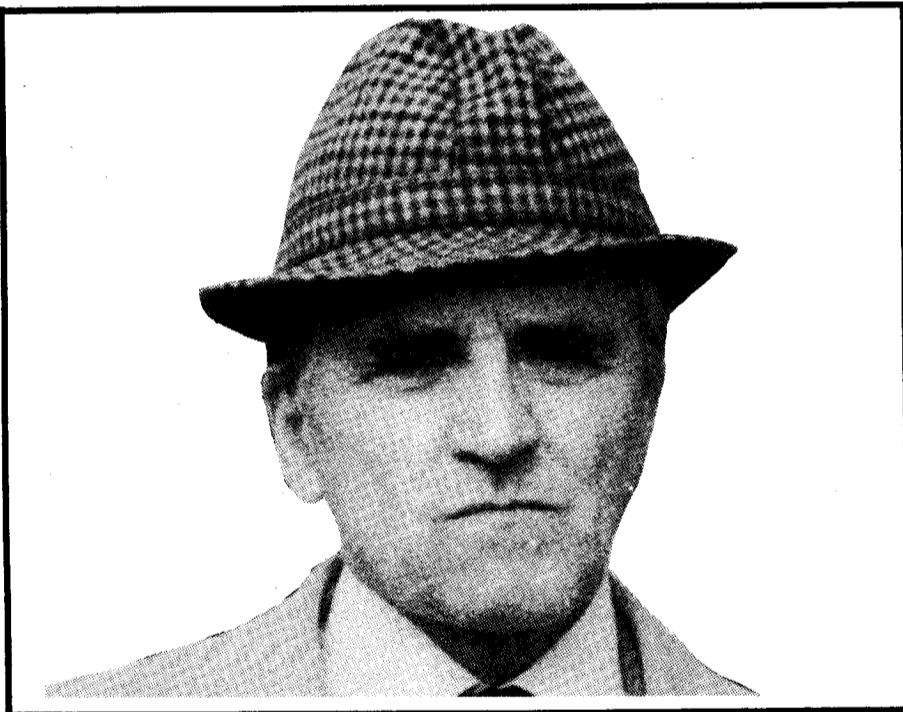
Instead BR is proposing to increase the number of shift starting times in the same week; daily shifts of 7-9 hours instead of the standard 8 hours; widely ranging weekly working hours of between 30-45 hours; less regular free Saturdays which could end up working 10 in a row.

Flexible rostering means bad health, disrupted social lives, lack of safety for passengers and workers; loss of jobs — up to 45 per cent. Flexible rostering is a crime!

It is just one example of the measures proposed in every industry to increase productivity and profits at workers' expense. The British Rail bosses complain that ASLEF is questioning their right to manage the industry as the Board see fit. They demand total submission on flexible rostering.

ASLEF told British Rail that

WANTED



FOR SCABBING

By Hazel Macpherson

THE ASLEF leadership has called off the strike. Ray Buckton spoke to the press shortly after the decision:

'This was a battle that could not be won without the support and assistance of the whole trade union movement — support that was not forthcoming.'

A large share of the responsibility for that lack of official support must go to NUR secretary, SID WEIGHELL. For the first time ever Ray Buckton was moved to make a public statement repudiating Weighell's role. There can be no doubt that had the NUR given its support to the ASLEF — no matter how passive that support may have been — the pressure on the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee to give official backing would have been far greater.

Instead Weighell stood at the head of the massive campaign against the

ASLEF, his vicious public attacks have been taken up and quoted not only by the Tory media but also by Tory ministers themselves.

For NUR members Weighell's treacherous role has been clear right from the time he used the AGM to call off their national strike despite the massive turnout from the ranks.

His response to the possible sacking of the NUR drivers who had been told not to cross picket lines by the NUR AGM was to send out a circular 'advising' these members of their legal position — in other words an ambiguously phrased invitation to cross the picket lines.

His response to the possible lock out of his members was to say that it wouldn't be worth going to court (despite the fact that the BRB would be breaking a contract) and that 'the money isn't available anyway'.

Weighell is far more interested in implementing and defending the

plans of the BR management than in fighting for the jobs and livelihoods of his membership. He even went as far as to allow Sir Peter Parker to air his views in the pages of the union's journal!

Inside the NUR Weighell is organising a massive witch-hunt against those who are trying to challenge this bankrupt class collaborationist line.

ASLEF and NUR members who attended the lobby of the TUC last week put the feeling of the majority of rank and file railworkers very clearly when they chanted 'Scab, scab, scab' as Weighell was escorted by the police to the door of Congress House.

'It's a pity it wasn't Sid Weighell at the end of the Queen's bed. They might have beheaded him, though he's probably got off on the grounds of insanity.'

Bob Black, Selhurst branch secretary, ASLEF

LEAF DRIVERS FIGHTING FOR

Issues affecting every worker. Toni Gorton and Socialist Challenge railworkers



They have no right to manage the industry at the workers' expense. This example of workers' veto is an inspiration to millions of workers who don't want to submit to the same conditions.

3 July '82 from a special leaflet on the 'Human Cost of Flexible Rostering'. Available from the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, 9 Poland St., London W1.



Arthur Scargill

Defend the guaranteed day

THE EARLY labour movement struggled for the right to be paid for a guaranteed forty hour working week regardless of the amount of work available. It was only in the '70s that dockers won this right.

They tell us that advanced technology means a shorter work week and increased leisure time. There's masses of leisure time alright — due to masses of unemployment!

Meanwhile, those lucky enough to be in work are forced to speed up the job, increase productivity and work even longer hours.

The world wide economic crisis means that the capitalists

aren't able to sell what they produce at prices that will guarantee their profits — so they produce less and try to maintain their profits by driving down wages and costs.

This is what's behind the closures, sackings, layoffs and redundancies. Workers are forced to take less money for hours worked and to produce more. British Rail's attempt to get railworkers to abandon the guaranteed eight hour day is part of this overall scheme.

British Rail's flexible rosters mean that drivers will only be paid for the actual work available on a particular day, with the working week varying between 35 to 45 hours. Today any driver working over eight hours a day gets overtime for the extra hours.

With flexible rosters drivers will be paid only the basic rate even for the nine hours and 45 minutes shifts, and overtime pay will start from then.

British Rail plans to go even further — it wants the work week to vary between 20 to 60 hours! And that's the model every management will now want to follow.

Railways for people not profit

BRITAIN needs its railways. More than this it needs an integrated transport system, planned centrally and working in the interests of passengers and the efficient movement of freight.

Such a rational transport system cannot exist where hundreds of private road and rail companies are cutting each other's throats in competition for profits. That's why nationalisation of the transport system is so important.

But Thatcher has already sold off the freight traffic that once went by rail to her friends in the private road haulage sector. Not satisfied with this, she intends to denationalise, hive off and privatise the rail system.

The most profitable parts of British Rail are being sold into private industry. The Victoria-Gatwick Airport Rail Service is just the latest in a long line of assets to be put on the market. If the sale goes through a new fleet of electric trains will be built at a cost of £6.5m; these trains will be operated by BR — paid to do so by private owners.

The profits of this service, built by millions of pounds of taxpayers' money over the last few years will be in the hands of Thatcher's private investors.

The results of Thatcher and Parker's policies will be two rail systems — one made up of money-making routes in private hands and the other of loss-making public routes.

The Labour Party is drafting its election manifesto. This should commit the next Labour Government to nationalise and re-nationalise the whole road and rail network. When Labour first nationalised rail in 1947, they paid massive compensation to the private owners. We're still paying for this today. Next time, the private owners should be the ones to lose out, they deserve no compensation. As well, Labour should draw up a plan for major investment.



Ray Buckton

Investment in public transport is vital to the economy. It doesn't only mean efficiency, safety and jobs for the workers in the industry, it means keeping the rest of British industry alive. It means jobs, in all the related manufacturing sectors, such as catering and textiles.

It is money well spent. The cost of electrification would be less than the cost of replacing HMS Sheffield. The Tories spent over £650m on their outing in the South Atlantic. Their budget for '81-'82 calls for over £12,000m in defence as well as further billions on a de luxe nuclear weapons system.

The ASLEF strike cost an estimated £6m a day. But the total savings that BR will make from flexible rostering over five years will come to just over £9m. We say jobs and services, not bombs.



Duffy, AUEW



Drain, NALGO



Jackson, UCW



Chapple



Basnett, GMWU



Sirs, IRSTC



Sapper, ACTT



Foot



Murray

TUC traitors

WE ARE very grateful to the TUC for helping us reach this understanding. We acknowledge the great help we have had from the TUC.' — James Urquhart, British Rail's operations director.

What more damning proof that the TUC leaders have crossed enemy lines in the war against the Tories. The TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee, the inner cabinet — has turned on ASLEF and the rest of the labour movement who supported the train drivers. While expressing 'grave concern' at BR's decision to sack strikers, the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee has stabbed ASLEF in the back. In so doing it has turned on the rest of the labour movement, who supported the train drivers.

These misleaders realised that Thatcher wasn't joking when she called on the Falklands spirit to declare war on the unions. They knew that when the crunch came over the ASLEF and NUR sackings, the trade union movement would have rallied as it did to release the Pentonville dockers a decade ago. So like the TUC cowards of 1926 general strike they rushed for cover.

And what better vehicle than the right wing dominated Finance and General Purposes Committee, which was last wheeled out to deal with the lorry drivers' strike in 1978. This ten-man body includes scabs like Frank Chapple, Terry Duffy, Tom Jackson, David Basnett, Geoffrey Drain and Len Murray. It can avoid the complications of a full meeting of the TUC General Council where firm left opposition would come from such leaders as Scargill of the

miners' union. This right wing Mafia of Labour Praty witch-hunters have taken it upon themselves to extend attacks on extra-parliamentary action and left policies. They threatened ASLEF with expulsion from the TUC unless it accepted the Committee's deal with the British Rail Board and instruct its members to return to work.

These enemies in our ranks must be brought to order. The unity and resolve of the train drivers and the overwhelming solidarity of other workers prove there is a mood to take on the Tories. The struggles in steel, British Leyland, Fords and now rail show that unless the traitors of the TUC are dealt with, workers will be scabbed on every time. The left in the unions has to take the offensive to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Arthur Scargill has called for a conference of the Triple Alliance of rail, mine and steel workers to transform it from a piece of paper into a fighting force of rank and file workers to defend jobs conditions and unions.

ASLEF workers are organising to lobby the North West region of the TUC calling for it to disassociate itself from the TUC sellout and organise a fightback. Railworkers are also making plans to lobby the recall conference of the NUR special General Meeting to demand action against the Rail Board's ultimatum.

The demands of these lobbyists should resound through the conference hall when the TUC has its annual congress in early September. The last year has brought enough treachery. It's time to call a halt.

British 'justice' in Dublin

By Piers Mostyn

THE TEN year prison sentence received by Gerry Tuite in Dublin last week, for offences allegedly committed in England, was a new landmark for Anglo-Irish 'co-operation' on security.

He had been charged with possession of weapons and explosives with intent to endanger life and damage property. The prosecution's case was mainly based on the testimony of British police officers, flown over under heavy guard to Dublin's Special 'no jury' court for the 2 week trial. A second trial on the charge of conspiracy to cause explosions is due to begin in October.

A trial in Ireland for offences committed in England is unprecedented. It was the only way that Tuite, captured in Ireland 18 months after escaping from Brixton remand prison, could be nailed.

For many decades, Republicans on the run from Britain or Northern Ireland were immune from prosecution in the South due to a law banning the extradition of prisoners wanted for political offences. But this was circumvented in 1976 by the Criminal Law (Jurisdiction) Act, enabling a trial to be held in Ireland instead.

Prime Minister Haughey used the law against Tuite, in relation

to events in England, despite its explicit referral to 'acts done in Northern Ireland'.

However, this open display of the united determination of rulers in Britain and Ireland to smash the anti-imperialist struggle, comes as little surprise.

Since the mid seventies, there has been increasingly security co-operation between the two governments, such that the South now spends £1m a day on border security. Internal repression against anti-imperialists in the South has been stepped up and an armed Special Task Force established to crush Republicanism.

All this is happening in a country wracked by one of the gravest economic and political crises for 60 years.

Unemployment, now over 150,000, stands at an all time high in the Republic. And the country's foreign debt has reached £11bn, having trebled over three years. The interest on this debt is an enormous burden on the Irish economy, and



Anglo-Irish talks still on the agenda

renders it totally vulnerable to foreign exchange rate changes.

On one day recently, £25m was added to the foreign debt simply because of a rise in value of the US dollar.

The Southern government is also chronically unstable. In the last year there have been two general elections, both producing hung parliaments. The latest hangs on Haughey's wheeling and dealing in pursuit of votes.

His Finance Bill in June relied three times on

the Speaker's casting vote to get through the Dail (parliament). Many people expect yet another general election before 1983, but few foresee any greater stability.

So Haughey is desperately in need of solutions and political support. He clearly expects the workers and small farmers to pay for the crisis. But with a weak and unstable ruling class, it is unlikely that he can crush their resistance, unaided.

This has led him to make limited concessions

to nationalist sentiment, strongly revived with last year's hunger strike, such as the refusal to back Thatcher's boycott of Argentina.

But, despite this stand, the South's rulers are still keen to pursue the 'Anglo-Irish talks' — though sacrifices will be demanded in return for the much needed economic and political support of imperialism.

The direct extension of the British penal system into Dublin and Tuite's conviction was one such pound of flesh.

Troops Out delegation



THE TROOPS OUT Movement is organising its annual delegation to the North of Ireland over the weekend of 7/8/9 August. Anyone interested may participate; it is not necessary to be a TOM member.

The delegation is intended as both an act of solidarity with the beleaguered nationalist community and as a fact-finding mission. That weekend marks the 13th anniversary of troops being sent on to the streets and the 11th anniversary of internment.

Despite the relative downturn of the republican armed and mass struggle in the wake of last year's hunger-strike, hatred for British rule among the nationalist community, and the political divide between nationalists and loyalists, are both stronger and deeper than ever. Resistance and unrest simmer barely below the surface.

The delegation will be visiting Belfast, Crossmaglen and Derry, where it will meet local people, take part in discussion workshops, and support peaceful protests. Costs are kept to a minimum (about £50), accommodation is arranged with local people, and delegates will travel overnight by bus from London and elsewhere on Friday 6 August, returning overnight Monday 9 August.

Anyone interested in joining the delegation should write to Delegation Organising Committee, PO Box 353, London NW5; telephone (01) 278 8394; or attend a TOM meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 29 July at the Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

Photo: JOHN SMITH (Report)

Chile - new trade unions grow

ON 21 JUNE the Ministry of Defence celebrated its 'victory over the Argentinian dictators' with a world arms sales exhibition (See Socialist Challenge 9 July). Guests included six military representatives from Chile, where General Pinochet seized power in a bloody coup nine years ago.

But rank and file trade union resistance has been growing in Chile — though it won't be getting Thatcher's support. A Chilean correspondent recently interviewed a trade union activist for Socialist Challenge on this new movement.

What has been the effect in Chile of other struggles in Latin America?

The revolution in Central America, especially the Nicaraguan revolution, has been a great stimulus to us. Also the struggles in El Salvador, Guatemala, Argentina, and Peru. We do not regard ourselves just as Chileans struggling against Pinochet, but we identify as Latin Americans fighting against imperialism.

What is the present strength of the junts?

The junta is not as strong as it was during the first years after the 1973 coup. There are divisions within the army. The main disagreement is over

economic policy. There is a 'nationalist' tendency opposed to Pinochet.

They say that the country's resources should not be in the hands of a few monopolies. They also want more state intervention in the economy, for example to restrict imports and encourage exports. Obviously their concern is because of today's economic chaos, not because they are democrats.

They do not have in mind a bourgeois democratic project, but a fascist one. The appearance of this tendency, however, does not mean that the junta is undergoing a serious crisis.

What is the economic situation?

Since the coup, wages have been cut by half in real

terms; unemployment is about 20 per cent; and there are 175,000 on wages of £14 a month. The health and education services have suffered. Pinochet's policies have destroyed national industries and increased the national debt. All in all the economy is now a shadow of what it was.

What is the political parties' position?

Most seek to get rid of Pinochet and replace the junta with a bourgeois democratic government. However, there are revolutionary parties that seek to overthrow him through armed revolution. All the parties are involved in trade union work. The unions are multi-party.

What is the legal status of the unions?

The majority are semi-legal. Their activities are just about tolerated, but limited, through harassing them — jailing them, for example — and banning public meetings. The junta recognise that if they drive the unions underground, they will be more difficult to control.

At the moment they can attempt to split them politically, but they also repress them. During the copper mines strike they used plastic bullets, water cannon and tear gas. Last year over 900 were detain-

ed, 68 of whom claimed to have been tortured.

What is the strength of the unions?

Collective bargaining restarted two years ago. Strikes are on the increase, and have been increasingly combative. First they were about wages, now more political. Trade unionists are increasingly bold in their actions. They collect for strike funds on buses, they demonstrate outside newspaper offices and TV stations and also the churches.

Mainly what has been achieved is a new determination to struggle. In March there was a demonstration in Santiago against unemployment, low wages and poverty. More than 30 were arrested. From January to March there were more than 300 arrests.

After the coup many of the best working class cadres went into exile, 30,000 died, 2,500 disappeared. A new generation of activists has inherited a destroyed workers' movement. Now we are beginning to get organised again.

Could you tell us more about the unions today?

Most of the trade union leaderships seek conciliation with the employers and the regime. But the best is the CNS (National Co-ordinating body of

Trade Unionists), who have denounced the junta's abuses and most of whose leadership has been in jail.

However, the CNS is too bureaucratic. It does not recognise that the struggle against Pinochet has to be carried out by the rank-and-file. In Santiago, organisations which are rooted in the rank-and-file have been formed to unite the small unions, and have established themselves as a legitimate leadership. An example is the Maipo Confederation which organises across 18 unions.

In Vicuna Mackenna there is an organisation called Solidarity which supports any strike or struggle, organises union schools, and publishes bulletins, and so on.

The most important struggles are waged in Santiago, Valparaiso, and Concepcion. We want to build among rank-and-file nationally but have only limited resources.

How is this movement organised?

We think that a movement organised purely on industrial branches is not sufficient. Such organisation is useful for economic demands, but not for the struggle against Pinochet. To confront the junta, arms in hand, we need territorial organisations that unite unions of all in-

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dustries with neighbourhood committees, students and so on.

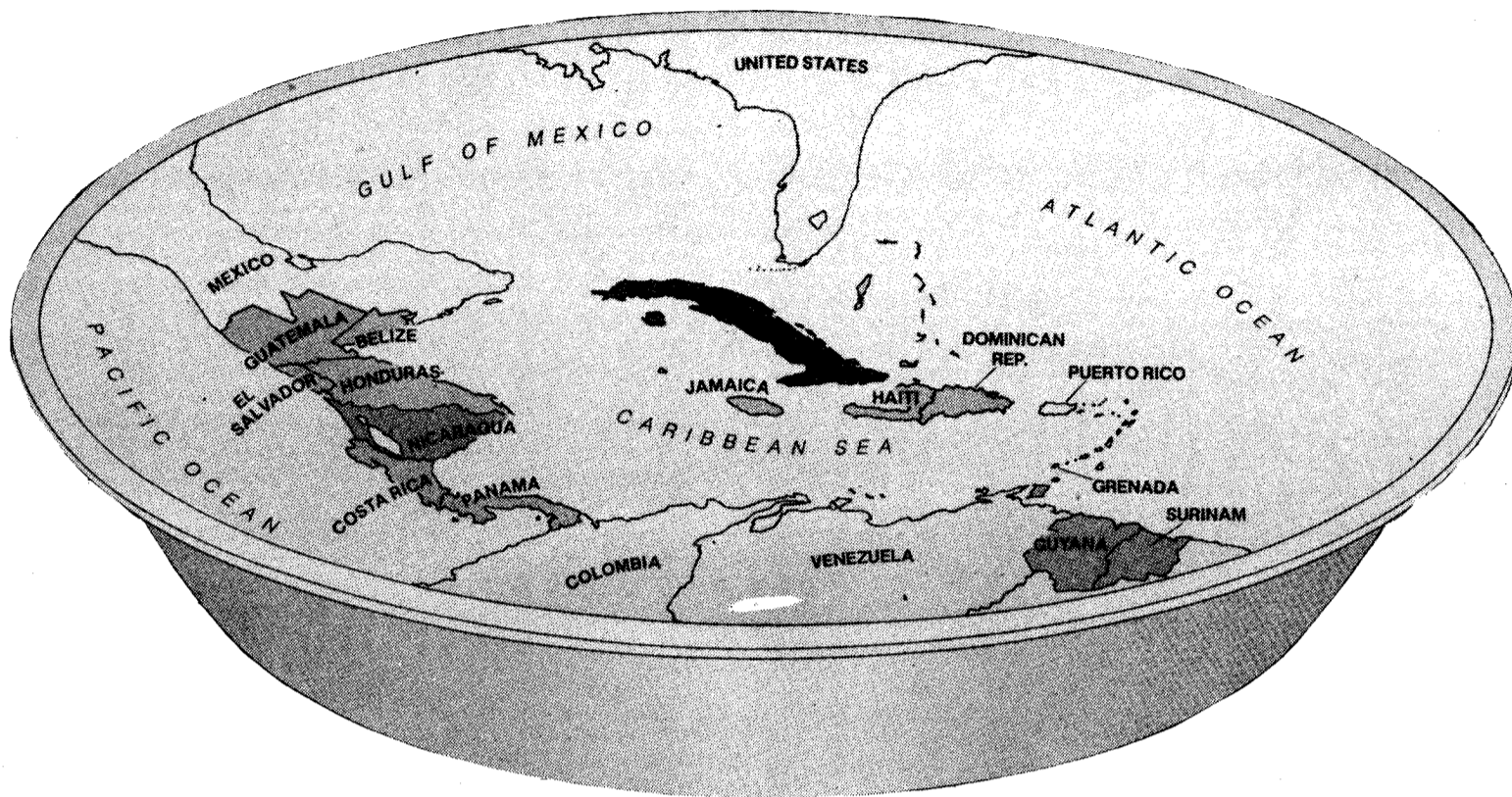
Trade union unity must be generated from the rank-and-file, not by agreement between leaders. Last year we had a negative experience of building the trade union movement from above.

The CNS submitted to Pinochet a document of popular demands, called the National Petition. As a result Pinochet accused

CNS of being communist and imprisoned its leadership. But the working class did not react. They had not even discussed the National Petition. It was a project of the bureaucracy.

This lack of reaction emphasises how important is work amongst the rank-and-file. After mistakes, defeats and advances in the last eight years, this is the major lesson.

Central America



'Captures dynamic of revolutions'

Volcanoes and Hurricanes: Revolution in Central America and the Caribbean

Reviewed by Murdo Ritchie

'VOLCANOES and Hurricanes' is the very apt title of the latest Socialist Challenge/Revolution pamphlet on the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean. The pamphlet, like its title, fully captures the dynamic, violent, explosive, rapid and even cleansing effect of the successful revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada. And it covers the revolutionary struggles underway in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Prior to the revolution in 1979, Grenada was a Caribbean island famous for its tourism and cultivation of nutmegs. However behind the picture postcard appearance of 'golden sands and clear blue Caribbean waters' was intense poverty; unemployment of 50 per cent; an illiteracy rate of 40 per cent; poor roads and inadequate housing.

The prime minister, Eric Gairy — known as 'Hurricane' because of the mess his rotten and corrupt regime left the economy in — ruled for 23 years. He dealt with any opposition through a 500 strong group of thugs called the Mongoose gang.

Likewise on the American mainland, in Nicaragua, President Anastasio Somoza, while owning most of the country's industry kept more than half the population illiterate; 70 per cent had malnutrition; there was a 12 per cent rate of infant mortality, and the lowest life expectancy in Central America — all with the aid of the jackboots and bayonets of his National Guard.

Pretext

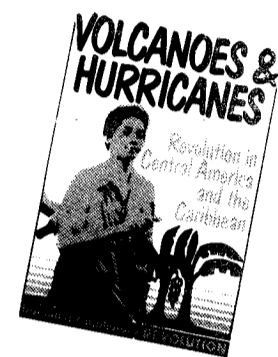
He was backed up by the United States who have substantial interests in the region. In fact they have invaded Nicaragua twice this century. On the second occasion, on the pretext of 'protecting American lives and property' they intervened to crush the nationalist movement of Augusto Cesar Sandino who gave his name and inspiration to today's Sandinistas.

Mass

The US contemptuously calls the countries of Central America and the Caribbean 'banana republics' because much of the land is owned by US food multinationals who supply cheap fruit to the rich imperialists by making sure the agricultural labourers receive only starvation wages.

Because these countries have little or no industrialisation they are heavily dependent on one agricultural crop and whole national economies respond to the violent swings of the commodity markets. It is clear why the US have to go to great lengths to support very repressive regimes.

Workers and peasants in Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada have successfully fought back, nationalising the land and property of their oppressors, removing unemployment and making health care and educa-



tion free to all. This is being done despite considerable intimidation directly or indirectly from the US.

Return

The weakness in the pamphlet is that we do not receive as bestial a picture of Somoza's Nicaragua as we should. His almost total control of the economy by personal ownership of 'everything from trash collection ... parking meters to importing Mercedes Benz', even his monopoly of blood during the earthquake of several years ago deserves a mention.

On the other hand a comment on the innovative step of the creation of a Ministry of Mass Mobilisation by the Grenadan New Jewel Movement in order to mass participation democracy would have been useful.

Workers

However, these weaknesses are more than made up for by the understanding of the way in which the 'Cuban revolution stands today as an example of what can happen when a government acts in the interests of the workers rather than private profits'.

The example of revolutions throughout Central America and the Caribbean are an inspiration to socialists everywhere. This pamphlet is a very convincing case for carrying out solidarity work with the revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada and now building it with the struggles in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Volcanoes and Hurricanes, Revolution in Central America and the Caribbean available from East London Socialist Challenge c/o PO Box 38, 136 Kingsland High St., London E8. Make cheques/POs payable to Hackney Book Group, 30p each + 13½p postage, bulk rates available on request.

Nicaragua—rush aid to the revolution!

By Brian Heron

183 MILLION dollars lost; 39 bridges destroyed or seriously damaged; 25 towns and villages cut off; sixty thousand people without roofs over their heads; 71 dead. These are the immediate results of the destruction of the devastating floods that hit Nicaragua between 21 and 26 May.

The effects on Nicaraguan agriculture are more serious over the longer term. 60 per cent of the maize crop has been destroyed, together with 300 hectares of vegetables; so too has 60 per cent of the banana crop in Chinandega (an important region for the crop), and 90 per cent of the cotton of the same region.

In the industrial sector 62 enterprises (41 nationalised and 21 privately owned) have been badly hit. This particularly affects the chemical, food and textile sectors.

This is a bitter blow to the Nicaraguan revolution. And, as the Sandinista leadership of the revolution has expected, out of human misery and devastation the new imperialist campaign against Nicaragua is taking shape. Edén Pastora, an old leader of the Sandinistas, has been stooging for the CIA in Costa Rica since earlier this year. But the last period has seen the flight of several leaders of the bosses' organisation COSEP out of the country. These include top capitalist leaders like Robelo and Dreyfus.

The imperialists are making big efforts to co-ordinate the forces of the counter revolution. It is no mystery where Robelo and Dreyfus line up. Their move is designed to aid the latest project of the imperialists — the creation of a government in exile. It is

hoped this way to give legitimacy to the enormously increased scale of armed incursions on Nicaragua's borders.

One such typical attack took place at Los Planes frontier post with Honduras, on April 26. Four guards were killed. One eye-witness commented, 'They were savage beasts and didn't know why they were fighting. They kill kids, mothers and old people and torture them. They fight only to kill; we fight for the workers and peasants revolution, for our Nicaragua.'

Story

These counter revolutionary bands (the 'contras') are also active inside the country. Their targets tell the whole story. 16 May was Popular Health day, which saw thousands of children vaccinated against polio. On the same day a 'brigadist' in a health team was slaughtered in Matagalpa region. On that occasion the 'contras' disguised themselves as members of a religious order.

These conditions explain the extension of the state of emergency. They also explain the urgency behind the official slogan for the May day celebrations 'defend the revolution for the construction of socialism'.

There has been a huge mobilisation to deal with



The Sandinistas have mobilised the people to combat the devastation of the floods

the disaster. And foreign journalists estimate tens of thousands have participated in rescue operations. Everywhere the contrast is drawn between the reaction of the Sandinista government and that of Somoza after the 1972 earthquake.

Aid

Somoza let the Nicaraguan people rot and pocketed the international aid. The Sandinistas have mobilised the mass organisations, the defence committees, the Sandinista youth organisation, the national women's organisation and the trade unions. The response of the people themselves, after their revolutionary experiences was described by Miriam Laslo from the Council of National

Emergency.

'The aid brigades, formed by the people themselves ... have themselves sought money, food, clothes and medicines to come to the aid of the distressed.'

Again, completely the opposite to the Somoza regime, the Sandinistas have hit hard at those who try to use the emergency to jack up prices. Two hundred merchants were recently sentenced by the government for their exploitation of 'prevailing market forces'.

Allies

On 19 July 1979 the Nicaraguan revolution, led by the Sandinistas, toppled Somoza. Three years into the revolution, not a day has passed when imperialism has not at-

tempted to reverse the process toward socialism unleashed by that event.

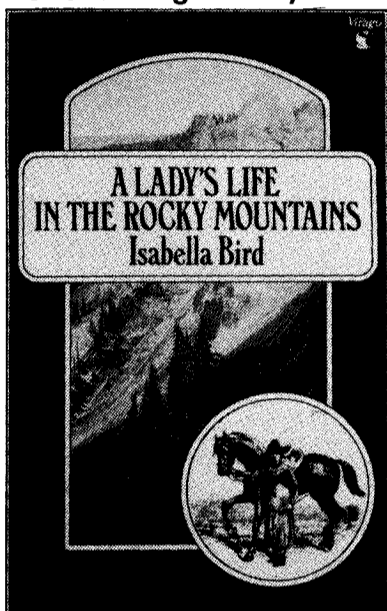
The revolution was born in the destruction of the '72 earthquake — although its political traditions have its roots in the Sandino movement and the Cuban revolution.

The conflict with the capitalist class internally and the imperialists externally is reaching its breaking point around the effects of the May floods.

In this struggle for the survival of their revolution, the Sandinistas and the Nicaraguan people look to their allies and friends. The trade union and labour movement of this country must not be deaf to their call.

Send aid c/o Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, 20 Compton Terrace, London N1.

What will you be doing with your spare moments now that the World Cup is over? Or better still what should you have been doing when the World Cup was on as the machos were glued in front of the TV listening to the comments of Brian Clough as if he were Tony Benn himself? To both questions the answer is the same — reading books. Ah, but what book? The staff of the Other Bookshop have compiled a guide for your holiday reading. Most of the books are fairly recent; other books mentioned in the list are bargain buys.



A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains

Isabella Bird
Published for the first time since 1880, the letters that make up this book tell of Isabella Bird's incredible journey through the Rocky Mountains with her 'dear desperado', Rocky Mountain Jim. £4.50 (1)

Nukespeak — The Media and the Bomb

Audrey Crispin & others
How the threat of the big bang is muffled by the media. John Pilger writes a stimulating introduction. £2.50 (2)

Wild Lilies, Poisonous Weeds

Gregor Benton
The very latest collection of the writings of the dissident movement in China. Informative and relevant. £4.95 (3)

Triumph of the People

George Black
The most comprehensive and factual account of the Nicaragua revolution. £6.95 (4)

Marx in London

Asa Briggs
The book of the TV programme. How to be a tourist in London and still feel revolutionary. £2.95 (5)

Six Red Months in Russia

Louise Bryant
Definitely not the book of the film, even though Diane Keaton's name features on the cover. Graphic observations of the Russian revolution. £2.95 (6)

Sweet Freedom

Bea Campbell & Anna Coote
What the well intentioned male radical is reading this summer. An account of the contemporary feminist movement. £1.95 (7)

Freedom at Midnight

Larry Collins & Dominique Lapierre
The story of the struggle for independence in India. Questionable politics but a good read and good value. £2.50 (8)



SUMMER READING

Big Red Songbook

Mal Collins et al
Forty-three big red songs for round the campfire, including 'Join the British Army' and 'Hallelujah I'm a Bum'. £1.95 (9)

Damnable Question

George Dangerfield
The best account of Ireland in the crisis years 1912-21. Beautifully written and at a special bargain price. £2.95 (10)

Britain in Decline

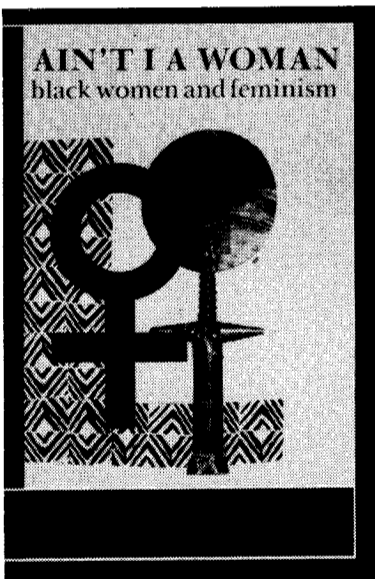
Andrew Gamble
A useful introduction to Britain's economic mess. Read it on a Greek beach. £4.95 (11)

Really Bad News

Glasgow University Media Group
The latest exposure of the bias in TV news from the excellent Glasgow group. A feature is an analysis of TV's coverage of the Labour Party. £2.95 (12)

The British Economic Disaster

Andrew Glyn & John Harrison
The best recent account of how British capitalism is making paupers of us all. Well, most of us. £2.95 (13)



Ain't I a Woman — Black Women and Feminism

Bell Hooks
An examination of the impact of sexism on black women during slavery, the historic devaluation of black womanhood, black male sexism, racism in the women's movement and black women's involvement with feminism £3.95 (14)

Black Jacobins

CLR James
This comes in the good value department. James' classic account of the 1791 slave revolt in the Caribbean. £4.95 (15)

Combined and Uneven Development

Michael Lowy
One of the very best of the last couple of years. An analysis and persuasive defence of Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution. £4.50 (16)

Trotsky, A Study in the Dynamics of his Thought

Ernest Mandel
Mandel explains the relevance and originality of Trotsky at a give-away price. £2.00 (17)

Darwin for Beginners

Jonathan Miller & Borin Van Loon
The latest in the 'Beginners' series. Buy one and grunt. £2.95 (18)



Jarrow March

Tom Pickard
Just out. The true story of the famous hunger march and the events leading up to it. £2.95 (19)

Poland: The State of the Republic

Edited by Michael Vale
Valuable source material. Two reports on the state of Poland in 1978 by a group of critical Party members and intellectuals. £4.95 (20)

The Summer Before the Frost

Jean-Yves Potel
Poland again. An eye witness account of the rise of Solidarity. Contains fascinating interviews with the leading participants. (21)

Ten Days that Shook the World

John Reed
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John Reed
Reed's account of the 1914 Mexican revolution. How journalism should be written. £2.50 (23)

The Fate of the Earth

Jonathan Schell
You've seen the TV adverts, it could be subtitled How Publishers Can Make a Bomb from the Bomb. Nevertheless, powerfully argued and relatively cheap. £1.95 (24)

Exterminism and Cold War

E P Thompson and others
The intellectual book on the bomb. Thompson and *New Left Review* renew old battles. £5.50 (25)

My Life

Leon Trotsky
The Penguin edition is a give-away price. Over 600 pages for under £2.00 (26)

Paupers' Paris

Miles Turner
The motto of the book is 'sleep cheap and eat well'. It also covers getting there, getting about there and the sights and shops. For paupers and cheapskates alike. £1.95 (27)

Nicaragua, the Sandinist Revolution

Henri Weber
A sympathetic study of the struggles and politics of the Sandinistas in power. £2.95 (28)

World View 1982

Pluto's political directory. Facts and more facts on whichever country you spend your holiday. £5.95 (29)

Fiction

Union Street

Pat Barker
The lives of seven working class women in the industrial North East. £2.95 (30)

Sturdy Black Bridges — Visions of Black Women in Literature

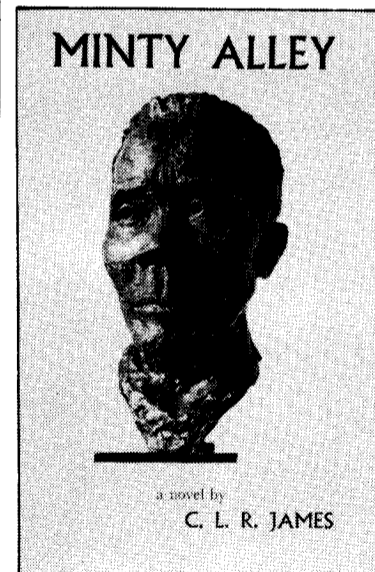
Roseann Bell et al
A collection of essays, interviews, stories, and poems illuminating the characterisation of black women in American, African and Caribbean literature. £5.95 (31)

Lesbian Fiction

Ely Bulkin
A collection of short fiction by contemporary lesbian writers (mainly American). Expensive but recommended. £5.40 (32)

USA

Dos Passos
Not so pricey if you consider that it's really three books in one and 1200 pages. Too often forgotten, Dos Passos' epic story of turn of the century America is a real classic not to be missed. £4.95 (33)



Minty Alley

CLR James
The only novel by CLR James. A good introduction to the 'Beacon' period of Caribbean literature. £2.70 (34)

Sula

Toni Morrison
The latest novel from this black American writer. £1.25 (35)

Gorky Park

Martin Cruz Smith
'The thriller of the 80's' set in Moscow. £1.95 (36)

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist

Robert Tressell
Another classic and good value book, Tressell reveals the truth of working class life during the Edwardian age. £1.95 (37)

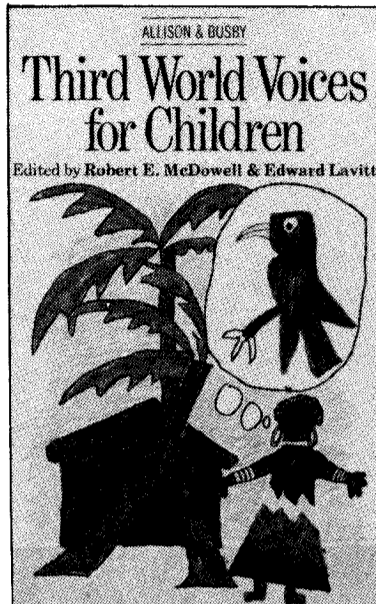
Any Woman's Blues

Mary Helen Washington
Collection of short stories by nine black women writers, including Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, and Frenchy Hodges. £3.50 (38)

Young People's Books

Come to Mecca and other stories

Farrukh Dhondy
Six stories about kids growing up in Britain today — at school and in the streets. 85p (39)



Third World Voices for Children

Robert McDowell & Edward Lavitt, editors
Anthology of 30 stories, legends, poems and songs from various third world countries. In particular covering folklore and customs of black peoples in different parts of the world. Suitable for ages 10-15. £2.50 (40)

The Stories of Vanishing Peoples

John Mercer
With illustrations by Cuban artist Tony Evors. Thirty-three stories, based on legends and folklore, from around the world, answering such questions as 'How did the Kalahari bushmen discover fire?' and 'Why are there mosquitoes in Japan?' Suitable for ages 4-14. £2.95 (41)

A Capital Guide for Kids

Vanessa Miles
A London guide for parents with small children. Sights to see, places to go in and around London. Also lists events that are FREE. £1.95 (42)

My Mate Shofiq

Jan Needle
A sensitive story about Bernard, a young white youth who finds himself getting involved defending the Pakistanis in his school and neighbourhood. £1.00 (43)

Space Seven Series

Sheffield Women and Education Group
A series of 4 non-sexist books, intended as supplementary readers to existing school reading. Aimed at the 7-8 year old, they tell the adventures in space of six children and a female alien (Space 7). 60p each (44)

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Women in the Paris Commune

By Jude Arkwright

'In rebellion alone woman is at ease, trampling upon both prejudice and sufferings.' Louise Michel, woman leader of the Commune of 1871.

IN 1871, the working people of Paris, to quote Marx, 'stormed the heavens'. For the first time in history, the dispossessed, and downtrodden proletariat, reached out for power. At the centre of that revolt were the most exploited and oppressed of all — the working women of Paris. Headed by women that the bourgeois historian, Maxime du Camp, dismissed as 'sinister females'; 'keen-tongued shrews' who were 'analogous to salamanders and elves', the women rose up against reaction.

They recognised the need more than anyone for sacrifice and heroism, and gave their all. They knew it was women who had least to lose and most to gain in the struggle against misery and degradation. Because they identified with the uprising to change the lives of everyone, they saw the need to set up organisations that exclusively catered for women.

they had been unorganised, and ignored by the overwhelming majority of male workers and even male revolutionaries. Proudhon, the French 'utopian socialist' had even written a thesis claiming women were inferior.

The women leaders of the Commune, Louise Michel, Nathalie Lemel, Victorine Brochon, Elizabeth Dmitreff and many others, attacked the men who had seen only the plight of the male working class, and had ignored all the other forms of social injustice in class society.

These women knew that their cause lay with the Commune. But they

also knew that women had to be prepared and encouraged to enter the male strongholds and to play a full and equal part in them. They saw the organisations of the women, not as rivals to the male-dominated organisations, but as a complement to them, and as a means of strengthening the revolutionary struggle of all workers.

In the Commune it was the women who insisted that the revolutionary movement discussed women's poverty, and their lack of civil rights. They raised the demand for equal wages, of the right to divorce, of the need for day-care and children's education.

Their clubs insisted on the duty of women to defend the barricades and to take up arms. One Communist described the women's clubs and committees as 'stockpiles of fire and courage'. The women of the Commune showed both by their demands, and by their actions, that not only could they fight against their oppression, but that they could fight the exploitation and oppression of all society.



Louise Michel in prison at Versailles 1871

By joining in the class struggle and fighting for their demands, as well as being the most active fighters for the emancipation of the workers, the women won a number of vital rights. However, the defeat of the Commune and the victory of reaction led to most of those gains being taken away.

It was almost 100 years before a new women's movement began to grow again in France on the native soil of the Commune. But the struggles of Louise Michel and her sisters in that glorious two months of 1871 inspired the women of the Russian revolution and are an example and an inspiration to every woman today who wants to free herself from the yoke of capitalist oppression.



Paris 1871



What is Trotskyism?

Fighting for the oppressed

Part three of our new series by JOHN ROSS

IF MARXIST theory is to be of any use it has to be a means of enabling us to understand what makes classes and groups in society act in a certain way.

It is no use just contemplating things — we can leave that to the academics — what we need to do is *change* things.

That is why we need a theory which shows us which social forces are going in the direction we think is needed, and therefore must be supported, and which social forces are against our aims, and must be opposed. As Marx put it, what is their 'law of motion'.

Marxism teaches us that we must be on the side of every progressive movement. This is why it has always been on the side of the exploited and the oppressed. When the underdogs fight back against their exploitation they weaken the power of the ruling classes, and encourage all other oppressed groups to oppose their exploitation.

This is why Marx was on the side of the North in the US civil war and why he said that one of his great heroes was Spartacus, the leader of the

slave revolt in ancient Rome. A future socialist society will recognise the heroic and inspiring struggle of Toussaint L'Ouverture, who led the black slaves of Haiti, in the first successful slave revolt in history.

The largest single crime of all in class society has been the oppression of women. For thousands of years they have been subjected to physical, psychological and legal oppression, abuse and often torture.

Ruling classes have attempted to educate women in particular, and society in general, that they are inferior to men. Anyone who has led a fight against such oppression whether it be on the vote, birth control, job opportunity or the right of women to exercise their own sexuality is supported by the marxist movement for doing that.

Every form of exploitation is opposed by marxists. It fights the barbarism of capitalist war. It revolts against society when it allows people to die and suffer because it refuses to spend enough money on medical care.

Marxism condemns a system of society which allows four million people in Britain to be unable to find a job to support

themselves. It is the fight against these denials of human rights which is the very embodiment of marxism. And marxism unhesitatingly places itself on the side of all those who fight against the degradation of exploitation and oppression. This is what Marx and Engels called marxism.

In the *Communist Manifesto* they wrote 'Communists ... have no interests separate and apart from those of the working class as a whole. They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own, by which to shape and mould the proletarian movement.'

The Communists are distinguished from the other working class parties by this only i) In the national struggles of the proletarians of the different countries, they point out and bring to the fore the common interests of the entire proletariat, independent of all nationality; ii) in the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through, they always and everywhere represent the interests of the movement as a whole ...

The theoretical conclusions of the Communists are in no way based on ideas or principles that have been invented, or discovered, by this or that would-be universal

reformer. They merely express, in general terms, actual relations springing from an existing class struggle, from a historical movement going on under our very eyes.

Engels explained what marxism is really about when he replied to a critic called Heinen. Engels wrote: 'Heinen imagines communism is a certain doctrine which proceeds from a definite theoretical principle as its core and draws further conclusions from that. Heinen is very much mistaken. Communism is not a doctrine but a *movement*; it proceeds not from principles but from *facts* ...'

Engels went on to explain 'Communism, insofar as it is a theory, is the theoretical expression of the position of the proletariat in this (class) struggle and the theoretical summation of the conditions for the liberation of the proletariat.'

In the *Communist Manifesto* there appears perhaps the best definition of what is marxism, and why we need revolutionary ideas. It reads: 'The Communists ... are on the one hand, practically the most advanced and resolute section of the working class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all the others; on the other hand, theoretically, they have over the great mass of the proletariat the advantage

MARX ENGELS

Manifesto of the Communist Party

PROGRESS Publishers
The guide to action by Marx & Engels

of clearly understanding the line of march, the conditions, and the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement.'

A marxist revolution is not someone who has read *Capital*, or the *Communist Manifesto*, but supports Jaruzelski when he cracks down on the Polish workers. Nor is it someone who finds all manner of excuses not to fight British imperialism over Malvinas. In the world of the class struggle you have to support the interests of the working class and its allies at all times. That is what revolutionary marxism is about and that is what marxist theory teaches us to do. This is why we ally ourselves with every struggle that raises the banner of the exploited and the oppressed.



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International Latin America's other crisis

THE developing revolutions in Central America and the threat of US invasion has dominated world politics over the last three years. But a new crisis is looming in the big Latin American states to the south and the north.

The Argentinian military dictatorship is in deep trouble after its failure to regain the Malvinas. Revolutionaries received one million votes in Mexico. In Brazil, the Workers Party (PT) is one of the most rapidly growing independent workers parties in Latin American history.

JOHN ROSS looks at the new developments in the United States 'backyard'.

ONE word sums up the economic situation of the big Latin American dictatorships today: debt. Debt on a mind boggling scale. Debt so large it threatens the bases of the international capitalist economic order itself.

Just one figure can illustrate that situation: the total of all debts owed to world banks by the world's 150 or so states is around 525 billion dollars. But almost one quarter of that, over 120 billion dollars is owed by two countries alone. They are Mexico and Brazil. Argentina owes another 36 billion.

These sums of money are so large that a failure by one of the largest Latin American states to pay its debts could literally bring the entire international banking system crashing down. This, coupled with the smaller debt from Poland, is probably the greatest single threat of 'catastrophe' faced by the imperialist economies today.

The Economist in its 1982 survey of world banking wrote of one recent scare: 'Brazil ... had teetered on the brink of rescheduling (its debt payments). It pulled itself round ... but left the feeling that disaster for the international bankers could be just around the corner. Poland looked big. Maybe this was it; the end of international finance as we know it.'

The last time there was such an international accumulation of debt as this was in the 1920s. Then it was United States internal borrowing and loans to Germany for it to pay its war debts. In 1929 there was a banking crash. And everyone knows where that ended!

This international debt situation is in fact just one of the first of the great fears of imperialism over the new Latin American crisis — one which has been highlighted graphically by the Malvinas.

Central America is a major political threat to imperialism. But a major crisis in the big Latin American dictatorships could economically wreck international capitalism as well.

the US backed its more important ally over the Malvinas but may have to face a new crisis to its south

It is little wonder that when Reagan entered the White House one of his first steps was to improve relations with the Argentinian, Brazilian, Chilean, and other Latin American military regimes. That is why although the United States had no choice but to back British imperialism over the Malvinas it is now looking with worried eyes at the political crisis unfolding in Buenos Aires. It backed its more important ally but may now have to face an even worse new crisis to its south.

The origins of this huge problem for imperialism which is now developing in Latin America are both economic and political.

Economically the 1970s was a decade when the major imperialist states turned to intensive investment in a small number of 'third world' countries. With workers in Europe and the United States judged to be too highly paid and militant, imperialism began to shift the location of important centres of industry. It chose countries with compliant political regimes and badly organised, and super-exploited workforces.

The result was a massive industrialisation of some of the Latin American states — as well as those in East Asia such as South Korea and Taiwan. By 1980, 37 per cent of the economy of Brazil was accounted for



Brazil: an end of the stability of the dictatorships?

by industrial production — a higher proportion than Britain. In Mexico the figure was the same. In Argentina, which had started its development earlier, industrial production reached 45 per cent of the economy.

The second reason for the vast increase in debt was political. After the victory of Castro in 1959 the United States became determined to build up the Latin American states to prevent any spread of the Cuban revolution.

The first arm of this was the seemingly unending series of military coups the US helped organise in Latin America — Brazil in 1964, Bolivia

the US became determined to build the Latin American states to prevent any spread of the Cuban revolution

in the same year and regularly thereafter, Uruguay in 1973, Chile in 1973, Argentina in 1976. These were aimed to crush the rising movement of the Latin American working class.

But to give these regimes stability they had to be given the possibility to achieve economic success. This was one of the aims of the colossal international loans to them throughout the 1970s.

There is no doubt that for a period this policy brought major results in terms of economic growth — although at the expense of appalling hardship for the working class. The Brazilian economy expanded continuously from 1964 onwards and by 1977-80 growth was averaging over 6 per cent a year. Chile grew at 7 per cent a year in the same

position of the military regime in that country is weakening from day to day they need only note that despite this situation it has now been forced to raise wages, cut interest rates and admit certain political liberties.

Finally for all the major Latin American states the 1980-82 world economic recession, deepened by the policies of Reagan in the United States, dealt a further crushing blow. The only possibility to repay the debt interest had been a major increase in exports — which had been achieved in the 1970s. But the international recession meant a stagnation, and then decline, of world trade in which the Latin American states could not compete.

The result was rapid economic decline in the last two years. Argentinian output fell 6 per cent in 1981 and then 4½ per cent in the first three months of 1982. Industrial production in Brazil fell by over 9 per cent in 1981. Stagnant exports, declining production, and soaring debts represented the end of the period of growth and with it the end of the stability of the dictatorships.

stabbed in the back by the very imperialists they served is a fitting epitaph indeed for these regimes

Stabbed in the back by the very imperialists they served is a fitting epitaph indeed for these regimes!

The industrialisation of Latin American states in the 1970s however has left significantly different societies to that of the time of the last great wave of struggles after the Cuban revolution. The most important Latin American states — Mexico, Brazil, Argentina — now have industrial working classes rivaling in size some of the imperialist countries.

But they have a position in the world economy, and an agricultural and service sector, which is that of semi-colonial countries. This explosive combination is what lay behind the growth of the Brazilian PT, and the huge vote for the revolutionaries in Mexico.

This decade has started with a great wave of revolutionary struggles in Central America. But it is not going to end there. Coming up behind with a slower tempo but even larger forces are the working classes of the big industrialising Latin American states. This is going to be one of the greatest developments of world politics of the 1980s.

four years, Uruguay at 5 per cent a year from 1974-80.

This economic growth was the reason why the military regimes continued to be stable despite their tremendous unpopularity. Repression is not enough to maintain order. But repression and rapid economic growth is an extremely powerful combination. Finally, as long as the economies, and their exports, were growing the international debt problem was manageable.

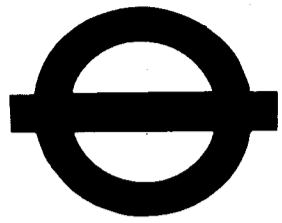
Ironically it is the Reagan administration in the United States, politically the greatest friend of the dictatorships, which has now helped plunge them into a deep crisis.

The high interest rates in the US economy, which set world interest rates, have now made the debt burden crippling. United States interest rates are 5 per cent above the 'worst possible variant' projections made by the Brazilian government. In Argentina debt repayments for 1982 are 4.5 billion dollars, international currency reserves only stand at 2 billion dollars, and 40 cents out of every dollar gained in exports goes simply into paying interest charges.

If anyone wants to understand why the

repression and rapid economic growth is an extremely powerful combination

Argentinian junta felt compelled to make a desperate bid to gain popularity by retaking the Malvinas from British imperialism they need only look at those last figures. If they want to see why the



LT workers brace themselves for new attacks

'DAVID HOWELL the transport secretary is convinced that there will have to be changes to provide a better service and greater value for money at a time of rapidly rising costs.' Sounds familiar?

It wasn't Howell speaking about British Rail but about London Transport. This shows the determination of the Tories to snatch London Transport from the relative protection of the Labour controlled GLC and set about dismembering the capital's transport service.

If the Tories were to get control of the budget while at the same time closing any remaining loopholes through which the GLC could raise finance from other sources, such as the rates, then the stage would be set for forcing LT's management to implement exactly the sort of productivity measures which are giving rise to such bitter opposition from the BR unions.

Avoid

In order to try and avoid these developments the Labour GLC want £337 millions on capital and £390 millions on subsidy for next year. The scale of the problem they face is that the figures for this year are £192 million and £188 million respectively. It seems that the Tories may be prepared to put up some if not all of this extra money. But anyone who imagines that there won't be strings attached is living in cloud cuckoo land. The productivity measures will be attached to this year's pay claim and will be linked to the outcome of the present joint union management working party set up in the wake of the recent strike against the introduction of reduced timetables.

On the Underground these strings fill a closely typed page entitled 'Measures to improve Efficiency'. They affect every grade and the 'fool gold' being offered for this little package is an extra 2 per cent on top of the original 5 per cent offer. At present both the management and the unions are giving evidence to the LT Wages Board. Their report is not expected until early August about the same time as the deadline for the outcome of the working party on the new timetables. Against the background of the set-back to the fight on the mainline, and the fact that their future is being decided in the impenetrable maze, of our negotiating structure, LT workers should be preparing to resist the re-introduction of the reduced timetables. This time they could well be 'sweetened' by a new pay offer which will look good in percentage terms. The sting will be in the very long tail of productivity strings attached to any offer. For the last 3 years the LT unions have by and large resisted the strings attached to the annual pay offer. This resistance must continue if the workforce is to effectively resist the new Tory onslaught.

Wandsworth bites the 'dust'

By Dave Benlow, branch secretary of NUPE Wandsworth district

LAST WEEK, Wandsworth Council agreed to privatise its refuse collection service with the loss of 216 council jobs. From September it will now be done by the multi-national 'Grand Met', joining Exclusive Cleaning (Southend and Eastbourne) and Pritchards (Wandsworth street cleaning) as the main industrial allies in the Tories' carve up of council services.

The Wandsworth disaster follows two months of strike action by the refuse collectors, accompanied at times by the whole workforce, manual

and white collar. But they returned to work, defeated.

One hundred dust pickets just could not persuade the rest of the

workforce to extend their support. Endless deputations to workers in other boroughs were equally doomed because the union leaderships did not campaign for supporting industrial action.

In the two years since Southend privatised its cleansing section, these leaders have offered no advice when faced with these problems. Our experience in Wandsworth

has shown that:

- you cannot compete with tenders offering loss leaders and high exploitation of workers

- you cannot negotiate your own conditions of work while under threat of privatisation

- industrial action combined with intense community propaganda is the only way the threat will recede

- such action will only

succeed if it is spread and co-ordinated on the widest level. Union leaderships should prepare all council workers to confront privatisation with industrial action

- the Labour Party should adopt a policy of no privatisations and make sure all its representatives abide by it

The council has now announced its intention to consider 'seeking tenders'

for every other department. All hell has broken out among sections of the workforce. One group of welfare drivers is seeking job security by trying to take over work currently done by the meals on wheels sections.

For two years the union leaders have refused to do anything about privatisation. Wandsworth is paying the price for this wilful neglect.

Sack her not protect her

By Bob Pennington

CADGING FAGS off the monarch is the limit and such goings on have to be stopped. Parliament was quite clear on that when it discussed the Buckingham Palace break in. Police advisor, Eldon Griffiths demanded 'no technical measures be excluded from future protection of the palace'. He probably favours water cannon, armoured cars and a few Harrier jets being deployed in the royal bedchamber — even if it means raising the ceiling!

Some of the more cost conscious, but nevertheless patriotic, backbench Labour MPs, suggested that even if Philip could not spend the night in the royal bedroom, he could help to earn his keep by sitting outside the door all night. This was rejected on the grounds that because of the uncertain hours her majesty kept, it would involve Philip working on a flexible roster.

But Roy Hattersley, Labour's voice of moderation was having none of that. Speaking for the Opposition

he announced its relief 'that no harm came to the Queen' and David Ennals spoke for the great British public saying it 'was shocked and staggered.' Both favoured better security, but none of them, strangely enough, suggested putting a fag machine on the wall which could have saved all the trouble in the first place.

Foot and Healey should be relishing the whole affair, which did more to shake confidence in Thatcher and Whitelaw than anything they have done from the front bench.

ch. But rumours that Labour is planning its own break-in to force the downfall of the Government can be discounted: the idea of Tony Benn sitting on the bed asking Elizabeth for a pipeful of tobacco appeared too improbable.

Three hundred and thirty three years after removing the head of Charles I in the name of progress, social democracy joins in the 'national outrage' at the violation of the privacy of his descendant. As long as these Labour leaders bow before this outdated feudal relic, called the monarchy, so will they help to maintain one of the means by which the establishment rules in Britain. We do not need to suspend the negligent coppers at Buckingham Palace: we should sack Elizabeth and her whole bloody family. With her experience she could easily get a job in a cigarette kiosk.



Put the tanks in her bedchamber

Massey Ferguson strike: First round to workers

By Steve Taylor, AUEW shop steward, Massey Ferguson, Manchester

THE DEVELOPMENT of our two-week strike, rejecting a pay offer of two per cent, took familiar lines. On 12 July, strikers received telegrams from local union officials urging them to attend a mass meeting on 14 July. Simultaneously, a company bulletin arrived, urging us to return to work and claiming there was a misunderstanding in our strike bulletin regarding the company's wage offer.

There seemed to be a certain amount of collusion between local officials and management. When local officials were contacted they stated that a directive had come from a national level instructing them to hold a mass meeting to get us back to work

On hearing this, we immediately issued a strike bulletin, before the mass meeting, countering management's bulletin and also the dubious game being played by the officials.

On the day of the mass meeting the local officials saw the mood of the workforce, who refused to listen to them. We decided to give another broadside

to the company. The stewards' committee said that instead of instructing members back to work, we should put to management our basic position: £5 on the basic rate with bargaining on the excess.

After a stewards' meeting with the company, with the workforce standing outside the gates in angry mood, the company capitulated and agreed to our demand. A vote was taken and a majority was for a return to work so that negotiations could resume.

This was seen as a victory which could strengthen our organisation, although we recognise there'll be more battles to come.

Football tour — altruism not cash?

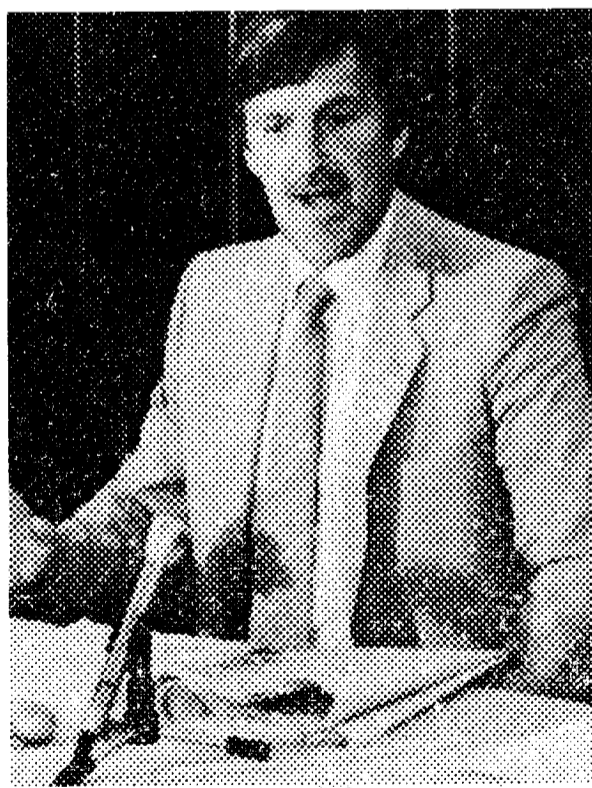
By Jeff King

EVERYBODY from Jimmy Hill, the players and the South African Breweries, had the best intentions in the world when they set up a tour of South Africa.

The fact that John Barnwell is a sacked and unemployed manager, that players like Mike Channon are on a 'free transfer' and that Smith of Spurs was hardly known to the Spurs' supporters, never mind the football world, did not allow cash to influence their altruistic desire to promote race relations on the South African football fields. Ted Croker, the Football Association's secretary was surely being harsh on these players when he said: 'The tour is nothing to do with morals: it is about money.' It is hard to believe that all that interested them was getting about £5,000 a game.

Advent

The South African Breweries have a reputation second to none when it comes to dealing with black people. Why, only a few weeks ago they faced a strike by their black labour force, selfishly demanding more money. Naturally the South African Breweries explained that they needed £890,000 to pay the overseas' footballers, whose tour was going to help black people, and therefore they had no money for wage increases. It is what is known as long-term interests being



Was money his goal in life?

more important than immediate gains.

Now the ungrateful blacks have gone and anchored the BBCs anchor man by getting three of the top black teams to refuse to play the collection of has-beens and never-weres.

Fortunately the whole tour, like Hill's financial adventure in American soccer, is collapsing around his

cars. We must remember however that had it been successful, apartheid would have been strengthened.

Surely that means the BBC ought at the very least to get a new anchor man for Match of the Day. Somehow, Hill's strictures about fair play on the field will have a disturbingly subtle effect

Tory Devon

THE TORY controlled Devon Education Committee is attempting to ban CND from using schools and colleges in the county. The Education Committee chairperson, Ted Pilley said that political organisations of a 'contentious' nature like CND should not be allowed to use council property and equipment 'on the rates'. A letter leaked to a local radio station from a former Tory party candidate to Pilley said the CND ban was needed because Tory fortunes were at a low ebb.

Devon CND has reacted to the ban and has set up a broad-based committee which has organised a petition and will be holding a mass lobby of the County Council on 29 July. On the same date a lobby of the County Hall at Exeter will take place. This is against the proposal to sack 60 teachers because the Council claims it failed to set aside enough money to meet the arbitration award of six per cent. The Council had only budgeted for four per cent and wants to make up the difference by the 60 sackings.

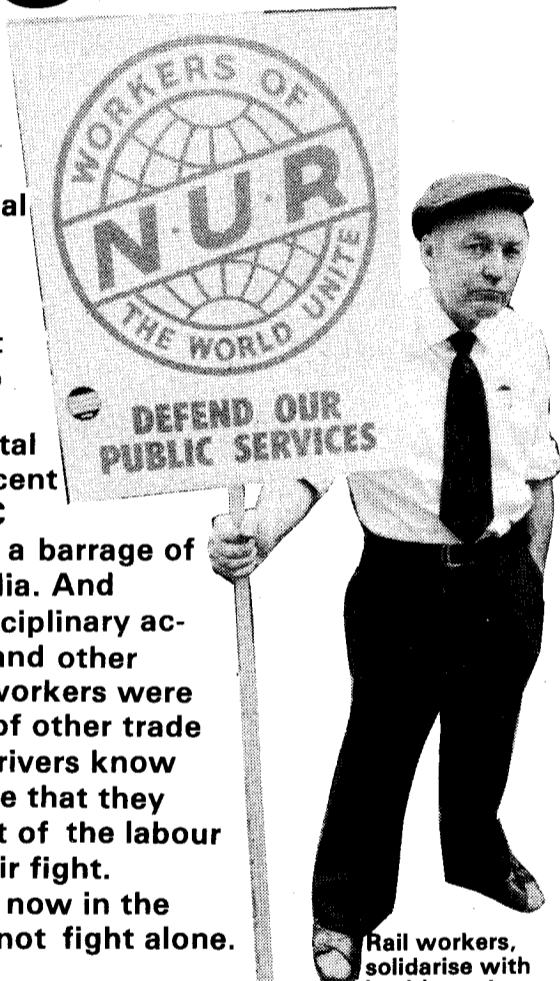
Devon teachers have voted to support no cover, and to take strike action next term. A campaign of letter writing by parents and teachers to local councillors is also being organised.

Like the campaign against the ban on CND the fight against the teacher's sackings needs the support of everyone active in the labour movement.

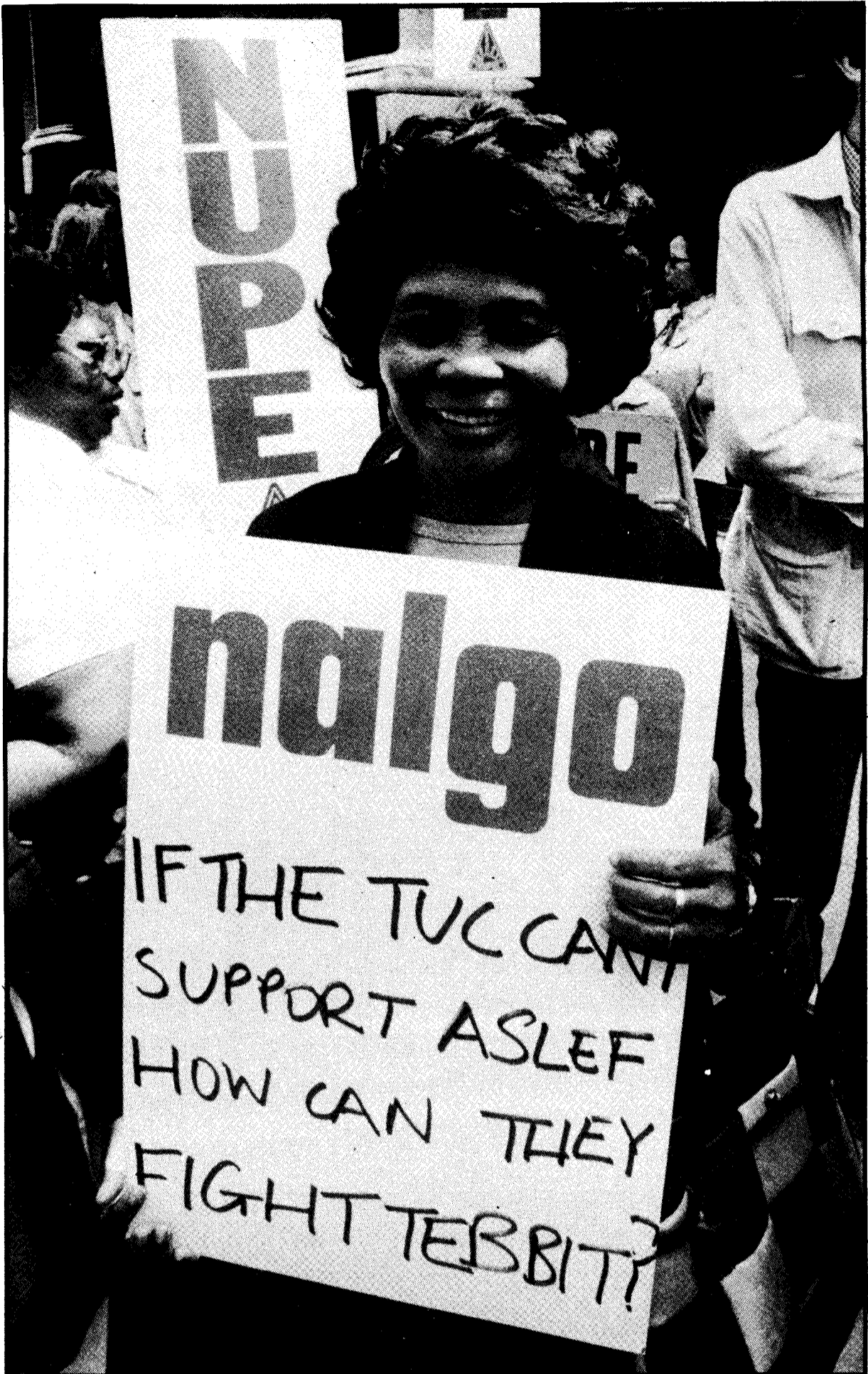
Socialist Challenge

They must not fight alone

HUNDREDS of thousands of health workers took to the streets and the picket lines this week. The three day industrial action was the latest step in the campaign of health workers to fight for a 12 per cent pay increase and help save the NHS. The response of the hospital workers was magnificent in the face of the TUC sell out of ASLEF and a barrage of attacks from the media. And despite threats of disciplinary action to civil servants and other workers, the health workers were joined by thousands of other trade unionists. The train drivers know from bitter experience that they needed the full weight of the labour movement to win their fight. Hospital workers are now in the front line. They must not fight alone.



Rail workers, solidarise with health workers.



Healthworkers are only too aware that they need the full backing of trade union leaders to win their claim. Now the betrayal of ASLEF leaves a bitter taste in the mouth.



Round the country hundreds of thousands of workers demonstrated their opposition to Thatcher and Tebbit.

**HANDS OFF THE PLO!
ISRAEL OUT OF LEBANON!**

**National demonstration
Saturday 31 July**

Assemble Hyde Park, Speakers Corner 12.30pm.
March to Trafalgar Sq for rally at 2.30.

Further information from Palestine Solidarity Liaison Committee c/o IHS, Oxford House, Derbyshire St, London E2.

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