

workers' ACTION

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10p

CARTER

DECLARES WAR

PRESIDENT CARTER has mobilised the forces of the American Federal state to try to break the strike by 160,000 organised miners in the Appalachian coalfields.

He has invoked the hated 1947 Taft-Hartley Act to order striking miners back into the pits for an 80-day 'cooling-off' period.

Once the 80-day injunction is issued later this week, Federal food stamps to strikers — who get no strike pay — will be cut off.

The attempt to starve out the miners will be backed up with criminal and civil proceedings against "a large number of individuals", distraught of local and national union funds, and arrest of defiant pickets and rank and file leaders for contempt.

At the same time, the use of troops and police to move scab coal will be stepped up.

After three months on strike, the miners now face a desperate and bloody struggle for survival.

The strike was provoked by the coal owners, who hoped to weaken the miners and impose their terms: new shift systems and incentive schemes, abolition of cost-of-living protection, weakening of mine safety committees, penalties for absenteeism, and above all the contractual right to fine and suspend 'wildcat' strikers and sack their 'ringleaders' with no right of appeal.

These terms were agreed by union leader Arnold Miller a month ago, but, under angry rank and file pressure, the contract was thrown out by the union's 39-man bargaining council.

With coal stocks dwindling and power shortages threatening lay-offs in steel and car plants, Carter stepped in two weeks ago. Reluctant at that stage to risk taking on the miners, he pressured the coal bosses to back-



track on parts of their contract. The incentive go-aheads were taken out, cost-of-living rises partly restored, and the strike penalties watered down. The union leadership accepted, and sent PR teams to the coalfields to sell the deal.

But last weekend the miners threw it out by more than two to one [77,900 to 34,000]. Other than a 10% per year pay rise for the next three years, the contract gave them none of their demands for higher pensions for older miners, restoration of free medical services, and the right to strike over local grievances [chiefly safety].

The miners are in no mood to knuckle under and obey

Carter's instruction. Three times in its history their union has defied Taft-Hartley injunctions, and gone on to win. Already during this strike, miners have ignored dozens of court orders against picketing.

From this week, a situation of open class war will be declared in the 12 coal-mining states.

On the one side, the united bosses of the world bastion of capitalism. Behind the coal bosses stand powerful interests out to make an example of the coal miners, lest their victory be an inspiration to American labour. They wield powerful weapons — the press, the courts and jails, the cops, the National Guard and ultimately the army, and unlimited financial resources.

On the other side, re-

Longbridge: the start of a fight back

800 WORKERS at Leyland's Longbridge works have started a fight-back against the Edwardes job-cuts.

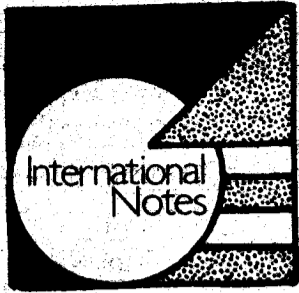
Under the new plan for Leyland announced by chairman Michael Edwardes, at least 12,500 jobs are due to go. In Longbridge, management have announced that they are axing over 1700 jobs for a start.

The "de-manning" began on Monday 27th. All over the factory, men were taken off the tracks and put into a "holding pool". They are supposed to remain there, being used as sick reliefs, until natural wastage creates vacancies to slot them back into.

In several sections there were outbursts of resistance. About 200 workers from the Cabs marched to the Works Committee office to demand some action. A Longbridge joint shop stewards' meeting has already voted to condemn the senior stewards' backing for the Edwardes plan — but the Works Committee remained firmly on the bosses' side.

On Thursday, however, 800 workers in the sub-assembly shop in the West Works voted to refuse to allow management to move 130 men off the job.

continued page 2



STRIKES CRIPPLE SPRINGER

THE WEST GERMAN bosses, scarcely recovered yet from their panic about terrorists, now face a stronger enemy: the working class in action.

The country's newspapers have been disrupted by a wave of strikes and lockouts of printworkers. The print union IG-Druck und Papier announced last Thursday (March 2nd) that it was calling a 48-hour strike at all plants of the Axel Springer group. The huge and notoriously right-wing Springer group

was described by the union as the "hard core" of the employers' stubborn stand.

Unlimited strikes have been called at four newspaper publishers, where ballots among union members produced majorities of between 83% and 99% in favour of the stoppage.

The dispute is about 'new technology' in the print industry. Computerised phototypesetting machines, which can set up to one million charac-

ters in an hour, are being replaced by machines which did about 6,000 an hour. According to the union, 35,000 jobs have already been lost.

The union demanded that all work on the new machines should be done by printers, that all printers who lost their jobs should be re-employed, and that jobs on the new machines be paid at the present compositors' wage rates.

On 21st January the union's chief negotiating committee en-

dorsed an outline deal with the employers, which was embodied in the Mayschoss agreement of 25th January. When the rank and file heard about the Mayschoss proposal, however, it reacted so angrily that the negotiating committee was forced to throw the deal out.

According to the Mayschoss proposals, compositors made redundant would get jobs on the new machines, but only until 1988. Journalists would also be allowed to use the new machines, and compositors would be allowed to work on the old machines only until 1988.

IG-Druck und Papier's narrowly craft-conscious demands — jobs for printers only — don't adequately answer the problem of unemployment, even for the print industry. But the combativity of the rank and file printworkers, following on the docks strikes and backed up by unrest in the engineering industry, is a sign that West Germany's industrial peace is nearing its end. **PETE FIRMIN**

Unions take action on Apartheid

THE Anti-Apartheid Week of Trade Union Action, backed by the TUC, begins on 13th March:

The Leyland combine committee has pledged its support to blacking during the week, and the Solihull plant stewards have decided to black Land Rovers to South Africa. Other activities planned include:

□ British Library CPSA is enforcing a boycott of South Africa for the week, stopping all responses to enquiries, etc.

□ The London Co-Operative Society is banning the sale of South African produce for the week.

□ The print union NAT-SOPA has proposed that the TUC Printing Industries Committee ban all South African ads for the week.

□ There will be pickets of South Africa House from 1pm to 2pm each day of the week, sponsored by various trade union organisations.

□ Broadside Mobile Workers' Theatre has produced a new programme of song, sketches, readings, poetry and slides on the anti-apartheid struggle; it will be available during and after the week of action, and Broadside can be contacted at 58 Holbein House, Holbein Place, London SW1 (450 6992 or 730 5396)

□ There are also dozens of local meetings and pickets of Barclays Bank.

Namibia: Elections at gunpoint

FOR THE last six years some areas of Namibia, like Ovambo-land, have been ruled under martial law by 12,000 to 20,000 South African troops.

Leading the resistance to Apartheid's army are 3,000 soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (the military wing of the South West Africa People's Organisation). Thousands of supposed SWAPO supporters have been detained and tortured by the South African military and security police.

ways demanded the complete withdrawal of the South African army before any elections could be held. But South Africa, which rules Namibia in defiance of UN resolutions, has insisted that its forces should not be reduced below 4,000. Pretoria argues that the presence of its troops is necessary to prevent intimidation!

The situation in Ovambo-

land is crucial here. It is the centre of the military struggle, and holds 400,000 of Namibia's 900,000 population. It has added importance for the South African whites as it is right on the border with Angola, where the Vorster government is still supporting anti-MPLA guerrillas.

The South Africans are trying to keep their hold by

providing doctors and teachers, and transport along waterlogged roads — and, more importantly, by intimidating and terrorising the Ovambos with their armed presence and through an "industry of informers".

Only by fighting to drive out this army of occupation can the people of Namibia gain the freedom to decide their own future.

... backed by terror

THE GATHOLIC Institute for International Relations and the British Council of Churches have recently published a report by two senior churchmen, which exposes the torture methods of the South African police in Namibia (South West Africa). Not surprisingly, the report was banned by the South African authorities.

The report contains twelve sworn statements from people who include students, a nurse, a Lutheran pastor, a farmer and a village head-man. They were all tortured at the Security Police headquarters at Oshakati. Their statements are supported by medical evidence. The report also includes a

translation of the report in which the authors describe the existence of torture.

The police methods include electric shocks to the head, hips and genitals; sleep deprivation; isolation; and standing for long periods in positions of acute discomfort in corrugated iron "oven" huts under the sun.

The report quotes a banned Church circular which contains advice on what to do if tortured or threatened with torture. Its South African authors have already been questioned by the Security Police, and their only hope for protection is that they were ignorant of the report's publication in Britain. Foreign Secretary David Owen expressed his horror

at the facts in the report — but refused a call by Amnesty International to investigate them.

At a press conference, Anglican Bishop Richard Wood said there was evidence of torture going back to 1972. "In every case where people are brought up by the police on charges that affect either the political situation or the security situation, you invariably find that at some time or other they are brutalised by their interrogators."

★ "Torture: a cancer in our Society" is available, price 50p, from the Catholic Institute for International Relations, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1.

LONGBRIDGE STRIKE AGAINST THE EDWARDES PLAN... from front page.

On Monday 6th, in one of the last operations of the "demaning" project, management ordered the men off the job. The whole shop stopped work, and all 5,000 workers on the Allegro were laid off from 2.30pm on Tuesday 7th.

At a meeting of the strikers on Tuesday, the Works Committee proposed we go back to work and accept management's job cuts. We refused.

To win, this struggle has got to be spread to the other sections in Longbridge. No loss of jobs, defence of 'mutuality', and work-sharing under workers' control with no loss of pay, should be the general slogans. If the bosses win this round, then there will only be more job cuts,

more speed-ups, and more attacks on union organisation to come.

PETE LEYDEN, 7th March.

ON THURSDAY 2nd, workers on the Red and Blue shifts in the West Works at Longbridge were told that they had lost their lay-off pay entitlement for the next three months.

The reason was that they had taken unconstitutional action — namely, an overtime ban. Management said the procedure agreement had been broken, but the procedure says nothing about overtime being part of your normal work.

The West Works have thus become the first Longbridge workers to sample the benefits of the new 'Security of Earnings' deal. This deal, with its notorious 'no strike' penalty clauses, has been imposed on Leyland workers despite being voted out in January 1977.

The Cowley Body and Assembly plants have voted to fight against the implementation of this scheme. Any section that is laid off without pay because of this deal should refuse to return to work without being guaranteed full lay-off pay.

AN INCENTIVE TO AXE JOBS

LEYLAND workers will be voting soon on the company's new incentive scheme, supposed to be part of the 'corporate bargaining' package accepted last year.

The scheme is so bad that not only senior stewards, but even right wing officials like Terry Duffy, say it should be rejected. But, instead of fighting the scheme, the union leaders have just washed their hands of it. They have proposed no fight for an alternative method of getting pay rises, and they have not so far organised any campaign against the scheme.

Thus there is a serious danger of the scheme being accepted.

The scheme is conditional on the company having freedom for the application of 'industrial engineering techniques and results'; that is, they will have the right — on paper, at least — to impose new lay-outs, to cut manning levels, and to impose speed-up, without having to get

prior union agreement.

The current 'compromise' proposal is to run the incentive scheme for a six-month trial period. But six months will be quite long enough to introduce serious job cuts and speed-up — which will continue afterwards whether the incentives continue or not!

The company says the bonus "could be up to £8 per week". But the deal would leave it in the hands of management to reduce or cut off bonus payments more or less at will.

The bonus will be calculated on the basis of production norms set out in the management 'business plan' — decided by the management, without negotiation or consultation. The scheme can be withdrawn at any time if management say it is causing industrial action or quality problems, or is being abused.

So if Leyland workers decide the bonuses are not being paid

out fairly, and strike in protest, then they lose the money anyway!

In addition, the scheme is plant-based so that one track falling short can lose the bonus for everyone. Bonus will be stopped if production is interrupted for any reasons at all: breakdowns, epidemics, shortages of supplies, or external strikes.

The money is to be calculated monthly: there is a 'bad week' adjustment, but this would not cover a bad week caused by industrial action of any sort within the plant or 'non-cooperation with measures to achieve production schedules or to deal with surplus manpower situations'.

JIM DENHAM

AT THE END of last year the Socialist Workers Party joined with a number of Labour celebrities such as Ernie Roberts and the recently-converted Peter Hain to launch the Anti-Nazi League.

The new organisation pointed to the growing danger represented by the National Front: "For the first time since Mosley in the thirties, there is the worrying prospect of a Nazi party gaining significant support in Britain". The aim of the ANL was to "unite all those who oppose the growth of the Nazis in Britain, irrespective of other political differences". A large number of 'names', from film stars to football managers and including about 40 MPs, have endorsed this statement, ensuring it some coverage in the media.

The ANL set out "to organise on the widest possible scale against the propaganda and activities of the Nazis in Britain today". And at Ilford an ANL leaflet argued that "We now are on the threshold of organising a mass campaign against the Nazis, and the eyes of the movement are on each and every one of us".



When it comes to action against the Front, however, the big-name sponsors of the ANL — with the exception, in Ilford, of Peter Hain — are nowhere to be seen. The foot soldiers are the SWP and people drawn in by the SWP, and no-one else.

The central problem with the ANL is that it consists of famous celebrities, the professors and the playwrights, to no action at all; and meanwhile it commits the revolutionaries of the SWP to limit their propaganda to what is acceptable to the liberals, or even to act as a mouth-piece for the liberals, as Paul Holborrow has done over McNeen's ban on marches.

According to Neil Kinnock MP, speaking at the founding press conference of the ANL, it is "an alternative to street-fighting". As the anti-fascist struggle develops, the ANL and the SWP are going to face a dilemma. Either the SWP goes along with — and justifies, and gives 'revolutionary' credibility to — the line of the liberals: no confrontations, leave it to the police. Or the SWP continues the battle to drive the Nazis off the streets — and risks exploding the delicately-balanced unity of the ANL.

In practice the ANL operates in a highly sectarian fashion. It has arbitrarily

The dilemmas of the Anti-Nazi League

excluded important sections of the labour movement, such as the Communist Party and the non-SWP revolutionary left. SWP members — where they have previously been active — have pulled out of existing united-front anti-racist and anti-fascist campaigns.

From this point of view, the ANL has as often as not had a harmful and divisive effect on anti-fascist work. For all their public protestations to the contrary, the SWP are using the ANL to establish their own front organisations in competition with existing united-front committees.

It is true that large quantities of anti-NF leaflets are being produced and distributed through the ANL. But does this ANL propaganda really cover the central political problems?

Unfortunately not. While Merlyn Rees is blandly admitting that the immigration laws are there to keep blacks out of Britain; while Thatcher's Tories rant about the need for tighter controls; and while the National Front's main rallying-cry is for the 'repatriation' of blacks — the Anti-Nazi League has nothing to say on the immigration controls issue, other than factual replies to some NF lies.

This is the same sort of liberal anti-fascist propaganda which official Labour Party leaflets provide (though the ANL leaflets are much better got out and more hard-hitting). Sometimes it is useful as far as it goes. But it is limited. It attacks the Nazis without attacking the capitalist system that breeds them. It attacks the effects without attacking the cause.



Revolutionaries should strive for a united front with all tendencies in the labour movement — Stalinists, Zionists, even people who support immigration controls — when it is a matter of definite practical action against the fascists: a demonstration, a picket, arrangements to protect a meeting or picket line. But we must have our own clear revolutionary answers, explanations, and policies on fascism and the problems that fascism exploits. In the long run, fascism will be destroyed only without fighting racism, nationalism, unemployment, and the capitalist system itself.

'March separately, strike together' is the traditional slogan of the united front. But the ANL is the opposite. The SWP march under the

banner of the liberals; but when it comes to striking against the fascists, the SWP are left on their own, or are held back by their liberal allies.

Some SWPers have justified the welcome for the police ban on marches given by leading SWP member Paul Holborrow on the grounds that Holborrow was speaking on behalf of the ANL, not the SWP. In other words, they advise us: when you hear a SWP member speaking, take care. He may be talking dangerous nonsense. It all depends what 'hat' he is wearing!

This sort of double-think belongs better with the Stalinists than with a would-be revolutionary organisation. And indeed the ANL is very similar to a tactic used by the Communist Parties in the early 1930s.

Then, the CPs (like the SWP today) preferred go-it-alone action to labour movement unity against the fascists. But, alongside that, they organised show Congresses against Fascism, in which they 'united' with all manner of 'anti-fascist' professors, novelists, pacifists, and other celebrities.

Those Congresses led to no real united action; they merely weakened the anti-fascist struggle by leading

End racist attacks!
Stop police harassment
WOLVERHAMPTON
ANTI-RACIST
Committee demonstration,
Saturday 11th
March. Assemble
2.30pm, Chapel St,
off Dudley Rd. Rally
4.15pm.

activists to think that the showy array of liberal intellectuals was a real bulwark against the Nazis.

The ANL's results will not be so immediately tragic as in the '30s: the fascists are much weaker now than then. But on the other hand the CPs in the '30s, with the backing of the USSR, were in a stronger position to put on such anti-fascist shows than the SWP today.

The ANL is much more fragile. One sign of this was a little item in 'Socialist Worker' on 17 December. "One Labour MP, Maurice Orbach, has withdrawn his name from the list of sponsors of the newly-formed Anti-Nazi League. He gave as his main reason the involvement in the Anti-Nazi League of Peter Hain, whom he accused of supporting Palestinian and anti-Zionist causes".

The SWP is certainly more strongly anti-Zionist than Peter Hain (and rightly so). Either Mr Orbach was not aware of the SWP's involvement in the ANL, or he did not know the SWP's attitude on Zionism. In any case the ANL will be very shaky indeed if there are many other sponsors like Mr Orbach.

And at the next Lewisham-type clash there will be trouble with the sponsors who have signed up only because they think the ANL is a way to curb the militant anti-fascists.

The fascists are beginning to shape up as a real threat to Labour Party activists, Labour Party meetings, and Labour Party votes. That opens opportunities for anti-fascist united fronts on a much wider scale than previously.

The ANL can make a positive contribution only if it drops its present approach. Instead it could use its array of sponsors to set up a national conference of anti-fascist activists, at which a democratic coordinating committee for joint action could be elected, leaving the different tendencies taking part with the right to organise their own activities and propaganda in addition.

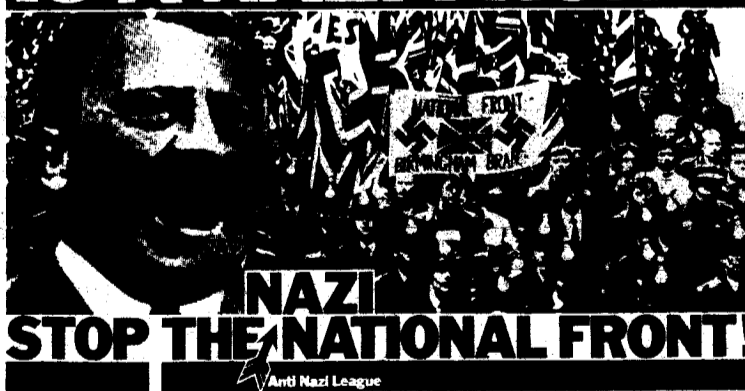
JAMES RYAN

"The Anti-Nazi League shows how, without in any way diluting our politics, we can be the initiating centre and driving force of one kind of broader movement" — Socialist Workers Party Central Committee resolution, 11 January 1978.

"The ban [on all political marches in London for two months] was imposed because of the growing strength of the anti-fascists and there is no doubt that it is a victory" — Paul Holborrow, leading SWP member, speaking as secretary of the Anti-Nazi League to 'Socialist Worker', 4 March 1978.

"Many anti-fascists welcomed the police ban that stopped the National Front march in Ilford... This is understandable but wrong" — 'Socialist Worker' editorial, 4 March 1978.

THE NATIONAL FRONT IS A NAZI FRONT!



Cowley defence gets under way

AFTER HEARING victimised shop steward Alan Thornett describe the TGWU bureaucrats' witch-hunt against him and eight other Cowley militants, Rover Solihull stewards have voted full support to the defence campaign.

The TGWU regional officials' verdict is expected soon. Meanwhile plans are going ahead for a defence committee to be based on TGWU branch-

es and stewards' committees. And Alan Thornett's section in the Cowley works has declared that it will "not tolerate any interference with Alan Thornett's shop steward's card or his membership of the union".

'Socialist Worker', in its last issue, has finally come out against the witch-hunt. But the 'Morning Star' is still silent. In TGWU 5/908

branch. In Birmingham, a resolution in support of the Cowley militants was ruled out of order on the initiative of Jack Jones, a former member of the Longbridge Works Committee, while CPers in the branch sat silent.

◆ ◆
A JUDGE decided in the High Court last Thursday March 2nd

that £22,500 damages should be awarded against the publishers of a pamphlet — because the pamphlet had accused EETPU General Secretary Frank Chapple of gagging criticism within the union. "I am indignant for Mr. Chapple", said Judge Lymbery.

The pamphlet, titled "The Ugly Face of Chapple's Union", was published by SW Litho Ltd.,

which is now in liquidation.

Mr. Chapple's regime in the EETPU includes not only the punitive prosecution of left-wing critics, but also the suspension of several branches: the Cardiff and West London Supply branches were suspended just before the Rules Revision Conference last year, and the Swindon branch has been suspended for two years.

FRANCE GOES TO THE POLLS

CP — abject quest for bourgeois approval

EVER SINCE the Second World War, the Communist Party has been one of the strongest parties in France. With over six hundred thousand members, it has in fact been the only mass-membership party. Generally it has got about 20% of the votes; opinion

polls currently give it 21%. Yet since 1947 the CP has never had a place in the government. More and more the bourgeoisie is admitting that the CP has fully proved its respectability, yet it still feels unsafe with the CP in a way it does not feel about the Soc-



Marchais

ialist Party (or, in Britain, the Labour Party).

The CP's continuing links with the USSR are a cause for suspicion for the bourgeoisie, which still does not understand how capitalism was destroyed in Eastern Europe after World War Two. And at rank and file level the CP still has militants who believe that the party leaders' careful moderation is all for show, and that the CP will take up arms against the bourgeoisie when the day comes.

After being one of the world's most pro-Moscow parties in the 1950s and early '60s, since 1968 the French CP has become one of the most "Eurocommunist" parties. It has given official backing to campaigns in support of dissidents in Eastern Europe. It has openly disavowed the dictatorship of the proletariat and said it is ready to work within NATO. It is in favour of France having nuclear weapons.

In 1972 the CP made an alliance with the Socialist Party and the Left Radicals — the 'Union of the Left'. Last year the CP broke up the alliance, and there were all sorts of theories about the CP moving back to a more left wing, or more Moscow-linked, line.

The fact that the CP has meanwhile been quite ready to ally with a small group of left Gaullists should demolish those theories! The real explanation for the CP's about-turn is less dramatic.

Since 1972 the Union of the Left has brought tremendous gains to the Socialist Party — and very few to the CP. The CP wants to redress the balance.

So far the CP has refused to make its usual commitment to withdraw less favourably-placed CP candidates in favour of the SP at the second round of voting.

After the first round, on March 12th, there will be frantic wheeling-dealing.

The CP will demand that a lot of Socialists stand down, in return for CP candidates withdrawing where Socialists are clearly in the lead. In that way the CP hopes to make sure of getting enough parliamentary seats to make it impossible for Mitterand to form a government without CP ministers.



Mitterand

claimed to be a Socialist, took the party in hand. Revived and reorganised, the SP is now in electoral terms the strongest party in France.

It has expanded its membership and regained some trade union links, but it still remains much more middle class in its composition than the CP.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY was the first mass party of the working class in France, before the First World War. All its main leaders supported the War, but afterwards the Party swung sharply to the left, and in 1920 the majority voted to affiliate to the Communist International and change the party's name to the Communist Party.

Only a rump of about 30,000 members carried on under the name of the Socialist Party. But mainly through the disastrous Stalinist policies of the CP, the SP had recovered sufficiently by 1936 to become the governing party at the head of the Popular Front.

At the beginning of World War Two the majority of the SP parliamentary deputies voted first to expel the CP deputies from the Assembly, then to grant full powers to the Nazi stooge Petain.

When the labour movement revived after World War Two, the SP was clearly very much weaker than the working class than the CP. It lost its base in the trade unions, and became more and more a purely parliamentary bourgeois party. It was fiercely anti-Communist; it was behind the Suez expedition, supported France's war in Algeria and backed de Gaulle.

By the late 1960s its membership was down to 60,000, and about two-thirds of those were local councillors or officials. In the 1969 presidential election it reached its lowest ebb; its candidate had just 5% of the vote.

At that point François Mitterand, a veteran bourgeois politician who had never previously



OVER THE LAST thirty years, Labour and Social-Democratic parties have become normal governing parties in many advanced capitalist countries. But since 1947 there have been no government places for the Communist Parties

[with the minor exception of Finland and Iceland].

That wasn't because the ministers in France and Italy in 1944-47 had done anything too radical. On the contrary in France they backed de Gaulle, in Italy they supported

ON SUNDAY March 12th the first round of the French general election will take place. According to opinion polls, the Left — Communist Party and Socialist Party — has a 51-45 lead over the ruling Right wing alliance. But the final outcome of the election may depend on the parties' manoeuvring before the second round of voting on March 19th.

Under French election law, a candidate is elected in the first round only if he or she gets over 50% of the votes. Otherwise the candidates with less than 12½% of the votes are eliminated and there is a second round.

Generally the second round is a run-off between the best-placed candidates of Right and Left, with all the less successful candidates on either side stepping down. This means that it is practically impossible for any party in France to gain much strength in parliament unless it has an alliance with other parties.

COLIN FOSTER describes the major parties competing in these elections.

A rising share of left votes

THERE WILL BE over 700 revolutionary candidates in the French elections. The Trotskyists of *Lutte Ouvrière* are putting up candidates in all 470 constituencies of mainland France; the *Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire*, another Trotskyist current, has organised a joint slate of 250 candidates with two smaller revolutionary organisations, the OCT and the CCA.

LO's election posters say: "Vote against the right... but don't give a blank cheque to Mitterand or Marchais... Vote LO... You will be voting for the left, while warning Mitterand and Marchais that you don't accept their sell-outs... Elect LO candidates. They will be a different sort of left-wing deputy... We will be able to hear the voice of rank and file workers resounding in Parliament..."

The LCR's posters have a different emphasis: "Down with Giscard, Barre, Chirac and all the right wing candidates... In the second round, let's put all our votes behind the best-placed workers' candidate. But in the first round, vote against division, against any form of

austerity... vote for your demands, for workers' unity, for a government at the service of the workers... vote for the candidates of the *Ligue Communiste Révolutionnaire*..."

The revolutionaries should be able to get a sizeable share of the vote: In 1969 Alain Krivine of the *Ligue Communiste* (first runner of the LCR) got 1.1% of the votes in the presidential elections. In the 1973 general election the LCR and LO as candidates in 263 constituencies and got 2.1% of the vote. They were two revolutionary candidates — one from the LCR, one from LO — in the 1974 presidential election, and between them they got 2.7% of the vote.

And in the municipal elections of March 1977, joint LCR-LO-OCT slates got 5.5% of the votes in over 30 cities.

The other candidates outside the main right-wing and left-wing blocs who are likely to get a sizeable vote are the 'ecologists', campaigning against the destruction and pollution of the environment by the irresponsible and unplanned use of technology. It is generally reckoned that most of the 'ecologist' votes will go to the left in the second round.



the monarchy. But by 1947 the bourgeoisie reckoned the CP had done its job in re-establishing bourgeois state authority on stable foundations after world war 2. Spurred on by the cold war, the bosses gave the Stalinist ministers their cards.

There will soon, probably, be 'Communist' ministers again. As the French general election approaches, a new government is being formed in Italy which will include some pro-CP 'technicians' in return for the open support of CP votes in Parliament.

The 'Communists' will be in the ministries because the workers have been on the streets. Since 1968 the traditional right-wing parties have

been increasingly unable to rule the roost alone. More and more the bourgeoisie is coming to think that 'Communist' ministers might be better able to extract 'sacrifices' from the workers than the traditional right-wing politicians.

Scouting their chances, the CP leaders have spared no effort to make themselves more respectable. They have played down their links with the USSR and stressed their loyalty to the 'democratic' (capitalist) state.

So what will happen if there are CP ministers in France or Italy? Despite the scare-stories of the more bone-headed or excitable right-wing politicians, there will be no dramatic move to dispossess the

bourgeoisie! It is still possible, however, that the bosses could face some unpleasant surprises.

In France over the last year or so, workers have soft-pedaled on strikes and wage demands, waiting to see whether the Left will come to power. If the Left does win, then the waiting period will be over — and an explosion of strikes and factory occupations like after the left-wing election victory of 1936 could result.

The revolutionary left is far stronger in France now than it was in 1936. "You have to know how to end a strike", said CP leader Maurice Thorez in 1936. This time round the CP leaders may find they don't know how to end the strikes.

A Gaullist comeback?

Most of the French bourgeoisie collaborated with the Nazis during world war 2. But a few reckoned that their best chance of being on the winning side was to line up with the Americans and the British. Their leader was General de Gaulle.

Communist and other radical workers bore the brunt of the Resistance struggle in France, but it was de Gaulle who took the credit. When the Americans and British drove the Germans out of France, he took power at the head of a government including Communist Party ministers.

The CP — with the slogan 'One Army, One State, One People' — helped de Gaulle reconstruct the bourgeois state in France. In January 1946 de Gaulle resigned as President, saying the government was too left wing, and in April 1947 he launched the *Rassemblement du Peuple Français*.

As mass strike movements, involving three million workers, swept France in 1947, and the cold war got underway, the RPF became a menacing semi-fascist movement, with 16,000 men in its armed detachments. It declined only after the 'Socialist' Minister of the Interior, Jules Moch, had shown that he



Chirac

could effectively beat down the workers' struggle through the regular forces of the army and police.

In the 1950s de Gaulle withdrew from politics — until the height of the Algerian war crisis. In 1958 he seized power through a coup d'état. With de Gaulle in power, from 1958 to 1969, there was for the first

time a party of the Right in France, made up of de Gaulle's supporters in Parliament.

The May events of 1968 marked the end for de Gaulle. After being defeated in a referendum in April 1969, he resigned as President. His successor, Georges Pompidou, was not able to keep Parliament under his thumb in the same way that de Gaulle had.

The Gaullist party began to fall apart. In 1974 Giscard d'Estaing, a non-Gaullist, was elected President, defeating the Gaullist candidate Chaban-Delmas. Jacques Chirac, a leading Gaullist, supported Giscard and became his prime minister.

In April 1976, Chirac, scenting a chance to establish himself as a candidate for president in 1981, did an about-turn. He resigned as prime minister and then launched a revamped Gaullist party, the *Rassemblement du Peuple Français*.

While remaining part of the Parliamentary majority, Chirac's supporters denounce the Giscard-Barre government for being too 'soft' towards the 'collectivism' of the CP and RPF. In many constituencies the RPF is presenting candidates against the other right-wing parties.

Marriages of Convenience

FRANCE DOES NOT have a strong party of the Right like the Tories in Britain or the Christian Democracy in Italy or Germany. Apart from the Gaullists — who are more a Mafia than a party — there is a chaotic mosaic of splinter parties.

Most of them are not really parties at all, in the British sense, but just associations of parliamentary and municipal careerists. The President, Giscard d'Estaing, leads a small group called the *Parti Républicain*. The Prime Minister, Raymond Barre, belongs to no party. Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber leads the Radical

Party, and there is an ever-changing variety of other small 'centrist', 'republican', 'democratic', 'reformist' and gaullist groups.

In Britain, top politicians switch between policies and between the right, centre and left wings of the major parties according to the convenience of the moment; in France, they switch parties in the same way.

The possibility of political conflict between the Prime Minister and the President is one that the present French constitution does not really allow for;

but Giscard has said that he will continue as President if the Left wins. Mitterand and the CP say they are willing to work with Giscard.

The CP's biggest fear is that once Mitterand has got a strong parliamentary position, he will do a deal with Giscard and a section of the non-Gaullist right, forming a 'centre-left' coalition which will leave the CP out in the cold again. The Left Radicals — a splinter from the party currently led by Servan-Schreiber — are a ready closely aligned with the SP, and formed part of the 1972 Union of the Left.

THE BULLET THAT CAME BACK

U.S. PRESIDENT John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963 by a gang of Cuban counter-revolutionaries who were working with both the CIA and the Mafia on a project to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

This is part of the picture which is now emerging from new investigations of the Kennedy assassination.

The invasion of Cuba by US-controlled Cuban exiles in April 1961 ended in their being routed by the Cuban armed forces. It heavily discredited the US government, at the same time as demonstrating that the Castro regime had the support of the mass of the Cuban people.

In the missile crisis of October 1962 the US had to pay for a Russian agreement to withdraw atomic missiles from Cuba with a binding commitment not to invade Cuba. Instead the CIA made plans to assassinate Fidel Castro.

Links were established with the Mafia which had been kicked out of Cuba by the revolutionaries.

Havana had been perhaps the world's leading centre of gambling, prostitution, and more or less openly organised gangsterism, with dictator Batista a greedy participant. Mafia receipts in Havana alone are said to have amounted to \$100 million per year. Castro put paid to that.

The Mafia, however, had a network of contacts inside Cuba, and the CIA recruited the Mafia to help it reach Castro — which it never succeeded in doing.

By 1963 feelings ran very high among the anti-Castro Cuban exiles against the Kennedy regime for its inability to 'deal with' Castro. Some of them began to talk about the need to 'eliminate the Communist in Washington' — that is, John F. Kennedy — as a first step to settling with the Cuban people and the Castro leadership.

In November 1963 the weapon which the US state was aiming at the Cuban revolution jack-knifed and killed Kennedy.

The Warren Commission, set up by the US Congress to investigate the assassination of Kennedy, reported ten months after Kennedy's death that he had been killed by Lee Harvey Oswald acting alone.

In the aftermath of Watergate and with the intelligence agencies and the FBI being subjected to a floodlight of public scrutiny, it has become obvious that the Warren Commission investigation was incomplete, and did not get at the truth. Polls report 80% of Americans as now not believing it.

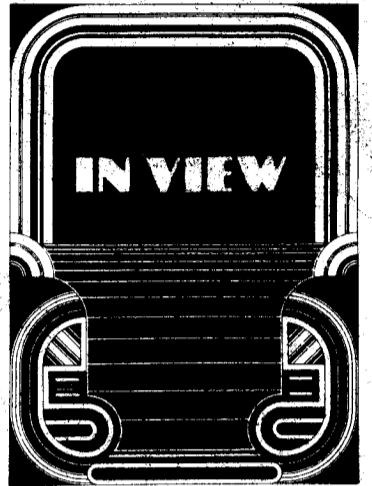
Evidence has come to light of collusion and conspiracy by the FBI and CIA to mislead the Commission.

For example, the conversation in which there was talk of 'getting' the 'communist in Washington' was recorded by a US government agent, but is only now reported. The CIA plots to kill Castro were not revealed. Nor were the connections of assassin Lee Harvey Oswald with Cuban exiles and the CIA.

Oswald has been seen as a lone crank, of leftist sympathies. He 'defected' to the USSR in the late '50s after a period as a US Marine, then came back to the USA, where he was an activist in the 'Fair Play for Cuba' Committee, a bona fide Cuba defence group, which included Trotskyists in its ranks.

In fact, Oswald is now revealed as an 'intelligence operative' working with the CIA. For example, he distributed leaflets for the Fair Play for Cuba committee in New Orleans. The address rubber-stamped on the bottom was '544 Camp Street, New Orleans' — the address from which the anti-Castro Cubans (and, it is now known, the CIA) operated.

Facts about Oswald, and his connections with the CIA, the



'Panorama', 6th March, on the Kennedy assassination.

Mafia, and the Cuban counter-revolutionaries, have been suppressed by the CIA for fifteen years.

Two days after John F. Kennedy was shot, Oswald was himself shot by Jack Ruby at a Dallas police station. Ruby, who died from cancer five years later, in prison, said he killed Oswald on impulse and had had no previous connection with him.

In fact Ruby was the owner of a Dallas strip club and had longstanding Mafia connections in Cuba and elsewhere. None of this came out in the investigations after Kennedy's death.

Perhaps the most intriguing new 'angle' concerns the powerful Teamsters Union, then led by Jimmy Hoffa. Hoffa disappeared two years ago and is presumed murdered.

The Teamsters Union was in the forefront of the drive to create general unions in the 1930s. Then the union was purged with the help of the US government (which jailed the Trotskyist leadership of the union in Minneapolis, together with the leaders of the Trotskyist Socialist Workers' Party, during world war 2), and became infested with gangsters.

In the '50s the Kennedy brothers 'made a name' for themselves attacking organised crime. They started a vendetta against Jimmy Hoffa. Reports are now circulating that Hoffa and sections of the Mafia wanted to retaliate to stop the Kennedys in their drive against Hoffa and the Mafia.

The Mafia was the common ground on which US government intelligence agencies, counter-revolutionary Cubans, and corrupt trade union bureaucrats met. It is not clear that John F. Kennedy himself knew of the connections or the plan to assassinate Fidel Castro. His brother Robert, Attorney General at the time, did know — it seems. He kept silent.

The American ruling class's gangsterism in *Andochina* has already discredited it heavily. Now it has decided that the best it can do is to confess its mistakes and blunders of some of its agents, and promise to change its ways.

A new US Senate Committee is re-examining the Kennedy assassination, behind closed doors. Despite the massive blows to their credibility, the CIA and FBI are still refusing to 'come clean'. Many of the files they produce are still heavily censored and the Pentagon says that its file on Oswald has been destroyed.

The committee is expected to report some time in 1979.

Frank Higgins

The Family's web of violence



CLARE RUSSELL discusses a new book on violence inside families.

"HE HIT ME with his fists, feet, and bottles, smashing me to the floor, then he started to kick, sometimes with repeated blows to the face and other parts of the body.

"He has kicked me in the ribs and broken them, he has tried to strangle me and taken me by the shoulders and banged my head against the floor.

"During my marriage of nearly four years I have received constant bruises all over my body, this has been more so during pregnancy".

An isolated incident with a madman? Not so. Most men who batter their wives are not insane. Nor is it a matter of isolated incidents.

It is difficult to estimate the numbers of batterings, as many go unreported. The ones that hit the headlines are only the tip of the iceberg.

The Welsh Office estimated that there might be as many as 5,000 battered wives in Wales; the Citizens' Advice Bureau received 25,000 enquiries in 1973 with regard to battering, and said that numbers were definitely on the increase.

Although there are battered wives and children in all social classes, by far the greatest number are working class.

In Jean Renvoize's book "Web of Violence: a study of family violence" (Routledge and Kegan Paul, £4.95), she



finds that feelings of lack of self-esteem, inadequacy and depression are common features among men and women who batter their wives or children.

Many of the batterers and battered come from violent backgrounds themselves and marry to escape their terrible surroundings. Pregnant women are particularly prone to assault by husbands who have lacked affection in childhood and become violently jealous of the unborn child.

The book gives an interesting insight into what some women expect from a man and what they regard as 'normal'.

Discussing her husband, one woman remarked that he was "ideal in every way a woman could want except when he was drunk". As Renvoize says, "in fact this particular husband neglected her, went out in the evenings with men friends leaving her alone, and was clearly uninterested in her as a person. His virtues were that he gave her regular housekeeping money and saw that she was comfortably housed and fed".

All this is a far cry from the pictures in glossy magazines of healthy, happy children and loving couples. For many thousands of people this is

the reality of their lives. Not only women are the victims, but also children.

The Select Committee on Violence in the Family came to the conclusion that over 300 children are killed every year in England and Wales, and 3000 seriously injured, by violence in the family. 400 receive injuries which result in chronic brain damage, while a further 40,000 children suffer mild or moderate damage.

Many of the children who are battered are unwanted, born only because of difficulties in obtaining contraception or abortion. Many of them are also born unfit because their mothers are under stress and unwell during their pregnancy.

This is an account of the living conditions that one girl had to cope with.

"The flat was too small but we couldn't get another because no-one wanted to know, not with two babes... It wasn't a house you could feel proud of, I mean the entrance was disgusting. There were a lot of kids there and it was noisy and dirty and damp.

"I did my best, I was always cleaning my part, but sometimes it made you feel sick just going through the front door".

No wonder she beat her child.

Before battered wives' refuges were set up, there was virtually no escape. The general attitude of the GPs was to play down the situation and diagnose depression.

In a sample of battered wives who had been injured severely enough to cause them to leave home, 71% had been prescribed anti-depressants or tranquillisers.

Renvoize points out that many of these medicines can be lethal mixed with alcohol; in some cases they were the cause of batterings taking place.

As far as the law and the police are concerned, "they still feel basically that a woman is a man's property and his home is his castle". It is still not recognised that a woman can be raped by her husband. The family is sacred and it is the permitted arena for a man to work out his frustrations and anxieties.

To get an injunction prohibiting her husband from attacking her, a battered woman has to apply to a county court or divorce court. Until last year she had to apply for a divorce or separation from her husband before an injunction could be granted.

Even if she persisted and succeeded in getting an injunction, the wife was still not safe. Injunctions had to be served personally on the husband, which could take months.

disturbed as compared with 5% of middle-class women". Further: "Of the women kept at home by children who were not on intimate terms with their husbands, 79% became disturbed when faced with a severe difficulty as against only 14% of those who were working".

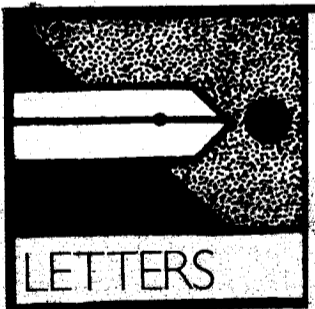
Another indication of the way that many working-class women are socially "battered" by poverty, by the burden of child-care, and by dependence on men, is the incidence of incest. Although figures are impossible to get, father-daughter incest is far from rare in some poor areas. And the mothers usually go along with it: they "are frightened of being left alone with their children and no breadwinner, and ... at least it keeps their husband's infidelity within the family... (Also) some of them dislike sex and are glad to be able to avoid it without driving the husband into a strange woman's arms".

In a competitive, individualistic, money-dominated society, where war and violence are endemic, it is no wonder that there is wife- and child-battering in such conditions — and (though less so) in the more prosperous sections of society too. Better laws and better social services are only minor sops for this problem.

There is a way to fight back. The organisation of a powerful working class women's movement would give women the confidence to stand up for themselves. The abolition of poverty is perfectly possible with the massive wealth of present-day society.

The socialisation of housework and child-care, and the winning of women's equal right to work, would free many women, and children, from the ties of homes which are in fact prisons. The ending of women's economic and legal dependence on men would lay the basis for free and equal relations between the sexes. If production were organised, under democratic planning, for need, and not for maximum profit, then the rat-race society could be replaced by a society based on human solidarity.

All this needs only one thing: the revolutionary overthrow, by the working class, of the millionaire ruling minority, who make their fortunes on the basis of the misery and oppression of millions of children, women, and men.



Penguin: an unfair report?

In James Ryan's article in Workers' Action 93 on the Penguin dispute, he is perfectly correct to criticise the ASTMS leadership. What I deny is the allegation that either the majority of my committee or myself were party to any form of sell-out.

I was not consulted concerning the withdrawal of sanctions, nor was I involved in the setting up of the informal discussions. When I was informed I argued bitterly against them. I finally went to the meetings to try to prevent a sell-out (having arranged to meet James Ryan afterwards to keep him informed) due to the certainty that if a group meeting had been called the talks would have gone on with the blessing of the membership, effectively destroying opposition to the talks at a stage where salvage was possible.

After two talks nothing had been achieved, I had brought most of the committee and even one of the Action Committee (one of three responsible for calling off sanctions) round to my way of thinking. A group meeting was called and three recommendations from the committee put to the membership.

1. Total rejection of offer
2. Reinstatement of industrial action

3. No talks to management until they met with the NUJ

I and others argued firmly in favour of these, but were defeated by another motion which favoured continuation of talks as long as the company improved its offer within one week.

No talks took place as the company replied with a statement of 'no improvement'.

At the Group meeting which followed the committee recommendations for reinstatement of Industrial Action was carried by a tiny majority. Due to constitutional reasons the vote had to be retaken a couple of days later. At this meeting the committee recommendations were heavily rejected in favour of an absurd motion which gives the company everything it wants but demands some items of secondary importance.

James Ryan is perfectly aware of the facts and knows that I have done all in my power to recover the situation. I was not, nor will I be party to a sell-out. His allegations seem to me to be yet another sectarian attack, unfounded as usual, on the SWP.

Yours fraternally,
David Davies
Chairman ASTMS Penguin

EVENTS

Small ads are free for labour movement events. Paid ads (including ads for publications) 8p per word, £5 per column inch — payment in advance. Send copy to *Events*, 49 Carnac St, London SE27, to arrive by Friday for inclusion in the following week's paper.

SATURDAY 11 MARCH. Labour Abortion Rights Campaign conference. 11am, City University, London

SATURDAY 11 MARCH. National Abortion Campaign Day School. 10am to 4.30pm, South Bank Poly Students' Union, Rotary Street, London SE1. Details: 485 4303.

SUNDAY 12 MARCH. Conference against the Speke closure, called by Liverpool Trades Council. 11am, Everyman Theatre, Hope St. Open to delegates from all labour movement organisations.

MONDAY 13 MARCH. Leamington Anti-Racist Committee: film and speaker on South Africa. 7.30pm at

the Spa Centre.
WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH. Rugby Anti-Apartheid film and speaker. 7.30pm at Lanchester Poly, Rugby site.

THURSDAY 16 MARCH. Coventry Anti-Apartheid film and speaker on South Africa. 7.30pm at Lanchester Polytechnic.

THURSDAY 16 MARCH. 'All London Teachers Against Racism and Fascism' rally. 5.45pm at Central Hall, Westminster. Adm. 50p.

FRIDAY 17 MARCH. Coventry Marxist Forum on the Car Industry.

THE LONDON LABOUR LIBRARY is a cooperative venture which aims to provide specialised information and library facilities to trade unionists. We invite all individuals and organisations in the labour movement to support us. We need books, periodicals [of any age], money and offers of support. Write to Derek Perry, London Labour Library, c/o 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.

YS: Regions prepare for Conference

Cardiff

All for
the
love of
democracy

CARDIFF NORTH LPYS recently selected a delegate to go to National Conference.

Nothing wrong in that, you may say. Except that last December the branch had already elected a delegate, Rob McGonigle.

At that time, in a meeting called for that purpose, with above average attendance, Rob stood as a supporter of **Workers' Action**. At that meeting, prior to his election, he proposed a motion which was to go to Conference.

Since that time the issue had not been mentioned, until suddenly at a meeting discussing conference motions 're-selection' was proposed. By purest coincidence, the **Militant**

grouping had a majority at this meeting, and proceeded, upon no prior notice, to elect their candidate Paul Traynor to go to Conference.

Rigged

The explanation given was that Rob didn't represent the branch and they were exercising the 'right of recall'.

Rob's views have not changed since he was elected, and far from being 'recalled', he had not actually become a delegate, since YS Conference is still two weeks off!

It was later described as a 'change of mind'. But since no member of the branch had had a change of mind or change of

vote, it was in fact an anti-democratic, dishonestly rigged enforced 'change of mind'.

The same people responsible were in the main those who in Plasnewydd ward of Cardiff North voted themselves into all six of the ward's GMC delegates with a narrow majority. Such is their love of democracy!

If you take this approach to its logical conclusion, two even, balanced political tendencies would change all the posts at every other meeting, depending on the numbers present on any night. A sure policy to guarantee nothing gets done!

Active

This of course would suit the

Militant, if their attempts to block Llanrumney YS, the fastest growing in Cardiff, are anything to go by.

Here, young workers have built in three months what the **Militant** failed to build in three years: an active YS bring young people of various ideas together to forge a YS through activity and campaigns.

In response, the **Militant** moaned "there already is a YS; we don't need another". Yes there is a YS, which meets 5 miles away and is never seen on the streets. And now this YS is organising a 'day of action' in Llanrumney, without even consulting Llanrumney YS.

Workers' Action supporters, **CARDIFF NORTH Y.S.**

North-West

A new tactic to avoid debate

AT THE LONDON and Scottish regional Young Socialists conferences, the **'Militant'** majority rejected resolutions on racism and fascism, apparently just because they came from revolutionaries. At the North-West conference (in Manchester on 4th March) they turned this approach upside down.

In London and Scotland they had rejected resolutions saying almost the same as their own policy. In Manchester they accepted amendments obviously contradicting what they said in their speeches at the conference!

The result was the same: no clear debate. A motion from Liverpool Kirkdale YS on the women's question stated categorically that "we are not concerned with the question of women in general". It demanded no campaigning activity on the question.

There was an amendment from Manchester Moss Side YS, which called for the creation of a mass working class based women's

movement, declared the YS should actively campaign for women's rights, and opposed the oppression of 'women in general'.

Kirkdale YS accepted the amendment — but continued to argue on the lines of the original motion!

There was similar sleight of hand on the Wallasey YS motion on racialism. The motion called for the YS to initiate and build local anti-fascist committees, to include socialist groups outside the Labour Party. Although consistently arguing against the content of the resolution, the **'Militant'** supporters nevertheless voted for it.

On Ireland there was a political debate, and **'Militant'** rejected support for the International Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland. Previously, in other regions, **'Militant'** had not come down one way or another on the Tribunal.

The two most useful resolutions to be passed were the emergency motions from Manchester Moss Side and Liverpool Garston. The first supported the campaign to remove James Anderton from his position in the Greater Manchester police, and the second called for a campaign against the planned redundancies at Leyland's Speke no. 2 plant.

During the hustings for the new regional delegate to the YS National Committee, **Workers' Action** supporter Mick Cashman of Wallasey YS pointed out the real possibilities of building a campaigning YS. He called for ongoing activities on unemployment and racism. The present policy of ritual propaganda exercises, he said, is all too often marked by the sectarianism which demands in advance that all activity should be based on **'Militant's'** 'bold socialist programme'.

The conference, however, elected **'Militant'** supporter Reg Sidebottom as the new delegate.

Wales

The next step for British Imperialism

THE ANNUAL conference of the Welsh Region of the Labour Party Young Socialists was held in Swansea last weekend. Fourteen delegates represented only seven of the 21 supposedly active YS branches. Last year, attendance was even thinner.

All the delegates represented the views of the **Militant** grouping; but if all the votes were a clockwork 14-0, there was a vocal opposition from the 40 or 50 visitors who were given speaking rights.

An emergency resolution on Ireland was strongly opposed by the 'visitors'.

The motion condemned the La Mon bombing and called for a "mass party of labour". It said the only answer to sectarianism was to nationalise the commanding heights of the Ulster economy. That is, they demanded that the Irish working class set up a Labour Party to call on British imperialism to bring about "socialism" in Northern Ireland! Only opposing speakers, supporters of **Workers' Action**, referred to the border drawn by British imperialism to cut Ireland in two, or mentioned Orange sectarianism; only they called for solidarity with all those fighting imperialism in British-occupied Ireland.

In the school that followed the Conference, Eric Heffer spoke on "Which Way For-

ward for Labour?", setting the scene for a quibble between the Tribune line and that of **Militant**, the latter simply adding more monopolies to be nationalised. Despite Heffer's support for Callaghan's anti-working-class government, he was still "a good lad"...

The cosiness was broken by **Workers' Action** supporters, who weighed in to indict the Labour Government's record and the limits of Clause 4 — winning a sympathetic hearing from independents and even some loose **Militant** supporters at the school.

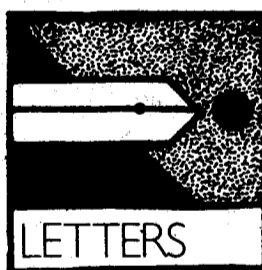
Later on, National Youth Officer Andy Bevan gave a glowing account of the LPYS. According to him, the YS had been first at Grunwicks, best at Lewisham, etc — a nauseating round of self-admiration in which **Militant** shoulders were well dislocated in the effort to pat themselves on the back.

To proposals for the YS to undertake united front work with other socialist and labour movement groups on racism and unemployment — to increase effectiveness in practice while reserving the ability to fight for distinct ideas — Bevan replied by saying that this was already YS policy and that this sort of united front work was only suitable for mass parties, such as in Germany in the early 1930s.

ROB MCGONIGLE

Edinburgh

'We've been slandered'



Comrades,

At the Scottish LPYS Conference over the weekend 18/19 February, comments were made by a supporter of the majority **Militant** grouping on the Scottish YS Committee which we believe have been, and are still being, repeated in the LPYS throughout Britain.

These comments suggest that Edinburgh Central LPYS does not support the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment and/or did not support the national lobby of parliament held by the YCAU late last year.

We were not allowed the right to reply to these comments at the Scottish LPYS Conference, other than by distributing a leaflet on the following day rejecting the allegations. In order to clear up any mistaken impressions our YS is writing to **Left, Militant** and your newspaper asking you to publish the following statement which was adopted unanimously at our YS meeting on 8th February, when we knew that these rumours were being circulated:

"It has been brought to the attention of Edinburgh Central LPYS that certain totally unfounded statements have been made outside

of our branch casting doubt on our support for the YCAU. Our branch wishes to make the following statement.

Edinburgh Central LPYS fully supports the building of the YCAU. At the time of the National Lobby of Parliament in the Autumn of 1977 our branch discussed the question of our support for the lobby. We resolved unanimously to express our support for the lobby as one particular moment of the YCAU's ongoing activity. We however decided as a branch not to build for the lobby itself for three main reasons —

1) Our YS branch was relatively young and inexperienced and was not at that point involved in the YCAU.

2) None of our members expressed interest in actually attending the lobby.

3) We felt at that stage that in itself the lobby should not be a focal point for our activity and that our energies would be [and indeed have been] better directed towards more consistent local action aimed at young unemployed workers within the context of the YCAU.

Our verbal support for the lobby and our reasons for not taking part

in it were made perfectly clear in all our discussions with comrades from other LPYSs, both locally and nationally at that time and after.

Since then members of Edinburgh Central LPYS and other independents have successfully initiated an active Edinburgh YCAU with the distribution of a regular fortnightly bulletin "DOLE MOLE" at the dole queues [1500 per edition]. We have invited the other local LPYSs to take an equally active part in our original initiative but as yet to little avail.

We have every intention of co-ordinating Edinburgh YCAU with the National YCAU. In this respect letters have been sent on three occasions to Nick Bradley of the YCAU — on 24th November and 20th December 1977 and again on 6th February 1978 — but we have yet to receive a reply.

All accusations of our non-activity in the YCAU or unwillingness to cooperate with the National campaign are total fabrications, and are in fact precisely the opposite of the truth."

RICHARD PAINE
Secretary, Edinburgh Central LPYS

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WORKERS IN ACTION

SPEKE: A CALL FOR ACTION

LIVERPOOL Trades Council is to call a conference to plan action against British Leyland's proposed closure of its Speke no.2 plant.

The conference has been set for March 12th. Despite the short notice — dictated by the urgency of the situation — maximum attendance is vital.

The decision to call the conference was taken on

March 1st, at a meeting of about 20 labour movement delegates called by the Trades Council in conjunction with the District Labour Party.

The Leyland bosses are set on the Speke closure, and it will only be stopped by a workers' occupation of the plant backed up by active solidarity in other Leyland factories. Ultimately

ely an answer to the ruthless exploitation and job-cutting of the car multinationals can only be found in international workers' unity. It is important, therefore, that the conference rejects the ideas expressed by many at the planning meeting: 'save OUR local jobs'.

It is an industry-wide problem, and petty local-mindedness can only harm the workers' fight-back.

But active support from the Merseyside labour movement could be crucial in giving the Speke workers the confidence to fight the closure. Delegates from all labour movement organisations can get credentials from the Trades Council, Victoria St, Liverpool [send 25p]. The conference opens at 11am, at the Everyman Theatre, Hope St.

TEACHERS' PAY

These sanctions won't bite

SIXTEEN AREAS have already taken up the National Union of Teachers' call for sanctions against the employers' rejection of the 1978 pay claim of 12½%.

The employers stuck rigidly to 10%, earmarking 1% to compensate those teachers (mainly heads) earning over £8500 who 'lost' their annual increments and a £312 lump sum under Phase 1 of the Government's Incomes Policy. Thus the majority of teachers are being offered 9%.

The issue has gone to arbitration.

The sanctions are: refusal to collect or administer school meals money; withdrawal from mid-day supervision; refusal to use private vehicles for official school purposes; and withdrawal from voluntary out-of-school activities.

They are not really sanctions in the true sense, as we are merely being asked to refuse voluntary extra activities. And we are only asked to impose the sanctions — not instructed.

The fact that these 'sanctions' are gaining so much publicity is a measure of the goodwill of teachers, the fact they have not lost in ignorance of their rights and above all the fact that local authorities are not using their powers to employ more ancillary staff.

THE SANCTIONS are useless for winning a decent pay rise, but they do raise some important questions about the teacher's job.

Part of the original 1978 claim which has been quietly forgotten is that: "Teachers should be entitled to an agreed job description, departure from which could only be made with his/her agreement or in an emergency".

Teachers have no such job description, which means that there are distinct pressures on them to do 'voluntary' extra work such as parents' evenings, parent-teacher associations, open evenings, careers exhibitions, school plays, clubs, sports activities, etc.

In our view, irregular extra work should be paid for as overtime, and regular extra work should be written into a teacher's time-table and compensated by extra preparation and marking time in the normal school day.

The amount of unpaid 'voluntary' work is used shamelessly by some schools in assessing a teacher's eligibility for promotion, discrimination against teachers who refuse to do this kind of work.

But we should argue for the mid-day meals sanction to be continued after the claim has been settled, so as to keep up pressure on the authorities to employ more ancillary staff.

Response

Response to the sanctions among classroom teachers is realistically cynical. For a start, the claim itself is hardly adequate — 12½% when at least 25% is needed to restore real pay to what it was at the time of the last major award to teachers, the Houghton Award in 1975.

The actual difference between the claim and the offer is not all that much — the difference between a slice of brown and a slice of white when what we need is a loaf.

We should fight to take up the sanctions — as the first part of a campaign similar to that undertaken by the NUT in Oxfordshire, against the cuts: withdrawal of voluntary work first, then refusal to cover for absences of more than one day, followed by refusal to teach classes over 30 in size.

NUT Executive member Dick North suggested a similar approach, but he was told by Jim Murphy that this would "paralyse the action committee, which would be chasing round all over England and Wales arranging action everywhere" (!)

A RESOLUTION being submitted to Newham NUT can serve as a model for school NUT groups wanting to take the fight forward:

- "We consider that the current official sanctions for winning what is in any case an inadequate pay claim are totally insufficient, and we urge the Executive to support all Associations and Divisions who wish to adopt the following sanctions:
- "No cover for absences known in advance.
- "No teaching of classes over 30 on roll.

"We also demand a Special Salaries Conference of the union membership to decide on any offer forthcoming from the Arbitration Panel.

"To gauge the feeling on this issue, we instruct the local committee to ballot all schools in the area immediately, asking them if they would be prepared to adopt the above two sanctions officially. In pursuit of the 1978 pay claim".

IAN HOLLINGWORTH

PICKET LINES

CSEU launches a fake fight

LAST FRIDAY, March 3rd, the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions agreed to call a two-day national strike on March 20th and 21st. The proposal for the strike came from the AUEW.

This call for national strike action comes after the Engineering Employers' Federation have refused to budge on side-conditions for their new pay offer.

Engineering union leaders have already accepted the new minimum time rates offered by the EEF: £57 from March 1st, and £60 by August 1st, for skilled workers. A similar pro rata offer has been made for the unskilled workers.

The CSEU demand was for a national minimum time rate of £70 for skilled and £55 for unskilled workers. Overall the deal will put only 4¼% on the engineering industry wage bill. Very few engineering workers are paid at the minimum rate, and usually the national agreement is important only in relation to calculating some holiday and overtime rates.

The disputed EEF side-conditions are that these new rates will not be forced on those EEF member firms which are already paying below the old rates, and that payment will be on the phased basis, but the increases will be paid out only when local settlements are made. If a local settlement is signed before August 1st, then the workers covered by it will have to wait until 1979 for the new £60 rate to apply to them.

Further, those engineering firms which have already settled their local rates will not have to pay the new minimum time rate until next year. The CSEU has already accepted this last condition.

A real fight will need more than the CSEU's impotent gesture, a feeble protest against the EEF's arrogance after the union leaders have given in on most of the important issues. Only rank and file mobilisation for a shorter working week and for wage demands well beyond the 10% limit will force any worthwhile concessions out of the EEF.

STEPHEN CORBISHLEY

GEC workers defy stalling officials

GEC announced last Friday that they were breaking the 10% limit in spite of national and local advice from trade union officials.

National officials suggested that the 330 men return to work and allow a mediator to give a ruling — exactly what the company wants! Local officials stress the uphill task.

Denis Adler, TGWU, warned "If you take this company on, it's going to be a long battle and you may end up with nothing". Jim Griffin, AUEW, said: "We are all in an industrial strait-jacket because of Government pay policy. The fireman took on the fight and they went to the wall after 11 weeks".

The strike has already caused 2000 workers to be laid off, and is now expected to close all four Coventry GEC plants.

Meanwhile, on Monday (6th), 80 militant GEC strikers occupied part of the Stoke plant.

They began a sit-in in the frame shop to prevent manual workers from re-starting work after a lay-off.

This action defies a High Court injunction to remove them from the company premises. However, the injunctions were granted when the strikers occupied the Stoke computer room and personnel offices earlier in the strike, and stewards argue that GEC will have to apply for a new injunction for the frame shop.

LAY-OFFS AT MASSEYS

MASSEY FERGUSON Coventry have said they will lay off 4,800 workers over Easter week, and promise similar lay offs before the end of April. Indeed, the Easter lay-off has already been extended for one extra week for 1,000 workers in the machine shop.

Management say that the situation "is being kept constantly under review".

Massey Ferguson Coventry produce 20% of the firm's world farm tractor production. They also supply 40,000 sets of components for assembly overseas.

Production has been hit by the strike of press operators at GKN Sankey (Tel-

ford), which supplied cabs for the 500 series 'Super Tractor' and a wide range of steel pressings, but the main reason for the lay-offs is the downturn in world demand.

The effects of Massey's problems will be felt throughout the supply industry. Already 600 workers in the I Division of Sterling Metals (Nuneaton), a subsidiary of Birmid Qualcast, have been put on a three-day week until at least 1979.

The effects will also be felt on wage bargaining in the Coventry district, since MF workers are well-known as leaders.

NIPA Strikers win

A COMPLETE victory has been won at Nipa Laboratories Ltd, South Wales. For months the company had been refusing to recognise GMWU steward Steve Leharne. Official management-union talks got nowhere.

Eventually, on 15th May, the Nipa workers struck. They returned to work when a new management-union meeting was promised — warning the bosses that they would be out again if the meeting did not agree to recognise

Leharne.

The meeting was postponed because of the blizzards — but once it took place, management caved in completely, conceding not only recognition for Leharne but also other union demands.