



TURN ANGER INTO ACTION



Photos by The Worker

Thatcher in Belfast

DISPLAYING all her usual arrogance Thatcher stole into Belfast this week to crow about her personal responsibility for the death in prison of four brave Irishmen. Paying what public relations advisers termed a "normal prime ministerial visit", she was only able to mouth her words of hatred and intolerance thanks to the guns of the British army. Their presence on almost every street corner in every town and village of Northern Ireland serves as a grim reminder of how British imperialism maintains its precarious hold on its oldest colony.

As if her very presence on Irish soil was not insult enough she dared to compound it in word and deed. Dismissing outright Irish independence for which countless Irish men and women have died in an 800 year struggle against British domination, as a "discredited course".

For Thatcher and the British media perhaps, but certainly not for the people in Ireland forced to watch while towns burn, while children die, while an army of occupation support their unwelcome presence with violent oppression.

She called the hunger strikers "Inflexible and intransigent", dying because in prison they could be of no use to the cause they serve. As if the 30,000 people who voted for Bobby Sands in Fermanagh and South Tyrone, and the 70,000 who attended his funeral, preferred him dead, as if too many had not already died in the fight for Irish freedom. The Irish people do not look for more dead heroes, in their humanity they consider life too precious for that. What they desire above all else is peace, justice and dignity for the Irish nation.

Thatcher went on to claim that her government will not justify the position of the hunger strikers by conceding their demands. That is not central to the issue. The emotion of the hunger strike has tended to overshadow the earlier Thatcher-Haughey talks which sought to reach agreement on the unification of Ireland in terms of a new closer relationship with Britain.

This roused such anger among the 'loyalists' of Northern Ireland that Thatcher has quite clearly condemned the

The March for Jobs has alerted the whole country to the crime against the working class of mass unemployment. At a huge rally in Trafalgar Square the criminal, Thatcher, was indicted for depriving millions of the right to work. We must take up the message of the marchers and turn our anger against the architect of massive unemployment into action against her. As the marchers proclaimed in slogans and on posters: **MAKE THATCHER REDUNDANT! PUT THATCHER ON THE DOLE!**

THE PEOPLE'S March carried its clear message to all parts of Britain. In every hamlet, village, town or city they found a welcome so warm that it seemed sometimes as if every inhabitant had turned out to greet them. That message will not die, however many papers ignore it.

AUEW shop steward, Andrew Millington, delegate from the march, who has spoken at rallies and trade union conferences throughout the country, emphasised "This is not a march of unemployed people against unemployment. It is a march of the British people uniting employed and unemployed against the horrors of un-

employment." He himself was sponsored by his trade union.

When the young marchers sponsored by Oxford returned to the town they were greeted by a standing ovation. At the meeting following, the president of the trades council spoke for many when he claimed "We cannot wait till 1984 for the government to be overturned. If we wait till then, will we have 6 million unemployed? Or will we have been destroyed before that by a nuclear holocaust?" Ron Brown himself a Labour MP, admitted that the real strength of the working class was its industrial organisation and that this strength must be used. "Parli-

ament has never given us anything" and "Surely no government has a mandate to destroy jobs and living standards".

One of the women occupying the Lee Jeans factory in Scotland explained the importance of such struggles: "This January the boss wished us a happy new year, but we were all to be made redundant. The management gave us ten minutes to think about this. We gave the bosses ten minutes, then locked them in their office and occupied the factory. Now Scandinavia is still waiting for its Spring collection. "The necessity is clear," she said, "The time for selling jobs is past."



hunger strikers to die, has unleashed once more the ferocity of the British army as a sop to their future quiescence. The fact that the Irish people will not wait for independence to be doled out by Thatcher is a complication that in her arid stupidity she has yet to grasp. It is not hers to give.

Haughey too will have to grasp this nettle. For someone whose attitude to Northern

Ireland seemed, at the beginning of his term of office, the cornerstone of his politics, his silence over the hunger strike, his obvious support for Thatcher's line of errant madness is all the more damning. Now that an election has been called with the intervention of the four remaining hunger strikers, he is learning that despite the unemployment of 11 per cent in Ireland and in-

flation of 20 per cent, the future of Northern Ireland is still the major concern of the electorate.

Thatcher may steal into Belfast today with her proud boasts and cruel taunts but with the growing coherence of the national movement on both sides of the border tomorrow may be another question. The people of Ireland will not forget her crimes against them.

The extraordinary attack on Sir Keith Joseph by the Bow Group signals a crisis of major proportions for adherents of Monetarism. The attack, in Crossbow magazine draws attention to the six-month disappearance of Joseph, a pile of whose clothes were found outside the Treasury some time ago and who has now surfaced in the United States, under another identity. Luckily industry is not very important to the Government or he would have been missed earlier. What prompted his departure, it is said, was that for some time he had felt unwanted and anyway, he had nothing to do.

But this explanation seems rather shallow. Isn't everybody in the Cabinet deeply unpopular? It's not only Joseph who needs a large police secondary picket wherever he goes. What caused the panic was the Daily Mail's investigation of the Unification Church led by the Korean, Moon. Joseph heard the Mail was after the 'Monies' and fled. The economic policies of the Monies, producing mass unemployment and causing people to wander the country looking for jobs, have destroyed and broken up many families, but it surprised the Mail was after the Monies not the Monies. The Mail takes exception to the one but supports the policies of the other, a very subtle distinction. The subtlety was lost on Joseph too and he was off.

He has been staying with cult members for some time while he was in Stateside, but there are members also in South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Indeed the Monies have caused a furor in Hong Kong where M3 is the name shared by the economic theory and a Triad society. M3 is also 007's boss in those Bond films but let's not worry too much about that for the moment, this is complicated enough as it is.

In Britain, Joseph had come to be regarded like that poor Japanese chap, found in the Philippine Jungle, still fighting World War Two thirty years after it finished. In the USA, on the other hand, he is celebrated, particularly among the 'we're descended from the Garden of Eden and sex-education is a Communist plot' intellectuals. Over there the Monies are more than just another California cult for they number President Donald Duck among their followers. The inflation of crackpot economic theories is one thing, it's the sacrifice of millions of people which disturbs many. Cynics have pointed out that whatever Joseph is, he is certainly not part of the 'brain drain'.

Joseph was initially upset at Bow Group criticism, but with a new identity was not obliged to worry. He laughed, paused, laughed again, then paused, and laughed some more. A KKK-style ceremony of burning Crossbows, a few verses of 'Destruction's up the Alley' and he was as right as rain. Sort of. With Blanche DuBois in Downing Street we have more than enough to worry about.

ONE INCIDENT out of British working class history which deserves our recollection, especially at this time when Heseltine is preparing to bring out the guns and penalties against local councils who carry out their mandates, is the imprisonment of the entire Poplar Council in 1921. All of the Councillors were jailed for refusing to raise the rates. While they were in prison children from one of the local poor schools in Hutton, Essex sent letters of encouragement to the councillors who, from their cells wrote the following reply.

Brixton Prison.
Sept. 25th, 1921.

My Dear Boys and Girls,
We have received your kind and most welcome letters and thank you all for thinking of us, we are all as pleased with your remembrance as with the remembrance of our best friends. We are very glad you all understand why we are here, we have not done anything we are ashamed of, our action was

against bad wicked laws and all good men and women should protest and refuse to obey laws which are unjust and bad.

John Hampden who your teachers have told you about refused to pay unjust taxes and commenced a revolution which took off the head of King Charles. George Washington and his friends would not pay taxes which they considered wrong and his friends would not pay taxes which they considered wrong and this resulted in the establishment of the great Republic of America.

We are in prison because our people in Poplar are poor and cannot pay the rates and taxes and we shall not do what the Judges told us we must do until Poplar gets money from the rich to help the poor.

We want you to grow up strong active loving men and women, we want you never to be contented while there is one single man or woman starving. Do not believe anybody who tells you that God made the rich and also made large numbers of people poor. God and Nature made men and women. It is the selfishness

and greed of people that make poverty.

When you leave school join a Trade Union, do not rush into the Army or Navy, none of you need to do so unless you like even if you are in the Band, the girls are not obliged to go to domestic service either they can choose other trades and occupations, though often service is best at the moment.

When you have joined your Trade Union go to branch meetings, learn all you can about the Labour Movement, when you have done this you will soon understand that working people, whether they work in an office, a school, in a mine or on a railway, in a factory or on a ship, that all of them together create all the wealth of the world.

Labour is the only source of all wealth whether it is labour by hand or brain, it is the workers who should enjoy leisure, pleasure, holidays and all the good things of life and as you grow up keep steadily in your minds the fact that everybody rich or poor that gets something without themselves working, get it at the ex-

pense of those who do work. We hope all you boys and girls will live to see the day when there will be no rich or poor paupers and millionaires, because you and your fellow men and women will join together to work for each other and by so doing make possible the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth.

We have asked that this letter shall be read in each standard and all of you who are 10 years of age and over shall have a copy.

Here's our love and lots and lots of good wishes from
Yours Truly,

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| S. March, Mayor of Poplar. | |
| Henry W. Soloman. | W. H. Green. |
| R. J. Hopwood. | D. M. Adams. |
| Edgar Lansbury. | A. Baker. |
| J. A. Jones. | T. E. Kelly. |
| G. J. Cressall. | J. J. Heales. |
| E. E. Williams. | J. H. Banks. |
| A. Partridge. | B. Fleming. |
| J. Russell. | Wm. Farr. |
| T. J. Goodway. | C. E. Sumner. |
| C. Petherick. | J. E. Oakes. |
| Minnie Lansbury. | John Scurr. |
| George Lansbury. | Julia Scurr. |
| Susan Lawrence. | J. J. Burgess. |
| J. T. O'Callaghan. | J. MacKay. |

Vultures prey on Scottish industry

SCOTLAND has been swamped by the same tidal wave of unemployment that has swept over the rest of Britain where one in nine factory jobs have disappeared. Talk of levels of unemployment as 'worst since the thirties' has become a hollow cliché in many areas where the level has surpassed that of the great pre-war depression.

In North Ayrshire, after recent closures, the rate of unemployment is 23 per cent. In Fife, the local council has declared youth

unemployment to be 'out of control! In the Borders widespread redundancies have led to a resumption of the depopulation of the area after an 80 year trend was halted for a while in 1972.

Foundries, the paper industry and vehicle manufacture are in the process of disappearing. Even such past successes as the Whisky industry and the woollen industry hit by imports from abroad are in a state of decline.

A new breed of giants in oil-related industries and electronics

might be attracted by skilled workers who can be got cheaply; but what kind of future is that once they have picked clean the bones of Scotland's industrial potential.

That is the background to the closure of the Linwood car plant a week ago without a fight from the 4000 workers who have joined the dole queue. In Linwood, which grew from a village to a town beside the car plant, male unemployment is now 40 per cent.

A union official said: "There is nothing for them here now, or for

their families. Some have not thought about what they are going to do, others are talking about emigrating, and some will try to set up on their own."

Union officials see the closure of Linwood as part of an effort to establish dealer outlets in Britain for foreign cars. The unwillingness of Linwood workers to stand and fight not only means the loss of their own 4000 jobs to the working class but also a threat to the jobs of thousands of others in the motor car industry.

Who are these innocents carrying guns in the Irish countryside? - British troops out now!

IT WAS understandable that the relatives of the five British soldiers killed near Newry by the IRA should have reacted as they did. It was also predictable that the Government and its tame press should have ponced off their deaths in the way that they did.

Atkins and Thatcher speak about murder and cowardice, not yet a word of remorse for Irish people killed and maimed by the 'harmless' plastic bullets fired by British troops during the same week. Troops, who according to Thatcher, are there "To protect the lives and property of the law-abiding people of Ulster". Is this done by the killing of teenage girls?

'The Guardian' in one editorial made much of the 'choice' the hunger strikers had between life or death and the lack of such choice for soldiers. Were these innocent tourists then? What were they doing armed to the teeth in the Irish countryside? Britain has an army composed entirely of mercenaries. Men and women who sell themselves for somewhat more than the traditional Queen's shilling and who are fully prepared to shoot, torture and kill in exchange for that money. That is what Britain's army is about, whether it be based in Belize, Belfast or Birmingham.

This army of hired guns is not being trained to block a Soviet

advance through central Europe. Firstly, because it is not the Russians who threaten peace in Europe but Thatcher and Reagan, and secondly because it could never hope to succeed against the forces which the Red Army could deploy in a conventional war.

Hence the hysterical attempts of Thatcher to increase NATO's nuclear advantage. No, in every aspect of training, this army is being built to use against British workers, as is evidenced by the ideological, civilian surveillance and psychological techniques

which figure so prominently in modern basic training, even for units which are unlikely to see active service in Ireland. All the more reason then for us to refuse to let jobs go, so that our young people are not thrust towards the recruiting sergeant.



An everyday scene in northern Ireland

Photo: Syd Shelton

Editorial

THATCHER MAKES war on the working class by depriving us of work in our millions and at the same time threatens to involve us in a world nuclear war - all for the sake of the profit-ers.

We have to fight her over every job she tries to take away. We have begun to occupy factories threatened with closure. We have had to occupy hospitals to keep them open. We shall have to occupy schools and universities which are also under threat.

We have to be clear that since Thatcher creates mass unemployment to drive down our wages and raise the level of profitability in Britain, the fight for jobs and the fight for pay are inseparable. Since we are most strongly organised in industry, Thatcher's fight against us involves the destruction of British industry.

We shall have to occupy more and more of the industrial sector to save it. But this cannot be a gradual process stretching away indefinitely. It has to be the revolutionary change from industry owned by them and run for their profit at our expense into industry owned and operated by us to supply the needs of the people of Britain.

Thatcher is convinced that war can save capitalism. She encourages the most recklessly aggressive moves from the US, the strongest capitalist country, and backs them up to the hilt, putting our lives at risk. She compounds the destruction of British industry by vast expenditure on weapons of destruction which she calls 'defence', but it is only the defence of capitalism. She joins with Reagan in creating an atmosphere of nuclear terror in order to advance the cause of capitalism against its disorderly enemies - us.

Civil servants in the course of their class struggle against the Government have closed down 'defence' establishments for a short time and rendered vital parts of the machinery of 'defence' inoperative thus showing the connection between the fight for jobs and pay and the fight against Thatcher's war aims. If the civil servants wish to escalate their wage battle, they could choose no better way than by further shaking Thatcher's grip on the means of war.

But the basic weakness of Thatcher's position is that she cannot make war by herself. She cannot even make capitalists whom she serves go to war. The fundamental contradiction of capitalism is that it depends for its profits and for its defence on those who are not capitalists - us. Thatcher's whole purpose is to involve us in war. If we in our millions not only tell her but show her by our actions that we will never fight for her but only against her, that is the end of Thatcher - and capitalism.

Demand for redundancy threat to the future of textiles

THIS year's conference of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers was one of the liveliest in recent years. Nevertheless, it has to be said that the nettle of saving the industry was not grasped. Much of the policy adopted like the demand for greater redundancy payments can only lead to a further erosion of the Union's position through the loss of more jobs.

To save textiles, workers in the industry must come to rely primarily on their own resources. Motions from Slathwaite and New Mills branches on import controls placed the emphasis fairly and squarely by calling on textile workers to introduce their own blockades on imports through the picketing of distributors and through co-ordinated action with dockers on selected imports. These motions were withdrawn on Executive advice as being impracticable to operate at present. Is the idea of textile workers imposing their own ban

as unrealistic as the continuing policy of trying to persuade Thatcher and the EEC to impose meaningful restrictions?

The Conference endorsed the view that it is for the Unions to dominate the election of the Labour Party leader and, more interestingly, came out in favour of unilateral disarmament and against Trident, Cruise, the Neutron Bomb and all the rest of the nuclear paraphernalia.

There was strong condemnation of the Youth Opportunities scheme for the way in which it has been used by employers to supplant real jobs with temporary, cheap young labour and a far-reaching decision was taken to pursue negotiations on amalgamation with the TGWU which would undoubtedly strengthen workers within the textile trade.

Some positive moves then, but advances which will come to naught unless they can be matched by a willingness on the shop floor to be self-reliant in the saving of jobs by standing and fighting.

Lead poison threatens children

LEAD in petrol is to be reduced by two thirds by the end of 1985. Parliament has shed its crocodile tears for children who must continue to suffer brain damage until the oil companies are made happy with the situation.

The oil companies gloomily shake their heads and are pained to inform us we will have to pay more for petrol as a result. Yet, even this charade would have been avoided if researchers had not been angered by an official DHSS report a year ago concluding that the evidence for children suffering

brain damage was inconclusive.

Medical Research Council sponsored study corroborated findings in the US, Australia, West Germany that environmental lead levels cause direct brain damage to children. It is not therefore surprising that while parliament sheds its crocodile tears it also moves step by step to the complete destruction of medical research.

If no-one has any idea of the problem why spend money on solving it? Not exactly an ostrich philosophy - they're burying our heads in the sand.

Shipley : fight goes on

STRIKING WORKERS from the Inland Revenue Computer Centre at Shipley in Yorkshire are at the sharp end of Civil Service action against the government, being one of the areas selected for total stoppage. In the tenth week of their strike workers here marked the financially busiest third week of the month with a week of action throughout the region including a mass picket on the Wednesday and culminating in a North of England rally held in the shadow of the now quiet installation. Delegates from as far afield as Liverpool and Leicester, Nottingham and Newcastle and more besides, lent their weight to the rally, and pledged continuing support.

One of the striking Civil Servants told The Worker that morale was high and that the determination to pursue the dispute

to a proper conclusion was unwavering. "We are confident that the action is biting and the Government are pressed. They can't or won't say how much revenue they are managing to pull in. As a matter of fact they don't know how much they're spending either, because the computer staff at the Paymaster General's office in Crawley have been out since March 9th. We enjoy the support of many unions locally, in particular the Post Office workers who have been invaluable. We also have evidence of indirect support from firms and organisations who are withholding their P. A. Y. E. payments etc."

One thing is very clear, the workers at Shipley are in no mood to relinquish the leading role they are playing in this most important dispute.

IPCS Conference seals unity

THE IPCS CONFERENCE followed those of the other major Civil service unions. It took place during the eleventh week of the civil servant's campaign of industrial action, amidst much media speculation of the possibility of a one week all-out strike.

Delegates, however, avoided the danger of being diverted into assuming fixed positions for or against such a strike and instead held broader discussions on how to take the pay campaign forward. Conference thereby avoided polarizing the opinions of its own membership and refused to give the press fodder for stories of a "split" with the other unions, which they were anxiously looking for.



NALGO in Hounslow Hospital fight.

Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

Central and Local Government workers-no servants for Thatcher

'CENTRAL and local government workers - no servants for Thatcher' was the title of the latest public meeting at the Bellman Bookshop. It could not have come at a better time, with the civil servants outstripping everyone's expectations - becoming, as one contributor put it, the major force contributing to the Government's downfall.

The Government on gaining power two years ago had banked on splitting the 'public sector' so called from the private; had expected passivity from bowler-hatted Bumbles, had hoped to gain by consigning the drones of public service to unemployment while the rest applauded.

An absurd miscalculation! NALGO, within months, forced the Government to honour an agreement they had reneged on, with industrial action so severe and unprecedented that two weeks were enough for success. But the Government failed to see the warning.

Now it is plain that it is the government, and Thatcher, that are truly powerless. The NATO war system is stopped as and when union members decide. Thatcher's coffers are empty as no revenue is collected. This whole sorry state of disarray and dislocation of the Government machine is caused by nine unions who have together agreed upon a battle plan which has unwaveringly concentrated on key weak points

in the government machine, and still keeps the threat of all-out strike action in reserve.

The great step forward for us all, and the defeat for Thatcher is that the battle is no longer seen by anyone as a question of a percentage on the wage bill. Whatever agreement is reached (and the government is being forced to negotiate) it is now a question of power. The whole country, thanks to the civil servants, can see that Thatcher is and has been crippled, not just by the miners, but by those whom she had from the outset deemed to be only pin-striped gentlemen.

Government workers, as one of

the speakers put it, face directly 'the meanest, most vicious, most criminal employer of them all'. That they are not in awe of Thatcher, but untiring to remove her is her greatest defeat yet.

It is also the greatest encouragement for all other workers. NALGO, for example, founded in 1905, did not join the TUC until 1920 and did not even have strikes as part of its constitution until 1961. Civil servants at one stage had 36 appropriate unions. Yet, today, they are rocking a government. Let no-one say, 'we have no industrial muscle'. And let those of us whose unions have said this, revise our views!

Public Meetings

LONDON

WHERE IS THE OPPOSITION?

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, Tufnell Park, NW5
Friday 12 June, 7.30pm

THE URGENCY OF REVOLUTION

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, Tufnell Park, NW5
Friday 26 June, 7.30pm

EDUCATION IN CRISIS, STAND AND FIGHT

Room 114, Middlesex Poly
Tuesday 2 June 6.30pm

OXFORD

STAND AND FIGHT FOR BRITAIN FOR PEACE
Committee Room, East Oxford Community Centre,
Princes Street (Off Cowley Road)
Wednesday 10 June, 8pm

Civil Service press forward against the Government

MEMBERS of 9 Civil Service Unions remain firm in their intent to smash through Thatcher's 7 per cent barrier as the action continues into the 13th week.

Following Union conferences workers engaged in the taxing of unemployment benefit have struck as have Customs staff in South and East Coast ports and there is further action in Royal Ordnance Factories, Atomic Energy Authority and several internationally sensitive communications centres.

The effects of such a well conducted guerilla campaign are substantial. The Government must continue to spend practically the same as ever and yet received only 60-70 per cent of their expected revenue and we are seeing pressure on them mounting from the business community, Airlines, VAT repayment traders etc who are feeling the pinch as a result of Thatcher's defiance.

However it is clear to Civil Service workers that Thatcher has chosen the Council of Civil Service Unions as the battle-

ground for the prosecution of her attack on the organised working class and the realisation of the political nature of the Government's position necessarily reflects upon the form the struggle will now assume.

Against a Government who clearly have no concern for inflation or the money supply except as a vehicle for smashing the Trade Unions, political pressure must be added to financial to force concession. For Civil Servants to take further control of the 'defence' machine (dear to Thatcher's heart) was to obviously cut deep. Meanwhile the dangers of an extremely long dispute are well recognised.

The difficulty of the decisions facing us is presently compounded by the activities of some Union officials. Elements who never had the resolve and determination of the class could easily undermine 3 months of struggle unless we ourselves take hold of the issue and leave them with no room for backsliding or manoeuvre.

The question of extending

action into the benefit services will now have to be faced squarely. We know for a certainty that weakness now will mean a destruction of jobs and of the work of the social security services that will be felt for years.

When we know that Thatcher is engaged in dismantling the Social Security System and the withdrawal of services in her attack on the old, the sick and the unemployed, it is fitting that workers in this area should play their part in the fight which is the only guarantee for the preservation of jobs and services hard won by workers in the past.

Mounting anger will ensure that Civil Servants carry the struggle forward and to Thatcher, rapidly on a wider front and in the correct way so that she will find it impossible to govern.

The alternative whether 7 per cent or some other form of parity wage fixing is defeat not only for Civil Service workers but for the whole class as Thatcher will need no asking to pursue her attacks

After the local elections carry the battle through to its logical conclusion

THATCHER has been massively weakened by the results of the local government elections, not just because her subordinates have been thrown out from London to Liverpool, but because of the issues on which the election was fought.

Thatcher out: was the thought behind each vote - and that thought has an existence and vitality that goes beyond the ballot box.

It is in response to this new clarity and sense of purpose that the "opposition within the opposition", as the Tories fearfully put it, is growing. The Labour National Executive is being pressured to change its line on Ireland. The policies of the Labour Party - out of the EEC, no nuclear missiles in Britain, no unemployment, for a planned socialist economy - have spokesmen who have stepped out of the Parliamentary arena, and have cast their lot with the trade union movement whose aspirations these are.

A few weeks ago, a handful of Labour MPs took to the streets outside Westminster in protest at unemployment, in protest at the ban on marches. Last weekend, the whole of the Labour Movement was there in mind (and so very many of them in body) on the

streets, marching into London against unemployment. The old myth that change is achieved through Parliament is dying a long overdue death and this is mirrored both in the tactics and thinking of the Labour Movement.

The overriding commitment is to get Thatcher out. Ken Livingstone, the new Labour leader of the GLC put it well. "We carry a terrible responsibility. County Hall belongs to us. County Hall is a vital resource for our movement. Let us begin to make use of it. The meeting rooms in the empty building will provide an ideal central meeting point for trade unions and so on."

Labour councils were quite wrong, he said, to think they could live under a Tory Central Government and simply put up rates to maintain services. "Restore the rate support grant. This will be at the Centre of our campaign against the government. Part of our task will be to sustain a holding operation until such time as the Tory Government can be brought down."

That task is the task, not of politicians, but as the People's March for Jobs showed, of us all. Workers, more of us than ever before, are clear on the real task ahead.

NATFHE favours an aggressive posture in defence of education

"THE FIREMEN'S Conference resolved that one redundancy of a fireman anywhere in the country would lead to a national firemen's strike. Do we have less belief in the importance of our education service than our colleagues in the Fire Service place in theirs?"

With these words one speaker at the 6th Conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) laid before the conference the task facing the membership of the college lecturers' union in the coming year. The problem for members was not that of recognising the numerous and damaging attacks of the Thatcher Government but of resolving to oppose them with the

force at our disposal.

The conference displayed the division of thinking which exists. Is it 'business as usual' as displayed in motions expecting educational progress on request from Mrs Thatcher? Or will the determination to stand and fight this Government set the positive note for a year of struggle against Thatcher and her ilk? Conference decisions to oppose all forms of job loss (not just compulsory redundancy) to resist the use of 'Premature Retirement Compensation' to buy jobs vital to the future of the education service, and to mount a vigorous campaign to oppose the Government plans to take control from the local authorities, point to new deter-

mination.

This was expressed clearly by conference speakers: "We have not got the right to sell jobs. They are not ours to sell. Every job we save is a nail in Thatcher's coffin."

We have to stand up to Thatcher and her policies and fight for education and the future of this country."

This conference positively laid the basis in policy for the membership to preserve the education service in the coming year. This means the willingness to fight on all the main issues confronting us - jobs, wages, conditions of service, negotiating structures, education provision - is now demanded. Do we have any choice?

Triple alliance against British Industry

AT A RECENT conference of employers in the textile industry came confirmation of the wholesale destruction of the British textile industry. Parkinson, the Trade Minister confirmed the Government's intentions when he revealed that far from protecting our industry, he would urge textile firms to withdraw from certain areas of production altogether.

"It may well be that since 1977 the industry has largely withdrawn from certain areas. Perhaps we could be more generous in those areas (with regard to import controls) in return for tough restrictions where we are still strong."

He went on to praise the workings of the present Multi-fibre arrangement and declared that he was seeking improvements in the next MFA now due for negotiation. The period of the current MFA has seen an unprecedented decline in our manufacturing capacity, particu-

larly over the last two years, with a 17 per cent drop in production levels in 1980 alone. Far from securing our textile industry the present MFA along with EEC quotas has opened up the British market to heavily subsidised products, particularly from the USA. Any new arrangements will be bound to be worse as Parkinson's fawning and grovelling in the face of US pressure shows. He warned against the use of trade sanctions on US imports as these could lead to retaliation; ignoring the fact that if things go on as they are for much longer, there'll be no industry left to protect and no exports to the USA to be retaliated against. The 'special relationship' between the States and Britain has a distinct one-sidedness about it these days. We become a floating arsenal, prepared for complete annihilation and in return they'll take away the onerous task of

producing useful goods such as carpets and woollens.

The third party to this carve-up, the EEC was represented by that expatriate, Tugendhat. His brilliant contribution to the solution of the crisis in textiles was to advocate the European answer - outward processing. This very move, which entails the shipping-out of semi-finished articles to cheap labour countries from well established textile producers, has led directly to the virtual demise of the West German industry which now operates in name only. Thousands have lost their jobs, the industry is now only a glorified shipping agent, importing the finished goods and sticking on labels to beat what limited quota controls there are within the Common Market.

As with all these problems, these representatives of finance capital have nothing to offer us.



The People's March en route.

Photo: Syd Shelton, Hot Pink Heart Graphics

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Clarion Books 5 The Precinct, Stanford-Je-Hope, Essex
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays

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