

Militant

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SOLIDARNOSC

POLAND:

Eye-witness account
of Solidarity's conference
See centre pages

BRITAIN UNDER THE TORIES

Dole queue or slave market!

By Kevin Ramage
(LPYS National
Chairman)

"A modern day slave market" is the best description of the "screen appeal" on Tyne-Tees TV shown in the North East.

This gives six unemployed youth a week a 40-second 'opportunity' to beg for a job. Thatcher says she "is very interested", and "wishes the venture well".

But for the 49,000 unemployed in the north, it's no answer. Three months of this TV cattle market will give a 'chance' to a mere 70 youth.

At that rate it will take over 150 years for all the area's unemployed youth to appear on TV! But even then there are no new jobs being created.

Everybody on the Labour Party marches in Jarrow and Grantham this weekend will be united in demanding more than 'adverts'.

In 1933, the darkest period of the 1930s, unemployment of 14-24 year olds stood at 800,000. Today, 48 years



SUPPORT LEYLAND WORKERS

Like all workers in Tory Britain, we at Leyland have suffered enormously from real wage cuts and huge redundancies over the past few years.

The latest pay "offer" of 3.8% adds a huge insult to these injuries. BL workers' fight is a vital one for all workers.

The government would see defeat for us as the green light for intensified attacks on living standards, jobs and union organisation.

A letter from BL management to the firm's car workers claims that their final offer would make workers the best paid in the British car industry.

Michael Edwardes has been accused of a lot of things, but never a sense of humour!

In the propaganda battle before the real war of strikes, pickets and perhaps occupations this letter takes the biscuit for sheer cheek.

If BL workers are forced to accept a miserable 3.8% it will be the fifth year running that an increase well below the inflation rate has been imposed on them.

For BL workers to claw back all they have lost in real terms since 1972 they would need a rise not of £3 or £4 but £50 or £60!

A Rover track worker who in January 1972 earned £44.50 per week now earns £94 per week, an increase of 111%.

Yet prices in the same period have increased 230%.

In plain English, BL workers have had their living standards cut by two-fifths, and fallen from third in the wages league to about 25th.

As for the bonus, figures bandied around in the press are figments of some deranged

By Les Kuriata
(BL Longbridge worker
and LPYS
National Committee)

editors' imaginations.

The average bonus in Land Rover's Engine factory at Tysley, Birmingham, has been the princely sum of £1.39 per week in the last four weeks.

What happens over the next few weeks could mean the turning point for BL workers. Bold action is vital. Our fight must not be just for wages but to completely smash Edwardes' and the Tories' threat of liquidation.

BL workers and trade unionists should demand:

1. No return until the full claim is met!
2. Stick to the 1 November deadline! No stretching out of negotiations!
3. Strike to be run democratically. No deals! No returns without mass meetings!
4. Full picketing of all plants!
5. Occupy if Edwardes tries to liquidate!
6. Full workers' control and management of BL!

LEYLAND

Bill Mullins looks
at the lessons
of a decade
of conflict
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Militant

CROYDON DEFEAT: RIGHT WING TO BLAME

The Croydon by-election was a severe defeat for the Tories.

It is unlikely that the result would be repeated at a General Election. Nevertheless, the television computer predictions reveal the collapse of the Tory vote: the Croydon result extrapolated nationally would be equivalent to a Tory representation of only nine seats in Parliament, a slight improvement on Warrington would have given them only one.

The Tory Party has always relied on a strong basis of support among the middle class, white collar and professional workers. But the result shows unmistakably that this basis of support is being mauled by the Tories' drastic economic policies.

Not surprisingly, Tory 'wets' like Pym and Gilmore have sounded the alarm for them. These more far-sighted representatives of the ruling class realise

that if the Tories lose their traditional base in suburban areas like Croydon, they will never win it back again and so the by-election will undoubtedly increase the pressure on Thatcher to shift her policies.

But the result was also extremely disappointing for the Labour Party. Labour should be in a position to win seats like Croydon in the present situation, with 3 million unemployed and falling living standards. The media and the right wing of the party have already found their scapegoat in the left wing of the party.

The right wing will be using the result to try to launch an attack upon the Labour Party conference decisions and to turn back the clock, but in particular to start a witch-hunt against the Marxists around Militant. But it is complete hypocrisy for the right wing to suggest that the left is responsible for the defeat in Croydon.

The fact of the matter is it was the right wing of the party which dominated the

whole election campaign. Labour's campaign ignored the party conference decisions and in so far as there was any political content to it at all (see article on Croydon) it harked back to the failed policies of 1974-79—the policies that opened the door to Thatcherism. Faced with a worsening economic position, there was nothing whatsoever that workers could get enthusiastic about and in fact the lowest turnouts were reported in the Labour areas.

As against the low-key, almost apolitical Labour campaign, the Liberal/SDP campaign poured in literally thousands of election workers in the closing stages of the campaign. Most voters are unaware of what the policies of the SDP/Liberal Alliance represent, but after the recent memory of the last Labour government's disastrous policies and faced with Thatcher's even more disastrous solution, the majority of workers wanted a 'change' and it

was precisely this that the Labour campaign in Croydon ran away from.

We have just seen in France and in Greece, massive victories for the labour movement, gaining respectively 56 and 60% of the popular votes. That kind of result could be repeated in Britain if the conference policies of Labour Party were brought out into the open and used as the spearhead of a lively and enthusiastic campaign.

Like the French and Greek workers, British workers would vote overwhelmingly for a Labour Party offering real change. A Labour Party campaign based upon the social transformation of society, taking up the issues of unemployment, public expenditure cuts, massive rent and mortgage increases, would generate a hundred times more enthusiasm among the workers and even middle class voters in places like Croydon. That is the lesson that must be hammered home inside the Labour Party.

Campaign without policies

By John Bulaitis

The fact that the Tories were defeated by the Liberal/SDP candidate and not Labour poses serious questions for the labour movement. The Tories lost 9,000 votes, but the Labour vote dropped by 6,000.

Although Labour's right wing and the Tory leaders have been quick to put the blame for Labour's poor result onto Tony Benn for 'splitting the party', and on to Ken Livingstone for the GLC's supplementary rate increase, the blame for the defeat lies fairly and squarely with the negative campaign of the right.

Undoubtedly, the supplementary rate increase had an effect. The Labour GLC has recently slashed London Transport fares, but the full benefit of this has not been fully realised in Croydon, where there is no tube service and a poor bus service.

Labour's campaign in Croydon, however, should have exposed the fact that half of the supplementary rate increase was to make up for government cuts. But the reaction to the rate increase vindicates 'Militant's' position that Labour Councils should refuse to pass on Tory cuts in the form of rate increases.

However it is utterly false to blame this election result on the left and in particular Tony Benn. In fact the boot is on the other foot. It is the right wing who are responsible.

Organisationally the campaign was under the control of right-wing full-time officials who were drafted into the constituency. It has been the experience of many Labour Party members that these right wing officials put a wet blanket over any kind of political enthusiasm, putting the emphasis instead on bureaucratic and non-political procedures to try to win elections.

While Denis Healey, Roy Hattersley, James Callaghan and other right-wingers came to speak and canvass, Tony Benn was deliberately kept out. Yet he still gets the blame for the result!

There is great discontent with the Tories but working people and the middle class also have memories. They remember that the last Labour government, under the stewardship of the right wing presided over falling living standards, cuts in ser-

vices and doubled unemployment.

The most common reason given on the doorstep for voting Liberal/SDP was not Tony Benn or Ken Livingstone but that they were voting for an 'alternative.' The other parties had failed, they wanted 'new answers.' And the Liberal/SDP, with the massive backing of the media locally and nationally, were presented as an alternative.

Of course, nothing is further from the truth. The Liberals have always been the 'second' party of big business. And the Croydon Liberal Pitt is anything but 'liberal,' as two housewives canvassed by Liberals learnt to their cost. They received letters from top solicitor Lord Goodman acting on behalf of Pitt threatening legal action because of remarks they had made about Pitt on the doorstep. And the SDP represents nothing new, except the old tried, tested and failed policies of the last Labour government.

The fact that these sort of characters could pass themselves off as radicals with 'new answers' to people's problems is an indictment of Labour's campaign. Stan Boden's campaign failed to put forward any socialist answers to mass unemployment, falling living standards, declining living standards or to the problems faced by the middle class.

In the words of one right wing official briefing canvassers "Just go out and reassure people that this is the same old Labour Party they've always known, nothing has changed." The word socialist was never used in any propaganda. Instead infantile slogans like Stan's your man' and 'The Battling Teacher fighting on the Big issues' were highlighted.

The lesson of Croydon is not that Labour has gone too far left, or that 'party bickering' has put off voters. But that the Lib/SDP cannot be tackled by fighting on watered down Liberal/SDP policies that identify the Labour Party with the policies of the last Labour government.

A socialist campaign posing socialist answers would have rallied enormous support in Croydon and won the seat. Croydon is another reason why we must step up the fight to ensure that Labour's leaders and officials genuinely reflect the socialist aspirations of the Party and put forward Party policy.

Militant supporters selected

By Militant reporters

Last weekend, two supporters of Militant were selected as Parliamentary candidates by selection conferences.

In Coventry South East Dave Nellist, a NALGO member and member of the Labour party for seven years, was chosen in a four-cornered contest on the second ballot, the candidature being vacant due to the retirement of the sitting MP at the next election. Coventry SE has a Labour majority of over 7,400 (55%).

The Tory press, however, has devoted the greatest attention to the selection of Pat Wall in Bradford North in a straight fight against the Labour MP Ben Ford. Pat Wall has been a Labour Party member for 31 years, since he was 15, and has an excellent record of work for the Party and the labour movement in general. Pat is well known at Labour Party conferences which he has attended consistently as



Pat Wall (left) and Dave Nellist (right) at Labour Party conference

a delegate and he has been President of Bradford Trades Council for a number of years.

The right wing in the party have echoed the frenzy of the press and have called

for the selection to be rejected by the NEC. But Labour Party members must oppose this attempt to go back to the witch-hunts of the 1950s—Constituency Labour Parties must be

given the right to select the candidate of their own choice. (see article on Ford) Bradford has a Labour majority of over 7,500 (51% of the vote).

SELLERS' RALLY

The 1981 Militant sellers' rally is taking place against a background of growing support for Marxist ideas in the labour movement. The response of Militant sellers hoping to attend the rally in

Bridlington has been very large and anyone still hoping to book will be very lucky to get a place. However, a report of the rally will be published in next week's issue.

WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

'Return to Jarrow'

As part of the build-up for the Labour Party March against unemployment in Jarrow on 1 November, the Labour Party Young Socialists decided to do some factory visiting, to try and meet shop stewards to discuss with them about the demonstration.

We were soon to discover that finding factories that were still open was not too easy. No longer is it a case of going down any day of the week as so many are on short time.

At the first trading estate, in Hebburn, there was only one large factory still operating, but we got a very friendly response from the two G&MWU shop stewards who we spoke to, who were in the middle of a dispute with management over their pay claim for this year—having asked for 16% they were only offered 8%.

At the Bede Trading estate we found a few more factories to visit. And so we should—at one time there were over a dozen! Everywhere we got a friendly response, stewards taking bundles of leaflets to distribute, welcoming the fact that someone had come round to see them.

But what struck us most was the complete air of desolation on the estate. No

By Ed Waugh
(Regional LPYS
Chairman)
& John Whitelaw
(Jarrow LPYS)

fork lift trucks busying about trying to run people over, no articulated lorries thundering through with deliveries. No smoke or steam—almost no noise. A sad testament to Tory Britain!

The next factory we visited explained why there was little activity. The convenor explained that there used to be 230 workers earlier in the year. Now there were only 100 and only 4 out of 56 presses were in use. He predicted that it would be closed by Christmas.

The firm were making Diecastings, but every job they put in for they were undercut in price, especially by Japanese firms. The reason for the ability of Japanese firms to produce cheaper wasn't hard to find. The firm had had a 'Modernisation plan' over the last 10 years—the grand sum of £50,000 a year—not even enough to buy a decent press.

In Hebburn shopping centre we had a street meeting, the crowds soon gathered and we sold eight papers in as many minutes. During the campaign we came across five young lads—no older than 14 years old. We asked them what

they wanted to do when they left school. All five replied that they were going to be joiners. Such confidence! A few seconds later we realised what they meant. Their meaning of joiner was not a person who works with wood but someone who "joins" the dole queue!

A factory gate meeting outside Hebburn shipyards attracted 17 young workers who listened intently and nodded in agreement.

At other factory gate meetings we have had similar responses—at Reyrolles and at the Wall-send shipyards we sold ten papers and collected £6.60 for YS funds. Over 20 papers have been sold at the dole and 15 names taken of people wanting to join the Labour Party.

The Jarrow LPYS public meeting last Wednesday attracted 30 people, including a young shop steward who turned up after buying a copy of the 'Militant' during one of the factory visits.

The programme for each day starts with leafletting the mines and factories at 7.30 am then moving on to canvass the dole. Early evening sees us selling papers and leafletting workers returning home to Jarrow and Hebburn through Newcastle's bus and railway depots.

There's no doubt by the end of this campaign thousands of workers will attend the demo thanks to the publicity work of the LPYS and they will also know about the policies of the LPYS and 'Militant'.



The original 1936 Jarrow Crusade banner was brought out again in 1972 to head the Young Socialists march against unemployment, "from the blackspot of the 1970s (Sunderland) to the blackspot of the 1930s (Jarrow)." One Tory government later the Labour Party's protest against the dole queues follows a similar theme.



Bradford 'democrat' de-selected

By Roger Shriver

Ben Ford, the MP for Bradford North was defeated by Pat Wall in the re-selection conference on 23 October.

On BBC TV news the next day he claimed that Pat Wall's victory was disastrous as "the Militant Tendency was opposed to parliamentary democracy."

But Ben Ford's own record since he became MP for that constituency in 1964 hardly seems to qualify him as a judge of parliamentary democracy.

He is chairman of a number of parliamentary groups including the Anglo-Brazilian and is secretary amongst others of the Anglo-Argentine and Anglo-Singapore groups. What kind of "parliamentary democracies" are the military regimes ruling Brazil and Argentina with their brutal repression of the labour movement and blatant disregard for human rights?

What kind of democracy is run by the government of the low-wage haven of Singapore where trade unionists and leading opposition politicians have been jailed? Yet these parliamentary groups are little more than free publicity outlets for the interests of these respective governments.

Ben Ford also chairs the Anglo-Portuguese group. He showed a concern for promoting Portuguese interests even when the dic-

tatorships of Salazar and Caetano were in power.

In July 1973 Ford was one of two Labour MPs to go to a dinner organised to welcome Caetano in a celebration of "Anglo-Portuguese friendship".

The "friendship" being celebrated was between the British ruling class who had millions invested in Portugal and its colonies, and the Portuguese government, a vicious dictatorship of generals and big landowners.

The weeks immediately before Caetano's visit saw the discovery of horrifying mass murders in Mozambique of African villagers who had been suspected of sympathy with the FRELIMO guerrillas fighting for freedom.

In Portugal itself, several striking airport workers had been shot only weeks previously. But Ford went to the banquet in Greenwich crossing a "picket" of 5,000 Labour Party members and trade unionists showing their support for the Portuguese working class and the people of Mozambique.

In March 1980 Mr Ford asked a question in Parliament of a Tory foreign minister on the question of Namibia, which is illegally occupied in a far from "parliamentary" way by South Africa.

"Will the government bear in mind," he asked, "the infrastructure of civil assistance that has been built up by South African

civilian army specialists in the operational area which would be endangered by a withdrawal of South African troops? Is the government aware that Britons could usefully fill that role?"

Mr Ford is a member of the British Shooting Sports council (and the all-party Clay Pigeon shooting team) and many of his rare parliamentary questions are directed to defending the rights of "legitimate" firearms owners.

In the session of parliament from May 1979 to November 1980 his respect for parliament was such that he voted only 188 times out of 500 divisions. In nearly seven years prior to that he asked no more than seven oral questions and 93 written.

In 1971, as an AUEW-sponsored MP he voted for the EEC despite conference policies of both his union and the Labour Party. In those two years 1970 and 1971 Ford made no speeches in parliament.

He is also political adviser to Yale Lock Co Ltd and to Crane Fruehauf Ltd, a subsidiary of a US multinational. He was previously an adviser to Bristol Ship-repairers who led a big campaign against shipyard nationalisation in the 1970s.

He is also chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party Benevolent Fund and serves on the Commons committee on canteen conditions. So that's what a parliamentary democrat does!

Dole queues grow in Thatcher's home town

This weekend one of the series of demonstrations against unemployment will be held in Grantham, Thatcher's birthplace.

Once a strong engineering town, Grantham has suffered several blows to its key industries. For example, we have seen Aveling-Borford's, one of Grantham's biggest employers, implement a programme of 400 redundancies, decimating whole sections of the shop floor. Smaller engineering firms such as Kontaks reduced their labour force by half, kicking out 150 workers. These workers had come out on strike but without a strong leadership failed to prevent the redundancies, so virtually all the militant trade unionists were paid off.

One firm, Coles Cranes, has had an upsurge in orders resulting in an increase of labour of around 60, but most of the jobs are

By Dave Godson
(Grantham LPYS)

for only 3 months, working compulsory 12-hour shifts. Because of their temporary nature there is no provision for life insurance in case of accidents at work.

Unemployment remains at around 2,000, approximately 7-8%, with a high proportion of youth on the dole. In Lincolnshire as a whole there were 6,405 unemployed youth in August compared with 4,034 in August of last year. An increase of 59%. Of these, 2,822 were engaged on the government's YOP scheme, an increase of 125% over last year.

Grantham was given the title the 'Most Boring Town in Britain,' and in fact facilities for the townfolk especially the youth and unemployed are few and far between. There is no sports centre, no cinema, no

nightclub, (since it was damaged by fire) and so the list goes on. There is a proposed leisure centre due to open in 1982 but for this and other sports and leisure clubs the subscription fees are too high for young people or anyone on the dole.

Socially and economically Grantham has been hit by Thatcher's policies and, like other places in Britain, the time has come to demonstrate against such policies. But it must be said demonstrating alone will not solve the problems which we face.

The only way forward is to put forward a bold socialist programme calling for massive investment in manufacturing industry and public facilities and a programme of useful public works providing real unemployment with trade union rights and rates of pay instead of YOPS. By putting forward such policies, Labour can kick out the Tories and come back to power on a socialist programme.

Militants Message

Merseyside

“We are not now in an epoch of discussions and debate —what is at stake is the fate of the working class.”

That was how Peter Taaffe the editor of 'Militant' summarised the Labour Party conference at a Militant Readers Meeting on Merseyside.

Nearly 200 people heard Peter and Tony Mulhearn president of Liverpool District Labour Party and prospective parliamentary candidate for Toxteth analyse 1981's momentous conference with its overwhelming support for radical resolutions.

As Tony Benn had put it, Clause 4 had been taken out of the Labour Party constitution and on to the agenda of the Labour Party programme.

The election of Denis Healey for deputy leader only represented a victory for the press barons of Fleet Street. 83% of constituencies had voted for Benn.

Peter pointed out how conference had seen the total isolation of a few right wing union general secretaries and MPs from the rest of the overwhelming left delegations at conference.

Bill Sirs, for instance, didn't even consult the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation EC—let alone the rank and file. Strangely enough this mockery of democracy wasn't mentioned by the press!

The right had won certain victories at conference but speakers from the platform and the floor showed that you couldn't judge the conference by the distortions of a right wing press. Delegates were in the mood to take back next year what was lost this.

By Josie Aitman
(Kirkdale LP)

town in particular, had a magnificent response moving the resolution which rejected the failed programme and policy of the last Labour government.

Speakers pointed to the defection of yet more Labour MPs to the Social Democratic Party, ensuring that some parasites who have sucked the lifeblood of the Labour Party for years have left. Some ex Labour MPs in fact got the first ever standing ovation of their lives when they went to

SDP conference!

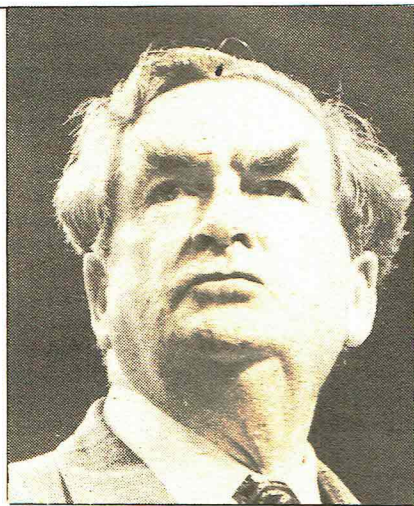
The Crosby by election on Merseyside which is pending could give an ideal chance to carry out a radical socialist campaign aimed at building the Labour Party in the manner of Brighton Kempton where a 'Militant' supporter is standing.

It was a great opportunity to demonstrate that the SDP and Liberals can be defeated on the basis of socialist and Marxist policies and programme.

The support for these ideas was translated into hard cash with a collection of £286 for the fighting fund.



PHOTOS: Top: Labour's Brighton conference Below left; Healey—no real victory Below right 'Militant' editor Peter Taaffe Photos by J McKittrick (Militant)



Left Leaders draw the crowds

By Steve Cawley

The bosses' papers continually rave about the 'electoral appeal' of so-called moderates like Heath, Jenkins and Healey.

But who is the Labour politician getting by far the biggest audience today? Tony Benn.

Thousands have attended meetings in cities like Newcastle and Leeds, but even in suburban areas of London like Ilford, a Tory marginal area like Croydon, 600 Labour supporters gave a standing ovation to Benn on 20 October.

After Kevin Mudie, chairman of a local LPYS branch made a successful financial appeal for the Staffa strikers, Tony Benn pointed out that the attack on Staffa's sit-in was an example like Lee Jeans and Lawrence Scotts of attempts to hold working people down.

The SDP had been pushed by their big business backers because of fears for the electoral consequences for the Tories.

Jobs, homes, schools, health care; and the possibility of retiring on a decent pension and living without the threat of war were really very modest demands, he said. But even to get these demands we would need to change the structure of power in our society away from those who owned and profited from the land and factories.

At this point he was interrupted by loud applause from the whole meeting.

The response shows something of the potential there would be even in comparatively affluent areas of a clear socialist campaign at election times!

Scargill Campaign

By Steve Amor

As part of the build up to the election for the NUM presidency, Arthur Scargill has been busy in the North East Region.

On 9 October, Scargill spoke at Boldon Colliery, an area not previously noted for its militancy. However, he received an enthusiastic welcome from an audience of 200, mostly miners.

Particularly noticeable was the applause for the criticism which Scargill made of the so-called left MPs who abstained in the Deputy Leadership ballot. More applause greeted his comments that if Labour stood for their class the way the Tories stood for theirs, the labour movement would not have any problems about implementing conference decisions in the future.

Saturday morning saw him

at Southwick, Sunderland, with an audience of 300 this time. 50 Militants were sold as the miners gathered. Scargill attacked the NCB over negotiations on wages and pit closures. He also stated that if he became President then no pits would close for any reason other than geological or safety reasons.

The Durham NUM area officials who were wearing Labour Party Young Socialists stickers, pledged support for Scargill. This is significant because in the past, Durham has been known as a right-wing area.

Almost immediately afterwards, another meeting was held which had been organised by Seaham LPYS. Arthur Scargill was on the platform once more, alongside Ed Waugh, the regional LPYS chairman. Over 30 papers were sold, and six members recruited to the YS.



Arthur Scargill at Labour Party conference

Photo: MILITANT

Cleethorpes

Cleethorpes Labour Party Young Socialists recently held a public meeting entitled "Which way now for Labour?" The speaker was Ted Grant from "Militant" editorial board.

About 40 people turned up to hear Ted with age ranges from about 15 to 50, indicating the anger and frustration that all ages and sectors of the community

feel about the Tory Government's policies.

Ted began by outlining what the policies of the Thatcher government actually mean for working class people, and the tremendous hardships that have been caused as a result.

The Tories imagine that they can return to the hard, monetarist policies of Victorian times, when there was no dole, or social services at all, and if people had no job they just starved on the street.

Ted pointed out that the

strong, organised trade union movement of today would never allow such a situation to happen again.

He pointed out the absolute stupidity of a government that raves about cutting public expenditure, and then finds itself with a bill of £10,000 million pounds per year to pay for unemployment benefit!

Ted continued to explain how the disastrous policies of the last Labour government with its incomes policy and efforts to restrict trade union power had led to many disillusioned workers

voting for the Tories.

The working class and trade union movement will not be prepared to go back to the SDP-type policies of the last Callaghan government.

The collection at the meeting raised £14.50 for the Militant Fighting Fund, which is very encouraging, considering most of the people in the room were on the dole or school students.

Beth Kinsella
(Cleethorpes YS)



The 'Daily Express', the 'Voice of Britain', has once again discovered a fiendish Red plot to subvert our glorious nation. Courageously the 'Express' [on the Monday after the massive CND demo] exposed a scandal involving the Stationery office [at the Houses of Parliament]. Apparently the "mole" who was "trying to do the Kremlin a favour" inserted a leaflet urging friendship with Russia into a role of House of Commons papers delivered to the 'Express'.

Highly sinister stuff. Using their most skilful methods of investigative journalism, the Express tracked down the author of the leaflet; Mr Curtiss, a 66 year old ex-railway-man who voted Tory in the last election—obviously a dangerous Red terrorist. But how the leaflet got into the Parliamentary stationery office still remains a mystery—MI5 and the CIA are no doubt working overtime to discover how this break in security occurred.

Of course, the reason this ridiculous drivel was featured was not just because the 'Express' is concerned of pro-USSR leaflets turning up at the House of Commons. Added to the article was the sentence: "With his wife and a busload of CND supporters he [Mr Curtis] distributed thousands of the leaflets in London on Saturday." The 'Express' along with the rest of the gutter press is trying to create the image that the CND is pro-Soviet Union, in order to discredit all ideas which favour nuclear disarmament.

You don't need to worry about the Environment the Second Coming will be along soon. That's what James Watt, Reagan's Secretary for the Interior believes. This enlightened individual is responsible for over 400 million acres of Federal land, the mines and mining leases of a further 370 million acres, together with a billion acres of offshore continental shelf and 300 National Parks.

His approach is to give private companies virtually a free hand to make profits whatever the effect upon the environment. Over 1 million people have signed a petition calling for his sacking. The Governor of Montana was angered about Watt's decision to over-ride state control over strip mining.

But the dangers of Watts 'let profits rip' is not confined to the environment. Last week his own department revealed that nine oil and gas companies were underpaying the government \$400 million a year for oil and gas produced on Federal land. The First Coming of the American labour movement to power cannot occur too soon.

The right wing UNP government in Sri Lanka has been responsible for the biggest cuts in living standards for decades, for the imprisonment and framing of labour leaders, for the locking out of trade unionists and for rigging the constitution in their own favour.

Sri Lankan workers trying to exist on wages of a few pounds a month or on nothing at all will be justifiably furious that their government has seen fit to dish out gifts to the British royals ending their recent tour. The biggest gift was a sapphire for the Queen, worth up to half a million pounds.

Of course, royalty are always very expensive, even a new royal like Lady Di. That's why Charles has had to award himself another £2,500 a week from his Duchy of Cornwall estates, in spite of Di's own £10,000 a year private income.

Well-informed experts reckon that Di will spend up to £1,500 a week on clothes during her first year as Princess of Wales, and that's at wholesale prices. Of course, Di also needs a maid, three Ladies-in-waiting, and a private secretary, and this is apart from the extra cooks, footmen, butlers, and maids Charles has taken on to help them through married life.

Still, he manages [according to experts] to save about £70,000 a year out of his £145,000 tax-free Duchy income to add to his considerable [but secret] portfolio of stocks and shares.

YOPS

CAMPAIGN

An opportunity to organise

In the weeks leading up to the YOPS Trainees Union Rights Campaign conference (21 November) the Labour Party Young Socialists have been active throughout the country.

Mike Waddington reports from Basildon.

■ 'Cheap labour storm sparks union drive' and 'slave labour threat to young jobless' were headlines in the local press. The unexpected publicity gave extra confidence to YS members after a successful public meeting with Labour MP Reg Race speaking.

The press had come along, probably hoping for some heckling, but the launching of our campaign locally got a good response—and even got us on the local's front page.

A YOPster in Essex recently lost a finger on a lathe. His employer had been fined for negligent conduct but had been allowed to take another low paid youngster on the YOPS scheme. Not surprisingly, then, we got a sympathetic response from a group of trainees at a 'Life and social skills' centre we visited, where copies of the YS publication 'Get Organised' were sold.

When we met some of the youngsters in the town later they were even more enthusiastic. Their mood had previously been dampened by the presence of the

supervisor ('I'm not a Tory—but I think the SDP are good!').

Other supervisors are more helpful and we are visiting another training centre to speak to the trainees. With the help of NUPE, the YS are finding the campaigning a lot easier than it seemed.

We think we should soon be able to establish a YOPsters organisation in Basildon. The first item on our shopping lists?—free travel!

In Manchester too, as Malcolm Clark shows, big steps forward have been taken. With at least 30 YOPsters in Tameside organised by the YS into NUPE, and the likelihood of 150-160 from the Tech in Wythenshawe joining the TGWU after YS and T&G speakers visited the college.

■ Manchester YSs have launched a campaign for free bus passes for YOPS members in Greater Manchester, already with the support of a number of constituency and ward Labour parties and support from the GMWU.

We are visiting bus depots to gain the support of busworkers. A series of meetings are planned, and a lobby of the County Council Transport Committee in November.

"The conference is a great idea" Dick Pickering, Manchester branch secretary GMWU told us "We'll definitely be sending one or two convenors and as many YOPS members as we can persuade to go." Dick has suggested a joint GMWU/LPYS meeting in the next few months.



Photo: Denis Doran

Mending a cemetery wall—a job "opportunity" on Tyneside

On 15 October a Wythenshawe LPYS member Martin Lee accompanied a T&GWU official in a visit to Wythenshawe Tech, in the middle of a huge council estate where YOPS are just about the only 'opportunity' for local youth.

■ Hardly any trainees knew they could join a union, even fewer that employers are obliged to pay £40 towards uniforms and so on" Martin reports.

All the trainees we saw signed the petition for free travel and gave examples from their own experiences. One had been sacked for leaving a lift door open; and two waitresses had been expected to buy their own footwear by a well known anti-union hotel chain.

One YOPS trainee who worked in a pub/restaurant, supposedly to learn all aspects of the trade, told us he spent most

time "peeling 56lb bags of carrots and potatoes and taking the owner's pet alsatian for walks!"

Wythenshawe YS urge all LPYS branches to try to speak to Life and Social Skills courses. If the principal refuses, try a petition from the YOPsters. If you plan well in advance and do some weeks of work, a lot can come from it.

Of the 40 trainees, only 4 said they were satisfied with their training and experience. We are considering a delegation to meet our MP, so numerous are the abuses.

I hope our experience gives help to other YSs. We have a great prospect of not only helping YOPS workers' immediate problems but showing the need for a socialist alternative which could give a real job guaranteed for school leavers.

Derbyshire marches for jobs

By Andrea Hughes

(West Derbyshire LPYS and ex Derbyshire March for Jobs)

Join the Labour Party, join the Labour Party Young Socialists and fight to kick the Tories out! was how the LPYS speaker at a rally on the Derbyshire March for Jobs ended her contribution.

After the rally finished just two LPYS members on the march collected 19 names for the Labour Party and the LPYS.

The march, organised by Derby and Chesterfield Trades Councils, was to rally people against unemployment and to support Derbyshire County Councils' refusal to implement any cuts.

56 people walked from

Derby to Chesterfield, with rallies also at Belper, Ripley, Alfreton and Clay Cross.

The LPYS members made a strong impact, being chosen by the marchers to represent them at two of the rallies, with many, new to the labour movement following our advice and

joining the Labour Party and buying the 'Militant'. This was in spite of daily coverage of the march by 'News Line' and the 'Morning Star'!

For us there is the possibility of putting new blood into two LPYS branches and of speaking to a YOPs scheme about joining unions and the Trade Union Rights Campaign.

The march must be seen as just the start of a campaign by the labour movement to kick out the Tories and for a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

CND- 250,000 march against bomb

It was massive. And it was mainly youth.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament demonstration on Saturday 24 October numbered a quarter of a million, certainly the biggest demonstration seen in Britain since the 1930s.

A second route had to be opened up when it became clear that the original plan for the day would have left tens of thousands of demonstrators still waiting to set off, from the Embankment, in the small hours of Sunday morning!

The two routes were packed solid with a constant stream of people surging towards Hyde Park. The message was clear—end the madness of a nuclear arms race!

While the odd priest or Liberal Party banner could be spotted in the surging demonstration, it consisted

**Report by
Bob Wade**

predominantly of youth. Not just from the industrial areas but from rural villages as well, illustrated by banners such as 'Farnborough Farmers' etc.

Although trade union banners were seen on the march, they were sparsely distributed amongst the mass of demonstration, unlike the mass trade union turnout for recent demonstrations of thousands against unemployment.

Although for much of the organised labour movement, mass unemployment is still the key issue, the Labour party must take the lead in both these two areas of protest, bringing them together with socialist

policies that guarantee full employment and the ending of the nuclear arms race.

While CND organisers praised the 'broad base' nature of CND, around the slogan of 'Together we can stop the bomb', it was clear from the slogans changed and the applause given to some of the speeches that many on the march were looking towards the ideas of socialism and internationalism as the answer.

E P Thompson was cheered when he hailed the recent electoral victory of PASOK, the Greek socialist party. He also urged pressmen from the USSR present to make it clear the demonstration was against the Soviet arms build up as well as that of Western capitalism.

Cheers greeted Michael Foot's call for the next government to be Labour. He pointed out that the demonstration was anti-Reagan, not anti-American, recalling the recent mass protest of 250,000 American workers. They had common interests with the international working class.

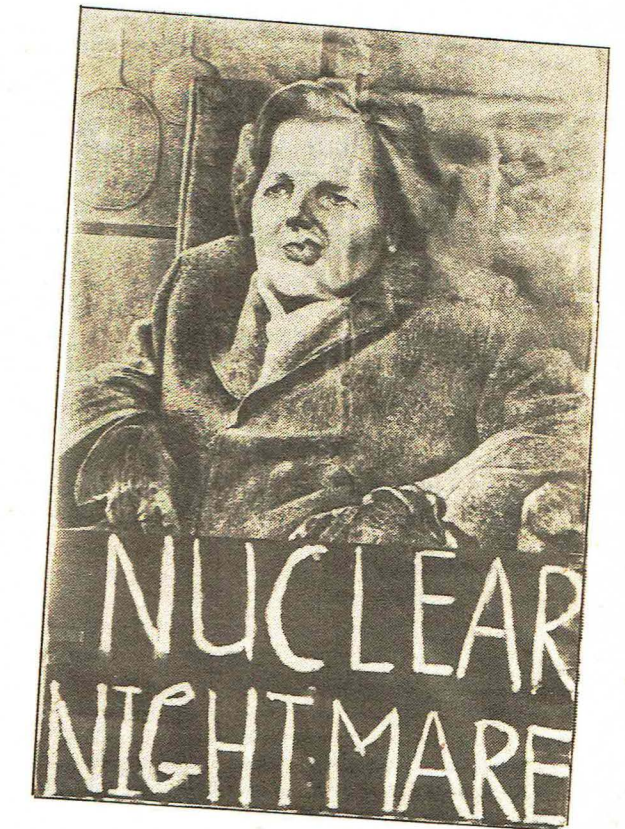
The biggest cheer of the afternoon came for Tony Benn. Describing how the Polish workers were combatting the power of the Stalinist bureaucracies of the Eastern Bloc, he said it

was time for British and European people to 'stand up to Reagan' and American imperialism.

During the march, the cries of 'Tories out' were second only to the chant of 'Ban the bomb'. And during the afternoon's entertainment, the Cast theatre group were cheered when they pointed out that the newly formed Social Democratic Party were as much in support of nuclear weaponry as the Tories.

It is clear that the hawkish behaviour of the Reagan administration has provoked mass opposition, not only in this country but in Europe as a whole. After the 250,000 strong demonstration in Bonn on 10 October, last weekend saw 200,000 march in Brussels, a quarter of a million in Rome and 200,000 in Paris. In all, about a million people demonstrated against nuclear arms in Western Europe at the weekend.

Not that Fleet Street would give all those facts! Only the 'serious' press gave the demo accurate coverage. The 'popular' Sunday press relegated it to the inside pages, giving prominence instead to the usual sensationalist drivel, or conjured up red herrings about the march (e.g. 'Sunday Express,' 25 October: 'Britain's biggest CND



demo...caused traffic chaos throughout London yesterday, creating major problems for police on standby for IRA bombings."

Whilst the bosses and their kept press mislead, it is the task of Marxists to carefully explain that the only guarantee against nuclear holocaust and war is the socialist transformation of society. For all the admirable good intentions

of the leaders of the peace movement, their emotive pleadings to the capitalist class to disarm will fall on deaf ears.

The new upsurge in the movement against nuclear arms and war in general must be directed towards socialist conclusions, so that the capitalist system and the threat of war it brings, is ended once and for all.

UNEMPLOYMENT: LONGER AND DEEPER

By Jim Chrystie

Despite government claims to the contrary this month's unemployment figures show a deteriorating position for Britain's jobless.

The slight decline of 10,000 in the number out of work (keeping the number just below the three million mark at 2,989,000) is accounted for by an increase in the number of school-leavers on YOP and work experience schemes. Altogether 697,000 people were on such schemes in September.

But for those 'officially' out of work the situation is getting increasingly desperate. The chances of find-

ing a job within three months of becoming unemployed are now worse than at any time since such figures began to be collected in 1948.

And the likelihood of finding work declines with age. Those aged between 16 and 24 have a 41% chance of getting a job within three months, but for those over the age of 45 the chances are only 27%.

Unemployment is now so widespread that nowhere has escaped the ravages of the recession (see article on page 7). In London and the South East 8.3% are out of work, and in Wales and the North of England over 14% are jobless.

But the area that has been hit comparatively the

hardest is the West Midlands, an area which almost escaped the devastation of the thirties. Unemployment in this region has risen by 5.2%

both to register because they are unable to claim benefit a surer guide to the levels of unemployment is the numbers of men unemployed. In West Midlands

A million miles away from the reality of unemployment, Antony Steen, the Tory barrister MP for Liverpool Wavertree, has tried to claim that vast numbers of the jobless are 'lording it in the Tyrol on ski-ing holidays'.

over the last year, compared with between 3% and 4.1% in other regions.

As many women do not

one man in six, 16.7% is unemployed.

If the numbers of women who are really unemployed

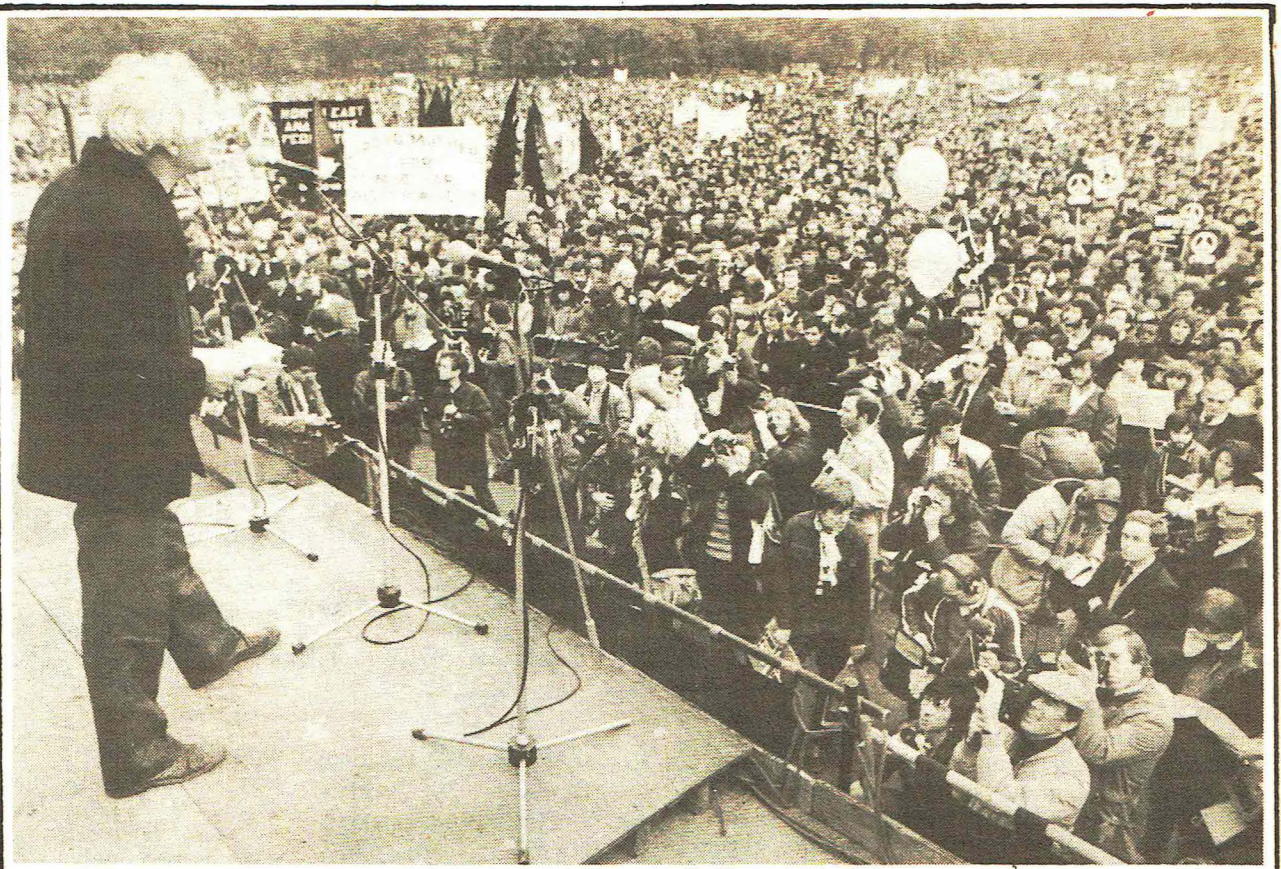
and the numbers who are going through the farce of the government's work experience schemes are included then the real national unemployment is well over 4 million.

There is no likelihood that it will improve in the near future. Last week Heseltine told Merseyside that there was no government help on the way—people would have to sort out their difficulties themselves. His package of a very modest £50 million in aid has been turned down by Thatcher and the Treasury.

The bosses' organisation, the CBI, has forecast that there will be little economic improvement over the next three years. In a document to be presented next month

to their annual conference they report that output is now ½% lower than a year ago; company profitability has fallen further; and industry's competitiveness at the end of last month was 35% less than six years ago.

They forecast that unemployment will continue to rise and that inflation will not fall significantly. Next year they predict that at best there will only be a modest improvement in output amounting to less than 1%. As long as the Tories and their system remains it is clear that mass unemployment is here to stay.



(Above) E P Thompson addresses crowd at Hyde Park.

(Right) One of the posters carried on the march

THE PARASITES WHO PROFIT FROM SICKNESS

"The health industry may not be in business to make people healthy, but it's certainly in business to make money."

That's how a lawyer described the American health 'industry' on a recent 'World in Action' TV programme. "Wall Street loves it," she added. You can see why.

The past ten years have seen a rapid growth of profit-making companies in the American health system. Now the Tory government is encouraging them in Britain. Terrible damage will be inflicted on the National Health Service if they are allowed to succeed.

In America, the number of hospitals run for profit is increasing and a few giant companies now dominate the market. Two companies, *Humana* and *Hospital Corporation of America* each had a total income over \$1,000 million in 1979. *American Medical International* and *Hospital Affiliated International* both received over \$500 million and the total income of private health companies was \$12-13,000 million.

Luxury private hospitals are mainly found in the suburbs and cities of the prosperous South and West.

They are almost totally absent from the inner-city ghettos of the North East. Bad health may be good for business, but not if the patient is too poor to pay.

These hospitals are not in business to provide comprehensive medical care but to treat certain 'profitable' conditions.

If an old lady falls and breaks a hip bone she may also have heart disease and a bladder infection. After a necessary operation she might also get a chest infection or other complications.

She would certainly need a great deal of nursing and block a 'valuable' bed for several weeks. But such nursing is not 'cost-effective' for private hospitals.

As a business proposition it's much more attractive to do surgery on fit patients who can go home the same day. There is little nursing involved and a high bed turnover. Surgical procedures, X-rays, laboratory tests, etc. are easy to cost—the more the hospital performs, the more money it gets.

So few private hospitals run a casualty service and very few run nursing schools or training programmes for junior doctors. These cost

By John Dale
(Bolsover CLP)
in first of a two-part
article on private health

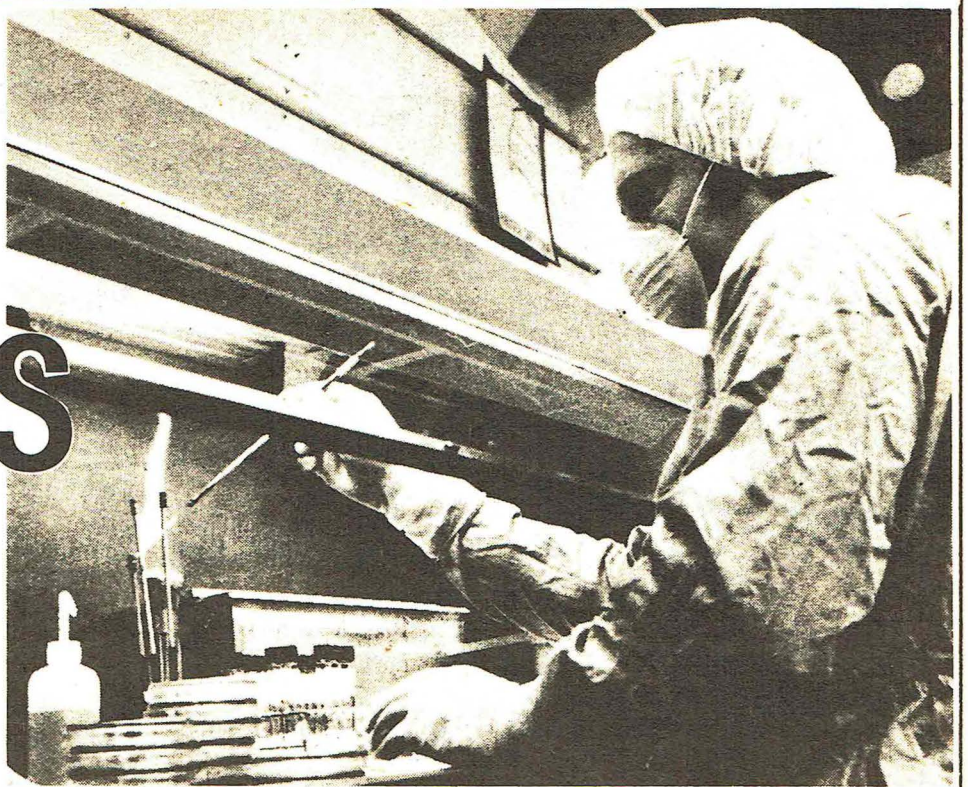
money as the hospitals would have to have a much broader range of patients, including the chronically sick, to give experience to the trainees. 'Let the state train the staff for us to use,' is the attitude of these leeches.

David Jones, founder of *Humana*, said on 'World In Action', that one of the attractions for these American companies to set up hospitals in Britain was the "marvellous trained staff".

As well as profit-making hospitals, other parts of the US health 'industry' are becoming big business. 77% of nursing homes are run for profit, with an estimated income of \$15,000 million in 1979.

A growing number of services are on sale to patients in their homes—trained nurses, nursing aides, physiotherapists, occupational therapists etc. This "market" was estimated to be worth \$3,000 million in 1979.

One in three American medical laboratories are now run for profit. Their 1979 income was between \$5 and \$6,000 million. A variety of other services are sold—industrial health screening, dental care,



US medical laboratory. One in three are run strictly for profits and had an income of \$5,000 million in 1979

weight control clinics, alcohol and drug-abuse treatment and doctors' house-calls.

The total income of this medical 'industry' was \$35-\$40,000 million in 1979 and this excludes the drug, medical supplies and equipment.

Soon a few giant monopolies will control the American health service. As long as this remains and society is run for profit, reforms benefit them.

In 1972 the US Congress made it possible for anyone needing treatment on a kidney machine to have it paid for by the National Insurance scheme, Medicare. At that time, only about 40 patients per million population were receiving long-term treatment on kidney machines, almost entirely from non-profit making organisations. 40% of those on machines were treated at home and kidney transplants were rapidly becoming an alternative treatment.

Seven years later over 200 patients per million population were on kidney machines (the highest rate in

the world—the UK figure was only 53 per million). Only about 13% were being treated at home. There was also a considerable decline in the number of kidney transplants.

● US 'medical industry' 1979 income, between \$35,000m and \$40,000m

● 77% US nursing homes run for profit, income 1979 \$15,000m

This shows that until the government guaranteed that profits could be made, many patients who needed such treatment must have died. Secondly, some patients who could now benefit from a kidney transplant might not be getting one because of the loss of business that would follow for the kidney

machine operators.

Doctors often have shares in these companies and many are employed by them. So patients' welfare can come second to capitalists' profit.

Grim statistics of a different sort bear this out. In 1976 two million people had unnecessary surgery at a cost of \$4,000 million. 12,000 of them could not even complain about it afterwards, having lost their lives as a result of an operation they did not need. In ancient times human sacrifices were made to the gods. Apparently this still takes place.

The corporations whose bank balances are swollen as a result of this grotesque system now wish to open hospitals in Europe—which they see as a growth market.

A subsequent article will outline how the Tories wish to bring this system to Britain.

The statistics on the US health industry are taken from articles written by Arnold Reiman 'New England Journal of Medicine' Vol. 303 No 17, pp 963, 966.

NOWHERE TO GO TEBBIT

The new Unemployment Minister, Norman Tebbit, told the Tory Party 'Conference' that his own father had been unemployed in the 1930s, but that he didn't complain, instead he 'travelled round till he found work.' (applause)

The intellectual level of the assembled crew (including mutineers) was so low they didn't realise that now capitalism has made the whole of Britain a 'depressed area.' For example, in mid-1936 and mid-1981 the percentage unemployed was roughly similar, just over 12%.

But, if you compare eleven large towns which in 1936 had low unemployment with the situation today (table right), then even Mr Tebbit, Snr, would have difficulty finding work. What his son forgot to tell the Tory conference though, was that his father did not find a steady job until he was employed in a munitions firm in 1938 as part of the government's rearmament programme for the Second World War.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS

| TOWNS | JULY 1936 → | AUGUST 1981 → |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| BRIGHTON | 3.2 | 14.7 |
| HUDDERSFIELD | 4.2 | 11.6 |
| COVENTRY | 5.1 | 38.8 |
| PORTSMOUTH | 5.2 | 22.0 |
| GRIMSBY | 5.6 | 10.0 |
| WOLV'HAMPTON | 5.9 | 24.3 |
| NORWICH | 6.2 | 12.3 |
| PLYMOUTH | 7.2 | 19.2 |
| LEICESTER | 9.9 | 27.1 |
| DONCASTER | 10.1 | 17.7 |
| BOLTON | 10.2 | 17.8 |

The 1936 figures are taken from GDH Cole's *The Condition of Britain* (Gollancz, 1937) and the 1981 figures are taken from the Dept of Employment Gazette, September 1981 issue. (For technical reasons, the figures may not be 100% comparable, but they more than prove the case).

Unemployed July 1936
Unemployed August 1981

WORKERS

NOTEBOOK

Fewer than 12,000 new craft and technician apprentices are being taken on this autumn by the engineering industry, the lowest figures ever recorded. A further 4,000 are being recruited by the Engineering Industry Training Board, but they reckon that at least 20,000 would be needed if future manpower requirements of the industry are to be met in an upturn. Shortage of skilled workers have previously been a serious disadvantage in periods of economic upswing.

Since the engineering workers won a reduction in working hours in the 1979 national engineering agreement there has been a more rapid growth in the number of workers who have obtained a shorter working week. One and a half million engineering workers are due to get a reduction from 40

to 39 hours a week from 1 November and another half million workers in related trades will get a similar reduction.

At present 5³/₄ million workers have a working week of less than 40 hours but of the 161 recorded agreements with a below 40 hour week, only 62 covering 1 million workers are manual agreements. According to Labour Research Department in the LRD Book of Wage Rates, Hours and Holidays, a further three million workers are due a reduction to below 40 hours by August 1982 if employers keep to agreements.

The TUC target of 35 hours a week was not only set to give more leisure to workers in Britain who work about the longest hours in Europe. It was also intended to provide for new jobs. But an agreed 35-hour week is at present only enjoyed by about 1 million workers, and only about 30,000 of them are manual workers.

At the Solidarity conference

"Some time ago everything was in our hands, all of Poland was watching."

These words from a worker in the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk express the enormous strength of the strike movement last summer which forced massive concessions from the panic-stricken bureaucracy, as the working class challenged the very basis of their power.

The first National Conference of Solidarity last month was a testimony to the workers' tremendous power. In less than a year 10 million workers have been organised into free trade unions, which carry the sympathy of at least 90% of the population.

It must be the most rapid development of any trade union movement in world history.

In 1970 and 1976 the bureaucracy drowned the movement in blood. This time they have not been able to because Solidarity has sympathy in the ranks of the police and the army. All over the world the impact of the movement has been felt: it has shown that there is potentially an alternative to the horrors of capitalism, on the one hand, and to Stalinist dictatorship on the other.

But the crucial question underlying this historic conference was the question of the role of the leadership of Solidarity, whose moderation of the class struggle has resulted, so far, in the frustration of the workers' efforts to overthrow the bureaucracy.

The shipyard workers have a joke lesson in economics: 'We produce ships for Russia—in return they take coal from us.'

In contrast to the self-confident mood of the movement last summer there is now a tiredness and even a desperation creeping into the revolution.

This particularly affects the women. Queuing is becoming a desperate problem. Women leave work and go straight to join a queue.

One woman told me: "I wanted a packet of washing

powder. I queued four hours one day and did not get any. Two hours the next and did not get any. The following day I queued for three hours and got a tiny little packet."

This summer a huge batch of new ration coupons were introduced. Although the workers have won wage increases the bureaucracy are making sure they cannot buy anything.

If you want to use up your 3 kg monthly ration of meat you have to take sausage and paté. You are entitled to ½ kg of rice, 1 kg of flour, 1 packet of butter, ½ kg washing powder, 12 packets of 20 cigarettes...the list continues; sweets, socks, cotton wool, sugar.

In the workplaces too the shortages have cut back last summer's gains. A Lenin Shipyard worker commented: "I've picked up my ration of soap today. We lack protective clothing, footwear, and gloves."

Production is expected to fall 15% this year. The new wave of strikes since the congress is a crushing affirmation of the resilience of the Polish working class, including the women who are prominent in the current strike wave, and an indication of how difficult it will be for the bureaucracy to starve them into defeat.

The capitalist press in the west has laid great stress on these shortages, but it has given a false picture of their causes. They are not an inevitable by-product of the strike movement, nor are they an unavoidable consequence of the planned economy.

One of the greatest crimes of the Russian bureaucracy is that they are deliberately and calculatedly using the centralised, controlled economy of Comecon to create shortages inside Poland. "You choose between Solidarity or meat" is their very unsubtle message.

Goods which are imported via Russia are being withheld. Everyone in Poland realises this is what is going on. The terms of trade, which have always been artificially rigged by the Kremlin bureaucrats in Russia's favour, are now being even more ruthlessly exploited.

The shipyard workers have a joke lesson in economics: "We produce ships for Russia—in return they take coal from us."

The Russian bureaucracy is also attempting to whip

up anti-Polish feeling amongst the Russian workers. Some labels in the shops in Russia read: "4 kopecks plus 1 kopeck to help Poland."

Yet despite the strong nationalistic feelings that run through the Polish masses, there is also an instinctive understanding of the need

The debates reflected the stark alternative facing the movement: Either overthrow the bureaucracy—or allow the energy of the movement to be sapped by 'deals' with the bureaucracy.

to fraternise with the workers of Russia and Eastern Europe. The first sitting of the Solidarity congress in September issued a famous appeal for workers throughout Eastern Europe to form free trade unions.

In Poland there is not an anti-Russian mood, but an anti-Russian-government mood.

A play based on John Reed's "Ten Days That Shook The World" was shown in Gdansk recently. It got a very good reception from the workers, showing that advanced workers identify with the struggles of the Petrograd workers in 1917.

The debates in the Solidarity Congress reflected the underlying, stark alternative facing the movement: Either to move forward and completely overthrow the bureaucracy — or to allow the energy of the movement to be gradually sapped by unsatisfactory "deals" within the framework of the ruling bureaucracy.

The workers feel power slipping away from them. Instinctively, they are reaching out for a new way forward, for an alternative to the compromises of Walesa. They are seeking a road to genuine workers' power.

The tragedy of the situation in Poland is that all the existing currents which aspire to lead or influence the movement have instilled into it a sense of gradualism and piece-meal reform. The intellectuals of the KOR (now dissolved), the church and the circle around Walesa have all acted as a brake on the workers' struggles.

The nature of the bureaucracy is totally parasitic. The fact that it no

longer plays even a relatively progressive role economically, that it attempts to smother slightest political freedom among the masses, leads workers inevitably to the conclusion that it should be done away with.

Wide layers of Polish society have already drawn this conclusion. The only thing lacking is a party based on genuine Marxism, capable of channelling the revolutionary energy of the workers.

It is a utopian dream to imagine that gradual reform will allow the gradual stabilisation of democracy in Poland. The strategy of the bureaucracy is to ride out these terrible times and then, when the masses tire sufficiently, when the movement ebbs (as is already beginning to happen) move to crush it.

If the Polish working class does not overthrow the bureaucracy the bureaucracy will inevitably try to crush the Polish working class. The bureaucracy would prefer to do this without the unknown and incalculable dangers inherent in a Russian invasion. But invasion or not the bureaucracy's aim is to destroy the freedoms that have been won in Poland.

That is why the advice of KOR and the policies of the Walesa leadership are so dangerous for the Polish workers.

'We wanted to crush the bureaucracy...we wanted to rule the factories. This decision does not allow us to do this.'

On factory self-management, for example, there was a great deal of anger with Solidarity's leading presidium. It came to the congress with an already negotiated compromise deal with the government.

Conscious of the inefficiency and parasitism of the bureaucracy's managers, workers were demanding the right to elect and recall managers. But the compromise was extremely ambiguous, providing for self-management in some factories, but not in those deemed "essential to the security of the nation."

However, one or two spokesmen for the moderate leadership actually wanted to thank the Sejm (parliament) for putting through the law on self-

management! The role of Solidarity's leaders should be to expose the hypocrisy and lies of the bureaucracy, not to build up illusions in them.

Any concessions they have granted, as most delegates understood, have been forced from them unwillingly by the fury of the workers' movement.

Delegate after delegate spoke against the compromise. In the end, however, it was accepted because it was presented as an accomplished fact and because there was no worked out alternative.

"We wanted to crush the bureaucracy," said a delegate from Mazowse, "we wanted to rule the factories. This decision does not allow us to do this."

Several militant workers warned that this deal could split the working class. Romanowski, from Lower Silesia, said: "The government will cheat us again. We will have many conflicts instead of just one. Each factory will have to struggle to decide whether it is to have self-management."

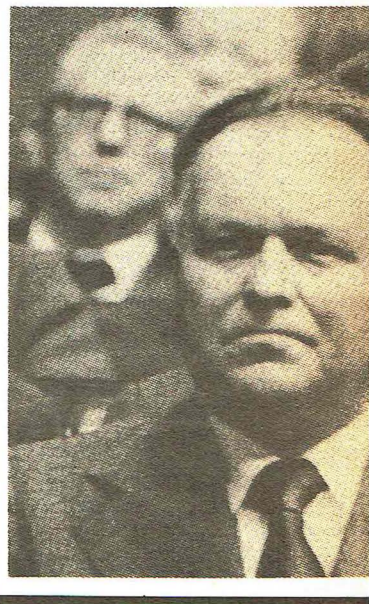
'The union is somehow being crushed from the inside...'

Jan Rulewski, from Bydgosc, one of the workers who was beaten up by police last March, said: "We have the power and with this power we must break the totalitarian system of the economy."

By "the totalitarian system of the economy" he means the bureaucratic strangle-hold on the management of the economy. Much to the dismay of journalists from the western capitalist press, neither from the Congresses nor from the Polish masses was there any demand for return to private ownership of the means of production. Rupinski got a standing ovation for the following statement:

"Socialism was supposed to be the full participation of the people in civilisation. We don't want state ownership of the means of production we want social ownership of the means of production. They say we are the enemies of socialism but it is the government who are the enemies of socialism. There are no forces in Poland who want private ownership of the means of production. There are no counter-revolutionary forces."

Another debate which reflected the workers' deep discontent with what is beginning to happen to

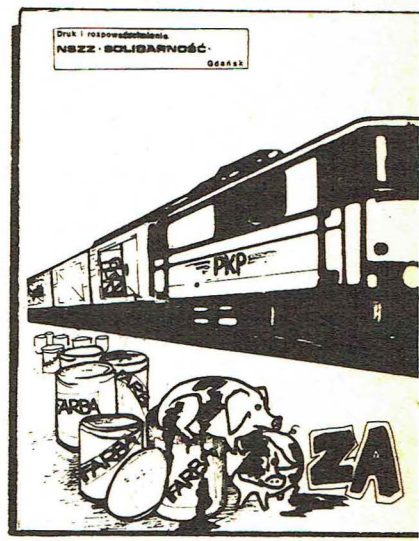


their union was that on Solidarity's programme.

"The union is somehow being crushed from the inside," said K Switoń from Silesia. "The activists in the union are starting to be separated from the ordinary members"

Z Kokot from Czeszohowa protested at the development of careerism inside Solidarity: "What is happening in our union is what is happening in the party and in the government. It is intolerable, this fighting for position!"

The programme itself advocates reforms within the economy under the umbrella of the existing government. It criticises the existing control of the economy and demands,



Y

An eye-witness account from Poland



PHOTOS: Top left: Solidarity's national conference
Top right: Regional Conference in Gdansk
Bottom left: Deposed Communist Party leader Kania
Centre: New party chief Jaruzelski. Below right: Lech Walesa in Warsaw



"the introduction of workers' self-management and democratic reforms at all levels of management." It is not surprising that the worker militants find it inadequate. It undermines the authority of the government without proposing any alternative. It speaks of reforms, but the reforms it proposes will be seen as a deadly threat by the bureaucracy.

It is ambiguous on who is to blame and who must pay for the crisis: "The union will consent to a gradual restoration of market equilibrium only within the framework of a programme to combat the crisis."

Bogdan Lis, a leading moderate in the KKP (na-

tional committee), said: "If the government gives us better living standards then we will leave politics alone." But how could the government get the system out of the impasse of bureaucratic strangulation. Only workers' democracy can do that. Many workers came to the rostrum expressing their feelings as to the inadequacy of the programme but they did not really pinpoint any clear alternative. One worker said: "This programme is a failure. It is not scientific, but it still has too many long words. It is difficult to understand. It is not specific enough."

One proposal before the Congress showing the pressure from union members for the creation of a workers' government was for the formation of a "second chamber" in the Szymon based on factory self-management committees.

Many workers suggested that Solidarity should play the role not just of a trade union but of a political party.

But Walesa himself is attempting to pull the union in the opposite direction. "The union is a workers'

social movement," he told Congress: "I will not let anybody use it for political ends."

Speaking to the press Walesa said: "I never intended to lead political discussions. I always tried to avoid it."

In the same interview he spoke of the need to "rebuild the authority of the government," hinting

'Most policemen would join a union if given a chance...'

like some other "moderate" leaders of going into a coalition government with the bureaucracy.

Walesa is continually vacillating, caught trying to reconcile the conflicting pressures of the bureaucracy, on the one hand, and the aspirations of the workers, on the other.

With the potential that exists for the overthrow of the bureaucracy this vacillation and timidity is entirely unjustified. Even without a bold and decisive leadership, every layer of society identifies with the movement of the workers.

One of the most significant developments at the Congress was the participation of "The Committee for the Formation of a Free Trade Union of Policemen," which gave its own press conference.

They explained that "most policemen would join a union if given a chance, and if the union gave them the possibility to get better conditions."

When questioned, "Will orders be broken, such as firing on the people?" they answered: "The police are for society not against it. In 1956 and in 1970 the police were breaking the law, because the law says it is illegal for a Pole to fight a Pole."

A worker in the Lenin shipyard backed this up when we spoke to him: "There are families which have people in the army and in the factories. If the troops or the police were asked to fire, a son would not fire on his father. The coming over of the police and the army to the side of the workers has already begun."

The impact of the Polish events on the workers of the

whole of Eastern Europe has given the Russian bureaucracy cause to hesitate before sending in the troops. There is no guarantee that the movement would not spread to Russia itself.

The Congress enthusiastically received letters from Rumanian and Russian workers welcoming the creation of Free Trade Unions in Poland.

Polish engineering workers who were working in Czechoslovakia last August were warned by the police that if they tried to organise support for the strikes they would be put on a bus and taken straight out of the country. Yet everywhere they went workers greeted them with gestures of support.

In Tallin, Estonia, Free Trade Unions are reportedly being established and criticism of the Russian bureaucracy is being voiced quite openly. In Latvia there is widespread support for the Polish Free Trade Unions.

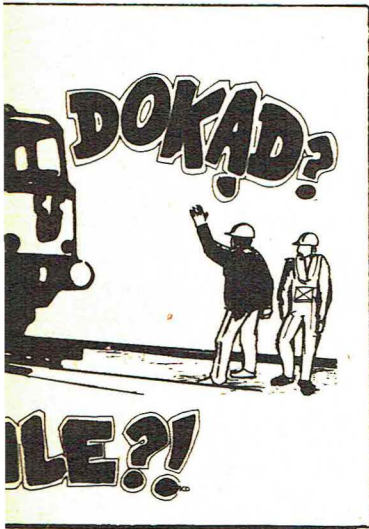
There have also reportedly been big strikes recently in Russia itself, including strikes in the mines. One

worker told me that she visited Leningrad and heard from the workers there that attempts were being made to form Free Trade Unions.

Walesa received only 55% of the vote in the leadership elections. This reflects widespread dissatisfaction with his policies. But the fact that no other candidate beat him also shows the lack of a clearly formulated, credible alternative.

Many of Walesa's collaborators were removed from the national committee in the voting, but Walesa ensured that they were on the single slate presented for the presidium election, thus steam-rolling his own leadership into the highest body of the union.

Undoubtedly, if Solidarity was armed with a programme and leadership basing itself on the need for political revolution, and an international appeal, the Polish working class could be victorious as part of a movement which would engulf the whole of Russia and Eastern Europe.



POSTER (left) A 'Solidarity' poster condemning the bureaucracy's bungling and self-seeking. The Party train is asked by workers "Where are you taking us?" It replies "how much is it worth?" The tins of paint and pigs in the bottom left corner refer to rumours that tins of paint were found with rotting pork in them; a gross bureaucratic blunder at a time of food shortages.

If Solidarity leaders based themselves on the need for political revolution, and an international appeal, the movement would engulf Eastern Europe.

HISTORIC VICTORY FOR GREEK WORKERS

The brilliant victory of the Socialist Party PASOK in the Greek elections opens up a new epoch in the turbulent history of Greece.

Following the spectacular socialist victory in France earlier this year it provides renewed confirmation of the huge left wing move of society that has begun throughout Europe.

PASOK alone won 48.07% of the votes—as much as the British Labour party in the landslide of 1945. In addition, the pro-Moscow Communist Party won another 10.88% and the break-away Euro-Communist Party 1.35%—amounting to a massive combined left vote of 60.30%!

This is the second highest left vote recorded in any election in the world—higher even than the 56% achieved in France! Only Portugal has seen a greater vote, where the workers' parties scored 66%. And that was in the special circumstances of the 1975 elections, which ratified the already accomplished gains of the revolution and the nationalisation of 70% of the economy.

Here in Greece, the workers' parties smashed their way to an unprecedented victory against all the odds of a Gaullist bonapartist constitution, an electoral system which is designed to tilt the results heavily to the right, by excluding 18 to 21 year olds and hundreds of thousands of Greek workers in Europe, and which penalises smaller parties so that the CP with 11% of the vote won only 4% of the seats.

PASOK was formed only seven years ago, after the collapse of the Colonels' Junta, filling a vacuum left by the discredited Communist Party which twice in one generation had led the workers to terrible defeats.

It was founded on the socialist aspirations of the youth to build a new society

Report from Roger Silverman in Athens

and cleanse Greece of the reactionary filth surviving from the civil war, which had for seven nightmare years from 1967 till 1974, returned to crush its jackboots on the neck of Greek society.

PASOK's victory today represents a mandate for decisive revolutionary change.

The workers celebrate this triumph with their old enemies lying prostrate and humiliated at their feet. The capitalist New Democracy Party of Karamanlis has seen its votes drop from 54.37% in 1974 (when Karamanlis won on the 'brilliant' slogan "me or the tanks") to 41.84% in 1977 and 35.92% today.

The pro-junta fascist "Progressive" Party, whose friends ruled Greece from 1967 to 1974, suffered a fall from 6.82% in 1977 to 1.69% today. The two bleeding halves of what is left of the Liberal Centre Union (which scored 52.72% of the votes in 1964, and following the fall of the junta dropped from 20.42% in 1974 to 11.95% in 1977) scored in total only 1.13%!

The result is also a disappointment for the CP which had put all its efforts into jumping the 17% electoral barrier which gains proper representation in Parliament. The minor parties have been squeezed out in a sharp polarisation of society, and only three parties today are represented in Parliament, compared with seven before.

This is an historic victory and a testimony to the revolutionary energy of the working class and the poor peasants—all the more spectacular in that the industrial working class amounts to only 30% of the population.

Never before in Greek history have the workers' parties been allowed to participate even as junior partners in coalition government. From 1945 to '49 a bloody civil war was launched in which 1 million were killed to prevent a Popular Front government coming to power.

In 1967, the Colonels imposed a military dictatorship rather than permit the capitalist Liberal Centre Union, led by Andreas Papandreou and his father win the impending elections in alliance with the CP front organisation, the EDA. The fate of the unpopular monarchy and the repressive army officer caste, were threatened by the masses' pressure on such a government.

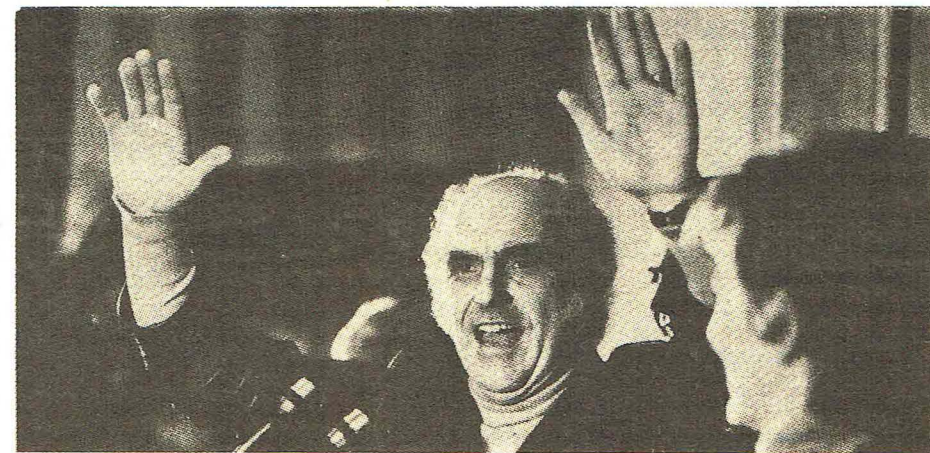
Today reaction is impotent. The ruling class is stomping and gritting its teeth. They are paying the price, 14 years later, for the precipitant impatience of the colonels. After the hideous experience of the Colonels' dictatorship and its ignominious disintegration, there will be no possibility of a new military intervention for many years to come. The workers would fight to the last.

In 1964-67 the colonels discovered to their cost that they lacked a sufficient social base for a stable bonapartist regime. Today the pitiful votes for their party shows that such a solution is unthinkable.

PASOK must destroy the rule of the capitalists and their state machine whilst the class balance of forces is so uniquely favourable.



Will Papandreou's actions satisfy the aspirations of Greek workers? (Above) Greek workers in action. (Below) victorious Socialist Premier, Andreas Papandreou.



The workers in Greece have the opportunity today to take the power into their own hands and build a socialist Greece. But first the most advanced workers in PASOK will have to challenge the current policies of Andreas Papandreou.

His popularity stems from his record in defying the intrigues of 1964-7, his persecution by the junta, and his opposition to Karamanlis in 1974.

Karamanlis was a semi-dictator from 1955-63 presiding over the devastated battlefield after the civil war. He only won the 1961 elections because of massive rigging and intimidation by his trusted accomplice Colonel Papadopoulos who later led the 1967 coup.

Karamanlis had to flee the country in disgrace under a false passport in 1963. He was the faithful servant of capitalism who opposed the colonels from a comfortable exile in Paris, only because he understood that by their stupidity they had brought

nearer the danger of 'Communism'.

Today Karamanlis as President is poised to play the same role as King Constantine in the '60s. He will try to use his formidable presidential powers to frustrate the will expressed so resoundingly by the people.

Andreas Papandreou will have to put into practice his ringing declaration of the heady days of 1974 for the overthrow of capitalism and the mobilisation of the masses to overcome attempts to interfere with the democratic wishes of the people.

But the signs are that Papandreou is watering down his already disluted election programme for withdrawal from NATO and the EEC, nationalisation, etc.

It is ominous that Madros of the Liberal Centre Union at the last moment was seduced into the PASOK lists, and the appointed parliamentary candidates came almost exclusively from Papandreou's personal coterie and were not selected by the rank and file of the party.

Right-wing European Social Democratic leaders Felipe Gonzales and Olaf Palme were invited to lend moral support at election rallies.

PASOK must base itself unflinchingly on the will of the masses for socialism and

destroy the rule of the capitalists and their state machine while the balance of forces is so uniquely favourable.

Unemployment has been estimated by the EEC to be anything between 9% and 15%. 28 out of the 35 industrial sectors are suffering an absolute decline in output, and 1,000 large and medium sized companies have gone bankrupt. And yet inflation is running at 25% per annum, for the third year running.

If PASOK cannot live up to its policies, to change the lives of the people—which means a decisive break with capitalism—then the results over the years will be disappointment and despair. If as a result, reaction ever again gained the initiative then the horrors of the Metaxas police state, the bloodthirsty repression of the civil war and the brutality of the junta will provide ample evidence of the bloody vengeance that will be reaped.

The Marxist wing of PASOK will, by patient explanation and work among the masses, win growing support despite the likely attacks by the capricious party leadership. Together with the workers of Europe and the world, the Greek workers can use this smashing victory as a spring board for a socialist federation of Europe.

Letters

VIEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

The way to fight local authority cuts

Dear Comrades

Its occasionally quite revealing to test out the impartiality of British 'justice'. The recent legal case of Camden ratepayers v. Camden Borough Council is indicative of this so-called neutrality. The ratepayers, mainly businessmen, are up in arms about the fact that rates in the borough are now the highest in Britain. Instead, however, of adopting the usual procedure of asking the district auditor to intervene, the ratepayers have taken the Camden councillors (Labour, of course) to court. They are now suing individual councillors for overspending (!) and 'irresponsible fiscal action'. Ken Livingstone for example could personally be expected to pay £200,000 if the court finds in favour of the ratepayers.

Fighting the cuts by increasing rates doesn't ap-

preciably shift the economic burden away from working class families and is really just backdoor cutting of living standards. It is an economic blind alley as the situation in Lothian has shown. However, what this particular case clearly reveals is how blatantly the Tories are prepared to use the legal system in order to frighten Labour councils into implementing cuts.

The ability to take court proceedings against councillors in pursuance of their duties is normally impossible. Its only if the Attorney-General gives his consent can such action ensue. Uniquely in this case, he has. The present Attorney-General is, needless to say, a political appointee of the Tory government.

Camden council were politically incorrect to raise rates in order to offset the loss of government grants thus provoking local ratepayers to take legal action. The ruling class know how to use their laws against representatives of the labour movement. They have spent over 200 years perfecting various methods

of coercion.

Camden council would have done better to fight the cuts politically by organising the local labour movement around the slogan 'No cuts—no rate rises!' They could learn enormously from reading about the experiences of the 1919-25 Poplar Borough Council led by George Lansbury, Samuel March etc. who, despite reformist and pacifist illusions, put themselves at the forefront of the political battle to defend and improve the living standards of Poplar working people, a battle only won on the basis of uncompromising struggle, including going to jail.

The law will inevitably be used against Labour councils as it was against Poplar and now Camden. The only way to fight, now as then, to effectively fight the cuts is through using the mass support of the trade unions to defend and protect living standards, to fight for a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Yours fraternally
Eddie Phillips
Glasgow Provan CLP

Make sure your LPYS has a 'week of action'

Dear Comrades

Southampton LPYS recently held a very successful week of action. We met many young people, sold a number of 'Militants' and 'Socialist Youth' and most importantly many names were taken for the LPYS and for the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign.

I think all the YS branches should at this time hold weeks-of-action because we found here, even in the relatively better-off south, the majority of youth were totally opposed to the Tories and their system, and there was a real hatred for Thatcher. In the YS we must mobilise the youth who, after all, are the key to the future. We must show them it's no good just being anti-Tory. We must explain there is no way out for the working class under capitalism and that there is a need for a Labour government committed to a

fighting socialist programme.

One noticeable factor of the week was that it was entirely 'Militant' supporters who turned out. We have a fair sprinkling of 'Tribunites' in our YS. These people seem to have no faith in the working class and must consider leafletting a waste of their time. It appears they would much rather sit around discussing politics. This shows once again that we are the only people who have faith in the working class to bring about the socialist transformation of society.

Yours faithfully
Martin Smith
Southampton LPYS

Some 'worthwhile' job!

Dear Comrades

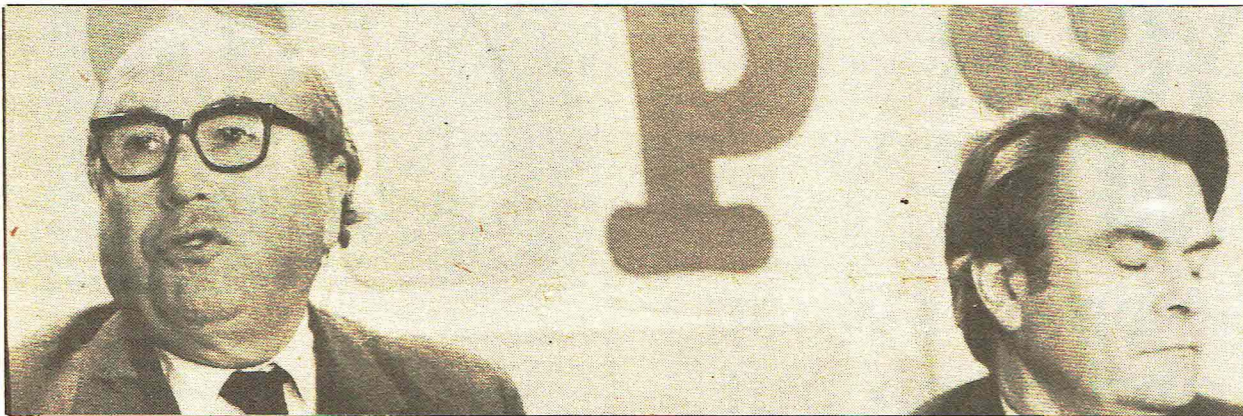
Found a job recently that seems perfect for you? A woman I spoke to told me of how she saw an adver-

tisement in the local paper for a part-time job in a hospital. It was for a Medical Records Clerk, working three nights a week from 10pm to 6am which suited her as her husband works nights as a taxi driver. She applied and got the job, but surprise, surprise, it wasn't as good as it seemed.

She found herself working down in the basement of the hospital where the boilers were kept on all night and it was stiflingly hot with no ventilation. She spent the whole eight hours on her feet, traipsing up and down cold stone steps with only half an hour meal break and two quick stops for a drink during the night.

Needless to say she's letting someone else have the chance to take on a 'worth while' job! Without the backing of a good union organisation fighting for decent pay and conditions, management will always be able to severely exploit the workers. Forward to a socialist planned economy!

Ruth Hargreaves
Handsworth LPYS
and ASTMS



Is there worry and confusion under the smug faces of the SDP?

Labour must expose SDP gimmicks

Dear Comrades

On Friday 16th October, the London Programme featured our old friends, the Sensible Ditherers Party (SDP). What came out mainly confirmed 'Militant's' analysis; that the strategists of capital could well be harming their own established party (the Tory Party) by plugging the SDP, in an attempt to defeat the party of labour.

The programme's own dubious poll stated that its quite likely that the Tories could lose out because the middle classes would be conned to vote SDP in the more well off parts of the South East.

But SDP policies did actually come out, however. A councillor, who had just defected from Islington Labour Party, was on the programme grissing about a day nursery, amongst other things, that the Labour council provided for working mothers. "This was a waste of money because the parents should look after

them (their children) themselves," he complained. This showed the cruel Tory nature of the SDP.

The programme then focused on Newham Labour Party's likely defectors to the SDP, who were hoping to huddle up to the local Liberals. One of the Labour councillors, Chairman of Newham Housing Department, was hoping, it appeared, to sew things up with the local Liberals. But the Liberals have been trying to make ground for years by blaming the Labour council as responsible for the bad housing

situation in Newham. The Liberals felt by uniting with these defectors it would defeat the whole object of what they had done in the past!

Hopefully the defectors will be disinfected from Newham's council. Perhaps there is some worry and confusion underneath these smug faces of the SDP, but Labour must expose their gimmicks as a trick to voters, by explaining what socialism really means.

Yours fraternally
Lee Waker
Dagenham LPYS

Anger in the NUR rank and file

Dear Sir

Recent articles in the 'Transport Review' (the NUR journal) headlines such as "Labour's winning team" (Foot and Healey) and attacks on socialist policies within the labour movement around the "banning of proscribed organisations," have incensed the rank and file membership of our union. What we really need is a fully democratic labour and trade union movement accountable to constituency parties and trade union rank and file members.

Unfortunately what we can see happening with the present set up is another Labour government which will start out on a programme of appeasement to the multi-national companies, and therefore failed policies of the past will be implemented in total defiance of Clause IV of the

Labour Party constitution. The working class will then take full force of lower living standards and massive unemployment.

The Benn campaign for deputy leadership was so much assassinated by the mass media and by sections of the right wing in the trade union and labour movement. They seemed so scared to death of the awful word accountability that they did their best to see that the implementation of Tony Benn as deputy leader did not take place.

Unfortunately for them, this has now stirred the rank and file membership into action and demands are being made that the trade union leadership be made to implement a socialist policy that actually meets the needs and aspirations of the working class rank and file membership.

Yours fraternally
Dave Hardy
Nottingham & District
National Union of
Railwaymen,
personal capacity.

On yer bike, Tebbit!

Dear Comrades

For all the talk about the recession beginning to end, Tory Unemployment minister Norman Tebbit, has no new advice to give the 3 million unemployed on how to find jobs.

Speaking in the employment debate at Tory Party conference, he said that his father was unemployed in the 1930s and he 'got on his bike' and didn't give up until he found work.

My father was also unemployed in the '30s. He did a similar thing with one exception; he was too poor to afford a bike, so he walked, from Hove to Aldershot and back—a distance of 170 miles. And he still never found work!

This is an indication of the real concern of the

Tories for the unemployed. They have no qualms about asking workers to upset their homes, families and friends in a vain search for non-existent work. They would love to see workers turned into an army of desperate industrial nomads prepared to accept any job at any wage. The labour movement must make sure this doesn't happen. We must have one message for Tebbit and the rest of his cronies—on yer bike!

Fraternally
Clive Walder
Hove LPYS

The hypocrites at Tory conference

Dear Comrades

I was delighted to read comrade David Bryant's criticism of those mindless morons who, by an act of

self-defeating stupidity, denied Denis Healey the right of free speech at the Birmingham rally. Their conduct was anti-socialist and justly brought great dishonour to the labour movement. However, during the economic 'debate' at the Tory conference in Blackpool, many of the self-righteous who had gloated over the Birmingham incident committed the same crime in a most cynically nauseating manner.

When Edward Heath stepped onto the rostrum in order to denounce the Tory government's domestic policy, many were seen to check their watches and after precisely five minutes they began to bay and emit other guttural animal-like noises.

It was a disgusting display of wanton hypocrisy made all the more repulsive by its sheer virulence. Let

us democratic socialists therefore resolve to truly uphold all the basic freedoms we cherish and by so doing be unlike the right-wing reactionaries, not only in our beliefs—but also by our behaviour.

Yours fraternally
Joe McManus
Provan CLP

Who reads the 'Economist'?

Dear Militant

It seems the bosses are running out of answers for the decaying capitalist system. I must congratulate this week's 'Economist' (Oct 17) for the witch doctor economic explanation of the week.

In an advertisement for a subscription to their rag it says; "It has been estimated that the readers of the 'Economist' in over 160 countries control more than

half the world's gross national product. They form an informal club."

Do we infer from this that the 'Economist' must therefore have a circulation of hundreds of millions (which at 80p a week it is not very likely). Or if we all buy the 'Economist' we too can become part of the 'informal club' ie. the bosses class?

No comrades, we learn from this advertisement that the 'Economist' like the rest of the capitalist press is written by the puppets of the bosses for the bosses. Save your 80p and buy a Militant and give the rest to the fighting fund!

Yours fraternally
George Makin

Full support to BL workers

Dear Comrades

So Michael Edwardes

thinks he will be able to close British Leyland if its workers reject the insulting pay offer made to them. The labour movement has been crying out for such a conflict to develop. If Edwardes tries to close Leyland, help must be given by all sections of the working class. Such solidarity amongst the workers could be tapped to smash the decaying capitalist system once and for all. This dispute could be the start to a mass general strike. But if Leyland workers are defeated, then the 4% pay limit will be used as an effective weapon to drive down living standards even further.

Yours fraternally
Chris Town
Chairman, Coventry
Poly Labour Club

ads

CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum ten words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

HALIFAX Militant Readers' Meeting. 'A fighting programme for Labour'. Hear Pete Watson on Tuesday 17 November, 7.30 pm, AUEW Club, St James St, Halifax (near bus station)

NORTH EAST Readers' Meetings. 'The Struggle Against Unemployment'. Hear Kath Hardisty (Gateshead LPYS) at Chester-le-Street Labour Club, Sunday 15 November 1981, 7.30pm, and Sunderland Supporters Club, Wednesday 18 November, 7.30 pm. For further details phone Sunderland 653999 or Washington 470706.

BASILDON LPYS Public Meeting. 'How Labour can stop the Tories'. Speaker Joan Maynard MP. Friday 6 November, 8.00 pm. Pitsea Leisure Centre, Basildon.

EX-STAMP COLLECTORS: We can use your collections in the fight for socialism. Please telephone Steve Cawley at the Militant Offices (01-986 3828) with details. Do NOT send collections through the post. Any comrade with knowledge of stamps, or willing to learn, please also contact Steve Cawley.

CONGRATULATIONS on the wedding to Alan and Sally from York LPYS.

12" Disco 45 record, Brixton Riot, £2 each. Orders LCDB, c/o M Boyle, 167 Railton Road, London SE24

GOSPORT LPYS Public Meeting. Thursday 29 October, 8 pm. 'Peace, Detente and Disarmament'. 145 Brockhurst Road, Gosport.

PORTSMOUTH YCAU Public Meeting. Thursday 29 October, 7.30 pm. 'Peace, Detente and Disarmament'. TGWU Offices, 303 Arundel Street, Portsmouth.

NEW MILITANT PAMPHLET

Available from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8

BLYTH

Wed 4 November—'Southern Ireland and the way forward for Labour'.

Wed 18 November—'Trade Unions and the fight against the Tory government'.

Venue: Miners Arms, Plessey Road (Upstairs), Blyth. Time: 7.30 pm. For further details contact: Peter D Marsden, 148 Disraeli Street, Blyth. All welcome.

MILITANT Marxist Discussion Group. 'Socialism or Nuclear Annihilation?' Thursday 29 October, 8.00 pm. 181 Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Poole. Speaker: Dave Backwith.

S WALES Bulletin of Marxist Studies. New edition: 'Marxist Economics'. 35p (+ 15p postage etc.). B Lewis, 10 Page Street, Swansea, W Glamorgan.

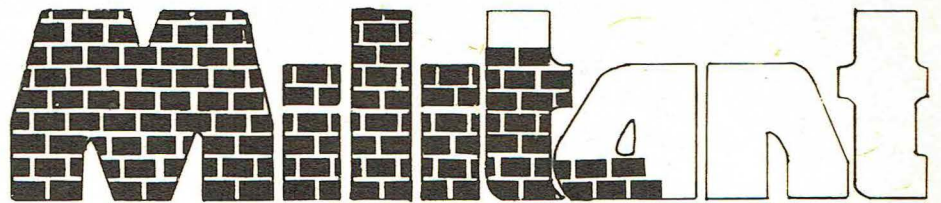
ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS Karl Marx T-shirts and sweatshirts. **LAST DATE FOR ORDERS** to ensure delivery by Christmas—6 November. Sizes and colours for both. Small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-40; extra large—42-44. Red motif on white, yellow, sky blue, bottle green, navy black (+ for sweatshirt grey and mid-blue). Cost: T-shirts £3.25; sweatshirts £6.75 (both prices include postage and packing). Plain T-shirts and sweatshirts also available—deduct 25p from price. Send cheques and postal orders to R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR.

BRAND NEW

Set of 3 original Xmas cards (featuring Alan Hardman cartoons). Price of set (inc postage) 40p + 14p p&p. Bulk orders 5 sets or more. £1.25 + 25p postage. Orders for delivery beginning of November to Eddie McParland, 81 Troughton Road, Charlton London SE7. All proceeds to Militant Fighting Fund.

3PN. Price 65p including postage and packing.

Build



| Area | Received | % of target achieved | Target for year |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Eastern | 4293 | | 7100 |
| East Midlands | 3357 | | 5500 |
| Hants & Dorset | 2444 | | 5200 |
| Humberside | 1668 | | 3500 |
| London East | 4567 | | 7600 |
| London West | 2588 | | 4800 |
| London South | 3956 | | 5500 |
| Manchester & Lancs | 2554 | | 5800 |
| Merseyside | 3294 | | 6600 |
| Northern | 4184 | | 8600 |
| Scotland East | 2015 | | 4400 |
| Scotland West | 3736 | | 7500 |
| Southern | 4895 | | 7100 |
| South West | 2026 | | 3500 |
| Wales East | 1324 | | 2600 |
| Wales West | 2693 | | 4600 |
| West Midlands | 4615 | | 8600 |
| Yorkshire | 4655 | | 9000 |
| Others | 15264 | | 12500 |
| Total received | 74,128 | | 120,000 |

TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000

WANTED-YOUR MONEY

— beat, sweep and clean out the bosses!

By Steve Cawley

Crazy! That's the only word for it. Hoovers are closing down factories and sacking thousands of workers. (See industrial reports)

The Hoover bosses say that their stockpiles of vacuum cleaners and washing machines are "unwanted". What they mean is that due to the recession, people on the dole or low wages can't afford to buy enough to make Hoover a big profit.

Of course vacuum cleaners are wanted! Labour-saving devices in the home were really boosted when employers wanted women workers for their factories.

Now they have no jobs to offer women or men they want us all to go back to the mops, scrubbing brushes and even drag out the old washboards!

We need to show up the so called "thinking" of the ruling class, and to point out the possibilities of life without the capitalists, with a shorter working week and an end to household drudgery. We are doing a lot with our present resources, as readers constantly tell us in their letters.

But if we had more resources we could do it even better. This is where you come in. You can give us concrete help.

The concrete help we've had this week includes £20 sent with a letter by Hilda

Wobey passing on the cash collected in John Wobey's memory by Hackney DLO shop stewards, as the best way of using the money. Many thanks!

In Newcastle recently, £122 was collected at a meeting on 'What Militant stands for', and £67 in Cambridge. £57 was collected at Chester-le-St, nearly £60 in East Ham, £13 in Macclesfield, and another £35 at discussion groups and meetings as far apart as Portsmouth, Barnsley, Llanelli and Lambeth. Thanks also to the comrades in Bristol who organised collections at Labour Party meetings and LPYS Branches.

Individual contributions this week included those of £30 from our 'regulars' B&C Butterworth (Chingford), B&C Reeves (Dulwich), and donations totalling £32 from CPSA members N Byrne and A Ward. D Chapman (Craigton LPYS) sent us £21.50 and M McGlynn (Paisley) £20. Birmingham supporter G McDonald circulated an appeal sheet after putting in a good donation himself. Perhaps other readers can copy? Thanks for £9.50. Tanners from A Bram-

man (Scarborough), B Brown (Chester), and G Bell (Washington) were supplemented by £7's from P&M Dinsdale (Camberley), M Brooks (Waltham Forest), and £6 from Austin & Pickersgill shop steward T. Carty (Sunderland). Fivers from S Donnelly (Leyton) C Glover (Bootle), G Tudor (Bristol) and Liverpool student C Davies indicate the comrades with spare cash willing to put it to our use.

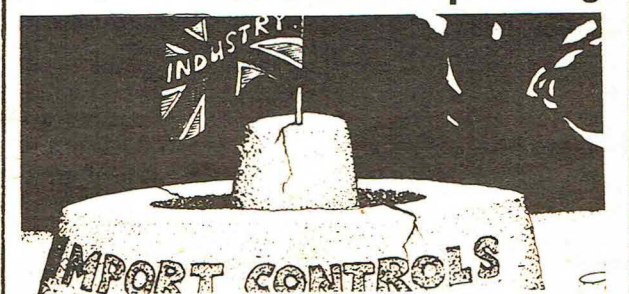
A very low paid worker (shift work, including nights, at £50 per week) donated enough spare change at a meeting last week to leave her with **25 pence for the rest of the month!** A large number of supporters gave us between £1 and £5. Thanks to everyone, including P Atkins (AUEW, BREL), T Breslin (BIFU; NW London), Cllr G Heath (Havant) A Tweddle (PO-EU, Newcastle) and L

Charlton (Bedlington). Fund-raising can be enjoyable too: £20 surplus came from a pizza night in Hornsey, £23 from a Romford social, £9 from a sponsored walk (Rochdale), £10 from accomodating a student in Canterbury, and £10 from sale of Russian revolution posters (Tyne-side).

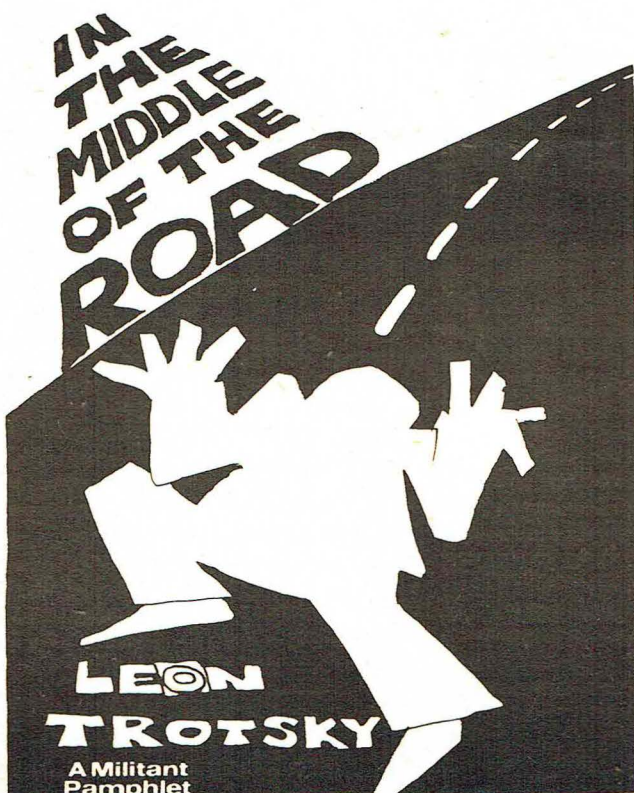
You've now reached almost £75,000 out of our annual target of £120,000, £45,000 amongst the many thousands of readers of the Militant should prove a perfectly possible target, over the next ten weeks.

But we ask every reader, every seller to approach all the people they know who appreciate what we're doing for donations to our funds. It's the Hoover bosses, not the Hoovers that aren't "wanted". Help us get rid of them!

'Import controls? or socialist planning'



This vital pamphlet discusses the alternatives to the devastating Tory policies of mass unemployment and the dangers of the policy of import controls.
Price 25p (+ 15p post & packing)
from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN



BRITISH LEYLAND

By Bill Mullins

The proposed strike at Leyland is an inevitable result of years of real wage cuts and terrible productivity deals leading to mass redundancies.

As 'Militant' supporters in BL have stressed in the past, "Marxists are opposed in principle to such deals which implicitly accept unity of interests between management and workers.

They imply that workers are responsible for the poor level of productivity which is really the result of long-term mis-management and insufficient investment in British industry.

"Anyway, productivity deals are a sign of economic crisis and inevitably lead to further sackings and speed-ups for those left." ('Militant', 2 September 1977).

It now looks as if the whole pact could blow up in Edwardes' face. Years of struggle, leading most times to set backs, have failed to undermine the fighting spirit of carworkers in BL. These years have seen their living standards slashed: over 100,000 jobs have gone (70,000 alone since Edwardes arrived), six major plants completely closed, 13 others partially closed, a vicious management campaign of speed-ups and the most sustained attack on trade union and shop-floor organisation yet seen in British industry.

The bosses plan to use BL as an example to the rest of the trade union movement, an example to intimidate all other shop floor organisations. With the sacking in 1979 of Derek Robinson, Convenor of Longbridge and Chairman of the unofficial combine committee, Edwardes thought that he had dealt a decisive blow to the workers and that everything from then on would be all easy going.

Such was his arrogance that he seems to have thought he could not put a foot wrong—an idea echoed by the rest of the boss class. That is, up to now.

For the last 3 or 4 years the bosses and their kept press have lavished praise on Edwardes for his generalship in smashing the workers of BL. But now they fear he has gone too far. Panic seems to have set in—not that they are openly calling for him to back down, but their muted reaction stands in sharp contrast to previous periods, when they trumpeted their support.

The secret plan of BL's bosses has always been the gradual shutting down of all BL operations, at a rate to be determined by the balance of forces at any one time.

Decades of neglect, mis-management and under-investment have meant that on a capitalist basis there was no future for BL in the highly competitive world car market. In 1975 'Militant' exposed the underinvestment where for example BL had invested in 1974 £920 per worker whereas Volkswagen had invested £3,632 per worker. As years passed by, BL

November 1977: Longbridge toolroom workers protest at Edwardes' policies Photo: Dave Evans (IFL) II



The roots of the conflict

fell further and further behind. By 1976 BL had a total of £8,505 worth of plant and equipment at the elbow of each worker while the 11 Japanese car manufacturers had £42,000 for each of their workers.

Is it any wonder that productivity of BL workers has fallen further and further behind overseas competitors? Even by as early as 1973 cars produced for the whole industry per employee per year had fallen from 5.5 in 1955 to 5.1. In Germany it increased in the same period from 3.9 to 7.3, and in Japan from 1.2 to 12.2.

Since then the gap has widened even more. In 1968 BL (i.e. its component parts before 1971's merger) was still the biggest manufacturer outside the USA. It is now easily outstripped by the giants of Europe and Japan.

Monetarism in one firm

In 1979 'Militant' wrote: "A Ford chief executive predicted that by 1984 only eight car manufacturers would be left on a world scale...those producing two million cars per year." ('Militant', 21 September).

This is the capitalist economics underlying the tactics and strategy of Edwardes and the Tories. It is monetarism in one firm.

'Militant' and its supporters in BL from the beginning have pointed the way forward for the firm's workers. When BL first went to the Labour government for a £50 million hand out in 1973, we raised the slogan "nationalise—don't subsidise."

Not the old style nationalisation where the same bosses who drove the firm to bankruptcy in the first place continue to manage but a scheme of workers' control and management. 'Militant's' slogan of one third, one third, one third argued for by supporters in Rover gained an immediate response as reported in 'Militant' (6 June 1975).

"The Rover convenors combine committee has proposed that BLMC

should be run by a board of management comprised of one third elected from unions in the industry, one third from the TUC and one third from the government.

"This would give the workers a guaranteed majority on the board but also it would mean that the planning of the company would be decided by working people as a whole through their representatives so that BL would fit into any national plan put forward by the labour movement."

Instead of workers' management the Labour government of the time appointed Lord Ryder to draw up a report. Part of the Lord's report deals with "participation".

A report from supporters at Rover in 'Militant', 30 January 1976 said, "We at Rover have refused from the very beginning in 1975 to be involved in participation."

"Rover shop stewards produced a leaflet followed by a mass meeting at which we argued that participation was an attempt by management to disarm us by making the shop steward responsible for what would be in reality be management decisions."

A radical step from the capitalist viewpoint it aimed to undermine union shop floor organisation.

In 1975, convenors at first adopted our slogan of 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 with minor amendments but under pressure from national officials this was dropped and they accepted Ryder's principle that in the final analysis management would reserve the right to manage.

Many on the left have been confused by participation schemes thinking they are a way to control management and defend trade unionists' interests.

This included the Communist Party. Their leading figure in BL became totally enmeshed with participation. Derek Robinson became Joint Chairman of the cars council the top tier of participation, and one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the scheme.

The machinery of participation became for many

convenors an alternative to the Combined Convenors Committee and it was on the issue of the role of the combine committee that became central to the fight for unity.

Issue after issue of 'Militant' reflected this question—plant bargaining or all BL negotiations? The mergers that formed BL carried with it something like 500 bargaining units. From 1975 'Militant' supporters raised the banner of unity.

For instance 'Militant' 30 January 1976 said, "The illusions of plant bargaining when most BL workers are on measured day work just allows the top layer of BL management to play off one section against another but national agreements require safeguards with negotiations carried out by the elected shop stewards only and not national officials with full report backs and all decisions taken at mass meetings."

While many supported this position the majority of convenors still opposed it.

Meanwhile throughout 1977 BL bosses met with national officials who were members of the executive committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering unions and by August had concocted a wages agreement for the whole of BL including productivity elements.

BIRMINGHAM Labour Party Young Socialists public meeting. 'British Leyland workers v Edwardes and the Tories'. Speakers: Bill Mullins (ex-senior steward, BL Cars) and Pete Carolan (Land Rover shop steward). Monday 9 November, 7.45 pm, Digbeth Civic Hall (the 'Bar').

This led to a strike call by Derek Robinson as convenor of Longbridge plant in defence of "plant bargaining". 'Militant' supporters in BL wrote (2 September 1977), "Many workers could have justifiably asked why strike just for the right to negotiate a wage claim? Why not go all out for the claim itself?"

It continued, "Faced with the choice of plant bargaining carried out by democratically elected shop stewards and full time officials the Longbridge shop stewards were right to take action to preserve plant bargaining."

"Their chief mistake was their failure to campaign for genuine national negotiations to be carried out by the combine committee or its equivalent for the Cars division. Up to now only the stewards with Rover have upheld the principle of unity of all Leyland workers under the banner of their already existing combine organisations."

"Unfortunately the majority of convenors have still not been prepared to concede their artificial autonomy in favour of negotiation jointly from a position of enormous strength."

In October 1977 the way was now clear for Edwardes who by then had replaced Dobson. With his arrival management and national officials campaigned for the deal.

The combine committee opposed it but on the basis of plant bargaining. An article (21 October 1977) warned that such a fight was doomed. "Management have put a vicious corporate deal. It demands a corporate response. Unity in Leyland is not just a good idea...it is the only way forward."

Faced with the disarray of convenors the deal was pushed through and soon afterwards Edwardes announced the first of many redundancy plans. We commented (20 January 1978) "Leyland were allowed to foist a 10% wage increase and productivity deal on to the workers because of the failure of the convenors to adopt a collective approach."

"The national campaign on pay conducted by the combine committee could have won a decent wage increase for Leyland workers. Now if these same convenors continue to stand in splendid isolation over the redundancies management could get away with this too."

A few weeks later Ed-

wardes called together managers, directors, national trade union officials and over 250 convenors. He wanted a vote of confidence for his plans (including the sacking of 12,500 workers) and he got one.

A few days later at a combine meeting ('Militant' 10 February 1978) "Derek Robinson, Chairman of the Combine, made a statement that it was not possible to take a traditional trade union decision, i.e. no redundancies and no closures etc., because BL was a public company and it was therefore a political decision that must be adopted."

Again BL 'Militant' supporters showed the way forward but "the resolution from Rover calling on the combine to fight any redundancies, transfer of work and closures, implementing an immediate overtime ban and so giving a fighting lead to the members we represent was heavily defeated."

The resolution adopted by the meeting was for no compulsory redundancies and all redundancies and plant closures to be subject to normal negotiations and agreement. "Convenors therefore backed the Edwardes plan as long as he has discussions with them before he shuts down any plant" ('Militant' 10 February 1978).

The whole chequered history of BL has been one where the bosses planned strategy and tactics within the framework of a centrally decided policy. They have got away with this because the trade unions did not do the same.

The lessons of past mistakes in Leyland must now be taken to heart. This time we must fight and win.

COVENTRY Labour Youth Federation Public Meeting. 'British Leyland—All out for a living wage'. Tuesday 27 October, 7.30 pm at Hertford Tavern, Hertford Place, Coventry. Speakers: Tom Smith (Deputy Convenor, BL Self-Changing Gears); Ian Schofield (TGWU, BL Rover, Solihull)

'CPSA needs a Leadership that can stop the Tories'

Elections begin this week in the CPSA, the largest civil service union, for the posts of General Secretary and General Treasurer.

The CPSA Broad Left are supporting John Macreadie for General Secretary and Terry Ainsworth for General Treasurer. Tremendous enthusiasm is being generated in the union as the campaign for the left gathers momentum. We carry below an interview with John Macreadie:

Why are you standing for the position of CPSA General Secretary?

The membership are demanding a leadership which will carry out the policies of our conference, a leadership which will be accountable to them and reflect their aspirations. I believe that I have the policy, the experience, and the approach to give the membership the leadership they require. There is tremendous support for our campaign coming from union activists all over the country.

What are the major issues facing CPSA members?

Our members are facing a relentless attack upon their jobs and living standards. The Tory government has declared its intention of implementing a 4% wages policy next year, on top of the severe reduction in living standards which our members suffered this year.

The government are also submitting evidence to their Committee of Enquiry into civil service pay, which includes their aim to divide our members by the introduction of regional pay bargaining.

I will fight vigorously against these attacks. I support the introduction of Annual CPSA Pay Conferences, and I am calling for a conference on pay in the early part of 1982 where

our members can draw up a claim and decide strategy.

I have also argued on the National Executive for the maximum unity among civil service non-industrial and industrial workers, and a common claim and programme. Again, I call for a special conference of the executives of all public service and civil service trade unions early in the new year in order to draw up a common claim and programme of action.

Another key issue is the attempt of the Tories to drive women back to the kitchen sink. In a union like CPSA, where about 75% of our members are women, we have a special responsibility to fight to ensure that women are able to play a full and equal part both in the affairs of the union and in society at large.

I support union meetings in works time and crèche facilities wherever these

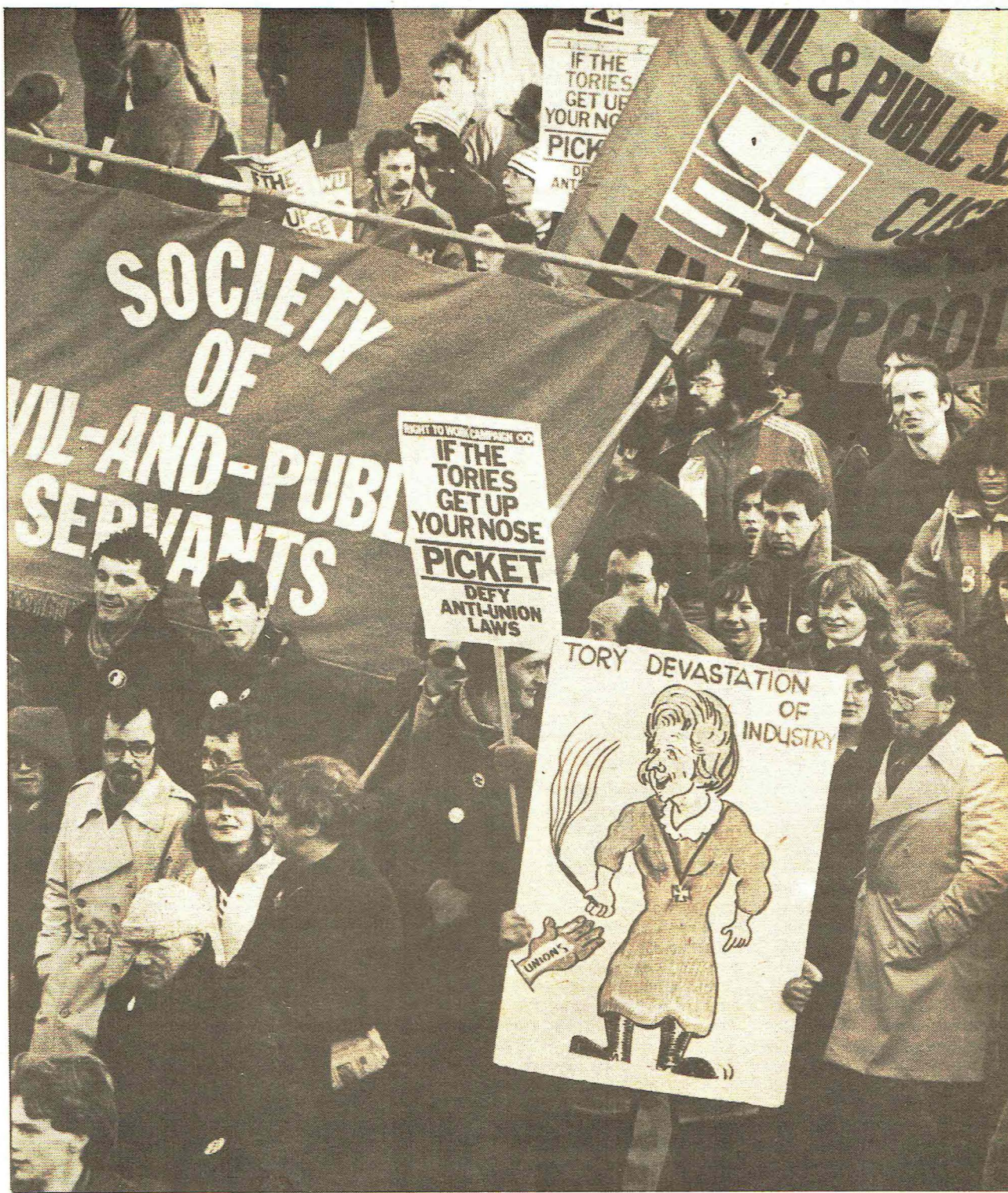


Industrial editor Brian Ingham interviews John Macreadie (left), Broad Left candidate for CPSA General Secretary

prove necessary. I also support the introduction of child care facilities after school and during school holidays and the introduction of nursery provision as a right.

What is your attitude to CPSA Conference policy?

I will always seek to carry out the policies of the membership as expressed by conference. I contrast this



CPSA members are facing a relentless attack upon their jobs and living standards. With a leadership carrying through conference policies, CPSA can beat off the Tories.

to the present leadership of the union, where recently they tried to reach an agreement with the government for the introduction of YOPs in the civil service, directly contrary to conference policy.

CPSA conference has regarded YOPs schemes in the civil service as a cheap

immediately affiliate to CND. Instead the right-wing leadership decided to organise a so-called 'membership consultation' on this issue.

A third example is over new technology, where they are discussing a new technology agreement with the civil service which does not have as its major principle our key conference policies of "no loss of jobs", "a 35-hour week".

Do you support the demand of the left for CPSA to affiliate to the Labour Party?

Politics directly affects our members, it is therefore utterly shortsighted to argue that the union should not be involved in politics. The demands and interests of our members cannot be secured and consolidated by action on the industrial plane alone. I therefore believe that our union should join with other trade unions inside the Labour Party, the political arm of the British trade union movement, and fight within the party for a Labour government which will act consistently on behalf of working class people.

Members throughout the country have demanded action against the political discrimination shown

against civil servants, whereby successive governments have denied our members the basic right to participate fully in the political life of this country. Civil servants must have the same political rights as every other worker in Britain. This is another reason why I favour the affiliation of CPSA to the Labour Party. I believe that we must commit the next Labour government to ending political discrimination against our members and other civil servants.

The current union elections will obviously have an important bearing on the future direction of the union. Is the current NEC conducting these elections in an even handed manner?

The right-wing majority on the executive have, it seems, become increasingly alarmed at the gathering support for our campaign. With the support for the campaign mounting, at the last NEC meeting they moved in, with directives aimed at restricting our activity. They hoped to make it more difficult for me personally to discuss with members and raise the issues which are of vital concern to our union.

They have made these moves half way through the campaign. This shows that

they have begun to panic.

They have also decided to try and influence the outcome of the election by issuing statements on behalf of their favourite candidates. These statements will be included in the official election material!

What do you think will be the outcome of the election?

I am absolutely confident that this campaign can be successful and that we can give CPSA the leadership it requires. The Tories have thrown down the gauntlet to our members on wages, jobs and working conditions.

It is absolutely vital our members have a leadership which will not let them down. But it would be wrong to concentrate exclusively on the General Secretary post. What is needed is a new leadership for the union and this is only the start of a process which I believe will see the election of a Broad Left majority on the coming National Executive Committee in May next year.

I have been overwhelmed by the support which our campaign has received, and if CPSA is to have that leadership which the members deserve, then we must succeed.

BUILD BROAD LEFT IN EVERY DEPOT

The conference of the National Union of Railwaymen Broad Left on 17 October marked an important step forward for this recently formed group. Over 50 railwayworkers from all over Britain met to discuss the crisis in the railway industry and trade union democracy.

Geoff Hensby, chairman opened the conference by outlining the importance of building the Broad Left in every area.

Tom Doyle, outlined the Broad Left programme

Regional meetings had been held in Glasgow, Sheffield, Nottingham and London, with further meetings planned for the South West and South East.

Bro Doyle explained the growth of the Broad Left in relationship to the crisis facing our industry. BR Engineering and BR Workshop, which were the backbone of our industry, were threatened with total annihilation.

The leadership of the rail unions had a responsibility to mount a massive campaign against the Tory government's attempts to de-nationalise parts of British Rail.

We must invoke the 1981 AGM decision to build the Triple Alliance at grass

By a NUR
Broad Left supporter

roots level, it was said. The twinning of branches already in existence in the Yorkshire area must be repeated up and down the country. The Triple Alliance must be used to defend jobs and fight closures.

Bro Doyle went on to explain the witch-hunt that has been launched by Sid Weighell against himself, Bro Hensby and Ian Williams, an NEC member. A special committee has been set up as a result of reports

sanctioned by Sid Weighell against not only the Broad Left and the brothers already mentioned, but also the 'Militant Tendency' for trying to sell their newspaper to railway workers and also for publishing a pamphlet 'A fighting programme for the NUR!' Bro Maddox of Brighton Joint branch was also under attack.

Having failed to return to the days of proscribed lists at this year's Labour Party

Conference Sid Weighell is intent on launching his own witch hunt in the NUR. The Broad Left strategy has been to encourage NUR members and branches to make up their own minds on the matter by inviting to Broad Left speakers at their own expense.

It is essential that Broad Lefts be set up in every depot, to take their programme to the rank and file and to act as a catalyst in getting members into the branch room.

The afternoon session began with a contribution from Bro Bob Russell on the question of the crisis facing the industry. After calls from the floor to redouble its efforts in publicising the Broad Left, Bro Richard

Sheppard stated that the long awaited Broad Left journal 'Left Lines', has now been printed and would be distributed.

But he stated, money was needed to subsidise the journal. A collection followed raising a total of £170.

In his summing up of the conference, Bro Hensby urged every brother and sister in attendance to recognise the growing frustration of railwayworkers, and to take the mood of conference back to the depots, reporting that 1,600 copies of 'Left Lines' were already distributed. Order copies of 'Left Lines' from National Broad Left, 2 Binstead Gardens, Sheffield 6.

Laurence Scott

Following the opening negotiations which seemed to herald an end to this running dispute (see last week's 'Militant') things have taken another sharp turn. Unexpectedly the management have sent out letters to all the 630 former employees asking them to report to the factory on Monday 26 October where they will be interviewed with a view to re-employing between 150 and 175.

In response to this blatant overriding of recognised trade union negotiations the strike committee called for a mass picket on Monday, where 400 workers turned out, from the local labour movement as well as from Scotts strikers. The message was that the factory must not be reopened without full trade union recognition.



Pickets battle with police outside the Laurence Scott factory on Monday October 26. Photo: John Smith (IFL).

UCW rights attacked

The WDO (West End W1) amalgamated branch of the Union of Communications Workers is under attack.

In a blatant attempt to smash the local branch the London post office management are attempting to remove the branch chairman Bill Willoughby from office for "swearing" at a canteen manager.

The penalty for this so-called serious offence allotted to Bill was the sack, after 17 years as a postman!

But after appeals by Tom Jackson the charge has been reduced to compulsory transfer to a small sub-office. This pathetic decision carries with it a refusal to allow Bill to continue as an official for the branch which has democratically elected him for several years.

This ludicrous attack on union rights is the only means the management have at their disposal to remove a local UCW official who has constantly defended the branch against attacks from the post office in their attempt to reduce manning levels.

This attempt to remove Bill from office is a direct attack on the UCW as a whole. If the Post Office management are allowed to get away with this blatant attempt at intimidation no lay official in the country will be safe.

The union's national executive has decided to set up a committee to prepare a programme of industrial action to defend the right of Bill and all the UCW officials to full negotiating rights.

Already the media have taken part and are printing derogatory articles, e.g. 'Daily Mirror', 26 October. All UCW members and other trade unions must give their full support to any action needed to defend our rights.

Chamberlain Phipps

The workforce at Chamberlain Phipps in Bishop Auckland, locked out since 23 September, were eagerly awaiting a joint statement from management and their union NUFLAT to be announced on 26 October.

Rather than the statement being given, an under-manager from the factory came out and tried to distribute photo-copied sheets of paper; these stated that the company had refused to reinstate the 43 locked-out men, and the union officials present had stated that they could not act as they had NUFLAT members in the factory who had taken the jobs of the

sacked men!

These 20 or so had only been taken on under pressure from the dole office. The battle with NUFLAT, the men's union, continues with pressure being put on the local branch and full time officials.

The strike committee refused to accept this statement and are continuing the battle for reinstatement and no victimisation of any workers who took part in the one-day strike which led to the dispute.

The men are laying plans for a rally and march through Bishop Auckland on Saturday 7 November, and before then the local MP Derek Foster is raising the issue in an adjournment debate in the House of Commons.

The men are still completely solid behind the actions of the strike committee in pressing for their reinstatement. A vote taken outside the factory when the statement was presented

showed no hands against continuing the action. With this solid support the dispute will continue until reinstatement is secured.

Commonwealth Curtains

The workers occupying the Commonwealth Curtains factory in Kirkby have been given a terrific boost by the support they have received in the last week alone.

Workers in other factories and the public have given support as well as Knowsley and Liverpool trades councils, Ormskirk LPYS and some local ward Labour Parties.

People have been knocking on the door with cash donations and good wishes. One unemployed worker

donated £1, and pensioners in a nearby club have given 50p each.

Already over £700 has come in donations from trade unions. One of the best donations was £153 from the workers at AC Delco.

These acts of solidarity contrast strongly with the attitude of the union, the G&MWU. The occupiers sent a telegram to David Basnett asking why the union's full time officials are not doing more to help.

They have also sent a telegram to the Minister of the Environment, Michael Heseltine, giving him an early opportunity to put into practice his 'fine sentiments' regarding the area's industrial decline. They are still awaiting his message of support!

By Jim McGinley
(Ormskirk CLP)

NUPE fights 4%

The mood of local authority workers is more militant than before the 1978 dispute. Newcastle local authority branch unanimously rejected 4%.

A typical remark was, "I work with 7 other lasses. Since we took 7½% last year all eight husbands have lost their jobs...4% is useless to us."

The local Labour Council have scandalously begun to threaten redundancy. The issue was being posed last year as jobs or wages. We took low wages and we're still threatened.

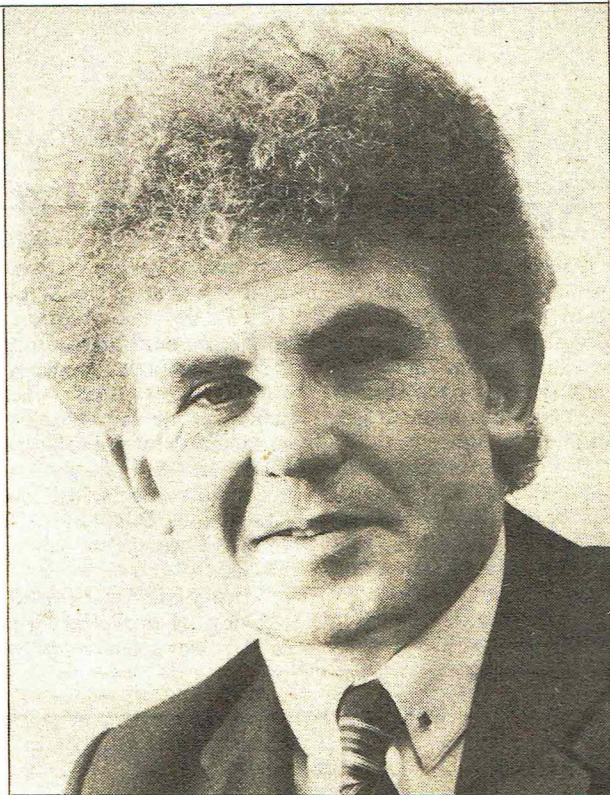
Fight the 3%—£90 for 35 hours now!

By Chris Edwards
(NUPE Newcastle)

BROAD LEFT SUPPORT GROWING

See interview
 page 14

Photo: Militant John Macreadie



The campaign to elect a new fighting leadership for Britain's largest civil service union is now well under way.

By Sandy Donachie
 (CPSA Northern Region Broad Left)

The Broad Left candidate for the General Secretary's post in the Civil and Public Services Association, John Macreadie, recently spoke in Newcastle to CPSA members.

He addressed a meeting of local activists in the morning, the DHSS Central Office Branch Committee in the afternoon and in the evening to the Northern Region Broad Left.

At all of these, he was applauded for the clear policies he outlined to make

the CPSA a real fighting representative of civil service workers. The points made by many speakers from the floor of these meetings showed the growing feeling of confidence in John amongst union activists.

We heard of the growing list of sponsors for John's campaign, and of new sup-

port for him, even from many who in the past have been considered 'moderates'. It was clearly understood that if the support and belief of the union's most active members could be translated into members' votes, John would be home and dry already.

John Macreadie called for effort, commitment and enthusiasm in the campaign

and after. All CPSA members who are concerned for the future of our union must heed this call.

In the North East, the Northern Broad Left Region are totally confident that our candidate's policies can win through to gain John the General Secretary's post and from there give a real lead in the battles our union will face.

BRITAIN UNDER THE TORIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

of 'progress' under the profit system has almost doubled unemployment of 16-26 year olds to 1½ million.

Then the unemployed were forced into compulsory labour camps.

The YOP schemes of today are little better; employers get cheap labour for six to twelve months, at £23.50 a week, paid for by the government.

Training is usually minimal. Recently a YOP worker in Stockton on Tees lost two fingers on a machine he should not have been operating without full training. Yet YOP workers don't even get industrial injury benefit!

The labour movement must take up the defence of the YOP workers. The schemes must be unionised to begin the fight for trade union rates of pay and proper training and working conditions.

The YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign Conference in Liverpool on 21 November is a vital starting point for this fight. Every YOP worker should attend.

But the fight doesn't end there! Every day the Tories are in office threatens greater misery for the unemployed, sick and elderly, and increasing uncertainty for those in work. Every section of the working class must join the struggle to drive the Tories out.

If the TUC and Labour Party leaders were to call for a 24-hour general strike, and organise mass meetings

and demonstrations on that day, it would prepare the way for mass industrial action to force the Tories out of office.

There would be overwhelming support for such action if a clear, bold lead was given.

Labour must fight for a real socialist alternative to this nightmare. A 35-hour week without loss of pay could create a million new jobs. Let new technology ease the burden of work, not lengthen the dole queues!

An £80 minimum wage would lift millions off the poverty line, and end the need to work long hours of overtime to survive.

A massive programme of useful public works, building hospitals, houses, new schools and improving public transport could provide millions of useful jobs for skilled and unskilled fulfilling the needs of society.

The crisis in the present system clearly shows that the bosses won't produce the goods if they can't make a fat profit. They claim that there isn't a profit to be made building houses, while millions are in need of decent housing.

Put an end to their whining! We must fight to take production out of the hands of the profit seekers through the nationalisation of the big monopolies.

A socialist plan of production, based on workers' control and management, would ensure that working people could decide what is to be produced, according to the needs of society, not the dictates of profit.



BLACK ALL STAFFA GOODS!

Report by Janice Dale

Important gains have been made by the Staffa workers in East London, fighting against the closure of their factory in Leyton.

Three pits in South Wales have agreed to black any new mining equipment produced by Staffa, and are

refusing to maintain any Staffa equipment already installed. This decision by the miners is hoped to be backed by the South Wales NUM executive later this week.

And another victory has

been notched up, with the National Ports shop stewards committee agreeing to black all Staffa goods, as well as those Brown and Sharp, and Bowden Warehouses and Hanniel Containers [see last week's re-

port].

Donations still urgently needed; send to Staffa Shop Stewards Comm., c/o C Newson, 39 Somers Road, Walthamstow, London E17 6RV.

Also any organisations requiring delegations or speakers from Staffa, phone the new strike headquarters in the local Labour Party premises on 01 539 0886.

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