IT'S ODDS ON now for a June election. Thatcher's advisors are probably calculating that as far as unemployment and the economy are concerned things will only be worse in October.

If after the local elections the electoral gauntlet is thrown down, the labour movement must seize it with both hands.

The opinion polls are consistently over-estimating the Tories real support, and even in the polls the Tory lead is narrowing.

#### Chance

A real chance exists of throwing out the Tories — if Labour campaigns on the central issues of unemployment and nuclear disarmament. Labour has to throw its full weight behind the campaigns and activities on these questions in the next few months.

This means backing:

- YCND's carnival on 7 May
   International Women's
   Day of Action on disarmament
   on 24 May
- The People's March for Jobs which ends with a huge rally in London on 5 June

Labour has to hammer home the message that the question of unemployment and disarmament are linked.





With Duffy in on the negotiations, we'll probably lose our dinner breaks as well...

• See back page for report on the Cowley strike.

People's march message to Thatcher

# BOMBS!



SOCIALIST ACTION will be making a major effort to bring you all the information about the Peoples March for Jobs from 23 April to 5 June.

In particular we'll be aiming to:

 Profile the different areas that the main march and the feeder marches pass through

Have correspondents with the march as it progresses from Scotland to London

 Carry weekly roundups of the march including local rallies and support actions

 Have a six week long sales drive for the paper during the march

Socialist Action correspondents and sales organisers throughout the country should prepare regular coverage of the march and plan sales drives throughout its duration.

The same system, the same policies responsible for producing the insanity of nuclear weapons and war is exactly the same system which produces unemployment on a vast scale. Capitalism in crisis always produces unemployment and drives towards war.

If the Tories win again it will mean zooming towards five million without jobs and more and more missiles.

Many of the voters in this election will be young people voting for the first time. Rejection of cruise and Trident missiles and the Tories warmongering is immensely popular with the youth.

#### Rally

That's why Labour and the LPYS should throw its full weight behind Youth CND's rally in Brockwell Park on 7 May. This will be YCND's first mass rally and Labour can only gain by backing it.

Throughout May, and into June, the People's March for Jobs will be winding its way through the country. Labour Parties and the whole trade union movement should be ensuring that the People's March is a huge crusade which captures the imagination of the whole country.

Foot and Murray didn't want the People's March in an election year. Their approach is absolutely wrong. Labour can only gain by a mass campaign on unemployment which goes on throughout the election period.

Support for the 24 May women's day of action for disarmament is snowballing. If the action is backed by the Women's TUC and the TUC General Council there's a possibility of action up and

down the country by women, backed by the labour movement, against the missiles. It can stretch out to tens of thousands of women who want a nuclear-free future.

Labour can win if it goes on the offensive. Labour activists can take up these campaigns here and now, with or without the support of Labour leaders. This type of campaign, advocated by Socialists for Labour Victory, is the road to victory.



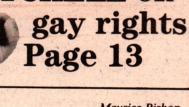
inside:



MARIANELLA
and ANA
MARIA:
a tribute to two
heroic fighters
for Salvadorean
liberation
Pages 8 & 9

Tony Benn on the prospects for Labour Page 7

PETER
TATCHELL on





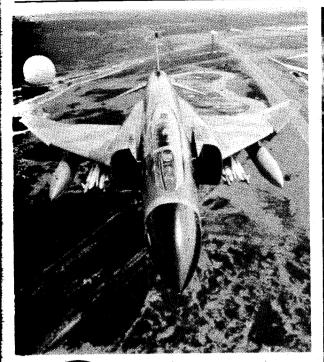
GRENADAN Prime Minister Maurice Bishop warned a packed meeting at London's Kensington Town Hall last Saturday of the growing threat posed by American military aggression in the Caribbean and Central America.

The United States naval manoeuvres off the Grenadan coast are directly linked to the US-backed counter-revolutionary invasion of Nicaragua and the stepping up of

US military aid to the El Salvadorean dictatorship.

He also spoke of

impressive economic and social gains made by the Grenadan people in four years of revolutionary government in the face of the devastating impact of capitalist the economic crisis on developing countries. • A future issue of Socialist Action will carry a full report of Maurice Bishop's speech.





★23-24 April North West London Labour Movement Conference against the missiles 'Jobs not Bombs — No Cruise Missiles' at Brent Town Hall. Speakers: Ken Livingstone, Pat Arrowsmith, Tim Webb and women from Greenham Common. Details/credentials from Nick Papoloi 01-904 7951 or write to PO Box 332 NW10 5HU. \*Sat 23 April Day School on Non-nuclear Defence. Contact Robert Colls Tel: Leicester 554455 ext 150 for

+Sat 23 April TUC/Labour Party Jobs march starts from Glasgow.

\*Sun 24 April GLC Bunker Party 7.30pm at the

Theatre Royal, Stratford East.

\*Mon 25 April Glasgow South/Pollokshields CND joint meeting for members and friends to discuss the way forward for Scottish CND. To be led by Willie Thompson (Scottish CND Elections Organiser). 7.30pm, Langside Halls, Pollokshaws Road.

★ Wed 27 April Meeting organised by Leyton CND. Speaker Bruce Kent. At Leyton Town Hall. Details from Chris Gray (01)-601 9321.

\*Thur 28 April Anti-Trident Campaign fund-raising

disco, Strathclyde University Students Union, John

Street, Glasgow.

★Thur 28 April Meeting 'Greenham Common and Labour'. Speakers: Anne Cesek (Islington N. LP) and Helen John (Greenham Common). At Islington Central Library, Holloway Road, starts 7.30pm.

\*Fri 29 April Two anti-nuclear films, 'America — From Hitler to MX' and 'No Place to Hide', 7.30pm at Studio 1 Cinema, 74 Victoria Crescent Road, Glasgow. Tickets £2 (£1.50 unwaged). Organised by Glasgow West CND. ★ Fri 29 April Public meeting on 'Labour's Non-Nuclear Defence Policy' with speakers John Silkin MP, George Foulkes MP, Keith Macdonald (PPC for Ayr). 7.30pm, Ayr Town Hall.

★ Sat 30 April East Fife CND march from St. Andrews to Leuchars airbase. Meet 10am in Queens Terrace, St.

★Sat 30 April Scottish CND/Anti-Trident Campaign joint fundraising booksale, Renfield St. Stephen Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow. Offers of books to Scottish CND, Third Floor, 420 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 (tel.

 4 Sat 30 April East London Labour Movement Conference Against Cruise and Trident, to be held in Queen Mary College. Details/credentials from Phil Waterhouse 01-359 8288 or Ken Cull Hornchurch 53518.
 ★ May March from Truro to Exeter via Plymouth, Barnstaple and Somerset (only for the fit!). Details from Stephen Hugget. Tel: Plymouth 268724.

\* Sun 1 May GLC May Day festival for Peace, Victoria

Park, London. Starts 11.00am.

★Sat 7 May Youth CND Festival for Peace. Starts at 11am with a demonstration from Embankment marching to Brockwell Park. Bands, speakers and a festival

★10-12 May Demonstration outside Defence Components Expo '83, in Brighton. Contact (01)-278 1976

★ Thur 12 May Day of Action against Arms production at Thorn-Brymar's Brimsdown site in Enfield. Organised by London Region CND's Trade Union sub-committee. Details from LRCND, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. Speakers at this lunchtime, factory gate, meeting will include Ken Livingstone (GLC), Jonathon Hammond (NUJ President), Paul Lefley (Sec. Haringey Trades Council), Lou Lewis (UCATT London Organiser), Ron Blanchard (Haringey Councillor) and Jeremy Corbyn (Haringey Councillor and PPC for Islington North).

★Sat 14 May Conference 'Nuclear Disarmament, a Trades Union Strategy. Starts 10.30am at Riddles Court, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh. Speakers will include Gavin

★ 14-21 May Ealing Labour Party Disarmament Week.

Contact David Bays (01)-992 0287 CND Diary is a regular column in Socialist Action, giv-

ing a round up of useful facts, news and dates of forth-coming events in the Anti-Nuclear movement.

The listing of events is free and the details should reach us by the Wednesday, one week before publication. Send to CND Diary, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP.



## NATO – the warmonger's alliance

CONSECUTIVE Labour Party conferences have called for unilateral disarmament, but rejected moves towards withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

But the fundamental argument used in favour of nuclear weapons — we need them against the 'Russian threat' — is the very argument for staying in NATO.

Right wing critics of unilateral disarmament, inside and outside the Labour Party, have been quick to point out that NATO is an alliance whose whole strategy re-quires the use, indeed the

first use, of the bomb.

Staying in NATO means relying on US nuclear weapons, remaining under the American 'nuclear umbrella'

Having a position in favour of NATO gives the right wing a huge opening to fudge and delay on unilateralism, using the ex-cuse of the necessity 'to consult our allies'.

Even worse, on the left some people are beginning to present a pro-NATO defence 'non-nuclear policy'— an alternative defence policy against Russia— rather than confront head on the cold war mythology of the 'Russian

Tribune editor Chris Mullin last week argued that we might need to reintroduce conscription instead of relying on nuclear weapons.

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament theorists Marv Kaldor and Dan Smith favour staying in NATO, and argue against any idea of the United States giving up its nuclear arsenal. Tony Benn favours 'collective against security' the USSR.

Despite the decision of last year's CND conference, the CND leadership has singularly failed to make NATO a campaigning issue, thus ceding the debate to the NATO partisans.

NATO is an imperialist alliance. It was founded in the late 1940s as the Western powers made their turn from war-time alliance with the Soviet Union towards cold war. Britain and the United States at this time collaborated in destroying the revolution in Greece.

NATO commanders also helped to plot the coup in Greece in 1967.

#### By the Editor

The character of the alliance is most vividly il-lustrated by its inclusion of the Turkish military dictatorship, one of the most repressive states in the world. NATO is not an alliance in defence of 'freedom' but an alliance against communism and workers revolution.

The doctrine which underpins the position of the Labour leadership on this question is that of 'collective security' — in other words an alliance against the 'Russian threat'. Whatever criticisms socialists make of the Soviet Union, and ours are considerable, the notion that Russia is preparing to invade Western Europe or to land paratroopers in East Anglia is an absurdity.

#### **Cautious**

pire' is not the objective of the ageing and cautious men in the Kremlin. Their domination of Eastern Europe is unstable enough; their attention is concentrated on solving the problems of the Soviet economy. The military posture of the Soviet Union is overwhelmingly a defensive one.

The history of 30 years of the arms race is a history of the Soviet Union attempting to keep up with the increasingly more destructive new weapons of the United States. Without confron-ting the claim of Soviet expansionism and drive to world domination then the arguments against nuclear defence collapse. Even from a technical point of view, it is difficult to see

how Britain could remain in NATO if all nuclear weapons were removed from British soil.

Britain remains a decisive link — even the decisive link in the NATO attack system — with more than 100 US military bases. To remove nuclear weapons from British soil would mean getting rid of those bases. agreements.

Despite agreements, the United States has used its facilities in non-nuclear Japan to store and transport nuclear weapons. If the USA is allowed to keep its British bases it will use them in the same way, keep its nuclear bombers and submarines and use the radar and warning installations as part of NATO's nuclear capacity.

argument in The Labour's New Hope for Britain campaign document that Britain could get rid of nuclear weapons and maintain its existing system of alliances is contradictory and absurd, and under a Labour govern-ment would present immense problems in implementing the promise of non-nuclear Britain within five years.

socialist foreign policy would mean a break with the world's major imperialist alliance. It would mean chucking out the American bases and the rest of NATO's paraphen-

Those who like Tony Benn accept 'collective security' are saying that we have an interest in allying with other imperialist powers. British capitalism does, but British socialists

Labour CND has decided to step up the campaign against NATO inside the Labour Party. It is fettered in this objective by the quiescence of the CND leadership itself, which has ignored last year's conference decision to make NATO a campaigning issue — reflecting the increasingly right wing positions of people like EP Thompson who is beginning to repeat the cold war attitudes towards the Soviet Union.

The question of NATO must go back to Labour Party conference; the fight to keep Labour to its unilateralist pledges in-volves a clear position against the alliance responsible for every stage of nuclear escalation for the last 30 years.

• Copies of the latest Labour CND newsletter from: Labour CND, 11 Penbury Road, Worthing,

#### **Nesat and Selim must stay!**



Selim Duzgun

TWO REFUGEES Turkey's from military junta have been refused political asylum in this coun-

> **Nesat Tolunay and** Selim Duzgun were both members of the socialist mass organisation, DevYol (Revolutionary Path) in Turkey.

10,000 Currently DevYol members are in prison or awaiting trial. The death sentence is



Nesat Tolunay

demanded for over 1500 of these. The deportation of Nesat or Selim would result in their certain imprisonment, torture and perhaps death.

Nesat is a worker in the garment industry in London and a member of the Tailor and Garment Workers union. Selim, just 19 years old, is Kurdish — an offence in itself in Turkey.

It is therefore imperative that Selim and Nesat be given the right to stay. With backing from the labour movement they will win that right.

• Copies of their petitions and model resolutions and model resolu-tions can be obtained from The Friends of Nesat and Selim, c/o South Islington Law Centre, 131/132 Upper Street, London NI or from the Turkey Solidarity Campaign BM Box 5965 London Box 5965, London WCIN 3XX. Both Selim and Nesat are available to speak at meetings on their cases.

V DRAMA AWARE





WILLIE WHITELAW has made a major climbdown on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. He has been forced by a lobby of doctors and the churches to backtrack on aspects of the Bill dealing with police access to professional records. He may also give in to the journalists who are anxious that unpublished material and notebooks could be seized by the police as evidence against a suspect. But those parts of the Bill centrally affecting street policing will remain untouched.

· The Bill is not intended to offend the church, to assault the medical profession, or even to limit the activities of journalists.

#### By Tim Wright

It is intended to give the police powers to control the population of inner cities, the black community and working people who are bearing the brunt of Tory austerity.

The Bill follows on from all the onti

from all the anti-democratic legislation that has been mounting throughout the seventies and into the eighties — the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Tebbit's law and the immigration acts.

It is part of a Tory calculation that during a second term of Tory government — with rising unemployment, the col-lapse of the Health Service, erosion of education, the continued and stepped-up use of anti-union legislation — the

discontent of working people will rise to an alltime high.

The Police Bill, tied in with the sophisticated armoury the police have ac-cumulated in the past few years, will enable the police to smash the protest and dissent of working

In many ways, though, the Bill merely legitimises black community has suffered from for years now.

The Job, the paper of the Metropolitan Police, states that the Bill is merely 'good police practice converted into legislation'.

Clause 1 of the Bill gives a police officer power to stop and search reasonably someone suspected of carrying an offensive weapon or articles which could be used for theft and burglary'.

As even a comb could be an offensive weapon within the terms of the Bill, the police will be provided with an excuse to stop and search at will.

Courteney Griffiths, a black barrister and member of the GLC Police Committee, pointed out that this sort of 'stop and search' was exactly what was practised during the SWAMP '81 exercise SWAMP '81 exercise which led directly to the Brixton riots.

Clauses 9 and 10 give the police powers to search premises not only of the

suspect, but of her or his family and friends. This sort of activity by the police is what the White family in Hackney were subjected to.

They took the police to court and won. In summing up, Justice Mars-Jones decribed the police ac-tivities as 'monstrous, wicked, shameful conduct'.

very brink fabric of democracy soap opera.'

If the Bill is passed the conduct will no longer be 'monstrous' but

#### Truth

The Bill involves a fundamental shift in the British legal method. Griffiths Courteney Griffiths describes British justice as an 'adversary system' not interested in truth but merely in the relative strengths of opposing

The Bill will restrict access to a lawyer, let the police hold suspects without charge for up to four days, and allow as evidence confessions gained under duress.

#### **Target**

The Bill must be resisted, not in part but in

its entirety.

The black community is already painfully aware of its implications. The labour movement must realise that the working class as a whole is the target of this victorian legislation.

Local campaigns to combat the Bill are springing up all over the country, but one of the most important developments is the the National Campaign Against the Police Bill.

Campaign

holding a national day conference on 15 May, with speakers from the Labour Party, ethnic organisations and the trade unions.

Out of the conference will come a broad, nationally representative committee to co-ordinate national activities against the Bill.

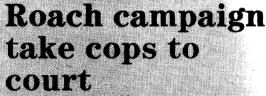
Labour movement delegates and individuals are invited to participate in the conference. Socialist Action readers should with the help of the model resolution provided

#### Model resolution

'THIS (branch/CLP etc) notes that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is currently passing through Parliament and believes that if the Bill becomes law it will institutionalise severe curbs on democratic rights.

'We therefore resolve to sponsor the con-ference called by the National Campaign Against the Police Bill on Sunday 15 May, and to send a

Against the Police Bill, c/o Room 50, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, London E8. Tel 01-986 3123 ext 280. There are no limits on numbers of delegates that can attend the conference.



THE campaign to demand a public enquiry into the death of Colin Roach is part of the opposition of working people, working people, especially the black community, to the methods of policing in the inner cities.

And now an award to a great bunch of Chief Constables for their ongoing role in the great My men are a faultless body of individuals constantly under attack from

the barbaric hordes of communist militants and subversives who

The Hackney snatch squad methods against Colin Roach against com Roacn pickets and demonstra-tions as perfected on the streets of Derry and Belfast. Eighty six people have already been ar-rested in this way.

**But the Roach Family** pport Committee is

They announced at a press conference on 14 April that they are going to take the police to court on a charge of con-

spiracy.
With the support of Alf Lomas, a Labour member of the European member of the European Parliament, they are publicising their case internationally and are hoping to take a delegation to the European parliament. They want to expose the nature of British policing to an international audience.

The Roach Family

The Roach Family Support Committee is support Committee is also calling a London-wide demonstration on 14 May starting at Tower Hamlets and ending at Stoke Newington.

A week later a national demonstration is being called on 22 May in

being called on 22 May in opposition to the Police Bill by the Committee of 15, a grouping of ethnic organisations. Socialist Action readers are urged to support these demon-

We also believe that the Bill will legalise actions by the police already taking place, particularly numerous cases of harassment of black

delegate/delegates to it'.

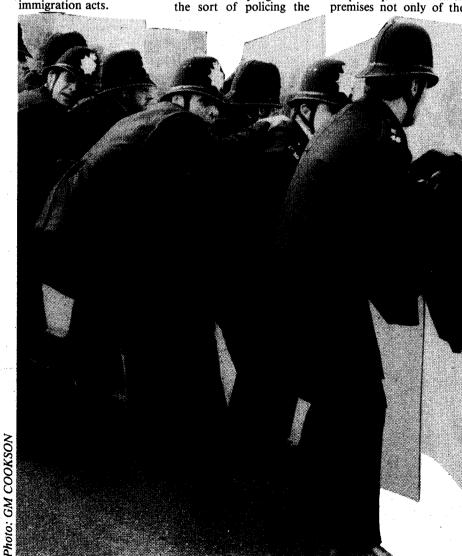
• Please send a copy to the National Campaign



Cabaret ● Buffet ● Jazz ● Disco East London's Socialist Celebration

Sun 1 May ● 7-11pm Admission at door £2.50/£1 unwaged Ufton Hall, Ufton Road, London N1. Buses 73, 30, 38, 22 or 141.

(All proceeds to Socialist Action)



# IRELAND UNFREE



The general strike in the South

THE SOUTH of Ireland ground to a halt, 14 April, as workers staged a half day general strike against tax and social security payments increases. 150,000 workers took to the streets in protest at tax increases that will take IR£2 out of an average pay packet of IR£140, and up to IR£10 from higher wage earners. The equivalent size demonstrations in Britain would be over 3 million strong.

Workers are refusing to shoulder the burden of the economic crisis in the South. They point to the fact that the IR£260 million increase in PAYE is entirely due to the governments' failure to index link exising tax bands to account for inflation.

This sum is more than all of the contributions paid by private companies put together. It's over five times that paid by the wealthy farmers.

Employers are being feather-bedded out of the pockets of ordinary workers, who want to know when the government is going to recoup the IR£500 million taxes owed by big business.

To workers in Britain the organisation of such massive demonstrations may seem to show a real fightback from the unions but workers in Ireland are getting increasingly annoyed at the refusal of the union leaders to go beyond demonstrations.

Eyes are being turned to 3000 workers at Waterford Glass who have told their employers to withold all their tax and insurance for two weeks in protest against increases.

As a result of their threat to take strike action if their demands were not compiled with, management gave in and payed wages in the form of loans. This avoids the legal obligation to pay tax on all wages when the government suggested the law could be changed to make this illegal, power workers in the ESB union threatened to black out all power supplies if any worker is arrested.

In March, the threat of a general strike to free the Rank occupation workers was enough to get them released, so it looks unlikely that the government will rush into anything hasty this time.

Workers' leaders like Matt Merrigan are talking about a rolling series of strikes leading to a general strike to bring about a complete reversal of the government's programme of austerity measures.

Speaking at the Dublin rally Merrigan got the biggest applause of the day when he said the unions should reconsider their links with the Irish Labour party — a coalition partner in the present government.

He argued that they should try to build an Irish a party of labour in the tradition of Connolly and Larkin, that acted for the interests of working people, not the multi-nationals.

## Let Brent East make its own decision

BRENT EAST CLP is fighting for the right to reselect its MP. The present MP is Reg Freeson.

The majority of delegates want Ken Livingstone in Freeson's place.

The Organisation Sub-Committee of the NEC has put off the discussion until the next full NEC on 28 April.

By Ronan Brady (delegate to Brent East GMC personal capacity)

Freeson, an ex-housing Minister in the Callaghan Government, lost the support of his General Management Committee (GMC) some years ago. He opposed the GMC on a host of issues and on its

call for troops out of Ireland.

However it was his vote for Silkin rather than Benn in the deputy leadership contest which decided most delegates against him. Ever since, he and his supporters have relied on bureaucracy, inertia and legalistic quibbles to keep him in his seat.

His latest ploy is to allege that Brent East has delayed reselection so long that it must drop the issue. The many delays are with one exception due to either Freeson and his supporters

or to the inertia of Labour's Regional Officers. The GMC did vote to defer the process until after the local elections in May '82. But Freeson and his supporters agreed whole-heartedly to this decision. Other delays were due to regional officers being 'too busy' and to a damaging internal inquiry-forced on the party by Freeson.

This report by Joyce Gould, Assistant National Agent, was 'leaked' to the press on Friday. It makes no recommendations but it catalogues a list of rightwing complaints. The report will undoubtedly be used against the party

locally as a Brent equivalent of shredding the Bermondsey election leaflets.

#### Left

As against this, the party has received legal advice from Lord Gifford that selection should go ahead. Speaking to Socialist Action, Colin Adams, Chair of the GMC, said: 'We're confident that we've satisfied all the NEC's organisational requirements and we can see no reason for not proceeding with the reselection process as soon as possible.'

Brent East GMC has given authority to its Executive to take nominations, thus beginning the process. But the NEC is most likely to delay even further in the hope of forcing Freeson on the party when a June election is called.

Brent East will succed only with the most forthright action. The party must show itself willing to implement the constitutuion in spite of the NEC.

In this struggle we'll need motions of support from the entire Labour Movement drowning the NEC. And we'll need them fast.

## Bid to control Wythenshawe party

THE REGIONAL Sub-Committee of the NEC is recommending that the national agent should take direct control of the Wythenshawe Constituency Labour Party.

The reason for this extreme proposal is a complaint received from USDAW in relation to their delegate to the constituency.

We don't know exactly what the regional subcommittee is proposing as we've only read about it in the *Manchester Evening News!* The local Labour Club isn't letting us into our offices to receive our mail.

#### By Clir Alf Home, Chair Wythenshawe CLP

The problems for the NEC began in the Woodhouse Park Ward of the constituency. The sitting councillor, right winger Tom Farrell, wasn't accepted onto the

panel by the district party. The ward shortlisting was delayed while this was sorted out, and finally a new shortlisting was held in February.

It was agreed that votes would be accepted from those who had been members for 12 months before 2 December — the date on which the ward had decided to delay the shortlisting. This was agreed by the NEC, and the right and left in the ward.

Everyone mobilised, but Tom Farrell didn't even get on the shortlist! The selection was fixed for 22 February. At this meeting Joe Paine, the election agent, challenged the validity of votes, saying the freeze date should have been 17 November. This was rejected and the selection took place.

#### LABOUR BRIEFING

Joe Paine tried every tactic to get the selection reconvened involving the NEC, the region, the district party and the constituency.

He insisted that David Hughes, the national agent, had told him to call a new selection meeting. When he went ahead and distributed notices for a new selection, the consti-

tuency executive suspended him from his job. That was when the Labour Club locked us out.

#### Nomination

On the 9 April Tom Farrell's nomination as an independent candidate went in, signed by the right wing in the ward. I think they realised this would put them in hot water, so his nomination was later withdrawn.

It was at this point that the regional sub-committee of the NEC discussed Wythenshawe. They are proposing taking direct control of the CLP unless we have a recall AGM.

Their grounds are a spurious charge that we have ignored complaints from an USDAW delegate

about his treatment by the constituency. We have never received any complaints from the delegate.

We have refused their demands, and we'll continue to do so. We're not going to let appeals for party unity in the face of a general election make us hostages to the right wing.

This is the beginning of a witch-hunt against the whole left in the Party and has to be fought.

I'll be arguing to the CLP executive that we lobby the NEC on 26 April and write our case up for distribution to everyone concerned.

I support the Hammersmith North in refusing to expel *Militant* supporters. But our case is a new stage, we have not done anything 'wrong' at any point.

### Nottingham wants open selection

The re-distribution of constituency boundaries posed a series of problems for Labour's National Executive. One effect of redistribution was a net loss of likely Labour seats. **Possibly** equally damaging in their minds was the threat of further selection conferences for Labour candidates.

This reselection process was guaranteed by the 1981 conference decision, which the NEC have comprehensively undermined by declaring an 'emergency'.

This allows them to impose short lists of existing MPs or prospective candidates from fragments of old constituencies which are included in new constituencies.

Already a number of

Labour parties are attempting to challenge the NEC
— St. Helens, Gorton,
Pollack, Islington parties
and Nottingham East want
to stand by conference
decisions and the right to
hold open selections.

The Nottingham East

hold open selections.

The Nottingham East situation is likely to leave the NEC attempting to impose a prospective candidate, Martyn Sloman who brings in a minority of wards into the new constituency. Furthermore the

selection of Sloman in the old East Nottingham constituency was very controversial and had led to allegations that people who were not properly members of the Labour Party had voted.

A subsequent NEC inquiry held by Eric Heffer under the banner of 'party unity' did not find sufficient evidence to disallow selection.

#### Decided

In view of all this East Nottingham GC has decided by a very large majority to call for an open selection and to try to get agreement with the NEC on a timetable for this.

Advertisements

gone out asking interested persons to supply their details and it has been decided that it is imperative that any short list must give representation to women and blacks.

What might embarrass the NEC and stop it just overruling the party are the events in the nearby Sherwood constituency. The situation there is

exactly the same as East Nottingham, but there an open selection will be allowed. The National Union of Mineworkers want it. Even a John Golding-dominated NEC is worried about trampling on the rights of the miners.

55 CLPs are now affiliated to Labour Against the Witch hunt, whose National Council met on 22 April and decided to:

● Fight for the reinstatement of expelled *Militant* editors
● Fight to scrap the

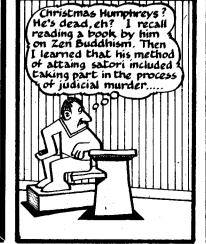
• Fight to scrap the register at the Labour Party conference

• Campaign with the Labour Steering Committee to defend CLPs refusing to expel.

11,000 copies of its latest newsletter have been printed and are available for 5p (3p for bulk) from the secretary, 11 Wilderton Road,

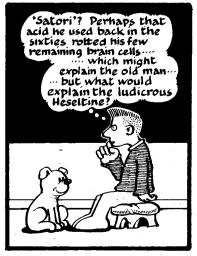
#6

#### A PIECE OF THE ACTION









& CORMAC

Labour's gay

## Women's hospital threatened by closure

THE LAST remaining general hospital run by women and for women in the country is now threatened with closure. South London Hospital for Women was founded in 1912 by Maud Chadburn, originally a surgeon at the Elizabeth Garret Anderson women's hospital.

Now, over 70 years later, the Wandsworth District Health Authority have unanimously recommended to close it down in April 1984.

South London is unique in now being the only hospital left to provide a full range medical treatment for women by women doctors and staff.

Kathy McKewan, a midwife at South London, explained why saving the hospital is so important. 'The services that a

#### By Hilary Driver

women's hospital can provide are essential today. One of our aims is preventative medicine.

Before the closure threat, we were planning to expand our services providing a walk-in Well Woman clinic and screening for cancer of the breast and cervix.

'We also have the only day-care abortion service in the district. Although we have over 170 beds, we proud of our reputation as a very welcoming hospital with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.'

Wandsworth District Health Authority say they are closing the South London so they can divert the £2½ million saved to services for the mentally ill, handicapped and elderly.

But as Kathy says, 'we aren't going to fall into the trap of squabbling over where resources should go. We want the best health services for all sections of

the community. 'In the last 7 years there've there've been five hospitals closed in south London, with no evidence that the money has gone to those in need — it just gets swallowed up in the overall

The staff at the hospital have all reacted angrily to the proposal for closure, and are united in their determination to fight it.

A support campaign has been active locally, with backing from the Women's Committee, women's groups and labour movement activists. The campaign is also supported by Labour MPs Jo Richardson and Joan Maynard who said: 'Mrs Thatcher is always saying how concerned she is about "the family" and as women comprise at least 50 percent of "the family", their needs must be raised very publicly in the pre-election period."

• Save South London Hospital Campaign meets every Thursday at Balham Food & Book Co-op, High Street, Balham at 8pm.



1967 Act is completely in-

adequate, because it leaves

the decision in the hands

of doctors. Conference

policy supports abortion

The New Hope for Britain holds to the 'existing right of women', where

doctors can refuse to do

abortions. Anti-abortion consultant gynaecologists are still one of the main blocks to NHS abortions

The campaign docu-

Some Labour leaders

ment sticks to the 1967

Act, proposing simply to improve facilities to imple-

think abortion rights are a

controversial vote loser.

What they forget is that at.

the time of the anti-

abortion Corrie Bill, the

opinion poll in Womens Own magazine showed 80

percent of women suppor-

ting abortion as a woman's

choice in conjunction with

her doctor.
The TUC gathered

magnificent support for its

demonstration for abor-

tion rights - a trade

for women on request.

Blocks

in many areas.

ment it.

NUPE poster in support of the South London Hospital

## Abortion: new hope or retreat?

THE RIGHT for women to control their own fertility has been long fought for in the Labour Party. The trade unions have also been pressured to taking a stand on this issue.

So many people will be disappointed with Labour's campaign document for general election.

By Ann Potter

The New Hope for Britain states, 'While continuing to defend and respect the absolute right of individual conscience, we will improve National Health Service facilities for family planning and abortion, including counselling and day care, and will remove the barriers to the implementation of the existing right of choice for women in the termination of pregnan-

This falls far short of the policy adopted by Labour Party Conference. This recognised that the

tion unprecedented any where in the world.

It is true that the Roman Catholic church and reactionary members of the Tory Party are against abortion. But the Labour Party doesn't exist to represent them. It's responsibility is to fight for the needs of working class women, who do support their right to choose.

union-called demonstra-

The Labour Party Conference represents members views more closely than the National Executive Committee, which drew up the campaign document.

#### Hostile

Some members of the NEC remain hostile to the right of women to control their own bodies. There has also been a lot of antiabortion activity against MP's who support abortion rights. This may have frightened Labour leaders into retreat.

We must make sure that conference commit-ment to improve abortion rights appears in Labour's manifesto.

This should extend further than just improving facilities. Conference decisions for a women's right to choose should become a real 'new hope', in law and

## activists conference document. No one in the

TAKING the issue of gay rights into the labour movement was the main theme of the **Annual Conference of** the Labour Campaign Gay Rights (LCGR) in Bristol on 9 April.

By Peter Purton

The 60 activists present made an assessment of progress during the year. Increasing numbers of Labour Parties have now discussed and adopted gay rights policies.

More Labour councils have followed the lead of the GLC in recognising the need to prevent discrimination in employment, housing and services and to fund Gay Centres.

And the Gay Young Socialists, buoyed up by the impact made at LPYS conference, has grown from zero to fifty in a month.

Important though these advances are, however, the actions of the Party leadership threaten to undo much of the hard work that has been done.

At the 1982 Blackpool conference, the Labour Party adopted a policy which promised end discrimination against gays — and then called for a reduction of the age of consent for male gays to 18 rather than the 16 which applies heterosexuals!

Even this miserable compromise is missing from the Campaign

LCGR will be in the least surprised if the four lines gays get at the moment somehow slip out of the manifesto.

A number of activities are planned for the coming year to do everything possible to prevent the exclusion of gays from the manifesto, and to change the ex-

isting conference policy.

LCGR will be pushing much harder for new members and new affiliations from the labour movement.

In order to begin the gigantic task of taking the issue into the trade unions, LCGR members will be taking the initiative in trying to get together the various gay groups which exist in many unions, in order to coordinate a campaign.

#### Involved

The LCGR will be getting involved in activities against the Police Bill, and will find itself side by side with other campaigning groups around the manifesto for the next election.

Unfortunately move to get LCGR to participate in Socialists for a Labour Victory was defeated, because the SLV's platform has no mention of gay rights.

Perhaps at least it will be a salutary lesson to socialists — gays in the Party have had enough of being ignored and patronised.

 For more information about LCGR write to: LCGR, c/o Gay Centre, 61A Bloom St, Man-chester M13LY.



#### 'Female charisms'



POPE John Paul II made the following comments to 4000 women at the Vatican at a recent international meeting of

'Domestic Collaborators in the Priesthood':

'Let me confide that upon seeing you here in such great numbers my first impression is: women do have their place in the church.'

At this point, you may be wondering if his holiness has changed his line on women priests ... well, not exactly.

The pontiff con-'You perceived that you are giving your life to a great cause — that of cause — that of the Catholic priesthood. It is your work that is indispensable to the visibility and vitality of the parish communities.

'Be happy that you can keep the residence of the priest clean, and free him from material tasks which would absorb part of the time he so needs his apostolic labours.'

He said that such material tasks 'are more for female charisms'!

If you've not yet been sick, there's more: 'For the priests who are responsible for parishes or for a larger well as for the faithful, your presence, your amiability, your services are a source of human attractiveness

and splendour.
'You could never thank the Lord enough for giving you the grace of choosing to serve the clergy.

Anyone wishing to achieve spiritual happiness by cleaning out the Pope's toilet should apply to the Vatican, Rome — don't forget to mention your charisms!

Compiled by HILARY DRIVER. Send contribu-tions to 'Male Order' Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday a week prior to publica-

## Fat profits

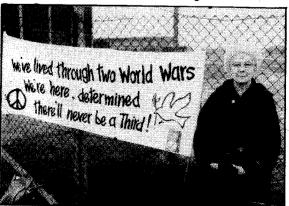
pound slimming industry has launched its spring offensive on the tele, complete with images of quivering lumps of flesh (ie the way most women really look), and visions of nymph-like models (the way we're 'supposed' to look).

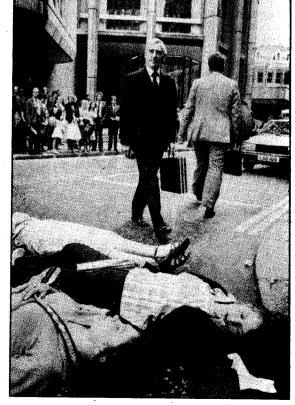
Meanwhile, the Consumers' Association, which has recently tested most so-called slimming products, has concluded that most of them don't work and that some are positively harmful.

A survey published this week on smoking has discovered that nearly half of 10,000 young interviewed women smoked to help keep their weight down.

This is just the thin end of the wedge of what women go through to try to conform media/fashion/slimming industries idea of what 'beautiful' is.

Meanwhile, women readers can join me in wishing for a new renaissance, when vast expanses of flesh were the thing to have!





'The Common Cause' is the title of a set of eight photographic postcards of women campaigning against nuclear missiles. Produced by Leeds Postcards, 13 Claremont

Grove, Leeds 3 and available from The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London NI or 137 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 for 95p plus 20p post and packing.



#### Blacks acquitted

blacks FOUR young Soweto the township have been acquitted at a trial in Johannesburg on charges of 'furthering the aims of the South African Youth Revolutionary Council'.

This is the first time that blacks have been acquitted on the grounds of violence used against them in questioning. One of the four, Stanley Radebe, testified

that he had been tied in a straight-jacket, beaten kicked. Other prisoners testified to seeing him in a bruised and bloodied state.

During the trial one prosecution the Mozamwitnesses, bican, admitted that he was a police informer and forced by a police major to fabricate evidence.

Meanwhile, the leader of blacks fighting against government plans to evict them from their land in Driefontein village has been shot dead by a white police-

man at a meeting.
'Pik' Botha, South African foreign minister, said the government 'deeply regretted the in-

#### Lucky's pal gets his

ELEVEN people were murdered in Mafia killings in Sicily in 24 hours last week.

Among the victims was Antonio Sorci ('Nino the rich') onetime lieutenant of Lucky Luciano.

Also killed was Sorci's 28-year old son Carlo, who had on him a plane ticket to New York when he was shot. Both were high on the list of 162 Sicilians suspected of trafficking drugs to New York.

The Sorci's owned a factory, discovered by police last year, where more than 100lbs of morphine and heroin were discovered.

#### Baluka trial

EDMUND Baluka, well-known Polish socialist and member of Solidarity, was put on trial last week charged with trying to subvert the socialist system'.

Baluka left Poland after playing a leading role in the 1970 workers revolt, and spent several years in Britain, working in the engineering in-dustry in Manchester.

Next Sunday a meeting of solidarity will take place at the Rio Cinema, Dalston, addressed by MacDonald, Tariq Ali and Paul Foot, starting at 2.15pm.

#### Garden path

THE French Communist Party (PCF) last week voted for the austerity measures decreed by President Mitterrand. The measures give the government power to

raise new taxes without consulting parliament.

Despite rumblings of disapproval among socialist deputies, and PCF leader Marchais's statement that 'we aren't going to be forced to swallow bitter medicine', in the end all the CP and SP deputies in the assembly voted for the measures.

PCF weekly maga-le Revolution zine quoted one party militant as saying: 'We're being led up the garden path and we're staying

#### **Pacification**

THE United States and the military dictatorship in El Salvador are about to launch a major new programme 'to win the hearts and minds of the

Desperate to make a new move to bolster the failing regime, the plan combines a major military offensive against FMLN strongholds in Usulatan and San Vincente provinces, with major programme of

civilian aid.
The 'hearts minds' package direct copy of the Vietnam 'pacification' programme which crashed so ignominiously in Vietnam in the 1960s.

American ambass-ador Deans Hilton said that San Vincente and Usulatan had been 'because chosen guerrillas are there in strength and it looks like people support them'

One Salvadorean officer commented: 'If we don't win this war in seven months, it's all

#### **Defending** the Nazis

**DOCUMENTS** and cables uncovered in the US National Archives has revealed an extensive programme to protect Nazi war criminals in the period following World War II.

The United States made widespread use of Nazi agents to inform on Communists and left wingers, and shielded them from prosecution and punishment.

Among them was Klaus Barbie, who was kept by the US for three years in Wiesbaden, despite repeated requests from the French government for his extradition, for crimes committed as the SS commandant in

## Sri Lanka: plantation workers' plight

PLANTATION WORKERS in Sri Lanka, who today work mainly on tea plantations but also rubber plantations, were brought into Sri Lanka in the second and third decades of the last century.

When the coffee plants succumbed to a disease they were made to work on the tea estates. Today they are subjected to the worst conditions of immigrant labour.

The estates today are hierarchically managed; 97.5 percent of the workers of them work picking the tea. They live in 'line rooms' rooms about 15 feet by 10 feet - in which a whole family has to survive.

Wages for a man are 15 rupees and 12 cents per day — less than 50p. Women earn about 25 percent less, for more work.

Work on the plantations is all daily paid, workers are paid only on these days when they work. In times when there is less leaf to pluck — for example in January, February and March when there is drought, the workers have very few days work.

This year the drought is extremely severe and the workers are suffering great hardship. By hardship, we mean literally starvation. These wage rates are much lower than urban in-dustrial labour, or even of villages agricultural

Although there are many estate workers whose families have been in Sri Lanka for three or four generations, most of them are Tamils, and still referred to as 'Indian Tamils'. This means that they are generally deprived of basic social and civil rights, for example the right to vote.

Being neither Indian nor Sri Lankan citizens, formally they are 'stateless', a and suffer

oppression. Although they are workers, their situation is in many ways akin to slavery — they have lit-tle chance of moving away from the plantations.

#### By Father Paul Caspersz

Unfortunately, because of mistakes by the labour movement and because of racism, they have not been recognised as an integral part of the working class movement in our country.

They are tied to the same employment, they and their children, for all the days of their life. Although they are wage workers, they are also semi-slaves.

The tea plantations are in some of the most beautiful parts of a beautiful island. But I have never met a single estate worker who has told me 'here, look at this beautiful scenery

One day when I asked a plantation worker about this, and said 'Don't you ever feel yourself to be lucky with this beautiful scenery'. He told me: 'Yes now you mention it. But look behind us. There are our line rooms'

plantation workers are so oppressed as a people, as a class, that they have no time for leisure, for the appreciation of beauty and their surroundings.

Facilities for the plan-



Paradise on earth, but not for plantation workers

minimal. On a typical estate school there will be a hundred or more children and only one teacher. Health care is at a bare minimum.

The large privately owned estates were nationalised by the govern-ment in 1972, and the company-owned estates were taken over in 1975 and they are now managed by two government agencies — the JEDB and the Sri Lankan State Plantations Corporation.

But the tea market is still entirely dominated by British companies Brooke Bond, Lyons, Liptons, CWS and so on. The world price of tea is determined by the West. So the plantation workers are subject to two forms of

oppression and exploitation. One within the country, where the plantation workers are at the bottom of the working class. The second is international exploitation.

In my view Britain cannot abdicate its responsibility for the plantation system. Most of the line rooms which exist today are the line rooms which were built by the British companies.

The British working class has a lot to do to help pressure the teamarketing companies and to ensure that a fair price is paid for the tea.

Of course the struggle cannot be won in Britain alone; we have to win the struggle for justice for the

Lanka as well. But an essential precondition for that is to destroy the exploitation carried out by the British tea companies. Paul Caspersz is a Jesuit priest, working with tea plantation workers in Sri

Father Paul Caspersz

#### International Conference

The Plantation workers of Sri Lanka' 23-24 April, Hampstead Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, London NW3. (Nearest tube Belsize Park).

Speakers include: Paul Caspersz, Kumudini Samuel, Guy Barnett MP, Upali Cooray. Organised by Sri Lanka Research and Information Group.

## appeals for May Day actions

THE coordinating committee of Solidarnosc has appealed for major May Day demonstrations against the Jaruzelski regime. The appeal for these demonstrations comes in the wake of a secret meeting between underground leaders - almost certainly including Zbigniew Bujak and Bogdan Lis and Lech Walesa last weekend.

Without doubt this signals the return of Walesa as an active leader of Solidarnosc, and is a major blow to the regime.

It comes at a time when tension is escalating over the show trial of seven Solidarnosc leaders, and the coming trial of KOR (Workers Self-Defence Committee) leaders. Below we print extracts of the Solidarnosc appeal for international solidarity.

self-managed in-dependent trade union Solidarnosc, in the name of the Polish workers, we extend our greetings to the workers of the world for this May Day. Polish workers will demonstrate on this day under the banner of international solidarity.

The festival of 1 May was born in the struggle for the dignity of human labour. In 1886, in Chicago, workers paid with their lives for the right to their own tradeunion representation. For us, the Polish workers, Chicago was repeated in Gdansk 1970, in Silesia 1981, in Lublin in 1982. And we are aware that it could be repeated many times again.

On 13 December 1981, counterthe

In the name of the revolution hit back. Once years ago, workers' blood Tanks and machine guns were turned against unarmed people, in order to destroy the independent tradeunion movement.

For more than a year, our trade union continued its activity illegally, in conditions of police terror. Thousands of Solidarnosc activists passed through the internment camps and prisons.

Thousands of others are still languishing there, under harsh sentences. Strikers and demonstrators have been assaulted, hundreds among them have been crippled, several dozen murdered in cold blood, for having desired to de-fend their liberty and their dignity.



Repression continues. Trade-union activists are being sacked, many factories have been militarised. The setting up of forced labour camps has been announced. People have persecuted for exercising their natural human Arrests and political trials continue.

Solidarnosc will not allow itself to be destroyed. Solidarnosc lives and is well rooted in the factories. The trade union continues its actions, and will not give up defending the rights of workers, nor fighting to institute social and economic reforms Poland...

The workers showed. when they organised demonstrations a year ago, that for the labour movement in Poland, 1 May has become a day of struggles for social rights. We are not alone in our fight. From the first days of August 1980, we have been able to see the support of workers throughout the world. On the eve of this May Day we thank the trade unions of other countries, as well as the organisations, and

all those who have acted individuals, as whose devotion is otion is human proof of solidarity.

Zbigniew Bujak (Warsaw), Wladysław Hardek (Cracow), Bogdan Lis (Gdansk), Jozef Pinior (Wroclaw), Eugeniusz Szumiejko (member of the Praesidium of the national Commission).

**Temporary Co-ordinating** Committee of the self-managed, independent trade union, Solidarnosc. 23 March 1983

## 66 THE ACTION INTERVIEW

FOLLOWING the publication of the Labour Party's campaign document The New Hope for Britain there has been a strong impulse on the left of the Labour Party to unite behind the document and to put on one side its fudgings.

Tony Benn, the acknow-ledged national leader of the Labour left, has been one of the strongest proponents of this view. In this interview, conducted with Phil Hearse and Alan Freeman on 14 April, he explains his perspective for a Labour victory in the general election.

If there is a June election, can Labour

Yes we can, and it's very important that we be confident. Confident in our programme, which we've hammered out over a long period, and in the possibility of victory. A lot of Tory wet' voters are going to vote SDP and the Labour party with a decided leadership and programme has got a good chance. I think the Falklands war is over as a factor, to a very large extent. There is a very good chance of winning in June...

I think it's important that we should have confidence in the popularity of our policies. We saw 268 Liberals in Tottenham join the Labour Party the other day with their parliamentary condidate and their local council candidates.

I believe that the Labour Party is going to pick up enormous support from Liberal voters. Partly because they are fed up with the fact that half their candidates have been defeated before the election begins by Roy Jenkins and the deal with the SDP, and secondly because if the Liberals were to do well, what would be the effect? They would put back into power Roy Jenkins who has been the sort of Labour leader the Liberals have most disliked — because he was bureaucratic, centralistic, he was secretive, he wanted an authoritarian

consensus society.

On the other hand a lot of Tory wet voters are going to say that we can vote for Roy Jenkins without imperilling the Conservative values of the present government — it would just be a slightly milder form of conservatism. It would be the conservatism of MacMillan, Heath and Churchill. So with a split Tory vote and a Labour vote augmented by disatisfied Liberals, there's a good

chance of winning.

If there's no overall majority after the election — and there must be a possibility of that — will there be pressure inside the PLP for a coalition with the SDP, and what will your attitude be?

Well I'm absolutely opposed to it. But I don't want to discuss it too much, for the reason that you don't go into a battle saying 'If we're beaten what will we do next?'

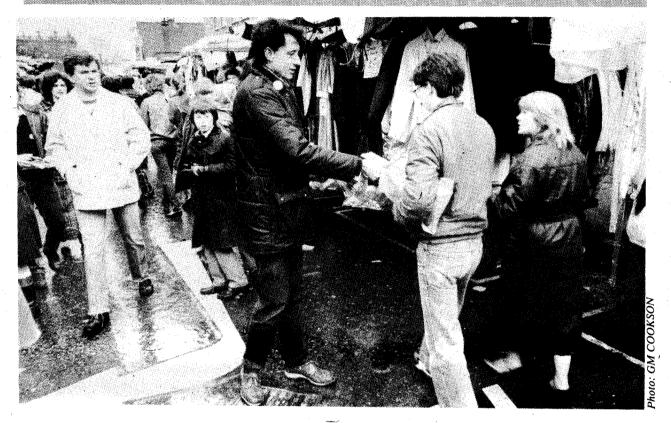
Michael Foot himself has made clear, and so has the National Executive, in accepting constituency resolutions, that there is no question of a coalition. If the Tories are the largest single party then that's their problem

If we are the largest single party, we form a government and present our policy, we try to get it through the House and if it's defeated by the Tories, Liberals and SDP, we go to the country and win a majority as we did in March '66 and in October '74.

I'm sure that if we proceed on the basis of our policies that we could win support. So I'm totally opposed to any arrangement or coalition.

## Tony Benn MP

## 'Socialist Action supports a line of consistent pessimism'



It's important to say that, not in the sense of anticipating a defeat, but in the sense that one of the things which would encourage people to vote SDP—they have no chance of forming a government—would be the belief that this was some way of avoiding the 'two extremes' and it could be a moderating influence by being a broker for coalitions.

Well it has been said, but we're going for all-out victory on a programme which has been hammered out. So I take your point, you have to make clear you are going to put forward your programme in any case and if the House of Commons won't carry it you'll appeal to the people.

That's perfectly practical it should have been done in '77 instead of having a Lib-Lab pact. That pact did nothing for us, it simply prolonged the life of the government, without the government actually doing anything. And in my opinion it contributed substantially to our defeat in '79...

But there is a tremendous campaign underway in the party to restore the leadership which is identified with those policies, and which has a majority on the NEC at present.

I know the line you are taking, which is consistent and persistent pessimism.

If I were to accept your argument I would quit. And the trouble is you are saying in your own left wing way 'There is No Alternative'. There is the Thatcher TINA and the Socialist Action TINA — and both TINAs combined just demoralise people

bined just demoralise people.

All the questions you ask 'What happens if we don't win, what will happen if we do win and the programme isn't implemented — all you're doing is spreading pessimism.

We're not pessimistic that the movement will continue to press its demands, we are pessimistic of the response of the party leadership in the face of these demands.

Well look at Tatchell. It ended in tragedy, but he won — he beat the Executive. The trouble was that in the process the leadership beat him.

And if you take the *Militant* argument. The Executive went to a huge victory at last year's conference not on the basis that they would expel the five editorial board members, but they would dis-endorse all the *Militant* supporters who are candidates, they would get the 60-80 *Militant* sellers, and possibly they would go further and expel ten or twenty thousand people. Six months later it's over. Nobody's going to touch it. Why? Because the movement is so strong that even a right wing executive can't do it.

can't do it.

Look at the policy. It's got a few phrases of caution which I wouldn't have drafted in that way, but the main policy changes of the past few years are in place. You're not telling me that is the way it would be drafted by the other side.

So cheer up, you're having a debilitating effect not on me, but on other people.

You put down a motion at the NEC arguing against incomes restraint...?

The amendment I moved was accepted. The reality is that the trade union movement is not going to have another government-imposed wage policy. They know if they accept it again from a Labour government it will be used against them under a Tory government.

There will be pressure for it, we all know that, because Callaghan will still be a member of the House of Commons, and you mustn't think that the Callaghan view of how a Labour government should behave has disappeared from the scene.

At the Scottish TUC there's a resolution which rejects all forms of incomes restraint even through a National Economic Assessment. The National Economic Assessment can be read any way you like. Those who favour a pay policy will argue the National Economic Assessment is such a policy. But having moved that amendment, the National Economic Assessment is presented as an indication that we'll have a Labour government with as close a relationship with organised labour as the Tories do with their backers.

I understand the point you're making but the general assessment is one of gloom. At this moment in the electoral cycle when you have an absolute duty to beat Thatcher, if you spend all your time niggling away at the difficulties, then you are actually assisting her prospect of victory.

There's another way that gloom has been spread, with people like you saying that the developments in the Tory party represent fascism. What worries us about this argument is that it could make people unduly gloomy about defeating Thatcher. It could pave the way to the argument that against fascism one should link up with anyone — for example the SDP — to defeat her.

I've never said Mrs Thatcher is a fascist. What I did say is that in a period of crisis you have to study the ideas of fascism, just as you have to study the ideas of Marxism. If the left is frightened of discussing fascism and what brings fascists to power—you won't see that what brought Mussolini to power-was exactly the ideas being put forward now about making it illegal to strike and so on. To say that you mustn't mention that for fear that the soft left will make an alliance with the SDP is ludicrous.

I've never said anything, like some wobbly elements in the *Morning Star* did, who think you have to have an arrangement with the SDP because they have the same position on proportional representation. It was the strength of the British working class movement that defeated fascism in Britain in the 1930s, so I draw the opposite conclusion from the coalitionists.



Tony Benn

In CND there's a lot of scepticism about the value of voting Labour. Is Britain really going to be nuclear free after five years of Labour government?

That's what it says in the campaign document. Now I can understand people being sceptical. But when they come to vote what are people going to do — not vote and give Thatcher a majority? Are they going to vote for the SDP which essentially agrees with Thatcher — or are they going to vote Labour and keep the pressure up?

I've said before that if a Labour government is elected the Greenham women should double their contingent outside the bases. But the fact that a Labour government will be much more amenable to pressure is a reflection of not only the conference resolutions but CND itself.

But what worries people for example is the statement that this would be carried out in such a way as to 'not disrupt our existing alliances'. It would be very difficult to do that. That would then become an argument for not doing it...

Well it could be. All you're saying, let me sum it up for the benefit of the readers, is that there are people in the Labour Party who were in the '74-9 Labour government who don't agree with the policy. I agree. But they are ten per cent of the party. And the changes that 90 per cent of the party and the TUC agree with will go through.

But to ensure it is done the rank and file must remain on the alert. What's worrying is that if it hadn't been for the existence of bodies that got together the consituency parties to fight the witch hunt, we wouldn't today be talking about successes in defending Militant. We now have people trying to organise in a similar way to ensure that Labour links up with the mass campaigns, that the conference policies are in the manifesto, that the MPs are against coalition — in bodies like Socialists for Labour Victory. But some on the left seem to be saying that now it would be seen as a divisive and disruptive thing if the rank and file of the Labour Party were organised in this way.

There are times for certain things. After a defeat is the time for a postmortem, for policy and constitutional changes. But are you saying on the eve of poll we should all be sitting round discussing whether Peter Taaffe and Claire Doyle should be back in the party?

The only difference, if there is one, is whether the internal discussion of these matters should be the dominant or the secondary question in the pre-election period. And I think they should be secondary question.

'I cannot say that I am not afraid. I am afraid but I am not terrified. And I know that I will find the necessary strength to overcome this fear. I am struggling for life, a real and dignified life. I repeat; I do not want to die. However, I have often come so close to death and witnessed its effects that I take it for granted.'

## Marianella Garcia Villas

THE ARMY's version of her death claimed that she was among a group of guerrillas killed on 13 March in a clash with Salvadorean forces near La Bermuda. In fact. Marianella Garcia Villas, founder and president of the Commission for Human Rights of El Salvador, was murdered while leading peasants away from a fierce army bombardment of their homes towards a refugee camp. Her colleagues later confirmed that the 34 year-old lawyer and journalist had been taken alive by government troops, identified, then atrociously tortured. Twenty of the peasants died with her.

At the time of her death she had just returned to El Salvador from temporary exile to investigate reports of the use of napalm and phosphorous bombs against villages by the El Salvador air force. Under her leadership the Human Rights Commission has documented and drawn the world's attention to the horrific repression

of the population by the right wing death squads and the military assassinations (over 43,000 in the last three years), massacres, torture, abductions and the use of chemical weapons.

The Commission's independent evidence has made nonsense of Ronald Reagan's arguments that the human rights situation in El Salvador is improving, arguments concocted to justify his pumping in more US military aid and advisors to shore up the regime. And the visibility of the workers who collect and publicise this evidence has put them high on the security forces' hit list.

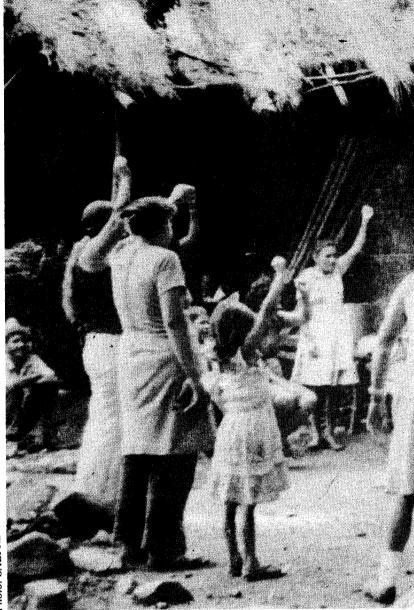
When Marianella Garcia, accompanied by a photographer, used to go on her gruesome morning round of the streets of San Salvador searching for the bodies of death squad victims, she knew that she and her colleagues could also meet such a death at any time. Her close friend and Commission

Press Secretary, Maria Magdalena Henriques, was abducted, tortured and killed in October 1980. Her Executive Secretary, Ramon Valladares Perez, was shot down a few weeks later. Last August, another Commission worker, America Fernanda Perdomo, was abducted by soldiers and has never been seen since.

Marianella's own family were forced to flee the country after their house was bombed. On two previous occasions she herself had sought refuge abroad, using the time to speak at solidarity rallies and give evidence before the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Yet she always insisted. against the advice of friends, on coming back. These extracts from her personal letters sent to a friend in Europe, published posthumously, explain why she was prepared to run the incredible risks she did and ultimately to pay the highest price of all for the struggle of her people.



# 'Each drop of blis one more spa



(7 July 1980) I will always work for and with the people. My place is in El Salvador, with the workers, the peasants. I give them priority. With them I discover the value of being human, of sincerity, of dignity and at the same time of simplicity and loyalty. If I am sent to fulfill other duties at another level, I will do that too, because I am aware of their importance. However, my inclinations and feelings lead me to prefer to be in the town or in the countryside with my peasant comrades with whom I have shared hardships and bitterness, and also sacrifices and joys. I am in utter anguish about what has become of them. I no longer know where they are, and with so many massacres I very much fear that something irreparable has happened to them. I feel that it is my duty to be at their side.

Left and above women fighters of the FPL, of which Ana Maria was a comandante.

(9 September 1980)

For me the oppress those who are humiliated, exploited, assassinated, arrested or disappeared have neither colour nor nationality. constitute a social class situated in different geographical areas but suffering from the same main enemy and similar secondary enemies ... A need solidarity, understanding, sacrifice support. Of course, then are degrees of urgency. concrete circumstances which impose priorities solidarity at the international level.

As far as Latin America is concerned, I think the peoples who should have priority are those of El Salvador, Guatemala and Bolivia (where the dictatorship) since been overturned -Ed.). Next come the oth Argentina, Chile, Uruguay etc. And at the heart of these peoples ar the peasants, the factory workers and workers in general who have the greatest need of support

# ood of a revolutionary ck which builds the fire...'



solidarity.

It is better to be more than to have more. And the only way, to my mind, of being more, is to give your life, your work, for others—the exploited, the oppressed. (They) offer us the opportunity to feel really human, not to be puppets nor cogs in a machine, saying and doing what the owners of the circus or transnational company

To share all life's experiences, especially the worst ones, with those who are traditionally the main victims of the system, is what gives full meaning to "being more". If they suffer, we share their pain. If they are happy, we share their joy. If they die, we also share their death. And if they live, we work with them so that they can really live like human beings. Our people love life and want to live; that is why they are fighting; that is why they are dying; that is why they are waging war. And we are part of the people. We are all human beings, and we feel, think and desire in the same way. That is why we

must share everything like equals.

(On the subject of the intimidatory measures of the national police directed at the workers of the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador and at those people coming to the Commission's offices to denounce the crimes of the army)

They have not succeeded with their threats. The comrades are continuing their work in our local offices. and the families of the victims continue to go there to make their protests. I think that it is important to overcome the fear of the enemy. That is one of the factors of a victory, and it seems to me "que no hay mal que por bien no venga" (a saying meaning, literally, "there's nothing bad that doesn't lead to something good")...

I will (re)enter El
Salvador legally. The last
thing I would want to lose is
life, but I am aware that I
have a 90 per cent chance of
dying from the moment I
step off the plane ...

I cannot say that I am not afraid. I am afraid but I am not terrified. And I know that I will find the

necessary strength to overcome this fear. I am struggling for life, a real and dignified life. I repeat: I do not want to die. However, I have often come so close to death and witnessed its effects that I take it forgranted. We must all go through it sooner or later, but in every case it will always be too soon for those who want to live life to the full.

Every minute that passes has a meaning, an unequalled depth, even if it appears to be part of the daily routine. Each breeze, each song of the cricket, each flight of the dove is a poem. Each tear, each look of hate or love, is an expression of the life we are going through. Each drop of blood of a revolutionary is one more spark which builds the fire and strengthens our morale to fight to the end. If only I could see this end, which will be the beginning of a song of freedom, a step towards happiness, and equally a step towards the fullness of life.

## Ana Maria'

#### a tribute from the FMLN

COMANDANTE 'Ana Maria', member of the unified leadership of the Salvadorean guerrilla movement was assassinated in the early hours of Wednesday morning (6 April) in Managua by an unknown group who entered her house, 17 kilometres to the south of the Nicaraguan capital.

The general command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) has accused the 'sinister bands of the CIA'. And certainly this act cannot be separated from the open war in the north of Nicaragua by more than 2000 Somocistas which, with US support, have penetrated the country from Honduras.

The assassination of a military chief of the Salvadorean guerrilla movement in Managua could be a method chosen on this occasion to demonstrate in a tragic form the support which the Sandinista government gives to the Salvadorean insurgents, an accusation made by the Reagan administration and never officially admitted by Managua.

Melida Anaya Montes, the real name of comandante 'Ana Maria', was the second in charge of the Forces for Popular Liberation (FPL), one of the five Salvadorean guerrilla groups which have for the past three years constituted the FMLN. She was the closest collaborator of comandante 'Marcial', Salvador Cayetano Carpio, who in 1970 decided to leave the Salvadorean Communist Party to form, together

with 'Ana Maria', the FPL.

'Ana Maria' was 54 when she was killed. She had been a leader for many years of the Salvadorean teachers union, ANDES, and went into clandestinity in 1967 following a threat against her life after a general strike of teachers in which she was a prominent leader.

When, late in 1980, the unified leadership of the Salvadorean guerrilla was constituted, she was integrated into the supreme command, and later initiated and led the general offensive on the Usulatán front. Usulatán is a department of strategic importance in the economy of the country because of its coffee and cotton plantations, two of the basic export products.

#### Valiant

Her compañeros of the unified leadership of the FMLN have outlined the career of 'Ana Maria', from her union struggles in the sixties to her responsibilities in the military apparatus of the guerrilla.

According to this report, most important was 'her valiant contribution to the development of the unity of the revolutionary forces in El Salvador and the conception of the popular revolutionary war, in its military complexity as well as politically.'

The general command of the Salvadorean guerrilla understands that her assassination is a further proof of the desperation of the Reagan government which, in spite of its massive military support, impotently watches the demoralisation of the military machine in El Salvador.





#### Socialists for a Labour Victory!

WHATEVER the date of the general election, the Tory election machine is moving into top gear. Thatcher's message to her troops, however, is uncharacteristically faint-hearted.

The Tories are aware that unease exists among bosses that the upturn will encourage workers to turn the tables on employers who have used the dole queues to cut jobs, boost speed-up and hold down wages. This is exactly what is going on in the car industry — accompnied by other struggles against privatisation in steel and telecommunications.

These developments show what also is needed to make sure that the Tories don't get a second crack of the whip. However the Labour leadership have shown that they do not intend building on these struggles or those of the peace movement and the black communities. At the centre of The New Hope for Britain campaign document is a new social contract. The Labour

the bosses don't believe them! Nothing can disguise the fact that Labour are going to have an extremely difficult job winning the next election, despite recent opinion polls which show a halving of the Tory lead over

leadership is telling the bosses that only they

can hold back a wages explosion next year. But

But it is wrong to argue as Tony Benn does in our interview that we should not continue to confront the right's offensive in the party in the name of unity for the election.

#### **Policy**

The right are actively preparing the next stage of their offensive; coalition, witch hunts and the junking of conference policies. Refusing to even discuss these problems publicly in the name of combatting 'pessimism', disarms the rank and file and plays into the hands of the right.

Nor, as the *Morning Star* has argued in realtion to the Peoples March, is the answer the building up of an anti-Thatcher alliance embracing the Liberals and the SDP. Socialist Worker in its council of despair has argued that whoever wins the next general election is largely irrelevant to workers.

A small minority within the labour movement have reached a different conclusion. Organised around Socialists for Labour Victory they argue that Labour can win if it links its election campaign to promoting a massive wave of extraparliamentary action against the Tory govern-

SLV argues that the Labour left should put its efforts into winning the Labour Party and the unions to organise such a campaign of mass action through organising mass and industrial action against the missiles, pushing forward the ongoing industrial struggles alongside the Peoples March, and exposing the attacks of the fories on democratic rights through the Police Bill by backing the struggles of the black community against police harassment.

Socialists for a Labour Victory is a modest step in the direction of a fight to organise at least a section of the Labour Party to fight on the basis of clear unfudged policies, against coalitionism and for mass action.

ine national committee of the SLV have decided to campaign at trade union conference with broad lefts for a rejection of any kind of incomes policy. SLV will be touring the country with a panel of speakers that will include the **Greenham Common women to help local parties.** It will be providing speakers and model leaflets as a service to parties who are determined that their campaigns will be based on socialist policies and support for mass action.

Editor: ALAN FREEMAN

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#### **CND** and Labour

WHY shouldn't CND call for a Labour vote? What else should we do? General elections are about forming governments.

There is a clear choice between parties against unilateral disarmament (the Tories, SDP-Liberal Alliance) and one party, Labour, for it.

Smaller groups, outside Labour, haven't the faintest chance of saving their deposits, let alone of

#### LCC anti-unity

AS A former member of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee who left it because of its misleadership of the left, I must reply to LCC Secretary Nigel Stanley's Letter (SA 8 April).

This piece of bland waffle completely ignored the differences between the LCC and others on the left, which are not just over priorities.

Over the last two years LCC has opposed any form of left unity. First, it brought about the collapse of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee for Labour Party Democracy, one of the most important bodies in the entire history of the Labour left.

Then it refused to consider an agreed left slate for the 1982 National Executive Committee elections. Surely this would be the bare minimum of left ticularly controversial as the NEC elections are always contested.

This isn't building anti-Tory unity - it's abandoning any real struggle in the pious hope that the right will do the same.

Yes, of course the left should call for unity against the Tories, but all those who reject such unishould be opposed, otherwise the left will just be chewed up and the Tories will remain unopposed.

A POWERFUL show of

solidarity by Irish trade

unionists recently secured

the release from jail of

CAMPBELL McGREGOR, Coventry SE CLP.

Calling Ranks workers fight out of the Ranks workers as was clearly intended. Ranks workers have decided that it is

workers charged with oc-cupying the Ranks flour milling plant in Dublin. The use of repressive laws has not deterred the workers involved and the

occupation has now spread to the company's main plant in Limerick. Ranks (Ireland) a subsidiary of the British-basedmulti-national Ranks-Hovis-McDougal (RHM) decided earlier this year to close down its milling operations in Ireland and change over to importing

flour. Over 200 workers in Limerick and 100 workers in Dublin lost their jobs. In the case of the Limerick plant a lot of false hopes were raised by local politicians, businessmen and ranchers who gave the im-pression that they were going to come up with a scheme to reopen the

Fortunately, these diversions and deadends did not take the steam out of the situation or take the

Ranks workers who will lead the fight and by independent united action save the plant.

The main union involved, the Irish Transport & General Workers Union has, at local level, endorsed the workers' action and has called for the banning of all flour imports and the boycotting of all RHM products in Ireland.

It is now clearly only a matter of years until the whole flour milling industry in Ireland goes to the wall to be replaced by a complete dependence on imports. The most extreme consequence of this is that agricultural country like Ireland would, in the case of a European emergency, be left without a basic food.

At the moment, the future course of the struggle is unclear. Pressure to force RHM to meet its responsibilities in Ireland is the immediate tactic but the demand for nationalisation, as the only

CND needs to draw in Labour Party and trade union branches actively

we fudge decisive choices. If we don't call for a Labour vote we will go into the election without a message on who we want

to form a government. We will be marginalised. Worse, we will let the Labour leadership off the hook. We need to be right action. behind them - breathing down their necks!

Mass action and a Labour vote are needed to stop the missiles this year.

forming a government! We are a movement of millions. We can make or

break a government if we

have a clear strategy, not if

PAUL ATKIN, Manchester.

YOU ARE quite right to point out (SA 8 April) that into the anti-nuclear

To this end CND local groups in South London East London are organising conferences in May at which labour activists can discuss how to turn paper policies into

We hope readers, particularly in South London, will encourage delegates to attend from their own trade union and Labour Party branches.

MICK BRADLEY, Tooting CND.

#### **Scottish Assembly**

WHY NO MENTION of a Scottish Assembly in the platform of 'Socialists for a Labour Victory'?

Doesn't this rather undermine the limitations of an organisation which to campaign throughout the labour movement but is in practice open only to those able to attend meetings at the House of Commons during the week?

What makes the omission of a Scottish Assembly from SLV's platform so ironic is that only the high level of support among working people in Scotland makes a Labour victory even conceivable at the next elec-

But that support won't forever survive the denial of a genuine political voice. Redraft that platof a form!

MARTIN METEYARD, Glasgow Pollok CLP.

#### Falklands War

PAUL LAWSON'S centre page article (SA 8 April) The Falklands — a warnlabour movement' is marred by its unMarxist conclusion.

The central question is that of sovereignty' says Lawson. I don't see how, and I fail to see how giving credence to Argentina's dubious claim to the islands strengthened revolutionary opposition to Thatcher's war.

On what basis do we support Argentine sovereignty? Paul Lawson doesn't say.

What can be said for sure is that the Argentine invasion was a reactionary diversion by the Junta, designed to head off militant working class opposition and the threat of a general strike. In this they were largely successful, although their military defeat has meant that the workers' opposition has gone back on the offenstrengthened

disillusioned conscripts.

'The left must be prepared to respond to any says Lawson. I agree, and therefore hope that as internationalists we take our responsibilities to the Argentinian working class seriously.

That means, first and foremost - denouncing our own imperialists but also not engaging in vicarious heroics by advocating a repeat performance of the Argentine invasion.

Argentine workers have nothing to gain from pursuing the claim any further. It would only be another diversion, costing more Argentine working class lives and setting back the struggle there once again.

#### JOE GUARNIERI, Birmingham 8.

• We would like to hear other readers views on this question — Ed.

longterm safeguard for the and industry thousands of jobs involved is likely to become a central demand at an early

Either way, the Ranks occupation, if carried to a successful conclusion, can mark a turning point in the struggle of Irish workers against the consequences of the imperialist domina tion suffered by the coun-

It is vital that the broadest possible support for the occupation be built in both Ireland and Britain. British workers should send telegrams of support and, if possible, financial aid, to Ranks Occupation,

c/o No 2 Branch ITGWU, Connolly Hall, Limerick.

#### JOE HARRINGTON. Limerick, Ireland.

 Further information can be had from Limerick Fight-Back Group, c/o 109 O'Malley Park.

#### Poem

THE POEM 'Up and Atom Ant' that appeared in SA no. 2 was by Alex Warner

#### Whose alternative?

LAST YEAR a group of trades councils and shop stewards combine committees produced a 'declaration Popular Planning for Social Need to open up debate on the Alternative Economic Strategy.

Their experiences of 1974-79 Labour government which they documented in State Intervention in Industry (seedition Spokesman £3.50) ledthem to argue that the AES would simply be a rerun of tripartism trying to make capitalism more efficient if the membership of the trade unions and other sections of the labour movement were not involved in its preparation.

TUC/Labour Party policy statements have borne out their prediction and the group has followed up the declaration with reports suggesting alternative approaches and incorporating the points discussed in detail in labour movement around meetings declaration.

Planning Economic Through Industrial Democracy for example argues that the separation between planning and democracy made in the TUC/LP document Economic Planning and Industrial Democracy means that neither would forwarded if the policies proposed were im-

A programme is required to mobilise trade unionists in the planning process through extended

collective bargaining, and this report suggests ways in which this could be done, and proposed legislation which would encourage rather than replace the activities of the organised working class.

Some local authorities

— Sheffield, the West
Midlands, the GLC have economic policies influenced by the ideas in the declaration, and their more encouraging in-itiatives are where they work to strengthen trade union organisation.

But the powers of local authorities are extremely limited in the face of the powers of multi-national corporations and the na-

tional state.

CAITS has organised a conference on Popular Planning for Social Need, in County Hall, London on 21 May. Shop stewards from Metal Box and Lucas Aerospace will examine how collective bargaining can be protected and extended to form the basis of a new form of planning; and Audrey Wise will contribute to the debate on the new approaches needed if the economy is to be transformed to meet social need. Hilary Wainwright of the Popular Planning Unit of the GLC will chair the Conference.

CAITS (Centre for Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems), Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Road,

• Details of the conference and declaration and reports from above.

#### Witch hunts

WHILST all socialists condemn should witch hunt and slander campaign against Peter Tatchell, it is a ludicrous overstatement for Ken Livingstone to call it 'the most sustained campaign of abuse against an individual that there has ever been' (SA, 1 April). How about this? 'The trial of Pyatakov,

Radek and others, the trial of Tukhachevsky, Yakir and others, and, lastly, the trial of Bukharin, Rykov, Krestinksy, Rosengoltz and others, all showed that Bukharinites and Troskvites had long ago ioined to form a common band of enemies of the people, operating as the Bloc of Rights and Trotskyites'. The trials showed that these dregs of humanity, in conjunction with the enemies of the people, Trotsky, Zinoviev and Kamenev, had been in conspiracy against Lenin, ine Party and the State ever since the early of the October days Socialist Revolution. (History of the CPSU (B), pp317-8)

Now that's what you can call a witch hunt and slander campaign! It also led to the physical exter-mination of the accused. The recent campaign against Tatchell, Benn, Livingstone and other Left Labourites is small fry indeed compared to what socialists have been subject to in the past.

There's a couple of other points I will raise. It's common for the likes of Tatchell and Livingstone to exaggerate the effects of the slander campaign upon Labour's popularity and support. Anything to avoid discussing the basic irrelevance of Labour's parochial village duck-pond politics for Bermondsey workers!

Secondly, what Tat-chell had thrown upon him is nothing compared to what revolutionaries will get in the future. What must concern us here is that the Tatchells and Livingstones of the past have, generally speaking, along with the slanders or at most refused to refute them. The Mensheviks did

precious little to counter the 'German agent' tales being spread about the Bolshevíks in 1917. When left reformists criticised the Moscow Trials they used those dreadful events mainly to attack Bolshevism by claiming that Stalinism was the logical outcome of the October Revolution.

JOHN GILMORE, London SW1.

#### Write to us!

This is your page. Send us your comments, criticisms or even congratulations. But please be brief letters over 300 words will be cut. Write to: Letters, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP. (Tel: 01-359 8180)

## Oscars mean money

IT STARTS with all those people arriving there in big cars. Lots of toothpasty smiles. You can hear the dollar bills rustling and the producers' and directors' minds totting up the potential profit - or loss, both which depends a bit on getting one of those misshaped gold statues.

Everyone is 'delighted', 'very excited', 'honoured' and winning was just one big surprise', even if they had been tipped off before. Everybody, just everybody, looked intense and sincere — but that after years of comes acting.

This year the Brits cashed in with Ghandi which is a message for peace, love, and box office bonanza, and what bank could ask for more than that. Art and cinema

triumphed over reality.

Back in South Africa Ghandi's grandson Mewa Ramogobin is now in his 17th year of house arrest. He is stuck out in the Indian township of Verulam where every five years he gets his sentence renewed and there is no appeal.

#### **Euphoria**

But Ghandi's director carried away with all that excitement and moral euphoria just never got around to mentioning his plight when he made his Oscar acceptance speech. He had more sense than Venessa Redgrave who had the courage and the dignity to use her award as a way of turning this selfindulgent orgy into a focuss for the plight of the Marion Palestinians. Brando when he got his Oscar gave the film establishment a definite thumbs down by sending an indigenous US Indian to speak about the ill treatment and exploitation of the people who discovered the American continent.

But why spoil all these nice peoples' evening by reminding them that the racism and violence of white imperialism is more important than box office figures? Nobody asked the awkard question when they got all those statues happened historical truth? Where

#### By Bob Pennington

did Subhas Chandrea Bose go. He was a freedom fighter who broke with Ghandi and was less impressed with the British Emprie than the Mahatma. Nor, surprise, surprise, does the film deal with Dr BR Ambedkar who was a leader of the untouchables. When the film deals with Ghandi in South Africa there is an absence of blacks. This just might be because Ghandi stanted from, and never deviated from, the idea that the main struggle in that racist hell hole was to get a better position for

When Attenborough got attacked by some reviewers and the young Indian film directors who wanted to know why the Indian government put up £4 million to finance a film made by a white man and did not give Indians money he was able to quote the approval of Mrs Ghandi. He can even boast of being made a Badan of being made a Padma Bhushan which is the



A happy Sir Richard but Mewa Ramogobin is less ecstatic

of a British peerage. Getting an ac-colade from Mrs Ghandi should be no surprise. She needs to be seen as the natural heir of the Mahatma and she had no inten-

tion of her own directors making a film that showed how she and her class cheated the Indian people of their rights.

#### **Films**

Also the rake off from the Indian Films Development Corporation £4 million investment will go into government hands. Mrs Malti Tambividya the IFDC's managing director is not too worried about 'white only' premiers. She chuckled merrily: 'We will expect our share from the South African distribution.

the world of capitalism, be it run by whites, blacks or asians,

the fast buck is more important than morals or political principals. For Britain, Ghandi's Oscars mean big rake offs.

#### Down

Although the British cinema audience was down to 65 million last year this is not sending shivers of apprehension down the spines of Attenborough and his backers.

Video now has millions of watchers and TV movies are big business. US TV alone has forked out £20 million for Ghandi and that's only for starters. When you see all those wet eyes and emo-tion choked faces at the Oscar awards don't get misled. The glazed look comes from excessive early drinking. The misty look is induced by greed and

Political killings by governments

## The missing Oscars

The film that got nominated for the Oscars in nearly every category was Costa-Gavras' film Missing. It won only one — for screenplay adaptation.

No wonder. Unlike 'Ghandi', Missing tells a story that strikes right at the core of the foreign policy of US imperialism.

The story of Missing is a true one. It tells of the abduction and execution of the American journalist, Charles Horman by the Chilean military, during the 1973 coup. The film proves that his murder was carried out with the knowledge and acquiesence of US military personnel who helped plan the coup.

Horman knew too much. By accident he came across US naval personnel in Valpariso on the eve of the coup, who mistaking his political leanings, spilled the beans to him. Horman's father (played in the film by Jack Lemon) and his wife (Sissy Spacek) search for him, but meet only obstruction from the US authorities.

Missing caused such an outcry that the State Department was moved to issue official denials. It films the fear and terror in the streets, and shows the Santiago stadium with its horrific piles of bodies. The film in the mortuaries is harrowing. This is a bitter reminder of not only what happened in Chile, but what is happening today in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Ghandi can mean anything to anyone. The well-heeled performances who won its Oscars can spout pompous platitudes till the cows come home.

Missing tells a story of the here and now — the reality of revolution and counter-revolution in Latin America.

Without question it gets Socialist Action's Oscar.

Swindle, Saturday. 23 April, 7.45, Channel 4

HOW capitalism works, in three episodes. A series on the dealings of Robert Vesco in the '70s, with dummy banks, bogus companies, secret Swiss bank accounts and all the rest.

#### Panorama. Monday 25 April, 8.10, BBC1

CALLED 'America's secret war', Panorama goes to Nicaragua where reporter Jeremy Pazman claims to have evidence of the CIA's secret destabilising operation. This 'infringes US law', we are told. What about Nicaragua law? Should be better than the average edition, though.

#### Britain in the Thirties. Thursday 28 April, 9.25, BBC2

AN 11-part series on aspects of life in that decade begins with the 'Mutiny at Invergordan', when the men of the Atlantic Fleet rebelled against pay cuts and

refused to sail their ships. The admiralty subsequently broke its promise that there would be no victimisation.

The Eagle. The Dragon, The Bear and Kampuchea, Thursday, 28 April, 11.15, Channel 4

DON'T expect this documentary to be as good as the excellent series on Vietnam (Mondays, 9.00, C4), but still worth watching. Kampuchea's problems didn't begin with the NLF's supply lines in the late sixties as is suggested - imperialism was there a lot earlier than that.

#### Karl Marx: The Legacy. Thursday, 21 April, 7.50, BBC2

THE END of this dreadful series. The last episode is called 'The revolution that never was'. A better title would have been 'The series that never was'. It certainly wasn't about Marxism.

An Amnesty International Report. Published by Amnesty International Publications £2.50

IF YOU are squeamish then you should read this report in small doses. It details the barbarism let loose by many modern governments against their populations.

Sometimes the killings and torture are carried out 'legally' by the country's armed forces or police. This was the case with a 17-year old Kekchi Indian woman from the hamlet of Chiranguiche. Chirrenquiche, Alta Verapaz in Guatemala on

7 April 1982. When the soldiers arrived she and her friends went to the mountains to hide. They were found and three of them were seized by the troops and killed

with machettes.
She says: 'Then they asked me which ones were the guerrillas, and I didn't tell them, so they slashed me with a machette; they raped me; they threw me on the ground and slashed my head with the machette, my breasts, my entire hand ...'

They also took her 13-year old brother Ramos .. dragged him away and shot him in the foot and left him thrown on the ground. My brother and my parents and my other brothers and sisters had been in the house. The soldiers said they are guerrillas, and they must be killed. My brother saw how they killed my parents, my mother, my brothers and my sisters and my little one-year-old brother ...'

Now only she and her brother Ramos are alive. But as she reports: 'We can't go to the hospital at Cobán. I think they would kill us there.'

In June 1982 General Efrain Rios Montt became president. But this has not meant any respite in organised terror. Amnesty says: 'There have been consistent reports massive extra-judicial ex-ecutions in Guatemala since General Efrain Rios Montt took power ...

#### Reported

What goes on in Guatemala is repeated in El Salvador and was a dayto-day occurrence in Nicaragua until the over-.

throw of Somoza.

In Argentina since the military coup of 1976 thousands of people have been abducted by the police and security forces and taken off to secret camps.

Amnesty estimates 'at least 6000 people are known to have ''disappeared'' 'According to the Report: 'In Chile dur-



An execution ground in Kampuchea displayed by present government to remind p

of Khmer Rouge atrocities. ing the first few months after the 1973 military coup thousands of people were reported to have been summarily executed ...'
Since 1977 the Report

says '... a number of alleged members of banned political parties ... have died in the custody of the CNI (Chilean police).

But 'official' violence is not restrictd to the American continent. In East Timor which has been occupied by Indonesia since 1971 it is alleged that as many as '500 people, among them non-combatant women and obildeen women allowed to children, were alleged to have been killed after capture by Indonesian forces in Lacluta.'

Amnesty reports on Iran say that 'in addition

to the large number of officially announced executions ... since the revolu-tion of February 1979 (more than 4500 at the end November 1982) Amnesty International has received reports of executions which have not been announced ...'

Afghanistan In thousands of people 'disappeared' in April 1978 and in 1979 when President Babrak Karmal took over power and declared an amnesty. Many detainees were not released and the Karmal government says these were killed before it came to power.

Government officials told Amnesty they had 'a list of 4584 who had been killed, but they believed the number of killings and

'disappearances' was actually higher'.

Amnesty by exposing these dreadful crimes do a real service. They offer some hope, to the prisoners rotting in the jails of these regimes, knowing that at any time they could be dragged out and executed. They also arm the socialist movement in its fight against murder and injustice. As socialists we must oppose frame-ups and the use of torture wherever they take place, and in whoever's name they take place in. None of us can be free whilst crimes like these occur.

 Available from Other Bookshops, 328 Upper St, London N1; 137 Digbeth, Birmingham 4.



These listings are free for all major labour movement and campaigns activities. Semidisplay advertisements cost 5p per word and must be paid in advance. Send to: Diary, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday, one week prior to publication).



Day for Disarmament — 24 May. For more information 16 Arundel Rd, Brighton, E.

 24 May — Glasgow Women for Peace are calling a Scottish Day of Action. Rally in George Square and Festival. For details contact Glasgow Women's Centre, 57 Miller Street or ring 061-221 1177 Saturdays after

• El Salvador — Bristol public meeting. Speakers: Meagan Martin (El Soc); Perry Lees (T&GWU regional officer, personal capacity); and Solidarity with Eatin America representative. Film: Ballots and Bullets. Sponsored by SLAM and Bristol T&GWU. Wed 27 April, 7.30pm, Transport Hse, Victoria St. Contact Rose Cooper, 5 Albermarle Row, Hotwells, Bristol for details.

• Lobby of Parliament called by the Emergency Cttee Against the invasion of Lebanon, 27 April, 2pm. Lobby your MP to protest at the continued occupation of Lebanon by Israel and the grossly inadequate Kahan Commission findings of violations of international

 Hunger Strikers Commemoration Rally, 1 May in Birmingham. Assemble at Spark Hill at

• 'Plantation Workers of Sri Lanka'. An international conference on 23/24 April organised by the Sri Lanka Research and Information Group. Further details from SLRIG, 9 Grays Inn Buildings, Rosebury Ave, London EC1.

• 'Labour and the bomb will unilateralism win?'
Newcastle CND public meeting. Speakers Tom Sawyer (NEC), Pat Arrowsmith, Bob Cryer and Ian Davidson (Anti-Trident Campaign). Fri 22 April, 7.30pm, Rooms 4&5,

 Campaign for Press and **Broadcasting Freedom** Conference and AGM, 7/8 May at Goldsmiths College SU, Lewisham Way, London SE14. Details: CPBF, 9 Poland St, London W1.

• 'Plastic Bullets' public meeting (exhibition and slideshow) with Alistair Renwick (ex-British soldier) and Andy Harris (GLC Councillor). Wed 27 April, 7.30pm, 1 Thorpe Close, Ladbroke Grove tube. Organised by West London Troops Out.

'Towards a police state?' Hounslow Socialist Forum meeting with criminal lawyer Brian Rose-Smith introducing on the Police Bill. Sun 24 April, 7pm, George IV pub, 185 Chiswick High Road, W4.

• Women Against Rape public meeting with John Tilley MP and other speakers, followed by a women only discussion. Provisional date: Wed 14 May, 7.30pm, Camden Centre, Camden Town Hall, London WC1. Meeting to discuss John Tilley's Bill to make rape in marriage a crime. Further info: 01-837 7509/387 3244.

• Troops out now! Public Lambeth Town Hall, 7.30pm. Speakers from Roach Family Support Committee; Irish Republican Socialist Party; Sinn Fein; GLC; TOM.

 South London Troops
 Out Movement benefit Sat 30 April, 8 'til late. With African Dawn, The Morons and Chris Ransome. The Loughborough Hotel, Loughborough Rd, SW9. £1.50/75p unwaged.

Support the May 7th demonstration for Britain out of Ireland and Self Determination for the Irish People. For details of sponsorship etc contact the May 7th Organising Committee, Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

• Labour Committee On Ireland Conference/AGM. Sat 23 April, County Hall, London SE1. Discussion on new magazine and trade unions. Details: Box BM 5355, London WC1N 3XX.

• Merseyside Labour Coordinating Cttee Rally Fri 22 April, 7.30, Central Hall, Renshaw St, Liverpool 1. Speakers: Allan Roberts MP and Peter Tatchell.

• El Salvador public meeting with film 'Portrait of a liberated zone' and speaker. Fri 22 April, 7.30pm, Swan Hotel, London Rd, Liverpool. (Organised by Merseyside Latin American Solidarity Front).

 Nottingham Campaign against Racism and Fascism public meeting with speaker from the Roach Family Support Cttee. Sun 8 May, 3.00pm, International Com-munity Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd

 'The Fight against the to launch a national campaign and establish a broad, nationally representative committee. Speakers from LP, trade unions and ethnic organisations. Sun 15 May, 10.30-5, Hackney Town Hall. Further details from National Campaign against the Police Bill, c/o Room 50, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, E8 (01-986 3123 ext

• Colin Roach - a London- wide demonstration has been called for 14 May calling for a public inquiry into his death. Further details from RFSC. c/o 50 Rectory Road, London N16 (01-254 7480).

• 'The Galaxy's Guide to Survival' a documentary review is performed by the Fall-Out Theatre Company on 3 May, Methodist Church Hall, High Rd, East

 People's March for Jobs Scotland events:

Sat 23 April Glasgow sendoff demonstration, assemble North Hanover St (off George Sq), 11.30am, march 12 noon for rally in Queens Park. Barrhead welcoming march assembles 4.20pm, Salterland Rd. Sun 24 April assemble 3.30pm, Hillhead School, Hillhead Roundabout, Kilmarnock for march into Kilmarnock and rally at Grand Hall. Thurs 28 April assemble 3.30pm, Newton Rd, Lochside for march into Dumfries and rally at Mill Green. Sat 30 April assemble 10am on western outskirts of Gretna village to see the march across the border.

#### Socialist Action Forums

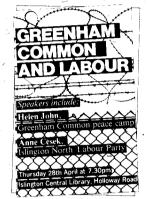
EALING 'Getting rid of the bomb'. Speaker Alan Lenton (London Region CND Exec. personal capacity). Thurs 28 April, 7.30pm, Three Horseshoes pub, Southall High St (opp Town Hall).

**EXETER 'Socialist Action** a new labour movement newspaper'. Speaker from SA. Thurs 21 April, 8pm, The Oddfellows Arms, New

NOTTINGHAM Joint Revolution/Socialist Action day school on 'Central America and the Caribbean' and 'How to use SA'. Sun 24 April, 1-6pm, Queens Walk Community Centre, The Meadows. For details phone Nottingham 256667

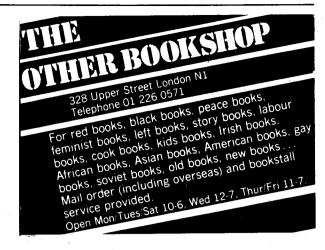
• Popular Planning for Social Need conference. 21 May, County Hall, London SE1, 11-5. £2.50/£1 unwaged, creche available. To develop a democratic Alternative Economic Strategy. Organised by CAITS, Poly of Nth London, Holloway Rd, N7.

 Glasgow Polish Solidarity Committee AGM Thur 21 April, 7.30pm, McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall St. Speaker: Marek Garztecki (Solidarity TU Working Group).



• The Green Rally organised by Friends of the Earth and CLEAR, Wed 27 April, 7.30pm, Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers include Ralph Nader, Joan Ruddock, Petra Kelly, David Bellamy. Tickets £5 from Rally Box Office, CLEAR, 2 North Down St, London N1 (01-833 1250).

• GLC Women's Committee open meeting to discuss women and health care in London. Fri 29 April, 7pm. Creche facilities and sign language interpretation available. Further info: 01-633 1038.



TH CXD-ROCK THE BOMB



Assemble Victoria Embankment II am March to Brockwell Park Brixton

Clint Eastwood's General Saint The Damned Gallery Macabre Hazel Oconnor • John Peel Madness • Style Council

*A FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR* 



## THE BOYS 4 the LOUGH

SUNDAY IST MAYAT 7PM DOMINION THEATRE

# Join the

fight for socialism Name .........

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

If you want to find out more about Socialist Action's policies and activities fill in this form and send to Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1

#### WEEK, Leon Brittan, chief secretary to the treasury admitted that government borrow-

ing last year would exceed the £7.5 billion forecast, but claimed there were encouraging signs for the economic recovery.

In the same week, the President of the World Bank was going cap in hand to Margaret Thatcher to back a large increase in loans to the 'poorest of the poor' countries.

He's trying to raise £10 billion loans to keep the 'poorest of the poor countries in capitalists' pockets.

#### **Borrowing**

With so much borrowing going on, you may wonder what all the fuss is about the Socialist Action Spring Appeal. After all we are only trying to get a paltry £19,500. Well, I guess you all know the answer, or you should do if you are a regular reader of Socialist Action. Like Leon Brittan.

we can see encouraging signs for the future.

#### Busy

We see the sales figures of the paper on the increase, and a busy month ahead with the Peoples' March for Jobs, the Youth CND Carnival and the May 24th Womens' Day of Action.

This is a month when the sales should increase, and the figures on our logo will begin to link up right across the country.

There must be bank accounts all over the country just aching to be

Use it wisely, make out a cheque or standing order to your paper to-

#### Thanks this week to:

Treasure trove	£ 1.50
I. Aranovski	12.00
Brent	327.00
Manchester	215.70
Islington	19.00
L. Lehane	20.00
Camden	100.00
Bristol	40.00
Newport	34.00
Huddersfield	25.00
Southampton	60.00
Total this week	£ 854.20
Total so far	£1346.04

#### Help us to stop the missiles!

When we have reached our Spring Appeal target of £19,500, the map will be covered by a massive CND chain. So help us to stop the missiles! Send us a contribution today to Spring Appeal, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1



I would li	ike to becor	ne a Socialis	t Action
i would ii			LACTION
	suppe	orter.	

Please send me my supporters bulletin
 Please put me in touch with local readers

I enclose a standing order/donation of £

Socialist Action Bankers Order Form

(Address of your bank in capitals)

(Name of your bank in capitals)

Please pay to the credit of Socialist Action, Acc. No. 70372315 at Co-Op Bank, 08-90-33, 1 Islington High Street, London N1, Starting on ..... (date of

first payment) and thereafter monthly on the same date until further notice. Debit my A/C No

for the amount of £ . . . . . . . .

When completed and signed please return to: The Business Manager, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP.

Please do not send the Bankers Order direct to your bank. Thank you.

## Labour movement must come out

Bermondsey Labour Party won't be standing Peter Tatchell as their candidate in the general election, as a direct result of the media witch hunt against him.

Peter has written up a speech hitting back at the press which he gave at the recent LPYS conference fringe meeting on gay rights.

THROUGHOUT the Bermondsey by-election, the popular press and opposition parties took a sudden and extraordinary interest in the issue of gay rights.

But it was not in order to add their weight to calls for homosexual equality.

Rather they played on gay rights and homophobic prejudice in order to undermine support for myself and Labour at the polls.

For fifteen months, in the run up to the Bermondsey by-election the yellow rags of Fleet Street ran a series of sensational stories: 'Red Pete went to the Gay Olympics' (Sun), 'My fight for the Gays — I support them says Red Pete' (Sun), 'Gay row rocks Labour' (News of the World), 'It's a Gay Old Battle in Docklands' (Daily Express), etc.

All these stories focussed exclusively on myself and the Labour Party. They conveniently ignored the fact that several of the leading figures in the Bermondsey by-election were either gay or supporters of gay rights.

Indeed, in Bob Mellish, the people of Bermondsey have had an MP for the last 37 years who supports gay rights. The new Liberal MP, Simon Hughes, is also a supporter of gay rights — or at least he has claimed to be since the election!

But Fleet Street chose not to report such 'unpalatable' facts which might have harmed their political objective of bolstering the anti-Labour vote. What hypocrisy and double standards! Throughout the by-election campaign it was also interesting to observe the way in which the media portrays my defence of gay rights as a personal 'idiosyncracy', rather than advocacy of official Labour Party policy.

#### **Official**

Whilst I do have a personal commitment, gay rights is official policy, and, as such, every Party member is duty bound to fight for its implementation. That includes Michael Foot, and even Denis Healey, plus every Labour parliamentary candidate!

Just as I supported gay rights in Bermondsey, so did the Labour candidate in Darlington, and so will the Labour candidates in Cardiff and beyond. It's our official policy agreed by conference!

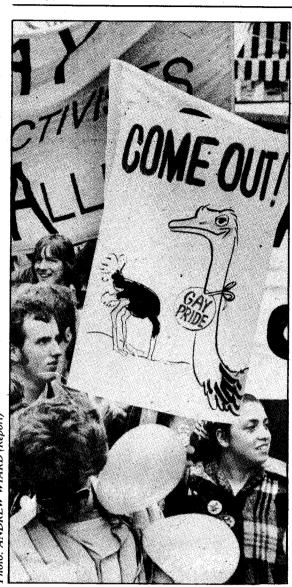
In the post-mortem which has followed the Bermondsey by-election, it has been instructive to witness the way many people, even some within the Labour Party, have said that a more 'suitable' or less 'vulnerable' Labour candidate might have been a wiser choice. More 'suitable' to whom?

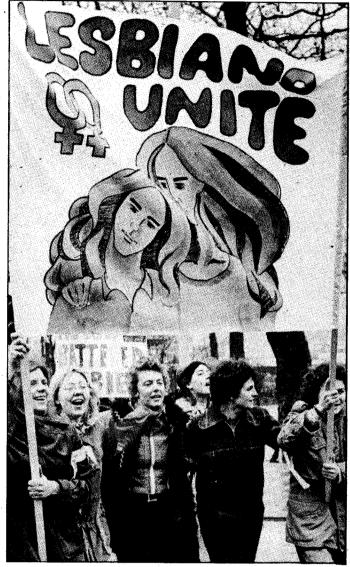
What they really mean is more 'suitable' to the Tory press and more in conformity with popular prejudices. That effectively means more clones from the Labour candidate factory: moderate, middle-aged, married, macho and male! Heavens! We already have far too many Labour MPs of that stereotype.

MPs of that stereotype.

If we merely continue to reproduce that traditional style of Labour candidate we will never get an

## Peter Tatchell on gay rights





adequate representation of women and black MPs. Instead of overcoming prejudices, we will end up reinforcing them by conducting our parliamentary selection conferences within the parameters of 'acceptable candidates' as defined by the media and opposition parties.

Allowing Fleet Street to dictate the type of candidates we choose is only one step away from allowing it to determine our policies as well. If we permit ourselves to be bullied and intimidated down that road, we will be colluding with the transformation of Labour into a 'second eleven' for the SDP.

Judging from the press sensationalism surrounding Bermondsey, one would have thought that there had never been any gay MPs inside the House of Commons. Far from it! Of course there are lots of homosexual MPs from all parties and both sexes — and there always have been! Some of them have held the highest offices in government.

Their sexuality does not in any way diminish their ability to be good MPs. Indeed many are held in high public esteem for their conscientious parliamentary service. Regrettably, none of these gay MPs feel able to be totally open about their sexuality, fearing exactly the kind of anti-gay witch-hunting which I experienced in Bermondsey.

#### **Protect**

Of course the establishement does protect its own. Most of the homosexuals in parliament are part of the establishment, and, providing they maintain a degree of discretion, they are protected from exposure by their allies in Fleet Street.

Nowadays, the tar-brush of homosexuality is largely only used by the media against left-wing socialists. In my own case, Fleet Street's real objection was to my socialist policies.

It merely used my sexuality and support for gay rights as a means to 'discredit' a socialist candidate which it wanted to see defeated at the polls. If I had been a Tory, Liberal or SDP candidate, there would have been no innuendo about my private life at all—just as there were no press smears about the sexuality of candidates who stood for those parties in the Bermondsey by-election.

Even in defeat, one of the good things to come out of the Bermondsey by-election was Labour's refusal to concede an inch to anti-gay prejudices despite all the abuse, threats and violence which marred the campaign. No other party has ever had its support for gay rights put to such grueling tests of commitment as Labour experienced in Bermondsey. And when the crunch came, we didn't flinch.

#### Guts

Unlike the other parties, Labour confronted bigotry head-on. We had the guts to stand up for what we believed in and what was morally right, even in the face of adverse consequences. That is an enormous tribute to the courage and convictions of everyone who canvassed for Labour in Bermondsey.

It is all very well for the Liberal victor, Simon Hughes, and his party leader, David Steele, to self-righteously condemn anti-gay prejudices after the by-election. But if they are so principled, why didn't they condemn it during the campaign?

In Bermondsey, the Liberal pretence to support gay rights was shown up for the sham it is. Not only did the Liberals evade the issue, they positively added to the 'queer-baiting' atmosphere of the campaign by wearing lapel stickers saying 'I've been kissed by Peter Tatchell'.

But in condemning Liberal hypocrisy and opportunism, we should also show a little honesty and humility in recognising Labour's own record on gay rights leaves a lot to be desired. There are those on the 'left' who dismiss homosexual equality

because it is 'not a class issue'. Well, it certainly is!

Of Britain's three million gay

women and men, the overwhelming majority are working class and are most likely to suffer the full brunt of our homophobic laws, whereas rich homosexuals can use their wealth and powerful connections to 'buy' their way out of discrimination and harassment. Money talks — even for gays.

I am reminded of the case of a wealthy Labour MP who felt obliged to marry to disguise his homosexual preferences in view of the climate of public and press hostility. Several years ago, he was arrested for importuning late at night. However, a couple of telephone calls to the best solicitor and a 'friendly chat' with the local police commander at 4am in the morning apparently secured his release without charges. That would not have been the fate of an ordinary working class homosexual arrested in similar circumstances.

While Labour-controlled local authorities such as the Greater London Council, Lambeth and Islington have pioneered municipal gay rights, many backwaters still remain. A couple of years ago, Barking's Labour council sacked Susan Shell, purely and simply because she was a lesbian.

#### Prejudice

In the wider society too, prejudice still runs deep. Several years ago, a husband murdered his wife after discovering that she was having a lesbian affair. He was given a 12 month suspended prison sentence on the grounds that his wife's lesbianism was a serious provocation. Last year a 22 year old man who dared to love an 18 year old was convicted of illegal sexual relations and was sentenced to two years in prison!

Lesbian mothers still often have a battle to secure custody of their children in divorce proceedings — as if their sexuality makes them any less caring and loving towards their kids!

In the context of such harsh op-

pression, relatively small grants made by the GLC and other local authorities to fund gay counselling organisations seem very modest indeed. What is astonishing is the Tory and media outcry against such grants. Gay people pay taxes and rates like everyone else. They have a right to expect that some of their contributions to the public purse are used for their benefit.

At present, a lot of the taxes and rates paid by homosexual women and men are used to finance their own oppression in the form of police harassment and discriminatory legislation. Gay people pay TV licence fees to finance the BBC which virtually excludes homosexuals from its programming and frequently denigrates them in sensationalist news reporting and mocking prejudicial comedies.

It is long overdue that gay people won the same democratic human rights as many other Britons have taken for granted. If socialism is about the liberation of all nations, all classes, all peoples, and all minorities from all forms of oppression; then the Labour Party must be in the forefront of the struggle for homosexual equality.

In place of the often vague commitments in Labour's Programme '82, we must fight for more radical demands:

- Reduction in the age of consent for male homosexuals to 16 in equality with heterosexuals (including Scotland, the North of Ireland, the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy).
- The repeal or amendment of other sexual offences legislation (such as the laws on soliciting) which specifically penalise homosexuals where a similar activity between men and women would either not be an offence or be punishable by a lesser sentence, thereby ensuring common sexual offences laws that treat homosexuals and heterosexuals equally.
- A generalised Anti-discrimination Act to make it illegal to discriminate against homosexuals in employment, housing and the provision of other services or to incite hatred and violence against gay people (the act also to cover women and blacks, disabled and other minorities).
- The right of young gays not to be deprived of their individual liberty by 'protective' custodial orders, and the right of lesbian mothers not to be deprived of custody of their children in divorce proceedings on the grounds of their sexuality.

I would urge that resolutions to this effect should be passed through local Young Socialists and CLP branches, and to get their branches to affiliate to Gay LPYS and the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights.



- on available which contains speeches on gay rights by Joan Lestor, Tony Benn, Jo Richardson and Ken Livingstone as well as Peter Tatchell. Send 50p, plus large stamped addressed envelope to GS, 19 Hamilton Road, Southall, Mddx.
- See page 5 for report of the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights conference

#### Firth Derihon occupation

EIGHTY WORKERS at the Firth Derihon plant in Sheffield have been occupying their factory since 1 April in the fight stop 11 enforced redundancies and the closure of the saw and die shops.

They see the redundancies and the transfer of production in these departments to Darley Dale near Matlock as being another step towards the total closure of Firth Derihon in Sheffield.

Paul Mackie, convenor for the joint stewards committee involving AUEW, T&G, EEPTU and UCATT members told us 'we have been on short time working for 2 years and fifteen months ago there were sixty voluntary redundancies and closure of the saw and die shops. We said we wouldn't accept either, and after a break down in procedures we stopped work.

'Then on 26 March cowboys were brought in to take the work out. We responded with an occupation and have been here since. We know what we've got to do, and are planning in advance for what management will do next.

★ Collection sheets are available from the joint stewards committee c/o D.Michie, 21 Mather Road, Littledale, Sheffield S9 4GN or by phoning the occupation on Sheffield 449861. (Rich Palser)

CM COOKSON



WORKERS at the Sheffield firm Hodkin and Jones which produces prefabricated concrete structures are now in their fourth week of strike.

On 1 March, Monks, a leading Yorkshire builders merchant announced swinging cuts in piece rates.

'This meant an average cut in our wages of 20 per cent' said Fred Sanderson, a TGWU shop steward. For some of the lads its even more. We just couldn't afford it. So we started a work to rule'.

When on 18 March, 12 workers were sacked, all 32 went on strike to demand reinstatement and talks on pay. The strike is official and there are regular pickets. Vital cement deliveries have been stopped.

Firth Derihon occupation

group 4

One striker explained We came out last September for the nurses, now we need support.

● Donations and messages to: Roger Horne, H and J Strike Committee, 74 Hands Rd, Crookes, Sheffield S10 INB (Martin Hill)

#### Daleside Haddon

ON 26 January, 63 workers at Daleside Haddon, a Nottingham dying and finishing firm, were sacked for refusing to accept the imposition of continental shifts.

After ten weeks on

After ten weeks on strike which had begun to hit the bosses hard, they have been forced to accept severance pay of £500, plus £85 for every year employed by the firm. None of the workers have been offered their jobs back.

Responsibility for the defeat lies with the top officials of the NUHKW. President David Lambert threatened the strikers that if they didn't accept the deal, the union's NEC would 'review their position'—shorthand for withdrawing official support.

Hosiery and knitwear bosses will see

Daleside Haddon as the green light to impose continental shifts (which had so far been successfully resisted) and to tear up existing agreements.

The lesson of Daleside Haddon is that militant action — pickets, rallies, demonstrations — must go hand in hand with a fight for union leaders who will defend their members, not sell them down the Swannee.

(By a NUHKW member)

PICKET LINES. Short 150 word reports by Thursday before publication. Longer stories, contact the Editorial Board by Monday, the week before publication.



DELEGATES assembling at Scarborough on 23 April for the annual conference of the clerical workers union APEX are faced with two major headaches — a decline in membership of over 20 per cent since the Tories were elected and a right wing leadership desperate to return to the happy days of Wilson and Callaghan.

For most delegates the biggest change will be the voluntary departure of president Denis Howell MP, who adds witch hunting the left to his ministerial talents of organising sports and natural disasters.

By a conference delegate.

Howell's departure has highlighted the growing rift in the union between the hard right, for whom witch hunts are a daily response and those who seek liberalisation and a more relaxed regime.



The left candidate for the presidency, David Winnick, the Tribunite MP for Walsall, is likely to run right wing choice Ken Smith a close race. The executive is narrowly divided over internal disciplinary hearings into allegations of Broad Left organisation. A victory for Winnick would consolidate changes which have been

working their way through the union as the Tory attacks have hit APEX members hard.

The leadership stakes all on the gamble of a Labour victory at the next election. A dose of radical rhetoric combines easily with the call APEX made at Labour Party conference for the expulsion of Militant supporters. General secretary Roy Grantham argues openly for a Labour deal with the SDP and Libérals if the election goes against the Tories.

On the union front Howell and Grantham see the consolidation of the right wing unions, by creeping moves towards a confederation or amalgamation with the EEPTU and the GMBATU.



These moves will be challenged by the majority of delegates who oppose deals with the SDP and are hostile to moves towards the EEPTU. Conference

will instead be pushing for APEX to come in line with the rest of the labour movement on key questions like disarmament, democracy and active opposition to the Tories.



Tebbit's attack on union rights, the witch hunt, support for unilateralism and incomes policy have been squeezed off the agenda. But on issues of women's participation in the union, the executive will face its most radical challenge.

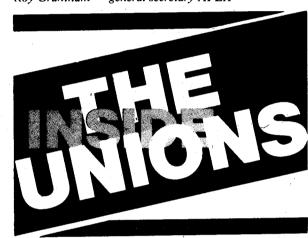
With women a clear majority in every area of the union, their clear under-representation in leadership positions beyond the branch is a major testimony to the unions previous policy of opposition to positive action.

The executive report on equal opportunities in APEX is a major step towards positive action at every level of the union. The battle to develop this policy and to involve women in the base of the union is one the right wing will try hard to control.

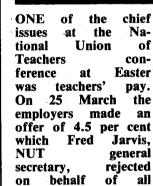
This policy will not be won at conference but in the long hard battles at the base of the union to turn conference proclamations into reality.



Roy Grantham — general secretary APEX



## Socialist teachers fight pay sell out



But in an hour long salary report Jarvis concentrated on the defeats of public sector workers on the pay front. A milk and water executive resolution was adopted,

which placed 'confidence in the union's negotiators'.

An amendment put forward by Socialist Teachers Alliance supporters, calling for preparation of industrial action to win the union's full claim of 15 per cent was rejected.

By Bernard Regan executive member NUT

Just a week after the conference the employers offered 4.98 per cent and the establishment of 'comparability machinery' to see how teachers pay

compares with others and how cash could be found by the employers to pay for the increase.

At an emergency executive meeting on 15 April, only seven out of 42 members voted to reject the offer. The union will be holding a special conference in Scarborough on 7 May to discuss the proposed settlement

#### Left

The Socialist Teachers Alliance, which recruited 70 new members at the annual

conference and is now the largest left force in the NUT, will be organising against the sell out.

At the annual conference the STA consolidated its position from last year and in card votes of delegates, representing the 250,000 members of the union, it regularly scored in excess of 90-100,000 on issues such as disarmament.

The right wing were able to claw back some of the advances scored by the left last year — resolutions on CND was ruled out of order. But the conference

showed an increased political awareness inside the union.

#### Silence

The conference stood for a minutes silence in tribute to Marianella Garcia Villas, president of the El Salvador Human Rights Committee, murdered by the junta. A collection at the STA disco raised £200 for a school for El Salvador.

The STA has been at

The STA has been at the centre of these political developments and all other left militants in the union are having to consider their attitude towards it.

## Transport workers in conference

PAY, JOBS and bombs will dominate the discussions of the thirtieth Biennial Delegate Conference of the Transport and General Workers Union which takes place in July.

Out of 522 resolutions Hiroshima Day on 6

submitted by branches, there are more on nuclear disarmament than any other question.

By Mick Gosling TGWU 1/1107 Branch (personal capacity)

But while a number of these resolutions usefully show how the union can use its resources to back unilateral disarmament and insist that this is part of Labour's election manifesto, none mention Hiroshima Day on 6 'August. Last year the Trades Union Congress voted to 'Initiate plans for a European-wide demonstration with sympathetic trade union centres on Hiroshima Day 1983', but little or nothing has been done to prepare this.

Hiroshima Day 1965, but little or nothing has been done to prepare this.

Suitably worded amendments to the TGWU conference, which must be in by 4 May, could be a shot in the arm for this action.

Just three out of 22 resolutions support incomes policy. The rest

reflect the bitterness of many members about the continual overturning of conference decisions for free collective bargaining.



Birmingham Power and Engineering District Committee is determined not to be caught again. It 'opposes any form of incomes policy, whether under the guise of a national plan, social plan or any other euphemism which may be used to at-

tack and undermine the principle of free collective bargaining.'

#### **Deadline**

Due to the deadline for resolutions only my own branch has had the opportunity to add Labour's National Economic Assessment to this list. Given the normal process of fudging that goes on in TGWU compositing of motions, it is vital that other branches clearly express through amendments their opposition to union and TUC participation in any national economic assess-

ment.

All resolutions on the internal situation in the Labour Party call on the TGWU to oppose the witch hunt.

What is missing is a positive alternative to the register. So branches should submit amendments calling on the union to support the constitutional amendment submitted by Greenwhich Labour Party to the 1983 conference.

This supports the right of pressure groups to operate inside the Labour Party so long as they support its objectives and do not stand candidates against Labour in elec-

## Rotherham steel strike continues

THE FIGHT for jobs in the South Yorkshire steel industry is continuing. A 900 strong meeting of British Steel Corporation workers in Rotherham voted overwhelmingly to continue their strike action against management' so-called 'survival plan'.

This decision came as the national executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation was meeting to order a return to work production for workers. Despite BSC threats to close the plant, craft workers mounted a picket which was respected by ISTC production workers.

BERNARD CON-NOLLY, Rotherham crafts convenor, explains what is at stake.

The ISTC met with secretly management behind the backs of all concerned, even their own members. A five point 'deal' was reached accepting a position that everybody had rejected prior to coming out on strike.

The only concession, if you could call it that, was that the workers who had been sent home as redundant would be given a further two weeks in which to decide whether to accept



redeployment or redun-

In the meantime, the new shift patterns would be operated as 'decreed' by management and there would be 'discussions' on how the 'survival plan' would be implemented.

#### Overturn

As I explained at the ss meeting, BSC mass meeting, BSC management are trying to overturn long standing agreements and negotiating

and replace them with dictatorship.

#### **Bound**

The 'survival plan' is designed to prepare the way for the privatisation of BSC Special Steels, delivering the trade unions bound hand and foot, so that the privateers of the private sector can launch further attacks in their drive for profits.

What we are fighting for is union recognition. BSC is now trying the Edwardes in BL, that we've seen at Fords and Tebbit would like for the public sector.

If we don't fight these attacks the country is in danger of becoming one big Grunwicks.

#### Challenge

As the first works since before the 1980 steel strike, to challenge jobs destruction and the attack on trade union rights in the steel industry we are calling on all sections of the trade union movement for support.

We've prevented one sell out by the ISTC leadership so far, and if we don't suffer another, we'll have struck a blow against the looting of another nationalised industry.

 Financial support is urgently needed to urgently organise the dispute.
Donations to: SM Wood. Teasurer, Rotherham Works Joint Craft Com-mittee, 4 Francis Drive, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

taking on the employment

laws on secondary action

and involve a direct

political confrontation with the government.

They are worried the

action will escalate up to

the June annual con-ference which could take

matters into its own hands

to up the action and elect a

majority of Broad Left supporters to the NEC.

be brought on the NEC by

union branches country-

wide to step up action in

the City, give the go ahead

on the levy and call na-

Massive pressure must

**Escalate** 

In the event of a strike at Halewood the vital Bridgend and Swansea plants were pledged to im-mediate solidarity strike action. Bridgend produces all the engines for European built Escorts. Swansea Dagenham with rear axles and gear boxes for the top

Nor could Ford be assured of Sierra cars from Europe. in Belgium, which currently produces the top end of the Sierra range for Britain, voted to strike from

So Ford faced hav-Escorts

# Ford: Halewood

## workers win reprieve

ALTHOUGH THE fate of Paul Kelly - the assembly plant worker victimised for alleged vandalism at Ford Halewood — now rests with an independent enquiry, the Merseyside car workers won a significant reprieve last week.

Faced with the decision of 4,000 body plant workers to strike against imposition Japanese-style work practices and manning levels, management withdrew its 12-point efficiency plan.

The immediate result of this was the postponement of 1,300 voluntary redundancies originally set for the end of this month.

#### By Mick Drake

The determination of the body plant workers to strike against the imposition of the efficiency plan, despite being laid off for four weeks because of the Kelly dispute, has forced management's hand.

#### **Majority**

supplies selling Sierra.

workers at the Genk plant 25 April in support of their demand for two hours off the working week and an extra 500 jobs to maintain current production levels.

and Sierras to sell in Britain, the backbone of its European market.

#### **Faults**

But, Halewood body plant senior steward, John plant senior steward, John Bohanna, was cautious about the company's climbdown when I spoke to him. 'The voluntary redundancies have only been postponed for four weeks, although it is impossible to see how they possible to see how they can be implemented separately from the company's efficiency plan

#### Worry

'My worry is that some officials and convenors will be prepared to make concessions on efficiencies in return for a deal on a new wages structure which is meant to be introduced in this year's wages con-Previously, the situation has been under our control and we've developed our own links **Bridgend** Swansea. Now the national officials will be trying to put a tighter rein on us.

But all Ford workers, indeed all car workers, can draw a lesson from recent events at Halewood. The cut-throat competition that presently exists between car manufacturers not only compels them to savagely attack the jobs and working conditions of their employees — it also them vulnerable to strike action.

That and solidarity action, nationally and internationally, can still be a winning combination.

#### action Telecom workers demand more stitutions. It would mean

TONY BENN told a 2000 strong meeting of striking British Telecom engineers last week 'I fully support your action. I believe the labour movement has always been slow to use industrial action compared with capital.'

**POEU** Westminster members struck for one and a half hours to attend the meeting. They gave a standing ovation to fellow members on indefinite strike to stop the govern-ment's Telecom Bill dena-

tionalising Buzby. Stan Orme, the shadow minister was also loudly applauded when he said 'On my first day as secretary of state for industry in the new Labour government I will tear the Bill up'

POEU members in Whitehall and at the Bank of England are already on Exchange strike.

maintenance engineers on the government CBX network, linking most Whitehall ministries, including 10 Downing Street, have also been withdrawn.

By Pete Cooper (a member London West branch POEU)

A proposition welcoming the NEC's steps so far, but calling on it to widen the scope of the action to include 'City speculators and financiers who stand to profit most from the sale of BT' was carried unanimously.

David Norman, the union's national treasurer spoke for the POEU In-dustrial Strategy Action Committee. He announced that the joint Telecom unions (BTUC) was mounting a £600,000 publicity campaign against privatisation.

On escalating the action he claimed that the union had 'a whole Pandora's box' of measures prepared. Pandora's box when opened let loose fourwinds which she couldn't

#### Fear

That just about sums up the NEC's fear of in-

dustrial action — this is not the case with other possible targets like the Stock Exchange, the commodity market or casinos where speculators can lose profits of £100 million a day if they can't make deals by phone or telex.

action.

Whitehall can weather in-

dustrial



The NEC fears such escalation to financial in-

are wondering whether

or not it's worthwhile

visiting lonely prisoners

#### No Coercion

in their cells.

THANKFULLY Ministry of Defence have decided that no legal action or disciplinary action will be taken over incidents in the Malvinas where four Argentie prisoners their and another five were in their whilst in British custocy

The accidents and injuries occurred whilst 'volunteers' from the Argentine prisoners were shifting ammunition and clearing minefields. The MOD concluded that the

prisoners were 'not acting under coercion'.

tional solidarity actions.

Of course thev weren't. Having got out of the firing line they were bored and just aching to go working among unexploded land mines and live ammuni-

The MOD know they would be taking all the fun out of war if they did not let prisoners do these jobs that its own troops won troud with a name più i des del popul i

Compiled by BOB PENN-INGTON. Send contribu-tions to Worm's Eye, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday a week prior to publica-

#### Helping hand

MRS THATCHER is right. Private enterprise teaches self-reliance and develops initiative. Take the example of the Fitzwilliam Hunt private hospital in Peterborough where the medical staff have set an example of how people can help us by helping themselves.

Because the private hospital does not always कार कार्यक्र स्थापकार सार्व कार्यक्र स्थापकार enc mare e le profit they pop across to the NHS hospital and try and borrow the odd bit of medical equipment.

Medical staff have taken medical records from the District the

Hospital to the Fitzwilliam. No point wasting time doing the job over again and it cuts down on clerical costs.

Some people have even tried to move property from the District Hospital to the Fizt-william. I suppose the idea is that the NHS does belong to everyone so private enterprise is only trying to get its share.

One consultant who knows that a man pan't be in the places at opics मार-काम् यानार सिंह स्थानकाम् ingene pe de Filwilliam address for his consulting rooms. Fair enough that's where the money is earned.
The tel

The telephone number to ring is that of his secretary at the NHS hospital!



#### Black youth's face batters police knuckles

WHEN TWO of Brixton's more socially con-scious detectives heard a black youth had been arrested they got worried. They know that it's easy to get lonely in the cells so they kindly thought

they would go and pay him a visit and get him out of his depression.

Unfortunately in this harsh world good, inten-tions are not always rewarded by appreciation. When Sergeant

Clive Farr and constable Keith Hunter went to see Winston Rose he launched a vicious unprovoked attack on them driving his face into their knuckles.

Explaining the damage to Winston's face Sergeant Farr pointed out 'It is highly probable that my closed fists might have come into contact with his face'. Medical evidence confirmed the Sergeant's allegations because even Winston's defending council had to admit that Winston did have a 'face like a swollen melon.'

Despite this conclusive evidence the jury cleared Winston of charges of assault. No wonder the two 'fuzz'

# Socialist CTION BL CARS Stuff it Duffy!

By Cowley assembly plant strikers

DESPITE back-room wheeling and dealing by Terry Duffy and other union leaders, Cowley workers are determined not to end their three week strike without substantial concessions from our bullyboy management.

Last Tuesday we showed this by an even bigger vote for continuing the action than previously. But another sell-out is being prepared for a mass meeting this Friday.

The main reason support is getting stronger is that we all know that if managemnent win this time, they will push their advantage and our work conditions will get worse. But if we win we can challenge their attacks and give confidence to our stewards.

We all know this isn't just about three minutes washing up time. The old boss of BL, Michael Edwardes introduced a plan to break the union, in-crease productivity and then sell the profitable bits to private industry. This means attacks on our jobs, conditions and work prac-

Cowley management are trying to trade off our washing up time for bonuses under an efficiency scheme called Audited Plant Status (APS). This means doing away with 243 jobs.

Any money we make up on bonuses will be at the cost of efficiency and speed-up. management's bonus not ours. The work force won't be able to monitor

any of this. The plant is due for two new models, the LM11 and a joint venture with the Japanese Honda. Management are using these models as blackmail, threatening that if we don't accept efficiency and productivity they'll take the work elsewhere.

They are playing plant against plant, country against country to get their profit-making schemes through. They are trying to make us believe it's workers in other countries who threaten our jobs rather than their thirst for

profits at our expence.

Our union leaders are trapped in this little game by concentrating on import controls. If managment can organise internationally why shouldn't we? It's struggles like ours that show a way forward and we should be making contact with unionists in other countries instead ourselves' protecting

against them. Our national union officials tend to say that this is a particular dispute with Cowley management. But these attacks are general throughout the car industry as the Ford Halewood strikers have

The issues are the same

— the employers? 'right to
manage', their right to
sack workers and introduce schemes like 'After Japan' in Fords and APS in BL. Our union should go on the offensive against this on a national basis.

They should organise for the governmet to invest and build up an overall plan for our industry that benefits us and not the profiteers.

#### Changes

We should insist that private owners get nowhere near BL and that nationalisation there is no more speed-up or changes in working practices which assault us.

We've won things in the past like mutuality. When piece work was replaced by a measured day, any changes in work practice had to be vetoed by the shop stewards. We want more of this — like making sure that any new technology doesn't take

away jobs. The Edwardes plan, 'blue paper', challenges this veto and the rights of our stewards. This is being opposed in individual plants over issues like the washing up time. But it's time that the unions nationally confronted the blue paper head on.

Our worry is that they are only concerned to get back to cosy relations with BL management, where they can participate and negotiate over our conditions. We're not interested in union negotiators cooking up deals behind closed doors. We want a real veto of what goes on in the

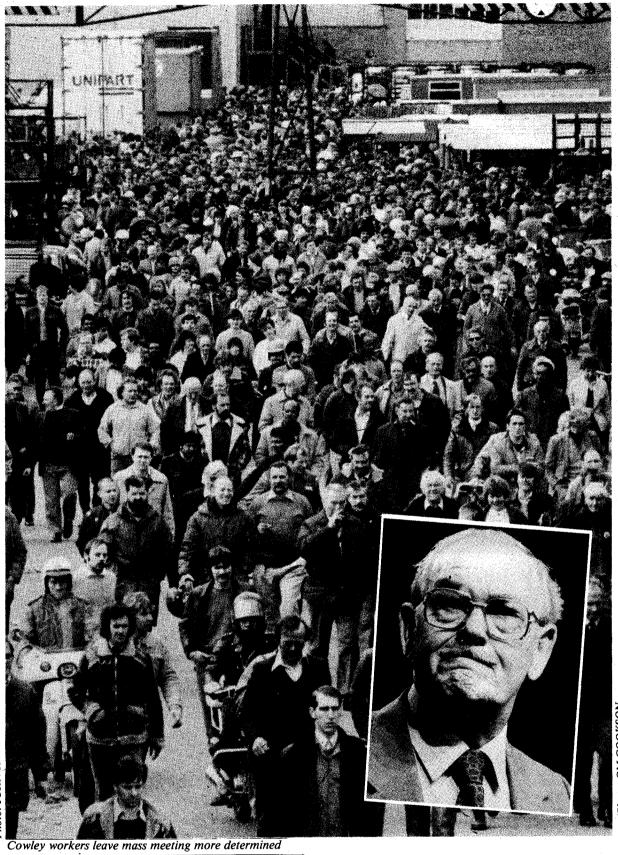
In the second week of the strike Thatcher hit out at us. Tebbit and Edwardes have had their say too. But until the statement from the campaign group of MP's which was read out at our mass meeting, we've had no such statement of support from outside the plant. We want our leaders to back us like Thatcher and Edwardes back their own

Now that the strike is official, the Transport union should give a directive to drivers that no cars are moved across the country.

Management threatened to sack all the strikers. If this happens the unions should spread the action beyond Cowley. Cowley.

Union branches, Labour Party general committees, the Labour Party and TUC nationally should issue statements of support.

The LP campaign & document for the next & election is called, 'The new hope'. BL workers won't think a Labour government holds much hope for them if Labour leaders cannot come behind their struggle to control working conditions and defend jobs.



## Socialists for a Labour Victory

**SOCIALISTS** Labour Victory (SLV) is an important new

labour movement.

It's purpose is to assist in the election of a majority Labour

government at the coming general elec-

SLV's objectives are

simple. Firstly to help Constituency Parties in a practical way by publishing leaflets on official Party policy and producing campaigning suggestions.

Secondly, by drawing attention to the fact that the Labour Party can't win the next election while there's a witch hunt of socialists inside the Party going on.

#### Deal

We will also campaign to oppose the creation of a coalition government or a parliamentary deal between Labour and minority parties.

Finally, we'll be trying to persuade everyone in the Party that the best chance of winning a majority Labour govern-

By Mandy Moore and Andy Harris (joint secretaries, SLV)

ment lies in pushing forward the socialist policies agreed by Party conference. These are embodied in large part in the Campaigns Docu-

#### Link

It will be important to link up with forces fighting for such policies against the Tory government, such as the Greenham women and the People's March for Jobs.

We hope that readers of Socialist Action will campaign to affiliate their CLP, women's section or union to SLV. and ask their MP or prospective candidate to sign the forthcoming SLV statement against coalition.

 Build SLV!, page 10.



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