

# The Worker



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## Denning judgement no law but Thatcher's

LORD DENNING and his Court of Appeal have launched an attack on the Greater London Council elected by the people of London earlier this year. Denying the GLC's right to subsidise London Transport, he also denied the right of Londoners or any other British workers to elect a local authority that they want. "People do not vote for the manifesto," he said, and therefore to carry out a manifesto is an act of dishonesty, an illegal act to be punished in the courts.

## DESTRUCTION

The decision is part of a campaign by Thatcher to unseat the GLC because that authority stands between the Government and the destruction of public services in London. Denning is not the only one to lend a hand; the aims for Industry organisation is sponsoring the campaign to the tune of £200,000. But Denning is uniquely placed in the British Establishment to make just such anti-working class law. He chose to become Master of the Rolls because the position gives him the right to select cases and to rig justice by picking the judges who sit with him. He took a step down from sitting as a House of Lords judge to do this. He sets the pace for the legal establishment, who either run with him by confirming his decisions in the House of Lords or overturn him if he seems to be taking to great a risk.

## HYPOCRISY

The hypocrisy of Thatcher attacking the GLC for its supplementary rate is astonishing. Rate demands in London have increased for one reason only, because the grants from central Government have been slashed. To be precise, £350 million has been cut from the GLC's budget by the transition from the Rate Support Grant system to the Block Grant. This is more than three times what Heseltine stated he would cut (but if you only break promises, you will apparently be safe from the legal purview of Lord Denning). The GLC has been fined £111 million

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Photo: Liverpool Daily Post & Echo

## Occupation of P & O ferries - we will decide our future

THE OCCUPATION of two P & O Ferries, the Ulster Princess and Ulster Queen, has been strengthened. Seamen on seven other P & O ships are now acting in support of their 160 mates fighting for their jobs in Liverpool.

P & O services between Liverpool and Larne, Fleetwood and Larne, and Belfast and Stranraer have been affected. A P & O freighter due to sail for Holland from Ipswich did not sail last Wednesday. ASTMS workers have blacked the paperwork associated with the P & O ships.

Morale is high and other allies have been found in the shape of Belfast and Liverpool City Councils, both of which pledged unanimous support.

The occupation, eight days old at time of writing, is a growing thorn in the side of a Government bent on destroying us. Sympathy action is giving yet more bite to the dispute and the idea of our class organising on this level is anathema to Thatcher. Representations to the Government have been greeted by her and her henchman Prior, with the now-customary disdain a 'principled' refusal to intervene in a commercial dispute. (Would that Prior would adopt the same 'principled' stand about British Troops Out of Ireland).

# WAGE WAR ON THATCHER!

Miners, Fords: these and other industrial issues inside

## Education Week turn anger into action - Thatcher Out!

THE THATCHER Government presents us all with a challenge. For those working in education - teachers, students, lecturers, administrators and everyone else - the challenge is either to let Thatcher and her agent destroy our education system or to stop her. That we can stop her has been amply proven by the successful fight to retain three Scottish Teacher Training Colleges.

## CLOSURES

For too many years we have tolerated cuts and closures. Indeed, the heart of the education system, teacher education, has already been torn out; largely thanks to Shirley Williams in 1976. For too long we have sat back

complaining about cuts and, while we have been moaning, schools have closed and teaching resources vandalised by governments. First schools, then teacher training colleges, further education colleges, polytechnics and now, surprise, surprise, the universities. The longer we tolerate

## NO MORE!

ate them, the more vicious they get. They will destroy the 900 years it took to establish our present education system in two years.

But the real challenge facing those of us working in the education system, is in our minds. Thatcher has not implemented every single cut. All too frequently our own people have bent over back-

wards trying to make their own cuts. On too many occasions unions have sold jobs or permitted intolerable cuts. Cuts cannot be implemented painlessly; a small nick soon becomes a gaping wound. Education is not private property, no one has the right to sell an academic post.

This week should mark the

## TIDE TURNING

turning of the tide. On November 11 the National Union of Student's held its education day during which students and many other workers in the colleges took various forms of local action against the destruction. On November 18, the Association of University Teachers, stirred into action, holds its lobby of parliament.

These events will serve to make workers in education stand and be counted in preparation for the real battles that follow. Either you are for or against the destruction of education. No longer can we express

## ACTION

outrage and disgust and let college authorities mouth token opposition. Those for education must prove, by the responsibility of their action that they are going to defend and rebuild it. This Government has consistently proved itself determined to de-educate. It is not there to listen to anguished pleadings. The Government and all its supporters will have to go.

ROUND-UP - REPORTS FROM THE COLLEGES - SEE PAGE 4

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## Denning rules!

for carrying out its promise to cut fares alone. The supplementary rate totalled £123 million, of which a substantial element was to repair cuts in funding to the Inner London Education Authority.

The intention of Thatcher, Bromley Council, Denning et al is to force the implementation of cuts. London would be disastrously affected by such a policy; if the GLC's resistance to cuts is beaten, up to one third of council employees could be sacked, together with further unemployment caused by abandonment of capital programmes and spending with private firms. We are in Thatcher's depression and she means to deepen it.

The election of the GLC was a challenge. The problem now is the vulnerability of that challenge because it places the responsibility for resistance on a council rather than on the working class itself. Thatcher is able to have such contempt for an elected authority because it is not class controlled, it cannot call directly on the force of organised labour. That is not to offer the working class in London any excuse; we must take up the fight to win back London's grant.

### Successful resistance

Because there has been resistance, the attack on the GLC has been stepped up. The break up of the Inner London Education Authority was prevented last year, so now an even more furious assault is launched on it. The fares were cut as promised so now the council must go. Thatcher is prepared to use any foul means, even the threat to bankrupt Ken Livingstone through the district auditor for carrying out his election promise. Then there is the proposal that since the isolating effect of election ballots does not seem to be enough, they will be replaced with the plebiscite system of the Greek colonels.

Denning spearheads a new movement in the British establishment, the mood that put Thatcher there. Contempt of courts, of the old legal system; contempt of the weakness of bourgeois democracy; a hatred of the organ lead working class that will stop at nothing.

We cannot afford another round of Heseltine cuts. Neither are we prepared to pay double taxation; we pay national taxes for services and there is no justification for forcing us to pay twice through the rates. The robbery is perpetrated by Thatcher's regime - the demand "give us back our grant" will place the survival of that regime in doubt.

**END THATCHER'S ROBBERY-GIVE US BACK OUR GRANT!**

### Education

A letter to the TEACHER, weekly newspaper of the National Union of Teachers points out an interesting change in Thatcher's educational philosophy. In opposition she was the champion of local autonomy for education authorities - they must be able to make up their own minds in opposing a comprehensive school strategy. Now she has belied her reputation for stubbornness with a declaration that all must conform to the education minister's dictat and implement cuts. We apologise unreservedly for THE WORKER's previous accusations of inflexibility and look forward to the fruits of Joseph's declared intention to "work with children" mingled with her caring approach.

## Firemen prepare to resist more cuts in service

NO ONE can doubt the success, to date, of the Fire Brigades' Union's 1980 policy which states that:

"...in the event of any FBU member being issued with a personal redundancy notice the Executive Council will immediately convene a Delegates Conference to decide a policy of action."

The unity given to the union membership (as the President,

Bill Deal, said: "You don't call a conference to wish a bloke goodbye") as well as the disincentive to the employers to attempt a compulsory job loss means that since the policy's inception, no fireman in Britain has received a notice of redundancy. Even more importantly, the 1980 policy meant that firemen took a major step of organising against the Thatcher govern-

ment's attempts to decimate both fire service and workforce.

Even so, and in the space of only just over a year, most brigades are running increasingly under strength. Early this year the Executive Council reported a total of 1486 unfilled posts, and the Home Secretary's approval for a further reduction of 1210 posts plus 81 appliances. And not only is the present situation intolerable - although stalled at present, Thatcher's Green Paper on Future Fire Policy (estimated by the EC to threaten 3500 jobs) hangs over the service, and a recent Government press release still referred to a reduction of 4000 fire service posts by 1983-84.

Death by a thousand cuts can very easily become death by half if not resisted. In the coming year we must launch ourselves forward to challenge at source the erosion of the fire service.

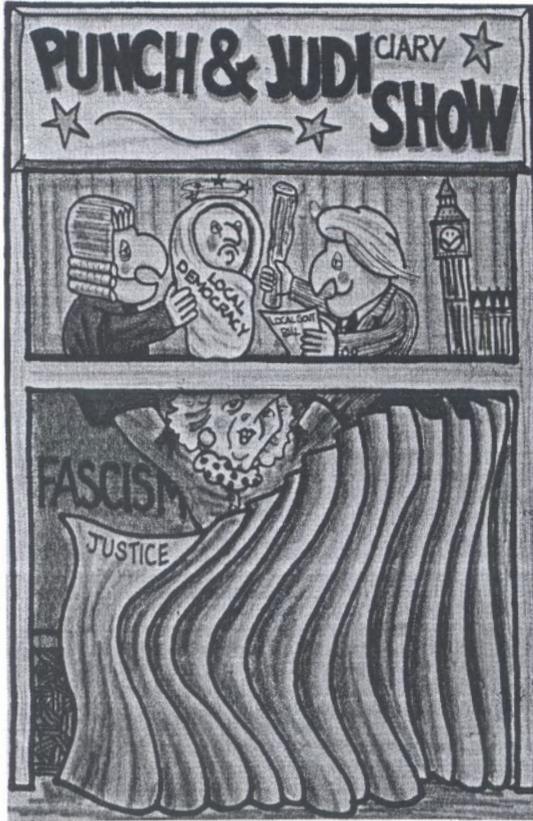
We have to commit the union nationally to outright opposition on the outback fronts of job loss, levels of fire cover, and facilities for training and administration of duties. In addition we must fight to fill the posts left vacant by the cuts - this is the

only real assistance we can give the unemployed.

Just such a resolution was submitted to Conference 1981 (from Strathclyde Brigade), but it was defeated on the grounds that it was unworkable. It called for national industrial action to fight any attempts to reduce establishments by either natural wastage or redundancy, appliance manning levels or numbers of appliances, reductions in the standard of cover and any weakening of fire prevention legislation; even if these attempts were endorsed by the Home Secretary.

Because the policy was lost, brigades and regions have been left, by and large, to fight alone and our weapons have been restricted to lobbying, petitioning, and demonstrations. But since we can trace all the cuts to central government, and they are all aimed at undermining the service, we must tackle them as one union.

Firemen are in an excellent position to step up the defence of Britain's fire service, having secured the 10.1 per cent pay settlement for 1981-82. This is not a lucky escape from having to fight but an opportunity to develop the stand taken in 1980.



### 'Thatcher out' demo in her home town

PROTESTERS gathered in Grantham, Lincolnshire on Saturday 31 October to deliver notice to Thatcher to quit.

They marched to a now empty corner shop where the grocer's daughter, the then Margaret Roberts, began her climb out of street-corner groceries into war-mongering and destruction. As the now infamous Margaret Thatcher she even took elocution lessons to hide the Lincolnshire accent.

On Saturday the marchers carrying a giant effigy of Thatcher (appropriately for Hallowe'en showing blood dripping from her fangs) marched through the streets of Grantham to the shop where they delivered the notice to quit.

To the now familiar cries of 'Thatcher Out!', local people showed their opposition to the massive unemployment of the area, to the cuts in services, to the attacks on our schools and hospitals, and to the vast number of air bases scattered through the countryside.

Thatcher might well have forgotten about Lincolnshire but the people of Lincolnshire remember her and demand her removal. Thatcher Out!

## Growing resistance in US to Reagan's rule

JUST BACK from four weeks in the USA I can report with pleasure that the American working class is alive and well and increasingly defiant of their cowboy President. From the lawyer in a New York bar who told me that Reagan clearly had a brain tumour to the black middle-aged bus driver in Chicago who'd just begun to foster a twelve day old baby because, as he said, "unlike the President, I believe in giving babies a chance," I found disaffection widespread and growing.

The "I-don't-care-if-it-rains-or-freezes-long-as-I-got-my-plastic-Jesus" brigade is doing its best to dictate every aspect of American life from how much every family must pay in taxes for the pleasure of buying dangerous and expensive toys for the most lunatic military in the world, to the minutiae of what is allowable on open sale in drug stores, or how much parents and teachers should reveal to children about their own bodies. Their latest move is to initiate letter writing campaigns to sponsors of local TV stations threatening to boycott their products if the sponsors'

commercial appear next to anything of a remotely sexual nature. Glorifying any amount of violence in the service of ones country is, however, highly laudable.

Nonetheless good working class sense has shown itself in huge demonstrations lately - one in New York City on Labour Day to which the President is traditionally invited - he wasn't this year - and a truly gigantic one in Washington DC led by the air traffic controllers. The level of determination can be measured by the fact that every available train and coach from Chicago was fully booked for the demo.

I had a sense of deja vu watching the TV news broadcasts - everything Thatcher's done here Reagan is trying to do there. Remember how local authorities were freed from having to give kids a certain minimum standard of nutrition in school dinners? Reagan has done the same, adding the inimitable touch of classifying ketchup as a vegetable. Rumours abound that soon water will be classified as milk and potatoes as meat.

On another note close to

NALGO fights the cuts

### Stone wall of silence greets Exeter cuts consultants

CONSULTANTS called in by Devon County Council had a short but not so sweet stay in Exeter last week. They had contracted to carry out a study on how economies could be made in the County Supplies Department. They had not bargained, however, on having to deal with a policy of total non-co-operation from the local NALGO branch. Asking the way to the department, they were told: "find it yourselves". When they did find it nobody would speak to them, put through their telephone calls or offer any co-operation. When they asked to be put through to the Chief Executive the receptionist replied "There's a public call box one hundred yards down the road."

The following day they turned up at the Treasury Department and again met with the same stony refusal - even down to being refused the customary cup of coffee. A spokesman for NALGO stated, "It was incredible, everyone from the receptionist to senior management pulled their weight. The consultants just did not exist as far as they were concerned. There were even large notices saying 'No to consultants!' put up all over the office." It was not long therefore before they gave up. The consultants who initially said non-co-operation would not hinder them in their work were soon on their way back to London realising that in fact it was they that had been out and not Exeter NALGO members.

British hearts I saw a small demonstration walking endlessly backwards and forwards outside the offices of the British consulate in Chicago. Leading the marchers was a woman playing Irish pipes wearing a placard on her back calling upon the murderer Thatcher to concede the demands of the Irish H-block prisoners. I felt proud of American workers to learn that there has been just such a demonstration outside the office every single working day since the beginning of the first hunger strike by Bobby Sands.

It's good to be back doing my best to get rid of Reagan's teacher and crony, Thatcher. Let's give the world a lead and start sacking fascism.

### Jumble Sale

Saturday November 21st  
at 2.00pm  
Factory Community Project  
107 Mathias Road,  
London, N. 16

# Editorial

# Wages fight - more at stake than money

THE CLASS ENEMY, following Thatcher's call in the Queen's Speech for all out attack on Britain's workers, is in full cry.

Snipe, the notorious northern employer, mounts an SAS type operation by helicopter to break the strike at Laurence Scott and spirit away motors which figure in nuclear armament.

The workers at BL, having just agreed to call off their strike, learn from the Industrial Minister, Jenkins, that as soon as Britain's only motor industry becomes a bit more profitable it will be handed over to the privateers. And BL management meets the obligation for a shorter working week, which was part of the settlement, by cutting tea breaks and rest time.

The Tory GLC opposition leader, Cutler, together with Forte, the man who got rich providing food in Britain's airports and along its motorways, (which the experts say is the worst in Europe) and the right wing organisation Aims for Industry have all made common cause to use vast sums of money to destroy the popularly-elected Labour government of the GLC.

The Master of the Rolls, Denning, is not waiting for Heseltine to remove the powers of local government generally, as promised in the Queen's Speech. He is acting against the GLC now for daring to carry out the lowering of London's fares which Livingstone and the Labour councillors were elected to do. In declaring this popular measure illegal, Denning has thrown the whole situation in London into utter confusion.

Thatcher herself has taken revenge on the civil service for its strike by bringing it more closely under direct cabinet control.

## Extra-parliamentary

Most of these anti-working class moves are extra-parliamentary and have nothing to do with what remains of bourgeois democracy. They are fascist moves - the logical next steps of Thatcher's declaration of war on workers.

There is only one answer workers can give to nascent fascism - revolution. We cannot expect to mobilise for revolution on parliamentary ground. Foot's response to the onslaught against us was to draw himself up to his full height and launch a spirited attack on - Tony Benn!

No, we have to mobilise for revolution where we are organised for struggle anyway, in our places of work, be they factories, schools, offices, hospitals or whatever. We shall have to occupy and defend them. Thatcher has already begun to destroy them to prevent us from doing so.

It will not be easy. We shall have to fight on the scale of the war being waged against us in order to control the places where things are made, where our health is preserved and where our children are educated. But when we control all that, we control Britain. All the money of the employers which they now use against us will be just scraps of paper and the offices of the politicians who serve them will be occupied by tribunes of the people. Britain will be socialist, prosperous and at peace.

## St. Mary's resists closure

THE FIGHT still goes on to save 108 acute beds at St Mary's Hospital, Harrow Road, West London. Staff there declared a work-in in June, and since then have been working normally to maintain services and mobilising to prevent closures. Last week a senior nurse and administrators raided a surgical ward with the back up of police and security men. A nurse and a porter were suspended for refusing to co-operate with the moving of a distressed patient who had been locked out of her ward.

Eighty nurses turned up at meeting in support of those suspended and joined with ancillary staff, who already actively opposing the rundown of the hospital, to demand that the suspensions were lifted. Local management are determined to implement these closures and victimise those who stand in their way. The nurse was unjustly disciplined and the porter whose 6 month contract expires soon is sacked.

Angry staff had already occupied the sector administration office in support of a domestic who is a shop steward and had been disciplined and harassed for refusing to do three people's work. The office was used by the occupation committee for two weeks, until the Area Health Authority took a summons out for re-possession. Staffing levels throughout the hospital are low with staff being offered re-deployment and early retirement to aid the rundown.

Six month contracts are being used for the first time in the NHS and now three month contracts are being offered to new porters.

Since the first ward closure, there are not enough surgical beds in the hospital and people on the waiting list are being turned away. Two medical wards are now being run down and soon the Casualty department will be declared closed to ambulances although there are empty beds in the hospital.

The London Ambulance Service is pledged to continue to bring patients as long as there is medical cover and staff in the hospital will receive and treat them. Local General Practitioners are supporting the fight as the hospital provides a vital service to their local community. Great pressure is being put on Consultants to continue admitting their patients.

In the winter there will not be adequate beds in the whole district. The casualty department is the major Accident Unit for the district and its closure would be a disaster.

Most of the unions in the hospital are united in the fight but one weakness is the medical staff who so far have not spoken out. A letter has been sent to stewards and union officials instructing that time off for union activities will not be granted if it is for opposing the closure. We must stand strong in the face of these threats to our unions.

AS MAJOR sections of the labour movement are mobilising in defence of living standards, speculation abounds in the Press over the average level of wage settlements likely to be achieved in the coming months. Will it be 5 per cent or 10 per cent? Who will get the biggest percentage increases? These are not questions however which need concern organised workers. One thing is quite clear. Under the present Thatcher regime no one is advancing their standard of living.

The question is, what posture are we, the working class, going to adopt in the wages fight? Are we merely trying to do the best we can in the circumstances - keeping our heads down picking up what we can, or are we committed to revolt? Just as in the past, increases in advance of the inflation rate were never a measure of political advance, neither today can success in the wages battle be measured by how close we get to the inflation figure in settlements with the employer.

## Determination

What must be clearly exposed is that behind the resistance of every employer is Thatcher and her relentless determination to push the people of Britain backwards. What is required therefore is greater determination from those now advancing claims

to fight both employer and Government.

The miners have rejected 9.1 per cent. Those who saw a willingness to settle misjudged the mood of the industry. Ford workers negotiators have rejected the company's initial response to their claim. They will have to cut through all the strings that will undoubtedly be attached to future offers. Water workers who have rejected their employers' reply as 'a damp squib', will have to build on last year's fight.

## Panic plans

Workers in the oil trades - including the tanker drivers - have already caused panic plans to be unveiled in Whitehall against the threat of a petrol strike. One million local authority manual workers have the right to expect full support from all other public service unions in the fight against

Thatcher's 4 per cent (the TUC plans for closer cooperation between the unions involved are to be welcomed). Other negotiations which could yet shake Thatcher include the current engineers claim - although support from those in the industry has yet to be rallied.

## Responsibility

In present circumstances special responsibility devolves upon those elected to lead. Those who accept the first offer like frightened rabbits are guilty of treachery. So are those who posture by threatening action without having engaged and tested the commitment of their members. A groundswell of revolt is growing amongst the British people (we saw that at Leyland). The task is to direct it politically. There is much more at stake in the present wages fight than money.

## Staffa workers extend action to save jobs

THE STAFFA workers' fight to reopen their factory at Leyton continues. The company that owns it, the American multinational Brown and Sharpe, want to move their whole operation to Plymouth getting them a Government development grant of £4m and losing 360 jobs.

## Ruthless

The methods they have used to achieve this have been ruthless. In the two years since Brown and Sharpe took the company over, they have been running down Leyton works on the pretext that they were clearing it for investment. When their real motives were made clear and workers refused to participate in the transfer they were locked out. The workforce responded strongly to this

and voted to occupy. The company were able to get the support of a court injunction to get them out and they were forcibly removed by a 5am police raid on 17 October.

A representative of the Staffa workers told The Worker about the company's tactics since then. After being forced out of occupation a picket was immediately formed to prevent the removal of the hydraulic motors that were still in the factory. Unmarked lorries with police protection were used for this purpose. One of these was followed and their destination was found to be the Haniel International warehouse in Hubert Road, Brentwood, and the haulage company involved was Bowden Freight.

When Staffa workers went to

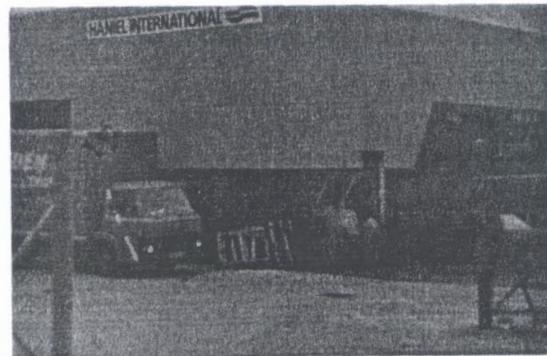
picket the warehouse and persuade the drivers to support their action they had bottles thrown at them. To date, Staffa's union representatives believe that the motors are still stored in the warehouse shown in the our photograph. The drivers who allow themselves to be used in this way to break a strike should be condemned by all trade unionists. They are assisting in the destruction of jobs and the run down of yet another part of British industry.

Whilst they are well organised

## Bottles thrown

in picketing at Leyton, the Staffa workers are unable to provide a continuous picket at the Brentwood warehouse and need the support of other trade unionists in stopping management attempts to undermine their action. AUEW and ASTMS are directly involved in the dispute and the TGWU and the NUM have already pledged their support. Arrangements are being made to block all Staffa products. If Bowden Freight and Haniel International continue their strikebreaking, steps should be taken to block them also.

The Staffa workers are proving that we need not give in when faced with closure. They are showing the sort of defiance and will to win that the whole of our labour movement must learn if we are going to stop mass unemployment and the destruction of our industrial base. They deserve our congratulations and support.



## Post Office selective action continues

THE SOCIETY of Civil and Public Servants - Post Office Group (SCPS-POG) is currently fighting for parity with equivalent engineering grades in British Telecom (BT). SCPS-POG members have rejected the basic offer of a 9 per cent pay increase which was accepted by most BT unions in June. In 1979 SCPS-POG crippled Post Office Telecomm with its first parity campaign.

The Board conceded the claim in principle then, but has failed to honour it since. And so, the SCPS-POG refights the battles of 1979 with similar effects: after 18 weeks a billing backlog in excess

of £100m; stores accounting thrown into confusion; the launching of a sales team for the 'new, competitive' BT seriously delayed. All this (and more) comes at a very vulnerable point in the development of the service. Nevertheless it is an important and necessary struggle.

The Worker has already outlined the attacks being mounted on the service - licences for cowboy contractors and unscrupulous competitors, closure of rural services, etc. The recent sale of Cable and Wireless is only the latest of a series of coups. More are planned. The Post Office

Board has connived at this but the new BT Board are more than willing accomplices, and no wonder - they are Thatcher's boys appointed by her creature Joseph.

This is the (mis)management the SCPS-POG are fighting. The fight for parity is a fight for dignity and respect. As such it demands much more than the achievement of parity alone. Its true significance will be realised when all BT workers have resolved that this is the first battle in the vital to defend their jobs and this vital national service against attacks from the board, government and city.

# POSTGRADS OPPOSE DESTRUCTION

THERE ARE 60,000 postgraduate students in Britain. Together they produce many of the valuable inventions, skills and techniques which we all take for granted. That they are so productive is incredible when you consider that most postgraduates earn about half of the official poverty level income per year. As if this wasn't bad enough, many postgraduates are compelled to undertake crucial teaching and demonstrating work for which they get nothing.

Postgraduates' problems do not end when they have completed their thesis, project or research. They are only just beginning. To get a thesis typed in accordance with university regulations

can consume 25 per cent of their yearly wage. The jobs once designed for postgraduate entry have now virtually disappeared.

Thousands of highly skilled workers are now facing the dole. Essential research work into things like cancer or engineering is often funded by charity, the state having long ago washed its hands of such areas. Hundreds of postgraduates last year simply found their courses cut in the middle of their work.

At a recent regional conference held at Reading University such problems were discussed. Though relatively new to trade union organisation, postgraduates are beginning to see themselves as

very important contributors to the overall fight against the demolition of education.

The Conference bitterly attacked the stream-rolling of all aspects of the education world by successive governments. One delegate described Keith Joseph's recent appointment as being like putting a vampire in charge of a blood-bank! And Conference was not taken in by any suggestions that this Government would listen to reason. Conference believed the Government's mouth was watering at the prospects of abolishing the grants system altogether; terminating all productive postgraduate work; turning universities into bomb factories.



Students marching to save Callendar Park.

Photo: The Worker

## UNIVERSITY ACTION

ON 18 November university teachers, students and other university workers from all over Britain will be massing in London to express their opposition to Thatcher's destruction of the university system. After Joseph sent away the university employers with fleas in their ears for asking for more money, all illusions about the Government's intentions disappear. As put by university teachers at Bradford 'What we are witnessing is a catastrophic run-down of the universities... It is the Government itself, and its policy of attack (rationalisation) on the universities, which must be opposed, without qualification.'

It is fitting that the rally is to be held in London where a string of job losses and closed courses are being proposed, including 200 jobs at Imperial, 210 at Chelsea, 165 at Brunel and 150 at City. Plans are well advanced to merge Bedford and King's Colleges, Queen Elizabeth and Imperial Colleges, Brunel and Royal Holloway College, and University and Birkbeck Colleges, all of which will result in the further loss of courses and jobs.

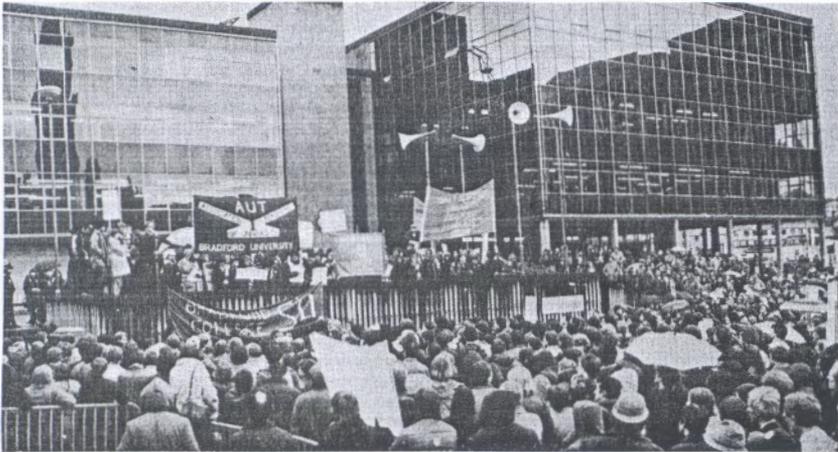
Proposals to be put to the London University Senate include a 48.5 per cent reduction of the number of students

in combined sciences and cuts in other subjects ranging from 25 per cent to 8 per cent.

The central services and institutes have been warned that 60 jobs may be lost this year and all staff over 50 years old have been 'invited' to apply for early retirement. The unions have confirmed their policy that all vacancies must be filled and that staff in posts will not accept extra duties or workloads. As a first step in the campaign of fight-back the London Committee of the Association of University Teachers intends to leaflet degree ceremonies at the Albert Hall.

Elsewhere in the South East two departments (including philosophy), 1 degree course, and 250 jobs are to go at Surrey University, 235 jobs are to be chopped at Sussex where there is also to be 'increased cooperation' (read merger) between the University and Brighton Polytechnic, and 226 jobs are to be lost at Southampton.

The 18 November demonstrations will give the confidence to intensify local and regional campaigns of resistance. Cambridge local Associations of the Association of University Teachers has given a lead with the launch of its campaign to fight the loss of 100 academic posts.



THE CAMPUS trade union committee organised its most successful event so far in the campaign to stop the cuts at Bradford University when 3000 people from the whole spectrum of university life marched into the city centre.

Students, technicians, cleaners and academics all helped in the leafletting; a sense of unity, missing in the past, has been built. A morale-boosting meeting followed the march. Speaker after speaker delivered one message: stop this destruction of our university; fight so that our children have a future!

Photo: The Worker

## STUDENT POVERTY PLAN FIGHT

THE GOVERNMENT announced plans earlier this year to cut 20,000 student places and 5,000 lecturer posts in the universities by 1983/4. Now Keith Joseph, Minister of State for Education, is considering plans for attacking student grants.

The proposals are as serious as the threat of loans, which some were unwise enough to think had disappeared for ever.

The plans would involve one or more of various options. These include reinstatement of the triennial review - NUS won annual grant reviews in the mid-1970's; abolition of the £410 minimum grant; shortening the length of

award from three years to two; redesignating courses currently designated for mandatory awards; a grants freeze; and forcing students to live at home so that their parents have to pay their living expenses.

All these are options being considered by the Government, and all represent a fundamental attack on wages for students. The grant level has consistently declined since its inception in 1962, and recent research by the Low Pay Unit shows that many students already live on the poverty line.

Students must see that the attack on wages is part of the

destruction of education, and from the activities on November 11 and 18 move forward to build a massive campaign against the twin threats of poverty and ignorance.

### Public Meetings

**NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE**  
Wed. Nov. 25 Turn Anger Into Action-Thatcher Out.  
Bridge Hotel, High Level Bridge, Newcastle. 7.45pm

**LONDON**  
Fri. Nov. 27 Revolution-The Politics of Regeneration.  
Bellman Bookshop, 155, Fortess Rd., NW5. 7.30pm

### Bookshops

**Bellman Bookshop** 155 Fortess Road, London NW5  
**Brighton Workers Bookshop** 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton  
**Clarion Books** 5 The Precinct, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex  
**Basildon Bookstall** Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace  
**Northern Star Bookshop** 18A Leighton Street, Leeds.



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