

CHARTIST

LABOUR'S REVOLUTIONARY VOICE No.37 DECEMBER 1975 Price 6p

Fight Government's cuts - employ the jobless with- PUBLIC WORKS

AMIDST CHAMPAGNE, salmon and cigar smoke Prime Minister Harold Wilson spelt out the future plans of the Labour Government. On the occasion of the Lord Mayor's Banquet at the Guildhall he forecast "some very bleak months lie ahead in which real living standards will assuredly fall". His speech, punctuated by calls of "hear, hear" from the well-bred ladies and gentlemen in attendance, conceded that profit was no longer a "dirty word in the eyes of the Labour Government", and that there could be no revival of a flat rate increase AS HIGH as £6 after the present policy expires next July.

No sooner had this "bleak winter" forecast fallen from Wilson's lips than his ministers were translating it into reality. Chancellor Healey went cap in hand to the International Monetary Fund for a £975 million loan and Environment Secretary, Anthony Crosland was issuing orders for savage cuts in local government spending, especially in the sphere of council house building.

We now see the grim reality of this Labour Government, elected through the strength of the working class, bowing to the dictates of Big Business. Unemployment is being deliberately boosted to over 1½ million at present and the Confederation of British Industry has estimated that by the end of the year 120,000 jobs will be lost in manufacturing industries with the same jobless levels still with us by the end of 1976.

dole - queue

Daily, as more workers are committed to the misery of the dole-queue, Big Business and the Labour Government are telling us that their "anti-inflation" policy is "working". But the rate of inflation for the 12 months to September was 26.6 per cent and has dropped only to 25.9 per cent in October. Over the same period earnings have increased by 25.8 per cent. This means that after deductions for tax, national insurance etc. the average workers' income has fallen quite drastically.

But unemployment and wage-cuts are not enough for the ruling class. The Labour Government is now allowing itself to be forced into making massive cut-backs in the 'social wage'—health, housing, education and social services. Denis Healey clearly revealed that one of the conditions for the IMF loan to finance the continuing balance of payments deficit was "evidence that Britain is prepared to make substantial public expenditure cuts", in the words of the GUARDIAN of 13th November. Healey has since called for public expenditure cuts of the magnitude of £3,750 million

by John Quirke

the "virtual end of the British aircraft and shipbuilding industries", (Guardian, 13 November), with the threat to thousands of jobs, it will mean above all an escalation of cut-backs in the social wage and jobs in the public sector.

Tories support

These cuts in public spending have the full support of the Tories and Big Business who are baying for even more. In a recent issue of the "Stock Market Review" its silk-hatted readership was told "that unless the Government cuts back on public spending the sacrifices (sic) under the £6 pay policy will be thrown away".

Every attempt on the part of the Labour Government, or Labour councils to capitulate to these demands must be fought tooth and nail. The fight at local level in the cities and towns is central to defeating the Government imposed financial cut-backs.

Anthony Crosland's imposition of a spending standstill on local councils and a cash limit on the Exchequer rate support grant must be met with demands for public works and the nationalisation of the banks, finance houses and building societies, without compensation. Unless resisted to the hilt the present reduction in the standard of services, the collapse of the house building programme and the cut-backs in staffing through leaving vacancies unfilled, will be escalated enormously.

cut-backs

Already local councils have been projecting rate increases of over 30 per cent—despite their attempts to reduce these rate increases next year by increasing rents by over 50 pence a week, by savage fare increases in public transport of 66 per cent (the increases imposed by the Labour Greater London Council) and drastic cut-backs in other services.

Further increases in rents by 60 pence are planned under the social contract from next April.

But there is absolutely no reason why such cuts in the 'social wage' and jobs should take place. Labour councillors should oppose any cuts in jobs and services or increases in charges, rents and rates and em-



CROSLAND... Cash headache

building health centres and nurseries, social amenities and sufficient homes to house the homeless and eliminate the housing waiting lists.

The public works projects would provide jobs for thousands of unemployed building workers and retraining opportunities for countless others. They should be administered

under the control of committees of trade unionists, Labour councillors and tenants associations. Plans should be drawn up in each locality to determine the precise nature of social needs.

Labour councils must be made to STOP THE CUTS and launch PUBLIC WORKS programmes now. Direct labour departments must be expanded and 'lump-labour' banned.

cancellation

The lame objection that there is no money must be met with the cancellation of all interest payments to the banks and money-lenders (over 50 per cent of local authority income goes to the City of London parasites) and a campaign throughout the labour movement to demand the nationalisation of the banks, building societies and finance houses by the Labour Government.

The Clay Cross councillors have shown the way in opposing rent increases and cut-backs in services. The task of other Labour councils is not to act as the agents for the implementation of Wilson's right-wing policies but to defend working class living standards and honour their election commitments by mobilising the local labour movement to turn the tide of Wilson's retreats.

Australian Labour Government sacked

by Graham Bash

"YOU SHOULD be warned by events in Australia that unless you act quickly over the House of Lords, the Queen may soon be tapping on YOUR shoulder, showing YOU the way."

That warning to Harold Wilson from Labour MP Gwilym Roberts came the same day that the Australian Labour Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, was dismissed by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr. The Governor-General is the Queen's representative and enjoys the same powers in Australia as the Queen does in Britain. And he was quite within his 'constitutional powers' to give Whitlam the Royal boot.

Never mind that Labour had a majority in the House of Representatives. Never mind that Labour had won two elections in the last three years. "Because of the principles of responsible Gov-



GOUGH WHITLAM JUST AFTER BEING OUSTED.

cannot obtain supply including money for carrying on the ordinary services of government, must either advise a general election or resign", explained Sir John

(Continued on page 7)

Sit-in victory at Balfour Darwins

AS THE sit-in at Balfour-Darwins, Sheffield entered its eleventh week the 360 men and women occupying the stock control unit notched up an impressive victory. The strike and occupation was an official AUEW dispute to prevent transfer of work to Manchester and the loss of 28 jobs in the stock control unit.

As a result of the occupation, management has agreed there will be no compulsory redundancies and it seems certain the 28 jobs will be guaranteed. CHARTIST talked to the stock control convenor, Derek Simpson, about the occupation, just before the victory.

C: How much support has been received from the labour movement in Sheffield?

DS: Magnificent support. The AUEW district committee has backed us throughout and many other union branches, especially NUM and TGWU branches, have made generous donations. There was a mass demonstration from engineering factories in Sheffield, and on November 5, a one-day stoppage took place throughout the Edgar-Allan-Balfour group of factories.

C: In view of the collapse of workers' co-operatives like the Scottish Daily News, why do you think this occupation has been successful?

DS: This sit-in has been solely in defence of jobs and no attempt to 'work-in' has been made. By occupying we have eliminated the need for pickets and have provided an organising centre, which has been manned on a shift basis. Most importantly, management has had no opportunity to move stock out of the factory.

C: What do you think the Labour Government should do to defend jobs?

DS: First of all the pay laws should be removed and free collective bar-

THE PAST few weeks have seen, once again, the eroded ranks of the House of Lords led by Newspaper Publishers' Association Chairman, Lord Goodman, attempting to prevent the passage of the Labour Government's Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill onto the Statute Books. Fleet Street editors and the anti-government peers have tried to represent their series of blocking amendments as defence of "freedom of the press". Socialists should take a cool view of such claims coming as they do from members of a body elected by no-one clearly under the pressure of the tiny group of press barons who control 80% of all newspapers in the country.

ELECTION PLEDGE

The chequered history of the bill goes back to the Labour Party's election pledge to repeal the Tory Industrial Relations Act and to restore and guarantee trade union rights including those of "free collective bargaining" and the "closed shop". The Tories and their allies in both Houses of Parliament, Fleet Street, and industry have used various means to delay or prevent the implementation of this pledge.

The issues at stake in the present clash between the Lords and the Labour Government are very clear. They are three-fold :-

- the rights of trade unions in ANY industry
- the REAL question of press freedom (not the kind Lord Goodman means)
- and lastly, whether the Labour Government and the movement that put it in office will tolerate the Lords

gaining restored. Public expenditure should be increased to create jobs and the export of capital should be halted immediately. In industries which are totally bankrupt, such as Chrysler, the government should nationalise with a genuine measure of accountability.

THE CHARTIST

Monthly Journal of the Socialist Charter Movement

Editor: M. Davis, 82 Loughborough Rd, London SW9. 01-733-8953

The Lords and Press freedom

preventing the implementation of a key section of the election manifesto. Also under attack from the Lords has been the right of trade unionists to take action, including expulsion, against members involved in anti-union activity. An amendment proposed by Lord Hailsham even demanded special provisions for taking unions to court over such action to sue for unlimited compensation. If any such amendments were to be accepted there would be nothing to prevent any editor producing a scab-edition during a strike with either union or non-union labour and there would be nothing the union could do. The rejection of these amendments by the Commons in no way prevents parts of them being incorporated at a later stage to avoid a head-on Lords-Commons clash.

Trade unionists should be well aware of the importance of the right to a "closed shop" for all workers. At a time when attempts are being made to drive down real wage-levels and redundancies are in the offing any exceptions to this right would be a foot in the door and a threat to the job-security and living-standards of all journalists. And if it happens in one industry why not others.....?

To obscure such a direct attack on the rights of the trade unions the Lords and press barons have raised the

spectre of a threat to press freedom.

In fact, the real threat to press freedom comes from the handful of millionaires who own Britain's newspapers. The huge cost of launching and running a paper makes press freedom a reality only for the extremely rich, as the collapse of the Scottish Daily News co-op, once again confirms. The first condition for a genuinely free press is that it ceases to be a business activity.

In 1911 and 1949, Parliament Acts were passed when the Lords attempted to prevent the passage of legislation in the interests of working-people. Now doubt is even being cast on the constitutional validity of the second of these. For too long Labour Governments have attempted to pack the Lords with ageing Trade Union and Labour bureaucrats instead of tackling this bastion of privilege at the roots. Even the Tribune Group has called for the scrapping of this Parliamentary museum piece. But until a leadership emerges willing and able to mobilise the strength of the Labour and Trade Union movement against the real power, big business, the City and Fleet Street, behind the robes and coronets of the House of Lords, it will not be possible to sweep this archaic relic into the dust-bin of history where it so richly belongs.

C: How important do you think the N.W. TUC lobby of Parliament on November 26th will be in the fight to defend jobs nationally?

DS: We will be sending some delegates to the lobby. The fight against unemployment is primarily the responsibility of employed workers. At

present this fight is taking precedent over the wages struggle and the type of protest organised by the N.W. region TUC can be an important spearhead in this fight. Our occupation has been only a small part of the fight which will have to be waged in the coming months.

MEDIA WORKERS FIGHT REDUNDANCY

AN ESTIMATED third of all workers in the print and communications field are now, or about to become, unemployed. Large scale redundancies over the last year have laid waste to thousands in the media while more jobs have been lost by "natural wastage", particularly in provincial newspapers.

New technology has caused workers to be scrapped at the same time as machines. In the last ten years, it is estimated that 80,000 jobs have been lost this way. While notoriously craft chauvinist, printers are no Luddites - and oppose being made the victims of automation.

'NATURAL WASTAGE'

The National Graphical Association (NGA) at Sharman's in Peterborough opposed the introduction of OCR (optical character recognition system) and the allowing of reporters to set their copy directly on IBM typewriters. A return to work, necessitated by NUJ and NATSOPA members crossing the picket lines, brought harsh reprisals and now the NGA work-force are becoming the targets of "natural wastage". This is only one example of a far more widespread crisis. At the Observer jobs have already come under the axe. At the Guardian 135 workers are under threat and at the London Evening Standard 120 workers face the sack. This year has also seen 60 people made re-

by IRENE MACDONALD (NUJ)

dundant from London Broadcasting and at least 150 jobs lost in the editorial side of publishing. The BBC has not been renewing short-term contracts and, in trying to cut its £20,000,000 deficit, is expected to make a further 300 workers redundant.

Throughout the communications field the number of jobs available continues to shrink. And the only way to stop the shrinkage is concerted union action. Hindering this is the fragmented structure of print organisation with as many unions as there are categories of jobs. Worse still is the lack of clear political leadership to direct the strength of union members. All too often the support of other unions is called for too late, which is what happened in the occupation at Educational Audio Visual in Highbury. Here 5 women, under threat of redundancy, took over the building and asked for official support from the SOGAT chapel at their warehouse in Leeds. It took far too long for NUJ national officers to declare the strike official and the London chapel contacted Leeds themselves. Yes, they would give support, but would have to wait for official notice to do so. That came all right - 2 hours after the EAV chapel had had to call off the occupation!

It is important not to negotiate over redundancy, but to fight it from the start. NO VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES. NO LAY-OFFS. WORK-SHARING WITH NO LOSS OF PAY.

INTER-UNION CONFERENCE

An inter-union conference on redundancy in the print, held in May this year, passed a very good resolution and programme of action. It called for :-

- Fixed staffing levels
 - Overtime to be banned with no loss of earnings
 - An end to all casual working
 - Companies' books to be opened to workforce.
 - No technological changes at the expense of jobs or conditions
 - Inter-union chapels and branches to be established.
- When faced with redundancies or closure, it advocated :-
- Occupation of premises (collective canteen and nursery facilities to be established)
 - The election of a strike committee
 - Setting up support committees for sympathy strikes
 - the blacking by newspaper and broadcasting workers of all media reports hostile to the actions of workers engaged in redundancy struggles.

Where a firm attempts to introduce mass sackings or closure the de-

mand should be made for nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

The Book Branch of the NUJ, supported that conference and have even taken it further. Our new model claim contains a no redundancy clause. It continues our strong policy on staffing levels. We have been establishing grass roots links with members of SOGAT and, most importantly, we have set up an Unemployment Committee which had its first open meeting at the end of the month.

INVESTIGATION

An investigation of records has revealed that over 50 people have informed the Union of being unemployed in the publishing field, and we estimate that at least another 50 are in the same position (that makes 10% unemployment). What we are trying to do is search out all these members and bring them into the Union to fight on this issue. Some of the ideas thrown up from the floor included a chapel for the unemployed, the publicising of the committee's existence, and the circulation of information on the rights of the unemployed.

It is important that the employed are united with the unemployed and that those in jobs realise basic hard-won conditions are under threat - as the employers force and blackmail us to ask for less and less

THE DEFEATS of Bob Wright and Jimmy Reid in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) elections is a major victory for right wing Salvation Army tuba player and AUEW General Secretary, John Boyd. The election of fellow right wingers, Duffy and Laird, to the union's Executive Council gives the right control with a 5-2 majority.

From the moment the election was declared, the right wing began a vicious campaign against 'Broad Left' candidates, Wright and Reid. Sinister influences from outside the union made themselves felt in the witch hunt that was unleashed. There was, for example, the intervention of the employers' front, TRUEMID. This organisation churned out thousands of leaflets for distribution in the factories and employed as many as nine full-timers to interfere in the internal affairs of the AUEW.



BOB WRIGHT: Chose to fight the right wing by bureaucratic manoeuvre

Leading figures in this outfit were wheeled into Manchester - Bob Wright's main area of support - to hold meetings in plush hotels to which selected conveners and shop stewards were invited. At least one of these meetings was addressed by a creature who has been given PAID leave of absence from his employer so as to fight the 'Broad Left!' It can

Right score victory in A.U.E.W. elections

BY PETER GOLD



Jimmy Reid, defeated in Scotland.

only be assumed that the cash behind these operations was laid out by the employers.

SMEAR CAMPAIGN

Other well known 'democrats' like Alistair Burnett, editor of the Tory "Daily Express" and Woodrow Wyatt added their voices to the smear campaign. Wyatt even offered to advise workers personally about who to vote for. Hovering in the background as well was Colonel David Stirling, a founder of the Special Air Services and an (ex) intelligence man. The concern of all these elements was to get elected the sort of people whose life's purpose is class collaboration. Laird and Duffy are such men. No wonder Boyd is pleased!

BROAD LEFT

Also, it must be said that the CP influenced 'Broad Left' was party to its own downfall. It was Wright who ordered the return to work in the Perkins Deisel strike last year, it was Wright who instructed his members to break electricians' picket lines at Chryslers and who did nothing to mobilise national support for the factory occupations that swept Manchester as part of the 1972 claim. The organisational manoeuvres that gave the right wing the chance to use the courts against the union did not help either. The 'Broad Left's' political bankruptcy was evident throughout the battle against the Tory Industrial

Relations Act. Only at the very end - under the Labour Government - was a really firm stand taken and the members called out. Too often, the militancy of Scanlon, Roberts, Wright and co. was purely verbal. "Hesitants" was a more accurate description than "militants." The result was that all too often the rank and file was left confused. Confusion has turned into demoralisation and the employers have delivered a blow against a union which maintained - if only in words - an opposition to their anti-union laws and state wage controls.

OVERTURN

It is now likely that Boyd and his right wing pals on the Executive will attempt to overturn the union's opposition to Wilson's pay laws and the TUC's complicity in them. It is well known that Boyd wants to sew up the position and isolate the left, whose main expression is now in the 52 member lay National Committee. There, too, the 'Broad Left's' position is unsafe.

NO IRON-GRIP

The one bright aspect is that Boyd will not be able to re-establish the iron grip that Carron did in the 50's and 60's. Too many engineers will be involved in struggle to defend jobs

and wages for that to happen. The total inability of the right wing to lead such struggle will also, for a temporary period, renew illusions in lefts like Wright who will have to put up at least a token fight to preserve what little credibility they have. The fight back against Boyd and co. must start immediately. Wright, Scanlon and the 'Broad Left' who do have a following must campaign in the membership for a fighting policy to defeat the right wing. Unemployment and the 1976 pay claim provide the opportunity for this. The members will fight if given leadership and a programme which can halt the retreat. Such a programme should include demands for:

- No to the £6 limit. For an across the board increase to compensate for last years' inflation and a rising scale of wages to protect pay levels.
- A 35 hour week, no loss of pay.
- Equal pay throughout the industry.
- No redundancies. Work sharing with no loss of pay. Open the books of the whole engineering industry to workers' inspection. Resist closures with sit-ins.
- Total opposition to incomes policies. National industrial action to win the claim.

Chrysler - Test case in jobs fight

BY DAVE WILSON

THE CLOSING months of 1975 have seen the crisis in the multi-national car combine Chrysler become a test case in the fight to defend jobs and extend nationalisation. If the American bosses have their way, over 25,000 car workers will be on the dole in the New Year. And another 50,000 other workers in components and supply industries will also find their jobs under the axe.

Despite all the secret talks and discussions held between the Government and management, nothing has been resolved in the profitability crisis of Chrysler's UK subsidiary, and both sides seem content to leave the fate of tens of thousands of workers hanging in the balance.

WAKE OF BOOM

Multi-national firms such as Chryslers, Vauxhall's and Fords came to Britain in the wake of the post-War boom of the 1950s and '60s. Vast profits were made and sent straight back to the company's bosses in Detroit, America. However, for the

ternationally their car sales and production have slumped, and their markets have shrunk under pressure from frantic and more competitive rivals in the USA, Germany and Japan.

Now Chryslers are queueing up with ailing British Leyland for enormous state handouts. John J. Riccardo, a hatchet man from Detroit, was flown in specially to London and has been demanding a cool £200 million from a worried Wilson to prevent the shaky UK subsidiary from collapsing. Harold Wilson in turn has been moaning about "a pistol being held" at his head. But Chryslers big guns are being aimed at its workers in Britain.

Since early 1974, Chrysler has consistently attacked the living standards of its workers, implementing speed-up and short-time working. Thousands of workers have lost hundreds of pounds in pay through



WORKERS AT BRITISH CHRYSLER AUTO ENGINE PLANT VOTING TO PRESERVE THEIR JOBS

Chrysler workers was that they would save jobs. This has now been shown to have been a total fraud. The entire work-force of this bankrupt and crisis-ridden company now face the chop.

Towns such as Linwood in Scotland rely almost entirely on the jobs provided by the car industry, and if the plant closed, Linwood would become a latter-day Jarrow overnight.

SILENCE

Harold Wilson and the Labour Government know this. Yet Wilson complains about both sides being "Luddites". His silence about the wheeling and dealing behind the locked doors of No 10 gives the Chrysler tycoons precious time to organise sackings and disarm the workers. Detroit's intentions are clear. Unless the Labour Government nationalises the

Trade unionists are impatient and ready to act. What is needed is a clear lead from Jones and Scanlon and the other car union leaders. Already, shop-stewards at the Chrysler plants in Scotland are demanding nationalisation to secure their members jobs. Plans have also been drawn up for plant sieges and occupations if the Chrysler management attempts a lock-out or to remove machinery in the New Year.

The books of Chrysler and the other car firms must be opened to inspection by elected workers' committees and the facts used to back up an indisputable case for nationalisation under workers management. An occupation in the Chrysler combine would pave the way for the imposition of workers' control and the development of a workers' plan to solve the crisis of the whole car industry

SINCE LAST July's decision by Newham N.E. Labour Party to remove Reg Prentice as their candidate in the next Election, a torrent of witch-hunting articles about "conspiracies" in the Labour Party have started to circulate in the Tory press. In their insidious stories these papers, never known for their support for the Labour Party or working class interests, have attempted a sycophantic defence of Prentice and the Jenkins-ites. The main thrust of the articles in Tory papers like the 'Observer', has been to discredit all those members and tendencies on the left of the Labour Party fighting for socialist policies, the implementation of the social reforms in the Manifesto and for elementary Labour Party democracy.

McCarthyism

At the same time the Fleet Street barons, at present locked in a bitter battle against the closed shop, strive to create a McCarthyite climate in which the democratic rights of rank and file LP members can be suppressed. These scare stories constitute not merely an attack on the rights of individual LP members but upon the entire Labour movement.

Recently, we have seen attacks on Tony Kelly and the majority of Newham N.E. CLP, on the LPYS and 'Militant', on the 'Chartist' in Leeds and most recently on the International Marxist Group.

Unfortunately, the witch-hunts have not been confined to the pages of the capitalist press. Within the Labour Party itself, open right-wing organisations like the Social Democratic Alliance, aided at times by elements in the Transport House bureaucracy, and even by members

Democracy in the Labour Party

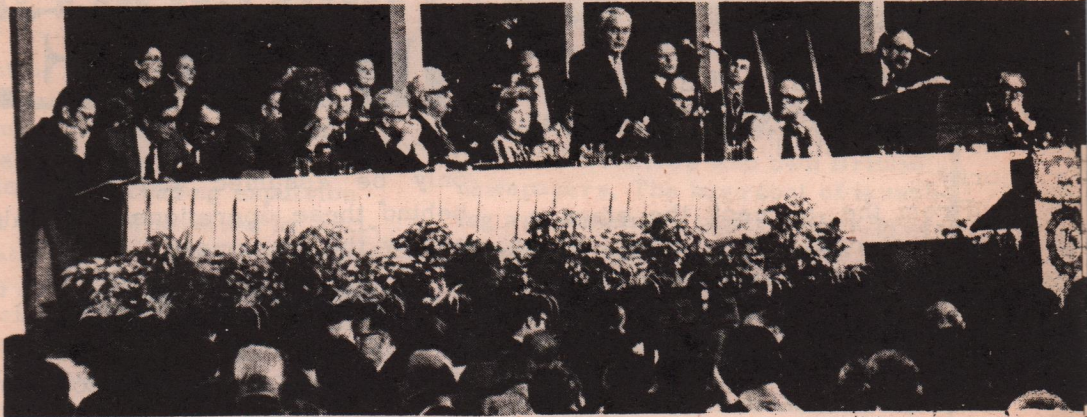
by Mike Davis

of the Parliamentary Labour Party, have launched scurrilous attacks on Labour Party activists. The recent production of a dossier on the 'Militant' tendency by the Labour Party's National Agent, Reg Underhill (see below) insinuating 'infiltration', is but the latest example of these attacks.

The most vitriolic and hysterical of all the red-scares has been the SDA document produced on the eve of this year's Labour Party Conference. The statement, which would have done McCarthy proud, was designed to expose not merely that the Labour Party had been 'infiltrated' by 'Reds' but that the National Executive Committee itself was infested with crypto-communists. This Cold-War concoction produced as evidence to discredit LP NEC members 'facts' such as writing for the 'Morning Star' and visits to Russia and China. On such 'evidence' even Edward Heath could be labelled a 'Red'!

'infiltration'

But the attacks do not stop with the SDA. 170 Labour MPs condemned the Newham N.E. LP members for exercising their constitutional and democratic rights to remove their MP. Even Premier Wilson saw fit to join the chorus and at Labour Party Conference he attacked the "self-appointed Samurai" and 'infiltration' of the left and right varieties. It was left to 'peace-mak-



LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 1975

er' Ron Hayward to defend the democratic rights of the membership.

The underlying aim of all these attacks on socialist militants in the rank and file of the Labour movement is twofold. Firstly, to silence the revolt of the ranks in the Labour Party and trade unions against the Wilson leaderships' retreat from all those Manifesto pledges which advance the interests of the working class and the acceptance of Tory-type policies of wage restraint and unemployment to cut workers living standards.

Secondly, the fear that workers will learn to link economic struggles for decent wages and jobs with a political perspective which opens the way for a political struggle inside the Labour Party against the present policies and leadership of the Labour movement.

Historically, at all times of economic and social crisis for capitalism the Tories, their press and the Labour bureaucracy have combined to lash out at the rank and file

of the labour movement in the name of 'democracy' and 'moderation'.

In the 1920s we saw persistent attacks on members of the Communist Party and Labour left, the expulsion of CP members from the Labour Party and the refusal of the MacDonald/Thomas leadership of the LP and unions (who later betrayed the 1926 General Strike and entered into coalition with the Tories in 1931) to permit the affiliation of the CP to the Labour Party.

Bevanites

In the 1930s came the attacks on the Independent Labour Party of which MacDonald had once been a founder member and in the 1950s and '60s the attempts to silence the Bevanites and those who opposed the right-wing policies of Hugh Gaitskell — of whom Harold Wilson was one. We also saw the expulsions of some Young Socialists in 1964 at the behest of Transport House.

Whilst these events have tarnished

WITCH-HUNT IN LEEDS CONTINUES

AS WAS reported in last month's issue, following meetings organised with Tony Kelly from Newham N.E. CLP, CHARTIST supporters in Leeds have been subjected to an attempted witch-hunt by the local Tory press.

According to two long 'exposures' in the YORKSHIRE EVENING POST, Chartist supporters have been involved in a plot to oust the right-wing Labour MP for Leeds S.E., Stan Cohen. As a result of these articles, which were clearly the result of press leaks from Labour Party members, a motion of confidence in Cohen was carried by the Leeds S.E. General Management Committee (GMC).

The witch-hunt has been carried on in the columns of the 'Citizen' — weekly newspaper of Leeds Labour Party. Although the 'Citizen' initially condemned the witch-hunt as an attack on the whole labour movement, a recent article has contradicted this stand. Suggestions that 'dissidents' should be excluded from membership of the party were among the hair-raising schemes proposed in this abusive article.

right-wing clique

Unfortunately, for the right-wing in Leeds Labour Party, it has become abundantly clear to socialists in the local party who was responsible for the press campaign. Even the Evening Post was forced to state that no interview had ever been given by a supporter of the CHARTIST and that

full accounts of their battles with the right-wing clique which has held a stranglehold on Leeds Labour Party for too long. We print below parts of the reply by Graham Bash — accused of leading the 'get Cohen out' move — which was printed in the 'Citizen', and which was well received by Labour activists in the City.

Graham Bash replies

OCTOBER 24th,
"I AM writing this article for the Citizen in order to answer the mountain of lies and distortions that have appeared in the local Tory press.

The reports in the Evening Post and Yorkshire Post alleging an attempted 'coup' against Stan Cohen, MP are not just an attack on the left-wing of the Labour Party. Above all, they constitute an attempt to smear the whole of the Leeds Labour Movement.

The questions at stake are, of course, of fundamental political importance... Above all the main theme of the articles was that there is a left-wing plot to get rid of Mr. Cohen. Last Saturday's Yorkshire Post actually stated that at the previous night's GMC, there was an attempt to oust Mr. Cohen.

This is all nonsense! There have been no attempts, either at last



Graham Bash (right) with Tony Kelly

against.

Why? Not because I'm involved in any 'plot' but because I have important political disagreements with him — differences which have been openly raised and debated within the party during the past year.

What has been the substance of these conflicts? First and foremost, there were differences on the Common Market. Like the majority of the Leeds S.E. party, and of the party nationally, I and other Chartists have taken a firm anti-EEC stance. We believe that the Common Market represents the interests of Big Business and can do absolutely nothing to solve the problems of working people, whether in Britain or elsewhere in Western Europe.

Mr. Cohen is well known for his pro-Market views. A resolution opposing EEC entry was passed at S.E. Leeds GMC. A further resolution — from the VS — attempting to censure

was therefore not debated at the GMC.

Secondly, there was a conflict on the question of abortion. I and other Chartists support the right of women to have a free abortion if and when they so request. In our opinion, it is futile to speak of equality for women if they are to be denied this basic right. A resolution opposing the James White Amendment Bill — which seeks to make abortion more difficult — and supporting affiliation to the local branch of the National Abortion Campaign, was put to the GMC.

Mr. Cohen is well known for his opposition to abortion, and he spoke against the resolution. It was nonetheless passed by a substantial majority. Subsequently, this year's Labour Party Conference gave its support to a women's right to free abortion on request.

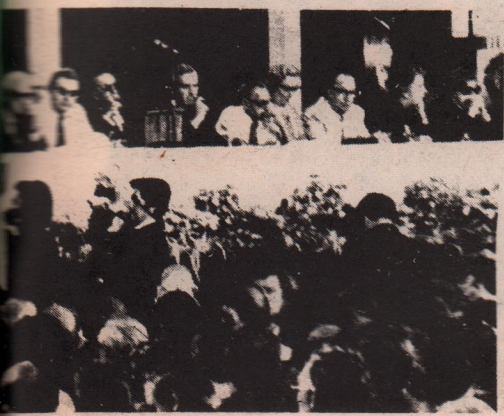
Prentice affair

Then there were the disagreements on the Prentice affair. Like many others in the Labour Movement, Chartists believe that what happened in Newham was an important victory for democracy in the Labour Party.

It was a blow against an extreme right-winger who had appeared on the same pro-EEC platform in Leeds as Ted Heath; and against someone who had spent more time attacking Clay Cross Councillors and Shrewsbury pickets than he did attacking the Tory Party.

It was an assertion of the principle that Labour MPs are not a

Party



class solution to the capitalist crisis or the Labour Party is divided by the right-wing, with the leadership succumbing to the pressure of Big Business. This will inevitably result in the withdrawal of working-class support from the Labour Party and a massive defeat to dwarf 1970, at the hands of a right-wing Thatcher-Joseph-led Tory Party in the next General Election.

It is in the interests of the whole labour movement that all tendencies who stand by Clause 4 should have the right to join and fight in the Labour Party for a socialist solution to the crisis.

If such rights to membership of the Labour Party can be afforded to the Fabian Society, the Gaitskellite Campaign for Democratic Socialism of the 1950s and today's SDA who openly flout Clause 4, then there are absolutely no grounds for excluding from the Labour Party other working class organisations who do fight for the common ownership of the means of production — Clause 4.

right of recall

We in the SOCIALIST CHARTER will continue to fight for the right to recall and remove from office any MP or councillor who refuses to carry out policies in the interests of the working class, whose party the Labour Party was originally designed to be.

The fight for real democracy in the Labour Party and trade unions is an essential part of the struggle to construct a revolutionary leadership in the mass organisations of the working class which is capable of organising the conquest of power.

the past history of the Labour Party, it is necessary to stress that right from its foundations out of the old Labour Representation Committee, at the turn of the century, the Labour Party was a broad coalition grouping ranging from the Fabian Society, through the trade unions to the ILP and marxist tendencies. The aims of the Labour Party were written into the Constitution in 1918 and are enshrined in Clause 4, which calls for common ownership of the means of production under workers' control.

The real splitters in the Labour Party are those like Prentice, who proclaims that Clause 4 is obsolete and that Party Conferences are an anachronism and the Wilson leadership who are abandoning the socialist pledges of the Manifesto and betraying working class hopes and interests.

The Labour Party is at the crossroads. Either the conditions are created for the maximum unity of the labour movement and all those organisations fighting for a working

candidates, and replace them if and when they see fit.

The day the constituency parties lose that right is the day that Labour Party democracy will be dead. Mr. Cohen evidently disagrees — since he was one of the 170 MPs who signed the round-robin supporting Prentice.

Underlying these differences has been the difference in our attitude towards the policies of the Labour Government. Mr. Cohen is a fairly consistent supporter of these policies.

open discussion

We believe that there is a world of difference between supporting policies of the Government and supporting the interests of the Labour Party. The retreats from the Election manifesto and the attacks on working class living standards — through the statutory wage laws and the growth of mass unemployment — can only produce the destruction of this Government (as did similar policies in 1970) and the return of a right wing Tory Government under Thatcher.

These disagreements are fundamental ones, and such differences probably exist in almost every CLP in the country. But where's the plot? When have Chartists or other left-wing members of S.E. Leeds CLP ever done anything other than openly and frankly put forward their views...

We can only urge all Labour Party supporters in the area to actively come into the party and take part in the debates that are a feature of this

Expulsions in Notts. East

EXPULSIONS in the Nottingham East CLP, where councillor Evans has been expelled from the Labour Group and the Labour Party and Chris Richardson faces court costs of up to £5,000, have the most sinister implications for the Labour movement.

What is the story of Nottingham East? Jack Dunnett is the millionaire MP and property speculator. As Director of 13 companies and a fringe bank he has friends and influence in the Nottingham East CLP and in the City Council. It is these "friends" who have showed themselves to be worthy allies of Dunnett in the fight against socialist policies in Nottingham East.

Chartist asked councillor Evans how he had come to be expelled. "I was expelled from the Labour Group on the City Council for opposing an office block development in my branch, which was also opposed by the Tenants Association and contrary to council policy. After consistently opposing rent and bus fare increases in the council and standing by election pledges, I was expelled from East Notts CLP by 31 votes to 22. The only reason given was that I 'had asked embarrassing questions at council meetings' and 'implied corruption over land deals.' I also put out a leaflet in Urdu explaining how the Asian community could get advice, for which I was attacked on the grounds that I was unqualified to

give legal advice. The truth is that I called for an enquiry into land deals but in no way alleged corruption, and that I stuck to conference decisions and manifesto pledges."

Evans felt the real reasons for his expulsion, which was carried out at a GMC meeting on the recommendation of the EC, without any prior warning that his expulsion was on the agenda, was because of his consistent opposition to Jack Dunnett and his business interests and his failure to fight for a programme of socialist measures. Besides being a company director, a Lloyds underwriter, having association with companies registered in tax havens like the Bahamas, Dunnett was also one of the 69 Labour turncoats who voted with the Tories to enter the Common Market. He is a member of the right wing Manifesto group and is closely associated through a Mr. Cattermole—a director of the Labour Committee for Europe, with the Social Democratic Alliance.

Cllr. Evans is now awaiting his appeal to the NEC. He has the wholehearted support of Nottingham and District Trades Council locally.

The NEC must uphold cllr. Evans appeal and the fight must be taken into the CLPs and unions to raise support for his struggle and for cllr. Evans readmission to the LP. NEXT MONTH: The Chris Richardson case.



The pro-Reg Prentice (right) platform trying to drum up support for him in his own constituency Office Workers' secretary Tom Jackson and the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins.

(left to right): Prices Secretary Shirley Williams, Union of Post

Manoeuvres against Government critics

BY PAUL MOORE

ALL THE evidence now suggests that a conspiracy exists within the Labour Party. What other explanation can there be for recent events?

On the one hand Reg Underhill, Labour Party National Agent, submitted a report to the National Executive Committee (NEC) which claimed 'infiltration' into the Labour Party by Marxists, and attacking the leadership of the Labour Party Young Socialists and the newspaper 'Militant'.

On the other hand the Social Democratic Alliance, openly set up as an organisation, continues to receive support from the Labour Party leadership. When one of its leading supporters, Reg Prentice, was removed as candidate for Newham N.E., he received a letter of support from 170 Labour MPs, including Harold Wilson.

Underhill's double standard exposes the real motivation of his report to the NEC. The Transport House bur-

people organising in the Party in and of itself. In the 1950s they tolerated the Campaign for Democratic Socialism (which had dubious sources of funds, allegedly from CIA front organisations), just as in recent years they allowed the pro-Common Market groups every freedom. Groups coming under attack have been exclusively left-wing currents which have campaigned on policies opposed to the leadership.

Once again the left is under attack. The campaign against the LPYS is just the beginning. The right-wing are determined to silence the activists in the constituencies who dare to attack the Government's betrayal of the Election Manifesto commitments. To do this they are prepared to call upon the NEC to overrule a Constituency Party's right to replace its MP, as at Newham. They are even prepared to collaborate

On November 10th that paper reported, "one hard working Labour moderate MP said to the Daily Telegraph... 'it's fashionable to be 'Left' these days and to laugh off warnings about infiltration of the party. But surely to God the party must get the message soon."

"The biggest problem is that the NEC is Left-wing controlled, but will it sit still and see MPs who back the Government being picked off one by one? How long will the democratic Left tolerate the totalitarian Left."

The 'Chartist' will defend any socialist tendency fighting for working class interests that comes under attack from the leadership in the Labour Party, whatever our differences. We have always stood for the right of every socialist to join and fight in the Labour Party, for the ending of bans and proscriptions, and for the right of affiliation, like the Independent Labour Party in the past

Angola: Solidarity with the M.P.L.A.

by Martin Cook

ON NOVEMBER 11th, Angola gained independence after 500 years of Portuguese domination. But the struggle of the masses against imperialism is only just beginning.

The threat does not come from the departing Portuguese (whose government is presently hardly capable of controlling even Lisbon!). It comes from the fake so-called "liberation" movements UNITA and FNLA, bankrolled and armed to the teeth by Western imperialism and the South African regime. In the last few weeks, an elite armoured column spearheaded by Portuguese fascists, mercenaries and units of the South African armed forces has advanced several hundred miles from the frontier with Namibia (S. W. Africa). It has captured the strategic parts of Mocimedes and Lobito, and now threatens Luanda, capital of the newly-proclaimed Peoples' Republic of Angola.

The South African intervention, under cover of defence of the Cunene valley hydro-electric scheme, is blatantly designed to secure a friendly "Uncle Tom" regime like Malawi, which will not be a friendly base for guerilla fighters against

st Vorster's racist police state.

But there is more to it than this. Unlike Portugal's other African ex-colonies (Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau), Angola is a territory immensely rich in oil, diamonds, uranium and other minerals. The Western multi-national firms are willing to fight to the last drop of Angolan blood to keep hold of these resources. The Gulf Oil Company has even set up for this purpose a wholly-owned subsidiary, the self-styled "Liberation Front of the Cabinda Enclave" (FLEC).

The main force for reaction has recently been Holden Roberto's FNLA grouping, run from US-backed Zaire and heavily injected with dollars courtesy of the CIA. President Ford is now attempting to supply an extra \$36 millions for this purpose. The FNLA controls wide areas of the north and south. The only really genuine force for Angolan liberation is the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), which has borne the brunt of the fighting since the early '60s. Though led by radical nationalists, it has not had the sup-



MPLA TROOPS OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

port of any capitalist interests inside or outside of Angola, nor has it been able to recruit on a simple tribalist basis like FNLA and UNITA.

It is the MPLA which has set up the People's Republic, and is holding out against the imperialist onslaught. It has always drawn much of its support from the workers of the big towns like Luanda, and has adopted a lot of left-wing rhetoric about "socialism" and "peoples' power". This has been reinforced by the arrival of ex-students from Portugal, influenced by the revolution there. There have been many zig-zags by and splits within the MPLA—some sections of the leadership favouring a deal with UNITA. It remains to be seen how seriously the MPLA's socialism can be taken, but one thing is sure. Rob-

erto has threatened to "kill every communist" if the FNLA gets to Luanda — which means, in fact, most of the working class.

Meanwhile Agostinho Neto's MPLA regime relies on military aid from Cuba, Russia and Mozambique. (China's open support for the right-wing forces shows how far Peking's shameful grovelling at the American's feet will take it). A defeat for MPLA will be a victory for imperialism and white supremacy throughout Southern Africa. Victory will prove a major step forward for the African revolution.

The Labour Government should immediately recognise the MPLA "People's Republic" and provide all the military and material aid they require.

PORTUGAL WORKERS & SOLDIERS CRIPPLE 6TH GOVERNMENT

By Geoff Bender

THE RESURGENT militancy of the working class and the rank and file soldiers has combined to render ineffectual the attempts of the 6th provisional government to impose order and restore military discipline.

Every effort of the government, in office since September 19th, to impose its will has met with a resounding rebuff from the workers and soldiers. When the radio stations were occupied the soldiers joined the workers and refused to leave when ordered. Attempts to disband leftist regiments have been thwarted and recent reports indicate that even new recruits are rejecting the old oath of loyalty and have instituted a revolutionary one of their own.

UNDER SEIGE

Even the successful (for the government) blowing up of the transmitter of Radio Renascença resulted in the regiment who had been duped into taking part, the Tancos paratroopers, refusing to accept further orders without full unit meetings to discuss them. 124 rightist officers were purged and the sacking of their right-wing commander was demanded.

It has become a regular occurrence now for Government offices in Lisbon to come under siege by angry workers. First the Ministry of Social Communication came under siege from workers demanding the return of the radio stations and later protesting against the bombing of the Renascença mast, later Civil Servants in the ministry took up the demand for the sacking of the minister — a former deputy in Caetano's National Assembly. The ADFA (disabled service

veterans) marched on the presidential palace to push their demands. But events came to a climax with the strike and demonstration of 60,000 building workers who marched to Lisbon's Sao Bento Palace and blocked the doors of the Constituent Assembly. Trucks were backed against the doors of Azevedo's residence next door and after a 37-hour siege the building workers won their demands — no wage freeze and 30% increases bringing their wages to £100 per month.

ALL-NIGHT SITTINGS

After this, and an unsuccessful attempt to move the Government to Oporto in the North, on 20th November the Cabinet declared its activity suspended.

Only hours after this had been announced the Communist Party held a rally of some 20,000, but instead of using it as an opportunity to organise for a government of the workers' organisations, it led the marchers to the Presidential palace where Costa Gomes made a speech warning of the dangers of right-wing dictatorship.

After two all-night sittings the Supreme Revolutionary Council on Friday Nov. 21st made tentative moves towards a new compromise. A communiqué spoke of possible government changes in a new administration and condemned the suspension of the Azevedo government as irresponsible. However the SRC did remove Carvalho from command of the Lisbon military region while leaving him in charge of COPCON. The unpopular and unsuccessful AMI (military in-

6TH GOVERNMENT



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BARRICADING SAO BENTO LEGISLATIVE PALACE IN LISBON

tervention Force) was disbanded. Appointed in the Lisbon area was Capt. Vasco Lourenço. Meanwhile commanders in the region were meeting in the COPCON headquarters in protest at the appointment of Capt. Lourenço.

A seventh government may be cobbled together but its chances of success are no better than those of its predecessors. Imperialism and the defenders of capitalism in Portugal are in a quandary—because they look to the EEC for aid they would prefer a "social-democratic solution" — but to enforce this the working class would have to be "disciplined". However, the movement of the working class and soldiers has reached a point where nothing short of a Chilean-style blood-bath can stop it and even this would only be possible with mas-

sive outside intervention and aid to the forces of reaction.

The workers' movement, too is rapidly reaching an impasse: the strikes, the demonstrations, the forms of popular power, workers' control etc. all reveal the immense potential of the working class. But more and more, these are proving insufficient in themselves. Until this power can be consolidated into organs of government resting on and answerable only to the working class then all the gains of the revolution will hang in the balance.

CIVIL WAR

The workers' movement, stronger now than at any time since before the reactionary offensive of the summer months has opened and clarified, once again, the splits in the army and all the apparatus of the state. Once again we see clearly the divisions in the Armed Forces which have reached the point where, in fact, two states and two armies face each other. As we go to press reports are coming in that in a last desperate attempt to impose 'order' and discipline Capt. Vasco Lourenço is being reimposed on the Lisbon military region, whilst Costa Gomes has declared a state of emergency and curfew in Lisbon. In response left-wing troops have occupied an airbase near Lisbon. As the left-wing artillery mount guns outside their barracks Portugal is clearly sliding towards civil war.

Craig 'coalition' plan —

Another British 'solution' for Six Counties

NOVEMBER saw the Northern Ireland Constitutional Convention finally conclude its business and wind itself up. The ending of the Conventions' operations was of little significance to the people of the Six Counties. Of greater bearing was the decision of the Labour Government to lend its support to the proposals of the extreme Loyalist Vanguard Party of William Craig.

The presentation of the report of the majority of the Convention is a mere formality on the part of the Loyalist coalition grouping, the United Ulster Unionist Council (UUUC). They know that the report will scarcely even be discussed either by the Northern Ireland Office, or indeed, by the Westminster Parliament.

The Loyalist recommendations are a thinly disguised call for the complete restoration of old-style Protestant domination of the political and social affairs of the six counties. The UUUC report calls for the restoration of the old Stormont Parliament, with all the powers conferred on it by the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, which imposed the sectarian Unionist executives onto the newly partitioned Ireland.

POWERS

These powers include the right to legislate on matters affecting the franchise, elections and disqualification from membership. They also demand control over security forces and arrangements for the new-style Stormont. Thus, in this way, the Loyalists are asking for the right to continue their traditions of gerrymandering and electoral abuses, and the bolstering up, once again of the sectarian RUC and "B-Special" police forces.

The Westminster Labour Government is clearly under pressure not to capitulate to the demands of the Loyalist right-wing. The inability of successive British Government's to deal with the anti-Unionist opposition emanating from the Catholic areas of the six counties is one of these pressures. Another, perhaps more surprising, comes from the recently rediscovered "Republicanism" of the 26 counties Fianna Fail Party and its leader, ex-Premier Jack Lynch.

At the end of October, the Lynch leadership, under pressure from



the Party's rank and file, called upon Britain to "...declare an intention to withdraw from Northern Ireland". And from abroad, there have been investigations into contraventions of human rights by the British army in the six counties, carried out by the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and groups such as the Irish National Caucus in America.

Furthermore, the Government has been provided with a soft option when it comes to reject the UUUC majority report from the Northern Ireland Convention. This 'soft-option' comes in the shape and form of William Craig's "coalition" proposals for collaboration with the middle class Catholic Social Democratic Labour Party (SDLP). Craig's erstwhile stance as the hardline "shoot-to-kill" man of the Loyalist ensemble gives him enough power within the Loyalist population to sell his ideas.

PROPOSALS

Craig's proposal for coalition with the main representatives of the Catholic middle classes has not been made in the interests of 'democracy' or civil rights in the north of Ireland. On the contrary, Craig is only thinking what a good ally the SDLP will make in the fight to root out the militant Irish nationalists in the working class ghettos of Belfast, Derry and the other major towns.

The proposal calls for a coalition for the duration of "the crisis" — presumably referring to the crisis which has shaken Ulster Unionism from top to bottom and rendered it a pale shadow of its former, monolithic self. The Fitt/Devlin leader-

ship of the SDLP is willing to cooperate in this scheme for coalition, being apparently naive to the fact that if the Catholic community is forced onto its knees again then they themselves will be pitched out of any 'coalition'.

Thus the Craig plans for coalition are not made as a concession to the Catholic case for civil rights, on the contrary, they are put forward because the Unionist movement is itself too weak and divided to take up a fight against the nationalist challenge to the Northern Ireland statelet. They are therefore obliged to call upon the assistance of the SDLP, as "leaders" of the Catholic community, to perform the functions of a Judas—to sell out the nationalist struggle.

by
COLIN KENNEDY

Over the next few months the Labour Northern Ireland Office of Merlyn Rees and Stan Orme will campaign for support for William Craig's proposals. They will present them as sensible plans for peace in the six counties. The British press will undoubtedly give them full support in waging this propaganda battle.

However, such a "coalition" would represent nothing more than one more attempt by Britain to impose a 'solution' onto the Irish people. The CHARTIST recognises that the consistent demands of the Irish people over the last 50 years of partition have not been for "power-sharing" or "community control over security arrangements" but for a united Irish nation.

The 'coalition' solution is precisely the sort of window dressing that will do far greater damage to the Irish people in the long term than the immediate solution of a British troops withdrawal could ever do.

The reality of the existence of the repressive Northern Ireland statelet, sectarianism and police-repression, will not be suppressed indefinitely. Anything short of the immediate withdrawal of the army from the north of Ireland could at best postpone a few problems — but never solve them.

Whitlam's record in office

NO ONE could have accused Gough Whitlam's Labour Governments of 1972-75 of excessive zeal in carrying out socialist policies. They came after 23 solid years of Liberal-Country Party (Tory) governments, during a long period of economic boom based on heavy foreign investment and high tariff barriers.

Like the 1964 Wilson Government in Britain, Whitlam's administration started out with high-minded intentions of improving welfare services, education, and the conditions of women and aborigines. It also aimed at buying back some of the massive foreign stake in Australian industry.

Before long however, the chill winds of economic recession had destroyed most of Whitlam's bright schemes. Record unemployment and inflation wiped out the effect of the reforms. Workers replied with a massive strike wave (Australian trade unions are just about the strongest in the world). However, Australian Council of Trade Unions leader, and also Australian Labour Party president, Bob Hawke came to the rescue in working out with

Whitlam an Australian version of the 'social contract'. Wages were held down by a fake 'indexation' scheme, which ensured they lagged behind prices.

The ruling class might have been better-advised to let the Labour Government's policies demoralise its own supporters. There was certainly precious little effective left-wing opposition within the Australian Labour Party. But the Liberal-Country Coalition, under a new leader, the hard-line right-winger Malcolm Fraser, carried on systematic harassment of Whitlam's administration. Firstly, by using its position of dominance in the Senate to block essential legislation, and secondly, by dragging up scandals of every kind against Government members.

By precipitating a conflict which has brought Labour down, the Australian ruling class have raised both a hornet's nest of workers' rage, and the prospect of Labour being returned to office—thus blocking for a time the really vicious attacks on labour that Australian capitalism will soon need.

AUSTRALIAN LEFT MARCH AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL "COUP"



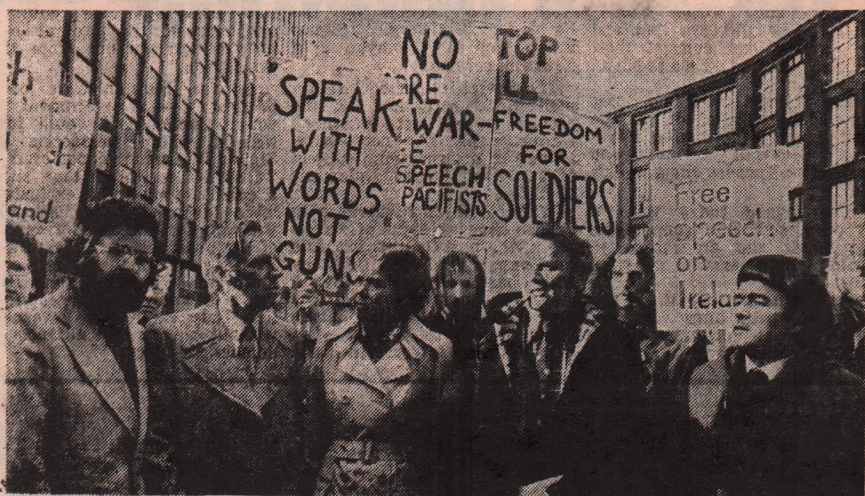
LABOUR GOVT. SACKED CONTINUED

And so the campaign of Big Business succeeded. The Liberal and Country Party — who used its majority in the Senate (Australia's Upper House) to block the Government's Finance Bills — had got the Labour Government out. Its leader, Malcolm Fraser, was installed as head of a caretaker government. And Stock Exchange share prices soared.

But that was not the end of the matter. Immediately the Australian trade union movement — one of the strongest in the world — reacted. There were massive trade union demonstrations in support of the deposed Labour Government. Thousands of civil servants in Canberra stopped work in protest, and there was a huge demonstration outside Par-

liament House. Fraser was attacked when he tried to enter his car. Beer cans were thrown at him, and civil servants battered the car windows and doors. In Melbourne, the dockers staged a protest. The Liberal Party offices in Sydney and Brisbane were attacked. In New South Wales all police leave till Christmas was cancelled by the State Government. In preparation for this month's general election on December 13th three of the largest unions immediately promised the Labour Party 100,000 Australian dollars and as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million were expected to be raised in ten days. And as we go to press there is every possibility that the plans of Big Business will come unstuck and that Labour will win the General Election.

young socialist HORNSEY YS CONFERENCE GIVES LEAD ON NEWS UNEMPLOYMENT FIGHT



Five Labour MPs join demonstrators against the Incitement to Disaffection Act outside the Old Bailey, where 14 people are accused of plotting to contravene the Act. Left to right: Andrew Bennett (Stockport N), Arthur Latham (Paddington), Jo Richardson (Barking), Stan Thorne (Preston N), and Ron Thomas (Bristol NW)

DROP CHARGES AGAINST BWNIC 14+

AN IMPORTANT political trial is currently being held at the Old Bailey where twenty pacifists, from BWNIC (British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign) are being charged with "conspiracy to incite troops to disaffection." (The offence itself carries a two year sentence, "conspiracy" carries an unlimited term.)

They distributed leaflets to soldiers which gave names and addresses of organisations that could help them if they wanted to desert. The army authorities feared that these leaflets could encourage soldiers already disillusioned by service in Belfast and by border patrols, to desert. Many of the supporters of BWNIC, in defiance of the arrests, gave out the same leaflet to more soldiers (as did the Young Liberals.) It is an offence even to possess this leaflet. Several pacifist and revolutionary journals with a total readership of 50,000 printed the leaflet.

The defendants have attempted to use the dock as a political platform from which to explain why the troops should be withdrawn from Northern Ireland and how repressive is the state that sent them there and wants to jail those who object. The judge insists that the trial is not political and stifles any political contributions.

Junior Doctors strike against NHS

BY CLIVE PULLINGER (ASTMS)

AT PRESENT, sections of junior hospital doctors are refusing to work more than 40 hours a week and have threatened all-out strike action except for providing emergency services. The action arises from JHDs demands for increases in overtime payments. Until recently JHDs did not receive overtime payments until after they had worked an 80 hour week. Barbara Castle's new contract means theoretically they work a 40 hour week, but, in practice they still have to work up to 80 hours or more at rates well below their basic rate. The Government says the JHD's demands are outside the £6 wage policy. However, things are much more complicated than they might seem. JHDs are not an homogeneous group of workers, by any means. The lowest grade, house officers, get only £55 for an 80 hour week whilst the

BERNARD MISRAHI (SURBITON YS)

This trial has taken place in a climate of escalating state repression of trade unionists, republicans and others. Des Warren is still in gaol on a conspiracy charge. Fourteen Iranians who occupied the Iranian embassy to protest against the Shah's brutal regime, and left peacefully as soon as they were asked to, are also charged with conspiracy.

This trial reminds us of other jobs the troops do. Would striking Glasgow dustmen asking squad-dies not to cross their picket line be 'inciting troops to disaffection?'

Victory for the prosecution would lead to further conspiracy trials, greater police powers and more repressive legislation generally. But the jury has already acquitted one defendant. BWNIC has received some labour movement support. But thousands more trade unionists need to realise that the result of this trial directly concerns them and that they must force Jenkins to release the BWNIC twenty and prevent any future 'conspiracy' trials.

SELECTION PROCEDURE THREAT

ANOTHER attempt at silencing left-wing opposition is being made by the London Labour Party's Regional Executive. They recently agreed that for the next GLC election and each one after that, a selection procedure in each Constituency party will not be necessary. Instead it can be moved that the present councillor be adopted — just as happens with most MPs at present.

This sudden change of rule only

highest, senior registrar, get as much as £110. Hardly badly paid as far as most National Health Service workers are concerned.

To complicate matters further some JHDs have sided with their seniors, the consultants, in their stand against the abolition of private practice in the NHS. The justified action of the JHDs over the question of overtime is in danger of being turned by a handful of right-wing elements into a campaign to wreck the NHS — one of the foremost gains of the working class.

In the Queen's Speech last month the Labour Government promised to phase the 4000 private beds out of the NHS and to separate the private sec-

WITH UNEMPLOYMENT nudging the 1½ million mark nationally, the gravity of the situation in the city localities has tended to be obscured. But the number of wholly unemployed in the London area has risen to 114,000 (Oct 1975), an increase of 34% over March 1975 and a massive 50.4% over August 1974.

INCREASE

In the Haringey and Hackney areas alone, between March 1975 and October 1975 there has been an increase in total unemployed from 8,264 to 12,725 (+35%)

In the light of this situation and in an effort to bridge the gap between the local CLPs and the unions in the area, Hornsey LPYS (together with Wood Green LPYS and Hackney North & Stoke Newington LPYS) called a conference on the 15th of November on 'Unemployment' and 'How to Fight It.' The purpose of the conference was to organise an action campaign locally to unite employed and unemployed workers which could exert real pressure on the local Labour council, union branches, the Trades Councils and the CLPs for action to combat unemployment, threatened redundancies and public expenditure cuts in Haringey.

CAMPAIGN

Speakers included Tony Banks (GLC Councillor), Mike Davis (Hackney Trades Council Subcommittee on unemployment), Mary Corbishley (Working Womens' Charter Campaign) and Roger Lofters (Black Unity and Freedom Party). The problems of youth unemployment, and in particular those of women and black workers organising to fight the dole, figured prominently in the discussion. The Conference adopted a resolution calling for a broad-

IAN WATSON (HORNSEY CLP)

based labour movement campaign in the borough to draw together employed and unemployed in the fight against redundancies and cut-backs. It declared its support for a programme of Public Works to be administered by trade unionists, Labour councillors and other representatives of working class organisations in direct opposition to cuts in local authority spending and raised the demand: "Work or Full Pay". The Campaign is pledged to involve local Trades Councils in the fight against unemployment and, through them, to form local 'Unemployed Workers' Committees.'

CLASS PROGRAMME

The LPYS/Militant leadership have recently initiated an unemployment campaign around the slogan 'No return to the 30s!' culminating in the march in Liverpool on November 29th. Unfortunately the campaign up to now has been characterised by the usual propagandism and programmatic sterility which we have come to expect from the LPYS leadership, omitting to call for any support for the 26th November march and lobby of Parliament in which the rest of the labour movement was participating or to build up local action.

The Hornsey YS will attempt to build up militant action on a class programme to put some life into the LPYS national campaign. An organising committee has been formed and will seek to get support for the campaign from more local union branches and CLPs and to build links with unemployed workers in the area, in order to carry the struggle forward from the realms of propaganda into concrete local action. The immediate tasks must be to gather and publicise more information on the local unemployment situation, to support the actions of local workers against redundancies and to commit the Labour council to a stand against the Government's public expenditure cut-backs.

£300 FIGHTING FUND

THE increasing attacks of the Wilson Government on the living standards of the working class, through the £6 pay limit, unemployment and massive cuts in public expenditure, means that the work of the CHARTIST in the Labour Party and the Trade Unions assumes increasing importance. Unfortunately, this work is impossible without money. With only one month left we have collected £202. We need a further £98 urgently to achieve our target. Please rush all contributions no matter how BIG or small to: Chartist Publications, 82 Loughborough Rd, London, SW9

Subscribe!

Subscribe to the CHARTIST. Rate £1.50 (\$7 USA) per year Payable to: Chartist Publications 82 Loughborough Rd, London S.W. 9.