



CHILE
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SRI LANKA
Pages 10 and 16

Photo: Tessa Howland (IFL)

TORIES ATTACK NHS

Workers resist attempts to forcibly remove patients

In an act of calculated brutality on Tuesday [9 September] an Area Health Authority in South London forcibly removed six patients from St Benedict's Hospital, Tooting.

By John
Bulaitis

This was part of a plan to remove all the patients at the hospital and close it down completely. But action by workers at St. Benedict's and elsewhere prevented this from happening. The fight to save this hospital for old people goes on.

At 10.30 on Tuesday morning [9 September] three private ambulances drove through the picket. They carried six elderly women out of their beds, wrapped them in blankets and removed them from the hospital. Three were on stretchers and three in wheelchairs. One 59-year-old woman who has been semi-conscious for seven years and who has to be drip-fed through the nose was clearly very shaken.

The AHA management had to use private ambulances because ambulancemen had pledged not to cross any picket line and not to be used in any way to shift the

patients.

Arthur Hautot, the occupation committee secretary, told 'Militant':

"On 17 September it will be a year since the AHA first threatened to close the hospital. Since then workers here have united to keep services going, with an occupation of the hospital since last November.

"Tory minister Gerard Vaughan has rejected our carefully argued submissions for keeping the hospital open." The removals were attempted more than three weeks before the official closing date on 1 October.

Workers were determined to prevent any more patients suffering in this way. The picket grew to 50 and workers padlocked the gates and put a lorry and a car on the driveway, with ninety patients still inside.

The AHA then got a high court injunction ordering the gates to be unlocked and ordering a number of workers, including members of the

occupation committee, not to "interfere" or make further attempts to prevent the removal of patients.

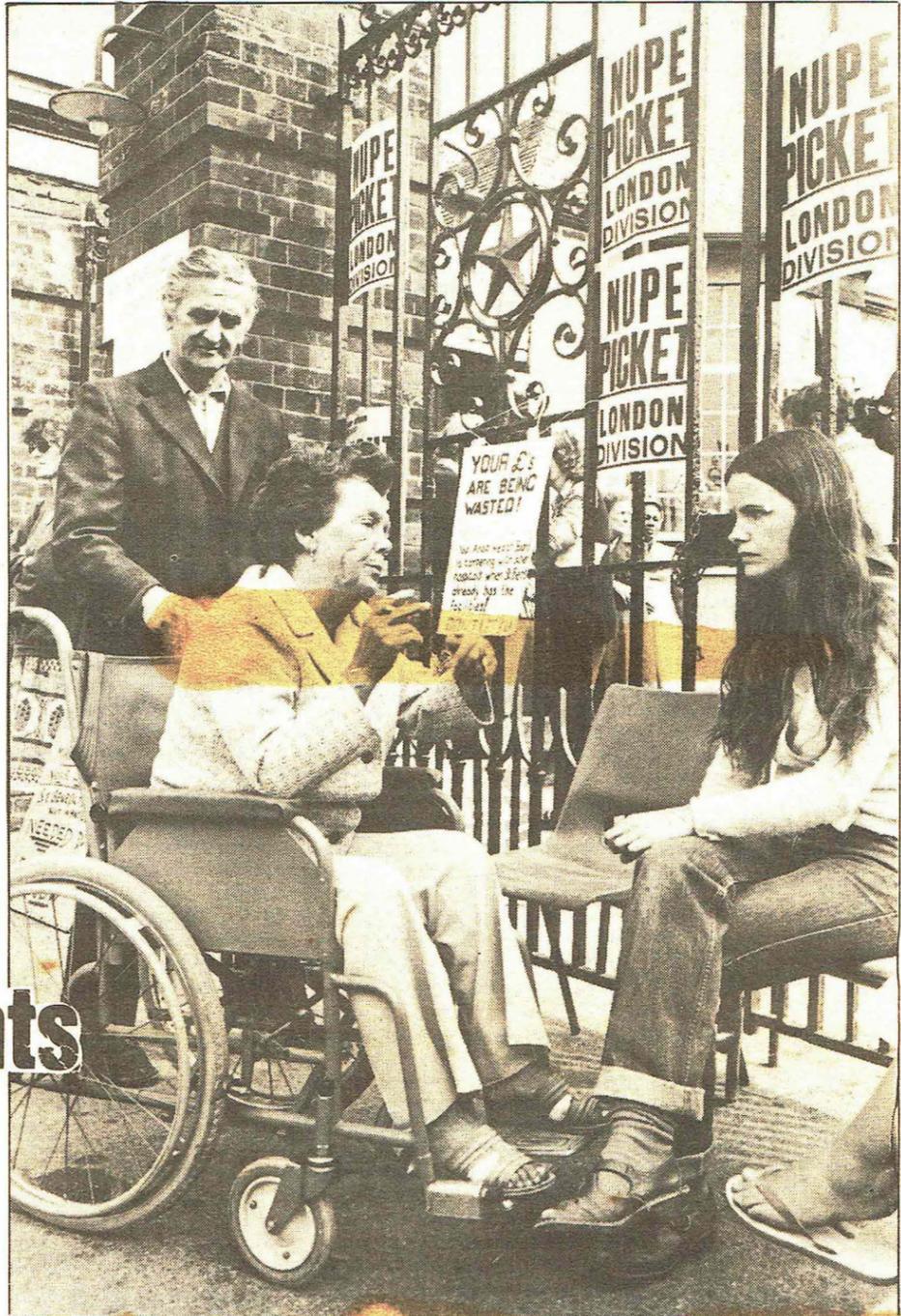
The union convenors of London Ambulances then intervened to tell the AHA that if any more patients were removed, no more patients would be moved in or out of any hospital in the management district.

The AHA then backed down and agreed a truce. On the understanding that the gates were unlocked they would not move people out or serve injunctions until Thursday [11 September]. Talks will be held between the union, the AHA management and the Ambulance Services.

The Occupation Committee are asking for a mass picket, particularly for Thursday and Friday [11 and 12 September], until further notice.

Arthur Hautot's reaction was, "We don't trust the management. The fight goes on to save your services and our jobs at St Benedict's. Now it is the crunch. We need your support."

Rush letters and messages of support to A Hautot, St Benedict's Hospital, Church Lane, Tooting, S.W.17.



Pickets outside St Benedict's Hospital resist attacks by Wandsworth and East Merton Health District

AUEW-Fight for left wing leadership

"The threat of mass unemployment, with the permanent loss of whole sections of the engineering industry, demands a leadership for our union which energetically fight the Tories' policies and live up to the aspirations of AUEW members."

Bob Wright, the AUEW presidential candidate supported by the left was speaking to 'Militant' supporter Jon Ingham in an interview as balloting opened this week.

"The union's present leadership has lost credibility and there is a void between them and the membership. As a result of the experience of the last two years, there's a



Bob Wright

growing disunity in the union and this is very unhealthy."

Why are the combine committees under attack?

The combine committees of shop stewards are vital for workers in the large national and multinational companies that now embrace most of our industry.

Instead of reacting negatively to combine committees, we should include recognition of the combine committees, and there should be full recognition in the AUEW's constitution.

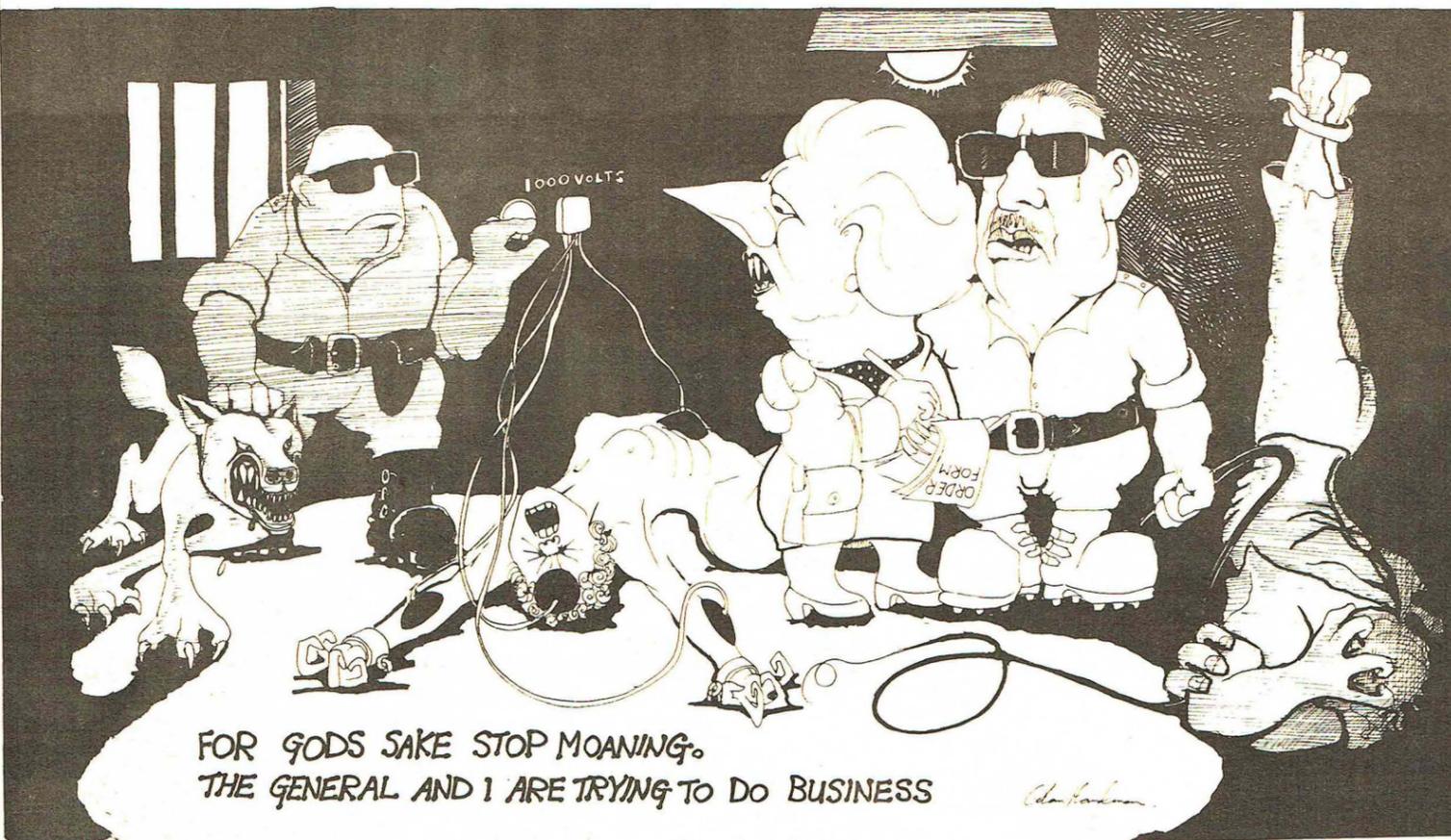
When Derek Robinson was dismissed at Leyland, this was a direct product of a combine committee function, because he was accused of publishing a combine document as chairman of that combine.

Every member in the combine in BL, I understand, with consent from the AUEW's national officials, has been warned that any further work-time activity connected with the combine will result in their instant dismissal.

This is a challenge which we can't ignore and must be repudiated.

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PAGE TWO

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE ONE



FOR GODS SAKE STOP MOANING.
THE GENERAL AND I ARE TRYING TO DO BUSINESS

CHILE-BUSINESS AS USUAL

Six days after Claire Wilson was tortured, and four days after the local Foreign Office official got her released from jail, the Tories announced that arms sales would be renewed to Chile.

Last week, moreover, Thatcher called on arms manufacturers to step up their sales throughout the 'third world'—that is, mainly

to military-police dictatorships.

In her statement to Amnesty International, Claire Wilson tells of how she was arrested on 16 July, tortured and threatened with sexual assault. Her friend, Jose Miguel Benado, was tortured: "They applied electricity all over his body; I could hear dogs which were being set on him; I also heard them saying that they were going to put a

stick up his anus; then I heard a heart-rending scream."

The Tories have kept quiet about these tortures. After all, it might get in the way of business profits. Last month Trade Minister Cecil Parkinson visited Santiago, and it is reported that several large arms contracts are on the point of being confirmed with the military junta.

Big business has its links—

so must the labour movement. Increased solidarity action is vital.

The campaign against the arms sales must be stepped up by the trade unions and Labour Party and active solidarity given to Chilean socialists who are struggling for a Chile free from oppression.

The LPYS Chile Socialist Defence Campaign has already staged a number of

meetings throughout the country and raised over £1,400 [before costs].

A new leaflet on Chile has just been produced by agreement with the Labour Party. This is now available free [donations to the LPYS Campaign are welcome] from Andy Bevan, LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London S.E.17.

[See article: 'Chile: Lessons of the Coup', pages 8-9].

Militant

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Action to Bring down Tories

The idea, apparently accepted by some right-wing leaders of the TUC that the Tory government is riding high and that all the labour movement can do is exert pressure on the Tories to "change course" is totally false.

The Tories' economic policies are a disastrous mess, as even some of Thatcher's former supporters in the City are beginning to admit.

The latest figures for money supply show that even the monetarist policies which are the Tories' justifi-

cation for their vicious deflationary attacks on the working class, are not working. In four months there has been over a 10% rise in the money supply, which exceeds the Tories' target for the full year. Some of the city stock-brokers and capitalist economists are now beginning to question the effectiveness of "monetarism", despite their fervent support when That-

cher came to office.

One thing is clear: the Tories' monetarist policies have done nothing to arrest the catastrophic decline of British capitalism. If inflation has temporarily slowed down slightly it is because of the recession. At the same time, manufacturing output continues to decline, investment predictions are even gloomier than before, and even former strong companies like ICI are being hit by the slump in big business profits.

The confusion and contradictions of the Tories' economic policies are themselves a reflection of the crisis of British capitalism. Big business is frantically searching for a way out of the crisis. But every measure they attempt only makes things worse.

A "change of course" back to Keynesian policies of high public spending to sustain demand and stimulate production offers no way out.

The "liberal" Tories who

fear Thatcherite policies will provoke explosive repercussions have no real alternative, either. They simply favour attacking the working class with a little more stealth. But their aim is the same: to attempt to restore the profitability of big business at the expense of the working class.

It is therefore futile to expect that the Tories can be pressurised to adopt policies which would be more favourable to working people. Nor will it be possible, with a limited perspective of pressuring the Tories, to mobilise a massive working-class movement against the Tories.

This was reflected by the TUC at Brighton. Despite the disastrous situation facing millions of workers, with over two million unemployed, the TUC was one of the most muted for years.

Some of the trade union leaders have tried to justify this by arguing that the workers are accepting the redundancies, that there is no mood to fight on pay, and there is no mood to fight to bring down the Tories. But such pessimism is not justified by the present situation.

The Tories are sitting on a volcano. Beneath the relatively calm surface on the industrial front there is a massive accumulation of anger among workers at the bosses and at the Tories. What is lacking is a clear lead from the labour and trade union movement.

There is a growing awareness amongst active trade unionists that bold national action is needed. But this cannot be organised simply by demanding a "change"

in Tory policies. Nor can it be organised on the basis of a revamping of the failed policies of the last Labour government. Unfortunately, this is what lay behind the TUC's equivocal resolutions on opposition to the Tories, and the acceptance of a return to incomes policy [i.e. pay restraint] under a future Labour government.

The rank and file of the Labour Party and the activists within the trade unions have made it absolutely clear that they entirely reject any return to the policies of the last Labour government, to another attempt to manage a diseased capitalist economy, which could only lead to further disaster for working people.

This winter—as even the serious capitalist commentators now foresee—will see enormous industrial battles. Already there is the possibility of a national dock strike. There will also be further enormous battles against the cuts.

The Tory government will inevitably be undermined. But all the different battles of the workers must be brought together into a unified struggle to bring down the Tories and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

The main plank of the labour movement's fighting programme must be the nationalisation of the big monopolies, the banks, and finance houses, with compensation on the basis of proven need only. This would provide the basis, with workers' control and management, of a socialist plan of production—the only way of solving the problems of working people.

What about the need for a Labour and a socialist alternative?

Democracy in the Labour Party—the principle of re-selection of MPs, the question of the determination of the manifesto by the NEC and a broader franchise for electing the leader of the Party is an essential base from which Labour can begin to reconstruct a socialist policy as its central challenge to the Tories in the future.

I believe the majority of Labour Party members are behind these principles. If there are attempts to frustrate them by manipulation, we'll pay a dear price. We would then continue to have disunity and disenchantment with the Labour Party as an alternative to the Tories.

I believe that when we talk about an alternative strategy, we are talking about a socialist challenge, a strategy that will begin to change the very nature and the structure of society in Britain which is still based on class interests. The economic well-being of the majority of people is in the hands of a small portion of the community. This is not meeting the needs of this country, nor will it meet the needs in the future.

We must re-instate those issues which have always been Labour policies, but often ignored by Labour in government: the rebuilding of the social services, the commitment to full employment and the rebuilding and total democratisation of our education system.

I believe if we adopt socialist policies we will win the minds of the vast majority of working people and win an overwhelming victory against this reactionary Tory government which has done so much damage to the interests of working people.

The AUEW's presidential election is crucial for the whole labour and trade union movement. How is the campaign going?

I have spoken at over 50 meetings in different towns, in Wales, in the South of England, in the North, for which I have used part of my holidays and a major meeting in Glasgow as part of the campaign. We have also had a series of factory-gate meetings, met shop stewards committees, and we have had the opportunity of discussing with them the day-to-day problems that they face. I think the campaign has been extremely valuable. You can't campaign by staying away from the members, you have got to meet them and be prepared to answer their questions and deal with their problems.

We will undoubtedly have a mass onslaught against myself and other progressive candidates in these elections, and the press and media will be loaded in Duffy's favour. I believe therefore, that the activity of our stewards on the shop floor in countering that propaganda is particularly important.

Yorkshire rallies and meetings and reports, see page 3.

NO TO RENT INCREASES!

A packed meeting of 250 tenants at Witton Labour Club last week called for total opposition to the 38% rents increase imposed by the Tories and Liberals on Liverpool council.

It called for support for any tenant who withheld their rent increases or took action against this direct cut in the living standards of working people.

The meeting, called by Valley and Netherley Labour Party branches, was part of a campaign against the average increase of £7.50 a week.

Councillor Terry Harrison indicated that the main beneficiaries of the rise were the big money lenders. Contrary to the point of view advanced in

the press and the media about 'cosseted council tenants' the council tenant was responsible for financing all elements of council dwellings, such as repairs to council dwellings, the upkeep of estates.

The enormous expenditure on slum clearance was paid for out of the housing revenue

account which is financed almost exclusively from council rents.

Councillor Derek Hatton told the meeting that out of £20 million collected out of rents in the last financial year, £1.36 in the pound went directly to pay interest charges so at the present time there wasn't one penny piece paid by the council tenants which was actually going to write off the debt. It was going to pay directly the enormous interest charges of the money lenders.

Eddie Loyden (ex-Labour MP Garston) addressing the meeting said that his experience in Parliament illustrated the enormous problems of fighting against the establishment. The only way forward was for the Labour Party nationally to mount a campaign for the return of the Labour government which was prepared to carry through the socialist transformation of society.

The speeches from the floor was of such a nature that they weren't limited to just council rents. They dealt with the question of cuts of the social

services and the lack of maintenance facilities and the mass unemployment figures that exist within the Merseyside area.

Speaker after speaker from the floor denounced the policies of the present government and an interesting feature was that every time somebody referred to and attacked Thatcher they were greeted by an enormous round of applause.

Maria O'Reilly (Netherly rent section committee) indicated her support for the struggle against rent increases and condemned the policies of the Tories and the Liberals. She called for the elimination of all rotten housing and for a housing programme which would provide decent living accommodation for the council tenants of Liverpool.

After the resolution was passed it was agreed that this could only be the beginning of the campaign. For it to be successful it needed to be taken up by trade union branches, Labour Parties and tenants movements throughout the city and linked with other struggles in the country against rent increases.

By Tony Mulhearn

(Liverpool Labour Party)

AUEW YORKSHIRE ENGINEERS CAMPAIGN

A series of well-attended, enthusiastic public meetings in the Yorkshire region augurs well for the outcome of the presidential election of the AUEW.

The election of Bob Wright would be a big step forward for the union, and the Labour Party Young Socialists and 'Militant' supporters have played an active part in the campaign to turn the AUEW onto a leftward course.

In the biggest public meeting of the tour—three to four hundred predominantly engineering and other industrial workers attended a rally in Leeds town hall, with Tony Benn and Bob Wright speaking.

Tony Benn emphasised that the danger to the labour movement posed by the Tory government underlined the need for thorough democratisation of the Labour Party, with re-selection, right of recall over MPs, and the election of the leader being carried through. Bob Wright stressed that the AUEW presidential campaign was not a question of personalities but of the need for a clear, fighting leadership that could take on the issues of the day.

Speaking from the floor, a number of 'Militant' supporters stressed the need to link the fight for a left leadership in the AUEW with a programme of bold socialist policies, particularly launching a fight on the issues of unemployment, shorter hours and a living wage linked to

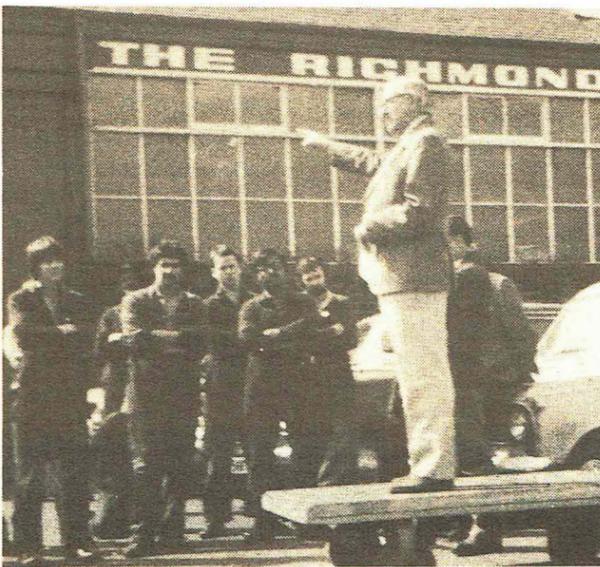
the cost of living.

The excellent turn-out at the Leeds and elsewhere reflected the increased activity in the local factories, where there had been leafletting, discussions and of meetings at the factory gate or on factory premises.

At Richmond in Leeds, for example, 80 workers attended a dinner-hour meeting, where Bob Wright spoke. Shop Stewards from other local factories also attended, and the issues were spelt out.

Another meeting, attended by over a hundred workers at International Harvestors in Bradford had, however, to be held outside the factory gates. The personnel officer had told the convenor that they would not allow Bob Wright inside—because they were quite satisfied with Terry Duffy as president of the AUEW!

The first meeting of the tour had been in Hull, with an enthusiastic attendance of over 50 engineering workers. Shop Stewards from Lucas Aerospace emphasised the need for national combine committees, and made it clear that, having fought for the nationalisation of their industry in the first place, they would be campaigning against de-nationalisation. They



Bob Wright addresses a factory gate meeting at Richmond factory, Leeds

fully supported the demand of re-nationalisation without compensation by a future Labour government.

Supporting their demands, Bob Wright emphasised that ordinary workers contribute much more to their factories over the years than any shareholders, and shareholders had no right whatsoever to write off the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of workers.

The meeting in Bradford was attended by over 90 engineering workers and Labour Party members. The key note of this meeting was the need for trade unions as a whole to mobilise for the implementation of a 35-hour week and a national minimum wage of at least £100 a week.

Many factories in the Bradford area were at the time of the last engineering strike locked out for two weeks, or more without any national backing, and workers in this area therefore feel the need for a real alternative, a fighting leadership for the union. Summing up the discussion, Bob Wright spelt out the need for socialist policies for Labour, and

urged AUEW members to join their Labour Parties and build factory branches to strengthen support for socialist policies in the Labour Party.

There was also a successful meeting, attended by over 40 engineering workers, in Huddersfield.

In this Yorkshire tour over a thousand have been actively involved in factory and public meetings, where Bob Wright has explained his policies and answered questions from engineering workers.

Even the media has been forced to recognise the importance of this campaign, and Bob Wright has been interviewed on Leeds and Bradford radio, and also on Yorkshire Television.

We hope that the campaign will have prepared the way for a victory for Bob Wright, which would be the beginning of a strengthening of the left in the AUEW. This is vital, not only for engineering workers, but for the whole labour movement. If the first ballot is indecisive, however, we will redouble our efforts for a left victory in the second round.

LPYS organisation school



Part of the LPYS February demonstration against the Tories

Trade unions must help unemployed

"In Greenock, the unemployed youth are so angry at being left to rot on the dole, they have set up their own union—the Union of Unemployed Teenagers to highlight their plight." This was reported by Willie Griffin at the Labour Party Young Socialists National Organisation School on September 6th.

"The LPYS have been campaigning for the trade unions to organise the unemployed so that they are not left isolated. We must campaign for all those on the dole to be drawn into the trade unions and organised to fight back with those in work to establish day centres such as in Newcastle and force councils to provide free education, recreation and transport for the unemployed."

"The threat of unemployment is forcing young workers to get organised," reported Rob Cadwgan from Bristol. He told of how his firm, Bendix had plans to sack 300 workers. "So far they have only announced 99 redundancies because legally they are entitled to give just 30 days notice but 100 redundancies requires 90 days notice!"

"Union meetings used to be dead but the last one was very different. Over 60 people turned up. Fearing that if the shop stewards accepted the company decision, the management would first pick off the most militant workers then carve through the rest, the LPYS members in the factory and other young workers mobilised a contingent of 40 to attend the union meeting.

"We won the day, committing the union to a fighting

policy. Now we are trying to make sure they implement it."

Joe Cox spoke at the Organisation meeting of how young members were coming to the fore in the committee of his 8,000 strong branch of the CPSA. "They are not only angry at Thatcher's policies but also the failure of the right wing leadership to defend their members," said Joe.

In a discussion on school students, Josie Aitman (Merseyside) told of how they had set up a school students section of the LPYS in the area; every city should take this idea up. They are waging a successful campaign against corporal punishment in schools and are holding lobbies to ensure that the council ban it from the local schools.

"Now the National Labour Party demonstration on November 29, against unemployment should be our main focus," declared the National Chairman, Kevin Ramage. "We want at least 10,000 young people in the LPYS contingent."

"Chester LPYS have shown what can be done by committing their Labour Party to print 30,000 leaflets and organise coaches for the march. Get out onto the streets, organise the youth in their day to day struggles and show them that those struggles and the fight for socialism are one and the same."

By Margaret Reevey

(National Committee, LPYS)

Labour Party Demonstration against unemployment Liverpool 29 November

Paper Sales

MAKE SURE THAT WORKERS GET THE TRUTH

Armed with hundreds of old copies of the paper, Humberside 'Militant' supporters recently launched a sales drive.

By John Goodby

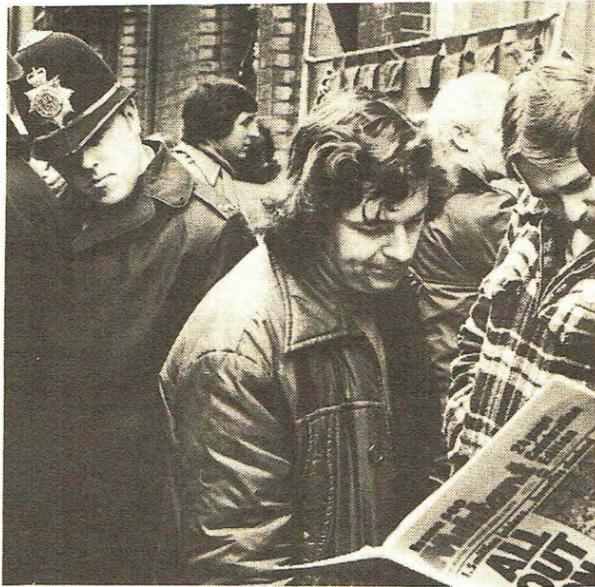
In two local towns, working-class estates were selected and leafletted with free issues and explanatory messages; each house was then knocked-up a few days later, and people asked what they thought of the 'Militant', with a view to taking it regularly.

But the tremendous response received on the estates surprised even the optimists amongst us! With the anger against this Tory government now beginning to take political shape, there must be literally hundreds of thousands of workers up and down the country waiting to read our paper.

In Beverley, for example, a predominantly rural area dominated by Tory backwoodsmen, we were told that the paper was "like a breath of fresh air."

After five hours work over a few weeks, we now have a round of almost twenty papers in a town where the working class is supposed to be non-existent!

In Scunthorpe, south of the river, the only new jobs being created are in the demolition



Everybody wants to read 'Militant'

of blast-furnaces. It was against this background of the insane logic of the profit system that a similar campaign was conducted. A new round of fifteen sales was established.

As in Beverley, dozens of one-off sales were also made. Housewives, the unemployed, school students are all regular readers of the paper, not just activists in the labour movement. But these people must be told about 'Militant'—

then the paper sells itself.

All 'Militant' supporters must take up campaigns to get our ideas across to all sections of the working class and counter the distortions of the bosses' press.

Only the best is good enough for working people, and the 'Militant' is the best; or, as one young worker simply replied when asked what he thought of the paper, "The truth!"



Young Socialists pack in to one of the many meetings at this year's LPYS Summer Camp. If the Labour Party Youth School is to be a similar success it should be put into the hands of the National Youth Officer

LPYS say - Widen 'Youth School' appeal

With the cost of attending the Labour Party Youth School being a prohibitive £60, its no wonder only 19 people attended!

By Willie Griffin
(LPYS National Committee)

Because of this, those who attended were mainly trade union sponsored and for most it was the first time they had come across the YS. Our ideas were warmly received by these young workers.

Two comrades, attending the school, had the threat of redundancy hanging over them, and others worked in textiles, engineering, coal; industries that are facing closures at present.

After pressure a session was arranged for a trade union speaker to address the school. Tony Humphries, an APEX official, gave his views on Labour Party Democracy; MPs should elect the leader who in turn should control the

manifesto.

He said APEX supported the Underhill Report; in his opinion the 'Militant' was "a party within a party" financed by mysterious means.

Tony Saunois replied by pointing out that even the moderate SPD Party Leader in Germany was elected by conference which also has a full veto on any manifesto. Tony explained 'Militant' has always been open about its finance which is raised from the labour movement and published in the Fighting Fund column every week—there's hardly anything mysterious about that!

That while the APEX leaders accuse 'Militant' of being a 'party within a party', it supports Shirley Williams and the 'Gang of 3' who are

threatening to split the Labour Party, if they don't get their own way.

The school was run in sharp contrast to the YS Summer Camp, which was attended by 400 and had national speakers and a varied and full political programme.

The LPYS National Committee feel that if the Youth Summer School is to be improved and used to attract more young trade unionists into the LPYS, then the size of the school must be expanded. Its appeal must be widened by a more varied programme with more national speakers and with leading trade unionists.

The youth school should be put in the hands of the national youth officer.

Delegates expressed their solidarity with Chilean socialists by collecting £38 for the Chile Socialist Defence campaign. 12 'Militants' were sold and £19 collected for the fighting fund.

FIGHT FOR JOBS

In response to the recently announced unemployment figures Birkenhead and Wirral Young Socialists branches have been organising a campaign against unemployment in the Birkenhead area.

The careers service can offer only one job to the 1,230 youth on its books!

By Kevin Bean
(Birkenhead LPYS)

The main aims of the campaign have been to draw attention to the scandal of mass unemployment and an attempt to organise the unemployed, especially unemployed youth to fight back.

YS members have been leafletting the dole queues and estates, and collecting signatures for a petition. We

are demanding that the Council provide day-centres, open-schools in the evenings and at week-ends, reduce bus fares and charges at sports and other facilities for unemployed and youth.

Jobs and training by expanding not cutting, the council direct works department is being demanded.

We realise that those things won't be given to us on a plate and that we will have to develop a mass campaign to force the Council to do this.

As part of the campaign a public meeting was held in Birkenhead. The speakers, Ted Wilkinson (Wirral Tenants Federation), Labour councillor Ralph Davies, and Steve Callan, Birkenhead Young Socialists spoke of the lack of jobs and decent facilities on estates like the Woodchurch and the need to organise a fight-back.

Speakers from the floor reflected the experiences and anger of the unemployed and youth. Over 60 people attended the meeting.

The meeting agreed to organise a march and lobby of Wirral Borough Council on September 30th to demand decent facilities and jobs.

The Young Socialist campaign has had an enthusiastic response. Working class people, young and old, out or in work, on estates like the Woodchurch are not going to take Tory attacks lying down!

Thatcher

Bristol North East LPYS had a large stall at the recent St. Paul's festival.

Some home made display panels attracted a lot of attention. But the real star was a darts competition with a picture of Mrs Thatcher as the target.

Within three hours we collected £11 which is equivalent to 110 people giving the Iron Lady a taste of cold steel. If this mood of hatred was channelled into political action then we would soon see the end of the Tories and their system!

By Brian Kelly

featured in the "Leicester Mercury."

We must ensure that the battle for a 'Broad Left' leadership of the AUEW is fought on the shopfloor, not in the editorial offices of the Tory press!

By John Merrell
(Leicester West CLP)

Hackney

Recently, about 300 youth apparently between 12 and 15 years old, rioted in Hackney, East London, looting a posh shop and attacking the solitary policeman present. It is significant that their anger was directed at a shoe shop selling "high quality" shoes [at up to £200 a pair!], the only shop of its kind in this run down area.

The hatred of youth in Hackney for the police came into the open as police reinforcements arrived to laughter and jeering. Events in St. Pauls, Hackney and Leicester all reflect the burning anger of youth with the dead end offered to them by the capitalist system.

We must make sure that anger can be directed into a positive struggle for a socialist alternative to the capitalist system that brings us little hope of decent living standards.

By Kevin Ramage
(LPYS National Chairman)

Build left in AUEW

On Monday, August 18th, works convenors, shop stewards and other AUEW activists gathered to hear Bob Wright (Presidential candidate) and Brendan Bates (EC candidate) explain the pressing need for a 'Broad Left' leadership of the AUEW.

This meeting was the culmination of several weeks' campaigning in which the LPYS had played a major role. Many convenors and shop stewards were approached to publicise the rally amongst their members, and in the last two weeks a substantial number of factories were leafletted.

In all, well over 2,000 "Campaign for a fighting AUEW leadership" leaflets were given out.

In the absence of a locally organised 'Broad Left' such a scale of activity could not have been achieved without the Young Socialists. This campaigning was rewarded with an attendance of over

40. This meeting undoubtedly showed the tremendous potential for the re-birth of a local 'Broad Left'. Every AUEW member left the rally determined to ensure that nationally a fighting leadership is elected by campaigning in their own factories and branches.

Although the local press and radio were invited to the rally neither attended; during the same week a local visit by Terry Duffy was well



■ An article in the 'Irish Times' [22 July] described a recent fascist rally in Madrid. As well as being addressed by the leader of the Spanish fascist party, Fuerza Nueva, those in attendance [with their fascist salutes and blue shirts] were addressed by what the paper described as the British representative, Mr Louis Rothfield. When this individual, who runs a management consultancy in Madrid, was asked what his politics would be if he still lived in Britain, he answered, "Conditions there are very different, but I think I would be a moderate Tory." The author of the article, Michael Foley, said that this "moderate Tory" gave "possibly the most popular speech of the evening." Judging by this Thatcher and Joseph would go too far to the right even for the Spanish fascists!

■ Workers may be surprised that the heads of BBC are making a conscious effort to maintain 'class balance' in their reports. Recently on August 12, on Radio 4, the commentator was heard to say: "Well, as we have just had an item on Whippet racing, we must ensure that we restore the class balance" and went on to interview Sir Alec Douglas Home in a boring monologue about grouse shooting! Well, at least the BBC showed willing—but then it was discussing the world of sport. When it comes to the real world of politics, as every trade unionist or labour activist knows, the BBC gets back to its traditional role of peddling capitalist propaganda. At the YS summer camp this year, comrades saw the way the BBC bosses censor labour representatives—when Tony Benn criticised the BBC on this very point, the BBC bosses immediately recalled its film crew, and no report appeared on BBC news!

■ Remember the old excuse for school uniform? It's really so you can't tell who the poor kids are, they say. Well, one Nottinghamshire school doesn't seem to be living up to that philosophy. As in so many schools nowadays, pupils had to raise the money for equipment that cut-to-the-bone budgets won't provide. A sponsored general knowledge test was organised to buy a mini-bus. Pupils were allowed to attend in their own clothes—except those who couldn't raise £2 worth of sponsors. They were laid open to teasing and ridicule—conspicuous because they had to wear school uniform. "Under these pressures many children were sponsoring one another out of scarce pocket money so as not to be 'odd man out'" said parents in a letter to the Council Labour Group leader.

Half a world away at least from Notts. Comprehensive Schools, the cuts are biting again. Philosophy students at one university have started doing odd jobs to pay for lectures that may be chopped. Perhaps their next course should be on historical materialism—in the school of the class struggle. There maybe they'd learn that if they used their time to fight in the labour movement to end capitalism, not only could their own educational facilities be expanded, but also philosophy and culture could become the property of all those who create the wealth on which it is built.

Labour in Power?

A review of the new book "Labour in Power?" by David Coates, a university lecturer. Published by Longman Group Ltd. Price £4.95.

Dennis Healey and other leading members of the 1974-79 Labour government. Why did the Labour government act in an anti-working class manner and is a new party the solution?



David Coates' new book claims to be "a full and accurate account of what actually happened between 1974 and 1979" and "a clear statement of why the Party was unable to live up to the radical ambitions expressed by leading Party figures in 1973 and 1974."

By
Pat Craven
(Dundee LP)

Now that Labour is again in opposition and is drawing up its manifesto for the next general election, it is vital to look back at what happened to the manifesto promises of 1974 after Labour came to power.

This book records in minute detail the step-by-step retreat from the radical promises of the election—the austerity budgets, the social contract, the public expenditure cuts.

It pays particular attention to the government's relations with the unions, which at first collaborated closely and fully supported the social contract, but gradually were forced by the pressure of their members to move into opposition, culminating in their total rejection of the 5% pay policy of 1978.

The book correctly explains that these events were not simply the result of mistakes by the Labour leaders, but inevitable consequences of the world-wide economic crisis against which the government was forced to act.

"Well might Michael Foot speak to the 1975 Labour Party Conference of the 'typhoon' within which the Labour government were forced to govern."

The capitalist system, having been left intact by the government, became its mas-

ter—"the government looked to the regeneration of British industry to guarantee employment, and to high public spending on social services to guarantee trade union support."

"But as it entered office its leading figures had not come publicly to recognise or admit that industrial regeneration in a capitalist system required major unemployment, and had as its prerequisite a lower rate of inflation than itself required lower government spending in the social area."

Coates further argues that the "alternative" put forward by the Labour left has exactly the same failing. Using "the state" to regenerate the economy through public ownership and state planning, he argues, in no way changes the underlying capitalist system.

On the contrary, insofar as the state intervenes in the economy, it is bound to be for the purpose of trying to stabilise and strengthen capitalism.

The Tribune left are also condemned for their resort to purely national "solutions" to

the crisis, such as import controls and withdrawal from the EEC, which not only offer no way out of the international crisis of capitalism, but actually encourage the view that British workers have special problems with British "solutions", when in fact their interests are identical with those of their fellow workers elsewhere.

From this analysis of the left's policies, Coates proceeds to dismiss all hope of transforming the Labour Party into a vehicle for achieving socialist transformation.

And he sees no future for the Communist Party nor for the "tiny and sectarian Trotskyist groups".

What then does Coates have to offer? The mountain has laboured and brought forth a mouse! After all these pages of detailed analysis, he can only come forward with the naive suggestion of "the formation of a socialist party free from the manifold shortcomings of existing organisations."

"It must be the function of that organisation to create a body of worker intellectuals capable of forming, spreading and sustaining a truly socialist alternative to the bankruptcy of Labourism."

Yet another phantom party is to be conceived, not this time of mere workers, but 'worker intellectuals'! Nothing more certainly doomed to be "tiny and sectarian" than such a body. For as long as workers have begun to organise, there have been intellectuals offering a pure "truly socialist" party for them.

He like they, are incapable of understanding the processes at work amongst workers at the present time.

The crucial error of this book is its utterly superficial view of the Labour Party and the trade unions. The Party is presented as no more than a

few of its Parliamentary leaders and a handful of intellectuals. The book's analysis of the faults of their policies is basically correct, but they are not the Labour Party!

At one point, discussing the danger of right-wing reaction to his new party, Coates remarks "But sabre-rattling of a Tribuneite kind, as the anti-Benn hysteria of 1974 demonstrates all too clearly, will be enough to initiate a right-wing reaction if the crisis of British capitalism intensifies."

Absolutely correct! But why, if the Labour left is incapable of challenging capitalism, and indeed will end up strengthening it, as we are assured it will, should such a reaction be provoked? Should the bosses not be applauding the people who are going to save them?

The capitalists realise only too well what Coates cannot grasp—that it is not what Benn or any other left says that is important, but the movement taking place underneath him within the ranks of the party activists and the workers in the affiliated trade unions.

"The job of the Left" says Coates "is...to use the next ten years quietly to build a labour movement strong enough to resist such a challenge (from the right-wing) if and when it comes."

While Coates is "quietly" building his imaginary labour movement over the next ten years, the real one which already exists will be fighting the real battle for socialism, transforming their Labour Party in the process and turning it into a fighting body which has learned from the errors of its old leaders and is armed with a Marxist programme for the socialist transformation of society.

Now the 'hysteria' is over..

"A pesticide derived from nerve gas many have caused the collapse of more than 300 people at a jazz band festival in Nottinghamshire last month, according to an article in the 'New Statesman' magazine.

"The article said that officially the case was closed and the authorities were happy to blame mass hysteria for what happened. But hospital papers steamed open by a patient annoyed at being called hysterical showed a

By John Goodby

diagnosis of 'inhalation of organic poison.'

So the truth about what caused all those youngsters to collapse during a band festival is out. But what hypocrisy shown by the Fleet St. press—the above was all they had to say, and many people probably missed it, with it being on the inside page of

the Guardian (August 8).

When the incident first happened, many angry parents thought it was obviously the work of some dangerous chemical being sold quite legally by big business—but the capitalist media totally confused the issue by printing headline stories about 'mass hysteria' and 'mysterious illnesses', and giving much publicity to the official verdict of ruling out dangerous pesticides.

And now the truth is out

the bosses' press doesn't want to know. Had just one of those 300 children been hurt in some way by trade unionists—such as on a picket line confrontation—the press would have been full of righteous indignation and screaming for the trade unions' blood. But as it was big business putting out a dangerous chemical onto the market in search of yet more profits causing injury to hundreds, then this story suddenly wasn't newsworthy any more.



Part-time further education students, who are both workers and students, need the support of the labour movement

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Students at Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham face a 12-hour day, from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm, and if they miss a lecture a report is sent to their employer.

Last winter students were advised to wear overcoats, scarves and gloves as the heating was being turned off at 5.30 pm to save money. The previous year the College had closed during the winter, due to the high cost of fuel.

Students on the block release Housing Training Course had to buy fifteen text books at an average price of £5 for the first part of this three-year course, on top of paying £26 in course fees. The result?—eight of the nineteen students who enrolled on this course left in the first six months! And prices are substantially higher this year.

These are typical of some of the problems facing part-time students. In the past working class youth on apprenticeships and

to attend adult education courses at no extra cost.

This means workers will have to pay £94 per year compared to £9 last year. It is estimated that 50,000 ILEA students will be affected and in Woolwich and Eltham, South London, 5,000 out of 17,000 students will no longer be able to afford these courses.

Labour Students and the LPYS must campaign to attract these young workers to the labour movement and the banner of socialism. A bold campaign on the following will receive a ready echo amongst one of the worst-treated sections of students.

★ Block and day-release to be automatically available to all workers!

★ A day at college to be no longer than seven hours!

★ No compulsory evening classes—time off with full pay!

★ Full cost of training and education to be paid by the employers!

★ The right to study both job related and general courses!

★ All training and courses to be under trade union control!

in white-collar jobs had the opportunity of day and block release to gain additional qualifications and training to lead to possible promotion.

For the vast majority this is no longer the case. It is the lucky few who are now allowed this privilege.

Many workers are forced to continue their education at night school, but are now finding this difficult to afford. 'The Times' recently reported that a number of outer London local authorities have withdrawn from the "free trade" arrangement with ILEA, which entitled students living outside central London

By Peter Mumford

(Queen Mary College Labour Club)

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Tory treasure for transport pirates

By Tim Webb

(Secretary, Kings Lynn Trades Council)

A marvellous lucrative time for 'pirates'—but increased isolation for the old, the sick and those in remote rural areas. That would be the result of the Tory Transport Bill 1980.

Norfolk is likely to be a "trial area" under this bill. Anyone with a decrepit old mini-bus or coach will be able to ply for hire along the routes now operated by the nationalised Eastern Counties Bus Company.

However, these pirates won't have to provide the full service—they are allowed to operate only on the profitable routes at the profitable times.

At present the money-making days of running in our area are the market days, Tuesday and Saturday—and the profitable times of the year the summer. This subsidises the winter and the less busy days of the week.

If the nationalised bus company are undercut on money-spinning routes and times, they will obviously be far less able to keep up the present seven day a week service.

Some bus routes make no profit any day of the week but they are vital for outlying areas. Quite literally, the pattern of village life is threatened by this pernicious Tory legislation. As usual the Tories put profits first—and people nowhere. After all, not everybody can afford to run a

car. Will old people in the villages be able to drive?

Many of the regulations which govern safety are to be relaxed or scrapped altogether. With "cowboy operators" using mainly non-Union drivers in a period of high unemployment the high level of safety prevalent in public transport is at risk—another victim of the Tory axe.

Without the strength of trade union organisation behind him or her, which driver employed by a small private operator is going to withstand pressure to take out an unsafe bus? As a lorry driver, I know that only the solidarity of trade union organisation protects drivers from pressure by unscrupulous employers to break safety regulations.

At 9.30am one sleepy Sunday in Vancouver Bus Station, Kings Lynn, eight members of 10/28b branch T&GWU boarded a bus to distribute literature in some of the outlying villages and collect signatures against the new Bill.

It was a very heartening experience—bus driver Warren Pearson remarked 'the response is incredible'. We hardly met anyone who didn't

want to sign and many people linked the Tory Transport Bill to the policies of 'that woman' without any prompting from us.

It will be a great boost to us when we go back to union branches, Labour Party wards and the Trades Council to ensure our campaign gains the support and involvement of more and more trade unionists.

As Secretary of the Trades Council I have correspondence and documents about the closure of the network of railway lines which criss-crossed Norfolk before the "Beeching axe". The labour movement lost that struggle on behalf of the people of Norfolk. We must not lose this one.

If Norfolk is a "trial area" what happens in Norfolk to-day will happen in other rural areas tomorrow. Redundancy for bus workers and the isolation of villagers of Norfolk will result if we lose this struggle. It may well then be the fate of others throughout the country. As with all struggles of the labour movement our fight is everyone's fight so could I appeal for messages of support and resolutions through trade union branches, Labour Parties and Trade Councils to Kings Lynn Trades Council, 20 Friar Street, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 SAP.

Shoddy treatment for workers

Years ago, the town of Batley was known as the "shoddy capital". In the centre of the heavy woollen district of West Yorkshire, it made its reputation on 'shoddy' [a form of recycled wool made by shredding rags] and low woollens.

Now the whole town of about 45,000 population lies as a monument to decaying British capitalism which has dashed the hopes and prospects of a whole generation of Batley folk.

In the mid-nineteenth century Batley painted quite a different picture. 'White's trade directory' for 1835 lists: 60 woollen manufacturers, 57 rag merchants, 43 blanket manufacturers and 33 other manufacturers connected with woollen textiles. Now there are barely a dozen left.

Looking around the remaining mills, the reason for this decline is soon apparent. Some of the machines would be delightfully acceptable to any industrial museum curator. I worked on one machine

By Tim Durrant

(Secretary, Batley and Dewsbury YCAU)

myself—its makers went out of business over 100 years ago! The textile industry has been in decline in Batley since the late '40s.

The bosses have run the industry into the ground then sold up and moved away to more genteel places to live in luxury on the proceeds.

There have been many attempts to attract new industry to the area, but these have largely been met with failure. One firm did come—a subsidiary of British Leyland making forklift trucks—but they have now made a large section of the workforce redundant.

Against this background, local unemployed people and labour activists have formed a branch of the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment in Batley in order to raise the question of a fightback against unemployment and the Tories in the local labour and trade

union movement.

Our recent activities include approaching people outside the dole office with a questionnaire to form the basis of a report outlining in human terms the effects of the record level of unemployment in the area.

Our first meeting outlined the need to link this forthcoming report to a programme of socialist demands which can provide answers to the situation—and to mount a public campaign on these ideas amongst both unemployed and organised workers in the area.

The Batley story can have a happy ending, but only by kicking out the Tories and bringing back a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

The only way that Batley can prosper again is if the commanding heights of the economy are nationalised under workers' control and management so that the regeneration of manufacturing is placed in the capable hands of the organised working class.

Building and destroying



Photos: MILITANT



PHOTOS: Left and above: Workers protest at health cuts. The labour movement should launch a campaign against all attacks on the NHS.

When the new maternity unit opens in Bath, new born children in the area will be given a better chance of survival.

All maternity, obstetric and special baby care facilities will be centralised under one roof.

A real step forward—but we live in a period of Tory public spending cuts, and the present budget of Bath health district dictates reductions in other services to provide finance for this new unit.

By Ann Spiller & Simon Newell

(NUPE)

Ironically, one of the proposals is to close the only children's surgical ward in the district. The idea is to absorb any general surgical

patients into the existing childrens orthopaedic, medical and ear, nose and throat wards.

However, these wards are already stretched to the limit—the waiting list for children needing tonsillectomy is already 18 months.

The medical ward is usually full, especially in the winter with bronchitic and asthmatic children.

It seems ridiculous to think that on the one hand they are increasing the facilities to cope with new births—yet at the same time they are increasing the risk of children dying—for example from a perforated appendix—later in life.

The chances of survival into adulthood are diminished ever further by extra cuts or general surgical and medical beds. It is proposed to lose over 64 beds through the amalgamation of all general wards in the district on one site.

Fight the cuts!

This will result in longer waiting lists, further burdens on overworked staff and the loss of approximately 50 nursing and some ancillary jobs.

Only a united fight against the cuts will show the Tories that the working class will not tolerate their attempts to prop up the bankrupt profit system by cutting the health service budget.

All health service unions should launch a tough campaign against the cuts in conjunction with local Labour Parties, Trades Councils and community health councils.

This fight should be linked to the general fight for a socialist planned economy to provide the decent health service we all deserve.

A Bloody Harvest

In one year, in one industry, two people were killed every week, and 24 children under 16 were killed. A report of chimney-sweeping in the 19th century? An industry in the impoverished third world?

No. The country is Britain. The year was 1979. The industry is farming. The National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers have issued a press release on the dreadful toll in agriculture.

A 14-year-old Welsh schoolboy recently had his arm torn off when it got caught in farm machinery. The NAAW General Secretary Jack Boddy said, "It's going to be another blood-soaked harvest."

"Employers with 18th century attitudes and 20th century machinery are a fatal mixture. Farmers are the only major group of employers who have resisted the setting up of workers' safety representatives, empowered to spot and stop the hazards before it's too late."

"They have resisted all union attempts to raise the minimum age for tractor-driving from 13 to 16 years of age."

"At harvest time, underpaid farmworkers are working all hours with complex, dangerous and expensive machinery to make a living wage. A man driving a £42,000 combine harvester can be on the farmworkers' basic minimum of £58 per week."

"Until we can drag farmers into the 20th century the appalling catalogue of tragic injury and death will continue. Not until then will the words 'now is the harvest safely home' lose their hollow ring."

UNITED AGAINST THE COMPANY

During the blockade of the French ports by fishermen protesting at their government's run-down of the industry, thousands of holidaymakers were caught up in the dispute as their ferries were prevented either from entering or leaving the ports.

By Ian Sugarman

(Mid-Oxon LP)

to extract reasonable compensation out of the company! This is what he told me:

On arrival at Cherbourg we were prevented from entering the inner harbour. Passengers began discussing the situation and eventually a deputation went to see the captain, who explained that negotiations between the boat and the fishermen and the Port Authority were taking place.

Imagine our shock when in the early afternoon another Townsend Thoresen boat approached and sailed straight past us towards the cordon of fishing boats with its water hoses aimed directly at them.

We weren't able to judge the effect of this action, but, inevitably, there were some passengers who demanded that our captain should also attempt to break through the blockade. However, our captain, a Norwegian, said he

had no intention of attempting any such highly dangerous action. Many of us supported him on this.

The captain then agreed to continue the negotiations with the fishermen, which until the action of the other boat had been quite promising. Meanwhile we were provided with free food and any families with children (or in our case, a pregnant mother) were given a cabin free of charge.

By the evening, it was clear that there was little chance of being allowed passage into the harbour, so the captain suggested we return to Portsmouth. But the passengers were keen to take an alternative course and sail to St Malo where, according to the Port Authority a pilot would take us into the harbour.

However, as we waited outside St Malo the following day watching 'Brittany' ferries pass in and out all the time, it became clear that our Townsend Thoresen ferry was not being allowed in. The anger of the passengers began to be directed towards the Company and less towards the fishermen. We felt that it must be the foolish action of

the other Townsend boat that had prejudiced our chances of getting into a French port.

Fourteen hours later, we were told our boat would not be allowed into St Malo and there was no alternative but to return to Portsmouth.

That night some of us decided to try and establish exactly what obligations Townsend Thoresen had to us and we called a meeting for early the next morning.

At least one member of every family on board packed into the cafeteria to discuss what demands should be made of the Company. There were many demands put forward. Finally everyone agreed to these:

(1), a sum of money be paid in compensation for the inconvenience caused; (2) passengers not wanting to return to France be reimbursed their total fare; (3) that those still wanting to go to France be given a priority sailing to Belgium; (4) that foot passengers be transpor-

ted by air, if necessary, to France.

These were felt to be totally reasonable demands since it was the Company's failure to adopt a peaceful negotiating policy which prevented a satisfactory solution to the situation.

We informed the Port Authority at Portsmouth and Townsend Thoresen officials on shore that we were not prepared to leave the boat until a representative from the Company came on board and listened to our demands.

Meanwhile, however, another port official announced over the tannoy what he took to be the Company's position. He was sorry for the inconvenience but it was not of his making. The boat was urgently needed and if we did not disembark immediately it would be on our conscience that hundreds of holidaymakers would remain stranded in France.

In fact, if we did not leave within 15 minutes the police and the Royal Navy would come on board and forcibly remove us.

The reaction to this was spontaneous. My earlier sug-

gestion that we should steward the removal of cars, had been rejected, but as soon as it seemed that they might be removed prematurely, the need for a picket line became immediately obvious. Very quickly, about a hundred of us ran to the exit to prevent our cars being removed by crew.

These threats were soon removed, however, when the official learned that negotiations were already in progress. In fact, we were even treated to a public apology.

Eventually, after further negotiations, the Company agreed to pay £50 per person over the age of 16. This was paid to us in cash as we left the boat, and all our other demands were accepted.

All in all, what was an immensely frustrating experience at least had its exciting moments. It was really encouraging to see how a large number of people, initially fairly divided, became a cohesive group when it was felt the Company was largely to blame for our trouble.

It was particularly good seeing how the French and British passengers united.

CHILE

THE LESSONS OF THE COUP



Allende at Presidential Palace during the coup

Learning the lessons of the Chilean coup is vital for the labour movement in Britain if we are successfully to carry through the socialist transformation of society. As last week's centre-page article on the state made clear, "in the turbulent period which is opening up, the strategists of capital do not rule out the possibility of developments in Britain along the lines of Chile." This week, on the seventh anniversary of the brutal overthrow of the Popular Unity government, we are therefore reprinting our analysis of the Popular Unity government's bloody defeat which first appeared in 'Militant' in September 1973. The article has been slightly shortened for reasons of space, but it retains all its relevance today, especially with regard to the criticisms of the position of the Communist Parties and others on the left who, seven years later, have, unfortunately, yet to come to grips with the real lessons of the coup.

Bitterly angry at the crushing of Allende's "Popular Unity" government under the military jackboot, the Chilean working class has fought back heroically against staggering odds.

They have opposed the machine-guns, tanks and planes of the generals with the rage of a class cheated of victory. Thousands of workers have died defending their occupied factories, or defiantly facing military assassination squads, determined at whatever sacrifice to ensure that the ape-men of the new junta, with their promises to "eradicate the Marxist cancer from Chile," at least meet the fiercest resistance in destroying the gains of the last three years.

When Allende was elected President in September 1970, the world held its breath. Were the ringing phrases of

By Roger Silverman

his election programme to be implemented within the framework of the existing constitution? Were the "workers, peasants, office workers and intellectuals" (in the words Allende chose to use when on a visit to Moscow) to become "masters of Chile"?

It became fashionable in left-wing circles to talk of "the Chilean experiment". All sections of the "Popular Unity" in Chile, and in Britain, the 'Tribune' left and the Communist Party, gave unqualified approval to Allende's programme. This was to be the living refutation of those "defeatists" and "ultra leftists" who argued that no fundamental changes could be made in the social system

without mobilising the oppressed against capitalism.

Tragically, the "experiment" has failed. And politically conscious workers all over the world will be searching for an explanation. Socialists have a responsibility to look back hard and honestly over the past three years. If the lessons are learned in time, the Chilean workers will not have suffered in vain.

A "new experiment"?

The world's Communist Parties, in the eyes of millions of militant workers, bear the authority of the Russian revolution. And, since these were the most theoretically consistent supporters of Allende's programme, they above all need to re-examine their arguments. We intend to compare our position on Chile with that of the Communist Party to help to get to the truth—how can such catastrophes be avoided elsewhere?

The 'Morning Star' celebrated the third anniversary of Allende's election with the words: "When Chile's 'Popular Unity' government took office in September 1970, many people did not give it three months of existence, let alone three years". That was on September 5, 1973. It had exactly one week more to live!

Why was it overthrown? According to the 'Morning Star', because of the "plots of imperialism and the CIA".

Undoubtedly, the CIA played a part in the coup, although even then only as an auxiliary to the home-grown Chilean reaction. But that is tantamount to saying: the revolution would have gone off beautifully if only it hadn't been for the ruling class! If the capitalists were not hell bent on retaining their power, the socialist revolution would not only be easy, it would be unnecessary.

When the Russian workers took power in October 1917, twenty-one imperialist armies poured into Russia to crush them. But the internationalist propaganda of the Bolsheviks had an electric effect on the invading troops and the world revolution was enormously strengthened.

Certainly the fault was not that of the workers. They responded magnificently to the challenge. In enthusiastically carrying out in spontaneous deeds the fine words of

Allende's programme, in taking over factories and landed estates, in voting by the million and marching by the tens of thousands for the government, and finally in fighting and dying for it, the workers and poor peasants have demonstrated their loyalty.

If socialism itself is not a sentimental dream, then there is only one conclusion: the leadership and programme of the workers' organisations was false. And that is our conviction. The workers were led like lambs to the slaughter by the utterly false programme of their leaders.

What was the "Popular Unity"? Far from an ingenious new experiment, it was an alliance of conflicting interests, a rotten collaboration of workers' parties, striving for a new society with liberal parties, financed by big business to exploit the votes of the middle classes.

It was another version of the Kerensky Provisional government that issued from the February Revolution in Russia, the "Popular Front" governments of Spain and France in the 1930s, the "United Left" of Greece in the 1960s, the "Broad Left" of Uruguay up to the present time, and countless others.

Fatal concessions to the Right

Never in history have such alliances made any lasting gains for the workers—all of them have led to bloody defeats, except in Russia where there was a Bolshevik Party that won the masses away from defeat at the hands of Kornilov's counter-revolution by mobilising them for the socialist revolution.

The "Popular Unity" was a coalition of the two workers' parties, Communists and to their left, the Socialists—both nominally "Marxist-Leninist"—together with no less than six small liberal splinter groups which had very little electoral support and acted mainly as a millstone around the necks of the workers' parties.

It "united" this assortment of incompatible parties, and imagined that in this way it could unite their supporters. But the only way to win the middle class to the side of the workers, especially in the nightmare of current inflation in Chile, is by bold deeds, exposing the role of the banks

and the monopolies, and demonstrating to them the enormous superiority of a planned economy. But the "Popular Unity" descended every time to the lowest common denominator, giving a veto not only to the bourgeois parties inside the coalition but also in effect to the biggest opposition party in Congress, the Christian Democrats, who at every turn blackmailed the government, and who are now supporting the counter-revolutionary junta.

Allende only became President on the basis of a fatal concession. He promised the Christian Democrats "freedom of the press"—which in practice allowed the press tycoons to pour out a daily stream of lies, filth and slander—and above all he promised that he would allow no "unconstitutional private militias" and would "appoint no military officers not educated in technical academies while no changes in the strength of the army, navy, air force or national police would be made except by laws passed by Congress".

This meant that throughout the period of his office the whole state apparatus remained firmly in the hands of the ruling class; the Congress, which sabotaged his proposals at every turn; the Judiciary and Supreme Court, which overruled him constantly and which Allende in June publicly accused of "partially in the administration of justice". And, of course the armed forces which have just crushed his government under foot.

What programme did Allende hope to carry through in these conditions? The immediate aim of the "Popular Unity" was to "strengthen democracy". This was the kind of woolly verbiage that Lenin time and again castigated.

Two kinds of democracy

History knows only of two kinds of democracy. There is capitalist democracy, which (in Lenin's words) "is bound to remain restricted, truncated, false and hypocritical, a paradise for the rich and a snare and a deception for the exploited, for the poor".

And there is proletarian democracy, which must be based on workers' councils, election of officials with the

right of recall, an armed people, average skilled workers' wages for all administrators, rotation of state duties and so on. ("The State and Revolution").

Any talk of "real democracy" under capitalism is dangerous. "There is not a single state" wrote Lenin, "however democratic, which has no loopholes...in its constitution guaranteeing the bourgeoisie the possibility of despatching troops against the workers...in case of a "violation of public order" and actually in case the exploited class "violates" its position of slavery and tries to





Marx wrote to Kugelmann that the task of the revolution is "no longer, as before, to transfer the bureaucratic-military machine from one hand to another, but to smash it, and this is essential for every real people's revolution".

Engels spelt it out again: "From the very outset the Commune had to recognise that the working class, one in power, could not go on managing with the old state machinery; that in order not to lose control again its only just one supremacy, this working class must, on the one hand, do away with all the old repressive machinery previously used against it itself, and on the other, safeguard itself against its own deputies and officials by declaring them all, without exception, subject to recall at any moment". (Introduction to "Civil War in France"). The "Popular Unity" did neither.

Undoubtedly, great reforms were introduced by Allende's government. When the American copper mines were nationalised, it had the support of 93% of the population. The wage increases, land reforms, and welfare handouts ensured loyal support. In the municipal elections of 1971, the "Popular Unity" candidates won 49.7% of the votes, compared to 36% in the 1970 Presidential elections.

The role of the military

Even after the crippling business strikes and the soaring of inflation to over 300%, the UP won 44% of votes in the Congressional elections of March 1973. The nationalisation of the mines, the banks and sections of industry were great steps forward for the Chilean working class. And yet all its hopes have come to nothing.

'Militant' can be proud to republish its many articles on Chile over the last three years. As early as March 1971, we headed an article "Chilean Crisis—Arm the workers Against Reaction". We called

then and in subsequent articles for workers' councils and a workers' militia to be "systematically organised to clear the fascists off the streets, to guard against army coups and to provide the basis for a class appeal to the troops" (March 1973). Let us compare this with the statements of the Communist Party.

Countless examples could be given of soothing lullabies....Corvolan wrote in "World Marxist Review" (November 1972): "in spite of their diversity, the military have common moral values: respect for the constitution and the law, and loyalty to the elected government"; the same Corvolan—let us remind ourselves, General Secretary of the Chilean Communist Party, wrote in the 'Morning Star' of 29 December 1970: "To hold that armed confrontation is certain implies the immediate formation of an armed people's militia. In the present situation that would be equivalent to a mark of defiance of the army....it must be won to the cause of progress in Chile and not pushed onto the other side of the barricades".

As it turned out, the army needed no pushing! To talk of winning the officer caste—the armed watchdog of the ruling class—to the side of the workers was monstrous for a self-styled "Marxist" and workers leader.

Allende's government, far from "provoking" or "defying" the officers, grovelled before them. Its first act was to raise the officers' salaries, in the hope of buying their gratitude, when Marx, Engels and Lenin had urged the necessity of abolishing the privileges of the state officialdom.

In 'Militant International Review' (January 1972) we published an article under the title "Chile—the Threatening Catastrophe" containing the following paragraph: "Allende's slavish respect for authority—in the form of an army jackboot—will not save his skin when conditions permit the counter-revolution to raise its head. The tops of the army, police and civil service are linked by a thousand threads with the



The mass of workers continued to back the Popular Unity government

landlords, bankers, and capitalists....The passive sympathy of the soldiers will be of no avail unless the hold of the officer caste is broken. Yet Allende persists in propping up the General Staff with its own authority."

The army C-in-C, General Schneider, was assassinated by fascist gunmen in [a premature, unsuccessful attempt] to prevent Allende's election in 1970. A 2,000-man force was recruited to sabotage transport, water, gas and power. Repeated attempts were made on Allende's life. Massive "strikes" were organised by the lorry-owners and shop-keepers, and the highly-paid copper miners, and demonstrations were held of middle class housewives demanding Allende's resignation.

The owners of the large estates slaughtered livestock and refused to plant grain, and even stockpiled machine guns. The CIA/ITT plot was unmasked.

Again and again, trade unionists and supporters of the government were mown down by the assassins of the fascist "Fatherland and Freedom" gang. And at every blow from the right big concessions were granted by Allende. Left ministers were sacked and replaced by Generals, laws were revoked, reforms were dropped by the same Allende who was so bold when criticising the "irresponsibility and anarchy" of workers occupying factories, or peasants taking over landed estates.

Allende's concessions were accompanied by empty rhetoric. In November Allende stated "if our enemies wish to use reactionary violence, we shall reply first of all with laws and justice, and if need be, also with revolutionary violence". On May Day, he threatened to "appeal to the law, to the armed forces, and if necessary to the people's parliament, a people's assembly...."

On June 24, Allende "asked his supporters to seek a dialogue with those opposition groups which also wanted the country's transformation...." (i.e. the Christian Democrats who covered up their sabotage with flowery speeches) and "issued a warning against classifying the armed forces as "reactionary" and thus preventing them from being a dynamic force in Chile's development".

Five days later came the open attempt at a putsch by the naval officers, on 29 June 1973. Due to their haste and failure to consult their counterparts in the other sections of the armed forces, this

attempt failed. A golden opportunity was given to the workers' organisations, a precious breathing-space in which to open their eyes to the menace looming ahead, and prepare a workers' militia and organise committees of soldiers, sailors and airmen. Surely after that, the lesson was learned?

On the contrary, Luis Corvalan again made a speech (reprinted in 'Marxism Today', September 1973) in which he praised "the prompt and determined action by the Commander in Chief of the Army, the loyalty of the armed forces and the police", and replied to suggestions that the CP were in favour of organising a workers' militia: "No sirs! We continue to support the absolutely professional character of the armed institutions. Their enemies are not in the ranks of the people but in the reactionary camp".

Allende took advantage of his short new lease of life....to beg the armed forces to come back into the cabinet! And his last desperate bid for survival at any cost was to revoke all those decrees of nationalisation that had not been explicitly approved by Congress. The more obsequious Allende's concessions, the more contemptuously the generals spat on his government. And when they felt ready they put it out of its misery like a man squashing a flea.

Why do we dwell on the crimes and blunders of the Chilean workers' leaders? Because exactly the same fate awaits the workers of other countries if the lessons of Chile are not taken to heart. In France we have seen the "Popular Union" bring the socialists and Communists into alliance with the so-called "left" Radicals. In Italy the CP are prepared to ally with "progressive sections" of the capitalist Christian Democratic Party.

And in Spain—Spain of all places, where "Popular Frontism" led directly to the slaughter of a million workers and peasants by Franco's fascist armies—the CP are supporting a "Freedom Pact" of "all genuine oppositionists from Communists to Conser-

vatives and Monarchists". If these policies continue unchecked, they will cause new disasters for the working class movement.

The real anxiety of the capitalists is revealed in 'The Observer' (16 September 1973) which wrote: "Unwittingly, the Chilean Generals have made a formidable case for armed revolution rather than for peaceful evolution towards socialist democracy."

If any of our readers consider this irrelevant to the British labour movement, they should read the article by Tribune Labour MP Eric Heffer in 'Labour Monthly' (May 1972). Under the heading "Chile's peaceful road to Socialism". Heffer praised the "Chilean experiment", and then revealed "One day I would hope we could have a Labour government with just as radical a programme. If we do have such a government we will be faced with the same problems."

One day, and maybe quite soon, we may very well have such a government. The resolutions on this year's [i.e. 1973—ed.] Labour Party Conference agenda reflect the enormous pressure from the ranks for a sweeping programme of nationalisation. Let none of us doubt the reaction of the ruling class in this country too.

We have published ample material in 'Militant' exposing the plans of the Tory Party for armed attacks on the Labour movement in the future. Brigadier Kitson has made no secret of his strategic studies in the political role of the armed forces. The leaders of the 'The Times' and certain Tory MPs have given full warning of "authoritarian" measures unless the trade unions show "responsibility".

It would be suicidal to trust in British "democratic traditions". Chile too had just such a reputation. The only way a government committed to overthrow capitalism can succeed is if it mobilises the full power of the labour movement and turn its back on class collaborationism in any form. Marxism is a life and death question for the working class.

'LESSONS OF CHILE'

New 'Militant' pamphlet — out now!

This 40-page pamphlet is a full analysis of the coup and its lessons for the labour movement in Chile and internationally

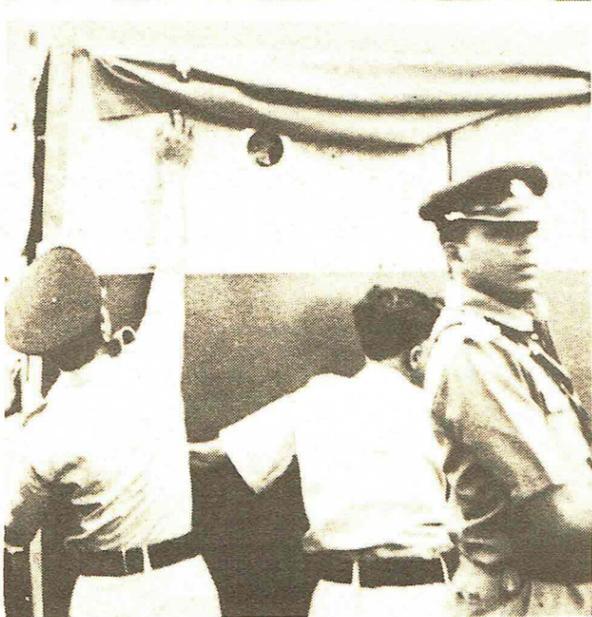
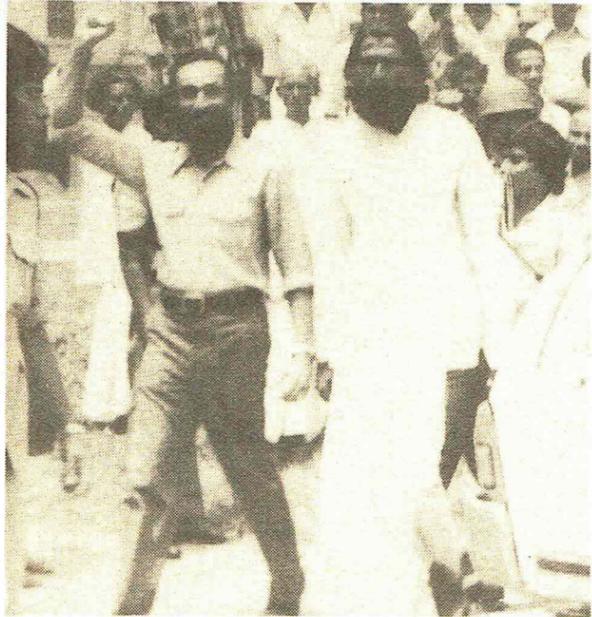
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Prisoners inside the Santiago Stadium

Workers were prepared to defend themselves, but were only armed with sticks

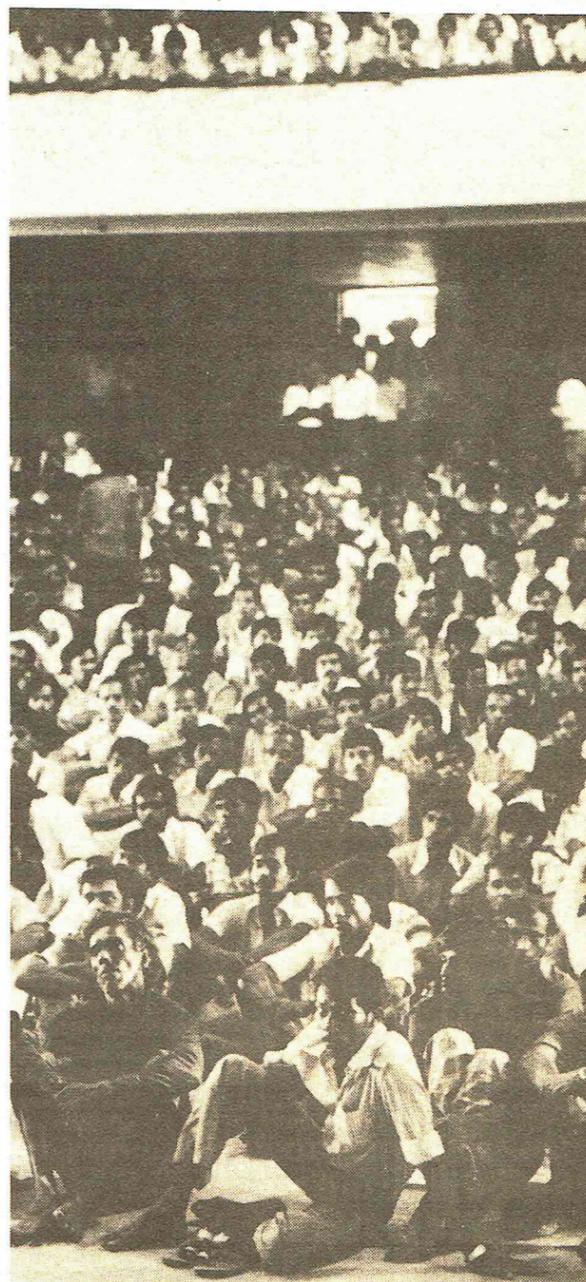


Sri Lanka LETTER FROM PRISON



Two 'court' appearances. Top left: Vasu and Dharmasekera, going handcuffed before magistrates, 28 August. Above: Bahu and others kept in cover truck for earlier court appearance, 14 August.

We print here a letter we have received from **Vickramabahu Karunaratne** [General Secretary of the Nava Sama Samaja Party]. Together with other socialists and workers he was arrested on 8 August, at a demonstration held during last month's General Strike in Sri Lanka. Recent issues of 'Militant' have given reports of the struggle in that country and of the campaign launched in Britain to defend trade unionists and trade union rights in Sri Lanka. In the letter below, the parts in square brackets are explanatory additions.



Meeting of striking Clerical Service Union workers during General Strike

I thought of writing a letter, now that we have all the time that we need.

Of course, we do not have desks and chairs. I am writing this lying on the floor.

There are various hazards and diseases we have to face including bed bugs and mosquitoes. There is lead poisoning. Many of our comrades are now having bowel diseases including Vasu [Vasudeva Nanayakkara, President of the United Federation of Labour and a NSSP leader].

Two of us are suffering from a fungus disease. I've also caught it. Blisters appear around nails and the nail falls off. It is painful in the night.

There are no chairs or blocks to sit on so you either sleep or squat. This brings knee and back pain, particularly to the older comrades. Alavi [Alavi Maulana, Sri Lanka Freedom Party trade union leader] is still not fully recovered from the near fatal attack he got some time back. So he finds the circumstances quite un-congenial.

Fortunately all of us, so far, seem to be immune from lung diseases. We have divided our work and keep the place thoroughly clean.

I'm sure you are familiar by now about the circumstances of our arrest [see 'Militant', 15 August]. Ten thousand people demonstrated near the railway station that day.

Naturally traffic came to a standstill and many non-striking workers from other offices came out to watch. When army and police tried to intervene we started arguing with them. It was incredible to see the effect of our strength and arguments on them.

They started saying, "What

can we do comrades, we understand everything but we have to obey orders." Particularly the attitude of the army was very, very sympathetic.

Then the police saw that they cannot disperse the crowd so long as we were there. So they arrested Vasu, Maha [Mahanama, General Secretary, Government Clerical Service Union] and Dharmasekera [leader, People's Democratic Front]. Both Maha and Sekera were brutally assaulted though they were scared to touch Vasu.

But the riot was spreading and people refused to disperse. Police were more or less helpless. They could not shoot and provoke a much worse situation. I was arrested while going towards the NSSP party office.

I have never had a police assault before. It was frightening at the beginning but one seems to forget the pain after some time. I was particularly careful to protect my head. In using my hands to protect my head both hands got smashed. Fortunately no cracks.

Sympathetic police

But I could not urinate the first day. They didn't take us to a doctor. Apparently unless you are bleeding or develop a fever they don't take you to a doctor.

So I had to get some medicine through my wife when she came to see me. Now I am all right except for some swellings. Vasu was spared of beating. He is too well known to be attacked. Maha got beaten.

For the first few days we

were in police custody. Police were, of course, looking for this great conspiracy to overthrow the government! In the meantime I was talking to many police constables and inspectors all of whom were unanimous in supporting the strike and the aims of the struggle.

Everybody started coming to me with their grievances, it became almost too much work for me.

One police sergeant told me, "I was a PC [Police Constable] for twelve years and a PS [Police Sergeant] for the rest of 12 years. So I have 24 years of service. I am earning 900 per month today. But I was getting 110 in 1954 and a gold sovereign was 60 Rs then. Now it is 2,400 Rs so my actual income has fallen severely!"

Within limits we were treated with respect by all rank and file police officers. Even some of those who assaulted us said that they were sorry and they have to do their duty in front of higher officials.

On 14 August we were taken to courts. But we were not taken out of the closed van. The Magistrate came and had a look at us. We were kept in this hell hole in the hot sun for about an hour while the state and our lawyers argued whether to give bail or not. We were not given bail and when we were taken away workers came to see us. About 2,000 started shouting slogans.

We were transferred to the Magazine prison. This was during the British rule, a magazine. It was converted to a prison in 1962 to house the right-wing army and police personnel involved in the conspiracy. Then in 1971 it was here that the most important insurgents were

kept.

We are 21 prisoners in all. Of the 21, six are from our party, one (Alavi) from the SLFP, about two are sympathetic to the Communist Party, two are from Dharmasekera's group. Except for two others, the rest are non-party, TU members.

These two are just ordinary citizens. They were brought here because they were wearing red shirts. Out of the 21, two are Tamils, Alavi is a Moor, and 18 are Sinhalese.

Even inside we can see the strength of our position. Usually the prison officers treat the prisoners very harshly. Prisoners have to address prison officers as "Sir" or "Lord" and should get up and bend down whenever they see an officer.

Unlike in England, here many of the prisoners are here because of class struggle. Very few are real criminals. This is true of any country with an intense class struggle.

The day after we came in I was seated on a cement block and was talking to a convict. A prison officer came in and naturally I did not get up, nor did the others. He was angry but he was scared to say anything. So he tried to be friendly with me and started telling me about his difficulties.

It is very clear that JR [capitalist President J R Jayawardene] cannot maintain any law and order with this state apparatus of half starving cops and prison officers. He has to spend quite a lot on them before they can be really mobilised against the workers.

Usually they put us in rooms and lock from 6 to 6 in the night. We protested and a minister of justice immediately made it from 8.30 to 6. All opposition papers ex-

cept ours are keeping dumb about the prisoners. They seem to be hiding their little heads thinking that spectre will vanish. Even the SLFP paper is silent about Alavi. The SLFP and LSSP [Lanka Sama Samaja Party] joint front want to have propaganda meetings aimed at 1983 elections.

The CP's [Communist Party] ultra-left position towards the SLFP has made things easy for them. Nobody wants to promote the mass unrest. Sectarian parliamentary policies are only making things easy for JR.

We are having constant discussions inside here. The Maoists are suspicious of the ability of the working class. Particularly the European working class is "corrupt and sold out". Apparently the colonial peasantry is more "revolutionary" and they will pull the western workers out of their slumbers.

CP members are made to believe that nothing could be done till big brother decides to help. They are made to believe in the strength of one "socialist" block and not in the mass movement. Well the masses are not ready!

We are giving them lessons every day. What we say seem: to have an impact.

Government disarray

The day before yesterday they brought a tourist, an Englishman, here. He was caught trying to smuggle grass. He is a kid of 21, a railway worker from Manchester.

He seems to be suffering from a deep feeling of alienation. "I was so desperate in thinking that I have

to go on doing this routine work for another 45 years. There is so much one could do but there is no direction as a result I do not know what to do with myself."

I told him that in ten years if we change the society we may have to work only one hour a day and we could make life satisfactory. He is getting on well with us, sharing all common work.

We gave him 'Militant'. He can't read much. He does not understand technical words. Apparently this is common among working class youth who leave before 'O'-levels.

He said, "I had enough problems then came the Tories and I had more than enough." He says grass is only a temporary way out. I told him to join the socialists when he goes back.

Government policy is in complete disarray. JR is desperately looking for funds from commercial banks. Unemployment is increasing with inflation.

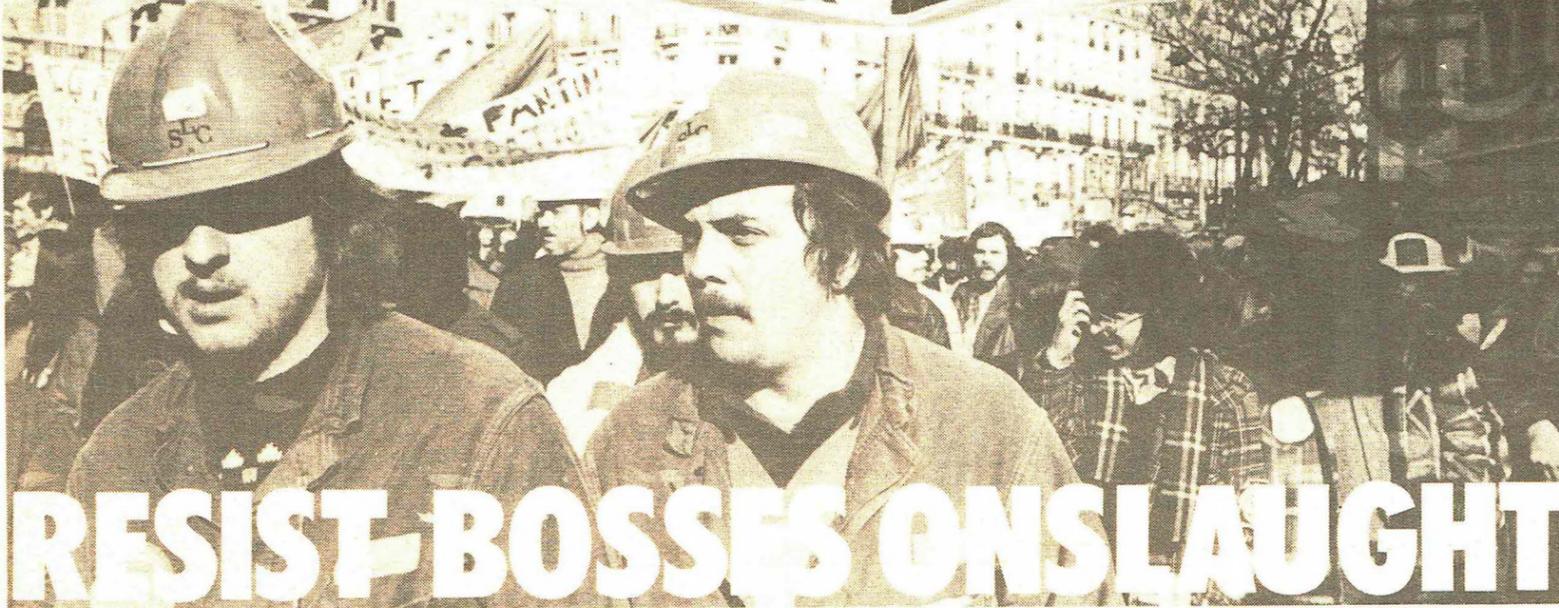
Politically JR is looking for support among the opposite camp. He has lifted the emergency. Apparently there is no need of emergency when we are in prison. To deal with the rest of the opposition he does not need an emergency. He needs only elections, simple as that!

DDC [District Development Council] elections will come soon and this is one way of integrating the opposition to the bonapartist system. When it fails to curb the opposition either president or parliament has to go. There will be election for one of the two.

In the meantime each field is open for mass actions. It is entirely possible to develop the struggle beyond sham constitutional limits. This will be our main look out.

European Steelworkers

USINOR-Longwy



It is not just in Britain that steel workers are under attack. As the international recession deepens, workers in all the advanced capitalist countries face threats to their rights and their jobs. The articles below show two aspects of this onslaught, in Germany the bosses are trying to remove concessions won during the boom, and in France they are trying to close down plants. The international labour movement must give its help to these workers in struggle.

Photo: J Sturrock (Report)

Left, French workers on demonstration for jobs last year

GERMANY

'Those who try to bend us will be broken'

"What we have built up, we won't let you steal from us. We won't stand for cuts in social and trade union rights."

These placards and slogans have been defiantly and confidently raised by the German metalworkers' union, I G Metall, against the bosses' plans to dismantle workers' participation.

Since July, the bosses at Mannesmann have claimed that 50% workers' representation on the board is incompatible with their "right" to reorganise their company as they wish. This 50%-50% model (called "Montan model") was instituted throughout the iron, steel and coal industries in 1951.

Mannesmann argue that the majority of their turnover is no longer in iron, steel and coal and therefore the 50-50 model should be scrapped. Since 1951, the 50-50 model has been consistently watered down. By a new law in 1956, firms with less than 50% turnover in iron, steel and coal could scrap workers' participation on the 50-50 model.

By taking over smaller companies, many big firms scrapped the model. Now only 600,000 workers are in firms with 50-50 workers' representation. 4.1 million others have a minority of workers' representatives on the boards. Mannesmann's threat to scrap 50-50 is the latest attack on participation.

By far the most important section of workers in this dispute are the 70,000 Ger-

By M. Levene

(N. Nottingham LPYS)

man steelworkers who in 1978 had an unsuccessful six-week strike for the 35-hour week. They have responded to Mannesmann's plans by a series of spontaneous one-day strikes.

"Those who try to bend us will be broken!" declared an I.G. Metall spokesman on 6 August.

On negotiation day (30 July) 50,000 downed tools in the early shift, in 50 steel plants throughout the country try.

"This was a warning to the bosses that participation is not just of interest to TU officials, but also to our 70,000 rank and file steelworkers." (Metalworkers' Union Journal)

Readers in Britain may find it hard to understand why German workers should take industrial and political action by striking spontaneously for workers' participation (which in Britain has been rejected by the workers as being too little—and by the bosses as being too much). The reasons stem from the struggles to socialise the German economy led by the labour movement after 1945.

The 50-50 participation model of 1951 was a compromise concession given by the bosses after six years of workers' struggle against the post-war run-down of German industry. Massive strikes

and demonstrations took place between 1945-51 against the poverty and deprivation left behind after the war. A ballot in 1950 found 96% of workers in favour of a strike for workers' participation.

The "economic miracle" between 1951 and 1974 gave the German working class the highest living standards in Western Europe. But with world recession, the German bosses now feel that workers' participation is too "expensive" for them to afford. They claim that the tubes and metallurgic industries face Japanese competition which can only be combatted if participation is scrapped.

German workers still have illusions in the 50-50 model. They feel that the 50-50 model has given coal, iron and steel workers good wages and conditions. That is why 50,000 steelworkers took strike action on 30 July.

Despite its limitations, the 50-50 participation must be defended as a concession wrung from the bosses. But the campaign must not be left at that. The German labour movement should go on the offensive and fight for nationalisation and workers' control and management of the key industries (as in Clause 2 of the Metalworkers' Union Constitution). Only workers' management of industry and society offers German workers any way out of the crisis gripping international capitalism.

The German bosses hope to use the strikes at Mannesmann to damage Labour's chances in the elections on 5 October. This move will probably backfire, as the metalworkers' protests gain momentum. Right-wing SPD Chancellor Schmidt has already disagreed with the "offensive" campaign of the union leaders, which calls for an immediate parliamentary enabling act to continue participation in Mannesmann.

Already the union leaders have pushed the 209 SPD MPs to table such a parliamentary Bill. On 25 August, Schmidt threatened to resign if the unions continue to push for this Bill "so prematurely"!

The struggle for 70,000 steelworkers and their 2.3 million colleagues in the metalworkers' union is a warning shot to the German bosses of a future labour movement which will dismantle capitalism and move towards a socialist transformation.

FRANCE

'Longwy must not close'

The struggle of French steelworkers in Longwy against closures goes on.

By Dave Gartrell

It was just over a year ago that the steel town of Longwy in France became a familiar name to millions of workers throughout Europe as a result of the resistance of the steelworkers there to the threatened redundancies. This struggle epitomised the struggle of steelworkers worldwide against cuts and closures resulting from the international capitalist crisis in steel.

Longwy is based on the steelworks—almost all employment there is either directly or indirectly linked to their existence. There were 16,000 workers at the steelworks before the redundancies: now there are 10,000 and no new workers are being taken on, which means no jobs for school-leavers.

Only the workers' fierce resistance has kept the steelworks going at all. The high unemployment and the lack of new jobs means that for those jobs that are going, the employers can offer whatever wages they like. 'If you don't want it there are plenty of others in the queue' is the attitude of the bosses.

The experience of one young worker was typical. In order to get one of the few jobs in the area outside steelmaking he had to work for eight months for FF.400 (£40) per month. This was justified by his boss on the grounds that he was serving an apprenticeship.

Now he earns FF.2,600 (£260) per month in return for working seven machines. Given the French cost of living this rules out most of the limited social facilities in Longwy. His employer received a state subsidy for each worker he agreed to take on, similar to the bribes handed out in Britain to bosses agreeing to employ new workers.

The local radio station,

Lorraine Coeur d'Acier (LCA) enables Longwy workers to express themselves. It is run by the CGT, the biggest French trade union, and is open to all local organisations who wish to participate. Although it is in effect an illegal station, the support of local people has kept it alive since it was established in May '79.

Even attempts to jam transmissions by using a helicopter failed. The radio is backed by the local council, where the Socialist Party and Communist Party form the majority, and the amount of more than FF.200,000 (£20,000) collected over an eight-month period among the local people shows on a small scale how the media and press could be democratically run nationally by the labour movement, which would open them up to different groups in society according to their support.

However, the capitalist state showed its true face on 4th June. Faced with a challenge to its rights to decide what is communicated by the media, it sent in the notorious CRS riot-police against three of the most politically free radios, including LCA's station in Nancy.

Tear-gas and truncheons were used to crush resistance in the attack on the union building where the radio was based, and material was seized. Hundreds of demonstrators immediately proceeded to the police station demanding the release of those arrested, with further violent conflicts ensuing.

This is the real nature of capitalist 'freedom'—when radios are set up free from the control of the state and big

monopolies they are subjected to violent attack. Their influence was unacceptable with Presidential elections due next year. But all the attacks have been in vain—the radios continue to broadcast.

The experience of the attacks on the steelworkers, their radio, their community, has produced a widespread radicalisation among the Longwy workers. There is a general hatred for Giscardian politics—French Toryism, the CRS riot police, the bosses, the right-wing politicians, are all seen as part of the same state machine which is ready to crush their community if this is dictated by the profit system.

This is a microcosm of the radicalisation in society as a whole which is on the order of the day in all the advanced capitalist countries as a result of the inability of a decaying capitalism to even maintain the existing standards of life for workers.

However, this places a heavy responsibility upon the leadership of the workers' parties and trade unions to advance a bold, socialist programme that can show a way out of the crisis. Could the experience of Corby, Shotton, and Consett, and those of Longwy and Denain be seen as anything other than part and parcel of the same international crisis?

When even the bastion of capitalism, the USA, has seven million unemployed and 240,000 car workers (over 30% of the workforce) have been made redundant, how can the solution be seen as anything but an international one? Therefore demands for import controls which would set workers in one country against those in others must be rejected.

A dead town amounts to the same thing whether it be Longwy or Shotton. Only the programme advanced by 'Militant' for the nationalisation of the big monopolies to be run under democratic workers' control and management, with compensation on the basis of proven need, can provide a way out.

This would lay the basis for a socialist plan of production, and would be an example to the workers of other countries. On the basis of socialism a plan of production for the whole planet would be possible. Science and technology applied to the resources of the world to eradicate poverty and assure the living standards of all—this is the only solution.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



"Capitalist efficiency" forced millions of workers in America in the '30s on to the dole queues.

Capitalist efficiency—then and now

Dear Comrades

While recently leafing through a collection of Canadian poetry printed in the 'thirties, I came across a piece of verse which I think puts forward the Tories' arguments for increased efficiency in British industry a lot more clearly than they have themselves.

Perhaps just to show that 'Militant' isn't biased, you could print it. After all, an appeal to historical precedent might be useful to them now they've run out of their own excuses...

And who said Thatcher, Joseph and Co. were trying to take workers back to the miseries of the '30s? Absolute rubbish, comrades, absolute rubbish! A lot of us are already there!

Yours fraternally
John Goodby

EFFICIENCY: 1935

The efficiency of the capitalist system is rightly admired by important people. Our huge steel mills Operating at 25% of capacity Are the last word in organisation. The new grain elevators Stored with superfluous wheat Can load a grain-boat in two hours. Marvellous card-sorting machines Make it easy to keep track of the unemployed. There is not one unnecessary worker In these textile plants That require a 75% tariff protection. And when our closed shoe factories re-open They will produce more footwear than we can possibly buy. So don't go experimenting with socialism Which everyone knows means inefficiency and waste.
[F R Scott]

Unity of the left to achieve justice?

Dear Comrade

I want to make a dramatic proposal which I think is worth taking seriously. It is that the various socialist and libertarian organisations in Britain start constructing a Popular or Labour Front.

I would like to see the political culture of Britain radically changed (Thatcher's not radical. She is definitely a reactionary). I am a black person who is strongly interested in the necessity of nuclear disarmament and seeking the development of Third World people with food, clothes, education, skills and training.

I also support (though not on a full time basis) the various egalitarian movements such as anti-sexist groups, the workers' action in strikes, demonstrations against unemployment and such things.

I want these aims and efforts to be successful. I want to see actual nuclear disarmament in Britain and

elsewhere; to see racism disappearing from Britain—racist immigration laws being changed, police being effectively controlled by the people, education being changed for this need, media giving proper coverage of black people, these are some changes that should be put into practice but are hardly being.

I want to see South Africa being starved by widespread 'boycott Barclays' demonstrations, disinvestment and other such solidarity action. Massive increases in Third World aid as well as totally stopping arms sales to any countries would help Third World countries. Any famine or such disaster should receive immediate governmental aid, whether it be £5 million or £50 million, etc.

These are reasons why I want to see such a radical change in the political culture of Britain. Only a strong solidarity-inspired movement of Britain's left can succeed. Otherwise I feel there will be little chance to realise these aims.

I realise the process of forming such an organ-

Rewards for deadly "skills"

Dear Comrades

Whilst reading the sections dealing with the First World War in AJP Taylor's 'English History 1914-1945' I came across something that should be of interest to 'Militant' readers.

It appears that due to their 'skill' in 'leading' soldiers—including conscripts—to their deaths, the commanders of the forces were granted large sums of money from 'public' funds.

The following are a few examples: 1. Frederick Charles Doveton Sturdee: £10,000; 2. Sir William Robertson: £10,000; 3. John Michael de Robeck:

£10,000; 4. Henry Hughes Wilson: £10,000; 5. John Rushworth Jellicoe: £50,000; 6. Douglas Haig: £100,000; 7. Davie Beatty: £100,000.

A number of points should be noted. Firstly, the pound was worth much more in 1919 than at present. Next, the government were spending little on social services etc. for the working class compared to now. Thirdly, the list is undoubtedly not comprehensive: other gifts such as mansions were also distributed.

The last point is, however, the most significant: the government of the day saw fit to reward the officers of the forces with large sums of money yet at the same time did not fulfill, or come

near to fulfilling, the pledges of providing a 'home fit for heroes' for the working class soldiers.

For many ordinary soldiers—i.e. the ones who experienced all the terrible hardships—the end of the war meant nothing but unemployment and homelessness.

Is there a clearer example of the way the class system operates in Britain? Rather than being a 'home fit for heroes', Great Britain was merely a place fit for capitalists to exploit the very people who did their fighting for them.

Yours fraternally
Stephen Forster
Wem-Whitchurch-Shawbury Labour Party
Shropshire

"Free Enterprise"

Dear Comrades

I have been viewing with great interest the struggle being carried out by the French fishermen who have seized northern ports in France in order to develop their jobs and conditions of life.

It is very appropriate that the worst form of blacklegging is being carried out by a ship called "Free Enterprise", for the French fishermen "Free Enterprise" means redundancies and the destruction of their living standards.

Speaking for my LPYS branch and no doubt for hundreds of thousands of workers in this country I sincerely hope that "Free Enterprise" is "sunk" by the French fishermen.

And that free enterprise in general ("capitalist system"—which for millions means poverty) is sunk by the workers of the world.

Yours fraternally
John Whyte
Dunfermline LPYS

Polish workers fight bureaucracy

Comrades

I've read with interest in the capitalist press over the last couple of weeks about the striking workers in Poland, and the capitalists' support for them.

Here we have a blatant contradiction when you look at the views of the capitalists over striking British workers, or at present, the striking French fishermen.

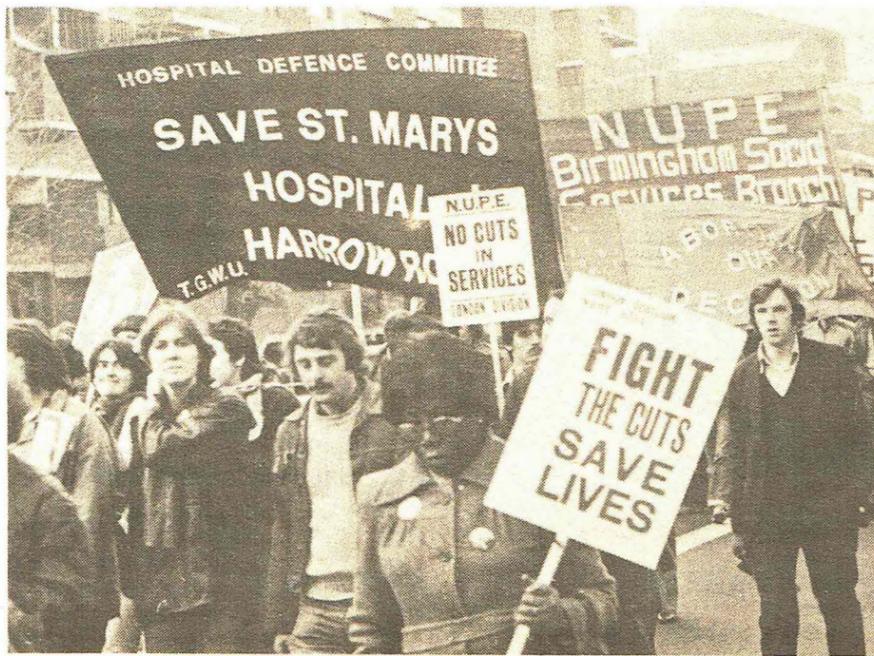
It is true that Polish workers are fighting for free trade unions and other rights, against what the capitalist press would have us believe is a communist regime (in point of fact it's a Stalinist bureaucracy) but the minute workers of this country, or any other capitalist country, go on strike they are automatically holding the country to ransom or other such rubbish.

The Polish workers, let it be known, are fighting a regime which arose originally in Russia after Lenin's death in 1924. Josef Stalin came to power in this period, and consequently socialism was distorted, so we have today in Russia and Eastern Europe a Stalinist bureaucracy which the capitalists, for their own class interests, are trying to make the workers of the west believe is a Communist society.

There is nothing the capitalists in the west would like more than to have the millions of workers of the east (including China) under their umbrella of exploitation, to extract more profit for the coffers of the minority ruling class.

I personally sincerely hope that victory will go to the Polish working class, because their fight is our fight in the struggle for international socialism.

Fraternally yours
Bill Buchanan
Gedling, Nottingham.



NHS cuts kill—by starvation too?

Photo: MILITANT

Tories ration patients' food

Dear Comrades

A couple of months back I was due to go into hospital and rather worried whether or not I could keep to my reducing diet whilst "inside".

I needn't have worried because the whole ward was almost on starvation rations. I estimated the average daily

intake to be no more than 1,000 calories while a woman needs 2,000 just to maintain her weight, let alone when recovering from an operation as we all were.

On the men's ward they were having Kentucky fries and fish and chips brought in, they were so desperate.

Four years ago in the same hospital the food was more than adequate and I can only assume, therefore,

that this appalling, inhuman treatment of sick people is a result of the cuts in the NHS.

How much lower can the Tories sink?

Yours fraternally
Doreen Roberts
Wimbledon CLP

Education, relaxation—and sunshine!

Dear Comrades

There is no better way of spending August Bank Holiday weekend than at the South Wales Summer Camp. This year's political sessions had excellent speakers and initiated plenty of well-informed discussion.

Those who thought that there was nothing more to be said on the 1926 General Strike should have heard Tony Mulhearn—in particular the precise manner in which he knitted together the various positions of the leading figures and the inevitable roles that they played. Comrades should book this speaker for their local Readers' and YS meetings.

On Sunday morning Ted Grant clarified the events to date in Poland as the basis for the discussion on Stalinism. And even though he had spent the previous

morning convincing us that no Marxist materialist could possibly believe in God or miracles, the sun shone brilliantly as it always does for this weekend.

Many, many thanks to the South Wales comrades who smilingly served tea and/or beer for what seemed like 24 hours a day, arranged an excellent creche, and made us all feel welcome from the moment we arrived [1 o'clock in the morning as it happened in our case!].

It may look easy to arrange marquees, speakers, refreshments, etc. for 200+ people, but I am certain it isn't.

I hope they were rewarded by the sight of so many comrades obviously enjoying the best of possible holidays, combining political education of a very high standard with complete relaxation in the company of old and new friends from all over the country.

Yours comradely
Pauline Gorman

ads

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

MILITANT TEACHER WEE-KEND SCHOOL September 13th and 14th. Venue: Newtown Community Centre, Newtown Row, Birmingham. Speakers on Saturday:—Trade Union Perspectives—Jon Ingham; Education and the Labour Movement—Roy Davies (President Chesterfield NUT); A Socialist Education Policy for the Labour Party—Julie Taylor; Evening—Social. Sunday:—Launching a left programme for the NUT—Felicity Dowling. Cost £3 including lunch on Saturday and accommodation, for further details contact: Jane McVeigh, 53 Bayswater Row, Leeds 8.

BIRMINGHAM Militant Social Saturday 13 September, 128 Franklin Road, Cotteridge. (Buses 45, 41, 47 along Pershore Road, 11 Outer Circle) 8 pm till late, cheap beer and food. Everyone welcome.

LEICESTER Militant Readers' Meeting 'Poland: the fight for workers' democracy'. Speaker: Jeremy Birch, Selly Oak LP. Monday 22 September, 7.30pm, Dixie Arms, Vaughan Way, Leicester.

SUNDERLAND LPYS Young Workers' Conference; sessions on 'The Shop Stewards movement' and 'The trade unions and the unemployed.' Speakers: Ron Brown MP and Andy Bevan—October 11th. 10.30am at East Community Centre, Moor Terrace, Hendon, Sunderland.

PLUNDER WOMAN IS BACK!

[As seen on TV]

Alan Hardman's popular cartoon reproduced as a striking red and black poster [approx 2ft x 1½ft], now available again. Single copies 50p post free, orders of 4 or more to be sold for Militant Fighting Fund 25p each, cash with order please. Make all cheques, POs, out to 'MILITANT' and send to Steve Cawley, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

GREET LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Get your Labour Party or LPYS branch, trade union or shop stewards' committee to place their greetings to Labour Party Conference in the pages of 'Militant'. Support the paper that fights for socialism.

Rates for greetings:

Semi-display:

3 column centimetres...£2

6 column centimetres...£4

Display:

one-sixteenth page...£7

one-eighth page...£14

one-quarter page...£25

Closing date for copy is Saturday 13 September, but send your greetings as early as possible to: the Circulation Department, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

LINCOLN Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Poland—what is happening?' Speaker: Tony Cross. Friday 19 September, 7.30 pm, Grafton House, Lincoln.

SALFORD Militant Readers' Meeting. 'Unemployment'. Speaker to be arranged. Monday 22 September, 8.00 pm, SOGAT Club, Chapel Street, Salford

NOTTINGHAM 'Militant' Readers' Meeting: 'Poland—what is happening?' Speaker: Tony Cross. Sunday 21 September, 7.30pm. Venue to be announced later.

Winner of Leeds 'Militant' 50 Club: No. 29, L Oldfield.

BLYTH Militant Readers Meetings every Wed. in the Buffalo Community Centre Blyth at 7.30pm. Further details, contact Joe Cox, Tel. Cramlington 712035

BADGES made to order, plus many new designs [Lenin, Trotsky, Marx etc] call, write or phone: Mapprographics, 108 Merton High Street, London, SW19 1DE. 01-543 3864.

TEESIDE Militant Readers Meeting. Poland: the struggle for workers' democracy. Speaker: Derek Gunby. Sunday 21st Sept. 7.30pm. Cleveland Hotel, Linthorpe Rd, Linthorpe Village, Middlesbrough.

MANSFIELD Militant Readers' Meeting 'Which way for Labour?' Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant), Monday 22 September, 7.30 pm, Meeting Room 3, Central Library, Westgate, Mansfield

LPYS Chile Socialist Defence Campaign. A5 Leaflets now available (with space for local meetings) £4.50 per 1,000 + p&p.

Send orders now to A. Bevan, LP Youth Officer, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE LPYS "Youth Against the Tories" meetings:

Hear: Andy Bevan (LP National Youth Officer).

On Wed. Sept. 17th. 7.15pm, AUEW House, Fitzalan Sq. Sheffield 1.

On Thurs. Sept. 18th. 7.15pm, Miners Hall, Barnsley. (Behind NUM HQ).

All age groups welcome! Admission Free!

ALL-LONDON Militant Readers' Meeting

'What is happening in Poland?'

Speaker: Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board)

Thursday 18 September

7.30 pm

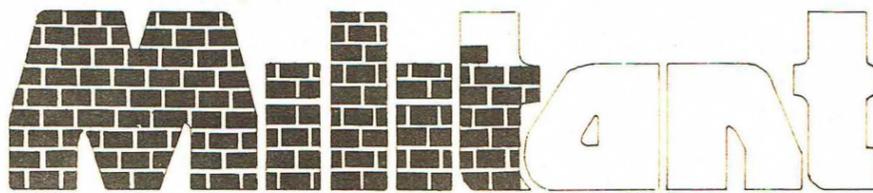
Central Hall

(Lecture Room)

Westminster, S.W.1.

(opp. Parliament)

Build



Area	Received	% of 3rd qtr target achieved	Target 3rd qtr	Target for year
Eastern	2670		3500	5,000
East Midlands	2369		2660	3,800
Hants & IOW	2314		2730	3,900
Humberside	1089		1750	2,500
London East	4060		4340	6,200
London West	2316		3290	4,700
London South	3740		3290	4,700
Manchester & Lancs	1967		3570	5,100
Merseyside	2985		4200	6,000
Northern	3279		5110	7,300
Scotland East	1285		2240	3,200
Scotland West	2786		3500	5,000
Southern	3378		4130	5,900
South West	1773		2240	3,200
Wales East	1169		1960	2,800
Wales West	2337		2170	3,100
West Midlands	4911		6300	9,000
Yorkshire	2997		5110	7,300
Others	9085		7910	12,000
Total received	56510		70,000	100,000

TARGET FOR OCTOBER 11th £70,000

FOR YEAR- £100,000

PAYING FOR THE PRIVILEGE

THIS WEEK £2,166

Every fight against the Tories—against redundancies, cut-backs or assaults on trade union rights raises the need for clearly worked out policies for the labour movement.

By Derrick McClelland

Many delegates at this year's Trade Union Congress were disappointed at the low key mood of the debates and the lack of a clear alternative to the sick capitalist system.

Those who came along to the TUC Militant Readers' Meeting donated £216.30, in appreciation of the vital work 'Militant' does in putting forward ideas that face squarely the problems created by the system.

Further indication of the mood of workers is given by donations from the following NUM Lodges: Ogmere Valley £10, Baengwrach £10, Penrhwiweiber £5, and Celynen North £2.

Some of the donations from individual trade unionists include H Ross, G&M-WU Hackney, £3, G Clyde, T&GWU Canterbury £5.35, D Stem, T&GWU Birmingham £2.80, Helen Redman, N E London hospital collections £3.40, K Buchanan, NALGO Glasgow £4, B Friel, NALGO Glasgow, £5, N Smith, UCW Glasgow £1.50, S Biro, CPSA Rutherglen £1, J Edwards, CPSA Glasgow £1.35, E McGeachan, CPSA Glasgow £1.

This week's grand total of £2,166.28 was boosted by the main bulk of the 'proceeds' of the South Wales Camp arriving at our offices. That same August Bank Holiday weekend saw the new venture of a 'Militant' Weekend School in Thanet, where an enthus-

astic appeal for financial backing for the 'Militant' raised £150.50.

Another initiative—that of supporters in Clydeside to hold a summer bazaar—was also a financial success, raising £140 for 'Militant's' funds.

Special thanks for individual donations this week go to: a Dagenham Labour Party Young Socialist who gave £15, H Pleavin of Crosby who gave £10, R Eskilson of Gothenburg (Sweden) who gave £5.50 and D Bitner of Cumberland who gave £5.

Other donations included: £4.30 from J Ennis (Reading LPYS), £3.50 from R Duncan of Banff, £3 from J Kelly of Bristol LPYS and A Simpson of Cambridge LPYS. £1.55 was donated by G Bunn (NALGO), S Gloucestershire, and among the many contributions of £1 were J Marston of Valley Ward Labour Party, A McElhorne (E Kilbride), G Jardine (Barrhead YS) and "a YS comrade's aunt, 'to help you youngsters get rid of the Tories'!"

Donations of less than £1 included: 70p from D Phillips (Milton Keynes), R Bedoux (EETPU, London), 60p from G Smart (Filton YS and COHSE), OAPs H and K Paine 30p and Mrs Kirby (Bristol) 20p.

Just a small Marxist Discussion Group in Reading added £4.30 to our total and a meeting in Chester le Street contributed over £13. What with the historic

developments in Poland, the hatred building up against the Tory job-bashers and the keen interest now being shown in Labour's Annual Conference, there should be a public meeting being organised by 'Militant' supporters in every part of the country.

'Militant' has a unique contribution to make to the labour movement in terms of its Marxist analysis of these questions—an analysis that shows the way forward for working people of East and West alike.

But anyone who reads the 'Militant' or attends one of its meetings is asked literally to "pay for the privilege"! Without your money we cannot provide all the material th. labour movement needs and, without your money, we cannot cull the information and reports and organise the meetings and events that you want.

Send us a donation now and use a 'Militant' Collector's card to collect contributions from everyone else you know!

Rank and File Mobilising Committee for Labour Democracy Rallies

London Rally: Monday 15 September, 7.30 pm, Camden Town Hall. Chair: Jo Richardson MP. Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Eric Heffer MP, Bob Wright (Asst. Gen. Sec. AUEW*), Frances Morrell (Mobilising Committee) *in personal capacity. 50p admission—20p for unwaged.

Newcastle/South Shields Tuesday 16 September, 7.30 pm. Ede House, Westoe Road, South Shields. Speakers: Audrey Wise, Frances Morrell (Mobilising Committee)

Greater Manchester Rally: Wednesday 17 September, 7.30 pm. Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate. Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Audrey Wise (Labour Coordinating Committee), Bob Wright (Asst. Gen. Sec. AUEW*), Michael Meacher MP. *in personal capacity.

Nottingham Tuesday 18 September, 7.30 pm, Albert Hall Institute, Derby Rd. Speakers: Reg Race MP, Eric Clarke (Gen. Sec., Scottish Area NUM, personal capacity).

Portsmouth Tuesday 16 September, 7.30 pm, The Crystal Room, Carnier Street. Speaker: Stuart Holland MP.

BLACKBURN Militant Supporters are at present putting together a booklet on the subject of "Art and Socialism". We still require written articles on any arts subjects, groups, or individuals also original work—poetry, songs and black and white photographs of paintings, collage, cartoons etc (not necessarily of a political nature).

Send **immediately** anything you can contribute to—R&P Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1UR.

BOWWATERS

'The time to fight is now!'

The sixteen hundred workers at Bowwaters, Ellesmere Port, unanimously voted to continue their fight to prevent the closure of the mill at Monday's mass meeting.

On the very same day, figures released showed that in 1979-80 the Bowwater company found it possible to hand over £100,000 to the Tory Party to add to the £10,000 the previous year. Who said the Tories and the company weren't good friends?

The Bowwater company can pretend a sudden concern for jobs and claim that it's only the government that is causing these redundancies—not the company itself. But it was the Bowwater bosses who joined hands with fellow capitalists to finance a victory for the viciously anti-working class Thatcherites.

The Bowwater workers can put no faith whatsoever either in Tory MPs or in the Bowwater company during the struggle to save their jobs.

It's the unity and industrial strength of the labour

By Richard Venton
(Birkenhead LP)

movement which will be needed to save these jobs. Support is picking up. The TUC agreed to support the Bowwater fight including the personal support of Len Murray.

These promises of solidarity must now be turned into decisive industrial action—that's the only language which the Tories and their paymasters will understand.

The resolution passed last week at Merseyside's SOG-AT branch called for a members' rally to be held in Ellesmere Port with the General Secretary, Bill Keyes, "invited to attend to outline the union's policy and strategy in fighting the closure, particularly after his welcomed statement to call a national newspaper stoppage to stop the closure."

Brother Keyes and other

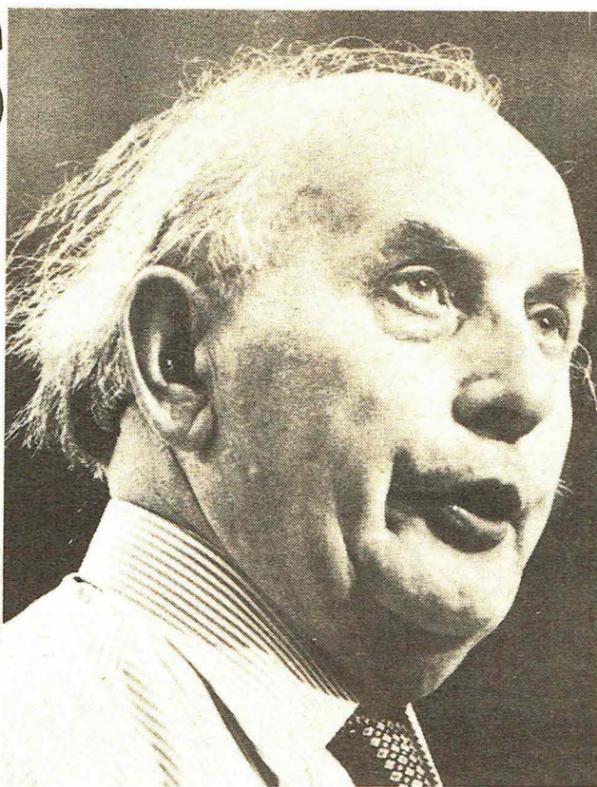


Photo: MILITANT

Bill Keyes, General Secretary of SOGAT—the union needs to spell out a clear strategy which can unite all unions in the paper industry

national union leaders need to spell out a clear strategy which can unite all unions and all workers in the paper industry on a local, national and even an international scale.

A local and national shop stewards' combine could organise maximum unity in action. There can be no relying on joint campaigns with the CBI or with the British Paper and Board Industry Federation.

Workers throughout the industry are suffering layoffs and redundancies—the employers have been proved incapable of guaranteeing jobs. The only guarantee of job security would be public ownership of the industry with workers' control and management where production and investment could be planned in the interests of society.

There's a great reservoir of support for the Bowwater workers amongst the working class. Cars throughout the area carry 'Save

Bowwaters' stickers. Ellesmere Port Trades Council have agreed to the Young Socialists' suggestion of a demonstration and rally against redundancies in the area.

LPYS branches have already organised a number of meetings with Bowwater speakers to discuss ways of helping the fight.

At my own TGWU branch this week a resolution of support was passed which will now be discussed throughout the union.

The Bowwater Action Committee themselves have said, "The time to fight is now."

If trade union strength is linked to a clear strategy, these jobs can be saved. The alternative is horrendous. With the demolition of jobs throughout the country, including in Merseyside, there's a prospect of mass poverty and misery. The whole labour movement must strain every nerve to actively help the Bowwater workers win.

Boycott Tandy's

By Brian Debus
(Erdington LP)

Armed with two "Boycott Tandy" placards and some leaflets we set up outside Tandy's main shop doorway in Birmingham City centre.

Within minutes the manager was trying it on—"Don't obstruct the doorway, don't lean your placards on our front door."

This didn't cut a lot of ice and in a little while—you guessed—a three pip inspector began making enquiries!

We told him how workers at Tandy's had been striking for four months to win union recognition, and we were calling on workers to boycott Tandy's shops, an action recognised by the T&GWU. Then, emulating a hanging judge, he said he had a reputation for arresting pickets and strikers.

Our picket has taken its toll though, with at least a 50% success rate and management increasingly canvassing from the doorway for business like a street marketer.

Later in the afternoon, after four hours of relative success another management rep. turned up and provoked an argument. This drew quite a large crowd which produced its own natural picket line!

Not to miss an opportunity to call on those present to support the T&G boycott of Tandy's, hardly anyone entered the shop during this impromptu picket.

Make sure your own Tandy shop is boycotted with your own picket, calling on all customers to join the national boycott. Support the mass picket this Monday, September 15th, Bilston Road, Wednesbury. Send donations to Jack Jones, T&G Offices, 33 Bury Street, Wolverhampton, and ring Jack Jones on Wolverhampton 26434/5.

Massive profits but jobs to go

By Bob McKee

The large electronics multinational, Racal-Decca, is trying to close the small boat radar factory in Battersea, South London, with a threatened loss of 200 jobs.

Another 150 jobs are under the axe at the New Malden site. But workers at Battersea are determined to resist until alternative work is found at the sites.

The proposed closure comes only four months after the American Racal company took over the radar and navigational equipment side of the Decca business.

At the time of the takeover they promised in writing to guarantee employment. That assurance, as AUEW convenor Stuart Monro says, is worth even less than the paper it was written on!

Racal are the fastest growing company in the UK with a ten-fold increase in profits in the last ten years—£63 million last year. They could easily afford to retool the Battersea site to

provide viable production.

But their real aim is to close down the civil side of Decca's production and concentrate on the even more profitable electronic warfare sector. So hundreds of workers are to be made redundant so that more weapons can be built and sold in order to kill thousands of other workers around the world!

Already 300 over-age workers have been sacked on just a week's notice. In fact the company offered more severance pay if the older workers left immediately—a fine way of thanking their years of loyal service.

In such a situation there is no alternative but for the workforce to fight and, as Stuart Monro says, it is in the interests of all Racal-Decca workers to unite in resistance to the company's plans.

Baico's

Ed Bober spoke to pickets at Baico's

Just twelve people work for Baico's Engineering, Hendon; yet in the first quarter of this year it had a turnover of £66,000.

This shows just how much exploitation there is, but management have the cheek to say they cannot meet a modest wage claim.

The workers here have been locked out for fifteen weeks when management tried to sack them for

organising weekly one day stoppages for an improvement in basic pay and for parity with other workshops.

"We have always had parity, yet this year the other workshops were given a 75 pence per hour rise, with no strings, while we were offered 23p an hour rise with a bonus scheme. This means fitter-welders will be getting £2.35 an

hour. That is just slave labour."

The AUEW have made it official. The pickets have stopped Manpower Services from sending anyone to scab, and a mass picket forced one scab to turn away. The only people trying to run the machines are three managers.

But management want to get rid of the union altogether. Baico's is the only unionised company in the parent Ryland group and management don't want it to spread.

"The chairman buys and

sells factories just like you or me buy a loaf of bread, yet they claim they cannot afford a decent wage, and they don't want to afford decent safety."

The labour and trade union movement cannot allow this scandalous state of affairs in the 1980s.

Donations and messages of support must go to: Baico Engineering Strike Committee, 25 Thorny Hedge Road, London W4.

Fight redundancies

Seven journalists at the Kilburn Times newspaper group in north London are striking against redundancies. The seven members of National Union of Journalists were brought out on strike by their executive after management gave notices to three of their members without any prior consultation.

Elaine Cooper FOC, Carol Ward, Deputy FOC, and Clive Gresswell described the situation:

"There are rumours being put out that we are bringing the paper down, by going on strike when it is in a difficult financial position. Those still working, including the NGA and SOGAT, who are

crossing our picket line, think they're working to save 50 jobs—there's a lot of moral blackmail going on by the company.

"But if these redundancies go through the situation can only get worse. The number of journalists left will not be enough to produce decent newspapers for the area—even the management themselves have said this! It's a real short sighted policy and will end up affecting the paper badly.

"But they're not interested in presenting a qualitative newspaper; just making money.

"The local Brent Trades Council and other NUJ



chapels have given us a lot of support, but we need to be supported by the unions still working. Everybody's frightened of losing their own jobs and they can't see that to save jobs we have got to stick together."

This week management finally agreed to meet NUJ executives for talks, and have suspended the redun-

dancy notices. However, the journalists are remaining on strike until the situation is resolved, and support is still needed. The titles affected by the dispute are the 'Kilburn Times', 'Paddington Times', 'Willesden & Brent Chronicle', and the 'Wembley and Brent Chronicle'.



MILITANT ENGINEERS PAMPHLET

Engineering workers —get 'Militant's' case for socialist leadership of the AUEW

Price 30p [plus 10p p&p] from World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

AUEW THE CASE FOR A FIGHTING SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP!

NALGO Prepare for Tory intervention

The decision by the local government delegates at a special pay meeting last Friday to go for arbitration will add further confusion over the 1980 pay claim.

The employers' offer of 13% was firmly rejected as being "totally unrealistic", but after putting a stone wall case for rejecting the offer, the national local government committee then put forward the idea of arbitration.

Amendments calling for industrial action were lost after the executive, on a narrow majority, stated that industrial action should only be taken up if arbitration failed.

Despite the strong criticism of delegates from the Strathclyde and Knoesley branches of the national committee's stance, the conference decided unfortunately to place its faith in an independent arbitration panel even although as one delegate, Ronnie Stevenson, Strathclyde, pointed out that this in the present economic crisis would undoubtedly mean that Thatcher and the Tories would intervene to ensure that their pay restraint policies were carried out to the full.

By David Churchley

(Strathclyde NALGO Branch Council)

The implications of going to arbitration are as yet not clear but there is no doubt that any settlement will go a long way to set back the gains made by the union during our comparability dispute.

Indeed there is no reason to think that our claim to go to arbitration will in fact be agreed to by the employers.

Given what was said by the platform on Friday about the employers' unwillingness to negotiate on anything more than 13% is there any more reason to think that arbitration is on, and if it is, can we really expect a better offer?

An even worse possibility facing the members is the prospect of a higher offer

being decided by arbitration particularly in view of the civil service settlement of 18 and 19% but then the employers refusing to implement it.

Already local councillors have expressed their concern at any offer exceeding 13%, and due to the invidious cash limits being enforced, any settlement in excess of 13%, as the councillors would see it, would mean further cuts and job losses.

This is precisely in line with the Tory policy of perpetrating the myth that any wage increases even where they are in defence of living standards will cause

further unemployment.

The burning question for many members is that if any of these options do materialise then will the leadership offer a fighting campaign?

It would, however, still be entirely possible for the national committee to embark upon a programme of industrial action if "justice" is not seen to be done yet again to our members.

It is now clear that only through direct and full participation in any pay claim in the future will ensure the probability of the members fighting for it, particularly if a clear lead can be given.

To ensure that every possible gain can be made out of this second best option, branches should be keeping on top of their local government representatives on the national committee and demand that every opportunity be given to the members to get up to date reports on the arbitration developments.

A full propaganda campaign should still be initiated particularly if in the event of any industrial action being necessary to accomplish the settlement then the branches would be in a far better position to organise for it.



NALGO members on the march during the 1978 pay claim

Catercups Lessons must be learnt

By Christine Onions
(Bootle LPYS)

Trade unionists, Labour Party and LPYS members were stunned when they heard the dispute at Catercups, Bootle, where 28 workers have been fighting for union recognition, was over.

Richie Fayre, a worker involved in the dispute, reported the news to the LPYS at their meeting last week. He told us that a mass meeting of the workers was held that afternoon, they had been informed it was doubtful an industrial tribunal would award them any severance pay, and they themselves may be faced with costs.

Shocked by this advice the workers told their official that they no longer wanted to go to an industrial tribunal, and asked if the management's previous offer of money was still open. The management agreed

to reopen their offer of money ranging between only £25 and £800.

Throughout the dispute the workers have shown courage and determination in their willingness to struggle. They carried out a 24-hour picket duty until the end of the dispute and organised mass pickets which successfully disrupted production.

Lack of consistent leadership

If the determination of these workers had been matched by their union officials the dispute would have drawn a more successful conclusion. It was only towards the end of the dispute that the blacking of the firm's suppliers and the

production of leaflets was being effectively carried out. There was no real consistent and decisive leadership during the strike.

Added to this, on the picket line itself, the police would always turn out in force to help the scabs through.

In this light, the workers involved in this dispute can hardly be blamed for their decision to settle for the offer of money.

We must all learn from the hard lessons of the dispute. Workers involved in disputes for union recognition should not pin their hopes on industrial tribunals to win back their jobs. Rather they must turn to the labour movement for support.

We must now go back into the movement and fight harder and stronger for democratic control, election and re-selection of officials to make sure the union leadership carry out the aspirations of the rank and file.



KING HENRY PIES—a picket is arrested. Her crime? She stepped off the pavement. Trade unionists must support these bakery workers who are striking for union recognition.

Photo: Steven Willett

in brief

The Central Electric Generating Board plan to axe 3,000 jobs. They say they have had a 7 per cent drop in demand. The cutting of these jobs may mean the closing of or 'mothballing' of up to 20 power stations.

The Metal Box Company are to close two of its 12 factories in the open top can division. 1,260 workers will be made redundant—500 at Winsford, Cheshire, which will close by Christmas, and 760 at Rochester, by next year. There are also plans to close their 'general line' plant in Hackney, East London, which will mean the loss of another 400 jobs in this deprived area.

Thomas Borthwick and Sons, the country's leading international meat trader, is to cut its workforce by a third. 300 workers will be made redundant. The company is closing four plants and considering the closure of four others. The Borthwick bosses say they must get rid of their loss making sections.

Over 400 jobs will be lost over the next six months, as the Eaton Axles plant in Darlston, West Midlands, closes down. This company is part of the giant US Eaton Corporation.

The New Hucknall colliery, Notts., is to close. The NCB say they will re-employ the 626 workers at the pit site. It is claimed 'recoverable' reserves have been exhausted. The NUM are reserving their judgement at present.

Dorman Diesels of Lincoln have announced they will close down by the end of the year meaning 53 redundancies. Also twenty jobs will be lost at Mann Egerton car dealers in Derby, when this branch closes down.

Capitalism in crisis has no mercy. A work centre for physically handicapped has had to put its 38 employees on short time working. And a minibus which carries 14 of the disabled workers to the factory has had to be sold off to help keep the place going.

Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said in 'The Times' [September 8] that Tory cutbacks in local government spending could cost more than 150,000 jobs over the next two years.

About 600 workers at the Jersey Kapwood plants at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Netherfield and Alfreton are working a four-day week. Jersey Kapwood is a division of the Carrington Viyella giant.

The Thorn Consumer Electronics factory in Notts. is to close in November. 500 jobs will be lost.

SRI LANKA

By Bob Labi

Release Workers' Leaders

Letter from Sri Lankan prison
 —page 10

It has now been a month since the Sri Lankan government arrested several key trade union and opposition leaders in an attempt to behead the mass strike movement against JR Jayawardene's reactionary administration.

While some of the workers arrested after the August 8th rioting in Colombo have been released in the past week, the key leaders remain in custody.

The Sri Lankan government is also still refusing to reinstate the workers whom it sacked for the 'crime' of going on strike. Nearly 100,000 are desperately attempting to survive after losing their jobs. Only collections of food and money from sympathetic workers, peasants and shopkeepers are keeping them alive.

The Joint Trade Union Action Committee, which embraces most opposition trade unions, has hesitated over what action should be taken next. It has organised a petition calling for all the strikers to be reinstated, and, after hesitation, has agreed to carry out the Nava Sama Samaja Party's proposal to hand in the petition to the government.

It is because the Nava Sama Samaja Party has been at the forefront of the workers' struggles that the government is refusing to release some of its best-known leaders, including Vickramabahu Karunaratne (the NSSP General Secretary); Vasudeva Nanayakkara (President of the NSSP-led United Federation of Labour); Gunasena Mahanama (Government Clerical Service Union General Secretary), and Saranapala de Silva (Commercial and Industrial Workers Union President).

The United Federation of Labour, in an appeal to the European labour movement received this week, points out: "The support we have received from British trade unions and other labour movement organisations in Britain, Ireland and Western Europe is compelling President J R Jayawardene to adopt again his customary democratic pose... On 24 August he publicly stated that he 'was baffled how foreign trade unions and parliamentarians could cable him asking for the release of various persons taken into custody over the 8 August violence in Colombo'. ('Sunday Observer', 24 August 1980)."

The Sri Lankan government is claiming that there was no strike, merely that workers left their jobs. No one should be fooled by this sleight of hand! J R Jayawardene's government ruled on 16 July that any worker on strike after 17 July would be



PHOTOS: Workers in Sri Lanka face severe repression from the reactionary UNP government.

Photo: MILITANT



"deemed for all purposes to have forthwith terminated or vacated his employment... and (b) in addition, be guilty

of an offence."

For any worker convicted of striking "in addition to any other penalty that the court shall impose for such offence —(a) all property, movable or immovable, of that person shall, by virtue of such conviction, be deemed to be forfeited to the Republic" ('Government Gazette', 16 July 1980).

So for the "crime" of striking, this self-proclaimed "democratic socialist" J R Jayawardene government not only sacks strikers but hauls them into court. No wonder last week the 'Financial Times' held a conference in Colombo on "business opportunities in Sri Lanka"!

But these attacks on workers' elementary democratic rights have not gone unnoticed internationally. At last week's Trades Union Congress in Brighton many delegates signed an appeal for the release of the imprisoned workers, and others agreed to become sponsors for the newly formed Campaign to

Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka.

The Union of Communication Workers has joined in the call for the government to release the imprisoned trade unionists, and the Labour Party International Committee has decided to send a protest deputation to the Sri Lankan High Commission in London.

The Sri Lankan government is seriously worried about the effects of an international campaign of protest against its anti-working class policies, particularly because it depends on international aid to finance 65% of its spending.

Every section of the labour and trade union movement should support the three demands of the Campaign:

- ★ Unconditional release of all arrested during the General Strike!
- ★ Full reinstatement of all strikers without victimisation!
- ★ Repeal of all anti-trade union and repressive laws!

Protests should continue to be sent to: President J R Jayawardene, Presidential Office, Queen Street, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka and to the Sri Lanka High Commission, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W.2.

Copies of any protests, together with solidarity measures and donations to the NSSP, UFL or GCSU should be sent to Wesley Muthiah, 19 Hawthorn Avenue, London N.13.

Details of the Campaign to Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka can be obtained from 32 Hollydown Way, London E.11. Donations to aid the campaign's work are also needed.

King Henry Pies -NINE WEEK FIGHT FOR UNION RIGHTS

The Tories frequently talk about the need for 'law and order' in industrial relations. The kind of 'order' Maggie Thatcher and Co. want is a servile workforce and fat profits.

By Ken Brownsey

Recent events show that the management of King Henry Pies in Manchester have similar ideas. But workers at this factory are fighting them and have been picketing round the clock now for nine weeks to gain recognition for their union, the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union.

Faced with appalling wages and conditions and a management which has victimised workers in the past, they are as determined as ever to win recognised union protection. They are deterred by the arrest of eleven Bakers Union and other union members for obstruction at a previous picket.

Twice a week on Tuesday and Friday, fifty or so trade unionists turn up to show their support and special mass pickets are being organised, the next being on Friday 19 September. Last Friday the picket turned away a large delivery of plastic containers, much to the dismay of Mr Derek Hollins, the managing director.

With one or two other

well-paid stooges in large cars, he spends much of the day bussing scabs around, which must be a bit of a comedown for such a captain of industry.

Victory for King Henry workers would be a great example for other low paid workers in similar factories, and with recent developments it would show the movement generally is not prepared to let the forces of 'law and order' cow the any section of workers fighting for their rights.

Support the 13 September mass picket. Get your trade union, Labour Party and LPYS branch to support. For leaflets and more information, or if you can help with money, blacking and useful information contact Bakers Union District Offices, Room 4, George House, 30 Dudley Road, Manchester M16 8BE.

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