

CITY SHARKS GRAB PROFITS

AS DOLE QUEUES GROW

Whole towns are being transformed into industrial wastelands. Yet the speculators and financial parasites in the City of London are still laughing all the way to their banks.

A few days after unemployment figures topped 2 million, the Financial Times Ordinary Share Index [9 September], based on the shares of 30 top monopolies, reached a new peak for the year, 508.9.

The City gentlemen who buy and sell shares for their wealthy clients had been cheered by hints from the Treasury that interest rates might soon be falling.

So why not invest in a few more shares? Shares in arms and military equipment and electronics were especially popular.

Bowater's shares went up, too, "following [according to the 'Financial Times'] the satisfactory half year figures." The "satisfied" investors are cynically indifferent to the fact that Bowater's has recently sacked 1,500 workers at their Ellesmere Port plant, boosting the massive unemployment in the Merseyside area [see centre pages].

This enthusiastic buying of shares, moreover, produced no new investment for industry.

By
Roger Shrives

Manufacturing investment is actually expected to fall by 10% this year.

The speculators are trading in old shares—for the sake of the dividends they think they will "earn". The amount of new share capital, providing new investment to industry, issued this year is absolutely negligible.

The speculators are not interested in production, productivity or jobs—they look at the balance sheet and the quarterly dividend results.

The engineering employers for instance, are claiming that they can't afford to concede a wage increase of more than 6%—a derisory offer. The Tory government's own Tax and Price Index has, over the annual period to July 1980, increased by 18.5%.

The 'Financial Times'
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DOCKERS STAND FIRM

Faced with the Port bosses' moves to open the door to massive redundancies, dockers are preparing for a national strike from Monday 22 September.

There was a unanimous call for action to close Britain's ports at last Monday's meeting of the Transport and General Workers Union national docks committee, unless the Port employers reverse attempts to cut wages and impose back-

By
Eileen Short

door redundancies.

Deep-sea dockers in Belfast have already been forced into strike action. They are fighting a bitter battle against redundancies and the return of casual work [report page 14]. Bobbie Dickie, chairman of the Belfast Irish T&GWU branch told 'Militant': "For us the return to casual work is a return to the hungry 'thirties."

The Liverpool Port Employers brought matters to a head when they transferred 178 workers to the Temporary Unattached Register. This would cut fall-back basic pay by over £20 a week.

But the most important issue at stake is a threatened return to the iniquitous old system of casual labour—which generations of dockers fought to abolish.

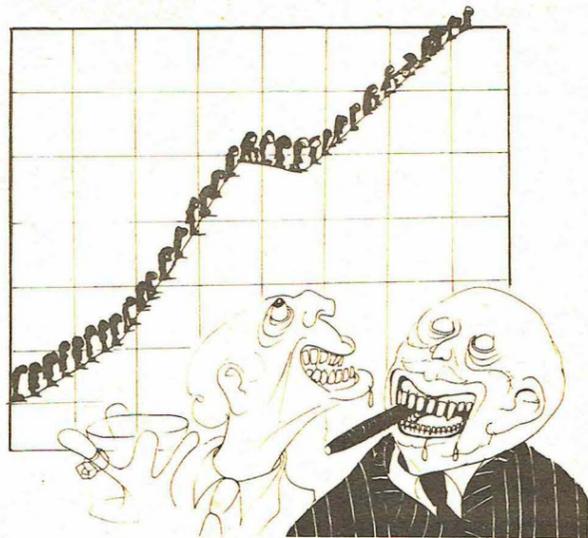
The union is demanding that the men are re-allocated to other work, in line with the agreement made after the 1972 dockers' strike. That agreement meant that the register would only be used for workers awaiting disciplinary action.

In their attempt to
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Dockworkers lobby negotiations on September 15, calling for a national strike.



Photo: Militant.



Trade Union
action NOW
to bring down
the Tories!

TORIES OUT!

Militant

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London E8 3PN

THE TORY DEAD END

Labour's shadow cabinet last week rightly demanded the recall of parliament to "deal with the most dangerous unemployment situation the country has had to face since 1945."

But workers facing a catastrophic economic situation, with the prospect of much worse to come if the Tories remain in office, will be expecting this call to be backed up with a campaign to bring down the Tories and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies capable of solving the problem.

Already, there are serious splits within the Tory ranks. And the deepening recession, or small slump, with more and more factory closures and redundancies every week, has given rise to growing pressure from big business for a change in Thatcher's policies. The bosses want more subsidies and hand-outs from the state—to be paid for, of course, by further cuts in workers' living standards.

The government's failure to meet even its own monetarist targets, advanced by Thatcher as the central plank of her economic programme, has led to biting criticism from hard-line monetarists.

But Thatcher has inevitably failed to achieve her statistical targets, because in blindly implementing ruthless deflationary policies the Tories have cut demand and increased the amount of industrial capacity left laying idle. While more and more has to be paid out in unemployment pay and social security for the every growing number of unemployed workers, the state's revenue from taxation has inevitably been reduced by the deepening recession.

On the other hand, according to the 'Sunday Times' [14 September],

which no doubt has the benefit of "off-the-record" briefings, the 18% rise in the money supply over the last 12 months was greeted with "private derision among [Thatcher's] 'wet' opponents in the cabinet."

But the 'wets', although perhaps not so blinkered as Thatcher and fearful of the consequences of her policies, have no real alternative. A return to increasing public expenditure to stimulate demand and production would again stoke up the fires of inflation, undermining big business from the other direction.

With the world-wide crisis of capitalism, and the special crisis of the sick British capitalism, there is no way out—whether through de-flationary or re-flationary policies.

So intense are the differences within the Tory cabinet itself, according to the 'Sunday Times,' that a cabinet meeting originally called for last Thursday, following a meeting of Thatcher's Economic Committee, "was cancelled at short notice, evidently because the high priests of monetarism had been unable to formulate an explanation which would reconcile the shattering revelations with their own ideology—or agree on what to do next."

The splits within the Tory party are a reflection of the fundamental impasse of the system, and the inability of the economists and strategists of capitalism to see any way out.

Many of the former enthusiastic evangelists of the monetarist gospel in the Tory party, in the Treasury, in the City, and in the board-rooms of big business, are now beginning to have second thoughts.

For the economic witch-doctors of big business, the ideas of Milton Friedman, or 'Monetarism'—a new



Photo: MILITANT

garb of the old policies of deflation—no longer appear the brilliant panacea they so recently claimed them to be.

Most importantly, the Confederation of British Industry, reflecting the desperate position of many manufacturing firms, has publicly called on the government for a change of policy. They are demanding the speed-up and increase of regional grants to industry, and behind the scenes they are exerting pressure on the government to move towards some form of formal incomes policy, which Thatcher has always stood against.

But an attempt to boost profits through government hand-outs paid for by more public spending cuts and drastic pay cuts enforced through a legal incomes policy would itself undermine demand and push up unemployment even more.

The Tory MP for Rossendale, however, where the textile industry is suffering from collapse, has called for urgent government action to help firms in trouble. According to Mr Trippier, Tory MPs in the sensitive marginal seats in the Northern textile belt are "extremely concerned about the social consequences which will arise from so many jobs being lost in the textile and footwear industry within such a short period of time."

But it is not only in the economically stricken North West that Tory MPs are reflecting the pressure of floundering big business, and expressing their own fears of losing their seats in a general election.

The Midlands, too, are becoming "a Tory night-

mare," according to the 'Financial Times' [21 September]. The Midlands constituencies, where the Tories hold 55 of the 99 seats, are the key to the outcome of a general election. "It was the higher than average swing in the Midlands, which sealed Mrs Thatcher's victory last year."

But the Midlands, with a high proportion of skilled and semi-skilled engineering, are no longer immunised from the effects of unemployment. The sharp decline in British industry's competitiveness and the near collapse of the car industry, "looks like turning parts of the Midlands into the sort of industrial wastelands which have hitherto been confined to Northern England, Wales and Scotland...July's Cambridge Economic Policy Review predicts that by 1983 the West Midlands will be suffering 13.7% unemployment. Far from retaining its traditional prosperity relative to the depressed Northern regions, it will actually have the highest unemployment rate in England."

Even in the South East, some Tory MPs are expressing alarm at the consequences of Thatcher's policies, like the unrepentant Julian Critchley who "earlier this year described the government's economic policies as 'A level economics', and I see no reason yet to mark them up."

While unemployment in the South East is still lower than the rest of the country, it has been rising at a faster rate. In the past eleven months, unemployment in the South East, excluding London, has risen by almost 40% compared to 34.9% for

Britain as a whole.

These developments show that, despite the sweeping victory of the Tories last May and the apparent strength of the Thatcher government in the last year or so, the government rests on shaky foundations, foundations which are crumbling every day.

In the coming months the stunned reaction of workers, especially in areas like the Midlands, to massive redundancies will change into burning anger and a demand for action against the Tories and the bosses' system.

Since the steel workers' strike the Tories have managed to avoid any major industrial confrontation. But it is possible at any time for new battles to flare up. If the port employers do not retreat, a national dock strike could develop into a major confrontation between the labour movement and a Tory government determined to cut workers' living standards and undermine trade union rights.

This situation, above all, demands a clear and decisive lead from the labour movement. Oppositional gestures in parliament are not enough. Moves such as the demand for a recall of parliament, and a new motion of censure against Thatcher's government, must be part and parcel of a campaign to mobilise the movement, and wider layers of workers against the Tories.

But this cannot be successfully undertaken on the basis of a return to the policies of the last Labour government, which itself began the cuts in social spending, the undermining

of workers' real pay levels and began monetarist policies, albeit in a milder form than the Tories' present policies. Any government that attempts to work within the rotten framework of capitalism will inevitably be forced along the path of attempting to restore big business profits at the expense of the working class.

The Labour Party Special Conference and a number of key Trade Union conferences have made it clear that the rank and file of the movement are totally opposed to any return to such policies.

Only bold Marxist policies, based on the implementation of clause IV part iv of the Labour Party's constitution, can provide a solution for the working class. In present-day capitalist society, this means in practical terms the nationalisation of the banks, finance houses, and the top monopolies, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need.

At the same time, linked to this programme, the trade unions and Labour Party should initiate campaigns on the burning issues facing workers: jobs, wages, housing, health, and other social services.

Actively explaining and fighting for demands such as the 35-hour week without loss of pay, an £80 minimum wage for all workers, and a programme of useful public works, would enable the labour movement to bring down the Tories and return a Labour government capable of solving the problems of working people.

City Sharks

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found that for the 35 engineering companies who published their annual results by April this year (for the year ended July-October 1979) pre-tax profits rose by 18.5%—described as a "strong rise".

A dozen of these engineering companies, moreover, paid out dividends to their

shareholders that were between 20% and 44% higher than the previous year.

But they expect their workers to accept 6%!

Within the sight of the Stock Exchange and the big banks, there are areas of East London suffering from appalling, and worsening unemployment. Stepney and

Poplar has an unemployment rate of 14%; Tower Hamlets as a whole has 11% of its workforce on the dole.

Even worse than that, recent surveys conducted by the Greater London Council suggest that "parts of the declining inner city have rates of unemployment between 1½ and 2 times as high as the region as a whole, largely of unskilled workers who do not register for unemployment benefits." ('Daily Telegraph', 13 September).

To protest at this scandal and highlight the disgusting

contrast between city profiteering and the devastation of nearby working-class areas, Tower Hamlets Labour Party Young Socialists will be picketing the Stock Exchange on 23 September, when the next lot of appalling unemployment figures are expected to be published (details, page 3).

A tiny handful of people, 1% of the population, own 65% of all shares. Within this parasitic group are the handful of people who control the directorships of the banks, the finance companies, the

insurance companies and the big industrial monopolies.

They are the real controllers of industry. They decide the fate of millions of workers and of whole communities. And their motive is profit.

What solution can there be for workers when the economy is in the hands of these people? So long as they remain in control, the catastrophic decline of the British economy will not be reversed. Millions of workers will face the prospect of mass unemployment and dire poverty.

The economy must be

taken out of their hands! The "commanding heights"—the big monopolies, the banks and finance companies—must be nationalised with minimum compensation on the basis of need.

Then, and only then, will the productive resources of the economy be used in a planned way, for the benefit of all working people.

CHILE VOTES



'JUST CARRY ON AS THOUGH I WASN'T HERE' Alan Baker

Stop visit of Chilean Prison Ship

The latest expression of the Tory government's support for the Chilean military dictatorship is the planned visit of a Chilean naval ship in November.

The 'Esmeralda', a naval training ship, is reported to be coming to London on a 'goodwill' visit.

By Lawrence Coates

(LPYS National Committee)

The ship was used as a prison for many arrested after the coup in 1973 which overthrew the left government led by Salvador Allende.

Similar goodwill visits by the 'Esmeralda' last year were attempted to Japan and San Francisco, USA. But action by Japanese and American workers prevented the ship from docking.

The Labour Party Young Socialists are contacting the Transport and General Workers' Union to ask that

the ship be blacked. Branches of the LPYS are asked to alert shop stewards in all ports and London in particular to ensure that a massive wave of protest is begun.

The visit of the Esmeralda exposes the chilling, cynical attitude of the Tories towards a regime which has murdered 60,000 workers and tortured and imprisoned thousands more. The British labour and trade union movement must make it clear that they are utterly opposed to the Pinochet government and the

friendly hand extended to the junta by Thatcher.

Even in last week's farcical referendum only just over 50% of the electorate 'supported' the junta's new Constitution. And this in a country where dissension is often punishable by torture or death.

Amnesty International has recently reported on the escalation of military terror in Chile over the last few months. But opposition is growing as was seen in the demonstration of thousands of workers in Santiago on 28 August.

The LPYS Chile Socialist Defence Campaign has a new leaflet available for free to LPYS branches [who are asked for donations to help the CSD funds] from Andy Bevan, The Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London S.E.17.

PREPARE NOW FOR UNEMPLOYMENT MARCH

NOVEMBER 29th

"We are not going to be able to reverse the upward trend of unemployment in the next few months."

That's the prospect that the Tories' economic guru, Sir Geoffrey Howe held out to the 2 million unemployed in a recent radio interview.

By Kevin Ramage

(National Chairman LPYS)

The same news bulletin carried predictions [from employers' organisations!] of 2½ million unemployed this winter.

The National Labour Party demonstration in Liverpool on November 29th is a crucial opportunity for the whole Labour and Trade Union movement to mobilise in the fight against unemployment and the reactionary Tory government.

Coventry SE Labour Party have already organised collections to help sponsor unemployed youth to go, and are now organising a meeting to build for the demonstration to which representatives of over 300 labour and trade union organisations in the Coventry area have been invited.

"We want to see a minimum of 10,000 people in the LPYS contingent," said Tony Saunois, for the LPYS National Committee. "At national level we are establishing a youth campaign committee to organise the mobilisation and secure megaphones, placards, red flags and banners for the march and to contact other youth organisations. The branches and citywide liaison committees should follow

suit.

"We are requesting an LPYS speaker on the next party political TV broadcast to push for the march and branches should try and get on local TV and radio and seek publicity in the press."

The LPYS is demanding the sharing out of work, for a 35-hour week without loss of pay and for a massive programme of useful public works. Policies such as these must be linked to the struggle to bring the Tories down and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Under a socialist plan of production all the resources and modern technology could be put to use shortening the working week, raising living standards, and massively improving social services. The alternative is to suffer mass unemployment as a permanent feature of a capitalist system entering into deeper and deeper crises. That is a perspective that the labour movement and working class youth cannot and will not accept.



Part of the 5,000 strong LPYS march against the Tories in February

Photo: MILITANT

PICKET STOCK EXCHANGE

On Tuesday September 23rd, the next set of unemployment figures come out, Tower Hamlets LPYS, in conjunction with the London Region LPYS are organising a picket of the Stock Exchange.

11.45 am—2 pm, Stock Exchange, Threadneedle Street, Bank tube station. Come along and see the spivs who gamble in the future of working class youth!

SICKNESS PAY WITHDRAWN

From 15th September, the government has succeeded in eradicating all illnesses of less than 4 days duration. This enormous step forward in medical science has been achieved by a team led by M. Thatcher and K. Joseph, utilising techniques of monetarism not previously employed in the field of medicine.

It is anticipated, however, that workers will still be ill; to cover this eventuality they will be able to purchase, for about £1.20, a note from their doctor to present to their employer. But in a move designed to discourage the anti-social and disruptive tendency of workers who imagine that they are not well enough to work, they will not be paid anything for the first 3 days of any period of absence from work claimed to be due to illness.

LEAFLETS

Two special leaflets have been produced for the build-up to the November 29th demonstration.

The Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee are producing 1 million leaflets aimed at young people to get them on the Labour Party demonstration against unemployment in Liverpool on November 29th. These leaflets and 10,000 posters will be available free of charge to

the branches.

The Youth Campaign Against Unemployment leaflet 'Unemployed Youth Get Organised' is particularly aimed for use at dole queues. The leaflet is printed on duplicating paper, and is blank on one side to enable details of local meetings, coaches, etc, to be added.

The leaflets are £4 per 1,000 [£5 post inc.] from YCAU PO Box 104, London E8 STP. Also just out from the YCAU are the new badges 'Labour Party Young Socialists—SAVE JOBS

SACK THE TORIES' at 20p each, 10 for £1.10.

TRAVEL

The London Labour Party has agreed to book a train to take people up to the demonstration. Seats are £9 each, all money to be sent in advance to London Labour Party, Herbert Morrison House, 195 Walworth Road, SE17. If enough people book early it may be possible to look into extra trains.

LPYS

Labour Clubs

RACISTS OUT!



The anti-racists march in Dewsbury.

Recently in the Dewsbury/Batley areas there has been a large rise in attacks on the Asian community and their property.

This culminated with the placing of a pigs head on the altar of a local mosque. This is the greatest racial insult possible as the pig is considered unclean.

A mass meeting was hurriedly organised outside the mosque that evening. Feelings among the Asian youth ran high and despite intense pressure from police and

By Tim Durant
(Secretary, Dewsbury LPYS)

community elders, it was decided that positive action had to be taken before somebody was killed or seriously injured.

It was decided to hold a demonstration through Dewsbury and Batley, and to hold a rally in Dewsbury Town Hall.

It drew about 300 people from the area including four YS branches, the ANL, and other anti-racist groups. The

Labour MP for Batley and Morley also joined the march.

At the rally in Dewsbury Town Hall, Yusuf Patel who is chairman of the local Asian Youth Organisation gave a rousing speech saying attacks on Asians are attacks on the whole working class movement and that we must unite to defend ourselves.

But the speech that drew the greatest amount of applause came from George Knell of Huddersfield LPYS and regional YS committee representative. He said, "The only way that workers could fight together and win was to

join the Labour Party, LPYS and trade union branches."

This brought applause from every person in the room—even the press!

After the meeting copies of 'Militant' and 'Socialist Youth' were sold and YS leaflets handed out. At least two people expressed interest in joining Dewsbury YS and we hope that more people will contact us so that we can build a powerful LPYS branch in the Dewsbury and Batley areas, so that we can clear out the Nazi scum from this area for good.

Disaster area

By Alan Turner
(ASTMS 507)

For the last six years I have had a paper round on the council estate where I used to live.

Since I have been delivering the 'Militant' I have been able to get to know some of the people fairly well.

However, recently my round turned out to be quite a shock, one could say it reflected the crisis of capitalism in human terms.

My first call was to my ex-next door neighbour who's husband has been made redundant twice in the past year from his job as a van driver.

My second call was to a young apprentice engineer. We talked about our different jobs. I remarked how many engineering firms in Leeds had declared redundancies in the last few months.

He replied that his father was on a four-day week and that supervisors were being sacked at the same factory.

My third call was to another engineer, called Frank. I was puzzled why his house, which he had just moved into, was up for sale. Frank. I was puzzled why his job at KIRSTALL forge along with around 300 others.

"There is no future in manufacturing industry," he said angrily, "Thatcher's murdering it."

He told me had started a milk round using money from the sale of his house and his redundancy money. He had been forced into a smaller house.

Next call was at Cheryl's and her family. A Labour Party member and a good 'Militant' supporter, who raised money for the paper by selling raffle tickets and collecting jumble.

I told them about my previous visits that night. They agreed things were bad and her husband Chris then told me of their family worry.

He worked for a textile firm that made curtains and the factory was on a three-day week. His job entailed looking after the Woolworth's account.

After discussion I left expecting anything by this time, because my next call was John, who had been on short-time working for months now.

John invited me in. I asked how things were. He said another big furniture firm had gone down, but he was back on full time because some people were on holiday.

My last call was a textile worker. Recently he had been made redundant but had found a new job, although his wage was much reduced.

But then he went on to tell me how mad he was about his mother. Apparently she has cancer of the breast, but his anger was directed at the time it took to find this out, and his mother going to hospital for treatment, five weeks in all.

On the bus home I was stunned by the night's bad news and at every home. I was aware that areas such as Glasgow, North East, Merseyside and South Wales were being devastated, but in the last few months the Tories' policies have bitten deep in Leeds.

Jobs are hard to find even though it has diverse industries and a big white collar sector. Friends and their families are suffering and it is capitalism to blame.

Recruit new students

Next week thousands of Polytechnic and University freshers will start college. These new students will find that the cuts have seriously affected their courses and colleges have fewer facilities than ever before.

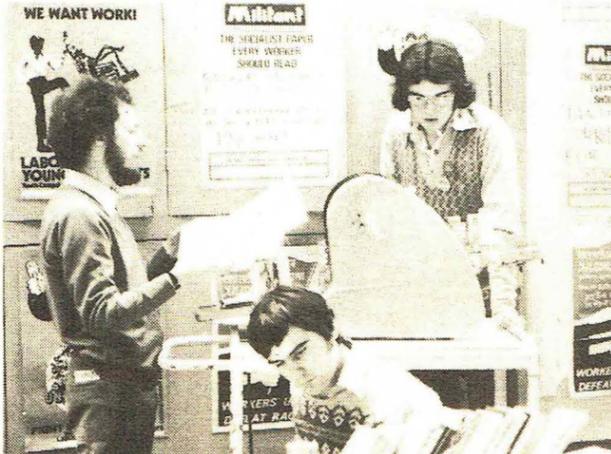
Accommodation is either at excessive rents, or non-existent with thousands starting by sleeping on floors. The student grant eaten away by inflation will not go very far to meet the bills etc.

Labour students have the responsibility to win these students to the labour movement as the only force capable of fighting the cuts and the Tory government.

Last year hundreds of new students were recruited to Labour Clubs and the potential is even better this year if a bold and audacious approach is made.

Coventry Poly Labour Club have planned a series of events for freshers' week to build their club. A canvass of the halls of residence is planned for the Sunday before term starts and a number of meetings during the week including an open air lunch time meeting with speakers from the local trade unions and Labour Parties.

The club will also have a bookstall daily in the union.



Get organised in your local Labour Club and join the fight to bring down the Tories.

The freshers stall will display labour movement banners as well as the club banner.

The club has linked up with the local LPYS for the events and socials so as to integrate the new members fully, not only in NOLS but in the LPYS.

Manchester LPYS are also assisting Labour students in the area by organising special meetings and leaflets on education to win students to the Labour Clubs and the LPYS.

Tony Benn is addressing a rally at UCL on 8th October which the Labour Club are opening to other colleges in

London and the local labour movement.

The above is just three examples of the plans of Labour students to build their Labour Clubs and link up with the LPYS.

All Labour Students should contact their local LPYS branches for support to build mass Labour Clubs in the colleges. The struggles of students must be linked up to the struggles of the organised working class to get rid of the Tories and return a Labour government committed to the socialist transformation of society.

By Alan Watson

Campaign for jobs

By Robin Clapp
(Secretary, South West YCAU)

The news that almost 8,000 teenagers in Tory-controlled Avon are wasting on the dole, while only 89 vacancies exist on the otherwise empty boards in the careers office, prompted local councillors to announce that a 'Job Search Week' would be held this month.

Its purpose being to convince local employers to take on 3,000 school leavers.

Meanwhile the LPYS is exposing the hypocrisy of these well-heeled gentlemen whose concern at the plight of the unemployed is both sudden and false. We have organised a demonstration and rally in Bristol on October 25th, in conjunction with the South West Youth Campaign Against Unemployment.

Much effort has gone into the research and production of a local campaign document around the theme of 'Bristol's Unemployed Struggles'.

Already the National Graphical Association have ordered 100 copies. ASTMS in ordering 20 copies of the pamphlet have agreed to officially sponsor the campaign and circulate all branches of the union with details of the march and circulate all branches of the union with details of the march.

TASS, in promising support have indicated that a scheduled District Committee in Exeter on October will be terminated early so that members can get back to Bristol for the event.

With Tony Benn, Ron Todd (National Organiser, T&GWU), Ron Thomas (Secretary Trades Council), Tony Sauniois (Labour Party NEC) and Councillor Pete Hammond among the speakers at the rally we have confidently set a target of 1,000 people.

YS members armed with a locally-produced petition, leaflets, posters and stickers intend within the next month to visit every factory and office in Bristol with the aim of gaining support and ensuring that banner-carrying delegations from all the main workplaces are represented on the march.

To coincide with the release of the September and October unemployment figures, pick-

ets of the Job Centres are planned, in addition to the weekly paper sales at the dole office.

Branches will also be 'visiting' local Tory clubs, participating in an all-night picket outside Avon County headquarters and ensuring rousing 'welcomes' for any Tory MPs who might decide to come to Bristol!

The response we have had so far from young people is tremendous and we are all now geared up to making sure that October 25th goes down in local history as the day when the youth of Bristol declared 'Enough is enough. Put the Tories on the dole.'

Militant Readers Meeting at Labour Party Conference
TORIES OUT—Labour to Power on a Socialist Programme

At Blackpool Library, Library Lecture Hall, Queen Street, Blackpool. 6.30 pm Tuesday 30 Sept. Speakers:

Terry Fields (FBU Exec. personal capacity)
Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board)



Workers were justifiably angered when this reactionary Tory government re-established links with the military dictatorship of Chile, and all the disgusting tortures, executions and widespread suppression of the working class that goes with it. But the military generals appear to have another new client—so called 'socialist' East Germany! According to reports from reliable sources, the two countries are about to set up 'commercial missions' in each others capitals in the near future. Already in 1975, the report says East Germany purchased over \$10 million's worth of copper from Chile. In 1977 a delegation went to Chile, in utmost secrecy, to discuss further trading. In the first five months of this year East German imports into Chile total \$6½ million. Workers internationally, including the East German workers themselves, will be angered by this act of crass hypocrisy by the Stalinist bureaucrats, who say they condemn, quite correctly, the regime in Chile, but then trade with them behind the backs of the working class.

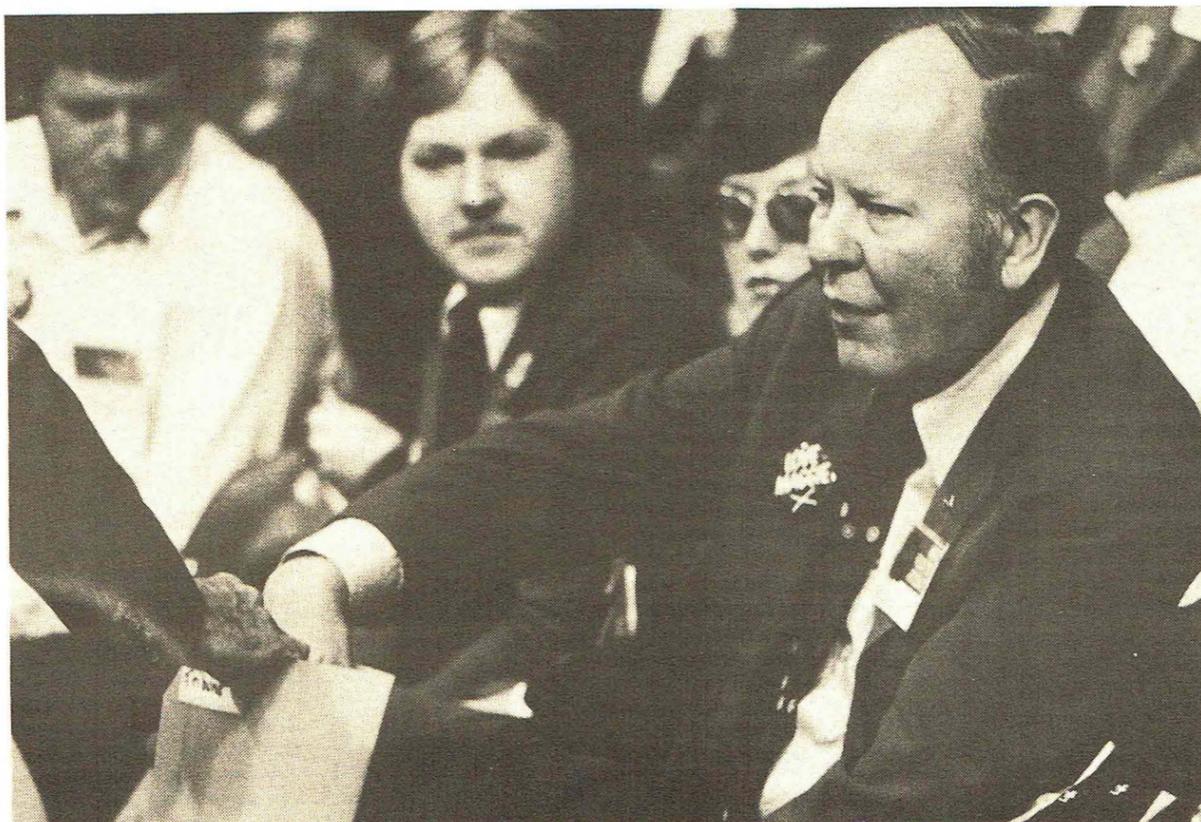
London's commercial radio station, Capital, held a contest recently. Listeners were asked to phone in saying who they'd like to throw a custard pie in the face of the most. Capital was deluged with phone calls, and DJs had to keep reminding listeners that this was only meant to be a joke contest. But Londoners were taking this seriously. Then came the results, and the winner had streaked ahead with about 300 more votes than her nearest rival. Who won? You guessed it—Mrs Thatcher.

The crisis in the textile industry has even hit the creme-de-la-creme of the fashion world, the great house of Dior in Paris. More than a 1,000 French workers have lost their jobs as the company closes down its plants. But this hasn't stopped this exclusive firm charging ridiculous prices for some of their [equally ridiculous] designs. At the same time as their former workers were beginning the desperate situation of looking for work, the company's salesmen were in Mayfair last week showing off their latest autumn designs. These included a ball gown for £850, and also the 'schoolgirl look' was in—with a blazer costing £365 and a dress for £260. And under capitalism, the thousand workers who helped produce these expensive items, will never in their lifetime own one themselves.

Mr David Lea, Assistant General Secretary of the TUC, was speaking at a meeting on April 30 this year. No, not to trade unionists, but to a joint meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Management Centre and the local branches of the British Institute of Management and the Institution of Industrial Managers. In his speech he explained the crisis facing British capitalism; however his solutions will probably leave many rank and file trade union activists with their mouths agape. He said, "Trade Unions recognise that they bear part of the blame for the present position....but by no means are we to be made the scapegoat. The blame must be attributed to all of us—the management, the unions, government, the banks and the financial institutions." According to the publication 'The Centre' [Summer 1980] he concluded by "stressing that the TUC and the CBI must begin to take action together, so that the Government will surely see that interests of the country as a whole are at stake." Trade unionists who come into confrontation with the bosses' class when they try to etch out a decent standard of living from this bankrupt capitalist system, are probably wondering how they are expected to take 'action together' with the CBI, the bosses' union, who are continually harping on about how British workers are paid too much. Or, seeing as very few, if any, trade unionists belong to the millionaire boardroom elite who own and control this profit system in their own interests, how the trade unions en masse are to blame, if only 'partly', for the present crisis of capitalism.

'Don't overdo it, chaps!'

A Tory's message to Labour renegades



"There is a danger that neo-conservatives can be more Thatcherite than Thatcher," says Lord Blake. Reg Prentice is a fine example.

Paul Johnson is not widely associated with the notion of democracy by Labour Party members. He has a strong predilection for witch-hunting.

Nevertheless, he has written a new book called 'The Recovery of Freedom', in which he explains why he left the Labour Party.

It has had an ecstatic reception from that distinguished Tory ideologue, Lord Blake ("London Review of Books" 21 August 1980). But though Blake is happy with Johnson's attack on the trade unions ("He was right. The concept [of the closed shop—IW] is tyrannical and illiberal"), he thinks that Johnson has overdone his attack on that other bête-noir, the State.

Johnson's mistake is that he fails to distinguish the two aspects of the state; he throws out the baby with the bath-water.

By Ian Walker

(Oxford LPYS)

Blake is sure that "the Keynesian consensus is as dead as a dodo," so he thinks it time to remind his readers about the good aspects of the state. Of course, like Johnson, he is glad that "In America, there is little enthusiasm for the 'Great Society', the 'New Frontier' and the 'War on Poverty', and the numerous bodies with alphabetically abbreviated titles which dole out taxpayers' money are seen less as engines of progress than as rest homes

for well-heeled bureaucrats.

"With all these sentiments a traditional Conservative like me can wholeheartedly agree. The sooner some of the more parasitic features of the modern state are eliminated, the better it will be for everyone—except the parasites."

But wiping out the welfare state is one thing, Johnson's wholesale rejection of étatism—state intervention—in all its forms is quite another. Blake thinks it timely to remind us of the legitimate scope of the state:

"Conservatives ought, in one sense of the expression, to be in favour of a "strong state" that is to say, a state which can defend the country, keep law and order, crush terrorism, put the trade unions in their proper place and preserve the value of the currency!"

So while Lord Blake is only too happy to welcome "the best journalist of our day" into the Tory fold, he warns us to beware of the over zealous convert: "Just as anglican converts can be

more papal than the pope, so too there is a danger that neo-conservatives will be more Thatcherite than Thatcher, more Reaganite than Reagan."

Reg Prentice is a case to point!

As for Blake himself, we can only regard his inane babbling about a strong currency (when virtually the whole of the capitalist class is screaming that it's impossible to sell abroad at the currently high exchange rate!) as yet another index of the failure of the ideologues of British capitalism to adjust themselves to living with the realities of the twentieth century and the demise of the British Empire.

Gold Standards and gunboats really are not a credible basis for a strategy to repair the power of British capitalism. Though of course, crushing the unions might help—if they can do it.

Night shift in Gateshead

By Alan Bavistock

(Gateshead East LP)

"Night shift is the curse of the working man," I mumble to myself as I walk down to work.

It's 8.45pm, so I'll have to get a move on if I'm to be there for 9.00pm to clock on.

The factory is a pretty depressing place at the moment. The savage Tory cuts have hit the building trade badly which in turn has hit us at Thorn heating in Gateshead where we manufacture radiators for central heating systems. We have been on a four day week for a month now. Next week we start a three day week, and with redundancy notices waiting when we returned from our holidays in August, it's not surprising that there aren't many smiling faces around.

Tonight, I'll be doing what's known as 'hanging

on' and 'lifting off'. Let me explain. The radiators are hung on to a conveyor line which travels at 17 ft per minute. This carries the radiators through a degreasing plant, paint spraying plant and stoving ovens, after which they are lifted off and loaded onto a bagging machine which wraps and seals them in polythene. The line has then travelled a full circle returning to the hanging on area, over an hour later.

The largest radiators measure 27 ins.×117ins. and weigh about 18st. So by 7.30 tomorrow morning you're almost bent double. You work in teams of four, two hanging on, two lifting

off. After an hour you swoop ends, to help break the monotony—well, variety is the spice of life they say!

You're allowed a 9 minute relaxation period every hour. If however, the conveyor breaks down as it never fails to do at least once each night, you're supposed to give this up to make up the lost time, or else lose money.

By midnight you can hardly keep your eyes open after getting no sleep all day due to the gas board laying new pipes in the road outside (a pneumatic drill doesn't exactly encourage sleep). You have a cup of tea which you drink like a zombie—hardly tasting it. Then back to the line; still only 7½ hours to go.

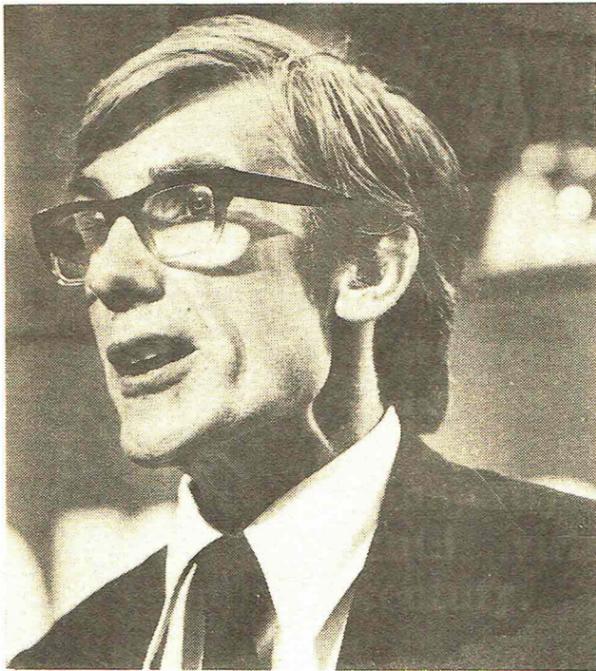
By break time your legs and feet are soaking wet. The radiators are half full of water after being tested for

leaks in water tanks. You try to eat something but at 3am you've got no appetite. You can try and snatch a half hour's sleep stretched out on a stack of radiators. At 3.30 we start up again, half the shift over.

The same routine is repeated until 7.30. By then you're in a sorry state. Your arms, back and shoulders ache. Wet from the waist down you troop over to clock out. It's raining as you leave the factory gate but it doesn't bother you too much, you're only glad it's over for another night.

For this rewarding experience you take home £70-80. That's not much with two or three kids to feed and clothe. But in this area we are the lucky ones—at least we have still got a job!

WHY WE ARE STANDING



RAY APPS is a member of Brighton Kempton Labour Party, and sat on the NEC working party on re-selection. Ray was a signatory to the minority report providing for mandatory re-selection together with CLP's being able to remove an MP as candidate at anytime.

PAT WALL is a member of Shipley Labour Party and President of Bradford Trades Council.



We are seeking election to the Labour Party National Executive Committee in order to fight for socialist policies and greater party democracy.

The labour movement is faced with a Tory government which is leading a brutal assault against the living standards of workers and their families.

Over two million unemployed, the destruction of a viable health service, the slashing of social services, are all testimony to the reac-

tionary nature of the Thatcher administration. Confronted by the worst government for decades and factory closure after factory closure, with the prospect of only worse to come, it is essential the labour movement adopts and fights for a bold socialist alternative. Only this will ensure the defeat of the Tories and the capitalist system they uphold.

We appeal to all CLP delegates to support our election to the NEC, to aid the struggle to ensure

that the Labour Party adopts such a course. The building of a mass membership, firmly rooted amongst workers and their families, with democratic control over the party leadership, is vital.

If elected, we are pledged to maintain the fight for increased party democracy. In particular, we support mandatory re-selection of MPs, with the right of CLPs to remove an MP as their candidate at any time; the election of the party leader/deputy leader annually at conference; for the NEC to have control over election manifestos based on conference policy; and for all conference decisions to be binding on the Parliamentary Labour Party.

In addition, we believe that similar changes should be introduced for councillors and Labour Groups.

These measures are essential if the party leadership is to reflect the desires and aspirations of the rank-and-file membership. But if they are to advance the cause of Labour they must be linked with a fighting socialist programme.

We campaign for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay and a minimum wage of £80 per week; opposition to all cuts in public expenditure; and the introduction of a massive programme of useful public works to create new jobs and provide desperately needed social and recreational

facilities.

We argue for the implementation of Clause IV, Part iv, of the party constitution, which concretely means the nationalisation, with compensation only on the basis of proven need, of the 200 major companies, banks and insurance companies which dominate the economy, to be run democratically under workers' control and management.

Only in this way, with the introduction of a socialist plan of production could the productive

resources be used in the interests of working people.

These measures are, in our opinion, the only alternative to the prospects of economic catastrophe and mass poverty for working people offered by capitalism.

We ask all CLP delegates to advance the struggle for a mass, democratically run, socialist Labour Party able to defeat the Tories and capitalism by supporting our election to the NEC.

The affluent South-East?

In the Thames Valley we are learning that the grim statistics we have seen on the television for Wales, Scotland and the North East are becoming a living reality for thousands of workers here too.

The depth of the disaster that the Thatcher government is creating is vividly illustrated by the savage cuts in local services and the unprecedented level of unemployment in the area.

Berkshire now has a 4.3% rate of unemployment and this in the so-called 'prosperous' South East. It is estimated that a firm a day is closing down in the Thames Valley.

Clearly, the brutal effects of the government's policies are now having a serious effect on the lives of workers and their families in an area of the country which until recently had appeared to be relatively unaffected by the slump.

By Terry Pearce

(Wokingham Labour Party)

One area badly hit by both unemployment and the cuts is the area covered by the Wokingham Constituency Labour Party, which includes the Bracknell new town. Although Bracknell town council is controlled by Labour and has a proud record of expanding services, all the local District Council and the Berkshire County Council are firmly in the hands of reactionary Tory monetarists.

This year has already seen the County Council scrapping free school milk and the stopping of all clothing and footwear grants to 7,000 poor families in the county, as well as the introduction of a 60p charge to old age pensioners for home helps.

The latest cuts have led to a drastic reduction in bus services, with the threat of

further cuts which could leave two large estates in Bracknell with no buses at all. Two Bracknell schools have already closed and another local school is threatened with closure. Adult further education charges have been increased by 30%.

Bracknell District Council, faithfully carrying out their Parliamentary masters' policies, have already cut local services to the bone. The combination of council house sales and the collapse of its house-building programme has led to a housing waiting list of approaching 4,000. Single people under the age of 25 have now been barred altogether from even going on the waiting list.

Bracknell's only open air swimming pool has been closed and charges at the Sports Centre are being continually increased. There are only a few of the cuts that are destroying the services and amenities of Wokingham residents.

Wokingham CLP, in conjunction with the LPYS and Labour councillors, have persistently campaigned against Tory cuts and are now stepping up the fight. The party has produced 12,000 anti-cuts leaflets which are being distributed throughout the constituency linked to a

recruitment drive.

On the 16 October there will be a lobby of the Bracknell District Council meeting which is being organised by the Party. A petition protesting at the council's decision to bar single people under the age of 25 from the housing waiting list will be presented by a member of the LPYS at this meeting.

Labour Party branches and LPYS must join with local trade unions and trades councils in intensifying the anti-cuts campaign, not only by taking action against Tory councils, but also by putting pressure on Labour councils to ensure that they do not cut services.

The Tory government have thrown down the gauntlet to the labour movement, the challenge must be taken up on a massive national scale which will ram home to the Tories that the working class will not allow a return to the 1930s in terms of mass unemployment and reductions in the public services.

If such a campaign is not waged, no area of the country will remain unscathed from the ravages of social deprivation that a decaying capitalist system creates. The time to fight back is now.

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JOBS AND LIVES AT RISK

In May 1979 the Tories wrote in their manifesto, now christened the 'Book of Lies', that, "It is not our intention to reduce spending on the Health Service.

"Indeed, we intend to make better use of what resources are available. So we will cut back the bureaucracy and divert funds to the medical service itself."

The reality of the last year has been different. The Tories claimed that they would get rid of "highly paid" sections of the white collar staff who "sit about all day doing nothing" (you all know the ones, just like bus drivers, miners, car workers, etc., etc.) and divert resources into rebuilding the medical side of the NHS.

The experience of Lothian Health Board, one of the biggest in Scotland, has been totally different, however. The Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger (of beer and profit-making fame) has ordered £3.5m to be cut from their budget in the remaining three-quarters of

the financial year.

The Joint Trade Union Committee of LHB has calculated that such a cut will mean a loss of 696 jobs spread evenly over all categories of staff.

Health standards

So much for the Tories desire to increase spending on the medical side of the NHS.

Their only concern about falling health care standards is that they are not falling quickly enough!

The job losses could be much larger, however, since improvements already planned, such as work on Edinburgh Royal Infirmary costing £450,000 and replacement of home dialysis equipment costing £100,000, will have to be met within the existing cash limits.

Resolute action is necessary, not just in Lothian, but throughout the health service to defend the right to a free and comprehensive NHS which the Tories are hell-bent on destroying.

Hitler's rise to power...

The Gold Behind the Iron

Here is a book which provides a revealing insight into the sources of the Nazi Party's finance.

Hitler came to power on the backs of the crazed, ruined middle class and peasant masses. Yet his task would have been impossible without the conscious financial support of the most reactionary elements in Germany.

Review by
Tony Mulhearn

(Liverpool District
Labour Party)

The establishment of the Weimar Republic in 1918 found Germany laid waste. The reparations she was compelled to make to the allied powers robbed her of great wealth and resources and placed Germany in an economic strait jacket. From 1918 onwards, when the working class were deterred from taking power by the betrayal of Social Democratic leaders Ebert and Noske, Germany was riven by mass unemployment and appalling levels of inflation deliberately created by the government which wiped out the savings of the middle class. The conditions existed for either socialist revolution or reaction to triumph.

Germany abounded with organisations comprising ex-army officers, monarchists, White Russian emigrés and all the other social riff-raff which had been displaced by the defeat of the army and the ruined economy. Against this background Hitler was directed by the army to infiltrate the "German Workers' Party", a tiny grouping of some seven men led by one Anton Drexler. They were considered "friendly". Hitler took over and reorganised the group and renamed it the National Socialist German Workers' Party.

He discovered that one of the great sources of great potential was that it was supported by the Thule Society, an organisation which posed as a literary circle. In reality it was the most powerful secret organisation in Germany which counted among its members lawyers, judges, university professors, police officials, leading industrialists, members of the former Kaiser monarchy as well as rich businessmen. The symbol of the Thule society was the swastika and it dabbled in mysticism and the occult and has as its objective the establishment of a German state of unsurpassed power and grandeur.

But in practical terms, its political philosophy espoused German racial superiority, anti-semitism and was violently opposed to the Russian revolution and the ideas of workers' power which swept Germany at that time. The themes and slogans of the society were taken up and repeated by the Nazis.

In the early days it was the army which nurtured the small Nazi group. In 1923 Hitler was supplied with sufficient arms to equip a regiment. He asked General

von Lossow, commander-in-chief of the army in Bavaria, if he would look after them. This he agreed to do on receiving an undertaking from Hitler that they would not be used "except in the event of a showdown with communism."

Hitler's main contact in the army was Ernst Roehm, the future leader of the Nazi storm troopers. At that time Roehm was still an officer in the army. He channelled army funds to Hitler by setting up two privately-owned corporations—one directed by Roehm and the other by a fellow officer under his command.

The Nazis' most important fund-raiser was a certain Max Erwin von Scheubner-Richter, whose background remains a mystery. He approached Bavarian aristocrats, big businessmen, bankers and leaders of heavy industry such as Thyssen and Paul Reuech. He was a close friend of General Ludendorff and on several occasions the general channelled money to him from industrialists.

The authors of this book demonstrate the link-up between big business and the state machine. The Weimar treaty had limited the German army to 100,000 men, yet by the financing of the Nazis and other paramilitary organisations even as early as 1923 there were some half a million men under arms committed to defending German capitalism.

White Russian oil men, industrialists and monarchists saw the Nazis as an anti-Bolshevik mass movement which could be used to destroy the young Russian workers' state. What wealth they had was channelled to Hitler.

1923 was a decisive year in the class struggle in Germany. Runaway inflation ruined millions. Mass unemployment stalked the land. The working class took power in Saxony and Thuringia. The capitalists were terrified—particularly steel magnate Fritz Thyssen—and they became more receptive to the demagoguery and violence of Hitler.

Thyssen openly declared he had lost faith in the Weimar Republic, particularly after his capture and release by workers' militia in 1919. He was unharmed, but for this humiliation he was determined to exact his revenge. In 1923 he made his first donation of 100,000 gold marks to be divided between the Nazis and the Free Corps. Railroad tycoon and President of the German Employ-



"The meaning of the Hitler salute. Motto: Millions stand behind me. A little man asks for big gifts." John Heartfield's 1932 photo montage recognises the growing business support for fascism.

ers' Federation, Ernst von Porsig, also made his first contribution to Hitler in 1923.

A revealing chapter shows the role of Henry Ford as Nazi sympathiser. Ford who was virulently anti-semitic and kept a picture of Hitler on his desk donated at least \$340,000 to Hitler. In 1938 Hitler awarded Ford the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle.

On the road to power the Nazi fortunes waxed and waned. Stalin's theory of "social fascism" (according to which the social democrats were the fascists' twin) split the workers and ensured they did not take power as they had the opportunity of doing on more than one occasion.

German capitalism, moreover, did not totally support Hitler. They preferred to throw their weight behind the traditional conservative parties which they directly controlled and who they thought

could come to an accommodation with the unions in a way which would prove cheaper than the civil war they risked if they backed Hitler.

The slump of 1929-30 and the consequent level of 6 million unemployed in Germany compelled wide sections of the working class to turn to the Communist Party in search of a revolutionary solution to their problems. The growth in working class consciousness frightened the owners of heavy industry. While still supporting the traditional parties, they saw the need to keep the Nazis as a reserve weapon to use against the trade union and labour movement.

In the elections of November 1932 the Nazis lost 2 million votes. The vote of the Social Democrats also declined but the vote of the Communist Party leapt upwards. After this blow the Nazi Party was organisation-

ally and financially a shambles. On 11 November, Goebbels wrote in his diary: "Received a report on the financial situation of the Berlin organisation. It is hopeless..."

The intervention of conservative chancellor Von Papen, recognising that he would need the Nazi legions, saved Hitler. He arranged a meeting with Cologne banker Baron Kurt von Schroeder. Hitler explained his critical financial position. Schroeder believed that the Communist Party could take power after the November elections and he formed a syndicate of investors from heavy industry and big banking circles who agreed to underwrite the debts of the Nazi party. Shortly afterwards Goebbels noted in his diary that "the financial situation has improved all of a sudden."

Even at this late stage,

Who financed Hitler? by James and Suzanne Pool (Futura Publications) is obtainable, price £2.50 including postage from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

German capitalism was by no means unanimous in its support of Hitler. Light industry, which was dominated by firms like I G Farben, the chemical giant, still tended to favour the traditional parties and were for an accommodation with the trade unions whose leaders were prepared to accept wage cuts. Even sections of heavy industry were apprehensive about handing power to the Nazi thugs.

Sections of the middle class were leaning towards the Communist Party. These were the conditions where a decisive lead by a truly Marxist party could have rolled back the Nazi onslaught and won the German masses to a socialist programme. The terrible repercussions of this monumental failure by the Social Democrats and Communist Party leaders are well known to the world labour movement.

This book gives a graphic picture of the powerful forces which funded fascism. When big business concluded that it could no longer sustain its rule through parliamentary institutions, it backed Hitler's efforts to organise the crazed middle class into a battering ram with which to smash the labour movement and all elements of democracy. The history of fascism is a warning to the labour movement that when the capitalist class feels that its rule is threatened, it will unceremoniously discard democratic trappings and turn to brutal totalitarian methods.

But big business ultimately paid a heavy price for handing over to Hitler's Nazi protection gang. Once firmly established in power, Hitler asserted his independence from his big business clients, and the capitalists no longer had direct control of the state machine.

Hitler's policies plunged Europe and the world into a devastating war. But far from ridding Germany, or western, capitalism of the threat of Soviet "communism", the war resulted in half central and eastern Europe being entirely lost to capitalism, falling as it did under Stalinist rule.

The capitalist class will not repeat this mistake. The danger of reaction in the future, if the labour movement fails to carry through the socialist transformation of society, will be from bonapartist rather than fascist forms, of dictatorship, where the capitalists maintain control through the officer corps, which is itself an integral part of the ruling class.

Nevertheless, this book is a reminder that German fascism was not simply the work of a crazed madman, but the direct outcome of the impasse of capitalism. It underlines the ruthless, barbarous lengths to which the capitalist class will go to defend its wealth and power.

German fascism was not simply the work of a crazed madman, but the direct outcome of the impasse of capitalism. It shows the barbarous lengths the capitalists will go to to save their system.

Paper industry torn

STOP BOWWATER CLOSURE!

So far this year, one paper mill has closed per month, and paper machines are stopping at the rate of one every ten days.

The paper and board industry faces its deepest crisis since the 1960s.

Newspapers seem to be embroiled in a frenzied competition over which of them can spill out the greatest acreage of articles and statistics on the collapse of the newsprint industry! But the Tory press fails to emphasise the terrible uncertainty and trauma faced by workers in the industry. And the press equally fails to offer any solutions to this crisis.

Nearly every day, whole families in towns throughout Britain hear the bland announcement that "the business downturn" has made them redundant—surplus to requirement. In October, 630 jobs are to go at John Dickenson stationery, although last March the bosses boasted a 16% rise in profits, to £27.7 million.

The Fort William pulp mill was closed earlier in the year, and Unilevers is slashing jobs at Thames Board Mills, as are the Imperial Group's St Anne's Board mills. Hendon Paper Works, Sunderland, is to close after 100 years existence, ending 400 jobs.

One of the most brutal examples of the employers' attitude, however, came at Bowater's, Ellesmere Port, where 1,500 men and women spent two weeks' holidays without knowing whether they had got a job to return to or not.

In fact, 31 companies, excluding the two biggest paper firms (Bowaters and Reed) have announced closures or partial closures this year—and there's worse to come. SOGAT has warned its 56,000

**By
Richard Venton
(Birkenhead LP)**

members in the industry that a further 3,000 to 4,000 redundancies are likely within the next eight weeks. The possibility exists of 10,000 direct redundancies by Christmas, plus 20,000 in related industries.

True to form, the bosses are determined to make the workers pay for the crisis in their own system. This time, however, they can't blame 'workshy' or 'strike-happy' trade unionists. The Tory press grudgingly concedes that: "The problem essentially has nothing to do with labour relations or the proverbial inefficiency of the British worker." ('Guardian', 7 August 1980).

For example, at Bowater's paper mill, Ellesmere Port, the same workforce has increased production by an estimated 80% over the past two years. Some bosses are trying nevertheless to use the famous 'theory' that workers have "priced themselves out of a job"—but it's a non-starter. Britain's main competitors, North America and Scandinavia, pay much higher wages to their paper workers.

The real reason for the horrendous rash of redundancies is the world crisis of the capitalist system, the international recession with its collapse in trade and demand. Competition between rival paper barons has become increasingly savage, as markets and

profit margins shrink.

Reed International recently reported a 15% to 20% fall in the volume of trade in paper and packaging. Paper mills working to full capacity six months ago are now running at only 75% capacity. Demand for some paper products has fallen by 30% in the last few months. Paper workers in countries such as Holland, Belgium, France, Canada and the USA currently face redundancies due to the worldwide recession.

But the British paper industry is particularly hard-hit, because the bosses have left it incapable of standing up to world competition. One major reason is the chronic failure of the British bosses to re-invest profits and modernise plant. The 'Financial Times' (22 July 1980) admits that "with very few exceptions, British paper makers are not investing anywhere near as much as their continental rivals."

As Dr Lenton, Chief Executive of Bowater UK, coyly confessed: "while the efficiency and productivity of the Ellesmere Port mills are high, the machines are only in 'the second division'" ('The Times', 25 July 1980).

In plain English, the plant and machinery are 'clapped out.' They are far inferior to machines in most competing countries, and are often bought second-hand from America. It's only the skills and efforts of the workers which have kept production going, despite the bosses' mismanagement.

Lack of investment is one factor leading to the defeat of the British paper bosses even on the home market, let alone the world market. Imports now account for 49.6% of the British paper industry market, compared to 28% in 1965. In newsprint, 77% is imported. British-

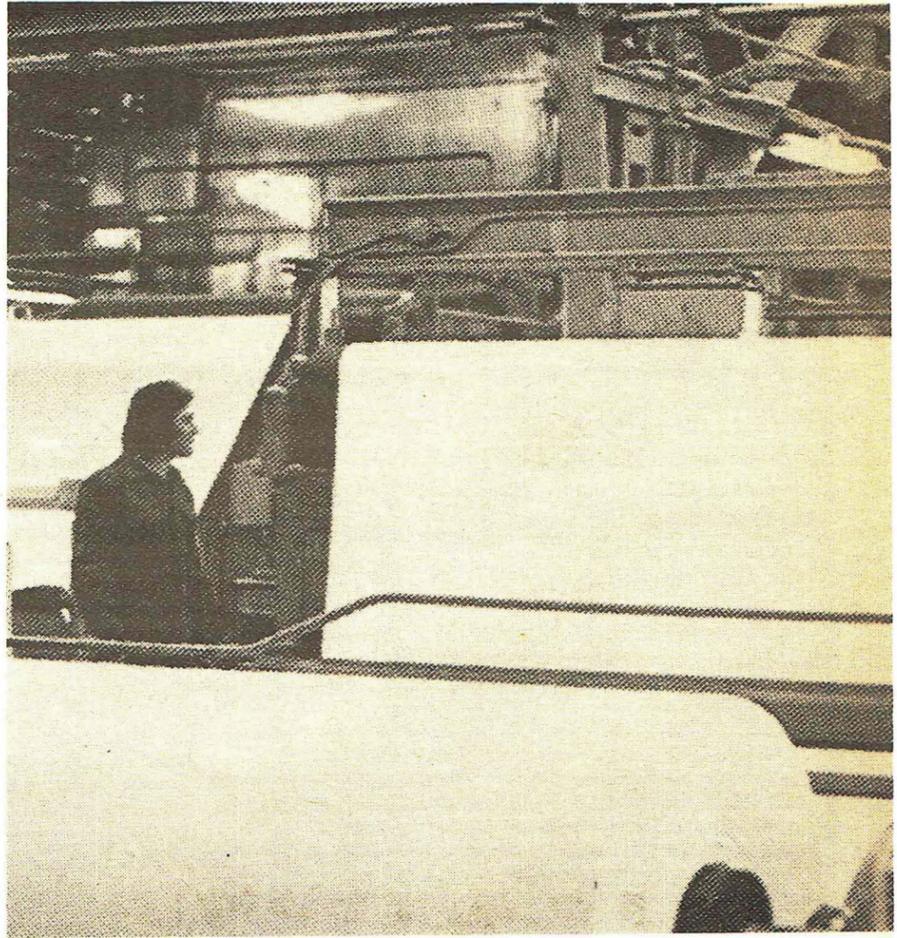
produced newsprint costs roughly £50 a tonne more than imported material.

With a shrinking world market, North American based firms will attempt to make even greater inroads into the British market, through ruthless competition against the chronically outdated British mills.

This situation has been aggravated by the high exchange value of the pound against the dollar. But the same bosses who yelp about today's high pound, fought like demons for a strong pound in the last 1960s. As the 'Guardian' commented: "The irony of the industry's plight is that it was faced with exactly the reverse problem (a devalued pound) in the early 1970s when the fall in the pound began to push up the costs of its imported raw materials." This highlights the incapacity of private enterprise to plan anything!

Protectionism no answer

The British Paper and Board Industry Federation (BPBIF) is also agonising over high energy costs compared to those faced by overseas competitors. The Tories' determination to maintain energy prices at world-market levels, despite the availability of North Sea oil and gas, is yet another indication of the contradictory, self-defeating character of the 'monetarist' policies of Thatcher, Joseph and company, especially when in other countries the capitalist state is attempt-



NATIONALISE!

Following news of Bowaters' threatened closure, the SOGAT Chapel at the Liverpool printers, Eric Bembrose Ltd, and later the whole Liverpool SOGAT branch, passed this motion on fighting the threat to jobs:

"This Branch delegate meeting condemns the threatened closure of Bowaters and we resolve to do all in our power to prevent the closure from being implemented and to give top priority to the

maintenance of employment in the Merseyside area and in other areas where we can be of assistance.

As part of a campaign of action to keep the plant open we call for the following steps to be taken:

[a] That a members' meeting takes place in Ellesmere Port within 14 days and that the General Secretary be invited to attend to outline the Union's policy and strategy in fighting the closure, particularly after his welcome statement to call a national newspaper stoppage to stop the

ing to cushion manufacturing industry against the worst effects of the recession.

But subsidies would be no solution as far as the workers are concerned. Cheaper energy—even if this could really be achieved without an integrated, socialist plan for energy—would not compensate for years of under-investment. Subsidised electricity would simply mean subsidised profits—with no guarantee that jobs would be preserved.

Subsidies, moreover, would be at the expense of workers in one way or another. The BPBIF are campaigning alongside other employers for a two-tier price system in gas and electricity, whereby industry could buy fuel much more cheaply than domestic consumers. They want the working class to subsidise their electricity.

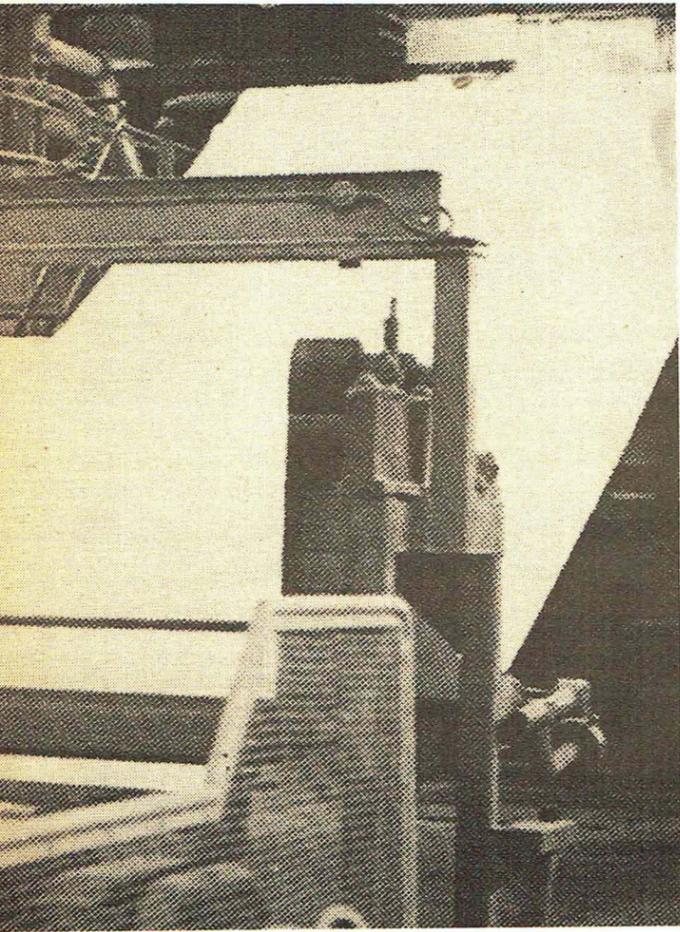
on top of providing their profits.

The fight against redundancies has raised the call for "immediate selective import controls." The SOGAT leadership has been joined by the big employers in the industry in calling for tariffs against "unfair competition" from overseas. But who would gain by such measures?

Import controls would fuel the fires of a trade war, in which enfeebled British industry would lose out further. Many paper industry jobs in Britain depend on exports. What would happen to them?

Some bosses have let the cat out of the bag. In a letter to the 'Financial Times,' the President of the Paper Agent's Association has this to say: "If special import controls were raised, these would not necessarily protect the British paper and board

by crisis



GRIMSBY MOVE

In a move which reveals the firm's complete hypocrisy in appealing to the trade unions for a joint campaign to save jobs at Ellesmere Port, Bowaters, it has now been revealed, has bought a 40-acre site for a proposed new tissue mill at Grimsby.

They have reportedly applied for planning permission for a £71 million mill to open in 1985, employing 250 to begin with and, the company claims, another 250 later.

Bowaters claims it cannot afford to keep the Ellesmere Port plant open. Yet they can afford to invest £71 million in Grimsby—with the help, no doubt, of substantial regional development and other government grants for which they are now busy lobbying.

THE INDUSTRY!

closure;

[b] A weekly site meeting to take place at the Bowater complex to inform the members of the progress;

[c] That we rely on the support of the trade unions rather than on the link-up with the employers, the CBI, etc;

[d] That we call on the General Secretary to intervene at the TUC, if possible by moving an emergency resolution, calling on the TUC to support the struggle and in view of the employers' inability to sustain paper-making in the UK with the consequent possible

loss of jobs, the General Secretary call on the next Labour government to nationalise the paper-making industry under democratic control and management of the trade union and labour movement;

[e] That we declare our support for a factory occupation in the even of such action becoming necessary to prevent the closure;

[f] That this delegate meeting authorities the Branch Committee to levy membership for financial support to assist in the campaign.

industry but could in fact seriously damage the printing and converting industries by making them pay higher prices for their essential materials, forcing them to be uncompetitive to overseas printers etc, and see even more printing work going abroad to the detriment of even larger sections of printing and converting industries causing even greater redundancies.

The introduction of protectionist measures could jeopardise the unity of the print workers' unions in the fight for jobs, thus weakening the paper mill workers' struggle. Tory Trade Secretary John Nott—soberly weighing up the effects on industry and profits—recently wrote that "import controls... would not give rise to any improvement in industry's performance, would cause

price rises, and would invite retaliation."

If the unions were to combine with the employers in a campaign against so-called "unfair competition," they'd be in danger of forgetting the causes of the crisis and the real culprits—the bosses and their system of market anarchy.

When Hendon paper works, Sunderland, announced closure, the bosses had the bare-faced audacity to blame cheap imports...when this same mill is owned by Montar, a Canadian firm!

Reed International threaten their British mills with redundancies and give the pat answer that it's all because of cheap North American imports. Yet on 30 July, Reed Paper, their Canadian "offshoot", announced "a major first-quarter profit advance" from \$20.72m in

1979 to £29.8m in 1980!

Bowater's likewise laugh all the way to the international banks. On the very same day that they coldly announced the death sentence for the livelihood of 15,000 workers in Ellesmere Port, there was tucked away in the 'Financial Times' the news that "Bowater eyes New York commercial paper market...because of its strong presence in the US, Bowater's North American operations last year produced trading profits of £64.9m—more than half the total group trading profits of £112.9m!"

Paper workers have no common interests with these multinational giants, who go to whatever area of the world offers the biggest profits, regardless to the consequences. All their hypocritical rantings about "unfair competition" must be answered by a clear socialist answer from the trade union movement.

The leaders of SOGAT, the TUC and the Labour Party should aid the fight against redundancies by pointing out that the bosses are responsible for the crisis and warn against the terrible consequences of the economic recession if the 'private enterprise' system is allowed to continue.

Under capitalist ownership, there can be no security for the workers in the industry, whether with a strong pound or a devalued pound, whether under free trade or with import controls.

Above all else, the industry needs **planning**, on a national and international scale. But this can only be achieved by taking

STEVENAGE: We want answers

The 250 shop floor workers of Bowaters, Stevenage, returned from this year's annual holiday to the news that about one third of them had been earmarked for redundancy.

Thirty days' notice had been served by the company on the department of employment and the main union involved SOGAT.

By Alec Hind
(SOGAT and Stevenage LP)

Except for a few brief notes stuck on the wall of a rest room, the company's plans were shrouded in obscurity. Then it emerged that with the inclusion of a number of supervisors, clerical staff, engineers and transport workers the total number due for the chop would not be far short of 100.

If that figure were exceeded members would be entitled to 90 days' notice instead of 30. There is a strong conviction on the floor that if it were possible, management would demand 99.5 redundancies!

Second, the women workers en bloc would be first to go. Once again they are singled out to suffer first and hardest.

Redundancy is a desperate plight for any family and in a number of cases both husband and wife work in this plant. The sudden hardship inflicted on such a couple and their children makes the stomach churn.

John O'Leary, SOGAT head of paper and packaging, instructed the membership that any talks with management were to be broken off and all Bowater redundancies throughout the country (Ellesmere, Whiteinch, Stevenage and Summerstown) were to be referred to the National Executive Committee.

If anyone meantime received notice it was to be handed straight back and the branch secretary informed to take "appropriate action".

Local management have countered with a typically inauspicious letter which amounts to two main threats: If a national officer does not talk to them by 20 September they will proceed to issue notices of termination regard-

less; two, if they don't get their own way they will close down the whole plant and sack everyone.

The news broke five weeks ago. Since then, unfortunately, a full chapel (union branch) meeting has not been held. Members want the opportunity to ask for explanations and discuss action.

The Chapel Committee are not to blame. The workers have stood, bewildered, while their fate is argued over at higher levels.

These workers are not naive or 'thick', however. In anger and frustration last week 74% of them signed a petition telling union head office that unless someone able to answer questions is sent to the chapel by 9 September they will withhold their union contributions.

Redundancy is a desperate plight for any family especially when both husband and wife work in this plant. The sudden hardship for them and their children makes the stomach churn.

They have no desire to forsake their union but they are looking in desperation for ways to remind union officials "who pays the wages round here".

If the leadership intends to fight, is the fight to be about jobs, or about how much they will sell the jobs for? What actually does "appropriate action" mean when you are standing in front of the

personnel manager with a notice of termination in your grubby little hand?

These and many other questions keep cropping up on the shop floor. These workers' fate is being determined by people who, on the one hand have little use for such values as loyalty because, cost-effectively speaking, it has no relevance to profit, and on the other hand by people who seem to have forgotten where their true source of power comes from.

It will be interesting to see what fate has in store for us all on Monday 8 September when the petition is due to land on Jim Pointing's desk (Jim Pointing is a union organiser who has been left in charge while John O'Leary and local management gather up their buckets and spades and head for the seaside on their annual holiday).

**Postscript:
divisive offer
must be rejected**

Bill Bollins, SOGAT national official, came to meet management last Tuesday. This produced an offer to reduce redundancies of SOGAT members from 70 to 58 (out of a total of 100 for the factory), and two weeks' pay per year of service. This was unanimously rejected by the members.

Then there was a new offer of two weeks' pay for everybody (even new starts) plus £500 bonus. This was aimed at the under-two-year men (not usually qualifying for payment), stripping the union by enticing voluntary redundancies. This was also rejected by the members.

Now a report has gone to Bill Keys and we are awaiting reply. Unfortunately, the latest offer agreed by the SOGAT negotiator may undermine resistance to the redundancies. But the shop floor must stand firm, reject all redundancies, and prepare to fight to defend every job. Management have agreed to hold off date until 3 October.

We have also heard that the workers at Bowaters' Whiteinch (Clydeside) plant are all for the chop.

the paper monopolies into public ownership, with minimum compensation on the basis of need, and under the democratic check of workers' control and management.

The whole debate about energy costs and the cost of wood pulp reinforces the need for an integrated, socialist plan of the whole economy, where raw materials, energy production, manufacturing and invest-

ment could be planned to meet the needs of society as a whole, and not the petty, short-term profit interests of a handful of rival monopolists.

With planned, socialist production, the hours of drudgery could rapidly be cut without any reduction of living standards. On the contrary, science and technology would be applied to produce an abundance of things and bring about

an immeasurable improvement of living standards.

The volume of paper production remains a rough measure of the cultural level of a society. The present crisis reminds us that we face this choice: go forward to socialism or be forced backwards towards a new barbarism!



Negotiating for free trade unions: On left Gdansk workers, opposite them the Polish government bureaucracy.

POLAND: Why workers unrest grew

One of the first acts of the strike committee centred on the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk was successfully to ban alcohol.

The strike leaders recognised rampant alcoholism as a pernicious symptom of the demoralisation of workers in 'socialist' Poland.

During the cold, dark evenings of last winter I all too frequently saw workers stagger drunkenly out of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk. I saw these workers crumple into the snow to be dragged home along the ground by drunken friends.

I have seen ordinary working people lying in the streets or on buses or trams, unconscious through drink. I have even seen a uniformed policeman lurch along the road, drunk, to be greeted by two of his more sober colleagues as if nothing extraordinary were happening!

Demoralisation afflicts the army. Teenage Poles hate and fear the prospect of military service and will do anything to avoid it. A friend of mine has undergone two unnecessary stomach operations to avoid

George Miller contrasts Poland to-day with his experiences there last winter

conscription! This attitude is reflected in a total lack of discipline. The troops don't march they slouch, hands in pockets, rounded shoulders, their brown boots dragging in the dirt. On guard duty, both shoulder and rifle lean against the wall as the guard smokes and spits sullenly.

A demoralised society is not a socialist society. Thirty five years after the overthrow of capitalism the Polish workers still have to demand free trade unions, the right to strike and an end to censorship. They still see themselves as the ruled rather than the rulers.

But the building of socialism requires the conscious unfettered control of the working class over the state of and economy. And socialism means amongst other things, the satisfaction of human wants with an abundance of

goods.

But Poland has been synonymous with the meat queue, with shortages. Meat queues that stretch halfway down the street, where people—mostly the elderly, shopping for the family—wait for hours. Repeated government promises about improving the meat supply remain only words...while best quality meat is exported for the desperately needed hard currency.

When Poles go shopping they refer to it as going hunting—to see what is or isn't available on that day. Erratic distribution, queues and the corrupt practice of keeping certain rare items under the counter for friends, family or those willing to pay extra, all makes the daily shopping for essentials a nightmare of frustration.

Shortages lead to the black market, corruption, privilege. Poland has an infamous network of black marketeers. These people are known as being 'in business', and a lucrative business it is too.

Every family in Poland has at least contact with these people and ordinary, respectable working class families are forced to deal in the black market. How else could they maintain any decent standard of living? For example, spare parts for cars are impossible to get except on the black market.

The favourite activity of

black marketeers—and ordinary people—is the purchase of hard currency. The dollar, pound, Deutschmark can change hands at three or four times the official exchange rate. Tourist areas are infested with people who earn a living by sidling up to you with a sly smile and whispering, "You want to change money?"

The dollar is given as much respect and awe as the Pope! It's seen as the magic key to western 'affluence' and the western goods on sale at the Pewex hard currency shops. Here are sold western goods for western cash, ostensibly for the tourists. But most customers are Poles spending the dollars that they shouldn't have!

Corruption and the misappropriation of state funds and property is not restricted to criminals. As an example, Piotr Jaroszewicz, until February Poland's Prime Minister, was a special target for charges of corruption.

Warsaw daily paper 'Zycie Warszawy', reported that 65% of all statistical entries received centrally were false! Not only does this cover up waste, corruption and mismanagement on a vast scale, it also makes realistic economic planning impossible.

Now, hard on the heels of an enormous strike wave and amidst disrupting leadership changes in both party and state, there has come scan-

dalous revelations of corruption. Maciej Szczepanski, former head of Polish TV and several of his 'comrades' are being investigated over the embezzlement of public funds.

Out of public money they are alleged to have maintained holiday homes in Kenya and a Mediterranean island, financed yachts and villas and paid for holiday jaunts over the world.

This 'communist' Szczepanski—he used to edit the United Workers' Party paper in Katowice and is a close friend of former party leader Gierek—owns a country villa near Warsaw that contains among other 'goodies' a videotape library of 900 pornographic films and a bed that cost £48,000! A special hospital for leading bureaucrats is being constructed in Miedzylesie near Warsaw.

During the recent strikes the workers have not called for a return to capitalism. What Poland needs is not capitalism but a workers' democracy to sweep away the corrupt bureaucracy. Bureaucracy is such an everyday, all-pervading thing that it is nowadays almost a condition of membership that party members pay lip-service to condemning bureaucracy!

In hospitals nurses demand bribes before they feed their patients! Cheating is the norm rather than the exception at all levels of education.

At school a few words of praise and a bouquet of flowers are more effective tools of academic progress than hard work and intellect. Clerks in all offices reflect the attitudes of their 'betters' in their cavalier and unhelpful treatment of working people.

No wonder the strikes received such massive support. Poland's Stalinist government has a united people against it! I lost count of the number of people who harangued me with the faults and malpractices of the government.

But one thing showed to me the enormous strength of support the workers have. The Gdansk taxi drivers were represented on the strike committee. The taxi drivers were the most independent, bloody-minded section of Gdansk society that I could find.

They drew up at taxi ranks, shouted where they were going and if you wanted to go there too, you got your taxi—if not, just stand there! Or if there happened to be an American film on TV there would be no taxis at all—they were all at home watching the film!

Their support for the strike shows the enormous attractive power of the working class in action. An attractive power that can drag the discontented soldiers, policemen and even the lower echelons of the bureaucracy behind it.

MILITARY COUP IN TURKEY

"Our nation can no longer tolerate those who misuse the extensive freedoms stipulated in our Constitution, those who sing the Communist Internationale instead of our national anthem."

These thoughts of coup leader General Kenan Evran last January show what is in store for Turkish workers. Amongst the first acts of the new regime were to ban the main left wing trade union organisation, DISK, ban strikes, and arrest many socialists and trade unionists.

Also detained were government and opposition leaders. It was the growing civil war

By Colin Barber

and class polarisation as Turkey's chronic economic crisis deepened which had prompted this, the third military coup in twenty years.

The military are finding that the economic situation has deteriorated since they last took control in 1971. Inflation is now over 100% a year, unemployment is at 20% of the workforce and Turkey's foreign debts totals a massive \$16 billion.

From 1963 until 1976 the economy grew at an average rate of 6.9%. But the recession in the capitalist world has hit Turkey hard. Remittances from Turkish workers

in Western Europe have declined as many of them have been sacked and Turkish exports have been hit by growing protectionism in the advanced capitalist world.

To help Turkey out of its economic mess (growth was only 2.4% last year) international bankers have mounted the biggest ever debt renegotiation in history. Western bankers have been scared that if Turkey defaults on its debts the effect will be felt throughout all of Western Europe and the USA.

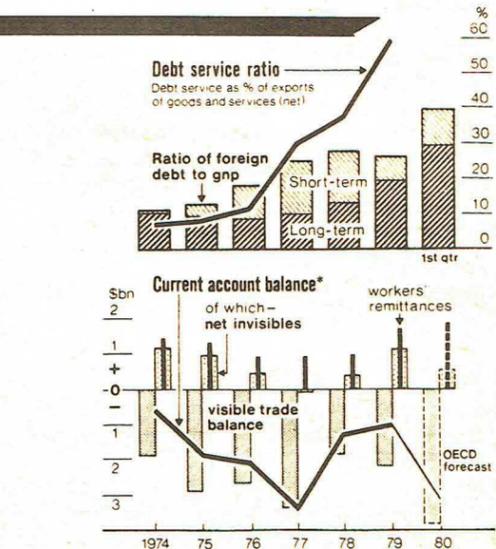
No wonder they quietly welcomed the coup.

They hope that it will bring stability to the political situation. In the last ten months over 1,500 people have been killed in acts of

terrorism, mostly by the Fascist 'Grey Wolves' organisation. Recently the leader of the main trade union organisation (DISK) was assassinated. Coupled with this has been a political impasse—despite 114 ballots Parliament was unable to elect a President.

The only way out now for the labour movement is to campaign and fight for a socialist alternative. Military rule must be ended, but it is not enough to just restore the position as it was before the coup.

A policy of gradual reforms, which was the approach of Ecevit's Republican proved utopian. And Ecevit helped pave the road for the military, by introducing martial law in many



The economic statistics of Turkey's decline.

provinces during his term of office. Because of a lack of leadership it will probably take time for Turkish workers to recover from this devasta-

ting coup. But undoubtedly, the pressure will grow for full democratic rights and bold socialist policies.

CHILE

INDIA

CHINA

SPLITS DEEPEN AMONGST CHILEAN CAPITALISTS

Last week's farcical referendum on the new Constitution saw an expected "majority" for military rule until virtually the next century.

With opposition suppressed and opponents of the regime tortured, this unsurprising result in no way reflects the wishes of the Chilean people.

But this strategy of still ruthlessly keeping down the lid on the Chilean people has been criticised by international and local capitalists. They fear that such an approach could result in an explosion, as in Iran. Having crushed the workers in 1973, they now support lifting the lid slightly.

The Christian Democratic Party (PDC), which in August 1973 called on the generals to take action to "ensure the essential bases for democratic harmony among the Chilean people" and supported the

Ed Bober concludes his two-part article

coup a month later, issued a statement in October 1977 calling for a 'national movement of democratic restoration' and a gradual transfer of power to an elected, civilian government.

But at the same time its statement, 'a country for all', rejected any illegal conspiracy against the junta! Since then, the PDC, with discreet encouragement from the US Embassy in Santiago, has attempted to distance itself more and more from the junta and warn of the dangers ahead for the Chilean ruling class. They opposed the junta's new constitution.

One Christian Democratic publication recently commented that "frightening social differences are being created

between a small group of rich people and a huge group of extraordinarily poor people... The military government's political short-sightedness means that as soon as the first democratic breeze blows, the house of cards now being built will fall to the ground."

Another PDC leader, Tomic, a 'radical' who stood against Allende in the 1970 election, has warned of the 'maelstrom' which will follow when the junta goes. Perhaps the most farsighted representative of Chilean capitalism, ex-President and PDC leader Frei, spelled out the future in even more clear terms:

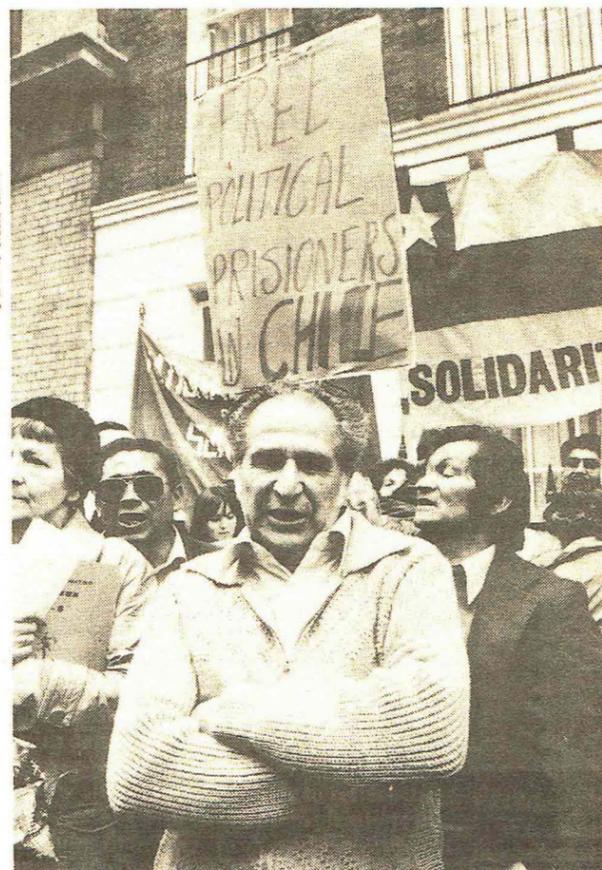
"Authoritarian regimes strive to enforce order, but under the surface ideas circulate inexorably and in no country has even the most hardened and enduring regime managed to stamp them out. The same is true of Chile. Look how dictatorships are ending up all over the world."

What a wonderful testimony to the power and resilience of the Chilean working class which after suffering at least 60,000 dead, the destruction of most of its organisations and seven years of military dictatorship has been able to begin

the rebuilding of its strength.

Frei admits that sections of the Chilean ruling class have seen the failure of Pinochet's regime of repression and austerity of the spectre of a new working class offensive. They sense the underlying hatred of the masses, particularly the industrial workers, for the regime and they now know that the tide of revolution cannot be held back indefinitely.

Thus sections of the capitalists put on a 'liberal' mask in the hope of enticing the workers leaders into a coalition with them, in preparation for restraining the working class when the junta finally goes. While this shows a recognition of the workers' enormous potential strength by a section of the Chilean ruling class it highlights the



Chilean demonstrators protesting outside the Embassy last week on the 7th anniversary of the coup.

necessity for the Chilean workers to fully absorb the lessons of 1970-73. Lessons which show the dangers of

class collaboration and the need for an independent working class movement to overthrow capitalism.

[E. Germany links with Chile see Left and Right page 5].

Bosses private armies threaten Indian workers

Indian industrial tycoons are working overtime to perfect their own private armies to curb the trade union movement.

As the strike wave rises they are losing their faith in the efficiency of the police force in various states.

These private armies are formed to combat Indian workers, who have totalled 14.7m man-days lost in strikes in the first six months of this year, compared to 13m for the same period in 1979.

Controlled and manned by retired officers of the Indian military, para-military and state police services these security establishments are employing about a million men as security staff and most of them are retired policemen or army.

Officially the task of these security men is to manage the internal law and order in the industrial units and detect pilferage, but they are rapidly taking over the task of investigating breach of standing orders from the hands of personnel managers and labour officers. Thus these men are being tailored to play the role of a private army at the beck and call of the industrial tycoons.

By Our Indian Correspondent

Most of these security agencies are registered under Indian law as private limited companies or partnership firms. They state that their business is providers of security for industries and business establishments.

Assassination and spying

During the last three years the institution of stick carrying chowkidars (watchmen) has given way to army and police type uniformed security men and the distinction between these private and the regular army and police personnel is fast disappearing. At the moment only a close look indicates the differences in the insignia being used by these agencies.

But even this fine distinction is slowly disappearing in practice and these private security men have taken over, within the premises of plants and factories the functions for

which police were earlier called. In the majority of cases these private armies carry licensed arms as well.

Paid and controlled by security agencies, whose mushroom growth is startling, the jobs of these security men are transferable and they are not answerable to the officials of their place of duty. Only reporting to the bosses of the agencies they are drafted to various work by tycoons through the agencies themselves.

They are being increasingly used for spying over trade union activities and often beat up trade union leaders and workers. No doubt a few industrial units have not yet opted for the use of these private armies, but then such units have instead controlled toughs from the underworld in their own security staff.

In a fifty kilometer belt around the Indian capital of Delhi these security men are reputed to provide muscle power for the industrial tycoons against striking workers and trade union leaders. No wonder a few cases of assassination of known trade union leaders—at least one of them from the ruling party—are awaiting detection, even after a lapse of more than a year.

New turn by Chinese bureaucrats

By Jim Chrystie

Last week's meeting of the Chinese National People's Congress saw the consolidation of the power of the Deng Xiaoping wing of the bureaucracy.

The Prime Minister and seven Vice-Premiers retired and were mainly replaced by people who had been purged during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

Over the last few years Deng Xiaoping had leaned on popular discontent with the clique who had come to power during the 1960s and early 1970s. He allowed some measures of limited democracy to remove them from office; dissenters were encouraged to put up wall posters and criticisms were published in the press.

Having served their purpose these rights have been withdrawn. Last week's Congress removed from the Constitution Article 45, which allowed 'great debates' and the right 'to put up big character posters.'

The bureaucracy was scared that if it allowed these rights to remain then the criticisms would not be confined to individuals but could grow to encompass the undemocratic nature of Stalinist rule. During the Cultural Revolution some workers had called for a political revolution in China and the establishment of workers' democracy.

The regime that emerged immediately after Mao's death was a compromise between the bureaucrats that had been purged during the 1960s and some who had

replaced them. Last week saw that conflict resolved, for the time being in favour of Deng's pre-Cultural Revolution group; the new Prime Minister had been paraded through Peking in a dunce's hat in 1971.

Ever since they came to power in 1949 the Stalinist bureaucracy has swung from one expediency to another. These violent zig-zags of policy stem from a lack of real workers' democracy.

Growth and mis-management

Hua Guofeng may not even stay as Chairman for long; there have been articles in the press attacking his position. This is done by historical analogy e.g. on September 1 an article in the People's Daily attacked an official who centuries ago got the blessing of an ailing Emperor and later took over the country with army help (which is exactly how Hua came to power).

The musical chairs amongst the bureaucracy won't help the Chinese workers. On the basis of nationalisation and plan of production China has experienced great eco-

omic growth during the years since 1949 and despite the stranglehold of the bureaucracy the economy is still advancing; there is expected to be a 5.5% growth of the economy this year.

But the lack of workers' democracy has led to great distortions and mismanagement. With no checks and balances and day to day control by the workers there cannot be proper planning. Last week the Congress were told that state expenditure would have to be cut by £8 billion this year because of a budget deficit of £11 billion last year and an expected deficit of £5 billion this year.

Deng's attempted way out by reliance on foreign investment has not worked. The ambitious 1976 plan has had to be radically scaled down; undoubtedly the Chinese bureaucracy has also drawn the lessons from Poland, not to be too dependent on western capitalism for its growth. The plan now is to rest more on individual initiatives (small private plots for peasants and encouragement of small businessmen). This will be done without threatening state ownership of the economy.

This new turn will not be able to satisfy the demand for better living standards. As the bureaucracy consolidates its power, it will more and more become a fetter on the growth of production, as it is in the USSR and Eastern Europe. Neither Hua nor Deng's bureaucratic wing offers any solution to the problems facing Chinese working people.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Namibia— Southern African workers are the key

Dear Comrades,

As comrade Ward says in his letter [Militant 5 September], the fall of the Smith and Muzorewa regimes in Zimbabwe has greatly encouraged the masses struggling in Namibia and South Africa against white supremacy and exploitation.

These struggles have weakened the South African ruling class, which tries desperately to tighten its hold over society. Some 30-50,000 South African troops exercise a stranglehold over the workers and peasants in Namibia.

In this context, Comrade Ward's suggestion that Labour Party members should urge the leadership to put pressure on the United Nations to announce an immediate general election in Namibia appears utopian.

Undoubtedly he is right that such an election, if held, would result in a resounding victory for the Namibian liberation movement, SWAPO. But the UN, like the Pope, has no armies to enforce on the South African regime, which rules Namibia by the sword on behalf of South African capitalists and multi-nationals like Rio Tinto Zinc.

Thus our call for economic and other dissociation from the racist regime must be, not a 'long-term one' [as Comrade Ward suggests], but an immediate one, which we need to campaign for in the labour movement as a task for the next Labour government.

At the same time, we should call on the Labour Party leadership to strengthen solidarity with SWAPO and build a campaign of material support for the masses in struggle.

Against the tentacles of South African capitalism which engulf the sub-continent, only the organised force of the Southern African working class can prevail.

The SWAPO leadership needs to mobilise the workers of Namibia in the leadership of the struggle against South African colonial occupation, linking up with the Zimbabwean workers, workers in other countries of the region, and with the overwhelming weight of the South African working class.

Only through this struggle, leading to the overthrow of capitalism throughout the sub-continent, can the genuine independence of Namibia be secured, and the way opened to the abolition of the poverty and misery of the Namibian workers and peasants.

Yours fraternally
Richard Clifton



Photo: Militant

Many workers who had to fight a Labour government for a living wage like Fords workers did become disillusioned.

Disillusioned then— angry now

Dear Comrades,

The other night, after a few of us finished a paper sale at Fords, we went for a quick drink in the local pub. Inside we talked to somebody we knew who worked in the local indoor market.

In the course of conversation, he told us how he often pretends to be a Tory and makes comments like 'Isn't Maggie doing a good job?' to people in the market.

The remarks he got in reply are unprintable—most

of all, young mothers object and think he should be shot for being a Tory!

In fact, though in Dagenham many younger men and women voted for Thatcher only last year, thinking they would be better off, after the disappointment of the last Labour government.

The Labour majority went down to 10,000 from 22,000 with Labour losing 5,000 votes and the Tories gaining 7,000. Working people vote Labour for practical reasons and they don't like being messed around by Labour Party 'leaders'.

But with the hatred of the

Tories now, if Labour gave a clear honest lead, and showed that it was not inevitable that things would go from bad to worse; that with efficient socialist use of resources and technology, life could be a lot better, they would get enormous support.

A consistent campaign on a national scale would not only get votes but would attract very many people to becoming active in the labour movement.

Fraternally,
Lee Waker
Dagenham LPYS

No jobs, no wages

Dear Comrades,

So Keith Joseph more or less tells us that if we work for less wages we'll be guaranteed a job. What rot!

13 months ago a girl I know was told that if she worked for £20 a week she could keep her job, if not she would have to go. Naturally, because the situation is so bad in her area unemployment being at

12.4%, she accepted these terms.

Now in the latest spate of cutbacks and redundancies she is first out.

What justice is there? What truth in the words of the capitalist leaders? Worse, how many more are taking a cut in their living standards, not realising that it is all a lie and in the interests of profit. Everyone could go to the wall for all the capitalists care.

No matter how many crocodile tears they shed

over the latest unemployment figures they will not, cannot, do anything to remedy it. It is up to us to fight now and fight hard and with the help of 'Militant' we can also fight effectively.

Only socialism can solve the problems of unemployment and the misery it causes, so get 'Militant' every week and fight for jobs now!

Yours fraternally,
Margaret Ritchie
Llanelli LPYS

Soaked

Dear Comrades

"Engineering firm in receivers hands" is not an unusual headline in the wave of closures and redundancies that are sweeping over Britain. But the liquidation of 'Sir James Farmer Norton' in Salford has some strange reverberations.

The owner immediately went to Salford's Labour Council to be bailed out, again nothing unusual. But the owner of the above firm is chairman of the—yes, you've guessed it, the North-West Conservative Association. Obviously a case of a Tory 'wet' soaking us all!

Yours fraternally,
Dave Farrar,
NATSOPA

It's a workers' struggle [2]

Dear Comrade,

The press has given considerable prominence to the Catholicism of vast numbers of the Polish workers—in order to hide events there behind a mask of bourgeois respectability. It is important to emphasise that the church in Poland is only playing an incidental, and not an essential or determinant role.

Recent articles in 'Militant' have already shown clearly the real and revolutionary nature of the Polish workers' actions, which have no direct links with the church.

On August 27th Cardinal Wyszynski made a sermon calling for moderation and an end to the strikes. Not only was this appeal conspicuously ignored, as the strikes continued to spread, but on the very next day the strike committee leaders made their most daring move of the whole dispute in breaking off negotiations with the government to press the issue of independent trade unions.

Yet a central feature of the factory occupations continued to be the celebration of Mass, and one of the first acts by Lech Walesa on opening the new TU headquarters was to put the crucifix from the original strike committee hall on to the wall.

The devotion of the Polish people to the RC church is symbolic of their rejection of the present political regime. The church has been the only national edifice around which such protest could crystallise, and of course, in the case of Poland's tragic history, this special position of the church has roots which go back long before the present regime.

The measure of the maturity of outlook of the most politically advanced layers of workers is that they clearly recognise that in the final analysis they can only trust in the organised strength of the workers themselves—even when this means ignoring not only the promises of the 'communist' bureaucracy, but if necessary the advice of 'their' church as well.

Comradely,
Ian Hunter.

Tories get the message

Dear Comrades,

"Tories Out" is the latest sign to have been put up for the amusement of overseas visitors to Caerphilly, who come to view our ancient and well-loved castle.

This particular slogan, is emblazoned across the side of our local Conservative Club in big bold letters with white paint! This bastion of Caerphilly conservatism (if that is possible now in this area) has obviously been seen as a target for the venting of anger by local unemployed youth in the Rhymney Valley area.

And no wonder! Recently published unemployment figures for the area tell an incredibly depressing story for youth in South East Wales.

For the month ending August 14th, the number of men unemployed rose from 1,395 in July to 1,418 this month, and from 673 women last month to 696. The total number out of work in Caerphilly alone rose from 2,068 to 2,114.

This however, is only part of a situation which has been described by one leading local dignitary as looking "pretty grim". Many factories in the area are on short-time working and local pits are under threat of closure.

Also under the impact of the cuts, bus fares are set to rise a staggering 68%!

Only one thing therefore can guarantee the stopping of the destruction of industrial South Wales and the rest of Britain. A socialist plan of production, which would end the nightmare of Thatcherism and make our local slogan very much a reality!

Yours fraternally,
Huw Morgan
Caerphilly LPYS

Women don't count!

Dear Comrades,

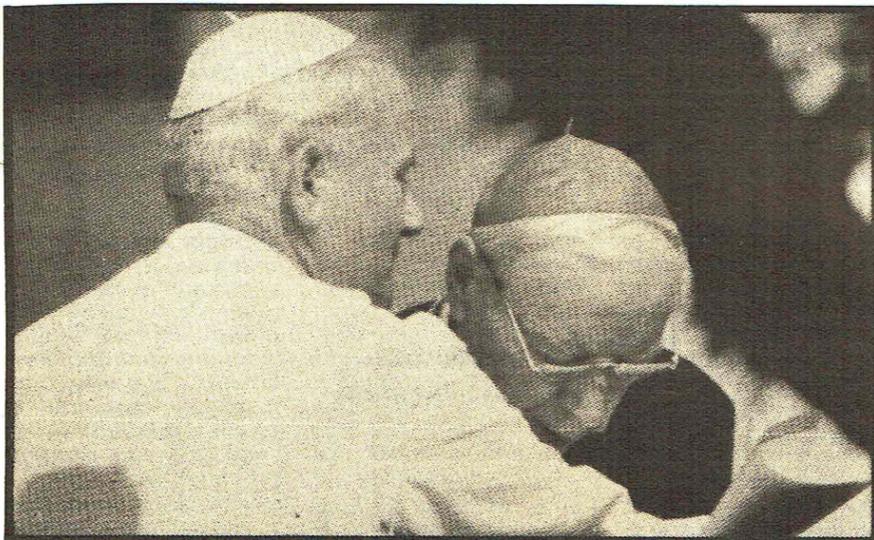
In last week's Sunday Express there was a marvelous article by the marvelous Mr Ian Sproat, Tory MP for Aberdeen South, deeply and perceptively analysing the unemployment figure of over 2 million.

He made a point, which for some reason 'Militant' supporters have deliberately overlooked, that... (and I quote) "...of 2.1 million unemployed no less than 659,000—or just over a third—are women.

"Now, of course, some of these will be single women genuinely unable to find a job, but the vast majority are housewives who are not the main family breadwinners." Mr Sproat says the real unemployment figure is something nearer 750,000.

So you see, there's no need to worry—women don't count, so everything is all right!

Yours fraternally,
Helen Gasking
Thanet East LPYS



The pope jubilantly received in Poland, but the demands of the strikers were for workers' rights

POLAND: It's a workers' struggle [1]

Dear Comrades,

I have just read Ted Grant's article on Poland (issue 517). His analysis of the crisis that faces Stalinism in Poland stands out in brilliant contrast to the pathetic efforts of the capitalist press to explain what's happening.

The so-called 'expert' commentators of the 'Daily Wail' and 'Excess' appear to be as moronic as the Russian Stalinists in their understanding of the situation. One apparently believes the action of the Polish workers is a capitalist CIA plot. While the other states that it shows that the workers are rejecting socialism in favour of capitalism!

But as Ted Grant says, "at no stage have the

workers even raised the whisper of a return to capitalism." What they do want is a political revolution, a fundamental change in the Stalinist system which would put an end to the stifling repressive bureaucracy by allowing participation and genuinely democratic control by the working class.

Yours fraternally,
Peter Rankin
Preston North CLP

ads

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

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

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

GOSPORT Militant Readers' Meeting: Poland: The Struggle for Workers' Democracy. Speaker: Betty Bell, Havant CLP. Thursday 25 September, 8.00 pm, Gosport Labour Club, 145 Brocklehurst Road, Gosport

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

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.

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.

IPSWICH Engineering Workers' Rally Speakers: Bob Wright (AUEW), Nick Toms (LPYS National Committee). Thursday 25 September, 7.30 pm, Room 4, Ipswich Town Hall

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

LEEDS Militant '50' Club Winner this week is: J Ingham, ticket No. 30

**CHILE
SOCIALIST DEFENCE CAMPAIGN
Film—The Battle of Chile**

- * **Stirling**—Monday 22 September
Venue: Cowan Centre. Time: 7.30 pm
 - * **Midlothian**—Tuesday 23 September
Venue: Mayfield Combined School. Time: 7.30 pm
 - * **Glasgow**—Wednesday 24 September
Venue: Students' Union, John Street. Time: 7.30 pm
 - * **Edinburgh**—Saturday 27 September
Venue: East Edinburgh CLP Social Club, Market St., Musselburgh. Time: 10.30 am
- ALL WELCOME

**STRATHCLYDE
Militant Trade Union Day School
Saturday 18 October**

- Morning:**
'Unemployment and the fight against the Tories'
Ray Williams [NGA]
Peter Doyle [NUPE]
Tony Mulhearn [Vice President, Liverpool District Labour Party]
- Afternoon—Seminars:**
The Employment Bill and the Closed Shop
Trade Union Democracy
Print Unions and the Freedom of the Press
Lessons of May 14
Nationalisation—what kind?
Women in the labour movement
The role of a shop steward
Health and safety at work
'The Trade Unions and the Struggle for Socialism'
Peter Doyle [NUPE]
Venue: Strathclyde University Students' Union
John Street, Glasgow
Tickets: 50p, Bob Wylie, 20 Loch Meadie, East Kilbride
Telephone East Kilbride 29082

**EAST KILBRIDE
LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS
DEMONSTRATION AND RALLY—Saturday 11 October**
No to millions on the dole!
Tories out!
Labour to power on a socialist programme!
Demonstration—assemble 10 am, Civic Centre Car Park
Rally—Murray Hall, 11.30 am

Speakers:
Maurice Miller MP
Ken McMillan [East Kilbride Trades Council]
Colin Robb [East Kilbride Labour Group]
Willie Griffin [LPYS]
Bob Wylie [Militant]
Further details: Clare McGinley
33 Capelrie Drive, East Kilbride. East Kilbride 26496

Build Militant

Area	Received	% of 3rd qtr target achieved	Target 3rd qtr	Target for year
Eastern	2720		3500	5,000
East Midlands	2391		2660	3,800
Hants & IOW	2440		2730	3,900
Humberside	1100		1750	2,500
London East	4110		4340	6,200
London West	2335		3290	4,700
London South	3871		3290	4,700
Manchester & Lancs	2103		3570	5,100
Merseyside	2985		4200	6,000
Northern	3468		5110	7,300
Scotland East	1312		2240	3,200
Scotland West	2832		3500	5,000
Southern	3408		4130	5,900
South West	1777		2240	3,200
Wales East	1169		1960	2,800
Wales West	2371		2170	3,100
West Midlands	4921		6300	9,000
Yorkshire	3068		5110	7,300
Others	9195		7910	12,000
Total received	57576		70,000	100,000

TARGET FOR OCTOBER 11th £70,000 FOR YEAR- £100,000

INVEST IN A SOCIALIST FUTURE

THIS WEEK £1,066

In these dark days, even the most affluent can fall on hard times. The Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association are appealing for donations to help the old, the sick and the disabled.

By Derrick McClelland

Not for the working class, though. Their adverts say, "If you've never had anything you never miss it. But if you've known a reasonable standard of living, imagine the horror of reduced circumstances."
"We help people who have practically nothing—except memories of happier times in a happier age." They ask for money to help gentlefolk in distress through wills and covenants.

Purely by chance, of course, this can help any charitable rich donors reduce death duties and taxation demands—what the Victorian bosses called "enlightened self-interest."
We're asking our readers to invest in their own long term interest too. Money for 'Militant' means more material—papers, pamphlets etc. to fight for socialism which will mean "happier times in a happier age" for workers and their families, young and old. The bosses have never given us anything—we'll never miss them!
We need your money now. We need more than double this week's sum of £1,066 each week to reach

our target.
Thanks this week go to Hamish McIlwhannie of Hillhead for a donation of £46; Ann Overton Eddleston £10; Gwenda and Moc GCG Llanelli £5; Mike Rafferty Broadsworth NUM £5; Sue Horne Doncaster LPYS £5; Alf Kingston USDAW Milkman's Branch £5; Ken Smith NUPE Steward Hull £1; Ray Buchanan NUHKW Nottingham £1.
Tom Godwin Dorchester LPYS gave £1.88; Julian Jones £5; Maureen O'Connor £1, Steve Haigh £1, all Tower Hamlets LPYS; John Kelly Parkway LPYS £2, Gary Smart Filton LPYS £1, Jane Hartley AUEW TASS £7, two BREL AUEW workers Eastleigh £2.
Ware and Hertford LPYS have sent us £2, while

readers' meetings brought in £24 from South Manchester, £26.25 (before expenses) from Midlothian, and £13 from Rochdale. An anonymous £59 has come from Salford, any more from other areas? And thanks to C Eley CPSA DHSS Newcastle Central Office for the proceeds of his sponsored walk.
Apart from all these direct donations, don't forget the extras on the paper, pints for the 'Militant', etc. We can also use Co-op stamps, Green Shield stamps, cigarette coupons etc. It's in your interest to give us the material we need to build support for our ideas—send us your donation now!

CLASSIFIED

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.

Mobilising Committee Pamphlet
Price 20p. From John Lansman, 10 Park Drive, London NW 11

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

PRINTER wanted to join left press in New Cross. A3 (AM 1850) litho work. Some experience preferred. Union rates. Some political commitment required. Phone: Rye Express (TU), 732 5356

Group for the Study of Leon Trotsky and the Revolutionary Movement Conference, Saturday 20 September, in the Polytechnic of Central London, Marylebone Road (Room 319-320). Original papers for discussion on: Why and How the Independent Labour Party left the Labour Party in 1932; The Aylesbury By-election in 1938, when Reg Groves stood for Labour and the CP backed the Liberals; The Neath By-election in 1945, when Jock Haston stood for the Revolutionary Communist Party. Starting 11 am. Two sessions. Collection to meet expenses.

RANK AND FILE MOBILISING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEMOCRACY RALLIES

Southampton: Tuesday 23 September, 7.30 pm, Civic Centre. Speakers: Reg Race MP, Bob Wright (Asst. Gen. Sec., AUEW, in personal capacity)

Sheffield: Wednesday 24 September, 7.30 pm, Sheffield Poly SU, Phoenix Bldg, Pond St. Speaker: Tony Benn MP

Haringey: Tuesday 23 September, 7.30 pm. Haringey Trade Union Centre, 2a Brabant Road, Wood Green. Chair: Jane Chapman, Cllr. Speakers: Joan Maynard MP, Tom Litterick, Jeremy Corbyn, Cllr (NUPE Area Officer), John Bloxam (Mobilising Committee)

Bristol: Saturday 20 September, 2 pm, Central Hall, Old Market Street, Bristol 2. Speakers: Reg Race MP, Tom Litterick, Derek Gregory (NUPE Divisional Officer, Wales)

Birmingham rally: Monday 22 September, 7.15 pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth. Speakers: Tony Benn MP, Bob Wright (Dep. Gen. Sec. AUEW, personal capacity), Les Huckfield MP, Sheila Wright MP. Steel band.

Coventry: Sunday 21 September, 7.30 pm. Earlsdon Primary School, Earlsdon Avenue. Speakers: Audrey Wise, Tom Litterick.

Leicester: Thursday 25 September, 7.30 pm, Highfields Community Centre. Speakers: Tom Litterick, Tony Sauniois (LPYS), John Bloxam (Mobilising Committee)

Army and police harass Belfast dockers

The strike at Belfast docks against the attempted expansion of the temporary unattached register has escalated.

By Micky Duffy
(Belfast LTUG)

Last week the strikers took the decision to withdraw passes from the haulage contractors, who were using them to draw material formerly unloaded by these dockers.

The shipping companies were unloading cargo at British ports, reloading it onto channel crossing ships, attempting to cut across the strike by this alternative means of transport.

The dockers however, have consistently allowed essential supplies, such as medical products, to be unloaded and delivered. Despite this, since the escalation of the picketing, the dockers have encountered new major problems.

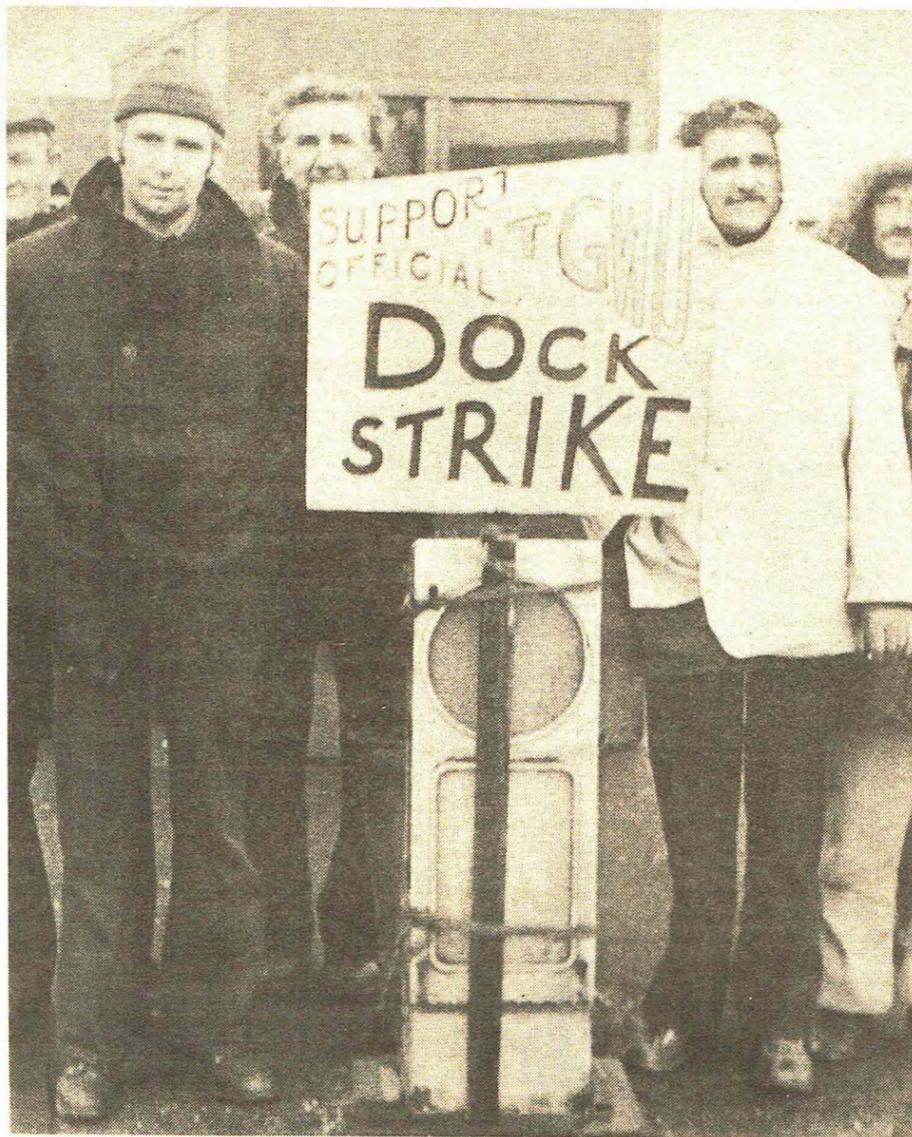
On Thursday the pickets attempted to prevent a lorry loaded with timber crossing the picket line. The driver of this particular lorry was accompanied by the son of

one of the dockers' employers. He proceeded to threaten the pickets with the loss of their jobs.

When the human barrier which the pickets had created refused to move, the police (RUC) who had previously had nothing to do with the strike, stepped in and arrested four members of the strike committee including the chairman, Bobbie Dickie.

The men were cautioned and formally charged with a view to future prosecutions. The RUC subsequently quoted the laws on obstruction, and warned the strike committee of possible punishment of either a £100 fine or 9 months in prison.

The following night an even more provocative act by the army occurred. A number of the strike committee reported what



Dockers on the picket line in Belfast

pened.

"We were standing in the gates when a blue container unit with an army escort approached. Without stopping they flew through the picket line, lowered the container and rushed off again. When approached by the harbour police about careless driving they replied: 'We're in the army, and have the authority to do this'."

Undoubtedly the Tories' attitude towards the trade unions and their new strategy for dealing with strikes was seen clearly in these incidents in Belfast. More openly, the police and the

army are going to be deployed as strike-breakers in the interests of the employers, and not only in Northern Ireland, but throughout Britain as well. Despite these problems, however, the morale of the striking dockers is high, and their will to hold out and win is extremely strong. They are united solidly the their pickets are extremely effective.

Their main demand is for £25 per day and discussions to re-introduce de-casualised labour. The employers would like to return to employing them as casual, in other words "you work, if

and when we decide to call you."

Clearly the employers would like to drag these workers back to the 1930s. Their struggle for better pay must be tied more closely to the right for full employment and must be supported by other dockers in Britain and in Ireland.

- ★ Guaranteed work or full pay
- ★ A decent minimum weekly wage
- ★ For complete opposition to any redundancies
- ★ Nationalisation of the entire port.

BAICO

Baico's profits are being severely hit by their lock-out. The only people doing any work are the three managers.

It has its funny side though: one of them has lost 2 stone in weight since they started doing scab welding!

The work consists of modifying the bodies and chassis of trucks. As many T&G truck drivers are refusing to cross the picket,

for example Auto cars of Luton, who were turned back last week and who won't now be sending any more work to Baico's, the managers themselves often go out to collect trucks.

The three managers doing the welding have got none of the skills that the AUEW welders have. For example, when certain types of chassis are lengthened you need a very strong weld with a

'diamond' reinforcement.

The pickets believe when these managers do the job there is far less welding and no diamond. Some of these vehicles will have to carry very heavy loads, like coaches.

Donations and support still needed. Send to: **Baico Strike Committee, 25 Thorny Hedge Road, London W4.**

AUEW campaign

Following a highly successful Rally of over 200, the Brighton and District campaign for a 'Fighting AUEW' has swung into action in support of presidential candidate Bob Wright, and the other left wing candidates.

Leaflets have been distributed in every factory in the area. As important however is the work we are doing on the shop-floor; this is where we will win or lose.

In my factory we have tried to discuss with every member of the union. The results are tremendous, the right wing will be lucky if they get more than half a

dozen votes from this factory.

Many members who voted for Duffy last time have admitted their mistake.

As one older AUEW member put it: "When I read in the 'Mirror' that Boyd and Gavin Laird had been having lunch and cosy chats with Thatcher, who has put two million on the dole including tens of thousands of our members, I felt physically sick."

"Now I know what so called moderation means in practice, you can call me a left winger now."

If this was done throughout the country we would

win a tremendous left majority in the union. Only we on the shop floor can answer the lies of the Tory press, and break down the mood of helplessness that exists at the present time.

Meetings have also been held this month in Huddersfield—where an audience of forty heard Jon Ingham and presidential candidate Bob Wright outline the need for a left leadership of the union—and in the Portsmouth area.

By Dave Horne
(AUEW)

By Ed Bober

Birmetals

By Pete McNally
(Ladywood LPYS)

The management at Birmetals, Clapgate Lane, Birmingham, should join the AUEW. They know plenty about engineering—they've engineered this dispute, for a start, to close down the plant.

The 900 manual workers here have been in various stages of dispute with the company for months. Last year the bosses asked for a six-month pay agreement, instead of twelve months, in order to help in "re-organisation". This was agreed by the unions. Now we can see what "re-organisation" meant; it meant closure at the cheapest possible price to the company.

Of course, there are other factories belonging to the parent Birmid Qualcast group, but they're getting fewer and fewer all the time. The No. 2 Foundry, Dartmouth Castings, Smethwick is to close, with another 400 workers sentenced to the dole. That's why the support pledged to the Birmetals workers by senior shop stewards throughout the

Group will be vital.

The company brought about the dispute by asking other workers to do the work of 12 Despatch Dept. crane drivers, who were refusing to load or unload as part of the fight for the wage claim. The bosses here don't believe in discrimination, they asked skilled and unskilled, male and female, able bodied and disabled to scab on the crane drivers. As they refused, they were sent home. and disabled to scab on the crane drivers. As they refused, they were sent home.

Six weeks later the workers each got a letter from the company, terminating their contracts. The company also explained this to the local benefit office. Since then the original letter has been withdrawn.

But where does this leave the workers? On the picket

Metal Box

Workers at the Metal Box open-top can factory in Strood, Kent are fighting the threatened loss of 760 jobs.

In response to a management statement that the factory would close in March, a joint committee of the five unions in the factory has been set up. They intend to do anything legal to save the factory.

In addition to the 23 year old Strood factory, Metal Box are also intending to close their factory in Winsford, Cheshire.

Management blame the closure on a number of factors; changes in the structure of the market, a poor summer, increased competition and "reduced consumer disposable income due to the recession" [lack of spending money for you and me!].

But the workers do not accept these reasons. The local Labour Party have accused the company of investing abroad—eg. South Africa—and importing cans at a cheaper price than home manufacturers. Metal Box strongly deny this.

The joint committee issued a statement saying "the factory workforce has given its whole-hearted support to this committee. We are united in fighting the closure."

Support must be given if the crisis of capitalism is not to claim another 760 victims.

Labour Party Conference meeting 'Northern Ireland—the struggle for workers unity and a mass Party of Labour'.
Speakers: Bill Webster [Labour and TU Group and Derry Trades Council], Tony Saunio [Labour Party NEC and member of Northern Ireland study group, personal capacity].
Sunday 28th September 11.00am, Conference Room, Claremont Hotel, North Shore, Blackpool.

line, without jobs, redundancy money, unemployment benefit, or social security. They are living from hand to mouth.

The pickets are convinced they know why the management wanted the closure. The 'Birmingham Evening Mail' reported on 25 July on an application for planning permission from Birmid Qualcast. They want to build houses on the site.

Planning permission must be refused by the Labour-controlled City Council, to show this firm that it can't win.

Birmetal's desire to house people doesn't extend to the pickets. The company is thought to be less than ecstatic about the decision of the council to allow the use of an old house just outside the factory gates as a picket HQ.

Donations and messages of support to:— Bro. J.A. Glasford, JSSC Secretary, 78 Longbridge Lane, Longbridge, Birmingham B31 2TW.

TANDY'S

In the grey light of dawn on the picket outside Tandy's, there were more than 60 pickets.

A large Volvo approached: inside were two of the managers. The line was solid.

The security scabs tried to drive it through the line. Engaging gear and revving up he forced his way through, nearly knocking over and crushing a few bodies in the process.

A few minutes later a Panda car turned up and ushered two cars through the picket line. Both policemen then tried to disperse the picket line with the comment that we were causing an obstruction.

Then another Panda arrived. A couple of minutes later I was arrested on suspicion of criminal damage along with Derek March (father of one of the shop stewards), and rushed down to Wednesbury police station.

I found out later that three more pickets were arrested. Then a deliberate cold storage job was done. Both myself and solicitor were prevented from communicating for over 90 minutes.

After discussions with the solicitor we were all fingerprinted and photographed. We were locked in cells for nearly 6 hours and although we asked for food on several occasions were completely ignored except for one cup of tea one picket received.

We were all charged, handcuffed and taken to court in a black maria. Three of us were charged on hearsay evidence by management, and the police.

We were bailed on condition we did not go down to Bilston road for 14 days.

That evening the local 'Express and the Star' had the gall to headline their front page "Punch up on the picket line—five held." In the words of shop steward Cathy Dukes, "The trouble this morning has only made us more determined to continue our fight to join a union."

So enforce the boycott and picket your Tandy shop for T&G recognition for Tandy's.

By Brian Debus

ST. BENEDICT'S



The police move in. Pickets are dragged off and the barricade at the gates removed so private ambulances can drive in

The battle to save St Benedict's goes on.

The District Management Teams have tried to break the action by hospital workers to stop the removal of patients. They are using private ambulances, private nurses, police, and even security guards. Injunctions have been served on six workers and two trade union

officials, stopping them 'interfering' with the removal of patients.

St Benedict's workers have estimated that if the older patients are moved, some of whom have been at the hospital between 10 and 20 years—so it is their home—up to 30% of them will die because of the upheaval.

What is worse is that

some of the geriatric patients are being moved to Bolingbrook hospital which has no special facilities for geriatrics and is also up for closure! So the patients will face yet another harrowing transfer. On Monday London ambulancemen again pledged they would not cross the picket line under any circumstances.

This solidarity action must be spread to all COHSE and NUPE members throughout London hospitals if St Benedict's is to be saved.

By John Bulaitis

Robb Caledon THE FIGHT IS ON

By Pat Craven
(Dundee LP)

Trade union leaders at Robb Caledon, Dundee, are now convinced that British Shipbuilders have no intention of keeping the yard open.

In a move to broaden their campaign to save shipbuilding on the Tay, the shop stewards' combined committee called a press conference with local MPs and the Labour Lord

Provost and local full-time trade union officials.

Convenor Bob Barty produced evidence to show that the local management of the yard had rejected enquiries from 22 companies about placing orders with Robb Caledon.

As recently as the previous week, a French company enquired about a cable ship of a type which the yard has made before. The management told them they weren't interested "because of the steel and outfitting

content", an excuse which the workforce cannot understand. Another enquiry rejected in June was for six offshore vessels.

"The workforce have responded to every call from British Shipbuilders and have faithfully kept their word on every promise and agreement which they have entered into since 16 August 1979," said Bob Barty.

"Time and again British Shipbuilders have made promises to the workforce and when the time came to implement them the local management have shown a complete disregard for these same promises."

The workers are now banning overtime within the yard, which has just one ship left in it, the last of the big Polish order. Harry McLevy, AUEW District Secretary, expressed the view that he had never known a ship to be finished without overtime, and he pledged the support of local

union leaders for any further action the men take.

The Labour Lord Provost present expressed his frustration at the buck-passing between the Industry Department, the Scottish Industry Minister Alex Fletcher and British Shipbuilders, who keep disclaiming responsibility for keeping the yard open, and try to shift the onus onto each other.

A further attempt is to be made to arrange talks with British Shipbuilders to get an assurance that the yard will remain open. But all those at the press conference now seem sure that this will not be the answer.

It is the struggle waged by the workforce, the Dundee labour movement and the shipbuilding unions nationally which will force BS to change their minds. That struggle has now begun in earnest.

KING HENRY PIES

Another mass picket was held last Friday at the King Henry Pies factory in Manchester, where the strike for union recognition is now in its tenth week.

About 50 people were there, and the banner of the local Labour Party was prominent on the picket line.

This week it was relatively quiet, in contrast to a recent picket when the police arrested 11 trade unionists. Those arrested will appear in court on 29 September, and the union are planning to hold a march in their support.

Pickets were angered by a report in the local paper which featured scare stories about the supposed intimidation and violence against blacklegs going to work.

The press reported the scabs' "works committee" as saying that Derek Hollins was an excellent employer, but neglected to mention the

appalling wages and conditions which caused the strike, or the infringements of the Factory Acts.

This has only reinforced the message that the trade union movement cannot expect a fair representation in the capitalist media. One picket said they should only speak to the labour and socialist press in the future.

While the Bakers' Union members are determined to stay out until they win, they need the support of the whole labour and trade union movement, to stop King Henry Pies being sold and to stop supplies getting through.

If you can help with blacking, information or money, contact Bakers Union District Offices, Room 4, George House, 30 Dudley Road, Manchester M16 8BE.

By Carl Wiper
(Withington LPYS)

CAPITAL

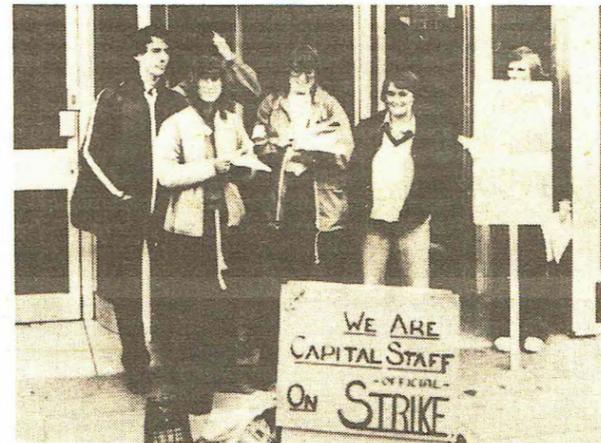
Workers at London's biggest commercial radio station are at present making news. Not that you will hear it on Capital, ('in tune with London') because 77 of their 122 employees are on strike.

The dispute arose after months of negotiations with management over the annual pay claim.

In the '79/80 claim the union won comparability with LBC (London's other commercial radio station). This year NUJ and ACTT members at LBC settled on 21%, the cost of living index in July, and this was the basis of the Capital workers' claim. Management replied offering between 12% and 16%.

The strike began after management said that they would ask all employees individually whether they would accept the offer.

Union members still inside the building, working on contract with Capital such as DJs will not carry out work normally done by



The picket line at Capital Radio

ACTT members. Support has come from Equity, the Musicians Union and the Association of Broadcasting Staffs, plus the NGA, POEU and the TGWU will not cross the picket lines.

With the management and non-union labour stretched to provide a much reduced service, mainly music, the morale of the pickets is high and was

further boosted when even that well known turncoat Lord George Brown refused to cross the picket line to do his regular programme!

Messages of support to Capital's strike committee to ACTT, 2 Soho Square, London W1.

Robert Lewin and Alan MacAskill spoke to pickets at Capital Radio

in brief

The 200 workers at Racal-Decca, Battersea, have been locked out. The American multi-national firm locked the gates on Monday morning. The company want to close down this site, which makes small boat radars, and turn to the more profitable electronic warfare sector [see 'Militant' 519].

Six hundred jobs are to be lost at the ICI sites at Winnington, Lostock and Wallerscote in Cheshire. The jobs will be shed over the next two years.

The Inver House Distilleries in Airdrie have announced 100 redundancies. Airdrie already has a 17% unemployment rate, one of the highest in the country.

Despite a £17 million investment programme in expanding their works, the L Gardner & Sons firm, which builds diesel engines, has announced 700 redundancies to take effect in December. But the work force, who are already on a three-day week, are to fight the company's plan. They are angry that if the redundancies go through the depleted workforce would return to a five day week.

The Crossville Bus Company in Cheshire is making 450 workers redundant. The company blames falling profits—and say this is partly because so many people in the area are jobless and have stopped travelling by bus.

In August 4,500 redundancies were declared in Wales. This is double the figure for last year, and brings the total of notified redundancies for Wales up to 44,000 this year.

Whitefriars Glass, which has made cut glass table ware for the past 300 years, closed down its factory in Harrow on Monday, making 100 people jobless.

The Daily Mail has agreed not to purchase any more newsprint from the Cape after London SOGAT members blacked newsprint from South Africa.

The textile industry has been particularly hit by the economic crisis, with its workforce as the victims. With an average wage of only £50 a week, the textile workers have suffered 20,000 jobs lost over the past nine months.

The Bakelite works in Tyesley, Birmingham, announced redundancies last week—and gave the workers involved a day's notice! The 60 men who received the notice—on top of the 100 redundancies already announced—were given 13 weeks' pay and an ex-gratia payment.

The government has paid out more than £10 million to companies who have put their workers on short-time working. More than 200,000 workers are on short time throughout the country at present.

SRI LANKA

RELEASE ARRESTED WORKERS

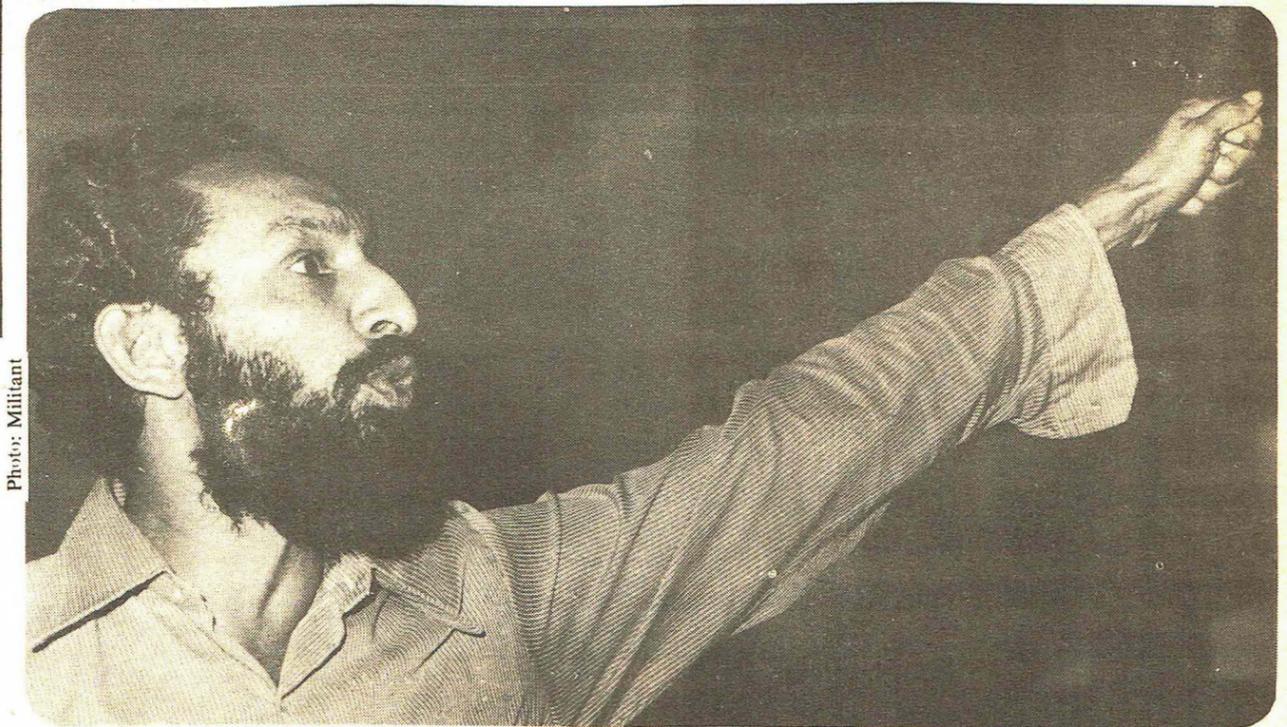


Photo: Militant

Vasudeva Nanayakkara, President of the NSSP-led United Federation of Labour is still under arrest for his clear and determined role in the general strike. Protests should be sent to President J R Jayawardene, Presidential Office, Queen Street, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

On Tuesday 16 September, after many delays, the Sri Lanka Court of Appeal met to hear the bail applications of the eleven trade union and opposition leaders held in prison since 8 August.

However, the presiding judge declined to hear the case and it was postponed to 18 September to be heard under a different judge.

The government of J R Jayawardene has kept the

most militant leaders of the July General Strike in prison while attempting to break trade union organisation in the government sector of the economy.

When the Joint Trade Union Action Committee (JTUAC), the body which links together most oppo-

sition trade unions, called for a general strike J R Jayawardene announced a state of emergency declared striking a criminal offence and sacked all workers who went on strike.

The refusal of the majority of the JTUAC leaders to directly meet this challenge resulted in the failure of the strike to secure its aims and nearly 100,000 workers have lost their jobs, in a country where unemployment is officially 15%!

J R's government clearly hope to crush opposition unions by firing leading activists and employing other workers under what American Labour Unions call 'yellow dog' (anti-union) contracts. The government has sent all government sector strikers a questionnaire which they have to fill in to receive their pay for the days in July which they

worked.

Now the government has said it will re-employ, on so far unspecified conditions, some of those who filled in these forms.

Although the JTUAC last week agreed to the proposal of the Nava Sama Samaja Party to organise a 'long march' through the island to hand in a mass protest petition against the sackings, no date has yet been set for it. As on previous occasions the JTUAC majority is hesitant in taking decisive action against Jayawardene's attacks on workers' democratic rights.

It is no accident that most of the leaders still in prison are members of the Nava Sama Samaja Party. During the general strike, the NSSP was the only party which put forward a clear strategy and programme to carry the movement forward to victory.

Already in Britain a wide range of organisations have protested at these leaders' imprisonment. The TUC sent a telegram expressing 'serious concern' and calling for 'their immediate release'. Individual unions including the TGWU, NUR, BFAWU, FBU, UCW and NUAAW have also called for their release as have many trades councils and union branches in both Britain and Ireland.

The Irish Labour Party has protested and the British Labour Party is sending a deputation to the Sri Lanka High Commission in London. The Swedish TUC, the LO, has carried an article in its paper 'LO Tidningen' calling for solidarity with Sri Lankan workers.

The Campaign to Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka is hoping that it will be able to gather support from

the forthcoming British Labour Party Conference for its three demands:

★ 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!

Britain is giving substantial aid to fund the Sri Lankan government's programme. This gives the British labour movement the responsibility to ensure that this does not result in the strengthening of an anti-working class and pro-imperialist regime.

By Bob Labi

DOCKERS



CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

force through back-door sackings, the Port bosses are abandoning that pledge, forcing workers into what they themselves admitted to be "a transit camp to nowhere."

"Hull will come out 100% without a doubt," Paul Spooner, a member of the Hull dockers shop stewards' committee told 'Militant'. "They haven't tried to use TUR here yet, but we have a surplus of men going home every day for lack of work. We know for a fact that if this happens at Liverpool it will happen at every port where there's a surplus."

"The main thing we won out of the 1972 struggle was

the abolition of TUR. Now they are threatening to take that away."

Since 1965, the number of registered dock workers has fallen by 58%. The dockers are taking a firm stand against further shake-outs. With their long tradition of class solidarity, every organised trade unionist will be looking to them for a lead in the fight to stem the floodtide of unemployment.

The dockers' worksharing scheme was won as a means of ending the horrors of casual labour, when dockers stood herded in pens, waiting on the employers' whim for a day's work.

Ian Olly, Royal Docks and London T&GWU Docks Trade Group, explained: "Every docker can see the writing on the wall. This is worse than 1972—it's literally life and death now. Feelings are running high throughout the docks—we didn't mess about in 1972, and we won't mess about now, in spite of the Tory laws."

The 50,000 dockers not covered by the Dock Labour Scheme, at unregistered ports such as Felixstowe, have also pledged support for the strike.

"We need their support. They need to be registered.

The union must make a clear call for them to come out with us, and if smaller wharfs don't respond, they must be picketed," Paul Spooner added.

Southampton dockers are gathering support from local T&GWU lorry drivers, and appeals have gone out to workers in other unions on the docks. Dock workers in Spain, Holland, Sweden and Denmark have promised to stand by their British brothers and other workers internationally are being asked to co-operate with blacking.

Henry Williams, a T&GWU shop steward at Southampton docks, reflected the determined mood: "The only way a national strike will be averted is by the employers signing on paper to say they will not use TUR any more. We have set out to organise ourselves effectively. We will not be fragmented. We know that we are taking on Margaret Thatcher and the Tories."

- Full support for the dockers!
- Guaranteed work or full pay!
- No to redundancies!
- Register all docks—nationalise all ports!
- For workers' control and management of the industry!

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