

'FAIRYTALE' WEDDING CAN'T HIDE TORY NIGHTMARE

Heseltine - 'No crock of gold' No answers

The Tories have come up with some miraculous "solutions" to the street battles in the cities: police repression, plastic bullets, Army detention camps, water cannon—and now Michael Heseltine.

Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, announced his new 'initiative' with great drama—"A Task Force," a Mission was to investigate at first hand the causes of rioting, starting with a fortnight's visit to Merseyside.

Michael Heseltine of the starship Private Enterprise would boldly go where no Tory minister had gone before—the Inner Cities.

Unfortunately, Tory policies, unlike their ministerial perpetrators, hit our cities a long time ago, bringing growing dole queues and savage spending cuts.

As Minister of the Environment, Heseltine has had prime responsibility for enforcing Tory attacks on local councils, ordering huge cuts in the Rate Support Grant

across the country.

When Heseltine, known as Tarzan, for his savage 'cost-cutting' abilities, reached Merseyside, he offered a "listening ear".

Help, though, was right out. He had "no crock of gold", he said. He had no answers either.

As part of his publicity exercise, he took a ride on the Mersey ferry, which his government's cuts are forcing to close!

What makes the Tories' choice of Heseltine even more ironic is the Minister of the En-

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By Roger Shrivess

THE PRINCE MARRIED THE PRINCESS AND EVERYONE IN THE KINGDOM LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



No happy ending for workers

By John Merrill

(Chairman, Leicester West Labour Party) personal capacity

The Royal Wedding has come as a temporary ray of sunshine for the Thatcher government and the Tory press.

For a few days the media can ignore the mass unemployment and the conflicts in the streets.

All classes will be united in the warm glow of the wedding. At least that's what the Tories hope.

But just in case people get carried away and think the Great Day will

have magical qualities, you should be warned.

Despite talk of the Royal Wedding regenerating industry, very few jobs, even temporary, have arisen from the wedding, as Leicester workers found to their cost.

Last year 30,000 jobs were lost in the hosiery industry and a further 8,400 were lost in foot-

wear. But one Labour MP Greville Jenner thought he saw a shaft of light for the industries in our area when Prince Charles' wedding was announced.

An avowed Royalist, he claimed the event would provide a boost to the livelihoods of bosses and workers alike. The Lord Chamberlain thought otherwise.

He banned the production of T-shirts displaying a picture of Big Ears and Snow White (alias Prince Charlie and Lady Di).

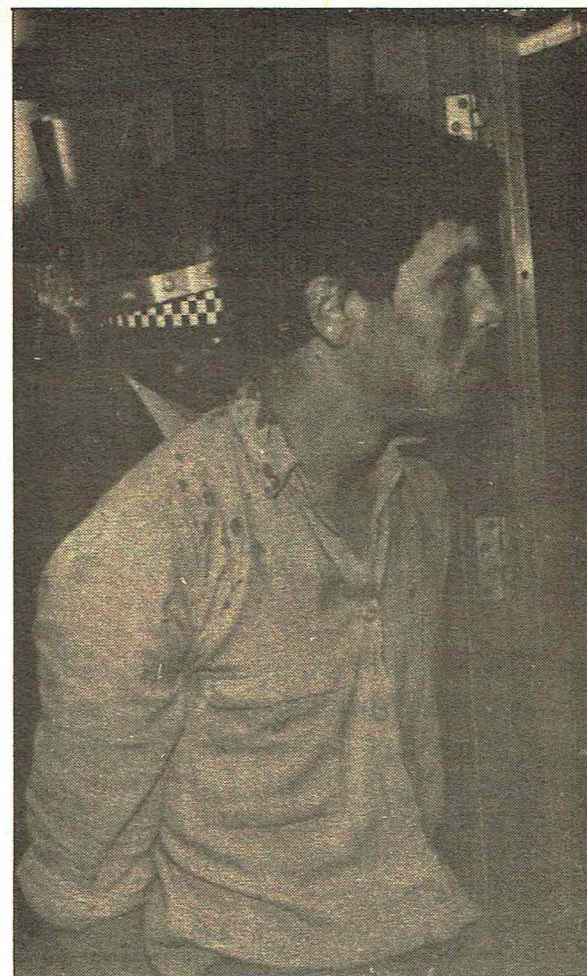
Greville Jenner was dumbfounded. But he was undeterred.

He mounted a campaign to get the decision reversed. He rallied local bosses and trade union leaders, put motions in the House of Commons and indulged in gentle 'plea bargaining' with royalty.

The Queen was unmoved. She agreed with the Lord Chamberlain. Jenner concluded "This decision is a sad misjudgement but it shows politicians are not alone in making mistakes."

And the Hosiery and Footwear bosses didn't even show their gratitude for a Labour MP for

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An arrest on Merseyside. The Tories and bosses are the guilty people

Photo: MILITANT

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Militant

IS 'POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION' ANSWER TO BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT?

The conflict on the streets, in Brixton, Toxteth, Moss Side, Handsworth and other inner city areas, shows that the labour movement must urgently campaign for an alternative to the acute social problems behind the upheavals.

Central to this campaign must be unemployment, probably the biggest grievance affecting youth, especially black youth.

'Militant' believes that the labour movement must be mobilised on a campaign to fight for measures to tackle unemployment now:

★ For a 35-hour week for all workers without loss of pay.

★ For an £80 minimum wage for all workers—men, women and youth.

★ A job with training or a training scheme for all school leavers with trade union rates of pay.

★ Further and/or higher education courses for all those who want to continue their studies with a living grant for all students.

The Tories, the Liberals, the Social Democrats, and unfortunately, some of the right-wing leaders of the Parliamentary Labour Party argue that "the system can't afford these measures."

In the opinion of the rank and file of the labour movement, however, that is the strongest argument for changing the system. Labour must fight for socialist economic policies to eradicate unemployment and use the productive capacities of all workers.

Throughout the country the Labour Party Young Socialists have intervened to demonstrate that their alternative policies can provide a solution to the problems of young people.

But many young people, especially young blacks, are sceptical of the labour movement, particularly in view of the record of past Labour governments. Only if Labour shows that it is prepared to take action to provide jobs and improve conditions will the youth be won to the labour movement.

Since the eruptions of recent weeks, however, the call has again been put forward from some sections of the Labour leadership for "positive discrimination" on jobs in favour of black unemployed youth. The proposers of this idea are right to be concerned about the position of black youth, but they are completely mistaken in advocating "positive discrimination".

Far from averting the danger of increased tension between sections of the white community and black workers, proposals for "positive discrimination"

can only inflame the racist prejudice of sections of political backward white youth and workers.

"Positive discrimination" is a misguided attempt to find an immediate short cut to a solution to the burning problem of unemployment among black youth. In itself, such a policy can create no new jobs.

It simply amounts to a scheme for sharing out the misery—and as such is a recipe for disunity and conflict not unity, between black and white workers.

The events of recent months have decisively answered those pessimists on the left who previously argued that large sections of the British working class were indelibly infected with racial prejudice. Some groups of white youth and also older whites have been misled by reactionary racist and fascist organisations and been involved in vicious, sometimes murderous, attacks on blacks and Asians.

But most workers clearly understand that this is an attack on the whole working class, not just the black community.

The conflicts on the streets, have not been race riots. Black and white youth have been united against mass unemployment, arrogant Tory indifference to their plight, and above all united against the police, whose aggressive tactics have provoked the upheavals.

This is not to say that the labour movement should not continue and step up the fight against racism. The Tory lie that black and Asian workers are in any way responsible for mass unemployment, bad housing and riots on the streets, must be forcefully answered.

Labour must take action to convince all sections of workers, including politically backward sections of youth, demoralised by their conditions and confused by reactionary, racist propaganda, that it is offering a serious alternative to this rotten capitalist system.

Through their reactionary Nationality Act, the Tories are attempting to reinforce the idea that black immigration is responsible for the problems of white workers.

Unfortunately, the way was prepared for this anti-

immigrant legislation by previous Labour governments, which themselves maintained Tory immigration laws and passed new reactionary legislation. If the Labour leaders are serious in combatting racial prejudice they must make it absolutely clear that they stand for the complete repeal of the Nationality Act and all other restrictions on immigration and on the civil rights of black and Asian people in Britain.

The British bosses were quite prepared to encourage immigration from Britain's former colonies when they needed cheap labour in the post-war boom period. Most of them had to make do with slum conditions that most white workers would no longer tolerate. They took on many unskilled, dirty, dead-end jobs which other workers were only too prepared to leave to them.

Mass unemployment has not been caused by immigrant workers, or black British workers, who still make a vital contribution to the running of hospitals, transport and many other vital industries. Unemployment is the result of the decay and crisis of the capitalist system, dominated by big business and run for profit by a handful of financiers, speculators and industrialists.

It is this system which must be changed. Neither "positive discrimination" nor any other scheme for sharing out the misery will solve the problems either of black workers or workers generally.

The labour movement must fight racial prejudice, fight to end discrimination against blacks and Asians defend blacks and Asians from attack and harassment and make sure that black and Asian workers get their rightful share of jobs, housing and all other facilities. But this must be done through the labour movement by the workers themselves.

There can be no real solution to these problems while more and more jobs are disappearing, housing needs grow and service after vital service is being cut back. The labour movement must bring it home that there can be no solution under the Tories—and no solution within the rotten framework of capitalism.

It must be squarely faced up to the fact that the recurring nightmare of mass unemployment will not be ended until capitalism is overthrown. Black and white workers must be brought together to fight for a socialist programme capable of uniting the working class in the struggle to transform society.



Lets put the 'Bobby'

SOUTHALL LPYS BEAT TORY BAN

Attempts by Tories to prevent the ideas of the LPYS from getting across to young people have failed. In Southall even the cancellation of the room booking with only twelve hours notice did not prevent the LPYS from holding a public meeting on fighting racism.

By Nigel Waterfield (LPYS)

On the evening before the meeting Ealing Tory council decided to ban all public meetings on council premises for two months. This is the same Tory council which allowed the National Front to hold a "public meeting" in Southall Town Hall in 1979.

On the same evening the ban was announced an Ealing-Southall Labour Party working group issued a statement disassociating itself from the LPYS meeting and called on peo-

ple to boycott it. This statement echoed one of the myths of the Tory press that "outsiders were causing all the trouble".

But the opponents of the LPYS campaign could not control the weather.

So the next day the meeting was held on the Dominion cinema car park where an enthusiastic audience of over sixty people, many new to the LPYS, heard Kevin Ramage (LPYS national chairman) and Bob Lee (the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton). After the meeting a number informal discussion groups formed, and several people

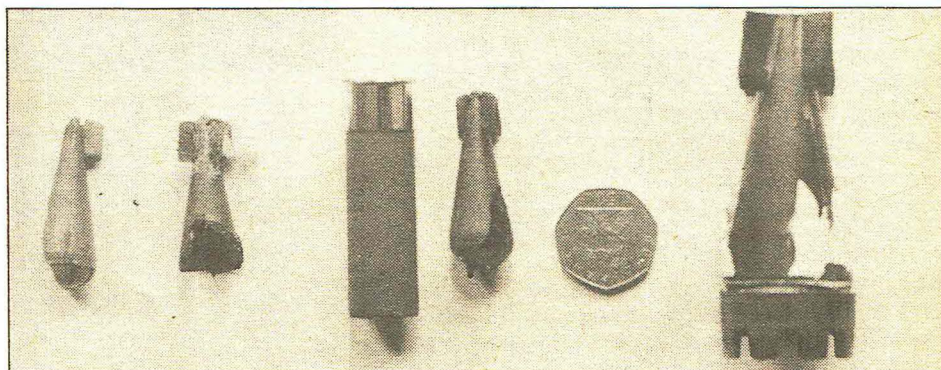
expressed an interest in helping build the Southall LPYS branch.

The impact that a determined and enthusiastic campaign can have has been shown by the work that the LPYS has done in Southall since the racist attack. The LPYS were the first to hold a public meeting on the events and over three hundred people attended that meeting.

The Friday after the LPYS joined other youth on the streets when it was rumoured that there was to be a National Front march from Houslow to Southall. The next day the LPYS held a day of action selling 300 papers and collected many names for the LPYS.

We have found that many youth are looking for a way to really combat the Tories and we are determined that that should not be wasted in fruitless activity but should be channelled where it can be effective into a political campaign for a socialist society.

SHOT BY CS GAS 'BULLET'



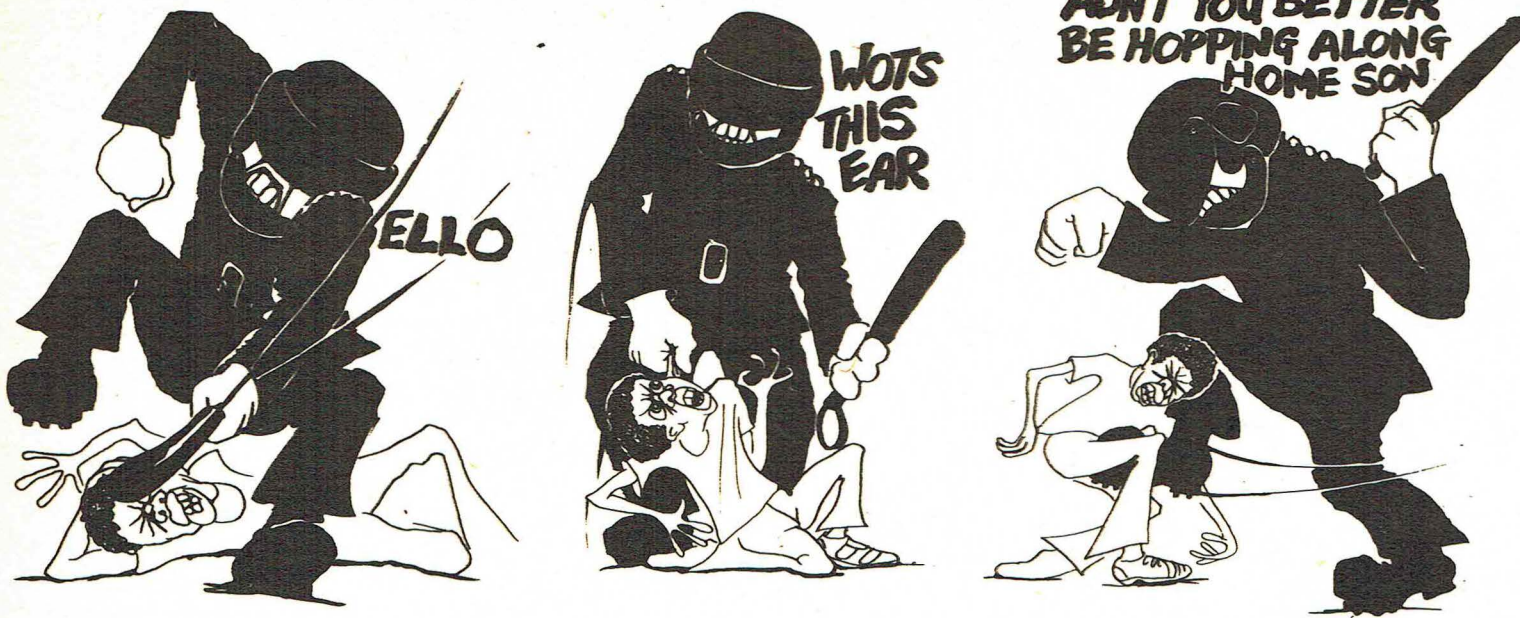
The CS cartridges fired into the crowd at Toxteth. They are only meant to be fired into buildings, otherwise, as the US manufacturers pointed out, "you might as well fire live ammunition." ('New Statesman', 17 July) Photo: Militant

The police started to fire CS gas at the crowd, opposite the Rialto building which was on fire. This was on Sunday night (5 July) at 2.30am. I was talking to a young lad who suddenly crumpled to the ground in pain. My friend and I picked him up, he said he felt he had been shot and couldn't walk. Later his friends

By a Toxteth YCAU member

extracted a projectile from his leg. This had pierced his trousers and had entered his leg about a quarter of an

inch, leaving a nasty circular wound. The projectile was hollow, with traces of liquid in it. The lad complained his leg felt paralysed. The projectile was about the size of a large bullet, almost certainly one of the 'Ferret' type CS 'cannister' which the US manufacturers warn should not be fired at people.



Where's the fire?

Are there any lengths to which the Tory press will go in order to put across their propaganda? On July 10 the 'Daily Express' under a headline of "If that's how they want to play it" published a photo apparently showing Moss Side ablaze at night.

The caption read "light from the fires silhouetting the buildings and trees," but was it? Closer examination of the picture, and the area by daylight, showed that 'fires' were to be nothing more than street lights and the main 'fire' was a sign advertising the Harp brewery. Hardly honest journalism, but as it all helps to mould public opinion in favour of the bosses, why should truth stand in the way?

THEY TREAT US LIKE DIRT

"I was born and bred here. My husband has lived here virtually all his life. My children were born and bred here. The police are still treating us like dirt."

This was how one mother summed up the mood of anger in Moss Side at the LPYS public meeting last Tuesday.

Despite a massive police presence and intimidation of YS members, three of whom were arrested while leafletting and talking to local youth, we still managed to advertise our public meeting in the local area, and got more than 100 people to turn up to a meeting to hear Phil Frampton, PNP youth, John Nicholson, a local Labour councillor, and Javad Iqbal, of Moss Side LPYS.

"Anderton deliberately held back on the first night of rioting, so that he would be able to rush in and arrest more people indiscriminately later."

"The police deliberately picked up 13 and 14-year-olds so they could try to say that unemployment was not to blame because the people were still at school."

These were some of the views expressed at the meeting.

From the platform, Phil Frampton pointed out that the real 'agitators' were the Tory looters and not the LPYS as the Tories and bosses' press claimed. The Tories have condemned three million people to misery on the dole and created an industrial wasteland.

They have produced a generation of disillusioned school leavers, with nothing to look forward to except the dole or YOPS.

To loud applause, Phil also denounced the numerous recent incidents of police harassment and beatings up. He called for the local Labour Parties and the trade unions to mount a determined campaign for the sacking of James Anderton, Manchester's Chief of police, and for democratic control of the police.

back on the beat

THIS WAS POLICE 'BARBARISM'

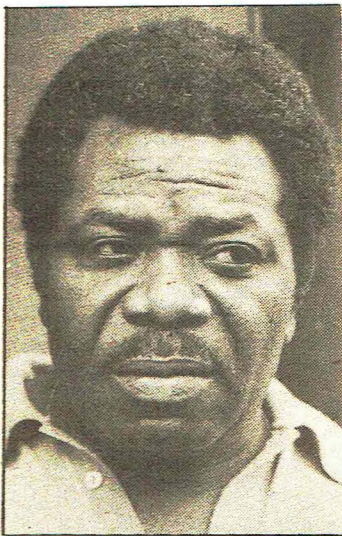
Gladstone McKenzie and his wife used to run a small off-licence at 60 Railton Road. Now they say they will never open again.

But the McKenzies regard themselves as the "luckier" victims of last week's police raids.

They do not live on the premises all the time, so they have somewhere else to go. Also, Gladstone had retired so he didn't depend entirely on his business, but he enjoyed it.

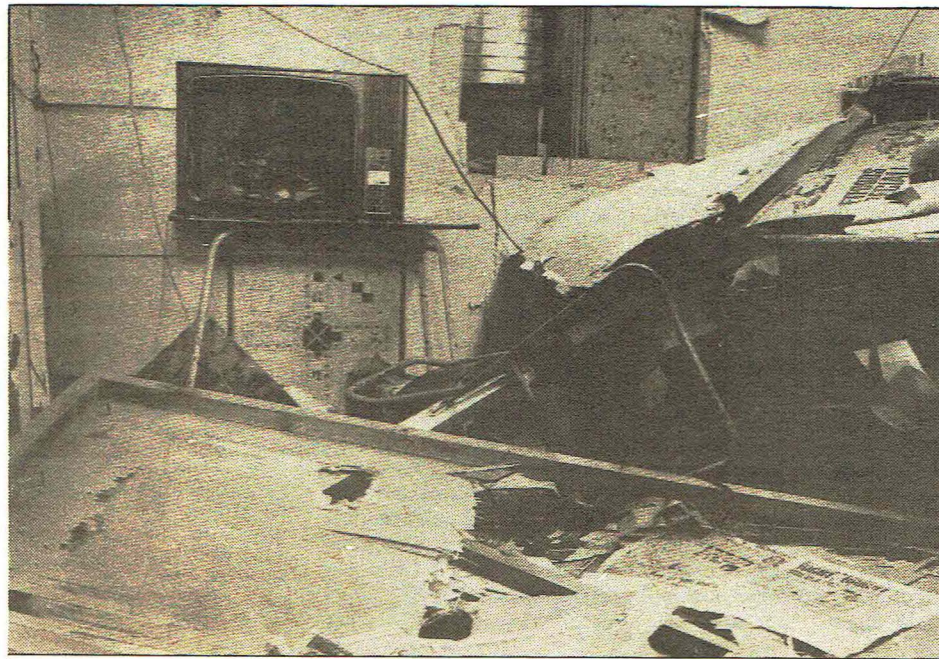
He had a small room at the back with a sound system where he could listen to music with friends when he felt like it. There was no-one there when the police turned up, and the first Gladstone knew about it was the next day! He was shocked and amazed at the damage done, and bewildered as to why the police had done it.

"If they were in the right frame of mind, they wouldn't have done this. We were open every day until 11 o'clock at night. They could have come in any time during opening hours and said they wanted to search.



Gladstone McKenzie (above) spoke to Clare Doyle

"I go home to sleep and they come to bust my place up. That is barbaric! It shows you the mentality of these police people: they say they're looking for explosives.



This was the result of the police raid at 3 am on one apartment, situated behind Mr McCogg's grocers shop in the Railton Road.

Photo: Carlos August (IFL)

"But they wrecked a music system and pulled the head of the arm, looking for bombs! They didn't even look in the crates, the wine cases or the boxes. They ripped up the stair carpets, pulled out the gas fire, turned over the beds upstairs and broke them, pulled

all the drawers out of the chest and cleared out anything that was in them.

"They didn't have to do what you've seen here! They've just vandalised the place. They smashed everything in sight, smashed every door down from top to bottom. They used crow

bars and 14lb sledge-hammers and put bars through the plate glass window AFTER they were in!

"They deliberately destroyed the place and we've never been in any trouble.

"And who knows when they'll be back?"

THE YOUTH WON'T TAKE IT

In the fortnight since the Moss Side area of Manchester erupted, the police have made numerous arrests. A local doctor has complained that a number of patients have exhibited vast areas of cuts, and bruising, swollen limbs and faces after detention by the police.

He says "In the last week, I have seen and witnessed injuries that I never expected to see in England."

Young people have also been pressurised into pleading guilty appearing before special Magistrates Courts.

John Hunt, of Moss Side Labour Party Young Socialists, spoke to members of a family living on Alexandra Park estate about their feelings and experiences. To prevent victimisation we are calling them Mr and Mrs Smith, and their two teenage sons Desmond and John.

What do you think caused the riot?

Desmond: Partly jobs. Only one of my mates has got a job, and he is white. And also the police. None of the lads I know wanted to loot the shops or to see them smashed up, because the police were the real enemy.

Mr Smith: The police were the main cause. The kids won't stand for what we used to take.

What has been your experience of the police?

Desmond: I was pulled up when I was 14 walking down the street with a piece of wood. The next time they set the dogs on me. I've still got the scars.

John: I was arrested last Wednesday night during the riots and beaten up in the van. One policeman said to another, 'We've got one black bastard and one white lad. Why couldn't we have got two of the black bastards.' The police thought they'd be clever, they planted a five pound note on me, put it in my sock, but when I got to the station I told the police 'It's my own money, I needed it to get to work in the morning.' They let me keep it.

Mr Smith: They deliberately pushed the young ones and provoked trouble. They had come round here with a van

with 'Come play with us' written on it. They were disappointed they didn't arrest enough young blacks and have been picking people up at random just to give them a record.

Mrs Smith: What chance have they got? One well-known youth leader has been arrested and beaten up. He was out telling people to go home. The police will take all day if you need them to help you, but it takes them just two minutes to pick you up.

What do you think should be done about the police?

Mr Smith: If they'd treated my home like the ones in Brixton they wouldn't have come out alive. I think you've got to get rid of Anderton. He is responsible for a lot of this. He's a real reactionary. Also, the elect-

ed councils should have control over the police.

At that point, the TV newsreader mentioned Margaret Thatcher, and that brought the whole discussion sharply back into focus.

Mrs Smith: She wants seeing to. She's caused a lot of this. At least Heath knew how far he could go. This woman's gone over the edge. You know, we've never had so many arguments in this house since she got in. I'd like to let her live in our house for a week—I bet she wouldn't last half a day.

Mr Smith: We need a national strike to get rid of this government. I don't want Thatcher or Jim Callaghan or Michael Foot—I want Tony Benn in.

ONE WEEK TO L.P.Y.S SUMMER CAMP AUG. 1-8th.

Fancy a good holiday? Then how about coming to London for the Wedding? 'Inter-European Tours' offer seven nights at the Savoy for a mere £500!

Not your cup of tea? Then how about a suite at the Hilton Hotel for just £440 a night excluding food?

Or on the other hand, forget it. This year's Labour Party Young Socialists' Summer Camp is the real bargain event of the year! It's only £40 with meals or £15 self catering for a week of politics, sport and music in the beautiful Forest of Dean.

At this year's camp, starting on August 1, you won't find the Royal Two-some, or any of the rich parasites who can afford private villas in the South of France, but there will be 600 young socialists from all over Britain, and international visitors from Ireland, Belgium, West Germany, Holland, and Austria.

Political sessions cover every major topic affecting working class youth. Right from the opening session with Kevin Ramage, LPYS

By Peter Mumford
(Erith & Crayford LPYS)

National Chairman, speaking on "Throw the Tories Out", the tone will be set for seven days of debate and discussion, as well as social events and enjoyment.

During the week there will be discussion of international issues, including a major rally on S. Africa with George Peake, a former prisoner on Robben Island, speaking.

A number of debates will take place. David Ennals MP will be defending Labour Solidarity in a discussion on the future of the Labour Party.

A major issue following the local election in May, has to be how Labour Councils can organise a fight against the cuts. (see

articles on Lothian opposite.) At the Camp 'Fighting the cuts' will be the topic of debate between Leslie Holt (Liverpool Labour Party) and Bristol City Councillor, George Micklewright.

Smaller seminars will cover topics from the history of the labour movement, education, Marxist economics, up to practical sessions on how to organise a street meeting.

But it's a holiday too! Wednesday afternoon will be sports day. Get a football team together in your area for the competition and start practicing! As well as football there will be cricket, athletics, canoeing, and horseriding for the kids.

Every evening a good time is guaranteed for all at the social events. Irish folk band 'Crusheen' will play on two nights, and on others there will be discos, club nights and a quiz.

It's not too late to book! Get hold of a tent and send £5 deposit off now—or pay at the camp itself! Bring the whole family, full creche facilities will be provided, and there are special rates for the under-12s.

Money to: A. Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, SE17.

LPYS Summer Camp, August 1st-8th. Bracelands Campsite, near Coleford, Gloucester. Cost: Only £40 (meals provided) or £15 (self catering).



From folk-singing to blues, from badge stalls to a video on Brixton, there was something for everyone at the first Militant rally held in London last weekend. Over 800 people came from as far away as Manchester and such was its success that it is probable that it will become a regular annual event.

In the main hall people were entertained by a trial of Thatcher performed by Bark-ing and Dagenham LPYS, music from Peggy Seeger and Ewan McColl, and Martin Pearce.

In other rooms there were films on nuclear war, Grunwicks and the Russian revolution, and numerous stalls.

The main event of the day was a political meeting addressed by Rod Fitch (Labour's Prospective Parliamentary candidate for Brighton Kemp Town), Joe Marino (General Secretary of the Bakers Union), Clare Doyle (Labour Committee for the defence of Brixton) and Peter Taaffe and Ted Grant from the Militant Editorial Board.

SPREADING THE IDEAS OF MARXISM

LEEDS

Speaking at a *Militant* readers' meeting in Leeds Tony Sauniois argued that Tony Benn's campaign for deputy leadership had already been a victory for the left wing of the party, as the question of politics had been raised in every trade union affiliated to the Labour Party.

The involvement of trade unionists was reflected at the meeting. Malcolm Richardson and Jack Benson from the engineering AUEW union explained how the left wing of the union required a fighting

programme in order to win the rank and file engineers away from the stranglehold of the right wing.

NOTTINGHAM

Not every MP has welcomed the moves towards democracy and socialist campaigning by the Labour Party. After Nottingham MP, William Whitlock chose the pages of the anti-trade union 'Nottingham Evening Post' to attack Marxist members in the party, 'Militant' supporters in his constituency quickly organised a public meeting.

Over fifty people heard Henry Richardson (Vice-chairman Notts Area Miners) explain how this attack was part and parcel of a general attack by Labour's right-wing on the left within the party, especially against Tony Benn's standing for deputy leadership.

Tony Cross (Youth Officer, E. Nottingham Labour Party) said that instead of attacking those who are trying to build the party, MPs should be helping in a campaign to bring down the government.

RESIST RACIST ATTACKS

It is essential that all the lessons of recent struggles are learnt in order to combat the rising level of racist attacks.

In Coventry it was found that all the hours of talk with so-called 'community leaders' and the police changed nothing. When a large group of racists gathered in the town centre the police at first turned a blind eye, until the racists got more than they had bargained for at the hands of West Indian and Asian youth.

Cowardly attacks on Blacks and Asians have continued after the recent murder of an Asian doctor in the street. Although an all-day anti-racist pop concert was held, featuring the Specials, it did not channel this anti-racism into an organised channel.

Local labour movement organisations have shown how to resist racial attacks. Godiva Ward LP has called for the establishment of street committees to help organise defence in the areas.

The local LPYS have campaigned for the anti-racist struggle to be taken throughout the trade union and labour movement, to



PHOTO above: This premises, used by community groups in Islington, was gutted by fire after being at the top of a fascist "hit-list" last month.

show the dangers that racist ideas pose; and they have also called for such a campaign to be made in the ranks of the unemployed to undercut the appeal of the National Front and the British Movement.

In Swindon the LPYS have called for a labour

movement anti-fascist committee to conduct a similar campaign. Racist thuggery has increased recently with the murder of a West Indian youth and a night time attack on an Indian restaurant.

To combat this trend on 20 June there was an anti racist march of 350 people including contingents from the LPYS, Trades Council and Indian Workers

Association. Only a handful of fascists turned up in a vain attempt to threaten the marchers.

Not even that number turned up in Hull although the New National Front were meant to be holding a rally on the theme of 'No to Nuclear disarmament'. Hull Trades Council quickly organised a counter-demo and took over the main square where the fascists

had planned to hold their rally.

Coachloads of anti-fascists turned up from Grimsby (making use of the new Humber Bridge) and from a number of towns in Yorkshire. The square was occupied all day and it was later discovered that the fascists had had their "mass" meeting of seven-teen people on a fairground on the other side of town.

By Militant Correspondents

MILITANT READERS' MEETINGS

HARINGEY 'Trade Union Fight Against Government Policies'. Speakers: Peter Jarvis (NGA, personal capacity); Dennis McCracken (Convener, Haringey Local Joint Craft Unions, personal capacity). Tuesday 28 July, 8.00 pm, Tottenham Trades Hall, Bruce Grove, N.17.

TYNESIDE Marxist Sunday School. Sunday 26 July, 7.00 pm, 'The Chinese Revolution 1925-27'. Sunday 2 August, 7.00 pm, 'The Spanish Revolution 1931-39'. Sunday 9 August, 7.00 pm, 'Popular Fronts and France'. Venue from your local 'Militant' seller.

STIRLING 'Poland—what is happening?' 13 August, 7.30 pm. 'Which way for the Labour Party?' 3 September, 7.30 pm, Cowane Centre, Stirling.

BLYTH Meetings str 7.30 pm. Wednesday 29 July—'Brixton: what happened and the lessons for the labour movement'. Venue: 148 Disraeli Street, Blyth.

POOLE Militant Discussion Group. 'Is Russia Socialist?' Tuesday 28 July, 8.00 pm. Further details contact Parkstone 732090/733989

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

LOTHIAN RECALL CONFERENCE

STOP TORY DEVASTATION!

If Younger, the Tory Secretary of State for Scotland, has his way and gets Lothian Regional Council to cut its budget by £47 million over six months, the effects would be devastating.

First in line would be the old.

The pensioners home help service would have to go up from 50p to £1 an hour; the cost of 'meals on wheels' would rise by 250%, and the number receiving the service would go down by a quarter of a million to 750,000. Bus passes which enable pensioners to travel free within the city at any time would have to be withdrawn.

Over the next ten to twenty years the region will need between 20 and 30 more old peoples' homes, just to keep pace with demand. If the Tories' cuts were to go ahead, between two and four homes could close and charges for old folk increased from £25 per week to £75.

Education would be next in line.

Currently Lothian has the lowest teacher-pupil ratio in the country. With Younger's cuts, up to 4,000 teachers could be made redundant, doubling the teacher-pupil ratio.

The Director of Education, who's by no stretch of the imagination a Marxist, has pointed out that half the caretakers, half the auxiliary teachers and two thirds of dining room staff would have to be paid off. The charges for school meals, which have been pegged for the last two years, would have to go up from 35p to somewhere between 50p and 75p.

Transport would also be hit.

Bus fares have not increased in Edinburgh since 1976. If they were now raised in line with inflation, it would cost a family an extra £4 per week.

The effect on jobs in the region would be disastrous.

Unemployment would at least double to 15%. If the cuts were started on 1 August then 15,000 out of the 35,000 staff would get the sack. If it is delayed, then more cuts are required in a shorter period of time.

By 1 September, the number sacked would have to be 17,000, by 1 October 21,000, and if it was given on 1 November, because of technical reasons, it would mean winding up the region totally and paying off every single member of staff.

Workers want no cuts. They want to defend the present level of services. No cuts have been made in Lothian since 1976. In every field, social work, education, transport, the services for workers and their families has increased.

The day of action on 30 June was highly successful despite attempts by the press to say that it would be a total flop. Twenty thousand people took to the

streets of Edinburgh.

Significantly, it was not just regional council employees who were involved in the day of action, but also the people of Edinburgh and the region. It is essential that unity is built between these groups and tenants associations, OAP groups, etc. and local authority employees. Things are going to get much tougher.

This is not just an issue for Lothian or for Scottish local authorities. South of the border, left controlled authorities in Greater London, South Yorkshire and Sheffield etc, have supported the stand that has been taken in Lothian.

It is important that the trade union movement in those areas see the importance of widening the struggle. When the deputation from Lothian goes down to London it should press the leadership of the public sector unions to see that the struggle has to be taken as a national one and not just as one regional local authority in Scotland taking on the government.

Gordon McKinley (GMWU) spoke to John Mulvey and Jimmy Burnett (Lothian Regional Councillors, personal capacity)

Part of the 15,000 strong march through Edinburgh on 30 June to defend Lothian's services.

Photo: M Tate

"There can be no denying that debt charges present a major problem at a time of high interest rates. For example if it takes £1 million to build a 50-bed old peoples' home and the interest rates are running at 15%, the annual debt charge will be £150,000. "If it was occupied by fifty people then the debt charge per bed will be £3,000 per year. This means that the weekly charge on a new old peoples' home has to contain an element of £57 per bed per week before we have provided any staff, any food, any care at all—even a bed."

Director, Lothian Regional Social Work.

Fighting Programme of Action Needed

There can be no compromise with the Tories over the cuts. If you give in they just come back for more.

The experience of Strathclyde, Scotland's largest local authority shows that. In the last year 1,700 jobs have been lost through not filling vacancies; and the Tories still came back for another cut of £17 million.

But if Lothian and the other councils on Younger's hit-list are to defeat the Tories, a clear programme of action is needed. It must be clearly spelt out that Labour authorities are fighting to defend workers' jobs and protect the services that working people and their families rely upon.

To talk in abstract terms

about defending "local authority autonomy", without relating it to the class issues involved, as some of the leaders of the Scottish labour movement have done, is not the way to build a fighting resistance.

Neither do cuts in workers' living standards, by raising rates to offset the effects of cuts, win workers to a struggle against the Tories.

In Lothian, the Regional Labour group have supported the party policy of no cuts, no sackings and no loss of job opportunities. But their proposal of a 50% rate increase, would be a massive burden upon workers and their families, at a time when wages are not even rising in line with inflation.

By the time this issue of 'Militant' is on the streets, Younger will probably have

Fire

"The fire service faces a cut of £1.6 million from its £8.5 million budget. This cut would mean the loss of 200 jobs from a full time workforce of 690. Protection from fire would be reduced as it would be unsafe to the fire-fighters and the public to turn out on under-manned vehicles.

"Nobody's job is safe. Not the man with 15 years service or even me on 24 years. We must stand by Fire Brigades Union national policy: for a recall national conference and strike action the moment fire service redundancies are announced anywhere.

"If jobs are lost in Lothian, then immediate strike action would be called locally with its possible escalation to the rest of Scotland."

Tam Burke spoke to Mick Jones (FBU) Scottish National Treasurer and Lothian JSSC)

Schools

"If the cuts go through, the best public education system in Scotland, arguably the best in Britain, could never recover in the foreseeable future.

"We are talking about 2-3,000 jobs being lost, but that is based on £40 million of cuts over a year. In fact they are asking for £47 million over six months.

"Lothian is particularly vulnerable in terms of staffing. It has infinitely the best teacher-pupil ratio, well above the government's "red book" guidelines.

"The government would get no co-operation implementing the cuts. They would need to send in commissioners. An easy way would be for them to close whole schools.

"Or they could stop the whole of "guidance teaching", which involves rela-

tively highly paid staff [who give assistance to pupils facing personal difficulties].

As one of the progressive trends in education it would be high on the hit list.

"EIS were a leading light in setting up the trade union action committee against the cuts. They supported a one day strike for the June 30 march which was very well supported.

"It is obvious that this government won't be stopped by a one day local stoppage. We need massive sustained action by all public sector workers and the private sector too, because they will also be affected."

Pat Craven talked to Kenny Campbell (Education Institute of Scotland, Craig Royston High School, personal capacity)

paid because the Tories haven't paid the rate support grant.

★ Workers in the private sector to join the strike to safeguard both their jobs and those in the public sector.

★ Amalgamation of the Lothian Joint Trade Union Committee and the Lothian Regional Action Committee. One united voice is required to fight the Tories.

★ The Scottish Council of the Labour Party and the Scottish TUC to jointly sponsor a Scottish Delegate Conference to co-ordinate the defence of jobs and services.

★ The National Executive of the Labour Party and TUC to immediately organise a national conference of all Labour authorities resisting the Tory cuts.

Such a united campaign would have to be linked to a struggle to bring down the Tory government and replace it with a Labour government which would implement measures allowing local Labour authorities not only to restore the cuts made by the Tories but also to expand and develop the services required by workers and their families. This would include taking over the major monopolies, the banks and insurance companies and cancelling the massive debt charges around the necks of local authorities.

By Margaret Baines (Lothian Regional Action Committee, personal capacity)





According to the East Grinstead 'Courier', Mid-Sussex MP Tim Renton and his wife opened their garden at Mount Harry House, Offham, "in aid of the Homeless in Sussex Fund," with "a free car park; tea will be available as well as bowls and croquet. The ornamental trees in the arboretum are a particular attraction."

If Mid Sussex district council really intended to do something for the homeless, it sounds as if they could build a council estate or two in Mr Renton's back garden.

"Between taking breakfast and morning coffee some patrons of London's five-star luxury hotels spend anything between £20,000 and £200,000 or more in what is one of Britain's most successful if comparatively rare retail outlets: the jewellery shop in a hotel."

According to the top people's 'Times', hotel jewellers "have seen little or no decline in trade because of the recession. Racehorse owners in town to celebrate a win can be good customers.... An inscribed gold watch for the jockey, costing up to £15,000 is a favourite gift."

As one jeweller explained, "It's the class of people." And most of us aren't the 'right' class.

In 1977 the Norwegian Minister for Industry, during an election campaign, promised that there would be no redundancies in a state-owned textile factory. When redundancies came about in 1979, the sacked workers sued the government for breach of promise and their case was upheld by an Oslo district court. The government now has to pay the workers the equivalent of their wages until retirement age.

But what if the idea of suing for broken election promises spread to Britain? Sir Keith Joseph would look even more worried with more than a million extra unemployed asking what happened to the rosy future the Tories promised. And as for the last Labour government, how many jobs, and services could have been saved if the promise of socialism in Clause IV part IV of Labour's constitution had been honoured?

It's a nice dream. The courts in Britain will never of course force Thatcher and Co. to pay for their election lies—or to make a Labour government push for socialism. Quite the reverse in fact. Getting rid of the Tories and getting a Labour government committed to socialism will be up to the working class.

"Personally I welcome Sir David McNee's decision to put 900 coppers on the streets of London...If it is necessary to swamp the area with coppers to stamp out crime then swamp it." That was not a 'Daily Mail' editorial, but Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw in 'Labour Weekly' on 26 June commenting on Brixton [it was before Toxteth, Moss Side etc.].

Joe Ashton compares what he called the 'honest crime' of his working class childhood in Sheffield with the "violent crime of today." He claimed the Labour Party had no policy on crime prevention. Surely a socialist solution would be to fight for a permanent change in the conditions of mass unemployment and terrible housing which as in the '30s are causing a desperate turn to crime.

True, as Ashton says, crime hurts working class areas more than middle class and upper class areas. But if Labour MPs fought consistently to change society rather than echoing the "bring back the Riot Act" statements of the Tories they would be making the biggest possible contribution to putting an end to crime.

WARRINGTON-

Swinging to the middle?

By Roger Shrives

The result of the Warrington by-election drew squeals of excitement from the Tory press.

This was certainly not due to the performance of the Tory candidate, Stan Sorrell, who lost his deposit with a pathetic 7.1% of the votes cast.

Fleet Street's delight arises from the performance of their new-found hope, the new 'Second XI' for big business, the Social Democratic party. Roy Jenkins, the SDP candidate, took 42.4% and came within 1,759 votes of capturing the seat from Labour.

Predictably, the press has largely played down the total rout of the Tory Party. Any hopes that by putting forward one of those very rare birds, a working class Tory candidate, they would fool the electorate have been dashed. Flesh-creeping calls for capital punishment, corporal punishment, and curfew on youth, stood no chance of diverting workers' hatred for the Thatcher government.

The so-called quality press, mainly read by businessmen and their functionaries, have been more frank. 'The Times', which had already hinted at the need for a U-turn after the recent street battles, reiterates its call. It now warns that the Tory Party could become totally marginal in British politics—a small party with hardly any votes, like the Scandinavian Tories.

When Tory governments have suffered in the past, the prospect of a Labour government has been reasonably acceptable to the bosses, as they usually proved willing to carry out Tory policies. The moves to the left amongst Labour's ranks make this course far more risky. So they have turned to the SDP/Liberal alliance as an alternative now things are getting rough for the First XI.

Big business, as various reports have made clear, has already begun to back the SDP (together with continued support for the Tories) with hundreds of thousands of pounds—as an auxiliary to a failing Tory party, to act as a safety-net to catch disillusioned Tory voters and prevent them all going over to Labour.

The papers are full of advice to the SDP, urging Shirley Williams to contest the forthcoming Croydon North West by-election and keep up the impetus of Warrington.

But the press have mainly used the election as a stick to beat the Labour Party. The vast bulk of the support for Jenkins in Warrington came from ex-Tories and Liberals. But some Labour voters, with the aid of a massive press campaign for Jenkins, switched to the SDP.

The press have also been generous in handing out ad-



Roy Jenkins puts on an "acceptable face of capitalism" for the TV cameras

vice to the Labour Party they detest. The 'Sunday Mirror' (19 July) claimed "the working man has rejected Mr Tony Benn, the Militant Tendency and the rest of the gang who have done so much damage to the Labour Party."

Labour right-wingers like Denis Healey say it proves Labour must re-take the "middle ground" as that is what the voters are looking for.

This is nonsense. As the new Labour MP Doug Hoyle has said, the SDP were sold like soapflakes. They never put forward any policies. A survey of potential SDP voters in 'New Statesman' found that over a third thought that the Party stood for leaving the Common Market and a quarter thought it stood for unilateral nuclear disarmament!

Needed— a bold campaign

To this, it must unfortunately be added that the Labour Party campaign in Warrington did not put forward clear socialist policies. Doug Hoyle's campaign, apparently on the advice of party officials at Walworth Road, appeared to be largely confined to identifying the candidate by handing out pictures while playing down the policy issues.

When Jenkins, the SDP and the press attacked Doug Hoyle, a 'Tribune' supporter, as a left-winger, the tactic was to side-step the attack rather than meet it head-on and hit back boldly with socialist ideas. Doug Hoyle, for example, refused to say whether he supported Benn for deputy leader.

The real lesson of Warrington is that the threat of

the SDP cannot be beaten by evasive "low key" campaigns. It is indeed a warning to Labour when in a previously safe seat the Party cannot win a sweeping victory against Thatcher's government. Healey is right about this. But his conclusion is totally wrong.

The main factor stopping people flooding to Labour is not a left NEC, but all-too-clear memories of the right-wing Labour government of 1974-79. Despite all the claims of the SDP to be "a new force" in politics, the prominent social democrats—Jenkins, Williams, Owen, Rodgers, and so on were leading lights in that disastrous government.

Instead of pointing out the failures of these policies and the need for socialism, Doug Hoyle's campaign stressed moderation and the personal qualities of the candidate.

It was spuriously claimed that this was helping "party unity". Sir Harold Wilson spoke in Warrington and said that Roy Jenkins had been a good Home Secretary, and how much respect he had for Shirley Williams.

If there had been a bold campaign, with door to door leafletting and door-step discussions, to explain exactly what the SDP stands

for and why socialist policies are needed to solve the crisis facing the working class, the ground could have been cut from beneath the SDP.

A BBC computer predicted that on the basis of the Warrington result, the next general election would produce 501 SDP MPs, 113 Labour, and one Tory MP. This, of course is nonsense. Jenkins and Steel may be cock-a-hoop at the moment, thinking the next government is theirs, but they still have to cobble together a party out of renegades from Labour, Tory and Liberal parties. There are numerous differences in the Party and as yet no policies.

Other by-elections have produced big votes for the Liberals or the SDP's forerunners in the Chester-le-Street and Lincoln by-elections in 1973 without establishing a real foothold.

But the SDP do pose a danger. The way to ward off the SDP is not to capitulate to the pressure of the press and regurgitate a new form of the failed policies of the previous Labour government, but to fight for socialism as the only solution to the mass unemployment and devastation of Tory rule.

MUTINY

An account of the
Calais Soldiers' mutiny in 1918
written by a leading participant

Alf Killick

Available, price 20p [+10p
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London E8 3PN

Militant
pamphlet 20p

NORTHERN IRELAND -

Class solutions vital

Photo: Militant

Two more hunger strikers in the H-Block have lost their lives. This is the result of the obstinacy of Thatcher and the Tories.

After the deaths of Joe MacDonnell and Martin Hurson, the peace talks involving the Irish Commission for Peace and Justice have virtually collapsed.

Responsibility for this failure—and for these latest deaths—lies directly with the Tories. In the past, Thatcher has defended her refusal to grant basic concessions by claiming that the prisoners would only settle for political status, nothing more, nothing less.

This lie has been firmly nailed. The prisoners themselves (in a statement issued on the Saturday before MacDonnell's death) have quite explicitly dropped the call for political status as a pre-condition for a solution.

They say: "It is wrong for the British government to say we are looking for differential treatment from other prisoners. We would warmly welcome the introduction of the five demands for all prisoners."

Not only could the hunger-strike have been resolved on the issue of basic prison reforms, but even the details of a reform package acceptable to the prisoners were worked out and part agreed by the government before MacDonnell's death.

Final agreement was not reached only because of the Tories' refusal to make a clear statement of what was on offer to the prisoners, and because of their delay in visiting the prison until a few hours after MacDonnell's death.

This policy of obstinate repression within the prisons is being matched, measure for measure, by repression on the streets.

Since MacDonnell's death, state forces have killed three people, two of whom were innocent bystanders, while the third was an unarmed man involved in hi-jacking.

Lethal weapons

In Westminster, William Whitelaw while defending the government's handling of the rioting in Britain, let slip that he was against the use of plastic bullets because he didn't want to kill people. Plastic bullets are used daily in Northern Ireland. Whitelaw's admission of their lethal results is well borne out by the facts.

Last Wednesday 29 year old Falls Rd. housewife, Mrs Nora McCabe left her home to go to the shop to buy crisps for her children and cigarettes for herself. On her way home she was hit on the head by a plastic bullet fired indiscriminately from an RUC landrover, and died a few hours later.

By Peter Hadden
(Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group)

She had neither guns, stones, nor petrol bomb in her hand—only 20 cigarettes and some potato crisps.

Only the labour movement in Britain and Ireland can resist such repression. The H-Block Committees in Northern Ireland have conducted a totally sectarian propaganda campaign. They are closely associated with the Provisional IRA and the INLA. As a result, they have alienated not only the entire Protestant community, but many Catholics as well.

There has been far less reaction to the latest death than those of any previous hunger strikers. Joe MacDonnell's funeral was barely a tenth as large as that of Bobby Sands. This is despite the undoubted sympathy which exists among many Catholics for the prisoners.

The labour movement could fight the horrors of H-Blocks in a class manner, linking the issue of repression to the class issues of unemployment, bad housing, and other conditions. By opposing also the methods of the Provisionals, and the activities of all sectarian groups and individuals, they could draw support from Catholic and Protestant workers on this question.

The Labour Party National Executive Committee have passed a resolution supporting the demand for the right of prisoners to wear their own clothes and to negotiate the choice of work, education and training.

Rank and file members of the Labour Party would reject the ideas of bipartisanship, of following the line of the Tories, as amounting simply to complicity in the death of prisoners. The Labour Party must fight for these elementary demands.

The warning issued in the past by Marxists that Northern Ireland is the training ground for conflict in the cities of Britain has now become a reality. But the methods so far used in Britain are mild compared to those endured almost daily by workers in Northern Ireland. These methods, unopposed, could also be turned against the working class in Britain and their organisations at a future stage.

A labour movement enquiry into repression composed overwhelmingly from trade union activists from Northern Ireland must be established. This enquiry can be used as a basis for a campaign against all repres-



The funeral of Bobby Sands in May. The labour movement is now the only body which can fight the horrors of H-blocks.

sive legislation, against the murders and activities of the army and the police, and against the detention centres and non-jury court system.

Part of such an inquiry must be a review of the sentences of those convicted of offences arising from the troubles. This would establish which prisoners the labour movement could fight to have released. The

labour movement enquiry would determine which prisoners have been framed or tortured, who are political prisoners, and would distinguish these from those who are guilty of sectarian prisoners and would not be defended by the labour movement.

That the H-Block issue has not yet re-ignited a sectarian carnage has, as in the past, demonstrated that

working class Catholic and Protestant, are sick of sectarianism.

In this most deprived region of the United Kingdom there are no shortage of class issues around which the workers could be united. Even now there are strikes and movements on issues such as rent and housing, which continue to unite Catholic and Protestant workers.

But the labour movement cannot afford to take these things for granted. Further deaths in the H-Blocks could occur against the background of the traditional Orange parades and the coming tenth anniversary of internment. Failure by the labour movement to fight repression and sectarianism could have dangerous consequences.

Movement grows for workers unity

Report by
Larry Flanagan
(visitor to conference)

The annual conference of the Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group gathered a wide spectrum of working class representatives.

Held in Belfast on 4/5 July, the conference attracted over eighty delegates and visitors from Labour and Trade Union Group branches, Young Socialists' branches, trades councils including Derry, Belfast and Antrim, observers from South Down Labour Party and individual members of the major unions and other groups.

Presenting the executive's statement, Peter Hadden reaffirmed the group's absolute confidence in workers' capacity to unite and struggle, but he also stressed that the trade union movement would never defeat sectarianism by burying its head in the sand. The pretence of being non-political must be ended, he said.

Micky Duffey (South Belfast) told conference that his own branch of NIPSA, the Northern Ireland public sector union, with 350 members of all persuasions, had overwhelmingly supported the call for a mass party of labour.

One of many examples of workers readiness to unite was given by Frank McCallum (West Belfast). A dispute over manning levels in the Shankhill leisure centre

led workers in the Anderstown and Beechmount centres to close their centres, by refusing to cross picket lines in solidarity. Although another centre in a predominantly Protestant area remained open, a section of the workers crossed town to join the picket at the Shankhill centre. This was despite heightened tension over the H-block situation.

This basic unity, Frank concluded, needed a political expression.

Billy Robertson (Antrim Labour League—observer) thought it "diabolical" that in 1981 we were still looking for representation of the working class. When he rose to make his lively contribution, Billy said it was the first time he had ever said "comrade".

"I was a trade union activist, but now I'm a political activist. I count the round of bread, that is political. Rent has gone up, a political move. From the day you're born—it's politics."

Over two days conference discussed the political programme needed to change society, with debates on the economy, Northern Ireland affairs, youth, women, Britain, Southern Ireland and international developments.

A major question was the H-Blocks issue. This debate demonstrated how the issues which appear to be sectarian can be taken up in a class manner.

In moving the executive's



Bill Webster, a supporter of the Labour & Trade Union Group, who fought in the local elections in Derry this May.

resolution Peter Hadden had squarely laid responsibility for the situation on successive British governments, citing in particular the intransigence of Thatcher's government in renegeing on the agreement that ended the previous hunger-strike.

Delegates spelt out the need to raise the matter in such a way as to maintain and build the unity of the working class. The sectarian nature and campaign of the national H-Block committees was condemned.

Trade union leaders who refused to raise the banner of

the class on these issues were also condemned. Unless this is done, the workers' movement will falter.

In closing the conference, the chairman remarked we had witnessed the coming of age of the Labour and Trade Union Group, which would go from strength to strength.

For a socialist analysis of Ireland read
Militant Irish Monthly
Available from your
Militant seller

Photo: Militant



Not Just an Expensive Ornament

It would be a dangerous mistake to think that the monarch is simply an expensive figurehead.

In normal times, the formidable powers of the monarchy remain purely ceremonial, nominal powers, exercised only on the advice of the prime minister or the government of the day.

These monarchic powers, however, symbolise the limits of parliamentary democracy. The ultimate constitutional authority of the monarch is a powerful reserve weapon on which the ruling class will fall back in times of crisis and upheaval.

That is why big business which usually claims to stand for "cheap government", attempts to maintain the popular appeal and the role of the monarchy.

All the constitutional textbooks say that it is parliament, made up of the elected representatives of the people, which has ultimate control over the government, the civil service, the army, and other arms of the state. In practice, things are very different.

Big business, which controls the economy, also has a thousand financial and family ties with the upper echelons of the civil service, the judiciary, and the tops of the army etc. In practice, on decisive issues, it is big business which dictates to the governments.

Under the unwritten British constitution, moreover, the monarchy retains ultimate powers over both parliament and the institutions of the state.

The choice of prime minister is completely at her disposal. She is entitled, acting on no-one else's advice, to dismiss the government or dissolve parliament.

The monarch has the power to dissolve parliament, to appoint (and dismiss) the prime minister, and must give the royal assent to all parliamentary Bills in order for them to become law. Members of parliament have to swear an oath of loyalty to the Queen. Theoretically, the monarch would have to sign a Bill to abolish the monarchy.

Dermot Morrah, who has written a standard "biography" of the Queen, explains in his book that



Photos: Housing in Scotland—Balmoral, set in its 80,000 acre estate (above) and the Drumchapel Housing Scheme, Glasgow (opposite)

"the choice of prime minister by the monarch is completely at her disposal. She may consult whom she likes, she need not consult anyone at all. Further, he says "Even when her government and her parliament are in agreement with one another, she is still entitled, acting on no-one's advice, to dismiss the government or dissolve parliament."

In relation to the royal assent, Morrah says: "The giving of the Royal assent is a formality which cannot be dispensed with, and circumstances are perhaps imaginable in which ministers might advise the Queen to withhold it."

So, formally, it is "her" government and "her" parliament. But as it is ministers who introduce legislation, under what circumstances would they advise the Queen to withhold her assent?

The careful preservation of the Queen's powers is not simply a ceremonial nicety. Morrah's account clearly indicates the enormous latent powers of the monarch. Historical examples show that these powers are not just nominal, or theoretical. In times of crisis, they can be reactivated to block measures through parliament which would threaten the power and wealth of the ruling class.

There are two well known examples of parliament be-

ing dissolved by the monarch at a time of "constitutional crisis"—which reflected a political struggle arising from the clash of class forces.

The first was in 1910, when the House of Lords, backed by the King, block-

ed the choice of prime minister by the monarch is completely at her disposal.

It appears that they were acting on their own initiative." The other example is the crisis of the Labour government in 1931, which led to the formation of the National Government—in reality a Tory government in disguise—under the renegade Labour prime minister, Ramsey MacDonald. In a situation of economic crisis and mounting anger of the workers, the ruling class decided to try and use the Labour leaders to inflict savage cuts in living standards.

Macdonald, however, couldn't get his cabinet to agree to such drastic cuts. Baldwin, the Tory leader, and other representatives of big business set to work to get the King to persuade Macdonald to form a national government.

George V did not wield the real power. He was simply the instrument of big business. But all the authority of the monarchy—carefully built up over decades and decades through appeals to flag-waving patriotism, and reinforced by ceremony, religion, and all the old mythology of the monarchy—was drawn on to help achieve the move that they wanted.

In 1931, the monarchy played a useful part, as far as the ruling class were concerned, in helping to split the Labour government and secure a "National" government which lasted

The Queen of England is one of the world's richest people—we think. The Royals studiously refuse to reveal the extent of their personal wealth.

The monarch's private fortune, acquired through land-seizures, monastery closures and colonial bounty, and supplemented by 'careful' investment

£3½ million.

That is only a fraction of the total hand-out, however.

Upkeep of the five royal palaces cost over £5½ million. The private residences, including Balmoral and Sandringham, and the other "grace-and-favour" houses—numbering 121 at the last count—are also run at the tax-payers' expense.

Holidays are another luxury we pay for: the Royal yacht (£5 million refit plus £2 million running costs); the Royal Flight (£2.5 million); Royal Train (£385,000); Royal tours (an estimated £800,000). The Royal detectives, who follow even to the Bahamas, cost another £950,000 in salaries and expenses.

Entertainment too, is normally on the house. As a London club-owner explained: "Any night-club or restaurant-owner who attempted to give a royal a bill—and I've never heard of it happening—would be mad. They're so good for business."

Food (£73,061 in 1973) and drink (£19,979 for the alcoholic kind) are provided.

Gifts of gold, silver and other valuables flow in from all over the world. The wedding will add to the stocks.

The Royals don't have much cause to dip into their private fortune. The odd race-horse is about all they can find to spend it on.

No wonder it keeps growing—and no wonder they keep quiet about it.



"We're not a family, we're a firm," said King George VI, is untouched by death duty, capital gains or income tax.

As it passes from one generation to the next, it just keeps growing. But it is unthinkable that these 'private' gains should finance the royal expenses. So the taxpayers fork out.

In 1980, the Royal's 'public' income totalled over £21 million, most of it paid by you and me.

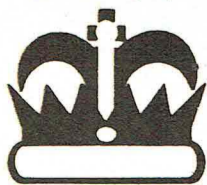
Where did it go?

THE CIVIL LIST is a government hand-out to cover living costs.

The Queen got a 100% plus increase in 1972, and since then the sum has risen steadily. In 1980 she got £2,716,300, plus £700,000 in tax-free profits from the Duchy of Lancaster properties.

Prince Philip gets £135,000—which he carefully keeps separate from his wife's. Some years ago, he decided she was subsidising the throne, and he made sure he wasn't.

The Queen Mother rates £244,000; Princess Anne £85,000; Margaret £82,000; Prince Andrew £20,000. Allowances for the various relations took total civil list payments last year to over



In 1980, the Royal 'pocket-money' amounted to £21,867,594—and we paid most of it.

Expensive ent!

By Dave Cotterill
(Newcastle
Labour Party)



Photo: Andrew Wiard (II)

more than a decade.

That episode clearly revealed that the 'impartiality' of the monarchy is a complete sham.

But that was in the past. Could such a situation occur again? A glance at any of the academic books on the monarchy demonstrates that the ruling class and its representatives have this clearly in mind.

Dermot Morrah himself poses the question: "Could this power nevertheless be asserted in modern conditions?" He goes on to say that, yes, it could—"in dire emergencies and as a last defence of the constitution."

"In the process [says Morrah] by which the Fascist and Communist revolutions are accomplished, as far as legal forms go, there is nothing in the British constitution to stop it once the first step, the winning of a general election, is granted. Nothing that is except one thing, the royal prerogative.

"At some stage in the progress of the revolutionary current the Queen could call a halt. But she would have to judge her moment shrewdly when she felt sure that the country had recovered from its aberration and it was ready to stop the rot. She could then dismiss the would-be dictator and call upon a more responsible statesman to form a government.

"The ensuing general

election would then be fought on the issue of the Queen against totalitarianism. If she had judged the feeling of the people right, her chosen government would win the election. But if she were mistaken, she would have descended into the party arena—there

All the authority of the monarchy, built up through decades of flag-waving appeals to patriotism and reinforced by ceremony, religion, and all the old mythology, was drawn on to help achieve the move the ruling class wanted.

would be no course left but abdication.

"The possibility of this last desperate throw for freedom needs always to be kept in reserve."

This is an amazing perspective!

Democracy will be preserved by the vestigial remnants of the absolute monarchy, itself a kind of authoritarian rule which reached its highest form in the late stages of feudalism at the end of the Middle Ages. What kind of 'democracy' and 'freedom' are they that need this kind of protection?

Still valiantly trying to preserve the 'impartial' role

of the monarchy, Morrah envisages that the Queen will step in to prevent either a Fascist or a Communist revolution.

But fascism was itself a form of reaction (relying initially on a mass movement of the impoverished middle class and lumpen-proletariat) used by big business to smash democracy and establish totalitarian rule. However, having burned their fingers with Hitler, Mussolini and Franco, who had dangerous political pretensions of their own, big business would in the future rely on the officer caste of the armed services, together with the tops of the police, the judiciary, and the civil service, to establish an unalloyed rule of big business, unencumbered by democratic restraints.

Given the enormous social weight of the working class, this could only be done after a whole series of defeats of the workers. But if the ruling class attempts to move in this direction, it is precisely the monarchy that they will use to cover themselves in a cloak of legitimacy.

By putting the authority of the Queen behind such a move, the ruling class would attempt to draw on all the sentiments of 'national loyalty', 'respect for authority', etc, built up around the person of the Queen, especially among

Continued on page 10



The Other Wedding

Charles and Diana are the Couple Who Have Everything. For workers, the Monarchy is redundant. Charles and the other members of the royal family are certainly in need of useful employment. But they have no housing problems, no money problems, and appear to be blissfully unaware of the problems facing ordinary people.

It's the biggest wedding for decades—but most of the bill will be paid for by the public. In contrast, 'Militant' spoke recently to Michael and Yvonne, a Tyneside couple who are getting married in July and who are facing some of the problems of the real world.

Michael and Yvonne have been living together to see how it worked out. Because it's working out well they decided to get married. They have a fourteen-month-old daughter.

Their story will not be featured in glossy magazines, it won't be followed by half of humanity—but it is a story lived by millions of other people. Initially, they were going to have a small and quiet ceremony, but the family changed that.

They want to make this a 'big occasion'.

"We're not trying to paint the picture of being

on the hard cart," they said. Nevertheless, life is a constant struggle.

At least they are 'lucky'—Michael has a job. Yvonne is just beginning a part-time one in the hospital.

Their aspirations are not high; they simply want the chance to have a decent home, a decent living standard, and good prospects for their child.

We get married next Wednesday, at 1.30 at the Civic Centre.

Then we're having the reception at the Post Office Inn, for about 55 guests. There's a disco later for all the friends—we're catering for 100.

We're paying for ourselves and the parents are paying for the night time. They wanted to pay for everything, but we didn't think that right.

We cannot afford a honeymoon, that's the top and bottom of it! Probably later on in the year when we've got a little bit of money behind us we'll be able to take a holiday.

Quite apart from the lavish expenditure on the official ceremony, Charles will reportedly be lavishing £35,000 on his 'Stag Night'? What will Michael be doing?

I'm going to put in my pocket enough to get me home in a taxi and the lads will see to the rest. It's no flash do, it's the usual bachelor party where everyone you know turns out for a night on the town. Yvonne has a hen party with her friends.

The Couple Who Have Everything thoughtfully (but very discreetly) provided a list of possible wedding presents, specifying various high-quality, trendy and very expensive items of furniture, kitchenware, and soft furnishing to set them up nicely in Charles' coun-

try mansion. How will Michael and Yvonne be setting themselves up?

I used to share a flat with my brother and when he got married we brought the stuff from there. The carpets are on H.P. but a lot of the stuff we just begged, stole or borrowed.

I've gotten myself a suit for £50—that's half decent and Yvonne's got herself a nice dress. We've just got to work from there.

But there's all kinds of little things involved. It's not just the booking of the hall. It's costing £70 for the wedding itself—for the actual ceremony. We put £7 down and it's a tenner on the day and then there's the flowers and such, the taxis.

Again, we had to shop within our budget for a ring—she wanted a platinum one but we had to settle for white gold and we got one for £30. That's more or less all we could afford.

Michael is a student nurse just going into a third year of training; I've got another year to do yet—the money's not too hot.

For the fortnight I'm in school I pick up £46.

When you're on the wards you have your enhanced money for working Saturdays and Sundays, so when I come out on a long week I come home with about £65.

How are they finding things under this government? Very hard, very hard indeed. The rent for the council flat is £15 a week and on top of that it's costing me £50 a month travel.

What are their prospects? I cannot see much prospect for the bairn. We're in pretty steady occupations; we would like to buy a house—it's just a case of getting a deposit.

WHO?

Since the age of four has had a five-figure state allowance set aside for his widow? Is landlord to hundreds of South London tenants, owns the Oval cricket ground and vast estates in Southern England and the Scilly Isles, estimated to be worth £40 million in 1974? Makes over £300,000 a year on the profits, equivalent to more than £1 million gross if he paid tax?

Has a busy timetable that every year includes a holiday in the Bahamas, winter skiing in Switzerland, summer fishing in Iceland (with transport provided by the RAF, free of charge), and grouse shooting on an 80,000 acre Scottish estate?



Has a new £925,000 home in the Cotswolds, with its own police station in the grounds and upkeep—£250,000 in 1980—paid by the tax payer? Pays rent to the Queen for a handy

suite of rooms in Buckingham Palace; employs three secretaries, a PR man, five clerks and two valets, and still has money to spare?

Spends £17,000 a year on his favourite sport, with six ponies that cost over £50 a week (more than a state pension) to keep? Paid £15,000 last year for a horse called Allibar, "an extra extravagance," and still falls off?

Never handles cash—"it would be a bit embarrassing if they started going into shops and had to sort out the coins like a foreign visitor," as a family servant put it? Will inherit the combined, and secret wealth of centuries when his mother passes on? Is about to be married? NO PRIZES.

Not Just an Expensive Ornament!



Continued from page 9

the middle class and some older politically backward sections of the workers.

Just like the tops of the army, the judiciary, and the civil service, the Queen is tied by a thousand and one threads to the capitalist class.

The Queen is reputed to be the wealthiest woman in the world, though no full account of her wealth is ever disclosed. The ties with big business are obviously substantial. Her wealth,

The Privy Council is an archaic and shadowy body. Few constitutional textbooks give any clear indication of its actual or potential powers. But clearly, in a state of emergency, it could become an 'alternative executive' of the capitalist class.

apart from vast landed estates, is obviously tied up in industrial shares and property.

The people who surround and advise the Queen are drawn from the ranks of the ruling class—known in everyday terms as the 'Establishment'.

In addition to her own personal powers, the Queen can be supported by the 'Privy Council'.

This is an archaic and shadowy body. Few constitutional textbooks give any clear indication of its actual or potential powers. There are between 200 and 300 people who are privy councillors and have a constitutional right to advise the Queen. They are drawn from members of the cabinet, past cabinet ministers, figures from the 'great families', senior civil servants, top staff officers of the armed forces and intelligence services, and also leading members of the church, the top newspapers, and 'public' bodies like the BBC.

They are all appointed for life and they are subject to no democratic control whatsoever. In practice, it is a small handful of privy councillors who form the active 'privy council', and secretly advise the Queen and have access, like the Queen herself, to confidential information.

Harold Wilson has himself related that the Queen has access to cabinet papers that even some ministers do not see, or are not allowed to see.

The Privy council, it is clear, could in a state of

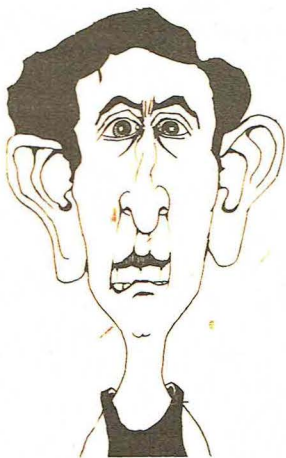
emergency become an 'alternative executive' of the capitalist class. If a government—clearly a Labour government—under enormous pressure from the ranks of the Labour Party, the trade unions, and the mass of the working class, attempted to push through measures that cut into the wealth and power of big business, it could be suspended by the monarchy, and replaced by the power of the monarchy, advised by the privy council.

The 'freedom' for which (according to Morrah and his likes) the Queen is the last defence clearly means the capitalist system, i.e. the 'freedom' of a tiny handful to own and control the great majority of society's wealth and productive forces.

The Queen's "last desperate throw" would be against the development of genuine democracy, with working people, the great majority of the population, taking the running of society into their own hands.

Clearly, it is not against a "Fascist revolution", but against what Morrah sees as a "Communist revolution", that the monarchy is being built up. Morrah envisages that the 'first step' could be "the winning of a general election".

In a 'normal' period of economic growth and social stability, a thousand and one social, economic, and cultural barriers dilute the representation of the working class in parliament. In the post-war period the great majority of Labour's parliamentary representatives were drawn from the middle class, the professions, academics and lawyers, and so on.



The Labour leadership was seen by big business as a reliable 'second eleven', which could take over in the events of the first eleven being defeated. This is why the strategists of the ruling class have viewed with horror the recent changes in the Labour Party.

They fear that the steps to democratise the Party, particularly its parliamentary representation, and the moves towards the adoption of radical policies in future election manifestoes, marks the beginning of the transformation of the Labour Party into a mass socialist Party which will fight for working class interests. These developments mean that a future Labour government, under the pressure of an aroused

working class, could become a real threat to the capitalist system.

On the other hand, the continued, catastrophic decline of British capitalism has plunged the British economy and society generally deeper and deeper into crisis.

The Keynesian economic policies which were seen as

The reality of a turn towards totalitarian methods on the part of the ruling class, using the monarchy as a cloak, is underlined by any number of incidents in recent history.

a solution to all the problems in the boom period of the 1950s and 1960s have been abandoned. However, the 'new' monetarist policies to which the Tories have now turned—in reality, a return to the old drastic deflationary policies of the 1930s—have only exacerbated the crisis.

The serious strategists of big business now fear the shattering of the Tory Party and a future landslide victory for a Labour government on a radical programme.

Behind the scenes they are therefore contemplating the steps which they can take to defend their interests when they can no longer rely on their normal methods of rule, with governments nominally based on the authority of parliamentary institutions.

The reality of the danger of a turn towards totalitarian methods on the part of the ruling class, using the monarchy as a cloak, is underlined by any number of incidents in recent history.

In 1974, with the defeat of the Tories and the return of (as it turned out) a minority Labour government, 'The Times' raised the possibility of the intervention of the Queen to bring about a Tory-Liberal coalition government.

Recently, moreover, it was revealed in the 'Sunday Times' and the 'Times' in March 1981 that there had been suggested moves towards preparations for a military coup d'état in 1968 under the Wilson Labour government.

Initiated, it seems, by Cecil King, at that time chief of the 'Mirror' Group newspapers, this half-baked conspiracy involved Lord Mountbatten, who, it was envisaged, would play a key role in the constitutional coup.

Mountbatten, of course, had close family ties with the royal family, and had long been regarded as a close advisor of the Queen and her family.

This particular conspiracy was abortive, and had many comic opera features. Nevertheless, it involved discussions with senior army officers—none of whom has subsequently been disciplined or even questioned, over their role

in such "treasonable" discussion.

The episode is a pointer to what could develop in the future in a period of much greater class tension and political clashes.

Another warning was in Australia when the Labour government led by Gough Whitlam was brought down by the Australian Governor General—acting on the authority of the British monarch.

Unfortunately, many of the Labour leaders have not understood the role and the potential danger of the monarchy to the labour movement. Some of the right-wing Labour leaders have gone out of their way to prove themselves the loyalest of loyal monarchists. Harold Wilson has written that he felt that the Queen was the only person in whom he could really confide on confidential matters. The ranks of the labour movement were clearly the last people!

On the other hand, some

Labour MPs have opposed the monarchy, but simply on the basis of abstract republican ideas. They have rightly pointed to the enormous squandering of public money on the monarchy, despite mass unemployment and poverty which exists in British society. They have correctly denounced the undemocratic character of the monarchy, which really contradicts capitalist democracy let alone socialism. Nevertheless, they have failed to raise the most important issue: the way in which the monarchy will potentially be used as an instrument of counter-revolution.

Mass support for the monarchy has certainly declined dramatically in recent years. There is no longer a blind "respect for authority" among working-class people. Improved education and wider horizons make it harder and harder for people, especially the younger generation, to accept the legitimacy of a feudal relic in a state which claims to be a democracy.

Not even the sentimental flag-wavers, who apparently look on the royal wedding as an exciting and colourful event, would in most cases support the active intervention of the Queen in politics.

But among millions of workers facing the stark problems of Thatcherite

Britain, the grotesque amounts of money and the nauseating attention lavished on the wedding has aroused enormous anger, at the monarchy itself and its Tory and big-business supporters.

Nevertheless, there are undoubtedly residues of support for the monarchy, especially among the middle class and older sections of

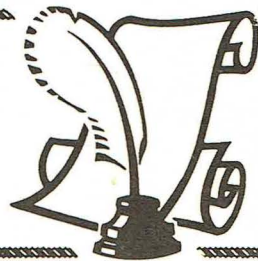
The Labour Party has declared itself in favour of the abolition of the House of Lords. It must also come out clearly for the abolition of the monarchy.

workers. In a time of crisis patriotic, monarchist sentiments could be used—for a time—to confuse and mislead some sections of the population to facilitate moves towards reaction.

The Labour Party has declared itself in favour of the abolition of the House of Lords. It must also come out clearly for the abolition of the monarchy.

Labour must explain to the whole working class the real role of the monarchy, and the way that it could be used in an attempt to block the road to a socialist transformation of society—which offers the only solution to the growing problems facing millions of workers and their families.

COURT CIRCULAR



My God, the Wedding has come only just in time.

Mobs are running riot on the streets, our lads in the Labour Party have been forced to return to home base, and now the miners are stirring it, not to mention wholesale rebellions in Scotland!

But at least we've got the Wedding, the best thing to raise the nation's morale since the First World War.

Now I expected the usual gripes from the lower orders, but not from our own ranks, for God's sake. First those lilly-livered wimps in our very own club, the Confederation of British Industry.

They say they can't afford to give the plebs the day off to pay homage to the Chosen One and that gal Di. Bah! Anyone would think it was they who run the country, not our glorious monarchy.

But I think the CBI will see sense. The 'Daily Mail' (April 23) hit the nail on the head: "The CBI thinks that most firms, especially those with women workers, will be unable to ignore the emotional impact of the Royal Wedding." Exactly—we don't want the plebs crying all over the lathes, do we.

And what about our chaps in Fleet Street? 'The Sun's been doing very well—even if a bit smutty—with front page coverage of the Wedding nearly every day.

But as for the other papers—those bally upstarts need a good scragging! They've been giving Lady Di's family a dashed hard time, trying to make out they're cashing in on the happy event. Nonsense.

The sight-seeing tours of the Spencers' estate, at £1,000 a go, has absolutely nothing to do with the wedding.

Now I know the tour includes a visit to the field where the wonderful couple met for the first time. But, dash it, the field's well worth a look in its own right; it's very interesting, with mud and things.

Someone, though, just must take the gal aside, what with all this refusing to say 'I obey' and so on. She's obviously a Trot at heart.

But I hear Our Future Queen is spending up to £1,000 a time on outfits and dresses these days, so she's obviously getting into the swing of things.

Now to the joyous task of buying something to commemorate this grand occasion. A hand painted vase from Caverswall China at £2,140 will do.

I must say this has been a great boost to British Industry. Our great British workshop has geared itself up to producing such socially necessary products as 'Rattle-a-flags', a plastic football rattle-cum-union jack; or a commemorative brick at £1.50 each.

Now there's something we could do with that embarrassing pile of 1,152 million house bricks stock piled throughout the country. What else can one do with bricks?

In all, an estimated £400 million should be raked in by good old private enterprise, which is a nice way to celebrate.

And of course the monarch's relations aren't doing too badly out of it either. That official photograph

—you know, the one with the Chosen One standing on an orange box to make him look bigger—has a copyright fee of up to £2,000.

The insurance brokers aren't doing bad, with all these companies taking out premiums just in case something goes wrong. Lloyd's took £1½ million within the first week of the engagement's announcement.

But I'm still worried as to how the lower orders are taking it all. I got into quite a temper when I read that rag the 'Daily Mirror', Britain's own 'Pravda' on April 29; "Three weeks ago Christchurch Council, Dorset, launched an appeal for donations for a Royal Wedding present but so far not a single response has been made."

The damned scally-wags! Good Lord, I would have thought we could have relied on Dorset! Weren't they with us in 1658? I mean, even those God forsaken countries of the Communist East have approached the BBC wanting coverage on their television networks.

There's only one thing to do. Would you believe I'm going to miss the Wedding? Some absolute bounders in Bedford Young Socialists have organised a 'Bolshies' Beano' instead of staying at home and watching the wonderful Wedding on television.

Don't worry, I'm taking my elephant gun with me. Tally Ho!

By Beatrice Windsor
(I wasn't even invited)

SUPPORT DUTCH FORD WORKERS

After several months of negotiations between the management of Ford Amsterdam and the unions and Whitley Committee, the director of the company, Laurent, last April informed a meeting of the workers amidst shouts and insults that he intended to close the factory on 30 September, with a loss of 1,350 jobs.

The following day the unions and whitley committee occupied the factory. The directors were informed by telephone that they should not try to enter the factory since they would be stopped. A meeting of the workers unanimously supported the action and within minutes many had volunteered for duty rosters to guard the entrances to the factory day and night.

After three days of occupation, and after management had agreed to resume negotiations and look at other alternatives for keeping the factory open, the directors took over control of the factory once again.

These fruitless negotiations, which lasted for over two months, broke down in June when it became evident that whatever the unions argued, management were

By our
Amsterdam
correspondent

secretly going ahead with their plans for closure in September.

On Thursday 25 June, the factory was once again occupied with even greater enthusiasm from the workers and widespread support from the trade union and labour movement.

Management now tried to humble the unions into submission by taking them to court, describing the workers as "assailants". The bosses are confident of winning the case and are suing the union for 2½ million guilders (£450,000) for every day the factory remains occupied.

Support

Although production is better now than before the occupation, none of the vehicles produced are being distributed to dealers except on humanitarian grounds, e.g. vehicles needed for development projects in Uganda etc.

Telegrams of support have been received from all over Holland and from Ford workers in Germany, Britain, France, Belgium

and other countries, although no practical support has been forthcoming as yet. Other telegrams include one from the Socialist group in the European parliament.

The Dutch transport union has decided to try and stop all Ford vehicles from entering the country but this has not been totally effective since not all workers in the industry are organised. Support for this action from workers in other countries would make the action completely effective and put considerable pressure on Ford.

On 1 July the director, Laurent, was in the European Parliament trying to canvass support amongst the representatives of the capitalist class. He stated that the factory was not economically viable to the extent that not even the Japanese car manufacturers were prepared to take it over.

That same evening Toyota declared its willingness to buy the factory and maintain all the existing jobs.

Support for the workers has also been forthcoming from political organisations in Holland, including the ruling party. But as was expected there has been no positive intervention. Workers are experiencing how the multinationals dictate the economic situation in the country, and learning that only united class action can eventually lead them to victory.



200 Sri Lankans and British trade unionists and Labour Party members attended a picket of the Queen's opening of an exhibition to celebrate 50 years of franchise at the Commonwealth Institute in London on 16 July. The picket, organised by the United Federation of Labour and the Socialist Nava Sama Samaja Party had a large turnout of Tamil students

protesting against the anti-Tamil violence by the right-wing UNP government and calling for the restoration of voting rights for a million tea plantation workers.

The highly successful and noisy picket also demanded the reinstatement of sacked trade unionists, the dropping of all charges against union leaders and the scrapping of anti-union laws.

TURKISH REGIME ATTACKS UNIONS

In April of this year a deputation led by Jon Nalsund, Deputy Secretary-General of the European Trade Union Confederation was sent to investigate the conditions facing trade unions in Turkey and to observe the trial of certain trade unionists.

According to him Istanbul has the appearance of an occupied city, with soldiers authorised to shoot if any trouble begins.

Since the military coup last September, according to official figures, over 500 people have been killed on the streets, 25 people have died in custody, 8 youths have been executed by the military (including one 16-year-old boy) and there are 70,000 political prisoners.

Occupied

Open terrorism has largely disappeared, but most observers agree that the military authorities must have consciously allowed terrorists to operate before the coup in order to destabilise the situation.

By Dave Cotterill

The fact is that the methods available to the military under martial law were as effective before the coup.

Nearly every official of DISK, the most radical trade union federation with 39 affiliated unions, is in hiding, prison or in exile. 2,000 DISK members are on trial.

The organisation of the trade union has been taken over by the state—the buildings have been given away!

Torture

The vacation centre of the municipal workers union has been given to the Turkish Bank of Tourism, deductions from wages are still being made for TU contributions—but it is expected that these will end up in army institutions.

According to lawyers and relatives, many DISK officials arrested have been subject to electric shock, sexual abuse, mock hangings and beatings. The prisoners have been kept from seeing their relatives for four months.

Some prisoners were recently released by a liberal judge, but he has now been dismissed and the trade unionists have been re-arrested.

Victory

The charges have not yet been published but it is expected that many will be charged under Article 46 of the Penal Code. If found guilty the sentence is death.

The authorities have also tried to isolate the prisoners from their families. Many of these have no source of income but collecting money for their assistance or for defence costs leads to charges of "helping terrorist organisations".

The main charges against DISK is that it tried to overturn the Turkish constitution by violent means. Of this there is not a shred of evidence.

There is obviously a need for trade unionists in Britain to press through their own organisations and the TUC for material and moral assistance to their brothers and sisters in Turkey. A week of solidarity is being organised by the Turkey Solidarity Campaign to coincide with the first anniversary of the military coup, culminating in a rally on September 12.

SWEDEN

The first factory occupation in post-war Sweden is taking place at the present time. It is at the Elser textile factory in Solleftea, in the north of Sweden.

The action began spontaneously on 1 July when 13 women workers decided to occupy the factory that was due to close on that day.

The factory is state-owned, having been nationalised to provide jobs in the area. It was producing T-shirts and pyjamas and is almost brand new. The factory was designed to employ more than 200 workers but in fact never employed more than 100 at any one time.

Unemployment in the area is 8% and there is no

alternative employment for the women. They see the occupation as a stand against the policy of the state and capitalists of pulling out of this part of Northern Sweden.

The support locally has been fantastic with demonstrations and collections.

The workers went to the Minister of Industry at his summer home, but he told them it was not his problem and they should ask support from the local council. The decision to close however, was taken at the state company's headquarters in Malmö in the South. The workers are now looking for national support.

The occupation began

with 13 women workers, but is increasing all the time as the local women come back to support the struggle at the factory. Morale is very high and 'Offensiv', the Marxist paper in the Swedish labour movement, is doing all it can to help the workers at the factory by raising the issue nationally and internationally.

The struggle is seen as a stand against national policies that must be changed. Other factories due to close in the area may well follow the lead given by the women workers at Elser. All support should be sent to "Elser Flickorna" Box 197, 88101 Solleftea, Sweden.

AUSTRALIA

This summer Australia has experienced the biggest wave of industrial struggles for a decade. According to 'The Australian' newspaper (7 July), the country is "on the edge of economic suicide".

Under the pressure of the workers, the centralised wage-fixing system has collapsed. The government's Arbitration Commission has set a national limit of 3.6% for wage rises—i.e. a cut in real wages of over 6%. Ministers, MPs, judges and senior civil servants, on the other hand, were awarded 20%!

But in June the government itself was forced to break this limit in order to

settle a dispute with telecommunications workers. This has encouraged other sections of workers to fight back against the attacks on their living standards.

In mid-July 50,000 workers were involved in industrial action. Melbourne docks were at a standstill, with 8,000 containers lying idle. Fords in Melbourne was also on strike. A national strike by the Transport Workers' Union started last Friday, stopping everything from road haulage to garbage collection.

Public sector unions will resume selective action if the Federal Government

carries out its threat to stop the automatic deduction of union dues. Even the TV coverage of the royal wedding might be hit!

The employers and the government have called a 'summit conference' with union leaders for 29 July to look for a way to end the strikes. For the workers' leaders the answer should be clear. If the unions have the power to stop a Tory government in its tracks and force it to come cap in hand to negotiate, then they also have the power to smash the capitalist system which is the cause of the workers' present problems.



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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Hopes of '45

Dear Militant,

I well remember working like a slave for a socialist government in 1945, with tremendous high hopes for the future—only through the years to see it watered down and down, until canvassing at recent elections, on the doorstep you get "they're all the same", "feathering their own nests", or "what difference is there between the Tories and Labour?"

One of the great weeks of my life has been the recent French elections. We have got to follow suit, sink our differences in the labour movement and work for peace and true socialism.

Once people have experienced the liberation of socialism, they will never go back to archaic capitalism with its accent on cruel greed, watching as the benefits go to a small, predatory group.

Yours fraternally,

Fred P Bailey

Old socialist and

LP councillor

(in personal capacity)
Bideford, N Devon

We can't wait for stages

Dear Militant,

I have just attended a trades council meeting where a member of the *Tribune* Group of Labour MPs was speaking.

Asked about implementing some of the policies put forward by *Militant*: nationalisation of the banks and top monopolies, and workers' control; his reply was that it would happen eventually.

How this MP can sit back eventualising when there are over three million unemployed, while putting forward one of the many Alternative Economic Strategies (there seems to be loads) is stunning.

Anyone who understands world capitalism and British democracy (ie who runs the country, because it's certainly not MPs) knows such ideas, as they stand, are doomed to failure. If the banks and monopolies are not nationalised, you might as well send your policies to these people and ask which will be suitable for socialism in a million years.

It's not the doomed AES policies that fill me with rage, but the seeming lack of urgency with which our MPs view the major problem facing us today: solving unemployment permanently. These three million plus victims of capitalism and its utter indifference to human suffering are in reality human sacrifices to the great gods profit, privilege, inequality and wage slavery.

How any MP can afford the luxury of socialism by stages, when so many people's lives are being ruined is beyond me. Mind you, the sooner they implement their policies the sooner a few eyes may be opened to the true nature of the state and democracy, and what we are really up against in the fight for true socialism, which can only come about by implementing the policies put forward by *Militant*.

Yours fraternally,

G Newbigging

East Kilbride

Labour Party

Message for Prior

Dear Mr Prior,

Have you ever gone without the bare necessities of life,

Like millions of others, now unemployment is so rife?

Have you seen their faces? They are faces of no hope.

And it seems to me Mr Prior, that you cannot cope.

You say there's a recession—

Does that make it alright?

You say it's reached the tail end,

But it continues to bite.

Government policies put millions on the dole,

When full employment ought to be the goal.

If you ever get to read this and still don't know what to do,

Then read the paper fully, The answer's right in front of you.

Yours fraternally,

Tam Hickey [unemployed 9 months, expecting more months]

Glasgow Springburn
LPYS

Marchers want action

Dear Comrades,

After recent demonstrations in Liverpool and Glasgow, and the Liverpool to London 'People's March for Jobs', the labour movement called what promised to be the biggest



Jim Prior—this 'wet' cabinet minister is as out of touch as the Thatcherites

post-war demonstration in South Wales, in Cardiff on 4 July.

With unemployment expected to reach two hundred thousand in Wales by 1982, tens of thousands were expected to demonstrate against this vicious Tory government.

Every LPYS branch in South Wales booked at least

one coach, distributed leaflets and advertised to make the day a success.

25,000 people attended the demo, although the press estimated a mere 12,000. I believe every comrade will agree this was a great disappointment, when you consider the size of the three preceding events.

This must show that a

march or demo will eventually disillusion people if there is no forceful action to change government policy, to create an industrial revival and lead to full employment.

The whole labour movement must organise a twenty-four hour general strike, to mobilise support against the government lead

Greedy Youth

Dear Comrades,

So Jim Prior says young people are pricing themselves out of the job market, asking for too high wages.

A friend of mine is seventeen and works as an overlocker in a knitwear factory, from 7.30 in the morning to 4.20 in the afternoon, five days a week, taking no time off for breaks and dinner.

For all this she earns the magnificent sum of £25-£30 a week! Out of this she has to pay £7 weekly bus fare.

How out of touch this Tory government is. We must fight to kick out the Tories and commit the next Labour government to policies which will guarantee a 35-hour week and a £80 minimum wage, for all workers.

Yours fraternally,
Jessie Draper
Eastwood and Brinsley
Labour Party

to a general election at the earliest possible moment. Then we can return a Labour government, committed to a socialist programme, with clause four, part four of Labour's constitution effectively put into practice.

Yours fraternally,
Richard Morgan
Neath LPYS

The perfect worker

Dear Readers,

I'm writing about my father—the perfect worker.

He's sixty-seven. He's worked for the same small family engineering business from the age of fourteen till he retired—after fifty-one years.

He worked hard and never took time off unless he was half dead, doing lots of overtime in years gone by to oblige the boss.

He took several raw apprentices under his wing for no extra pay and suffered several ugly injuries including a broken leg and

damage from a crane hook in his face—but received no compensation.

He cycled ten miles a day in hot sun, fog, snow and rain to save bus-fare; he never owned a car, smoked drank or gambled and always supported his wife and family and aged parents.

Now this model worker is receiving his due reward. He gets £1 a week pension from the firm (they only started the pension scheme a few years ago when forced to do so by the law).

He suffers from asthma and can barely draw breath at times. He is fairly deaf: a foundry is a noisy place. He

fell recently and developed arthritis in the knee; he has been in intense pain day and night ever since.

He will have to put up with it unless he sees a specialist privately. For £20 he would then be told exactly what is wrong.

He has to catch four buses to visit the hospital. He is not ill enough to qualify for transport.

Being sensible and thrifty, he saved a bit during his working life, so now he's just a little too well off to receive free dental or optical treatment. He suffers from glaucoma, but doesn't know it yet.

Still he doesn't comp-

lain—he regards himself as one of the lucky ones, with a comfortable roof over his head and a nice little garden.

Is he receiving the full fruits of his labour? He is not—and I am angry!

It seems that even mousey little housewives are murmuring 'socialism' these days. Copies of *Militant* have littered our house for years, and this is the first time I've ever been moved to put pen to paper.

Yours fraternally,
Linda Brandon
Peterborough
Labour Party

The workers' share

Dear Comrades,

Although I naturally agree with the sentiments expressed in the article by Comrade Pete Watson (*Militant* 558 'Organise strategy to fight cuts'), I really have to object to the term "social wage"!

The use of this term is one of the great con-tricks practised upon the working class; the pretence that the money spent on health, education, etc. is part of the worker's 'share'.

In the first place, why should the worker be contented with just a 'share', when he creates all of the wealth?

In the second place, the above mentioned services are provided for the worker just to keep him going, just as oil is applied to a machine to keep it running. Wouldn't it be ridiculous for anyone to say that the oil is the machine's 'share'.

Of course, we have to fight for the maintenance and improvement of servi-

ces; but they will only be really part of the worker's share when we have a socialist society.

Yours fraternally
Jim Parkes
Walsall

Trouble-makers

Dear Comrades,

Once again we hear the Tory backwoodsmen and their cronies mouthing about so-called outside forces being to blame for the recent riots in London and Liverpool.

For once I have to agree, but the outside forces are the mad monetarists in this destructive government, which ignores the plight of the unemployed, the bad housing and social conditions suffered by the workers of this country.

You hear them call for greater police powers and immigration controls when the real need is for more jobs, better housing and improved social facilities.

Workers' problems can only be solved by a socialist

transformation of society, based on a planned economy.

JJ Wilson
Chester-le-Street
Labour Party.

Biased—never!

Dear Comrades,

"Queen's corgi joins Chipper club," proclaimed the poster advertising Birmingham's *Evening Mail*. That's just one of the important items we've had reported recently.

Over the last week the *Mail* has undertaken a vigorous campaign to save a job. Not one of the many at Ansell's or Rover BL; they're fighting for Noele Gordon of Crossroads.

The *Mail* is well known for its anti-Labour, anti-union stance; vicious attacks on trade unionists are a regular feature. While the 'People's March', which attracted the biggest local demonstration for ten years, was virtually ignored.

The owners, BPM Holdings, have the Birmingham

area sown up. They also own the morning *Birmingham Post*, the *Sunday Mercury*, and *Sandwell Mail*; they have an interest in the ABC *Advertiser* and supply the Post Office for its teletext service.

The people of Birmingham are getting fed up with this stranglehold—especially as all they get to read is rubbish. That's why our sales are going up. Roll on the day when *Militant* outstrips the *Mail*!

Yours fraternally,
Lesley Hughes
Handsworth LPYS

London crime

Dear Comrades,

Over past weeks we have heard about the increase in crime, particularly in London. Surely the crime of the year is the one that goes on unnoticed every day, affecting the lives and living standards of millions.

Despite the two policemen outside 10 Downing Street, Thatcher still

You're overpriced—he's well-paid

Dear Comrades,

Ex-Labour MP Woodrow Wyatt has spent his journalistic career on the *Sunday Mirror* attacking non-existent communist bogey-men supposedly ruining the Labour Party. As time passes, his paranoia increases.

He sees himself as a moderates' champion, waging war against the extremists. But Mr Wyatt's real belief is that the Labour Party should not be a socialist movement, but some kind of Conservative 'B' team.

It would be easier to ignore Wyatt if he announced that he really is a Tory, but this seems to be something he can't admit, to his readers or to himself.

However, his stale clichés are becoming obvious even to the most politically unaware, and his summing up of the unemployment situation on BBC's *Question Time* showed him in his true colours: "They have priced themselves out of jobs, so of course they are bloody well unemployed."

That comment ought to be enough to make anyone in the labour movement vomit, moderate or militant.

Yours fraternally,
A 'Militant' supporter

manages to escape and, worse, is allowed to get away with it!

For how long?
Fraternally,
David Churchley
Glasgow Cathcart
Labour Party

ads

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL JOINT STEWARDS COMMITTEE

This Committee has now been in existence for two years and has established itself as the co-ordinating organisation for Liverpool City Council workers, working in conjunction with trade union structures, against redundancies and cutbacks and for retention of employment opportunity.

It comprises staff, manual, craft and teaching unions and represents all 30,000 workers employed by Liverpool City Council.

The Committee would like to build links with similar bodies and local authority workers in other areas, in order to share experiences and to begin to build a co-ordinated national mass movement in defence of local authority jobs and services.

Please contact: The Secretary, 129 Ullet Road, Toxteth, Liverpool L17 2AB, Merseyside.

OXFORD Militant Supporters Tote Results: Week 1: No 53, unsold; Week 2: No 11, Francois Martenez, Oxford; Week 3: No 52, unsold; Week 4: No 61, unsold; Week 5: No 30, Glenys Enticott, Abingdon; Week 6: No 57, Julie Bingham, Oxford; Week 7: No 97, Peter Haworth, Eynsham; Week 8: No. 4, unsold; Week 9: No 59, J Duncan, Kidlington.

People's Picnic. Wednesday 29 July. Near Perry, Grafham Water, Huntingdonshire. A1/(A45) B661. In Eastern Region near East and West Midlands and London. If you're not getting married on the day, come along and bring the family. Sports, barbeque, etc. For more details phone Ian Campbell, 0234 781580.

EDINBURGH LPYS Public Meeting 'Turn despair into anger into action'. Speaker: Bob Lee (Member, Labour Committee for Defence of Brixton). Sunday 26 July, 7.30 pm, Trades Council (Room 2), Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

Stockport Militant Supporters GRAND RAFFLE Lenin's Collected Works. Tickets £1, limited to 200 tickets. Tickets from Maggie Harbour, 30 Albert Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport SK4 4EG. Must be drawn soon! Last few tickets.

Hear Irish folk group CRUSHEEN 8.30 pm, every Friday, the Britannia, 289 Mare St, Hackney

STAFFORD & STONE LPYS March against Unemployment. Assemble Highfield Social Club, Barnes Road, Saturday 25 July, 12.30 pm.

POOLE Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting. 'Who are the real vandals?' Speaker: Andy Rosser. Central Hotel, Ashley Croft, Parkstone, Poole. Monday 27 July, 7.30 pm.

Militant sellers will be in Crawley Town Centre on Saturday mornings. If you would like a regular copy or further information, phone Ray Apps, daytime Brighton 601481, or write 216 Wiston Road, Brighton.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE GREETINGS

Greet Labour's Conference through the pages of 'Militant'. Make sure your trade union, Labour Party or LPYS books a space in our special conference edition now. We have no rich advertisers like the bosses' press, so we rely on YOUR support.

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6 column centimetres: £6
Display: 1/16 page: £10. Bigger ads pro rata.
Get a form from your local 'Militant' seller or from Militant Greetings, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

SIXTH SOUTH WALES MILITANT SUMMER CAMP AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 1981

POLITICAL PROGRAMME:

- ★ The Russian Revolution—Ted Grant
- ★ Fascism in Germany—Jeremy Birch
- ★ The Spanish Revolution—Ted Grant
- ★ The Hungarian Revolution—Pat Wall
- ★ Marxism and the Labour Party—Ted Grant

Cost: £8.00 per camper
Bookings to R Sewell,
99 Penderry Road, Penlan, Swansea
(Cheques payable to R Sewell)

Build

Militant

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 10 Oct	Target for year
Eastern	2837		4970	7100
East Midlands	2368		3850	5500
Hants & Dorset	1619		3640	5200
Humberside	1025		2450	3500
London East	3314		5320	7600
London West	1918		3360	4800
London South	2886		3850	5500
Manchester & Lancs	1974		4060	5800
Merseyside	2211		4620	6600
Northern	2471		6020	8600
Scotland East	1403		3080	4400
Scotland West	2342		5250	7500
Southern	3385		4970	7100
South West	1536		2450	3500
Wales East	904		1820	2600
Wales West	1403		3220	4600
West Midlands	3043		6020	8600
Yorkshire	3258		6300	9000
Others	8497		8750	12500
Total received	48,394		84,000	120,000

Target for year £120,000

TREBLE OUR CHANCES

By Steve Cawley

Last week's total of over £4,000 was the same as our annual total nine years ago.

But this week we're back with just £845, although it's promised that more's on the way.

£42.50 was collected in an appeal to delegates at the National Union of Mineworkers' Conference, and £35 has been forwarded in TV fees by an USDAW Conference delegate. Merseyside, Walton and West Derby LPYS branches held collections for us this week, and another £13.80 came from Bowater Militant supporters.

J Fitzpatrick has been sponsored not to smoke to the tune of £68.90, and he's sent us the list so we can see who's still to cough up.

Talking of coughing, Shipley supporter Steve Wilkinson ran a sponsored 10 miles in 1hr 12mins. We've had the first £8 in so far...another £40 at least to come. A very rewarding Trot Against the Tories.

Littlehampton LPYS donated £80, raised at an annual fete! There's a figure for other LPYS members to emulate, if they want to get themselves noticed! It's also hoped that there will be cash left over from the collection made at Saturday's Militant Rally, after costs have been deducted and IOUs redeemed.

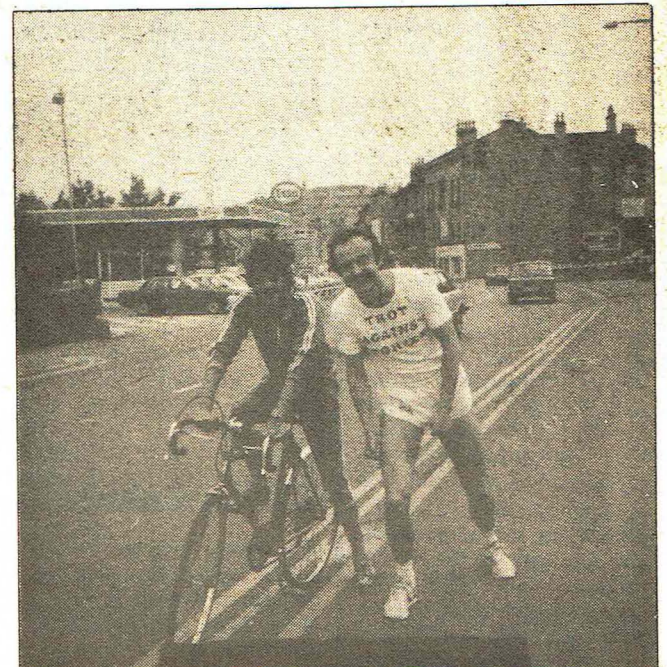
Brixton Militant supporters make good their promise from last week of £121.07, and £83.50 from Swansea readers illustrates the way in which cash can be collected in substantial quantities even from areas hardest hit by recession. Amongst the other places from where we've had money are Huntingdon (including £17 from a social) and Neath including £18 from the Cardiff demo.

Other contributors were a Leeds teacher £30, J Sillett (Norwich) £20, and fivers from London readers F Moluni (Equity) and M Rogers (NUR). If you have a postal subscription, why not enclose a donation when you renew it, as M Sewell (Largs, Ayrshire) has done this week.

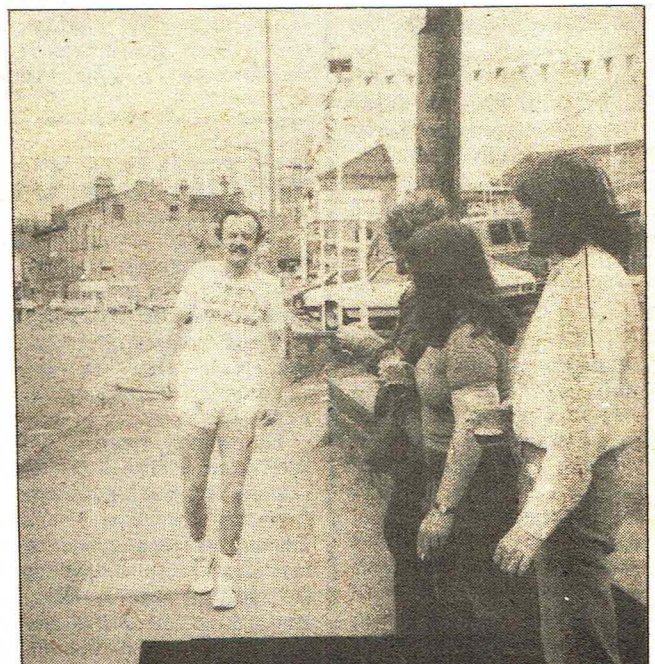
With a target of £84,000 by October 10th, we need about three times this week's total to be raised on average each week. Although of course, we expect a few good weeks when comrades go to the LPYS and Militant summer camps or to the TUC or Labour Party Conferences, we really need at least £2,000 to be received in the other weeks to be sure of the £84,000.

So, we're not asking our sellers to run 10 miles, just round to the other weeks each week.

THIS WEEK: £854



PHOTOS: Above: Shipley Militant supporter Steve Wilkinson before his 'Trot against the Tories'. Below: After the trot was over.



Industrial

in brief

Alternatives have been drawn up by trade unionists to oppose the closure of the NFM Division manufacturers, part of Vickers on Tyneside. The Elswick committee of shop stewards have issued a report proposing a "slimmed down" operation rather than closure. The report says "We feel this will retain this important manufacturing unit on Tyneside to take advantage of the expected upturn in the economy. The estimated cost to the Exchequer of the closure is £800,000 in the first year. The estimated loss for the first year on the 'slimmed down operation' is £256,000." The report points out that the closure is due to investment starvation, and that NFM have only lost money in one year. It also believes that the opening of an 'Enterprise Zone' on north Tyne has accelerated the closure.

About 50 delegates at a North West CNALP meeting elected seven representatives to the national meeting. How to win NALGO's ballot on Labour affiliation was debated and joint Labour Party/NALGO work to win the vote was called for.

The London Division of NUPE gave full support for the demand of ambulance workers to be recognised as an emergency service. London NUPE say in the eyes of the public ambulance staff are an emergency service, and they work in similar conditions as police and firemen, yet are paid far less. In London alone, the ambulance service receive around 547,500 emergency calls a year. And NUPE say the undermanning of staff of levels endangers the public—they estimate some 1,116 lives to be at risk because of undermanning due to low pay.

A mistake appeared in last week's article on Robb Caledon. It referred to a bid by three former top management to buy Robb Caledon. This was incorrect. This incident occurred at a different yard and NOT Robb Caledon.

Management at HJ Enthovens in West Derby have forced a strike. In an attempt to enforce short time working, 50 workers were turned away from the factory. In the ensuing dispute, members of the Transport and General, the engineers union the AUEW, as well as the white collar union ASTMS, joined together for the struggle.

RAILWAYS

Mr A. Bradley, a Transport and Salaried Staffs Association branch secretary writes:

My union is asking for the assistance and co-operation of all Trades Councils in opposing the hiving off of profitable assets, particularly in British Rail and generally in many other various nationalised industries.

This Tory government have no mandate other than that published in their manifesto—"To see those industries that remain nationalised running more successfully and will, therefore, interfere less with their management." Alas, one more broken promise.

Whilst I am primarily concerned with BR, I am also apprehensive about the future of many other nationalised industries that are to be "privatised" or more correctly, denationalised.

It must be unfair that entrepreneurs should enjoy the benefits of investment in the profitable parts of the industries without having shared any of the risks.

This refers not only to British Rail but to National Freight Corporation (NFC), British Aerospace, BT Docks, British Airways and National Oil Corporation.

The government intend also to subsidise the speculators by writing off the relevant corporation debts; for example £100 million in the NFC. Indeed those industries not in profit will be offered at a considerable discount. The rich get rich and the poor get poorer; typical Tory policies.

British Rail have, over the past five years, shown an operating profit in spite of the necessity to keep with government financial targets.

The 1980 pay settlement culminated in a loss of 4,000 jobs on the railway with more to come if we are to honour the agreements signed. In the Bournemouth area alone, this year seventy jobs have been lost so far.

This is the long term investment plans of the Tory regime that must destroy the public service obligation inherent in running a national transport system.

Travellers Fare

Recently a letter from W. Currie, Chief Executive of 'Travellers Fare' was circulated to all staff.

Mr Currie states he is 'pleased' to inform all staff

that 'Travellers Fare' retail and catering division is to be separated from British Transport Hotels (a subsidiary of British Rail).

He also goes on to say "It is to become a properly identified business with its management directly responsible to the British Railways Board." Mr Currie, whose job is no doubt secure, comforts the staff by saying "The great majority of 'Travelers Fare' staff 'down the line' will not be directly affected."

What he fails to mention are the facts that BTH is one of the British Rail's most profitable subsidiaries. Already BTH are to transfer three of their hotels (Gleneagles, Caledonian and North British) to a newly formed company called Gleneagles Hotels Public Ltd. Company, for £3 million 'in cash'.

Yet the 1956 machinery of the NUR does not protect members of the BTH as far as redundancies go. This is all the more reason to support the socialist policies of the union's newly formed Broad Left!

By Dave Janda
(Euston No 1 NUR)

'A fighting programme for the NUR'

Price 25p [+ 10p postage] from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

Rail workers prepare for battle

The three rail unions are now preparing for a confrontation over pay, after the management of BR, the British Rail Board, turned down a proposal of an 11% two-stage pay increase for rail workers.

The increase was recommended, after arbitration, by the McCarthy tribunal, set up to look at railwaymen's pay.

However, despite the recommendation, BR management have turned down the figure, saying they can't afford it. This shows that of itself the tribunal has little teeth and to win a decent living wage the railwaymen must rely on their own united strength.

*The Labour-controlled GLC has now conceded to up their offer to London Transport tube workers, from the 8.5% offer to an 11.5% rise across the board, and no strings. A fuller report of both issues will appear in a later issue.

WESTLAND

"It's a deliberate attempt to break the power of the unions," said one AUEW (Tass) picket, locked out by the management at Westlands Helicopters in Yeovil.

Last year they told us not to demand too much or they wouldn't make a profit—well now they've had a record £12m half year profit and they say we must accept a blanket 8% increase or they wouldn't make any profits next year. You can listen to arguments like that forever.

The computer workers have demanded market rates based on the UK average, but the company wouldn't negotiate. Having exhausted the normal procedure sanctions were implemented against the company.

When the management brought in non-union operators from Normalair Garrett, and associate company the operators blacked all Normalair Garrett work, and were suspended. On Monday 6th, all the computer workers found themselves locked out.

The mood now is one of anger and resentment at the company's disgraceful attitude.

This dispute shows again that even in companies not decimated by the recession and Tory policies, high profits for the bosses does not guarantee a decent wage for the workforce.

Messages of support and donations to: CBU, c/o Unity Hall, Yeovil, Somerset.

By Tim Frere
(Yeovil LPYS)

HOWSON

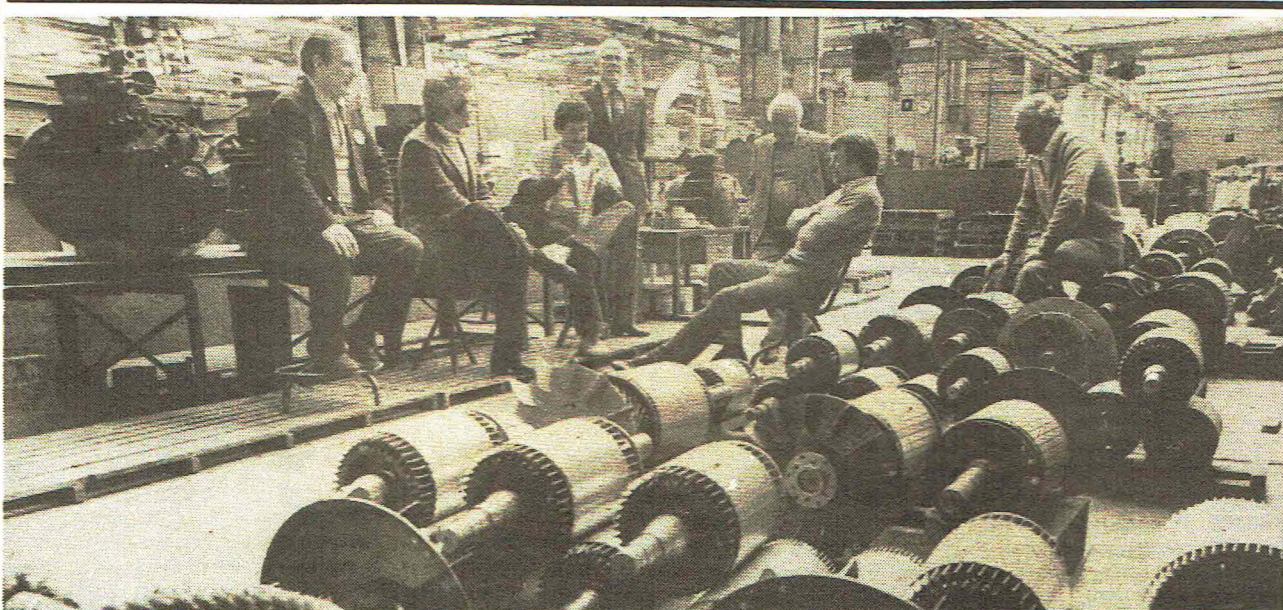
Some 500 NGA members employed by Howson, Algraphy Ltd., part of the giant Vickers group, have gone on strike in pursuit of a 15% pay claim. Members working in depots at Leeds, Bristol, London, Nuneaton, Stockport and the Isle of Thanet have rejected a 9% offer made by the company.

Howsons' initial offer of 5% back in February was rejected. An increased offer of 8% was put to ballot by the union with a national council recommendation for acceptance. This was rejected by the members with a massive vote against acceptance.

However, two weeks notice of strike action was given and members on the picket line expressed disappointment at this action by the union saying this would give the company time to prepare.

At the Seacroft Leeds plant the members have organised a 24-hour picket. The NGA national dispute van with sleeping bags, cooking facilities etc. has been stationed at the works.

By a 'Militant' reporter



Workers occupy the Laurence Scott plant near Manchester. Photo: John Smith (IFL)

The battle against closure by the workers in occupation at Laurence Scott in Openshaw, Manchester is now in its 14th week.

At a mass meeting last week the workers voted overwhelmingly to reject management proposals for a return to two day working over a three month period, with absolutely no guarantee

of job security.

Arthur Snipe, chairman of the Mining Supplies Company has responded by applying for a court injunction to evict them from the premises and get his hands on £2¼ million's worth of unfinished orders.

Unfortunately, the workers have had to cope with a hesitant national leadership

at a critical period in their struggle. They are continuing their fight against closure, and enforced redundancies even though the Confed's executive committee recommended acceptance of the management plan.

Fears of being "stabbed in the back" prompted the stewards to organise a

picket outside the AUEW national offices on Tuesday.

If Snipe gets his injunction, then the workers plan to continue the fight by mounting a picket outside the plant.

Financial aid is urgently needed. Send to George Fryer, 20 Round Croft, Romiley, Cheshire.

REDDISH CWS

"Caring, sharing Co-op—rubbish." So read the placards on the picket-line at CWS Printers, Reddish, Stockport, where clerical workers are in the eleventh week of their strike.

The women, members of APEX and USDAW are in dispute over their exclusion from an incentive bonus scheme, which has been in operation on the shop-floor for seven years. Their wages, from £50 to £80, are lagging £20 to £30 behind those of clerical workers in

the Print unions, with whom they are demanding parity.

At one stage, the management promised the women parity, on the condition that they withdraw from the CWS clerical staffs national agreement. When they agreed to this, management reneged on the deal, so from the beginning of May, these workers have been on strike.

The Trades Council is circulating appeal sheets, and the women have contacted the NGA at CWS

Printers, Reading, who were in dispute earlier this year, over redundancies.

Although the shop-floor workers, in the print unions, are still working, about 90% of supplies are not getting through. The pickets are being visited by members of the Stockport North Labour Party Women's Section and LPYS. Andrew Bennett, the Labour MP, and local Labour Councillors, and Stockport North CLP is giving its support to the strike.

Many activists will be shocked that such a situation could develop within a Co-operative Society, widely regarded as part of the labour movement. A disturbing feature is that, when Andrew Bennett raised the issue in the House of Commons, he was criticised by Co-op-sponsored Labour MPs.

Donations and messages of support should be sent to; APEX House, 45 Kingsway, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 2LL.

Reports

CIVIL SERVICE Say NO to Pay Offer

Insulting and totally unacceptable, that must be the verdict on the Tories latest civil service pay "offer".

After 19 weeks of strike action the civil service union leadership have come up with an extra 58p per week and a half hearted promise of arbitration for 1982.

Over the next week or so union memberships in the civil service will be asked to accept or reject the following pay offer:—7% increase in pay, a £30 'loyalty' payment for 1981 which will be built into scale with 1982, and the 'possibility' of arbitration for 1982.

8% cut in living standards

The deal is a result of intensive 'behind the scenes' secret negotiations, it stands in stark contrast to the 15%/£10 minimum civil service pay claim.

Judged by any standards the offer must be rejected. The offer would cut living standards by approximately 8%. This would also leave civil servants way behind other workers on pay, with no immediate hope of retrieving lost ground.

By Kevin Roddy
(DHSS Section
Organiser,
personal capacity)

But above all the offer must be rejected because the full might of the civil service trade union movement has not yet been used in this pay dispute.

This government would and still could be shaken to the core by an all-out strike of civil servants. If the union leaders have closed their minds and eyes to this course of action, they have rejected the only option capable of winning this dispute.

A massive 'no' to the offer could still transform the situation. It would mean all-out strike.

But is this a realistic option at this stage?

The answer must be yes. After several weeks of inaction and indecision, during which morale has plummeted, the membership's mood has begun to change. Undoubtedly the involvement of the Dept of the Employment and DHSS local office memberships in the campaign, is the reason for this.

Will the consultation with members produce a 'no' vote?

It is difficult to predict. Certainly, if a strong area of the union membership, and especially the selective strikers, campaign hard, in the brief time available it is entirely possible. The local strike committees could also prove decisive.

But against this is the experience of the campaign itself, and the failure of the leadership which has characterised it. One opportunity after another to involve the mass of the membership has been missed and as a consequence the dispute has dragged on far too long.

These factors could be critical in tipping the balance in favour of acceptance. But the fact remains that this would be a vote against the tactics and the leadership of the campaign. It would not be a vote for this miserable offer, and the Tories should be under no illusion about this.

Union democracy

What can be said with certainty, is that not one of the unions involved in this campaign will be the same again.

The internal union democracy will now be high on the agenda. Years of inactivity produce a climate in which members become used to leaving it all to the

leadership. Strike action leads members directly to the conclusion that far greater accountability is crucial. Access to executive committee minutes, election and re-election of leaders, details of voting records, these and many other issues will now be raised.

This process will have been pushed along by the example of the local strike committees. Through these committees, union activists will have gained direct experience of how other union organisations work, and changes that are necessary to their own organisations. It has also brought the civil service unions together.

Above all the lesson learnt from this dispute is that the Tories are no friends of civil service workers. NALGO has already pointed the way forward, with its ballot for Labour Party affiliation.

We must now campaign for Labour Party affiliation and the return of a Labour government to carry out the last Labour government's pledge; "a substantial transfer of power and wealth in favour of working people is now a priority."

Over the last 19 weeks, the actions of the Tories have opened the eyes of many civil servants, and have produced a new sense of unity and co-operation between civil service unions.

But the experience of the last 19 weeks will be squandered if these lessons are not learnt and acted upon.

Civil Service round-up

Barrhead

Anger and a feeling of betrayal greeted the news of the pay deal by the selective strikers at unemployment benefit offices here. Having been kept out of the strike for 19 weeks, the UBO members had seen their actions begin to bit, leading the way to an all out strike. The members could not understand the leadership cooling off when the DE/DHSS action would have the Tories on the run. They felt like the Grand old Duke of York's men.

Coullport

The news of the pay deal came through to the selective strikers at the Clyde submarine base whilst they were meeting on July 16. Their reaction was one of anger, at what they saw as an insulting offer. A number of members broke down and cried when they heard the news. After 20 weeks on strike, they felt they had been betrayed.

Glasgow

A meeting of nearly 100 selective strikers met on Friday 17th July to hear the report of the pay deals. "30 pieces of silver" and "Judas money" were the comments which marked the mood of anger at the meeting.

The members felt absolutely betrayed, and were amazed that a deal had been negotiated when the action in DE/DHSS was only beginning to bite and when the Tories were under pressure.

Members were agreed that all out strike action should have been taken long before now and decided to send delegates to branch ballot meetings throughout the West of Scotland to argue for a 'No' vote on the pay offer.

CAA

At a special meeting on Monday afternoon, the Group Executive committee of the CPSA's Civil Aviation Authority membership, unanimously carried the following motion:—

"The Group Executive Committee notes the decision of the Union's Civil Service Executive Committee to put the government's revised pay offer to the civil service membership in a consultative ballot. The GEC agrees to place the offer before its CAA members.

"Given 1) the importance of this dispute, in relation to current wage levels and pay determinations 2) the failure of the offer to meet our demands for a just settlement after 20 weeks of industrial action 3) that the full weight of the union's industrial strength and the CAA and the civil service has not yet been used in the pay dispute the Group Executive Committee calls upon its members in the Civil Aviation Authority to vote against this offer and in favour of an all out strike."

NALGO

Liverpool

The latest group of workers to be attacked by Liverpool's local 'Liberal' press is the city council's typists and machine operators.

They have now been forced into an all-out strike with £20 a week support from NALGO, after the totally inflexible and often insulting approach to negotiations, for their regrading claim.

The press attacks, mainly echoing the ridiculous statements of Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal council leader, have increased in the wake of the Toxteth riots. The dispute is hitting the 'clean-up' operation.

At the beginning of the action, Jones thought he could manage without typists and machine operators. Apart from Toxteth the council's committees are unable to meet and seven people are now running the city! Several departments are at a standstill and firms have started to serve writs on the council as bills mount up.

Yet the employers are still making emotive attacks through the local press, whilst refusing to get around the negotiating table. Despite despicable attempts to undermine the action by fellow union members in management, the resolve of the typists and machine operators is solid and picket lines are manned daily from 7.30 am.

By Barry Caldwell
(Liverpool NALGO)

Westminster

On 9 July strike action broke out among Westminster NALGO members when three chief officers were told to take 'McKinsey reports' in their departments.

McKinsey is a firm brought in to see how far services can be cut, to "improve efficiency" and save money. The 40% cut they suggested in health service meant a 50% job loss. The objective was to save £1 million next year.

It was only a pilot scheme, but staff felt so strongly about it that when balloted they voted overwhelmingly to strike and 65-70% came out.

The general feeling was that the strike would have been more effective if it had included management who kept many service points open. One girl felt so strongly about it that she joined the union to go on strike, even though she would only be in the job for six months. The strike affected libraries, City hall, all swimming baths and rent offices.

By Ian Gellman
(Westminster NALGO)

NUM Conference

This year's NUM conference has marked the end of an era with the retirement of Joe Gormley as National President.

The 'moderate' case never really seemed to get off the ground. On pay their argument for the 'realistic' pay claim was brushed aside, when conference overwhelmingly backed the resolution calling for a £100 minimum wage.

Scargill

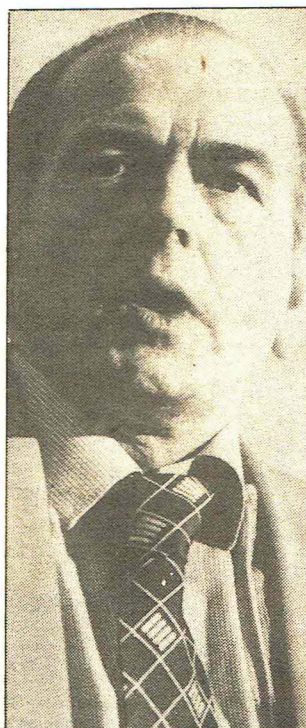
The rearguard fight of the right-wing reflects their impasse at the present time. Their dilemma greatly increased in gathering around a suitable Presidential candidate to oppose the left candidate, Arthur Scargill. Originally they hoped that Chad Burn would stand but when this diminished, Trevor Bell, the secretary of COSA, was put forward.

By Rob Sewell
(Swansea LP)

The left's campaign for Scargill is already under way. The only way to undermine the continuous Tory press campaign against Scargill which will increase to a hysterical crescendo as the election nears, is for the active mobilisation of the membership behind Scargill.

His election as President would be an outstanding achievement not only for the NUM but for the labour movement as a whole. It would raise the expectations of activists in other unions, and accelerate the moves for union democracy.

At this year's conference the delegations overturned Joe Gormley's ruling over the closure of Houghton colliery, Durham, and upheld the appeal from that area. On rule changes



Emlyn Williams, president of the South Wales NUM

demanding more union democracy, although resolutions received large majorities, they just failed to get the two thirds vote required.

However, a resolution from the Nottingham area called for an end to the two thirds ruling, replacing it with 55%.

The two thirds ruling had been changed in 1971 in

relation to strike action, and as a result the 1972 vote of 58% was sufficient to call for the strike; by the old rules, the now famous strike would not have taken place!

However, the vote over this issue was 165 in favour to 103 against, just short of the two thirds required.

On the industry in general, President of the South Wales miners Emlyn Williams, said, "The Tories are trying to close our industry by slow strangulation. Not one half penny has come to South Wales. There has been no recruitment for 18 months and our patience has become rapidly exhausted."

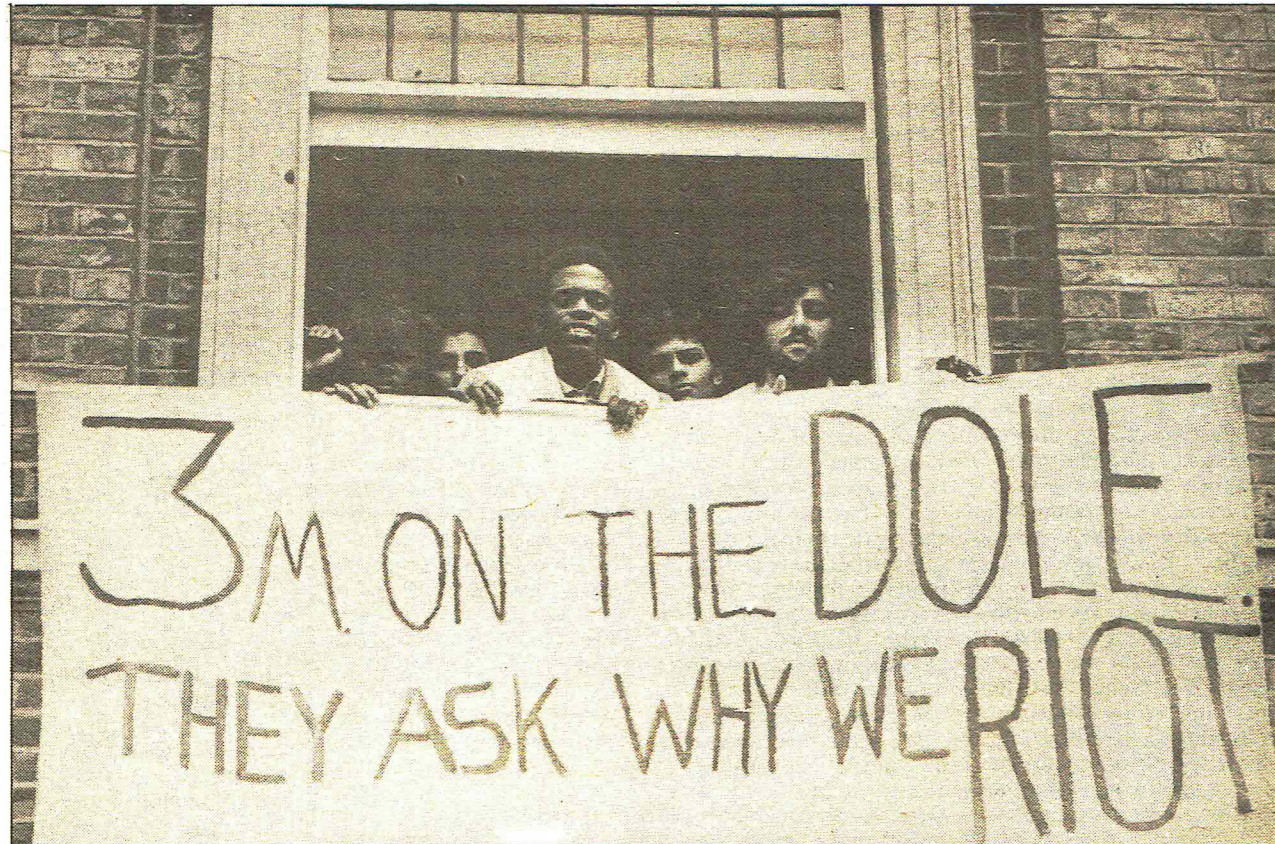
He pointed to the February action which forced Thatcher to "step aside." He was backed by Stan Pearce, Durham who said that in 12 years 99 pits had closed.

Arthur Scargill demanded the expansion of existing collieries with new investment and no pit closures. "The tactic of the Coal Board is to pick off one pit at a time. They have not changed their policy, just their tactics. Since the agreement 8 pits have closed and four are threatened."

If any pit was threatened he said, then there must be total strike action in the British coalfield.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Heseltine- 'No crock of gold No answers'



Protesters occupy Southall Town Hall in protest at growing dole queues, 21 July Photo: Carlos Augusto (IFL)

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environment's personal "qualifications" for the job.

He has created plenty of housing problems for workers, but has none himself—except perhaps the difficulty of deciding which place to live in next.

Heseltine has three residences (house is too poor a word). One of them, it's true, is in an "inner-city" area.

However, a four-storey Belgravia residence, worth anything between £250,000 and £600,000, hardly compares with the average Toxteth terrace house.

Nor does a £750,000 Oxfordshire mansion with a genuine Roman mosaic floor, stables, a lake, and 400 acres of farmland, used for rearing pheasants. Heseltine also owns a £100,000 house on Exmoor.

Heseltine, however, is far from out of place in the present Tory cabinet. Packed with big land-owners, bankers, and businessmen, it is probably the richest since the 19th century.

"Tarzan" would be a millionaire simply on the strength of his family's control of Haymarket Press, publishers of 'Investors' Guardian' among many others. Two out of every five Toxteth people are out of

work. What can he know about the problems of young people on £17 a week social security or £23.50 YOPs allowance?

Nor does Heseltine have much personal interest in the education problems of the area. Public (i.e. state) education is also suffering from slashed local council budgets. He went to nine public (i.e. private) schools and Oxford University, and his own children of course went to boarding schools.

Heseltine's daughter Anabel will this week be taking her own place in high society. She is one of this season's debutantes, and her "coming out" ball (for 400 "family and close friends") takes place this week at the family's Oxfordshire mansion.

Will Heseltine be able to break away from his almost impossible task of persuading Liverpool community and labour leaders to speak to him? His spokesman told the press: "I think it goes without saying that he will come back for something as important as this."

Heseltine and the rest of Thatcher's hooligans should get back to their mansions.

The labour movement must mobilise to kick the Tory government out, and bring in a Labour government committed to a socialist programme.

It's the workers who face the problems caused by the Tories. It will be up to us to solve them.

NOW'S THE TIME FOR ACTION

This week's unemployment figures of 2,851,623 are the highest ever recorded! 285,000 school leavers are without jobs, and that is just the official estimate. For years now, official figures have understated the total out of work because many workers and young people do not register for the dole.

New government

policies mean that young people leaving school now will not be able to receive supplementary benefit until September. This probably means that even more young people will not bother to register for non-existent jobs. If it had not been for this, probably even official statistics would have shown 3 million on the dole.

The TUC have announced a "Jobs for Youth"

campaign. As Len Murray, TUC general secretary, has said, unemployment among young people is fast approaching 50%. The TUC must take this welcome action further. The call must now go out form the leaders of the labour movement for action to bring down the Tories and the system they represent.

This action should begin with a 24-hour general

strike to involve all workers in every factory and office, every dole queue and every working class area. The enormous strength of the labour and trade union movement must be mobilised to kick out the people responsible for the dole queue nightmare and to elect a Labour government committed to socialist solutions.

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No
happy
ending
for
workers

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pushing their interests. Not to the workers anyway.

They declared that 29 July would not be a paid holiday. So for many local workers the apparent celebration of the Royal Wedding will be a "day on the dole."

The lesson is clear; our salvation, our jobs and livelihoods don't lie with royalty or the bosses. It will be our organisations within the workers' movement which will end the misery of mass unemployment by taking up a clear political programme—the programme of socialism.

And when we do that, you can bet the Tories and the press won't be celebrating!



YOP strikers at Anfield Plain

Photo: Denis Doran (MILITANT)

Youth Opportunities Programme (YOPS) workers went on strike in Anfield Plain near Consett recently. As members of NUPE, they asked the union to help organise a campaign to raise the allowance which has stayed at £23.50 for nearly two years. After travelling expenses, many YOPs workers get less than 50p per hour.

Now Northern region of NUPE which covers the Consett area is holding a protest

rally in Newcastle on 28 August, and nationally the union have issued a Charter for YOP workers.

Labour's National Executive on 21 July called for full union rights for YOPs workers on a voluntary basis including the right to negotiate over pay. The struggle must be taken up seriously throughout the labour movement.

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