

Bankruptcy looms for Liverpool councillors

THIS FRIDAY, 19 July, could see the beginning of legal moves against the Liverpool City councillors that could leave them bankrupt, disqualified from office and even imprisoned.

By Dave Cotterill

The Tories are going for Liverpool's blood. This week Tory Environment Minister Patrick Jenkin said he would not budge from the demand that Liverpool—despite being one of the worst-hit victims of the government's economic policies—must cut yet more jobs and services.

But the city council are meeting this Tory intransigence head-on. They have no choice. If Liverpool met the government cash limits they would have to cut 10,000 council jobs, slash services and abandon their plans to build 4,000 much-needed houses. Or they could raise the rates by a ridiculous 92 per cent—nearly half the city's domestic rate-payers would have to pay an extra £11 each week.

Demanding

Instead, they are standing by the policies they were elected on. They are demanding the government scraps its financial penalties on the council and gives the council an extra £30 million so it can meet its budget. They are not asking for charity—they are demanding the Tories return just a small part of the millions they have cut from government funds to local authorities since 1979.

The Tories' response was to send in the District Auditor. Setting up office in Liverpool's Corn Exchange, he sent letters to Liverpool's 49 Labour councillors saying that they were liable to a

'We'll fight for our city'

£109,000 surcharge for breaking Tory laws.

The councillors had to reply by 19 July, explaining their 'wilful misconduct'. So this Friday the councillors and their families backed by Labour Party members and local authority workers are marching on the District Auditor's office to give their answer—no cuts, no job losses and no massive rent or rate rises. As this is unlikely to satisfy the auditor, legal proceedings may begin.

Meanwhile support for the council continues to grow. This Saturday the National Local Authorities Coordinating Committee pledged solidarity action. The North West and North Wales NALGO divisions—representing 100,000 council workers—backed the city council while the Labour leadership met with Liverpool's Labour MPs stressing their support.

(More reports—page 3)



Liverpool City Council's Labour members united in defence of jobs and services.

Welsh executive bans top of poll Marxist

CHRIS PEACE, who topped the poll in the elections to the Labour Party's Wales Executive Committee, has been expelled from the committee's first meeting. He stood in the South Wales constituency party section as a *Militant* supporter, opposed to the witch-hunt resolutions which were pushed through the conference.

At the first Executive Committee meeting since its election, Ray Powell, MP for Ogmore, argued that he could not discuss private Labour Party matters in front of *Militant* supporters and demanded that any *Militant* supporter should leave the meeting or else he would leave.

He was backed up by George Wright, Welsh Regional Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. He produced a dossier of information on Chris Peace and claimed that it indicated that he was a member of the *Mili-*

By a *Militant* reporter

tant tendency. He demanded that the chairman put a number of questions to Chris Peace to determine whether or not he was a member of the *Militant* tendency.

Unconstitutional

Chris Peace was asked if he would be prepared to say that he would no longer read or sell *Militant*, no longer assist *Militant* in its collection of finances and sever all links with *Militant*. Chris



Chris Peace.

Peace declared that he was a member of the Labour Party and of no other organisation, but was not prepared to make any other declaration.

Anita Gale, the party's regional organiser, pointed out that the Executive Committee had no constitutional right to ask such questions or to exclude Chris Peace from the meeting. She was strong-

ly supported by Terry Thomas, vice-president of the Welsh miners' union.

Wright and Powell, however, rejected this argument about the constitution. Powell asked for the exclusion of Chris Peace to be put to the vote and it was carried.

In effect the right wing have unconstitutionally overruled the democratic election held at the Wales annual conference and decided for themselves who is eligible to sit on the Executive Committee. No Labour Party member would recognise this unconstitutional decision and Chris Peace, and *Militant* supporter Tony Wedlake, will still consider themselves

(Continued on back page)

Final push needed

WITH A final push from our supporters all over the country, we could be heading for another record fighting fund quarter.

Never before has the need to build the resources of a Marxist paper been greater. As Liverpool council goes into battle with the Tories, *Militant* will be providing the necessary facts, figures and support—but we need the resources to do just that.

Send in your donation now or organise a collection amongst your friends. Financial support is one of the biggest practical commitments you can make to our paper. Another record collection will not only frighten the bosses but will leave us strengthened for the battle ahead.

By Ruth Campbell

Notts miners fight for the national union

THE CAMPAIGN to keep Notts within the National Union of Mineworkers has received a tremendous boost.

Despite the efforts of the colliery delegate who led a walkout of less than twenty men, the Ollerton branch of the NUM voted to remain a part of the national union and to condemn the recent decision of the Notts leadership to form a breakaway union.

This will spur on other pro-NUM miners to challenge those seeking to divide their union. Already a committee member of Bilsthorpe has been approached by over 700 men who intimated they wish to remain in the National Union.

Clipstone colliery would also appear to have similar levels of support. Indications are that there is no possibility at present of Lynk winning the two thirds majority required to effect his breakaway. However, there is no room for complacency.

The branch meetings held over the weekend with the exception of Ollerton were held as meetings of the Nottinghamshire Union of Mineworkers and not as NUM meetings. No mention of the phrase nor reference to the National Union was permitted at some of these meetings.

Men who declared their open support for the NUM were told they would have to resign from the union. Unfortunately in some cases, this prompted a walkout of pro-NUM elements

Further there is a terrible danger that many men will take the advice of the supporters of Lynk and Prendegast and sign out of the breakaway union at the colliery time offices or at the union offices. No doubt this is simply a ploy to disqualify men from voting in the forthcoming battle.

It is important to make the point that no loyal NUM member should sign anything except on the instruction of the NEC, until this ballot is held.

Men who express loyalty to the NUM have been threatened with victimisation and some branch officials have collaborated with management to identify those who are to come under attack.

Even Yorkshire miners who broke ranks in the national strike and were transferred into the Notts coalfield have been threatened with losing their transport money if they continue to express their wish to remain in the national union.

Rather than "giving the union back to the membership" as Lynk and Prendegast hypocritically claim, they are destroying all democratic discussion and debate.

They are terrified at the prospect of holding a ballot and at the end of the day, if their gutter tactics fail, they will seek to avoid it if possible.

It may be that they can avoid the need of gaining a two thirds majority in a ballot by using the Trade Union Amalgamation Act of 1964. To do this the Notts

area would have to merge with another Mining union such as the Colliery Workers and Allied Trades Association, the Durham based, phantom organisation.

But whatever strategy they adopt there can be only one response. The NEC must immediately launch an almighty campaign throughout the Notts and other right-wing dominated areas of the union. The Notts forum must be mobilised drawing in the Miners Wives and other support groups.

Victimised miners should be brought in to assist with the campaign. They represent 600 potential recruiting sergeants for the NUM. Posters, stickers, leaflets and broadsheets should be distributed far and wide.

Copies of *The Miner* and *Notts Colliery* should be delivered to every household. Street meetings, public meetings, and tours of loud speaker vans must be organised.

With the will, the conviction and the correct approach we can win the Notts coalfield back to the National Union of Mineworkers. In the process the Notts can be transformed.

By Mick Travis
(Ollerton NUM, Notts, in a personal capacity)



Photo: Dave Pearson

Arthur Scargill speaking at the Durham miners' gala last Saturday.

New Militant poster

50p per dozen (including postage)

Available from Militant
3/13 Hepscoct Road
London E9 5HB
(See above in photograph)

British backing for SA workers

THE JOINT Shop Stewards' Committee at Scottish Agricultural Industries, a major Scottish chemical company part owned by ICI, have sent a letter of protest to ICI against its sacking of 600 members of the South African Chemical Workers' Union (SACWU).

They were sacked for taking industrial action to increase their pathetically low wages.

This action is indicative of the struggle which South African Chemical workers have had in trying to secure both union recognition and decent conditions over the years and follows directly on the heels of the murder of Andries Raditsela, a full time official of the Chemical

Workers' Industrial Union by South African police.

A struggle by 200 workers for recognition of the Chemical Works Industrial Union (CWIU) at a plant in Boksburg in 1980, led to the employer, the American multi-national Colgate Palmolive, trying to persuade the workers that, "...as enlightened employers offering people equal opportunity employment practices, no trade union can do more for our employees than we can".

When this failed this 'enlightened' employer used other tactics like threatening new starts, interviewing workers who had signed a petition, and pressuring them to sign an acceptance form for a company dominated "grievance committee".

The workers, despite company threats, had organised a local consumer boycott, threatened a legal strike and of crucial importance, secured solidarity action from workers affiliated to the International Chemical Workers' body, the ICEF with persistence and solidarity action they won recognition.

To ensure that maximum solidarity action is secured for workers in struggle in the South African Chemical Industry direct links must be established

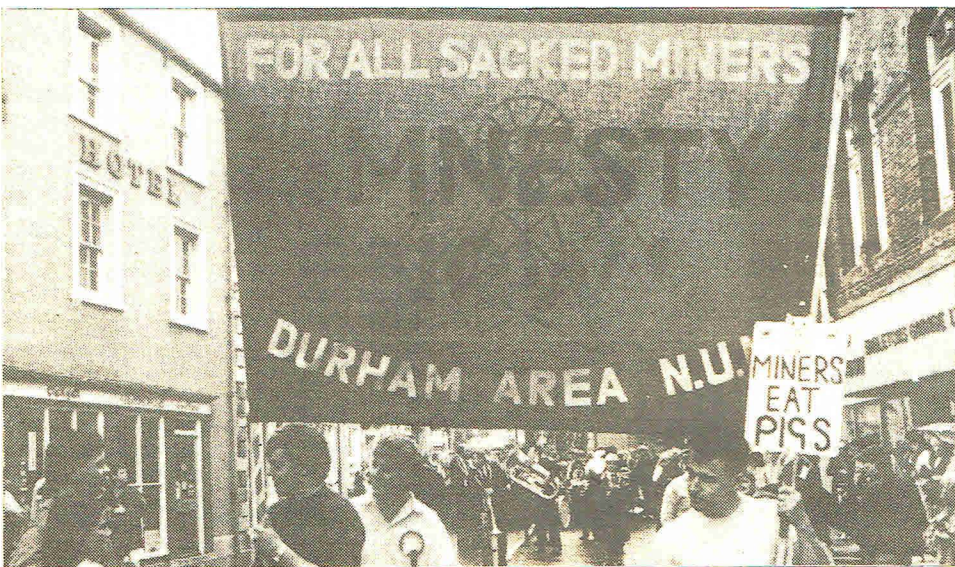
SALEP's socialist education work— 40p

why does the Labour Party NEC want to ban it?

SOUTHERN AFRICAN LABOUR EDUCATION PROJECT

SALEP's socialist education work— why does the Labour Party NEC want to ban it? (60 pages), 40p plus p&p, from World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoct Road, London E9.

Fighting spirit at Durham gala



THIS YEAR'S Durham Miners' Gala was opened up for the first time to groups who helped the miners during the year-long strike. The women's support groups were represented on the platform and miners from other coalfields—including Nottinghamshire took part in the march.

Arthur Scargill and Tony Benn got warm receptions in what was the most politically conscious gala that I have witnessed since the war. Kinnock's reception, on the other hand, was very cool. It was obvious that a lot of people deliberately moved away when he started to speak. Kinnock promised nothing in his speech saying that the miners had to "face reality." What is losing your job, starvation and victimisation, if not reality in capitalist Britain?

With great force an older miner (who was one of the sacked men) said, "I make no distinction between a sacked miner and a jailed miner. They have both been victimised and I don't beg, I demand that the next Labour government reinstates all miners victimised during the strike." Next to all the speeches and flowery phrases this man showed the fighting spirit and resilience of the working class and the need for a Labour leadership to match it. (Daisy Rawling reports)

YTURC appeals for cash

NEARLY £1,000 has been collected to help the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign find a new home after being evicted from the Labour Party's national headquarters in May.

Paul Weller of 'Style Council' donated £500 at the start and more has come in from Labour Party branches, trade unions and student unions.

As a result of the money raised YTURC hope to be moving into new premises soon, but still needs cash for furniture and rent.

An unemployed group sent £25 with a note

from the secretary saying: "I will keep fighting this end if you keep fighting yours".

A Young Socialist member raised £27.40 using a YTURC petition form from friends, neighbours and relations and the local Labour Party. Other Young Socialist branches should organise money raising schemes to ensure the fight for 'real jobs for youth' is continued by YTURC.

Rush donations to YTURC, c/o 109 Ran-noch Rd, London W6 9SY. Appeal letters and petition forms available from this address.



Gordon Bennett writes—

LLOYD CUTLER was President Carter's special counsel during the Iranian hostage crisis. Commenting recently on the end of the Beirut humiliation he said: 'For a democratic superpower which is tender about human life, it is very, very hard problem to deal with.'

A hard problem maybe, but 'a democratic superpower which is tender about human life'? Rambo Reagan the nuclear cowboy?



Rambo Reagan in a previous role.

US imperialism can be accused of a lot of things but tenderness towards human life is not one of them. Since they adopted the Munro doctrine in the last century they have regarded Latin America as an extension of the Mid West and anyone courageous or foolhardy enough to think otherwise can be guaranteed to find out how 'tender' the USA is towards human life.

American tenderness has a long tradition. Mexico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Cuba, Chile and El Salvador can all testify to this. In 1954 the CIA backed an invasion that overthrew the elected Arbenz government in Guatemala and installed a military dictatorship.

Eisenhower explained that it was necessary 'to get rid of a Communist government which had taken over' (The CP held a mere four seats out of fifty six in the legislature).

The senile gibberings of Reagan about the Rambo film is topped only by the stinking hypocrisy of the American government. Hijacking and acts of individual terror are pointless and counterproductive, but what a bunch of two-faced shysters the White House are. It wasn't the Shi'ites who defoliated half of South East Asia and napalmed women and children. Nor is it the Shi'ites who are training, financing and arming the Contra murderers.

State terrorism is part and parcel of US foreign policy. The only reason that they haven't taken any retaliatory action in the Lebanon (yet) is that they stitched up a deal with the Syrians to get the hostages back. It's got precious little to do with the sanctity of human life.

Reagan is one of those dangerous politicians who believes his own rhetoric. His Rambo world consists of Ronnie leading the White Knights of the West against the Evil Empire. How soon before the Nicaraguans get a taste of US tenderness about human life?

By G McKinley
(Chairman JSSC, Scottish Agricultural Industries)

Council combine pledges action

THE RE-CALLED conference of the National Local Authorities Co-ordinating Committee held last Saturday, was a key event in the development of the fight to defend local authority jobs and services.

Despite being convened at only two weeks notice—to respond to the developing situation in Liverpool, Lambeth and Edinburgh—nearly 100 delegates, representing 40 authorities and thousands of council workers met in Lambeth town hall to decide on the next stage of the campaign.

The conference opened with speakers from the three main authorities: Tony Mulhearn, (Liverpool City Councillor), Ted Knight; (Lambeth Council leader), and Alex Wood (leader, Edinburgh council).

All three speakers stressed that local authority workers now have no choice but to stand and fight, or face demolition of jobs, services and communities. They pointed out that the battle was not just about the three frontline authorities; it is about jobs and services for every worker in Britain.

Conference debated resolutions presented by the NLACC committee and an emergency resolution from West Yorkshire NALGO. The main resolution called for immediate solidarity strike action should any councillor be surcharged and barred from office, or any council worker disciplined for non compliance.

A second resolution from the NLACC executive detailed the type of campaign needed. The resolution called for mass meetings of stewards and ordinary members in every authority, addressed by speakers from

the three authorities and NLACC, to build support for solidarity action.

The call was made also for exchanges of delegations between authorities and circulation of council and NLACC campaign literature, as well as to approach unaffiliated authorities and trade unions to join with NLACC. This too was passed unanimously.

The West Yorkshire NALGO resolution, also passed unanimously, called on the Labour leadership not to abandon party policy on opposition to 'abolition' and 'non-co-operation' in defence of local authority jobs and services. The way forward now is through a mass campaign to build for the most effective possible national solidarity action.

By Phil Hegarty
(GMBATU branch No. 5
Liverpool council)



Marching to support Liverpool council, 29 June.

Photo: Dave Sinclair

Support grows for Bond

THERE IS growing support for Sam Bond, head of Liverpool's Race Relations Unit. Sam Bond has now dealt with hundreds of problems brought to him by local people. Black organisations are complaining at the attitude of Sam Bond's opponents, particularly the leadership of the Liverpool NALGO branch who are boycotting Sam Bond's post.

In a statement to the local NALGO leadership, the Afro-Asian-Caribbean Standing Committee, an umbrella organisation of 14 black and Asian groups on Merseyside, said:

"You do not seem to appreciate the mood of the majority of black organisations with regard to the Sam Bond issue and race relations work in the city... your present stand on the Bond issue is doing a lot of damage to race relations and we are concerned that the longer this argument drags on the more is the damage done to race relations in the city."

Photo: Dave Sinclair



Joe Anderson, above has lived in the Kent Road tenements in Liverpool all his life—"I'd like one the new bungalows but if the council's beaten I'll be here for good."

Families back councillors stand

THE FAMILIES of 49 Labour councillors threatened with legal action will lobby the District Auditor when he comes to Liverpool on 19 July. Joined by local authority workers they will present their reply to his letter threatening to surcharge councillors for deferring setting a rate.

The 'Families Support Group' set up only a week ago has already organised many events to back up the council. Wendy Linden, the group's secretary, has already addressed a meeting of Liverpool NALGO stewards, and a Lancashire miners' wives meeting against pit closures. The Families Support Group will address a series of public meetings being organised by the council, and are ready to address Labour Party and trade union meetings anywhere in the country.

There will also be an office for the group to co-ordinate their campaign with a rota of helpers, volunteers with creche facilities available.

By Ann Bannister
(Secretary, Bootle Women's Section)

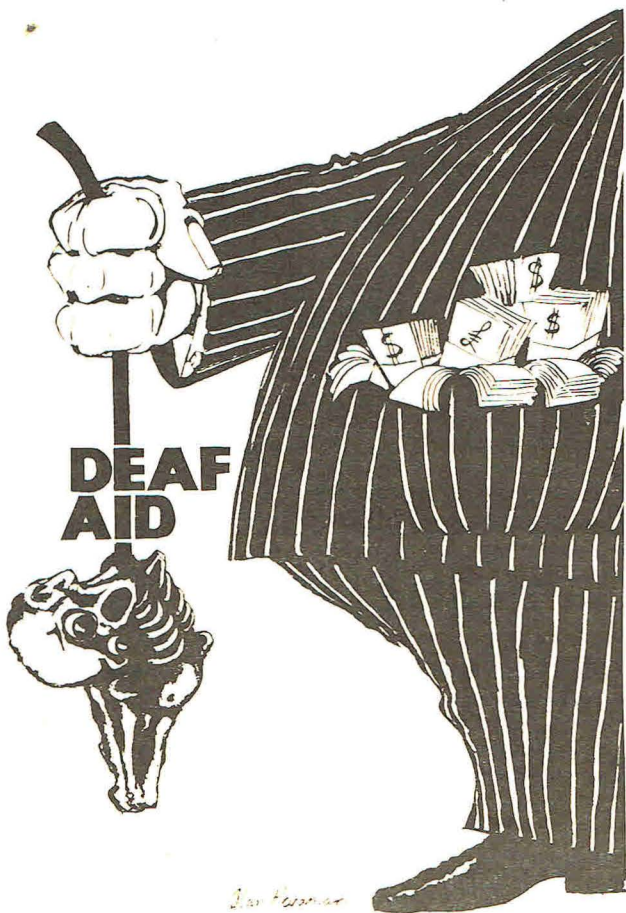
Famine crisis not solved

SATURDAY'S LIVE Aid concert and the worldwide response was a magnificent achievement. More than £50 million has already been raised to help the starving millions in Northern Africa. Most of this colossal figure has been donated by the working class from all over the world.

Money poured in from an estimated 1.5 billion people who watched the programme. In an unprecedented move the transmission was beamed to both USSR and the People's Republic of China serving to cross, albeit in a limited way, the barriers erected by the western ruling class and the Stalinist bureaucrats.

But it is inevitable that millions will ask why such disasters make appeals like Live Aid necessary in the first place.

Germany's contribution by thirty of its leading musicians was preceded by a joint statement. In total contrast with the depoliticised content of the rest of the show they pointed out how dishonest it is for politicians and businessmen to claim that the Ethiopian famine is just a natural disaster. Instead they stressed the "years of colonial exploitation" that created the conditions for decay and famine, the insanity of an economic system that spends millions of pounds every day on weapons and the obscenity of food stockpiles that are maintained simply to keep the price of food high.



It is worth noting that whilst massive amounts were sent in by workers in America, Yugoslavia, Britain, Ireland and over a hundred other countries, a paltry £20,000 was raised at the Berkeley Square Charity Ball the previous week, the top social occasion for well-heeled parasites. Twenty thousand pounds isn't even enough to keep Princess Di

in frocks for a year.

Perhaps the most sickening contrast was provided by what followed the film shot in Ethiopia by Michael Buerk which stirred so many people in the first place. Pictures of the starving were immediately followed by an opening ceremony by the Prince and Princess of Wales, two of the richest people in the world!

Jenkin tells MPs—'no concessions'

FOUR LIVERPOOL Labour MPs found Tory environment secretary Jenkin completely intransigent when they met him for discussions on Monday.

Eric Heffer, Bob Parry, Bob Wareing and Terry Fields had gone to put the Liverpool City Council's case. "You've made your bed; now lie in it," was Jenkin's attitude. All the councillors had to do, he said, was go to court, declare their rate invalid and then vote for a new budget, and "get back on to the path of righteousness."

Jenkin acknowledged Liverpool's problems, but said "nothing would be achieved" by a meeting with the City Council. Nor was any more money available through the Rate Support Grant or the Urban Support Programme.

Terry Fields said afterwards: "There was an element of retribution in his attitude."

In total contrast, an earlier meeting between the MPs and Neil Kinnock had been very positive. He undertook to ask Shadow environment spokesmen Jack Cunningham and Jack Straw, to meet the council and the workforce for discussions. He added he would visit Liverpool himself.

He acknowledged that the council were embarking on a course of action to provide jobs and services and that the government must be forced to pay due regard to the social costs of redundancies.

After meeting the council and the workforce he would seek to see Jenkin. If the government were still unreasonable, then it would be seen to be their responsibility.

Get red this summer

THIS YEAR'S LPYS summer camp takes place from Saturday 27 July until Saturday 3 August. It is a gathering of around 700 Young Socialists from Britain and throughout the world for sunshine, politics and sport.

This year there will be an international theme, concentrating especially on Chile and South Africa.

There will also be evening rallies on the Miners' Amnesty Campaign, School Students, Liverpool City Council and an international meeting. Debates on black sections, women, Nicaragua and Eastern Europe will take place to name but a few.

Summer camp is the ideal place for new members of the LPYS and we are making a special appeal for all new LPYS members to attend the camp.

Every morning, seminars will be held on a mixture of practical and political subjects, such as "how to run a LPYS branch", "using video equipment", "solution to world famine" and "the workers' view of history".

Summer camp is of course a holiday as well. Everyone can take part in the football tournament and sports trips will be organised and there is a disco and bar every night.

(Details—see page 6)

Defeat bosses' union

EVEN BEFORE the announcement of the breakaway Notts Miners' union, NCB Chairman MacGregor had given it his blessing. This fact alone indicates the real nature of this new organisation; it can never be a genuine union, but a bosses' or company union.

Lynk, Prendergast and the others are following in Spencer's shoes. George Spencer, a renegade Labour MP, received a warm welcome by the coal owners when he formed a breakaway 'union' after the 1926 general strike. He received sole negotiating rights. The bosses forced miners to join his 'union'. The divisions they caused were a disaster for the miners generally, but especially for those working in the Nottinghamshire coalfield. Today Thatcher is smiling at the developments of a new split.

For any miner to follow the new Spencers would be a grave mistake. The NCB will offer special rewards to entice men away from the national union. An extra few pence will be offered in the next wage round and guarantees pledged about pits, jobs and communities in the Notts coalfield.

These promises are as believable as the government's statements to the NUM and parliament that there was no 'hit list' of pits made before the strike. The softly softly approach is to lull the miners into the clutches of the new 'union'. The smiles will last until the 'union' has served the interests of the Board.

If the Coal Board's strategy succeeds, then when the pits and miners are gone in Scotland, North East, South Wales and Kent, there will be no one to come to Nottingham miners' aid.

The Tories planned well for the battle against the miners with the introduction of anti-union legislation, building and training a mobile police force, and increasing coal stocks. They did so to try and destroy effective trade unionism. The new Nottinghamshire organisation will be ineffective. It can offer nothing to miners in Notts or other threatened areas, and its existence will undermine opposition to closures. That is why it has the approval of the Tories and the SDP.

Indications show that the 'union' will get little response elsewhere. Even in Notts a Channel 4 News poll has shown that only half the members now approve of the decision to break away and 46 per cent disapprove. When asked whether they personally wished to be a member of a separate union, only 40 per cent were in favour and 56 per cent expressed a wish to remain with the national union.

The scab leaders are using the rule changes as their excuse to break away. Although many miners will feel that these changes were rushed through conference, it is essential to stop the breakaway of any substantial number of miners following the new Spencers.

The rule changes should not have been passed without a campaign of explanation, especially in the Nottinghamshire area, if for no other purpose than to smash the grip of the scab leaders over the rank and file.

Now a massive campaign must be launched to ensure

that as many miners as possible stay with the national union. Mass leafletting, mass canvassing, along with demonstrations and meetings, must go hand in hand with one-to-one discussions. The 600 sacked miners could be the spearhead of the campaign.

Neil Kinnock denounces the idea of an amnesty for victimised miners as 'a fantasy' and blames election defeats, like the recent Brecon and Radnor by-election on the calls for an amnesty by Arthur Scargill and Tony Benn. Kinnock's attitude will not help the campaign for unity within the NUM.

The miners' strike has, in fact, transformed Labour's chances. It has raised the need for a return of a Labour government, committed to fight for its class as strongly as Thatcher and her class wanted to defeat, and eventually break the power of the NUM.

No socialist can stand by and allow this to happen. Labour's front bench must campaign, alongside the rest of the trade union movement, for the unity of the NUM.

At the recent Durham miners' Gala, Kinnock stated that "you do not want glorious defeats". But the working class have to fight against a government like Thatcher's. It is not a matter of choice; jobs and livelihoods depend on workers' willingness to struggle. The lessons of battles like the miners' strike is that unity between the industrial and political wings of the labour movement is the vital ingredient of a 'glorious victory'—the defeat of the Tories and the election of a Labour government committed to remove the horrors caused by six years of Thatcher, through a socialist take over of industry and a plan of production.

Ranks blunt right's attack on Militant

WHILE THE Labour leadership and the right-wing continue to use organisational measures to witch-hunt Militant supporters, their attacks are being rejected by the rank and file of the movement.

There is widespread feeling that these measures will split the Party and damage its election chances. Last week a series of branch meetings of Labour parties and trade unions decisively rejected the right wing's continued attacks on Militant.

● Swansea Labour Association last week reaffirmed its opposition to witch-hunts after the issue was raised again. After the Brecon and Radnor result the mood of the delegates was to bury witch-hunts once and for all and concentrate on the real enemy—the Tories and the Alliance.

● In Faversham, Kent, where three Militant supporters faced an expulsion threat, nearly 40 people attended a Militant Readers' Meeting to hear Lynn Walsh put the case against expulsions. At a later meeting of Faversham Labour Party, the resolution calling for the expulsions was referred back to the next executive meeting in September. Local Militant supporters however do not see this as the end of the matter, but as a postponement.

NUPE

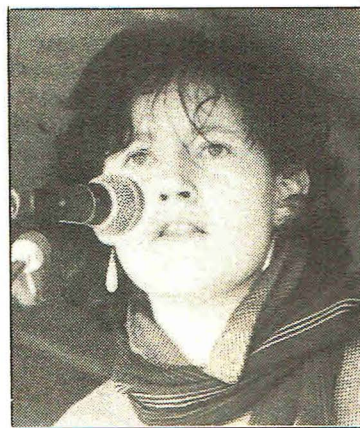
The witch-hunt is being widely discussed in the National Union of Public Employees, after NUPE national conference passed a resolution attacking Militant.

● Bradford NUPE No 1 branch, the largest branch in the city covering the council manual workers, passed a motion rejecting the conference decision, despite opposition from the full time official present.

● Coventry area NUPE also rejected the witch-hunt. It was stressed at the meeting that what was needed to stop cuts was a socialist Labour government not a repeat of the 1974-79 Labour government and the 'winter of discontent'. Area secretary Joe Rogers backed the resolution which was passed unanimously.

● Paul Severn, a member of the Loughborough University NUPE branch, has now been elected steward. Paul, a Militant supporter, had been threatened with possible expulsion from the union (see Militant issue 756). Despite his being elected unopposed, the branch secretary then attempted to postpone the election. But at a subsequent stewards' meeting on 9 July, attended by a full-time official, Paul's election was backed.

The leadership of Labour's student organisation, NOLS, are once again doing all they can to help the right-wing in their attacks on Militant supporters and the Labour Party Young Socialists.



Frances Curran attacked by Labour's student organisation, NOLS, for speaking at a 'Marxists in IUSY' (International Union of Socialist Youth) meeting.

The attack this time is under the guise of a report to the National Executive Committee (NEC) and Youth Committee by their delegation to the International Union of Socialist Youth festival, held in Luxembourg in May. An LPYS delegation was also present.

The report spends about 250 words describing the festival agenda, and then 600 or so attacking the LPYS.

They say the LPYS 'damaged' Labour's international reputation. They complain that Frances Curran, the NEC's LPYS rep, spoke at a fringe meeting organised by the 'Marxists in IUSY', which she has a perfect right to do.

Ovation

They don't mention the contribution she made at the festival's major debate on youth unemployment which received a standing ovation—hardly damaging to Labour's reputation.

Far from being damaged, relations have been strengthened between the LPYS and the rank and file of the European Young Socialist sections; the twinning of branches and the exchange of invitations has been the pattern since Luxembourg.

What is totally lacking from the NOLS report was the 'contribution' the NOLS delegates made at IUSY. The LPYS are 'disturbed' that no one from NOLS spoke in



Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)

Neil Kinnock and Arthur Scargill at the Durham Miners' Gala. Kinnock's references to 'glorious defeats' aimed at Scargill won't help in the campaign for unity in the NUM.

any of the major seminars. The LPYS are 'concerned' that some of the NOLS members seemed more intent on photographing LPYS members than engaging in fraternal debate, acting more like a 'thought police' than socialists.

The majority of the 5,000 young

socialists from all over Europe who took part in IUSY went home knowing who the LPYS were, what they stood for, and with many agreeing with the LPYS's Marxist ideas. It is this that has propelled the NOLS leadership into doing the dirty work for Labour's right wing.

Finchley expulsion threat overturned

IN ONE of the best attended meetings for months, Finchley ward Labour Party threw out right-wing attempts to expel dustman Chas Berry for selling Militant.

Rank and file members of the party turned out to block this attempt to expel a socialist whose only crime was to sell Militant outside ward meetings.

Resolutions

The meeting was also influenced by the 30 letters and resolutions of protest from labour movement bodies and activists, that had been received by the ward secretary.

In particular, a letter from the Labour Party National Agent David Hughes admitted that selling Militant outside Labour Party meetings did not break the party constitution. While the letter (extracts produced opposite) shows the readiness of Labour headquarters to supply local parties with anti-Militant material, it also puts in black and white what Militant supporters have been arguing for the past two years—that, contrary to the right-wing's claims, there is no Labour Party rule that bans the sale of Militant outside Labour Party premises and meetings.

THE LABOUR PARTY

150 WALTHAM ROAD, LONDON SE17 1JF
 TELEPHONE 01443 0333
 TELEGRAMS: MILITANT
 GENERAL SECRETARY: G. H. WATTS
 NATIONAL TREASURER: S. M. COLLIER
 NATIONAL AGENT: DAVID HUGHES
 NATIONAL OFFICE: 01443 0333

You have to consider the application of the Rules of the Party to the members of your Branch at all times. However you only refer to this individual selling Militant outside the Branch meeting room and from the NEC definition of "membership" of the Militant tendency I doubt if this would be sufficient evidence to justify expulsion. However that is a matter for your Branch to determine on the evidence it has and the material I am enclosing.

Yours sincerely,

 David Hughes
 National Agent

Black sections: social issues missed

LABOUR'S NATIONAL Executive has rejected proposals to establish black sections following the report of its working group on positive discrimination.

A proposal by Eric Heffer to allow Black and Asian groups to affiliate to the Party with a guaranteed seat on the NEC was also turned down.

A minority report from the working group proposes the establishment of a Labour Black Rights Campaign, to have the same status as existing affiliated socialist societies, along with measures to improve Labour's profile on ethnic minority issues. The 24 July NEC will make recommendations to the Party's annual conference which will debate the whole issue again.

That the working group has come out in support of black sections, despite past opposition of Labour Party conference and even the recent reversal of the London Labour Party's support, is hardly surprising. There were at least ten black section supporters on a working group of 17.

Preconceived

The group's chairperson, Jo Richardson, recommended formation of black sections at last year's Party conference—over six months before the report was completed.

The report's appeal to the Party to judge the issue on its merits rings very hollow. The whole thing reads as an apologia for a preconceived position, not an investigation into the various strands of opinion in the Party on this issue.

The most noticeable thing about the report and the activity of the

working group in preparing it is the lack of attention to the real social, economic and political issues affecting the black working class in Britain.

There is no serious comment on the double oppression faced by blacks in employment, housing and education. Not a word about racial harassment or attacks and all the day to day problems of life for working class blacks.

Oppression

The report assumes that Black Sections will overcome black disillusionment with Labour's past political failures.

The underlying argument exhibits the authors' confusion: "class, sex and race are the three main divides in our society...". Here we have society neatly divided into three oppressed groups, for whose problems the authors have a neat solution — their very own sections of the Labour Party.

The report represents the import into the labour movement of another dose of middle class radicalism, with its traditional assumption that under its leadership, administrative solutions can solve the problems of the working class.

In this case the arguments have merged with more recent trends of middle class feminism and black separatism to produce total confusion.

The fundamental conflict in capitalism between the ruling class which owns and controls society by the oppression of the working class becomes just another form of exploitation: "From early on the Party recognised that *exploitation concerned not only class*, and working

class men, but also the role of women in society."

In this analysis the trade unions become just another pressure group, separate from the workers as a whole: "The Labour Party was founded not only to advance the interests of working people but also to forward the interests of a specific group which lacked adequate representation in British society—the trade unions."

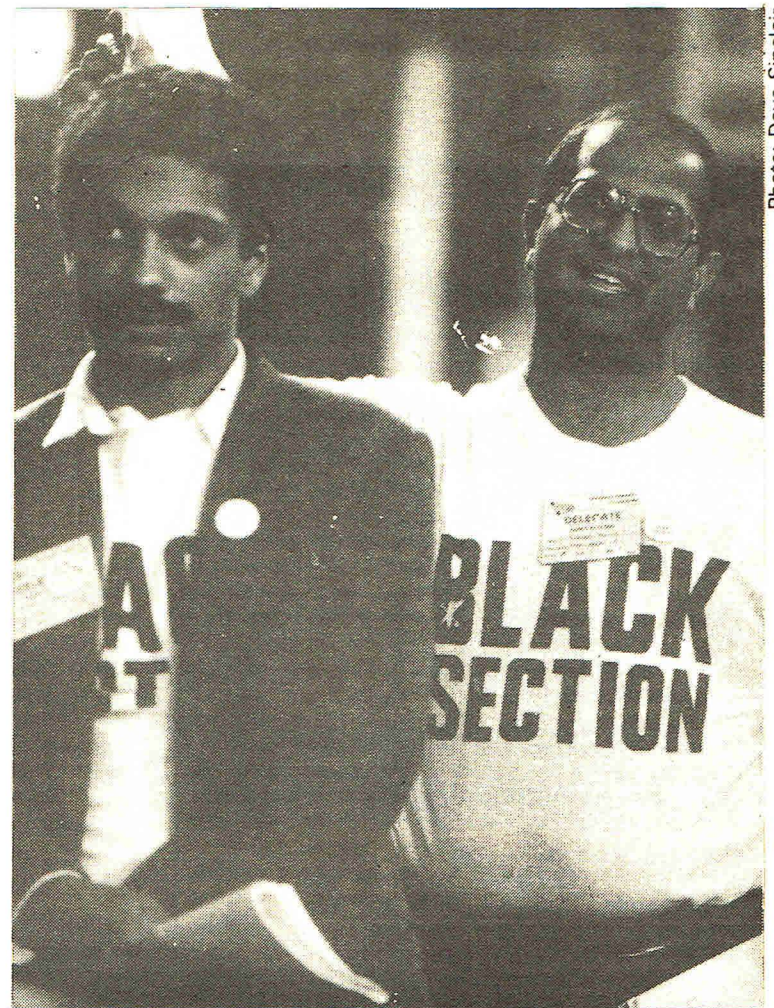
The report struggles with the fact that the lack of black involvement in the Labour Party reflects the lack of working class involvement generally. It returns instead to the fact that the Labour Party and trade unions are "overwhelmingly white" and its own explanation and implied solution: "A major reason for insufficient participation by black people and other ethnic minorities in British politics is that there are no black representatives or MPs."

Representatives

The report attempts to portray black section supporters as representative of black opinion in Britain with references to the support of ethnic minority newspapers and exaggerated claims for the success of established black sections.

It weakly grumbles, however, about a reference in the minority report to a Harris poll for Channel Four of 2,500 Afro-Caribbeans and 2,600 Asians in 50 constituencies with more than 10 per cent black voters, which showed 63 per cent opposed to black sections and 18 per cent in favour.

The working groups' majority object, we are told, on the grounds that: "this was not undertaken either for or by the Labour Party,



Black sections supporters at last year's Labour Party conference.

Photo: Dave Sinclair

not from Labour Party members, not from a sample which had been exposed to the issues publicised...nor from a union such as NUPE."

NUPE, readers will be interested to know, was the *only* union which submitted evidence to the working group, and is one of the few unions which supports black sections.

It appears that the only people qualified to pass an opinion are those who support the proposals. One wonders whether such scepticism would have been shown if the Harris poll had shown a similar majority in favour.

We believe that the majority of blacks in the Labour Party and outside do not support black sec-

tions. Fear of racial division, based on painful experience of the bosses' methods of divide and rule, is a powerful force amongst black workers.

Class instincts

The authors of both the majority and minority reports would do well to take heed of such sound class instincts. We need a socialist Labour Party uniting black and white in the battle to abolish the system which breeds racism in all its forms.

By Colin de Freitas

Electronic revolution dreams crumble

DREAMS OF a new golden age for capitalism, based on developments in the electronics industry, have taken on a nightmarish tinge in the last few weeks.

Last week saw a massive drop in the level of share prices in electronics firms. £1.3bn was 'lost' in a fortnight. And the City is getting panicky.

In the first two years of this decade profits were growing at 20 per cent a year in this sector of industry. Electronics boomed as chips and computerisation promised to drag Britain into the hi-tec age.

Compared to the overall decline of Britain's traditional manufacturing industries this was the dream come true.

But by 1983 the rise in profits was down to 7 per cent, last year up a bit to 9 per cent. Stockbrokers L Messel estimate it will be just 1 per cent this year.

One of the biggest companies, STC, has seen its shares fall from 180p to 104p in just over a month. Its first half-year trading will show a loss and that could continue into the second half of the year.

The speed of change in the market, and innovation underlying it, has caught up with STC.

One example is its electronic telephone switchmaking operation. With developments like System X and Project Mercury coming

into the market STC's product is well behind the times.

The TXE plant in Benfleet will be closing shortly with 200 jobs lost. In the past year STC has cut 2,000 jobs.

Thorn-EMI's profits fell £48.5m from 1983/4 to 1984/85. It spent £95m last year buying a 75 per cent share in microchip manufacturer Inmos. Up to last month Inmos had lost £1.5m a month since the takeover.

Restructuring and redundancies are on the way. One thousand jobs will go at its Ferguson subsidiary which missed the boat in switching from large to small television screen sets.

Chairman Peter Laiser was the first to go—last week. No doubt he will find redundancy more comfortable than his ex-employees.

The catalogue could go on. Plessey announced redundancies in Huyton just last week though its shares are holding up.

Privatisation

What is going on?

Ironically, a major blow to electronics has been the Tories' privatisation of British Telecom (BT).

Militant has always argued that existing nationalisation has been used in the interests of capitalism. The Post Office telecommunication side (renamed BT) used to provide lucrative contracts to private British firms. With privatisation and a more rigorous pursuit



Stockbrokers scramble to buy up British Telecom shares when they came on the market at the Stock Exchange.

Photo: Tom Picton (Reflex)

of profitability, that has ended.

Now the bosses are squealing about the 'injustice' of transforming a public monopoly into a private monopoly and about 'unfair' competition from foreign firms operating in protected markets.

The government is trying to restrict BT's dominance of the British market. They have stopped a proposed link with IBM and have referred a BT bid for Canadian telephone equipment maker Mitel to the Monopolies and Merger Commission.

It will be difficult for them, however, to make BT buy British. How far they can go in abandoning their vaunted free trade policies and bowing to protectionism is a larger question.

Competition

The fundamental problem is the massive cost of research and development involved in firms trying to keep up with their competitors.

Earlier, the market was wide open. Competition has sharpened dramatically now.

Along with innovation, price levels have been pushed down.

It's the same old story of capitalism throughout its history. Competition is a great initial dynamic. But it produces convulsive crises and forces the weakest to the wall as the biggest firms come to dominate the market in a process of monopolisation.

British firms do not have the muscle of a giant like America's IBM, which had a turnover last year of \$46bn and a profit of \$6bn.

Now the talk is of

takeovers and mergers. The City especially is looking hungrily to GEC's £1.4bn cash mountain to produce yet another share bonanza.

Industrialist Arnold Weinstock, GEC's godfather figure, isn't so keen to oil the wheels of finance capital: "There has to be a constructive industrial advantage for GEC to make an acquisition." In other words, what's in it for us?

Nothing for the workers, that's for sure.

By Ian Ilett

GET Militant

BUILDING UP sales of *Militant* at the workplace can be difficult to begin with. But consistency pays off, as one incident in the Lancashire coalfield has shown.

When approached by a workmate selling *Militant*, one miner with fascist sympathies pulled a knife on him! When the strike began however the same miner saw the need to fight and came out on strike. He soon realis-

ed that in order to know what was going on nationally he needed to read the *Militant* and approached the seller for a copy. By the end of the strike he too was selling *Militant* to his workmates.

Still with the miners, star sale of the week was at the Durham miners gala. Helped by the special promotional poster over 400 papers were sold.

Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£		£
Eastern	2781	Scotland East	2238
East Midlands	3204	Scotland West	2546
Humberside	1610	Southern	3938
London NE	3283	South West	867
London NW	4016	Wales East	1946
London SE	2213	Wales West	1477
London SW	2184	West Midlands	1962
Lancashire	561	Yorkshire	1544
Manchester	2588	National	1302
Merseyside	5125		
Northern	3099	Total	48483

ads

CLASSIFIED: 15p per word, minimum 10 words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

SALEP BADGES: 25p each. 20 or more 18p each. 100 or more 13p each from: "Badges", 1 Park Lodge, Park Avenue, Manchester, M19 2EE. Cheques/POs to 'SALEP'.

WANTED: A copy of Kincock's speech: John Mackintosh Memorial Lecture, June 1983. Both versions if possible. Ring: Cullingworth 272436.

MILITANT MINER POSTERS: "Miners unite, no splits". Bulk orders from Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.

URGENT: East Kilbride LPYS member seeks permanent accommodation in the Hounslow area. Contact Tim O'Hara on 580 8302.

MANDY (UNCLE JOE): Happy 21st for last Tuesday. From Scunthorpe LPYS.

CASSETTE TAPES with two issues of *Militant* (one each side). Available fortnightly. £3.50 per quarter, £13 for year.

Now available on cassette: all centre-page articles from issue 730-755. Send either seven blank C-90 cassettes or £6.30 payable to *Militant* Tapes, 18 Blandford Grove, Woodhouse, Leeds 2. Phone: (0532) 455936.

DEFEND SALEP against Labour Party proscription! Buy a SALEP T-shirt! £3 & postage. Also still available: SALEP bulletin with NUM member Roy Jones report on his visit to SA NUM. 20p & 13p postage. Available from: Southern African Labour Education Project (SALEP), 28 Martello Street, London E8. Phone: 01-241 0434.

"LIVERPOOL MILITANT Labour" badge "Black and white youth unite" badge with red *Militant* logo, 25p each plus 25p minimum p&p. FF cheques payable to P Cooper, 31 Balmoral Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, L6 8NB.

BARBECUE: Saturday 20 July, 8pm, Dawlish Road, Leyton E10. Admission 25p. Bar, food and disco. In aid of fighting fund.

ONE WEEK to go; all our readers should rush in every penny and every pound collected.

Our new league table will provoke a little socialist competition; particularly amongst the London areas vying for first position—or will Lancashire or Humberside surge ahead in the last week?

Supporters in every area have given individual commitments to collect £10 or £20 in the last few weeks just by asking everyone they know. One supporter in Cannock has raised over £100 so far this quarter!

Readers can help their own areas to reach the target by ensuring that any pledges or IOU's are paid up before the 31 July. And don't forget the National Raffle; it will be drawn on Saturday 27 July. All money and counterfoils must be sent in now.

FIIGHTING FUND

This week: **£2,414**

Target date **31 July**

1 London South West	468	1100
2 London West	1101	2950
3 London South East	815	1950
4 Lancashire	447	1100
5 London East	1138	2850
6 Humberside	714	1900
7 West Midlands	1462	4350
8 Eastern	1071	3200
9 South	1593	5000
10 Scotland West	1062	3800
11 Merseyside	1694	6200
12 East Midlands	752	2900
13 Wales West	565	2150
14 North	1090	4650
15 South West	428	2150
16 Wales East	425	2450
17 Scotland East	465	3000
18 Yorkshire	928	5950
19 Manchester	345	2650
Others	16004	10000
Totals	32567	70000

OTHER DONATIONS INCLUDE

SUPPORTERS AT the EETPU Bi-ennial conference know how to fight back against witch-hunts. They collected £236; a readers' meeting in Humberside collected £330; Tam Dury, victimised Monktonhall miner gave £5; a raffle at the Yorkshire Miners' Gala raised £11; 150 Canadian dollars from Charles Deeney, Nepean, Ontario; C. Brooke, Hull £3; Phil Seal, Hull, £1; Workers at British Gas Easington £7.56; Strathclyde LPYS £19; Jim Hamilton, Dalkeith NUPE, £3; North Avon LPYS £1.50; Tim Neave, Bristol, CLPs £5; Eric Kesterton, Bath, NGA 75p; Cathy Bryant, Bristol £1; Nigel Coulston, Gloucester £1; Michelle Hunt, Swindon TGWU £2; Eddie Thomson, Glasgow ASLEF £10; Maggie Averell, Blantyre £1; Jim Mullen, Cambuslang, OAP £3; Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, Notts, OAP's £4; Dave D'Gurnia, Sittingbourne, £1.75; Glasgow social work dept £30.

Housey, Housey!

ALL GOOD Militant supporters know that Marxists must sink roots into the working-class. With this in mind a group of comrades in North Tyneside decided on a night out at that most working class of establishments, a "working-men's club".

Determined to join in the spirit of things, we all bought tickets for the Bingo.

A hushed silence fell. This was the moment of truth. Who would be the lucky winner tonight—a shipyard worker? A miner? Or *Militant's* Fighting Fund? Surely the Fighting Fund, so that everyone could benefit in the long term.

The caller began—Maggie's den, number ten, two fat ladies, eighty-eight, top of the shop, blind ninety. As the numbers were called out, the concentration contorted people's faces,

nervous glances flickered from one book to another. Then House! Lynne had called for a line. A crisp £5 note pushed into a hot sweaty palm, and we were off again. This time for a full house of £20.

But now a new mood had developed, a grim determination to sweep the board. Once again the numbers were rattled off, once again a fierce concentration. An inexperienced comrade attempted a conversation, but was immediately cowed by angry glares.

Lynne was again sweating—this time on number 65. A few numbers were called, and then—63 house!

Now conservatism was definitely out of the window, and the only consensus was that one of us was going to win the "flyer"—a "quickie" game where players go for the full house.

Immediately Jeannie got off to a flying start, closely supervised by Ed Waugh. A running commentary from Ed meant that other, losing, comrades soon lost interest in their own "flyers" and concentrated all their will-power on Jeannie.

"Waiting for three" intoned Ed. Then "waiting for two" was the message. Then "only waiting for number 50"—the tension was unbearable. Hearts pounding, scalps tingling, palms sweating—then the magic word—"House" was torn from the throats of a dozen wild-eyed comrades. Total of £50 won.

What to do with the money? Lynne, head of a single-parent family, could obviously use this money. But on being offered some of it decided that the fighting fund was a more deserving cause. Jeannie was of the same opinion, so we had £50 for the Fighting Fund.

By Wallsend
Militant supporters

South Wales Summer Camp

THIS YEAR'S Militant Summer Camp has an international theme, with talks planned on Britain, Chile, South Africa, Northern Ireland and Marxism and the Labour Party.

What better way to spend your August Bank Holiday than at the Gower Peninsula. Price is still £12.50 per adult and £2.50 child (5/15 years). Because of the ever increasing numbers attending the camp, we will be operating on a strict first come, first serve basis. **BE SURE to send your bookings early to Roy Davies, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea—Telephone Swansea 463623.**

Militant Meetings

MILITANT WOMEN'S Weekend schools. South 10-11 August, North 31 August-1 September. Agenda: The family, Internationalism (workshops on South America, and Northern Ireland) Transitional Programme and Stalinism. Venue to be announced.

DEAL socialist discussion group meets on Mondays throughout July at 8.00pm, at the Landmark Centre, High Street, Deal, Kent. Subjects include: "What is socialism" and "History of the Labour Party". For further details ring (0303) 43541.

HARROW Militant Marxist Discussion Group. Monday 22 July, The State; Monday 5 August, Northern Ireland; Monday 2 September, The Communist Manifesto.

All at 11am at 172a Kenton Road, Kenton, near Kenton BR station.

BRACKNELL: *Militant* public meeting, Monday 22 July, 7.30 pm, Cupids Hill Youth Centre, Bracknell: "Support Liverpool Council". Speaker: Jeremy Birch.

Militant badges—"No victimisation, reinstate the sacked miners". Cost 1p each + 50p post and packing. Sell for donation for fighting fund.

Militant/NSSP public meeting

Sri Lanka—Workers fightback against repression

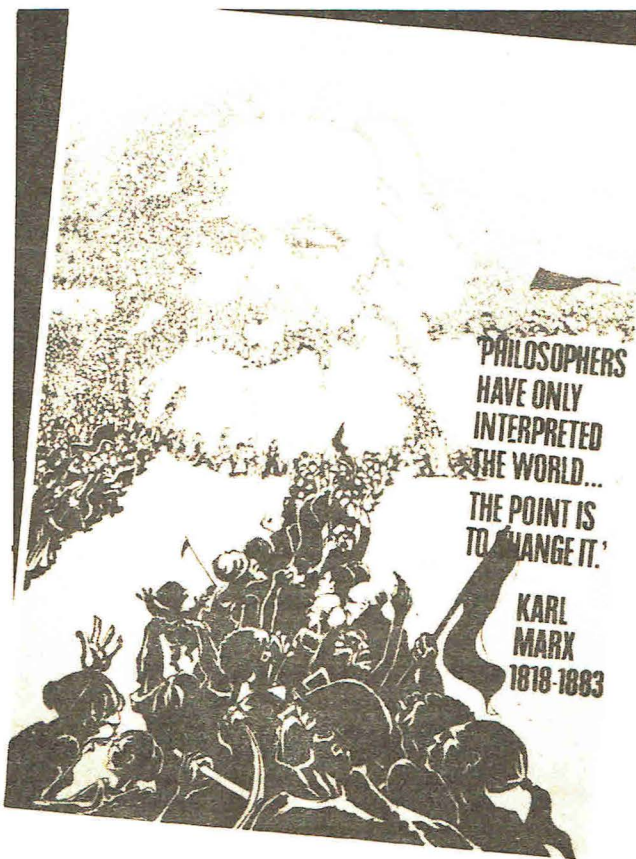
Speakers:

- Dave Nellist MP
 - Vasudeva Nannayakkara, leading member of NSSP, recently released from prison
 - Tamil speaker with eye-witness account of events in Jaffna
- At: Conway Hall (nearest tube—Holborn) Friday 26 July, 7.15pm.

LPYS Summer Camp 1985

Saturday 27 July—Saturday 3 August
Bracelands Campsite, Christchurch, nr Coleford, (Forest of Dean), Gloucestershire.

A brilliant week of sunshine, politics, sport and lots more. £30 for a week (half price for children 3-12). All-in "family price" £75. Brochure, leaflets and booking form from, Labour Party Young Socialists, Andy Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT.



POSTERS—Marx, Lenin, Trotsky and Connolly. Cost 50p each. Bulk orders of 10 or more 25p each. Please add 50p p&p.

Marxist Weekend School 1985

London 14/15 September

Courses on: Marxist philosophy, Marxist economics, the Russian revolution, Marxism and the state, black workers and the struggle for socialism, the colonial revolution, the trade unions—the 1920s and today, the lessons of popular frontism, women and the struggle for socialism.

Plus a rally/debate on Saturday and disco. Professionally run crèche. Put the date in your diary and make your transport plans now!

Only £7 (£5 unwaged). Book now! Cheques to: "Marxist Weekend School" 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9.

- I would like to register for the course on _____ at the Marxist weekend school (reading guides will be sent out from July).
- I will need accommodation (bring a sleeping bag) for Friday/Saturday night(s).
- I will require the crèche for the following children (name(s) and age(s)) _____

Name
Address

US Miners, Israel, Turkey

US pit owners neglect safety

COAL BOARD Chairman Ian MacGregor wants to see the British coal industry become like that in the United States. If he and Thatcher succeed in Americanising our industry, we will, have to face many problems similar to those now facing US miners.

By John Chapman
(Houghton Main NUM)

Privatisation could lead to short-time working, lay-offs and even more closures as pit competes with pit. National agreements on pay and conditions could collapse altogether. A breakaway union in the Midland coalfields would act like the non-union miners in America. Above all safety in the mines would suffer, as illustrated by the Wilberg disaster.

1984 was a black year in American pits. In February three miners were killed in an explosion at Greenwich mine. By the end of the year 124 miners had been killed, 45 more than in 1983. In the worst disaster in America coal mines for several years, on 19 December, 27 miners died in Wilberg mine in Utah.

This is owned by Emery Mining Corporation and under contract to supply coal to Utah Power and Light Co. Emery is proud of being one of the most productive US mining companies. At the time of the disaster miners on the 5th Right Longwall face were attempting to break the World



British miners finishing a shift—US style management threatens lives.

record for tonnage cut in 24 hours. Had things gone well they were to be treated to beer and steak in celebration.

Things did not go well. Shortly after 9pm a fire started at the outbye end of the main intake, probably caused when a bearing overheated on the conveyer belt and ignited some coal spillage. When first discovered, the fire was small and could have been contained.

One witness says he killed the flames with a fire extinguisher, but the appliance had run out. By the time fire hoses were ready to be used, all power to the mine had been cut off—including power to the water pumps. The fire fighters, with very little water pressure could do nothing.

The fire burned through an overcast, sealing off both roadways (the units had

separate roadways for the belt and intake air, separated by a 50ft pillar of coal). Of 28 miners there that night only one managed to escape, feeling his way through thick smoke. For the 26 men and one woman trapped behind the flames there was no other way out. The main return had been blocked by a roof fall nearly two months before the disaster and an additional air way was blocked by a similar fall two weeks before.

Warnings

Before the disaster there had been plenty of warning that safety standards at the mine had been slipping. Throughout the year the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA—like our mines inspectorate) has issued 144 citations for breaches of safety laws. Over half of these were for fire

related offences.

In the week before, management were told on at least seven occasions about a build-up of combustible material on the 5th Right belt. Even as late as 24 hours before the fire, official records show that the company knew about an excessive spillage around the belt loop.

The decision to carry on mining in what was effectively a single entry longwall face was taken by the MSHA, after the company applied for an exemption. Both the company and MSHA claimed that adequate escape routes existed with the intake and belt roadways.

The miners themselves were well aware of the danger they faced. A surveyor later recalled a conversation he had with three of the dead miners shortly before they went

underground.

"We were talking before the shift and the guys thought it was foolish to go for a record in these conditions. They were so worried about it that they were talking about maybe going home. But they said they didn't have any floaters or sick days left. They had used them earlier that week and the week before to go home because of the same situation."

Dividends

The Wilberg disaster should not have happened. In America coal is mined by companies whose first responsibility is to produce dividends for their shareholders. Management's main concern is production—at the lowest possible cost. Safety and health become economic burdens to be avoided—nothing should halt that production.

If a man questions some aspect of safety or refuses to work in unsafe conditions then he is told to mind his own business. Safety, they say is management's responsibility.

The union do continually fight for better safety. They carry out regular inspections, train union representatives and encourage members to report violations. But the union is not a strong posi-

tion. Over 50,000 are unemployed and over half the coal mined is non-union.

They have to rely on the courts and the MSHA to force safety on companies. Under Reagan, the number of inspectors employed by MSHA has fallen and the courts lack the will to upset big business.

In Britain, recent changes in the NCB structure now mean that area must compete with area for its markets. This is only the first step. Unless MacGregor is stopped soon, pit will have to compete with pit and even without privatisation we will be subjected to the same economic forces as prevail in the US industry. Both our union and the NCB are proud of the improvements in safety since nationalisation, envied by miners throughout the world and one that must be defended.

Of course management will always deny that they would compromise safety. They do in America. But when economics becomes the major consideration the temptation to cut corners is great, especially if they feel the mine is under threat of closure. It is ironic that eight of the miners killed in the Wilberg disaster belong to the management team, there to ensure that the world record attempt was successful.



Israeli workers strike at austerity plan

THE HISTRADUT trade union federation in Israel has called off an indefinite general strike which was planned in protest at pay cuts announced by the government.

Workers throughout Israel have already been striking over all the drastic measures taken by the government in an emergency economic decree on 1 July. The plans included 10,000 public sector redundancies, suspension of the wage indexing system (which the unions say would cut incomes by 30 per cent), an end to subsidies, 18 per cent devaluation of the shekel and an array of new taxes.

The working class and lower middle class are expected to take the brunt of the country's deep economic problems. An inflation rate of 260 per cent and a government deficit of about one-

sixth of Gross National Product are the results largely of Israel's enormous military spending.

The government want a £1.1 billion expenditure cut. Even one of the Peres government's advisors admits he does not know what effect all the measures would have: "It is like walking in a maze and taking a gamble on walking forward rather than sideways, but what is the alternative?"

The day after the proposals went through parliament, one million workers struck. Civil servants were out for a longer period and many other groups took action in the following week. The government has been desperate for a compromise with the normally tame Histradut and delayed laying-off workers for a while. But with telephone, power, gas, water and bank



Israeli Prime Minister Peres

workers, seamen and many others taking action, the Histradut apparatus had no option, despite its arch-conservatism, but to threaten strikes.

If they had not, they would have risked losing control over the working class movement. Even the Histradut, intimately bound up with Zionism and the Israeli state has been put under pressure by the growing class differentiation within society.

Turkish workers face death sentence

THE TURKISH military handed over power to a right wing civilian government well over a year ago. But Turkey's capitalist class still maintain their power and privilege through iron rule.

The police have been granted drastic new powers to use weapons and force, increased powers of detention and arrest on such vague grounds as 'suspicious outlook.' The military are still in the background. There have been horrifying raids on the minority Kurdish population with massive show trials accusing thousands of charges such as separatism and communism.

Facing high unemployment, more than 50 per cent inflation and no price controls, the regime fear workers' uprisings more than anything. Strikes are not "illegal"—until you try to organise one. The Turkey Solidarity Campaign have publicised some recent attacks on the working class.



Prime Minister Ozal—workers have nothing to celebrate.

A four year long trial of miners who had occupied their mines to stop closure, ended recently. One miner was sentenced to death, twelve to life imprisonment and many hundreds more to between four and twenty years in jail. They had formed a mineworkers union and when the bosses declared their pit's reserves exhausted in 1980, took over the running and distribution themselves. When the

military seized power they invaded the pit with tanks. The army's civilian successors carry on the military's policy.

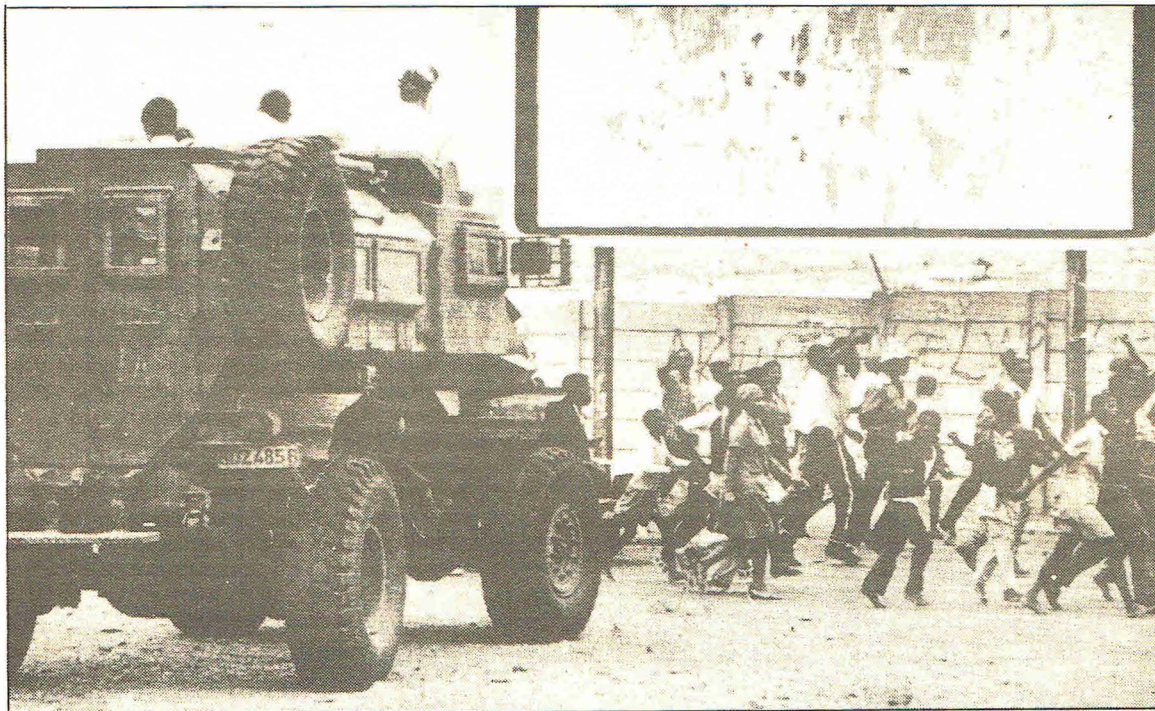
Around three per cent of the population of the town of Fatsa face trial. Their crime? Electing a radical town council before the coup. The mayor, Fikri Somnez, has already died in prison and the prosecution are demanding the death sentence for 200 defendants.

South African militants f

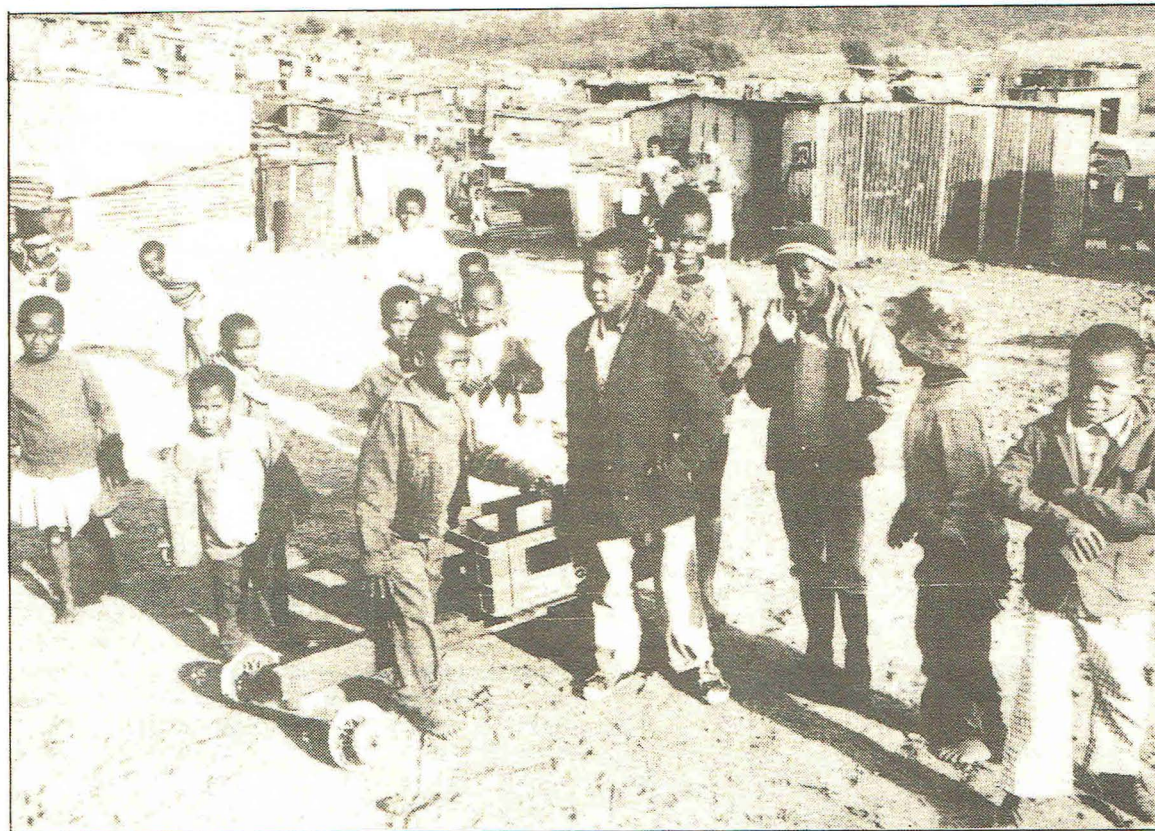
WE ARE publishing short extracts from a bulletin which has reached us from South Africa, independently produced and distributed by trade union activists in the United Democratic Front (UDF). The development of the UDF as a nationwide black political organisation has been the most important advance of the workers' struggle since the banning of the African National Congress in the early 1960's. The bulletin paints a vivid picture of the black workers' struggle against the apartheid state apparatus, analyses the present situation and formulates a socialist programme to take the workers' movement forward. These ideas have emerged from the fierce political debate taking place in the heat of the struggle. The authors vindicate the Marxists who have insisted that it is the working class in South Africa who hold key to the

overthrow of apartheid. Their struggle against racism is inextricably linked to the fight against the capitalist system. The bulletin also crushingly refutes the argument and others against the formation of direct links between unions and workers in the rest of the world. These workers carry traditions of internationalism. The bulletin does not only but carries articles on Denmark, Zambia, Sudan, Zimbabwe and the interference of Ford workers in Britain. The material will help the labour movement the tasks facing South African workers against apartheid and capitalism.

"If we are to live—then capitalism must die"



Above, armoured car bears down on black demonstration. Below, the young shanty town dwellers with no future under capitalism.



Government attacks white

BOTHA AND the bosses are waging war against our class. They are attacking us in our communities. Look at the Langa massacre. The killings continue every day. They are attacking us in the factories. Look at the massive retrenchments.

We are being pushed deeper into poverty by terrible price rises. They are attacking our organisations and militants. Look at the ban on meetings, the detentions of UDF leaders, the mass arrest of strikers. Even while he talks about negotiations, Botha is planning to ban the UDF. Even while the bosses talk about democracy they are hoping to take back the trade union rights which we have won in struggle.

Our class is under attack—but our fighting spirit has never been greater. That is why Botha must send his SADF into the townships. That is why the bosses are forced to talk against apartheid. Look at

our strike struggle. It has never been stronger. Look at the powerful stayaways in the Eastern Cape last month. Remember the mighty Transvaal stayaway last year. Look at the mass boycotts of schools, buses and rents. Look at the mass rebellion in the Townships against apartheid and poverty.

The ruling class has never before been in such a big crisis. Their capitalist economy is rotting. Their apartheid system cannot control our class. They have been forced to make concessions, change their plans. Look how they were forced to retreat over Crossroads. Look how they have been forced to abandon the prefect system in the schools. Look how they have been forced to give higher wage increases than they want. Look how they have been forced to suspend many rent and bus fare increases. Their Town Council puppet system has been smashed into the ground. Their new parliament has been made useless. Our organisations continue to grow despite all of their

Prepare national protest str

BOTHA HAS told more than 600,000 employees in the public sector that their 13th cheque will be cut by one third.

These are mainly white workers in the railways, post office and other government departments. The government is also attacking public sector workers in other ways. They have to work longer hours without extra pay. Annual increases in pay are being cut back far behind inflation. Less and less new workers are being employed.

We black workers have long faced attacks on our living standards. But for the white workers, these attacks are a big surprise. For a long time the bosses have given privileges to white workers. We hear some people in our movement saying—"Good. The white workers must also suffer. They have been getting too much". But we say the attacks on white workers do nothing to help our struggle. These attacks only help the bosses. When the bosses succeed in attacks on one group of workers, then they grow stronger against all workers. Our movement can never welcome any attacks by the bosses and their government.

Our struggle is for a decent living standard and democratic control over our lives. Our struggle is not directed against the white worker. It is directed against the bosses' system of apartheid and capitalism. We demand decent living standards for all workers—black and white. The only future

for the white workers lies with our movement. We, the black working class, have to lead SA into a future free of all oppression and exploitation. Then we must support the white workers against the bosses' attacks. We must call on the white workers to join our struggle against the bosses and their system.

Already we have seen some examples of our unions giving leadership to white workers—like at Highfield Steel in 1984. These are small examples. But we can build

White worker interviewed

—What do you do?

I deliver letters. It is hard work. I must walk for hours with a heavy bag.

—What are your hours of work?

I start at 3 o'clock in the morning. I have to catch a train and a bus to get to work at 6 am. I finish work any time after 12 o'clock. Often I work 'till late afternoon.

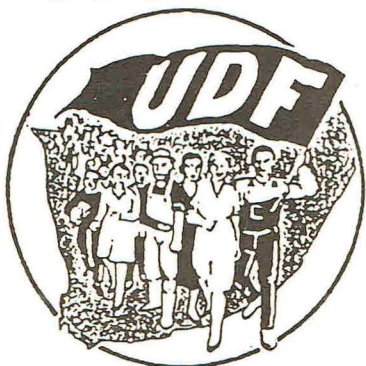
—Do you get overtime pay?

No way! They have stopped all overtime pay now. Every day we work longer—but we get nothing

Worker solidarity action

WE NEED strong links with the international trade unions and workers' political parties to build strong solidarity and worker unity. Our unions and UDF must strengthen international links with unions and worker political parties and workplaces overseas. And we must call on the international workers' movement to prepare for direct worker action linked to our struggles.

Bulletin of UDF militants



60p (inc postage) from
Inqaba,
BM Box 1719,
London WC1N 3XX

Forward from the bus bo

Last month (March), two mass bus boycotts came to an end with victories for the workers. In East London, workers decided to end their boycott after 20 months of heroic struggle. In Empangwen/Richards Bay, workers called off their boycott after 2 months. In both

boycotts, the t to suspend far won by the uni class. The Cis forced to recog of ten as the muters.

Fight for workers' power

and national oppression is a system which underpins apartheid. The Labour Party NEC and the South African trade unions have inherited the finest tradition of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and the world. We must clarify within the British workers in their struggle against

workers

attacks. All of these things have come from one thing—the mass struggle and unity of our class. But victories that we have won are not nearly enough. Repression and recession grow worse every day. Then we see that we have to build greater organised strength and greater unity in the struggle. There are weaknesses in our movement that we must overcome. The biggest weakness is the lack of national coordination and unity. Too many struggles are fought separately—when they must be united. Our organisations too often act separately—when they must stand together. And too often we even see sharp clashes between our organisations.

Our class needs national organisation, national mobilisation, national direction.

FOR A UNITED FRONT OF ALL ORGANISATIONS!

BUILD JOINT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMMITTEES!

KE

in them. The most important task of non racial policy is to build working class unity against the bosses and their government. Some of our leaders are looking in another direction—towards the white liberals. This is a wrong direction. The white liberals may oppose apartheid—but they also oppose our struggle against the bosses' profit system. The class of the white liberals is the capitalist class. The class of the white workers is the working class.

extra for this. What is making things even more difficult is that we are doing extra work as well. In our department there are 10 vacancies, but they haven't employed any new people. We must do the extra work, and we aren't getting paid for it.

—Have you complained to your bosses?

Sure we have—but they just don't want to hear about it. They just tell us—if you don't like the work, then put on your jacket and go. The bastards. I can't afford to leave. I got rent to pay. I must support the family. Everything is getting more expensive.

—Have you got a union?

We've got a staff association, but what good are they? They do nothing about our cut in wages. What can we do?

McCotts

transport bosses have agreed increases. This is a victory and strength of the working class. The bus bosses have been using the workers committee representatives of com-

WHAT THE BULLETIN DEMANDS

- ★ A national minimum wage.
- ★ End retrenchments—for worksharing on full pay
- ★ A living unemployment benefit
- ★ A massive programme to create jobs for all
- ★ Decent housing, services and education for all
- ★ Unbanning of all organisations and individuals, and release of all detainees and political prisoners
- ★ Abolition of apartheid—influx control,

migrant labour, bantustans, racist parliament

- ★ Disbanding of the police and army
- ★ A democratic national assembly freely elected by all
- ★ Nationalise the mines, banks, factories and big farms

Forward to a government based on the workers' organisations!

Forward to a planned economy based on workers needs!

For workers' rule and socialism



Black workers in Johannesburg sweat shop

Listen to the liberal bosses

SINCE THE stayaways and mass mobilisations of September last year, we have heard the big bosses talking a lot about our rights.

When Botha detained our union leaders after the Transvaal stayaway, the bosses' organisations protested loudly. Now we hear more and more statements from bosses and their organisations. They say influx controls must go. They call for talks with the ANC and UDF. As usual, the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) is singing the same song as the big bosses.

Every worker knows how the "liberal" bosses refuse to pay us a living wage so that they can squeeze the biggest profits for our labour.

At a recent meeting of bosses, Dr Zac de Beer of Anglo called for the abolition of all minimum wage laws. He said that—"People must be allowed to work for any wage that they are prepared to accept. It does not matter how low the wage is." The minimum wage laws of the government are totally inadequate. They do not begin to meet our needs. But they are too much for the bosses. As far as the liberal boss De Beer is concerned, even our starvation wages are too high!

This month Oppenheimer made a speech in Britain. He praised the "courage" of Botha. Yes—Botha must have a lot of "courage" to shoot down unarmed children. He must have a lot of "courage" to send workers to starve in the bantustans. But Oppenheimer was thinking about another kind of

"courage"—the "courage" to defend the capitalist system from the massive struggles of our class. That is what Oppenheimer is praising Botha for.

Oppenheimer also called for black political rights and for talks with the ANC. But he is opposed to the most basic right of "one person, one vote"—he thinks that we blacks are only good enough for a "federal constitution". The bosses talk loud about democracy. But look how they deal with democratic unions, and our democratically elected shop stewards. For Oppenheimer, democracy is just a word for deceiving the masses. He is happy to call for "democracy"—so long as the police and the army are still there to defend him and his profits.

Interview with worker in factory occupation

—How did you win reinstatement of your comrades?

Simple. We occupied our factory. We took over the whole place. Management would not listen, even though we were on strike. So we said—"Fine. We are staying here. This is our factory. Get out." We forcibly threw some of the management out the factory. And the rest they ran away. They were very scared. When they were gone—it was in the afternoon—we started the machines and began producing. It was fine comrade. We were there the whole night and things were smooth: Our wives and families came to the factory with food and things. We slept there. We guarded the factory and only let our people in. We could sometimes see the spies which the bosses were sending.

—How did you end the occupation?

The next day we were still producing. Even the drivers were going out and doing deliveries. The bosses were phoning all the time and saying, please, we must talk. They also said we must stop the

machines because we will do damage. We told them we will talk when they agree to reinstate our comrades. And as for the machines, we will work them every day. We know how to run the factory. We don't need anyone to manage us or supervise us. They could not believe what we were telling them. They started threatening the police. We told them they would have a big problem if there are police. We are just workers in the factory and they are all outside. Eventually in the afternoon there came this one boss with a white hanky. He was waving it and saying he wanted peace and to talk. We let him in the factory. Our leaders said—Will you reinstate? He said yes. Then we let everyone in and the thing was finished.

—What have you learnt from the occupation?

Well we have seen that we can do what we have always thought—we can CONTROL. We can run the show. The bosses are still scared. They are trying to tell us we must promise never to do it again. They say it is very dangerous and they will not take it so lightly next time.

We told them the only danger to us is them, and we will do it again if we have to. They know we are serious. We have found a weapon to fight retrenchment, sackings, closures. It is powerful. But we workers have to use it together as a class, if we are going to win. Today we say—organise or starve. Tomorrow it will be—occupy and control.

(Journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress)

A year's subscription

£2.80

Airmail £7.90

From *Inqaba*,

BM Box 1719

London WC1N 3XX

Build UDF workplace branches

IN THE factories, mines and other workplaces, we have already got organised strength through our unions. This is the strongest place to build the UDF and root the UDF. We need to organise all UDF supporters into a workplace branch of the UDF. Our aim is to draw all the workers into UDF branch and to organise meetings of the branch as regularly as possible. The UDF workplace branch can organise support amongst workers for the regional and national campaigns of the UDF. It can elect delegates to the local and regional bodies of the UDF. It is very important that we get our workplace branch represented in the leading bodies of the UDF—so that the voice of workers in our workplace is heard.

We build the workplace branch to strengthen the UDF against Botha and the bosses. We build the workplace branch to strengthen the voice of organised workers inside the UDF. We build the workplace branch to strengthen unity between our unions and the UDF in struggle. These are our goals. Every worker can see that our class urgently needs a united front of the unions and the UDF against Botha and the bosses. And we need a UDF which is led by the working class and based on our trade union strength.

Build workplace branches of the UDF!

For a united front of the unions and the UDF!

For a working class leadership of the UDF!

National union of mineworkers

AFTER ONLY a few years of life, the NUM today has over 110,000 members—the biggest industrial union in our movement. Today the NUM stands in the front of the strike struggle. In February and March of this year, over 70,000 miners have been on strike, most of them in the NUM. Last year in September, the NUM mobilised the biggest mass industrial strike action that we have known.

For the first time in generations, the mineworkers of SA have a powerful union to fight for their demands. This is a huge step forward—not only for mineworkers, but for our class as a whole. The mines are the backbone of the economy—and the mineworkers are the backbone of our struggle. The building of the NUM has brought the day of victory closer.

(Journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress)

inqaba
YA BASEBENZI

Journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress

Why Mugabe jelled socialists

A year's subscription
£2.80
Airmail £7.90
From *Inqaba*,
BM Box 1719
London WC1N 3XX

US Miners, Israel, Turkey

US pit owners neglect safety

COAL BOARD Chairman Ian MacGregor wants to see the British coal industry become like that in the United States. If he and Thatcher succeed in Americanising our industry, we will, have to face many problems similar to those now facing US miners.

By John Chapman
(Houghton Main NUM)

Privatisation could lead to short-time working, lay-offs and even more closures as pit competes with pit. National agreements on pay and conditions could collapse altogether. A breakaway union in the Midland coalfields would act like the non-union miners in America. Above all safety in the mines would suffer, as illustrated by the Wilberg disaster.

1984 was a black year in American pits. In February three miners were killed in an explosion at Greenwich mine. By the end of the year 124 miners had been killed, 45 more than in 1983. In the worst disaster in America coal mines for several years, on 19 December, 27 miners died in Wilberg mine in Utah.

This is owned by Emery Mining Corporation and under contract to supply coal to Utah Power and Light Co. Emery is proud of being one of the most productive US mining companies. At the time of the disaster miners on the 5th Right Longwall face were attempting to break the World



British miners finishing a shift—US style management threatens lives.

record for tonnage cut in 24 hours. Had things gone well they were to be treated to beer and steak in celebration.

Things did not go well. Shortly after 9pm a fire started at the outbye end of the main intake, probably caused when a bearing overheated on the conveyer belt and ignited some coal spillage. When first discovered, the fire was small and could have been contained.

One witness says he killed the flames with a fire extinguisher, but the appliance had run out. By the time fire hoses were ready to be used, all power to the mine had been cut off—including power to the water pumps. The fire fighters, with very little water pressure could do nothing.

The fire burned through an overcast, sealing off both roadways (the units had

separate roadways for the belt and intake air, separated by a 50ft pillar of coal). Of 28 miners there that night only one managed to escape, feeling his way through thick smoke. For the 26 men and one woman trapped behind the flames there was no other way out. The main return had been blocked by a roof fall nearly two months before the disaster and an additional air way was blocked by a similar fall two weeks before.

Warnings

Before the disaster there had been plenty of warning that safety standards at the mine had been slipping. Throughout the year the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA—like our mines inspectorate) has issued 144 citations for breaches of safety laws. Over half of these were for fire

related offences.

In the week before, management were told on at least seven occasions about a build-up of combustible material on the 5th Right belt. Even as late as 24 hours before the fire, official records show that the company knew about an excessive spillage around the belt loop.

The decision to carry on mining in what was effectively a single entry longwall face was taken by the MSHA, after the company applied for an exemption. Both the company and MSHA claimed that adequate escape routes existed with the intake and belt roadways.

The miners themselves were well aware of the danger they faced. A surveyor later recalled a conversation he had with three of the dead miners shortly before they went

underground.

“We were talking before the shift and the guys thought it was foolish to go for a record in these conditions. They were so worried about it that they were talking about maybe going home. But they said they didn’t have any floaters or sick days left. They had used them earlier that week and the week before to go home because of the same situation.”

Dividends

The Wilberg disaster should not have happened. In America coal is mined by companies whose first responsibility is to produce dividends for their shareholders. Management’s main concern is production—at the lowest possible cost. Safety and health become economic burdens to be avoided—nothing should halt that production.

If a man questions some aspect of safety or refuses to work in unsafe conditions then he is told to mind his own business. Safety, they say is management’s responsibility.

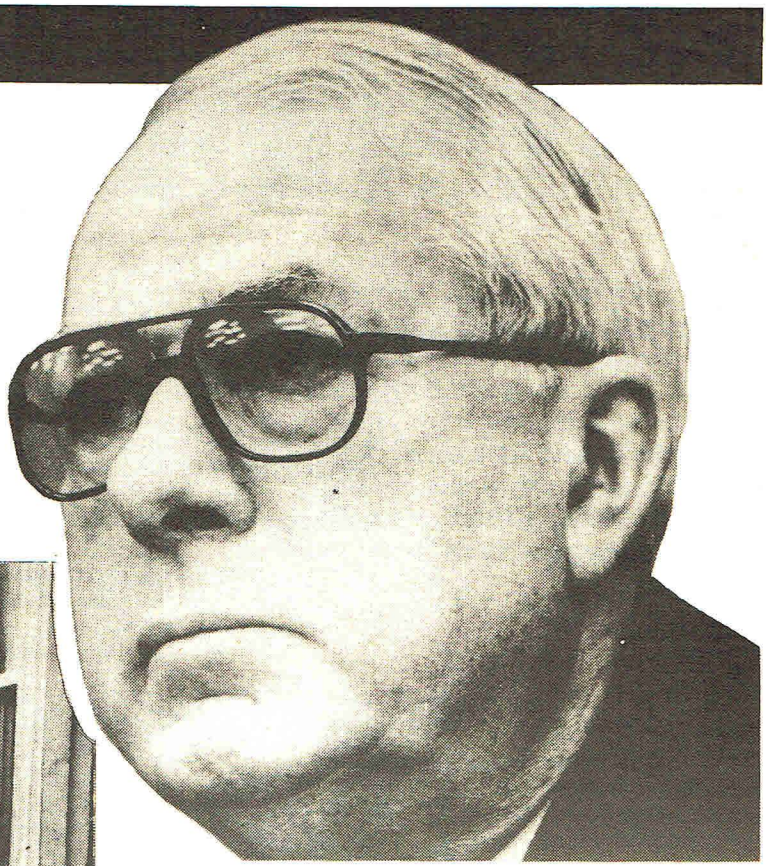
The union do continually fight for better safety. They carry out regular inspections, train union representatives and encourage members to report violations. But the union is not a strong posi-

tion. Over 50,000 are unemployed and over half the coal mined is non-union.

They have to rely on the courts and the MSHA to force safety on companies. Under Reagan, the number of inspectors employed by MSHA has fallen and the courts lack the will to upset big business.

In Britain, recent changes in the NCB structure now mean that area must compete with area for its markets. This is only the first step. Unless MacGregor is stopped soon, pit will have to compete with pit and even without privatisation we will be subjected to the same economic forces as prevail in the US industry. Both our union and the NCB are proud of the improvements in safety since nationalisation, envied by miners throughout the world and one that must be defended.

Of course management will always deny that they would compromise safety. They do in America. But when economics becomes the major consideration the temptation to cut corners is great, especially if they feel the mine is under threat of closure. It is ironic that eight of the miners killed in the Wilberg disaster belong to the management team, there to ensure that the world record attempt was successful.



Israeli workers strike at austerity plan

THE HISTRADUT trade union federation in Israel has called off an indefinite general strike which was planned in protest at pay cuts announced by the government.

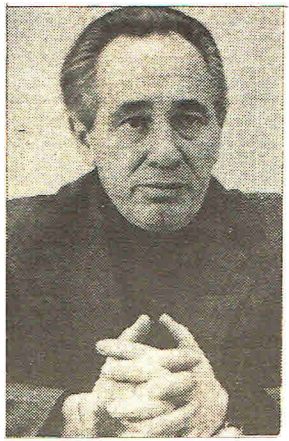
Workers throughout Israel have already been striking over all the drastic measures taken by the government in an emergency economic decree on 1 July. The plans included 10,000 public sector redundancies, suspension of the wage indexing system (which the unions say would cut incomes by 30 per cent), an end to subsidies, 18 per cent devaluation of the shekel and an array of new taxes.

The working class and lower middle class are expected to take the brunt of the country’s deep economic problems. An inflation rate of 260 per cent and a government deficit of about one-

sixth of Gross National Product are the results largely of Israel’s enormous military spending.

The government want a £1.1 billion expenditure cut. Even one of the Peres government’s advisors admits he does not know what effect all the measures would have: “It is like walking in a maze and taking a gamble on walking forward rather than sideways, but what is the alternative?”

The day after the proposals went through parliament, one million workers struck. Civil servants were out for a longer period and many other groups took action in the following week. The government has been desperate for a compromise with the normally tame Histradut and delayed laying-off workers for a while. But with telephone, power, gas, water and bank



Israeli Prime Minister Peres

workers, seamen and many others taking action, the Histradut apparatus had no option, despite its arch-conservatism, but to threaten strikes.

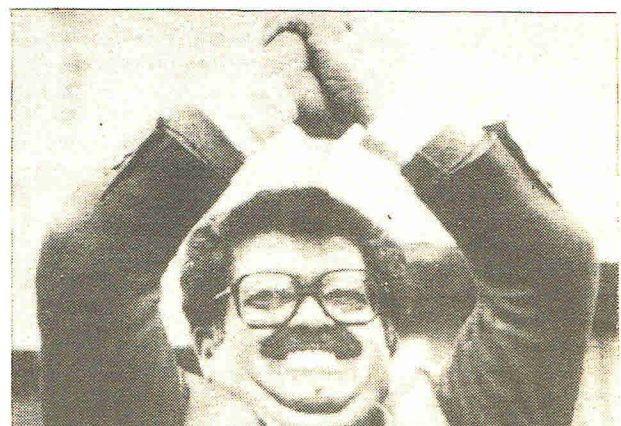
If they had not, they would have risked losing control over the working class movement. Even the Histradut, intimately bound up with Zionism and the Israeli state has been put under pressure by the growing class differentiation within society.

Turkish workers face death sentence

THE TURKISH military handed over power to a right wing civilian government well over a year ago. But Turkey’s capitalist class still maintain their power and privilege through iron rule.

The police have been granted drastic new powers to use weapons and force, increased powers of detention and arrest on such vague grounds as ‘suspicious outlook.’ The military are still in the background. There have been horrifying raids on the minority Kurdish population with massive show trials accusing thousands of charges such as separatism and communism.

Facing high unemployment, more than 50 per cent inflation and no price controls, the regime fear workers’ uprisings more than anything. Strikes are not “illegal”—until you try to organise one. The Turkey Solidarity Campaign have publicised some recent attacks on the working class,



Prime Minister Ozal—workers have nothing to celebrate.

A four year long trial of miners who had occupied their mines to stop closure, ended recently. One miner was sentenced to death, twelve to life imprisonment and many hundreds more to between four and twenty years in jail. They had formed a mineworkers union and when the bosses declared their pit’s reserves exhausted in 1980, took over the running and distribution themselves. When the

military seized power they invaded the pit with tanks. The army’s civilian successors carry on the military’s policy.

Around three per cent of the population of the town of Fatsa face trial. Their crime? Electing a radical town council before the coup. The mayor, Fikri Somnez, has already died in prison and the prosecution are demanding the death sentence for 200 defendants.

Labour policy

Hattersley hints at pay restraint

LABOUR'S ACTIVISTS and millions of workers will be lifted by the prospect of an end to this Tory government, but what will Labour do in office?

In a speech at the Welsh Labour Party eve of conference rally, Roy Hattersley said that Labour's policies were now practical and reasonable and would gain wide support. He talked of a "new Labour Party" fully recovered after convalescence from its catastrophic defeat.

But behind the scenes, Labour's leadership is shifting the Party's programme to the right, resurrecting the old and failed policies of previous Labour governments.

Already there have been hints at a revamped incomes policy by Party leaders, despite repeated conference decisions to oppose such policies. Interviewed in June's *New Socialist*, Hattersley states that his 'package' on the economy includes wage restraint, as part of a bargain with the unions on legal immunities and workers' participation in management.

In a speech at the Civil Service Union biennial conference at the beginning of May he said that an economic accord between

By Ben Eastop

the government and the unions was only possible if the unions were prepared to compromise. He warned that "progress would only come about with an end to confrontation and with a new era of conciliation, consultation and where necessary compromise".

But who would benefit from compromise? In a climate of economic recession, more jobs under threat and real incomes being cut, the only sections of society to benefit would be the monopolies, who would continue to make fat profits.

Spending

Workers will welcome Labour's plans to increase spending on housing, hospitals, schools and transport to repair the damage done by the Tories. But the new proposals put forward by the Party leaders on the economy in no way tackle the domination of multinational big business.

The next Labour government is likely to come to power in the middle of a new and more serious recession. The economic effects of the Tories' policies, which have led to the destruction of whole sections of industry, have been partly disguised by revenue from North Sea oil and by hiving off nationalised industries to the private sector. Once the benefits from these begin to drop away all the underlying sores of the British economy will show themselves.

The pressure on a future Labour government to toe the line in the bosses' interests, and to reduce living standards still further, will be very great.

Hattersley's 'idea' of a National Investment Bank, once mooted in the 1930's to deal with unemployment, would be meaningless unless all the financial institutions were nationalised and taken under democratic workers' control.

While the majority of banks and insurance companies remain in private hands, it is they who will have the overwhelming say in national investment decisions. The effects of a government controlled investment bank would be

marginal.

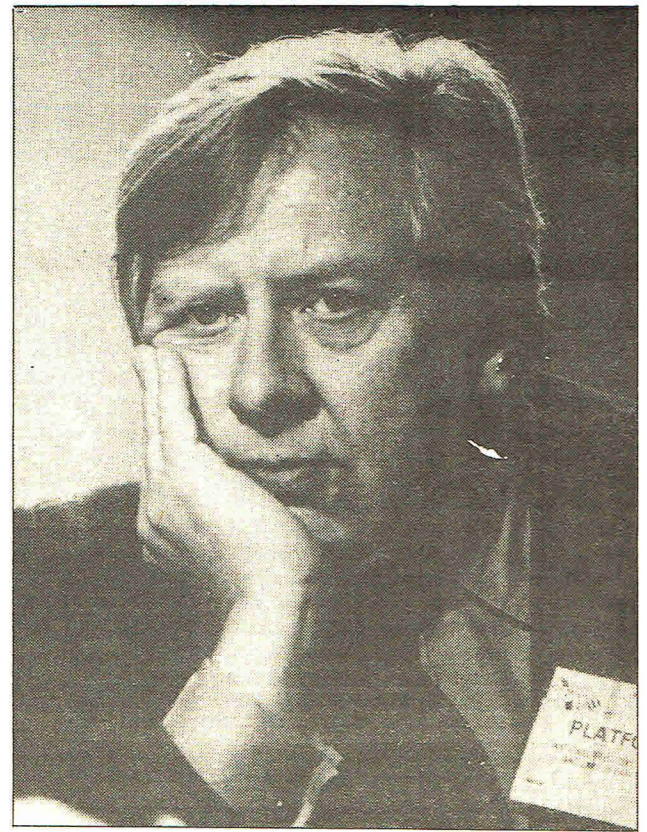
On 'its' own such a bank would merely end up lining the pockets of a few wealthy peoples' pet projects.

Reflation

The half-way-house measures of reflation—increasing government spending without controlling production and investment—would lead to further ructions in the economy by boosting inflation. This should be familiar to Roy Hattersley who was minister for prices and consumer protection in the last Labour government when inflation soared to over 20 per cent.

More recently Hattersley has written off the idea of a coalition with the Alliance in the event of a hung parliament because he says it would be "profoundly dangerous to our democratic system", and it would involve going "into the election expecting to abandon the policies on which it is fought". "I am not prepared to do that".

But many workers will remember the last Labour government, of which Roy Hattersley was part, which under the pressure of big business abandoned the



'New Labour Party' or more of the same old thing from Roy Hattersley?

policies of protecting the Welfare State by cutting £8 billion from its budget.

The programme being set out by the Party's leaders is designed to accommodate capitalism rather than bring about change. Hattersley talks of policies which can be put into practice in the 'real world'. By this it is evident he means the world of the multinationals and monopolies. But he will come up against stumbling block of the Party's rank and file who want to see real changes and not these policies of 'reality'.

No doubt it is the opposition to ditching Labour's socialist programme that Hattersley has in mind when he voted for expulsions of

Militant supporters from the Party. Speaking at the ISTC conference on 2 June he said: "Of course there may be one or two people within the Party who want to fight again the battles which did us so much damage in the past... The Party wants sensible discussion, democratic decisions and unity around agreed policy. That is what it is going to get".

Just to make sure, Labour's ranks, and particularly the Marxists, will keep up the pressure to maintain Labour's socialist programme and to stave off any moves towards a renewed witch-hunt.

Benn and Heffer plan for Labour victory

WHILE THE Labour leadership hint at abandoning Labour's programme, leading left wing MPs Tony Benn and Eric Heffer have submitted a programme on which to fight the next election.

By Bob Wade

The proposals, *Planning for a Labour Victory*, have been forwarded to the National Executive as it draws up its plans for 'Labour's Programme 1986.'

The document argues for nationalisation of the banks and 'common ownership' of major companies, full employment, reconstruction of the welfare state, repeal of anti-working class laws and an amnesty for victims of Tory legislation, unification of Ireland, defence cuts, abolition of the House of Lords and defence of local government.

Tony Benn and Eric Heffer point out they did not suck these ideas out of their thumbs but based them on decisions taken at Labour Party national conference.

Radical

They explain Labour has always achieved its best when it has gone to the electorate on a radical programme. Labour will lose out if it tries to ape the 'middle ground' politics of the SDP/Liberal Alliance and Tory wets: "If we were to model ourselves on their ap-



Tony Benn and Eric Heffer's document calls for socialist change but does it face up the strength of business interests?

proach the electorate will see no difference and will feel free to support any, or all of these parties... with the likely consequence that we may end up with a hung parliament and a paralysed government. Labour's best chance of victory lies in an appeal to all of those, especially the organised working class, who are deeply opposed to monetarism and militarism, and to millions of others who do not vote because they cannot see any difference between the parties".

These demands will be applauded and supported by the ranks of the labour movement, who are tired of the equivocation on policy coming from the top; they want to fight the next election around socialist demands. However, while understanding the Benn/Heffer proposals are still only in draft form however, many of the demands raised are foggy around the edges such as the demands on a United Ireland and the need for a "democratic and pluralistic

media."

But the central question to all the demands put forward will be how they are to be implemented. Labour governments in the past have been destabilised and forced to drop their radical demands after pressure and threats of economic sabotage by the forces of big business.

Ownership

The Benn/Heffer plan argues for "common ownership, in various forms, of the banks and financial institu-



one by one. They will use all their power and control—the media, the state, the economy etc—to defend 'their' wealth, power and privilege. Capitalism will never reform itself out of existence, no matter how gradual the process.

That is why *Militant* has always raised the demand for an enabling act to nationalise the top 200 or so multinational companies that dominate 80 per cent of the economy, to end the rule of big business once and for all.

It should not stop half way—allowing the ruling class to regroup and launch a counter offensive—but go forward and implement the fundamental socialist transformation of society.

Any resistance from the capitalist class can be countered by the full mobilisation of the labour movement, backing up the socialist government with industrial and political action.

**'Capitalism at an impasse'
The Marxist perspective for Britain**

Price: 50p (including p&p)

From: World Socialist Books

13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB

LETTERS

Militant welcomes letters from readers. Send us your views, comments or criticisms. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London. E9 5HB

Reassuring words?

Dear Comrades,
I read with interest the item in 'Left and Right' last week which quoted the Director General of the British Institute of Management: "I do not believe manufacturing is going to create any new jobs in this country".
Well all this must have rubbed off onto a leading political figure who has been seeing a lot of industrialists lately. The same week in *The Observer* (30 June 1985) there was an interview with him. He said: "We believe in the mixed economy... I do not see our future industrial strategy as a way to create jobs and cut the unemployment queues. Manufacturing can no longer be regarded as

a job creator, but it must create the wealth we need to expand our service sector".

Who was that? A Tory minister maybe? Or one of the new brand of right wing SDP leaders? No, it was John Smith the Labour Party industry spokesman! *The Observer* reports that his diary is crowded with lunch and dinner dates with captains of industry—to give them some 'reassurance' according to John Smith.

Maybe he should arrange a few dinner dates with young people in the valleys of South Wales and reassure them that it is not true that the only future he has in store for them is selling ice creams outside the Big Pit Mining Museum.

Yours fraternally
Dave Reid
Gwent

Obituary

CHERIE NORMAN died in the early hours of 12 July after a long fight against Leukaemia. Cherie, aged 49, had for many years been a member of the Labour Party in Caerphilly, and an active member of NUPE through her work as a district nurse.

She served on Caerphilly Labour Party's general management committee for ten years either representing NUPE or the trades council, of which she was Vice-chair.

Cherie was a magistrate and served on the Community Health Council. She was

best known for her fight for improved health services.

Cherie was not a supporter of *Militant*, but she was the sort of comrade who would argue her case, remain friendly and always ready to make up. Her warmth and generosity will be missed by all who knew her.

Cherie's husband, Bernard, known as Dinkey to all his friends, is treasurer of Caerphilly Labour Party. We send him, and their daughter Ann, all our sympathies.

By Frank Cuthbert
(Caerphilly Labour Party)

The darker cloud over Wimbledon

Dear *Militant*,
This is the season of the "Great British" traditional event of strawberries and cream and tennis. This year Wimbledon was nearly swamped during the first week of the tournament. But inclement weather wasn't the only dark cloud over Wimbledon in that week, though it was the rain that got all the media coverage.
A troop of 84 students recruited from local colleges to man the plastic court covers were threatening in-

dustrial action over their daily pay of £14. They felt that the wage was totally inadequate for their wearisome labour, so a strike was being contemplated by the students.

Management adeptly averted the strike by conceding a daily lunch of a reduced rate of 50p. Not a great concession but a victory for a group of temporary, non-unionised workers, often the most manipulated and exploited.

Yours fraternally
Hilary Coleman
West Belfast
Labour & Trade
Union Group

Facing reality

Dear Comrades,
Last week an elderly lady said to me that everyone of my age is a communist. Most of the members of my Labour Party ward put forward no real alternative to the system we live under today, but like the old lady take the patronising view that when I'm older, I'll

come down to earth and face reality.

This marvellous reality—the privilege of working long hours for low wages or lazing around on £28 a week, and of course the prospect of being blown to heaven at the press of a button.

Yours fraternally
Karl Osborne
Brentford and Isleworth
LPYS

Labour Women's conference

Dear *Militant*,
I challenge your statement (Issue 756 'Labour women and class issues') that the majority of women at the Labour Women's conference were "middle class" whatever that may mean. Do you mean that they were neither capitalist nor working class? How then did they get their living, and how did you find out?

It is essential for the least ambitious women in the Labour Party to keep working class women's issues to the forefront, and this will not be done unless women

have more representation within the party. Neil Kinnock will not keep the promises he made to the conference and even these are not enough.

Margaret does not say what her own job was, and to what class she belongs. She is not her husband. Feminists demand that a woman should be treated as an individual in her own right, and not as the appendage of a man. As socialists, we give full support to organised working men like the striking miners or GCHQ workers. Unfor-



Demonstrating against the dictatorship in Chile. Organisational methods will not stifle workers' internationalism.

Internationalism stifled

Dear Comrades,
At a recent Executive Committee meeting of the Redcar Constituency Labour Party I was surprised, not to mention annoyed, to hear two items of correspondence from Walworth Road.

The first concerned the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign and the second the Southern African Labour Education Project. In both cases the NEC was ordering all CLPs and affiliates to have no links and not to

use either of the two organisations.

The reasons that were given were that both organisations had the support of the *Militant* newspaper. It seems it is now a crime for an organisation to have the support of the *Militant*. This bureaucratic deci-

sion by the NEC must be met by all sections of the movement sending resolutions to the NEC condemning their decision and pledging support for the organisations.

Yours fraternally
Andy Walker
Redcar Labour Party
(personal capacity)



Photo: John Smith (IFL) II

Manchester NW Labour Party women's miners support march. Class issues are more important than organisational debates.

unately, all feminists are not socialists but we are talking about Labour women.

Yours in the fight
Kathleen Jones
Labour Party,
Bishops Castle Branch
and Women's Action
Committee

Dear Comrades,

Going to Labour Women's conference for the first time was definitely an experience of the so-called 'democracy' of the running of the conference.

The *Militant* supporters were clearly marked out and were kept out of the debate as much as possible.

I, thought they didn't know me and that I would be able to get up and speak. I was excluded from debate throughout the whole conference, although some women were able to speak

several times during a single day.

The organisational aspect of the conference was obviously thought to be the most important issue to working class women. That was the long drawn out debate that Neil Kinnock was invited to listen to, not the 'rushed-through' issues on low-pay etc. that particularly affect working class women.

Clearly these organisational measures will be pushed aside in the future as working class women enter the Labour Party and inevitably strive to turn the Labour Party into a fighting socialist party.

Yours fraternally
Rebecca Hunt
Eddisbury Women's
Section
Cheshire

LEFT and RIGHT

Vote early, vote often

THE GENERAL election in Mexico has just taken place. As usual the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party—who have been 're-elected' for the past 56 years—have been accused of ballot rigging. In Agua Prieta polling stations were switched from schools and public buildings to the homes of IRP officials. It is alleged illegal Guatemalan immigrants were given naturalisation papers if they voted for the government, while one right-wing opposition candidate claims he was kidnapped by police on polling day. In Pueblo Yaqui the government candidate received 400 votes while the opposition candidate achieved zero. As he commented: "This would mean that even my relatives did not vote for me".

Weather nice, Communists horrible

A COUPLE of British holidaymakers have complained to Fleet Street that while on holiday in Bulgaria, their children were given free badges of Lenin. The open-minded *Daily Express* exposed this dastardly action on 10 July, heading their report: "Bulgarian brainwash".

Cut price labour costs

THE TESCO annual financial report reveals that the company directors' pay rose last year by 65 per cent. Tesco workers themselves received a five per cent rise. The average weekly wage for a Tesco supermarket worker is £80. The outgoing Tesco chairman, Sir Lesley Porter, was last year 'earning' £2,353 a week.

Oh the sacrifice

THE RICH met for their annual bash at the Berkeley Square ball last week. Tickets cost £50 each, the money going to charity. Amongst the rich and famous was TV starlet Cleo Rocos. She magnanimously handed over her 50 quid—then breezed into the charity ball in a £3,000 gold embroidered silk dress.

Contributors this week include Mike Duffy (USDAW)

Gas attack-energy plan needed

GAS WORKERS are under attack. The Tories intend to sell off the industry to the City sharks and to ban the right to strike as a 'sweetener' to ensure a good price.

By Pete Dickenson

The defeat of the miners' strike has whetted Thatcher's appetite for a go at the rest of the energy industry and to slice off some more "uneconomic capacity".

Capitalists demand that the state provide them with cheap energy regardless of the long term interests of society, or the safety and security of workers in the energy industries.

As the economic crisis deepens the jobs of workers in previously 'safe' industries like gas will come under threat.

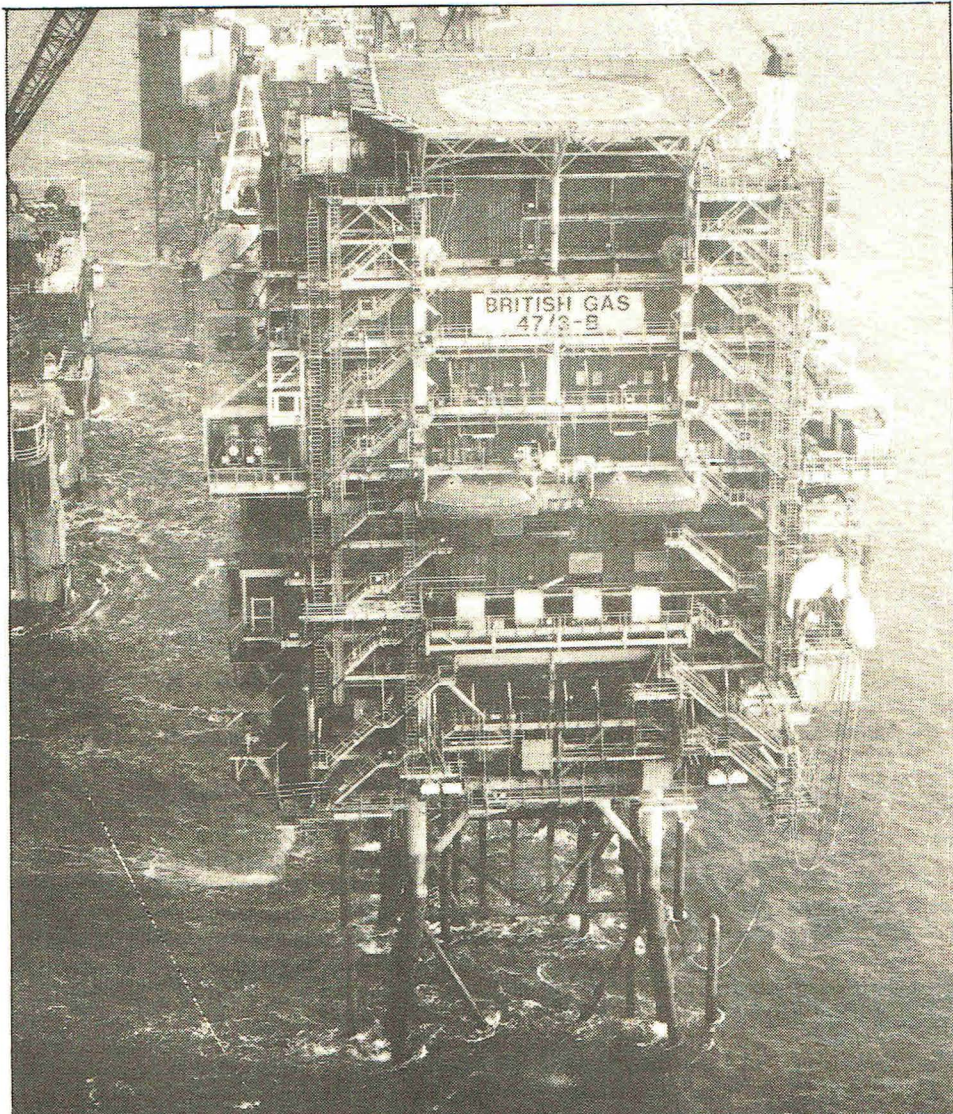
The sell-off of the British Gas Corporation will not represent any long term confidence in the industry by big business, just a grab at the short term super profits created by billions of pounds of public investment in the last 20 years.

Privatisation will also mean the squandering of invaluable premium energy resources in the quest for profit.

Workers in the gas industry and society generally need a worked out, long term programme for the development of the industry, guaranteeing jobs and living standards based on a rational integrated energy policy.

The starting point for such a programme should be an assessment of present energy resources and projections of future needs.

Britain has enormous reserves of the main fossil fuels including gas. There is between 35 and 80 trillion cubic feet of gas in the North Sea which at the 1979 rate of consumption would last for between twenty and forty five years.



North Sea gas production will rise to a peak this year and could be exhausted in twenty years.

However, in capitalist society technical predictions of how long energy reserves such as these will last are virtually meaningless.

For instance, 'experts' in the 1970's were predicting an imminent crisis due to a shortage of energy—but this shortage has turned into a glut in the 1980's due to the collapse of industry.

To take another example, if the oil producers' cartel,

OPEC, collapses, due to economic and political factors, the world oil price will drop.

This will mean that the 'economically' recoverable reserves of North Sea oil will be slashed, with an immediate effect on gas production, since the extraction of oil and gas are usually closely linked, for technical reasons.

The convulsive economic

crises, which are inevitable under capitalism make it impossible to predict consumption rates in five years' time, let alone into the next century.

Nuclear

The long-term energy strategy of the ruling class, which is a direct threat to gas workers, is to have half of electric power generated by

nuclear means in the next 15 years.

Thatcher's decision to press ahead with nuclear power is not based on direct economic grounds, but is designed to weaken the labour movement, as was shown by a leaked cabinet minute in 1979 which stated: "A nuclear programme would have the advantage of removing a substantial portion of electricity from disruption by coal miners and transport workers".

The intention of the Tories to try to run down the coal industry is clear, but the future of gas is dependent on coal. North Sea gas production will rise to a peak this year and could be exhausted in 20 years.

The huge investment in building the high pressure transmission system and in converting appliances to natural gas will be lost, unless steps are taken now to step up research and development into producing natural gas from coal.

The only alternative to coal gasification when North Sea supplies run out, will be to transport liquified gas by ship from the Gulf and Africa, at enormous cost.

The development of technology for coal gasification, 'in situ' underground, needs to be done now. This will open up new coalfields which are technically impossible or too dangerous to exploit at the moment. To produce gas entirely from coal will need about 120 million tonnes to be mined each year, which is more than double present output.

The government shows no sign of gearing up the coal industry for massive expansion. On the contrary, all the indications are that they intend to run it down, which, in the long term, will also put gas workers' jobs on the line.

The present system of gas, oil, electricity and coal competing for customers is madness. Oil and gas are premium fuels which are in limited supply and are best used for specific purposes, eg gas for cooking or for particular industrial processes, and oil for producing petrol for motor vehicles.

General power requirements such as heating and lighting, should be met by coal, either directly or through coal fired power stations feeding into the national grid.

Waste

Under capitalism, precious resources of gas are being squandered, workers' health and safety is threatened by nuclear power and the coal industry is being crippled.

The convulsive economic crises, which will inevitably continue, means that jobs in the gas industry will be threatened depending on how the ruling class see their short term interests.

An integrated energy programme, within a socialist plan of production, would guarantee the jobs and living standards of workers in the gas industry. It would also ensure the most harmonious development, in the long and short term of the different energy resources for the benefit of society as a whole.

In practical terms, to achieve this, the next Labour government must:

- ★ Renationalise the gas industry if it is privatised.
- ★ Halt the nuclear power programme.
- ★ Start production of gas from coal.
- ★ Introduce an integrated energy plan, to use oil, coal, gas and electricity as part of a socialist plan of production.



Massive investment in switching to North Sea gas will be lost unless research into producing gas from coal is pushed ahead to match the depletion of North Sea gas supplies.

Photo: Reflex

Privatisation in preparation— union campaign urgent

IN 1979, one of the Tories' major manifesto items was the promise to break the corporation's monopoly on the supply of gas appliances through its showrooms.

The trade union campaign against privatisation culminated in a one day strike on 13 July 1981.

By John Flynn

At this point the Tories took a step backwards and decided that gas was a dangerous substance and needed better legislation for its safety!

By the end of July 1981 the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill was being introduced in parliament and this was to

remove British Gas' right to make the first offer to buy supplies of gas from UK fields for use as a fuel.

Also during July 1981 an order in council was filed by the government, which, amongst other things, ordered the corporation to sell its 50 per cent interest in the licence covering Wytch Farm and other oil discoveries nearby.

The Bill had a very difficult passage through parliament and was not given the Royal assent until June 1982. Thankfully the government had a lot of other problems to worry about by this time and the Corporation had, in the government's eye, corrected

some of its own 'excesses'.

Employment in the industry had begun to fall back and the imposed cash limits had also been accepted without too much criticism.

Second bite

During the latter part of 1982 and early 1983 a mood of optimism began to set in throughout the industry as people became convinced that this government would never be returned to power. The Tories' election success was therefore a very big blow to gas workers.

During its first term of office the Tories were always being reminded, through the press and private conversa-

tions, that prospective customers for the corporation stock were of the opinion that it was too big and too cumbersome.

The government therefore set up an efficiency study of the corporation. It's objectives were supposed to be twofold:

- A) To investigate whether the corporation could, without detriment to a satisfactory standard of service, economically improve its efficiency.
- B) To investigate whether the management, financial controls and methods of operating were sufficiently flexible and robust to cope with change (i.e. privatisation).

The report on how to manage the corporation covered 254 pages and contained some 144 recommendations, all for just £15.00 a copy.

In four years the government's aspirations had changed from just selling off our showrooms to the whole corporation. The Department of Energy are now preparing the relevant legislation.

Sale imminent

The government's financial adviser NM Rothschild and merchant bankers Lintwood Benson are working on the method of sale, likely to be in parts, during 1986

and eventually raising up to £8 billion.

The unions in the industry must prepare their counter strategy and campaign with equal determination. The government have been defeated once and we can win again but time is short.

The basis of the trade union programme must be:

- ★ A public sector alliance in a 'Save the Gas Corporation' campaign;
- ★ Further cooperation between unions in the industry;
- ★ No breaking of the evolved wage structure;
- ★ Immediate industrial action against any government attempts to break up the Corporation.

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Fighting for civil service health and safety

CPSA MEMBERS in the Department of Employment (DE) are to be consulted by the union about whether to accept management's latest terms for the introduction of new technology in Unemployment Benefit Offices (UBOs).

The threat of indefinite strike action at Westminster UBO (see *Militant*, issue 757) pressurised management into offering a non-compulsory redundancy agreement, plus a guarantee of no compulsory transfers during the new technology conversion programme.

However, there is nothing forthcoming on a number of other issues, particularly guarantees safeguarding health and safety.

Despite the limited nature of the 'concessions' offered by management the BL'84 dominated DE Section Executive Committee has decided to recommend that members vote to accept the draft agreement.

This is nothing short of a flagrant disregard of section policy on new technology, which, ironically, was formulated by the Section Executive Committee itself.

Motion 47, passed at 1985 section conference, calls on the Section Executive Committee to continue negotiations until an acceptable agreement is reached covering "health and safety, office organisations, job design and rest periods", as well as

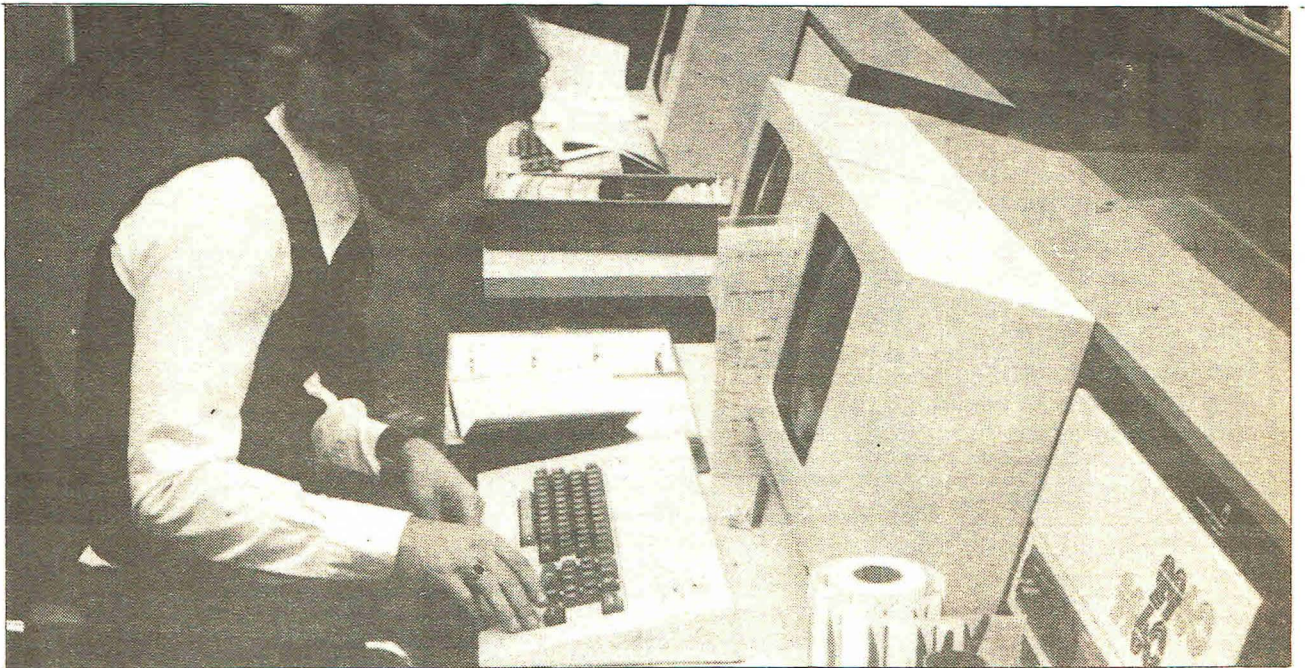
By Tom Taylor
(Department of Employment, London North branch, personal capacity)

no compulsory redundancy agreements and compulsory transfers.

Westminster members have already decided the agreement is inadequate and have voted to support a campaign for a 'no vote' in the forthcoming consultation exercise.

This campaign has been taken on board by the Broad Left and Broad Left dominated London Regional Committee. Already a leaflet explaining the background to negotiations has been prepared and a series of public and office meetings organised to maximise support for a 'no vote'.

Undoubtedly the mood exists amongst members in the Department of Employment section to fight for a decent new technology agreement. Apart from the stand taken by members at Westminster, members at Borough UBO secured a magnificent victory last week over staff shortages. Members at Holloway UBO



are on the verge of action over the removal of asbestos from the premises.

It is up to the union leadership to build on this mood. The mere threat of strike action at Westminster won more concessions from management than the SEC could do in two years' talking.

Instead of accepting the first thing on offer the SEC should be pressing for further improvements by mobilising the strength of the membership.

Vote 'no' in the consultation exercises, and demand the SEC implements the terms in motion 47 "to oppose the introduction of new technology at every opportunity and by all means at our disposal".

Leicester dole talks

THE WEEK long strike of CPSA members at Leicester's four DHSS offices finished on 12 July with an offer of talks from management.

The strike was in protest at management plans to further cutback staffing levels at offices in the city.

Employees are becoming increasingly unhappy about a growing workload to compensate for the reductions in staff and can no longer accept the present situation.

Overall, the response to the strike has been good among CPSA members with offices being severely hit. The response among members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, who represent the higher grades, has been patchy, with SCPS members generally ignoring picket lines manned by

CPSA members.

Their actions clearly show the lack of leadership from the SCPS top brass, who have refused to grant even basic strike pay to any SCPS member who comes out in support of their fellow workers.

The talks, to be headed by the DHSS Midlands Regional Controller, are due to commence on Thursday 18 July and are seen as a significant step in favour of the union. Prior to the talks management agreed not to offer any further overtime or employ new casual staff.

By Greg Bates, Tony Church and Olwyn Davies
(CPSA DHSS Leicester)

Ford founder in Leamington

FORD'S FOUNDRY in Leamington is to sack 260 men and women—a quarter of the workforce—by 1987. It is a massive blow to Leamington as Ford is the town's second largest employer.

Union leaders' forecast on Thursday that only a fraction of the losses would be met by early retirement and voluntary redundancy.

It was only last year that the motor company claimed the future of the Leamington works looked secure for at least ten years.

Ford now says it has

decided to stop production of heavy truck axles and the parts will be brought from abroad.

The plant management broke the news to employees on Wednesday night and the result was that about 1,000 workers held meetings throughout the factory to discuss the redundancies.

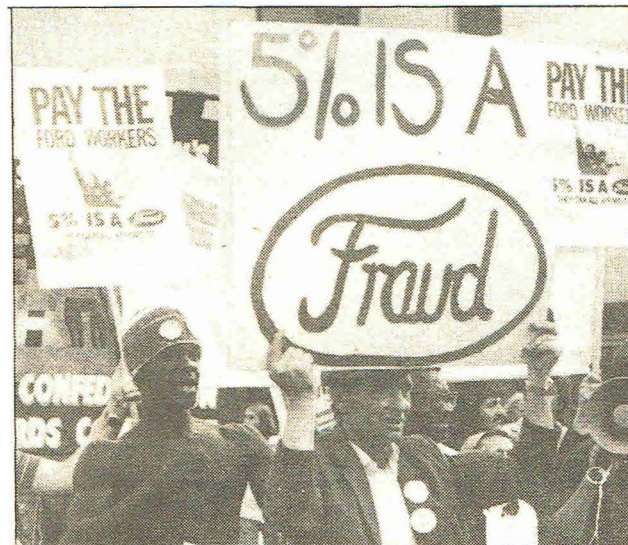
Obviously it was planned that this latest spate of job losses would start in the Coventry fortnight (holiday) when it is assumed that there will be less resistance from the workforce.

This is a double blow to

the people in Coventry and Warwickshire as Dunlop Aerospace also announced 86 redundancies which bring the total of job losses in the past three weeks to more than 900.

They include 350 at Talbot's Stoke plant in Coventry, 111 at GEC Telecommunications in Coventry, 60 at Bluebells in Wolston and 80 at Glynwed in Leamington.

By Sherry Long
(Warwick and Leamington LPYS)



600 to save at Monopumps

BATTLE LINES have been drawn at Monopumps in Audenshaw, Manchester, where the 600 strong workforce face 150 redundancies.

Mass meetings of AUEW and APEX have voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action if management refuse to back down.

Management seek to 'reduce overheads' at the workers expense, and to introduce 'greater flexibility' on the shop floor. This would mean greater exploitation for those who do not lose their jobs, with one man working three machines, and shift changes.

Monopumps has already cut its workforce by about a third since 1978, the firm is owned by Gallaghers, which in turned is owned by Brands an American multinational owned by just 121 share holders.

An external conference of full-time trade union officials and management representatives is now due to be held. If management fail to retreat, then postal ballots on industrial action will be organised.

By John Hunt

Parity with Scotland Yard

THIRTY-FIVE NALGO members in the Fingerprint Bureau of West Yorkshire Police went on indefinite strike on 4 July in protest at the refusal of the police management and personnel to negotiate on a re-grading claim that was put in over two years ago.

A unanimous vote was followed by a solid strike which lasted for five days and led to a complete cave-in by management.

The members have now achieved parity with the staff at Scotland Yard, and have opened the door for other police civilians to improve their conditions and pay through similar action. It is possible that the entire pay structure for police civilians up and down the country could now be challenged.

"Management expected the strike to crumble", said Paul Holmes, Chair of the NALGO Staff Side negotiators: "In three

months, management wouldn't even write us a letter, now after five days on strike, the members have got everything that they wanted."

The strike was originally due to have been a one-day strike but was called off when the management, in panic, offered a meeting on that day. At that meeting, it was clear that management were just stalling which only served to give members more determination to carry the strike through.

Kevin Osborne, Shop Steward, said: "Nobody goes on strike without thinking about it long and hard, especially when your boss is a policeman, but we have seen how effective it is now".

By Bill Reed
(West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council NALGO in a personal capacity)

Road replaces sea!

THE GOVERNMENT'S Welsh Office is considering whether or not to give a £13 million grant which would allow the Belfast-based coal shipping firm, Cawoods, to transfer its operation from Swansea docks to Ellesmere Port in Cheshire.

Coal would then be transported overland from South Wales, initially by rail and later by road to Ellesmere Port.

At the present time 350,000 tonnes of anthracite is shipped out to Northern Ireland each year from Swansea. But this is expected to increase to 600,000 tonnes next year.

The effect of the transfer would be devastating and could lead to closure. As well as my members' jobs, hundreds of other dockworkers would be laid off.

At least 100 lorries a day would be needed to replace the four coal ships a week which work from

Swansea. I firmly believe the Tories will attempt to push this through as a reward to the scab haulage firms for their 'services rendered' during the miners' strike, irrespective of the consequences on jobs, the environment and damage to our roads, which such a move will cause.

Why ruin our roads like they've ruined the section of the M4 between Port Talbot and Llanwern during the miners' strike, when we have sea lanes on our doorstep.

This threatened transfer will be fought all the way but it again highlights the need for a socialist Labour government to introduce a proper integrated transport system where all our jobs would be secure.

By Joe Barlowe
(National Union of Seamen, full-time official, West Wales)

Teachers prepare hot autumn

AS THE summer term draws to a close, teachers in England and Wales are already preparing for a resumption of industrial action on a greater scale in September.

By Paul Gerrard
(Executive, Salford NUT, personal capacity)

Sanctions imposed by the two genuine teacher unions, the NUT and the NAS/UWT have been observed in the overwhelming majority of schools.

Two national ballots of the NUT showed over three-quarters to be in

support. The NUT's ballots for three-day strike action have also met an excellent response.

The provocative attitude of Sir Keith Joseph has fuelled teachers' anger—one school in Tory Southport voted 12-0 against striking and then totally reversed their decision after seeing one of the Mad Monk's harangues on TV!

In areas like Sefton and Bury which have been called out week after week, enthusiasm for the action has grown.

Thousands of union members have been drawn into activity for the first time—leafletting, petitioning, lobbying, marching—and political questions have now been raised.

Unfortunately, only about ten

per cent of the two unions' membership have been involved in action.

In the case of the NAS/UWT, strikes by individual teachers for an hour at a time are effective, but don't allow the understanding or morale of teachers to be raised at rallies and meetings.

Those areas and schools where there has been no action are left feeling frustrated.

This must be remedied in September. There is every indication that the NUT will, belatedly, call a one-day national strike then. This should be coupled with all-out strike action in specified areas. The government must be left in no doubt about the strength of teachers' feelings.

The latest "improved" offer is worthless without a guarantee of government funding—the Local Education Authorities have no money to pay, or would incur further overspending penalties if they did.

Offer unacceptable

Despite the "sweetener" of £480 for the lowest paid and the ultimate merging of Scale One and Two, acceptance of the three-stage deal would mean a total abandonment of the £1,200 claim and any hope of a return to Houghton salary levels.

It is also tied to a totally unacceptable deterioration in our conditions, particularly the use of

assessment to determine the pay of individual teachers.

The Tories entered this dispute crowing about their "defeat" of the miners—now they look rattled and anything but invincible.

There has been a massive erosion of Tory support among teachers. Even before the dispute, surveys indicated that this formerly conservative group were more likely to vote Labour than anything else—now you have to scour the staffroom to find a Tory!

★ For a one-day national strike and unlimited action in specified areas.

★ For the £1,200 claim and restructuring.

★ For NUT affiliation to the Labour Party.

Telecom pay campaign

THE RECENT letter to branches from the Wages and Allowance Committee of the National Communications Union suggesting that all NCU branch committees prepare a statement for individual members to sign in support of the pay claim, for eventual presentation to our employer, says more about the writer than was intended.

Annual conference in June overwhelmingly carried the following policy, submitted by the NEC:

- rejection of the offer.
- continuing negotiations for a satisfactory settlement.
- prepare for industrial action.

From our experience the membership are prepared to take industrial action—provided the leadership is serious in offering a programme of industrial action which the members have confidence in.

By mid-July our NEC should have prepared a programme of industrial action and should be about to call mass meetings of the membership to help win the claim.

It shows lack of confidence in the democratic process and in the membership if at this stage our leaders consider that to show support for our claim

we have to individually sign a 'petition'.

If the NEC have doubts—in spite of overwhelming support at annual conference—then the calling of mass meetings on a national scale will relieve them.

The least we must expect is that our leaders get up off their knees and show some fight before the employer ignores them and attempts to deal with the members directly over their heads.

By Phil Lloyd
(NCU, Swansea branch, personal capacity)

cerned with saving money than providing a safe system of travel.

These cutbacks must be attacked by the membership of the NUR. Mass meetings must be called by maintenance men all over the country.

The NUR must launch a national campaign to inform the travelling public how the Tories are forcing down safety standards.

By Tommy Flint
(Secretary, Wirral NUR)

Rail safety threat

BRITISH RAIL in the Wirral have reduced safety patrols—where railmen walk the track to check for safety—to only once a fortnight, and in some cases to once a month.

In 1983 patrolling was cut from three times a week to once a week. Now it has been cut once again.

Management are saying this will not lead to redundancies at the present time. It is more likely that redun-

dancies will come in 1986 when there will be a review programme.

This is not just a local experience. It is part of a 'Serpell by the back door'.

It will affect the safety of the railway. There have been a spate of accidents in the last two years. In Warrington one oil train came off the rails and exploded just 200 yards from a mobile home site.

British Rail are more con-

Seven hundred Plessey jobs

720 JOBS are to go in the threatened closure of the Plessey plant in Huyton, Merseyside, despite Plessey making £164 million profit last year.

Lesley Sweeney, a Plessey shop steward spoke to members of Liverpool Labour Party Women's Council:

"We are not just fighting for our jobs on the Huyton site but for jobs for our children in the future. There is £40 million worth of orders in there and it's not coming out.

"System X work is going to be carried out in Leyland, Chorley and Manchester and Chorley work sent to Edge Lane.

"Management didn't think we would fight. They have been sending out documents saying how much we would get in redundancy money.

"Workers sometimes think 'I'll have a few bob', but then a few weeks later haven't got a penny. We want money every week in a pay packet.



"We have got a 24-hour picket together at the weekends. On Saturday we were 13 hours in the rain. We know management are going to send in a few big lorries to take equipment, but someone has superglued all the locks, the safe and

stock information. Today all the stewards were threatened with the sack.

"Knowsley council have given us £10,000 to fight. Liverpool City Council are having a mass meeting. We have always taken action here if we thought something was wrong.

"Some officials don't always seem to want to fight, but we are getting leaflets out, we are going to workplaces.

"Our main threat is scab lorries. But if they get past the chains on the gates, they have still to get out.

"Even if we get jailed we are not bothered because someone else will take our place on the picket. We are sending a delegation to Parliament. Our MP Sean Hughes asked for just a small delegation—so we're sending down 290.

"We have had support from the unemployed on the picket line. Management are sleeping in the site but if we have to stay awake then so should they—even to the tune of bagpipes!"

Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)



Dover docks ferry clerks

FRIEGHT CLERKS working for European Ferries at Dover Eastern Docks came out on strike on Friday over working hours.

At the mass meeting on Monday morning, called by APEX, clerks for the administration section agreed to come out immediately in support.

The National Union of Seamen and TGWU members at the docks have agreed not to cross picket lines with the result that

no ferries belonging to Townsend Thoresen are sailing.

Managerial staff have been drafted in from Tonbridge Wells and as far away as Zeebrugge to guide buses in the harbour area.

By Dover Labour Party Young Socialist members

Educating Glamorgan's Labour Council

THE BEST result for Labour in the whole of Britain in the May elections came in South Glamorgan. One of the main planks of the party manifesto was the policy of no compulsory redundancies, which the Labour-controlled authority had upheld between 1981 and 1985.

By Andrew Price
(NATFHE South Glamorgan Liaison Committee)

National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) members in South Glamorgan were therefore horrified to hear, on 9 July, that the county council intended to proceed with ten compulsory redundancies among teachers at the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education.

Horror turned to seething anger when the full story emerged.

Labour councillors had been discussing these policies with education officials for a month without informing the college lecturers' union. Clearly, Labour councillors believed that delaying an-

nouncements until colleges were breaking up would defuse trade union action.

The Labour councillors had, however, grossly miscalculated. Our members at the South Glamorgan Institute went on strike. On Tuesday 10 July over 150 took part in a lobby of the education committee.

To their shame the Labour councillors, to the obvious delight of the Tories, recommended that the ten redundancies take place.

On Thursday 19 July a similar number of council workers lobbied South Glamorgan Labour Party's monthly meeting. To their credit the officers allowed any council worker who was a party member the right to attend and speak at the meeting.

An emergency resolution upholding the policy of no compulsory redundancies was passed overwhelmingly (with a number of Labour councillors abstaining).

Within 24 hours council leader Bob Morgan announced that the redundancy notices were to be withdrawn.

Shoe union

WORKERS AT Haddon and Castle, a shoe components firm in Leicester have been sacked for demanding union recognition.

The company broke off discussions with the Transport and General Workers Union and locked them out on June 17.

Take home pay is between £50 and £60 per week. Shop Steward George Grant explained: "The company made a net profit of £171,000 last year even after the directors got big wage rises. But they are pleading poverty and have refused to have a union under any circumstances".

The workers are continuing to picket twice a day and have had good support from the local labour movement, including visits to the picket lines by local CPSA strikers.

This hasn't been matched by local union officials, who, George Grant said, contacting is: "like trying to get hold of the Scarlet Pimpernel".

Please send donations to: Haddon and Costello Strike Fund, c/o Leicester Unemployed Workers Centre, 138 Charles Street, Leicester.

By Steve Score
(Leicester West Labour Party)

Militant

Gas workers under attack

See page 13

East London Asians face terror attacks

JUST A week after four defendants in the Newham 7 trial were found guilty of the "crime" of defending their community, four members of an Asian family have been killed in a horrific arson attack on their home in Ilford.

Although the police are treating the deaths of Mrs Sharima Kassam and her sons Zahir, Rahim and Alim as murder, they are already claiming that the fire did not have the "hallmarks" of a racist attack. Their reason is that there was nothing left behind to indicate a racial motive, yet a nearby shop has been covered with swastikas and British National party graffiti.

Four years ago a similar attack took place in Walthamstow with equally

tragic consequences. The police denied initially that there had been a racist motive for the attack on the Khan family but were later forced to concede that, in fact, it had been such an attack.

Fascist presence

The Asian community and the labour movement will be asking why, considering the clear evidence of a fascist presence in the area, this possibility is not being taken more seriously. The police are now putting forward the theory that it is a case of mistaken identity, as neighbours have said that to their knowledge, Mr Kassam did not have any enemies. The police's actions raise the question of whether it has become national police policy to dismiss suspicions of racialism when attacks are made on members of the

black and Asian communities.

Unmesh Desai, head of the Newham Monitoring Project has called it the "Logical culmination" of a whole series of attacks that have taken place in East London. Over the past five years there have been 1,200 racist attacks and only at the beginning of this month a family in Tower Hamlets had petrol poured through their letter box and ignited. Fortunately, that time no one was killed.

If the police are unwilling or unable to defend workers then the working class must defend itself. The message from the anti-racism conference on 28 July (see article on Newham 7 for details) has to be that black and white workers must unite to smash the fascists!

By Charlie Brown



Five of the Newham Seven at the demonstration in their support on April 27.

Photo: Dave Sinclair

(From page one)

bona fide members of the committee. Tony Wedlake's position was not discussed because he was on holiday.

This unprecedented attack on an elected representative of the party follows expulsions and other disciplinary action throughout Wales.

Ray Powell himself has been involved in expulsion threats in Ogmore. Last year he failed to attend a single executive meeting and is clearly now using his executive position to extend his witch-hunting activities.

George Wright is acting against the decision of his own union's recent conference which stated its "total opposition to bans, proscription and witch-hunts within our ranks against any officer or member because of their connection with organisations or factions with which we happen to

disagree".

Chris Peace told *Militant*: "A campaign against what amounts to my expulsion from the Executive Committee will be taken to the rank and file, who are already expressing great hostility to the decision. My own ward party has unanimously passed a resolution condemning the decision.

"Witch-hunts can only split the party, play into the hands of the Tories and make it very difficult for the Labour Party to win the next general election. The right-wing are laying the ground for civil war inside the party in Wales and they will be to blame for the consequences".

Send letters of protest to Anita Gale, Wales Labour Party, Transport House, 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff. Copies to Chris Peace, 21, Manor Street, Heath, Cardiff.

Newham seven trial

THE TRIAL of the "Newham Seven" finished last week with four of the seven Asian defendants being found guilty of causing an affray. The charge of conspiracy, levelled at one of the defendants, was thrown out by the jury.

Whilst Parvais, Zafir Khan, Mohammed Hanif and Bahadur Khan may receive community service orders, three white racists convicted of assault were fined a mere £100.

The four Asian youths are to appeal. The trial and the campaign built up around it (which will continue to assist the 95 people arrested in connection with the case) has many important implications

for Britain's black communities and for the labour movement.

The police tried to portray this incident as simply a, "gang war," by putting the racists and the Seven in the same dock. This was not a gang war. It was a case of black youths defending themselves and their community against racist attackers.

Communities

The police do not protect these communities. According to the case files of the Newham Monitoring Project, an organisation set up to collate information on racial attacks and police harassment, the police are more likely to look for a reason to arrest the victims

of attacks. This is what happened to the Newham Seven.

The labour movement must clearly come out against racism, racial attacks and police harassment and give full support to those defending themselves against racial violence.

Many of these attacks are organised and carried out by fascist groups like the National Front and the British National Party whose sole purpose is to whip up racial division and smash the organisations of the working class.

The task of defending black communities cannot be left to a handful of brave black youth.

We must organise to ensure that the labour movement fights alongside the black communities to defeat the racists and fascists. Several anti-fascist organisations have organised a conference in London on 28 July to build a network of organisations to oppose the

NF and BNP wherever they mobilise (delegations should contact PO Box 273, Romford Road, London E7).

Tasks ahead

A major task of such an organisation will have to be propaganda aimed at rank and file trade unionists, and particularly at white working class youth, to explain the dangers of racism and fascism and why they should support such a campaign.

The verdict in the Newham Seven case is not a total defeat but neither is it a victory. It is a warning to black communities and the labour movement alike to build unity to oppose racism, racial attacks and police harassment. "United we Stand, Divided we fall".

By Mark Avis (Newham NE LPYS)



BECOME A
Militant
SUPPORTER!

Send to 3/13, Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.

Name
Address

SUBSCRIBE!

BRITAIN & IRELAND	EUROPE (by air)	REST OF WORLD (by air)
13 issues . . . £5.00		
26 issues . . . £10.00	26 issues . . . £11.00	26 issues . . . £16.00
52 issues . . . £20.00	52 issues . . . £22.00	52 issues . . . £32.00

Name
Address

Make cheques payable to *Militant*, and return to the Circulation Department, *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.

Donate

I would like to donate £ . . . p each week /month to the fighting fund.

Sell

I would like to sell _____ papers per week (minimum 5) on a sale or return basis.