HELP US TO GIVE A LEAD!

Our special appeal for more on our monthly fund, to give us extra to cover our activities in support of the IL strikers and to help the Leyland Action Committee, has so far brought in £237 from London, £100 from Coventry — and zero from everywhere else.

So we still need a lot more money, very quickly. All the figures show that London and Coventry are just as hard hit by the slump as elsewhere: they’re no longer boom cities. So other local groups will have to be able to match what these areas have done.

Send money to Socialist Organiser [hand appeal], 28 Middle Lane, London N8, with cheques payable to Socialist Organiser.

Pickets block Snipe’s ploy

by Paul Middle

"THE only way these people managed to get in was by the police’s use of brute force. Make no mistake about that,"

So commented Dennis Barry, organiser at Laurence Scotts in Manchester, addressing a mass picket outside the factory on Monday 26th to prevent management from getting in.

The stewards at S.E. called for the picket after Arthur Snipe, owner of the factory, had circulated a letter among all 810 former employees inviting them to a meeting at the factory on the 26th. Snipe’s intention was to return £30 from the original £60 in order to keep the factory.

His plans were obvious. No resolutions or stewards would be among the 150 taken back.

In the event, only one former employee turned up, to be greeted by a picket of 300-400. As management tried to enter the building, the pickets moved forward. The police waded in, and there were some scuffles.

One picket was arrested.

The success of the picket was a victory for the Scotts workers, but no doubt management will try new tactics to end the dispute in the near future. Physical, moral and financial support is still needed.

There is pressure on Snipe from the Admiralty, to whom he has a five-year commitment.

More important, perhaps, ALW leaders John Boyd and Terry Duffy are well aware that the ACW Final Appeals Court is likely to rule that the dispute should be made official again. They may well have put pressure on Snipe in order to give their claim more chance and to keep a lot of people at Scotts think.

And what about the Final Appeal Court? The case originally came up on Monday 12th, but when the ACW went against the ALW, the judge adjourned the FAC to Thursday 15th.

The decision of the 11-person FAC was taken in closed session, and since that time no-one at Scotts has heard anything. They can’t reach any of the FAC members, and Duffy appears to have lost any interest in the matter concerning the case.

The ALW, however, continue to show admirable support for ILW, and if the FAC’s vital they continue to do so now that the strikers seem to have not only Boyd and Duffy on the run, but Arthur Snipe as well.

Socialist Organiser, November 14th, page 2.
A silent sell-out?

by Ian McLeish

CONVENORS from every subsidiary of British Shipbuilders reaffirmed shipyard resolutions in a demonstration in Glasgow on Saturday to support the occupation of Blyth shipyard at a Combine meeting on 24th October. The CSEU leadership made no such statement. The Shop stewards committee at Robb Caledon are disillusioned by their "silent treatment," they are preparing to negotiate with British Shipbuilders and the CSEU.

All they know about the yard being closed is "Restored Maritime is what they have read in the papers and union officials didn't bother to tell us," one said. "Every last settlement elsewhere has been cancelled."

They have guessed that it's because "the bosses want to get rid of us" before accepting ACAS.

They expect to be overruled if the position of accepting the move to Kirkwall. The only way that will accept it through, is if the whole workforce is guaranteed jobs.

"INSULTING," was how Yorkshire miners' president Arthur Scargill described the National Coal Board's offer of only a 3 per cent rise for miners in November.

This meagre offer was the National Union of Mineworkers' claim for a 25 per cent increase in basic pay to give surface workers the lowest-paid a basic minimum of 1.06 per week.

Further discussions between the NUM Executive and the NCB were adjourned on the November 11. NUM President, Joe Gormley, quietly to report to the House of Lords, and he said, "the new offer was made and to stop action for their mutual benefit." Scargill added that the strike would be in its majority.

Gormley's right. The offer is an insult. The workers are in a tight position and the situation reaches a dangerous level and changes elsewhere.

Save the NUM. Support and donations to: Robert Jones, c/o Finance Committee, Robb Caledon Shipbuild- ing Co., First Harbour, Dundee, Cheques payable to the Finance Committee.

LONDON BOMBSING TURN ANGER AGAINST TOPS

by Martin Thomas

Most British people will be alarmed by the bombs in Oxford St, on Monday.

Warnings were given by the bomb squad, but the planning of the attack has been such that any mistake — or any lapse of good will by the police — could lead to the death of innocent civilians. The Chelsea bombing, predictable and presumably consciously, has been designed to strike terror.

The Republicans, exasperated at the absence of progress towards Ireland, apparently do not care to push this thing. Socialists committed to changing society through the tactics of the class, British and Irish, working class fought by British workers at the danger of a massacre of civilians, people on British streets.

The reason why working-class groups would fight a British invasion is because the rise of the working class in Britain, while the British and Irish struggle for freedom, should be emphasized.

The terrible violence meted out by ordained by British soldiers and the RUC seldom reaches the masses of the population across the country. TheCombine meets Saturday in Glasgow. Near all police operations Labours in a few hours. - Main - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Red) - (Read more)
YOU came here to listen and learn!" A US news reporter asked President Reagan at the Caracas summit to explain what he meant by "the free world". The US President smiled and replied: "I have no idea."

Reagan relies on the 'free market' to deal with poverty — about the same answer that the British ruling class gave to the Irish potato famine nearly 150 years ago, but on a much larger scale.

800 million people in the world are undernourished. In India and in parts of Africa where life expectancy is in the 30s or 40s. The 10 poorest countries have a population, about 8 billion a year on average. On the other hand, the richest 1% of the world are about 500 million people.

But many of them were transformed into economic backyards of the rich capitalist countries — with workers exploited to the single crop or mineral, not to the needs of the people.

Essentially since World War 2, most of the former colonies have won political independence — often after long, terrible struggles — and some times economic independence.

But they still depend on the rich capitalist countries — dependent on their market, technology, and their finance. In recent years, debt payments to the banks and debt service to the rich capitalist countries have become a more and more crushing burden for many developing countries.

The few fragments of aid doled out by the rich capitalist countries are often very small. The basic mechanism of capitalism works so that the rich become richer and the poor become poorer.

A real workers' government in a country like Britain would undertake a massive programme of aid in collaboration with the governments of the poor countries, helping them to join in joint economic projects.

Rehabilitation in the poor countries is also necessary to end the poverty and starvation. Many of them have rich superfluous and mass unemployment and a serious depression.

The great popular revolutions in China and Cuba — despite the bureaucratic form of the regimes resulting from them — have already managed to seriously develop their economies and deal with the poverty in those countries.

A real workers' revolution in the poor countries could mobilise their resources, redistribute their wealth, and begin to deal with poverty.

Lessons of Croydon

LABOUR'S VOTE in Croydon North West was barely half of the 1979 General Election figure. The Tories, the same Labour 'neutral' 1983, who had a 52% total turnout, those shifts gave Liberal-SLP candidate William Pitt a sizeable poll. This was a long way off proving that the Liberal-SLP alliance is the new dominating force of British politics, or even that it is solid and durable. The broad-based social and mass unemployment and the workers, trade unions of the working class Croydon is just the sort of area where it should do well, and especially in a by-election. Internationally, SDP-style new parties have often done well for a few months or a few years. But certainly the Liberal-SLP team could do well in the next general election to lose the old Labour — perhaps even to win a place in a new government.

Prosser case goes to court

Prosser case goes to court

THREE prison warders were today found not guilty of murdering a prisoner, despite two witnesses testifying that they had seen the warders beat the prisoner to death.

Barry Prosser was found dead on the floor of his cell at HMP Northallerton after a fight with another prisoner on November 16, 1980. His injuries included a broken jaw and a number of bruises.

The prosecution said he had been hit with a canteen, his head had been rammed into a radiator, and his mouth had been bitten.

Suspicion immediately fell on senior prison officer Melvin Jackow. He was the only person on the premises at the time Barry Prosser's cell.

The prison officers' story was the same as the start from Prosser, they claimed.

Prosser was beaten and found dead on the floor. The warders were found not guilty.

We've all said we want a new society, a new world. But the society and the world we live in is a joke. It's a place where we have to work hard just to survive. It's a place where we have to struggle just to get by. It's a place where we have to fight just to stay alive. It's a place where we have to be careful just to keep our heads above water.

We're all caught up in a system that's designed to make us work hard, to make us struggle, to make us fight. It's a system that's designed to make us feel like we're not good enough, that we're not worthy, that we're not important.

But we can change that. We can fight against this system. We can make a better world. We can make a world where we don't have to work hard, where we don't have to struggle, where we don't have to fight. We can make a world where we all have the chance to live, to love, to enjoy life.

Left-wing Youth get organised

THE FOUNDING conference of the National Left Wing Youth Movement of the LYPs will be held in London on November 21st.

This conference will thrash out our party document, expanding our organisation, and laying the foundations for our future work. There will be a dinner at the Carstairs Club on November 20th.

The conference will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday 21st November, 1983
- Thursday 22nd November, 1983
- Friday 23rd November, 1983

For more information, contact the National Left Wing Youth Movement.

For a small sum, you can also join our campaign to replace the Financial Times with a Socialist Times. We need your help to defeat the FT and its conservative policies. Please join our campaign and support socialist journalism. Together we can make a difference. Order our campaign leaflet today.

New issue of New Left, paper of the Youth Left Movement.
Chinese Stalinites play the American card

China has proposed a 9-point peace plan to re-

China’s ambassador to the United Nations, Chin

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Turn anti-apartheid struggle towards direct links

by Jim Farnham

In Britain. The international capitalist class and the state are most active in implementing the above line of action. To achieve this, they are dependent on the support of their allies who are active in combating the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. This has to be done, and it is the responsibility of all the people in South Africa to work towards this goal.

We must use the strength of our people’s anti-apartheid struggle and the support of the international community to create a situation in which the South African regime will be forced to change its ways and implement the demands of the people of South Africa.
**Women in struggle**

**Sexual harassment - now a trade union issue**

One union, NALGO, has started to declare sexual harassment 'a trade union issue'. Jo Thwaites reports.

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**Unemployed women hold conference**

by Jo Thwaites

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**What price maternity rights?**

by Ann Evans

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**The last Labour government's Employment Protection Act contained provisions for maternity rights which many saw as a small step forward for sexual equality. But now, with the Conservatives in power, women are being encouraged to work without these safeguards.**

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**Surreal world of women in work**

This is a world where women can be sexual objects for the enjoyment of men, and where the law is meant to protect them against such abuse. But the reality is that many women are still struggling to make ends meet in this world, and are forced to work long hours in low-paying jobs. The situation is made worse by the fact that many women are still expected to take care of the home and children, leaving them with little time to work for themselves. This is particularly true for women who are unemployed or on low incomes. They are forced to work long hours in menial jobs, often in poor conditions, and are paid very little for their work. This is a problem that needs to be addressed, and action needs to be taken to ensure that women are treated fairly and equally in the workplace. The struggle for women's rights continues, and we must all work together to ensure that women are given the respect and recognition they deserve.
"The feeling in the plants is absolutely solid. Quick determination in the best way to sum it up. There's no sign of weakness and no second thoughts after the mass meeting vote." BL retail manager tells Socialist Organiser this week.

After years of betrayal and defeat, the day of reckoning seems to have arrived. BL workers find themselves at the forefront of the fight against the Teatas and their four point plan. The confrontation over the annual wage claim (the workers demanding £10, the company offering £3.95), has been turned by Edwards himself into a battle for the right to strike and for the survival of trade unionism in BL.

Edwards, emboldened by four years of beating down governing union officials with his arrest Letter, announced that any plant striking or "resisting from working" by a strike will be "closed", and all those on strike will be sacked. In the face of this blackmail, BL workers voted overwhelmingly for an all-out strike from November 1st. Indeed, a sense that the sacking threat strengthened the position of the workers in many plants.

"If we can't strike over our annual wage review, then when are we sacking?" was the question of the 5,000 BL auto workers asked themselves when they received the threatening letters from Edwards' henchman Ray Harriman.

BL workers are ready to strike. And their eyes are open - they know that they could be sacked and they know that taking on Edwards means taking on the Thatcher government.

They know this, and they are ready to face the consequences. The union officials involved - especially the right wing leaders of the AUEW - also understand what is at stake at BL. For them, it is a matter of a militant confrontation with Edwards and Teatas terrify them. They know that a victory for the BL workers would be a threat to them almost as much as it would to the Teatas bosses and the government.

That's why AUEW chief negotiator Ken Carr has been desperately searching for any compromise going over the last few days. BL workers are in behind smaller moves by Roy Hattersley and others to see Edwards in the hope of avoiding the "catastrophe" of an all-out strike.

Cosmetic

But the room for manoeuvre is very limited - in fact, virtually non-existent. Edwards won't touch a penny more on the table. All he has negotiated is taking £3.75 off the bonus payments and sticking it onto the basic rate. Cune knows he can't sell this cosmetic con-trick to the workforces.

So it looks as though, despite the best efforts of Roy Hattersley and Ken Carr, the BL strike will go ahead on November 1st.

If Edwards wins, then the very right of BL workers will be put at risk in Britain. Employers everywhere will be encouraged to sack strikers at will, just as a matter of victimeisation followed the Derek Robinson sacking in 1979.

Let's leave the bonus scheme right out of it. We want the same money on the table as before. If we don't put the basic rate right now, along the lines of the full claim, stop Edwards' dictatorship, and put some strength back behind the unions - if we don't do it now, when will we do it? We have a moral duty to defend new models in the major plants, and the official support of the unions.

It is crucial that allay workers in this industries, their components, and their workers' spiral into despair. The only answer, for them, lies in standing out in tens of thousands of workers from the capitalists and the capitalist states, and introducing ABIL. We will give the example, in AMIL, of how people can come together to take action against the capitalists and control their own work.
Organising to win!

THE WALKOUT of the BL manual workforce at Cowley and Longbridge will bring car production throughout the country to a standstill. But this should not blind strikers to the necessity to organize their forces to give their campaign maximum impact.

The following are the steps to elect its own strike committee, drawing in the most determined fighters against a matched management offensive. And the call should go out for a national co-ordinating committee, composed of delegates from the strike committees to direct the strike.

Support committees should be set up, drawing in representatives from local labour movement bodies.

AILIES Immediate approaches should be made to other sections of workers in each area who are engaged in their own pay review or facing the government’s four per cent pay limit.

BL strikers should attempt in particular to address meetings of local authority manual workers, urging them to take action on their pay claim due for settlement in November, and also address the BL workers against the Thatch- er government.

Miners, too, whose pay review dates in November 1, should be urged to join the fight against the four per cent limit.

Other sections of car-workers can also be important allies in the fight. Vauxhall workers have already been offered a miserably four per cent, while Ford management have yet to reply to the union’s claim. BL strikers must campaign hard for united action of car-workers against the four per cent — pointing out that a defeat for any one section will herald new attacks throughout the industry.

In the same way BL pickets and delegations should fan out to cover BL’s huge network of component suppliers and contractors, spelling out to the work-force there the need to defeat Edwards and Thatcher if jobs in the engineering industry are to be further buttressed.

Meanwhile, at a more routine level, the strike will place great financial strain on the strikers and their families. Money must be collected far and wide in the labour movement to run the dispute, finance the necessary publicity and support the struggle as long as necessary.

Trade Unions and Lab- our Parties must be called on to organize fund-raising activities, support meet- ings, and publicity for the strike.

LAST YEAR’S 13-week national steel strike ended with a 16 per cent wage rise and to further widespread redundancies and productivity deals. It was a sell-out by the leadership of the steel unions, but a defeat for the workers.

The sell-out formula was reached by a ‘committee of inquiry’ of a national holiday by the unions and a further 45% available in local produc- ing agreement negotiations — instead for the first four months.

From the first day — the date set by the TGWU — to the last day — it was a completely political strike against the Thatcher government, the direct employer of the steel workers.

It was a struggle desperately provoked by Thatcher, and in fact before the Tories returned to power in May 1979.

The Tory plan was drafted by Nicholas Ridley, a right winger even by Thatcher’s standards.

Targeted

He proposed picking off and defeating several significant sections of the working class as an example for the rest. Two sections he named were steel and miners.

They fitted the bill because, he said, they were both large, basic organs of the working-class movement, both also chronically affected by the general decline of British capitalism and both workers close to the Thatcher in driving large sec- tions of the basis industry to the wall.

But having targeted the steel workers for special treatment, the Tories were then struck down by the response to management’s initial 2 per cent offer.

The National Union of Steelworkers, under a determined and well-organized campaign, drove the company to the wall in two mass meetings at which the company was forced to restore the 2%.

The workers had organized in the first place in the belief that the strike was the workers’ strike for the survival of the industry. They had refused to accept that the 2% was in the company’s interests, that it would save the steel workers and the nation from another crisis and a new massive round of redundancies.

Based on this solid mass of people who were determined to defend the industry, and the determined stand of the workers, the union leaders, from SIU to the ISTU, were locked out, the strike went on for two weeks, and the whole of the BC6 was out.

The workers were not only determined to win, they were determined to defeat the whole of the management and the revolt of the workers against the Thatcher government, which presented the steelworkers with their biggest problem — profitability.

The whole steel industry was to the company, was the workers’ strike, and the revolts of the workers against the Thatcher government, which presented the steelworkers with their biggest problem — profitability.

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What happened last time round?

by John Lister

The proposal to accept the 6.8% was then referred to mass meeting. There was strong resistance in many plants - but in some factories right-wing con-

vectors secured a vote for acceptance.

All finally hinged on the Longbridge vote. Convener Jack Adams, a Communist Party member, had opposed a strike. He voted down on this by his own stewards' committee - but still got up to argue against action.

A close vote on a show of hands was hardly declared by Adams 'carried' for acceptance of the 6.8%.

Once again the BL work-

force had been held down by the river by its leaders.

Many of these last leaders are busy at work in the final few days before this round of elections, seeking to dig out of the hole that represents a fractal challenge to both Edwardes and the Trafal-

gar government.

The costs of past betray-

als for BL workers have been huge in lost jobs, liv-

ing standards and working conditions. But the lesson of these betrayals must now be learned with urgency by BL workers and the coming struggle will show that lesson is that a major leadership must be built in every plant, ready to act with the CGT for the interests of the working class.

IN THE winter of 1973-4 the miners had the Tory government by the throat.

Heath's whole week had failed to crack their resolve. But the whole working class was rallying to their support: the govern-
ment stood on the brink of defeat.

Who was to find a way to isolate TUC from other leaders - and the week's action, a direct intensification of class struggle, a clear call to workers in all other trades.

JOHN LISTER

Gormley moves to isolate strikers

The TUC National Coal Board on the miners' pay review - also due for settlement on Nov-
ember 1 - Gormley al-

owed the whole proceed-
ings to be adjourned until November 14.

Gormley left workers in no doubt that this was a deliberate move to leave the RL strikers isolated. The forthcoming struggle was 'definitely one factor' in his decision, he admitted. Such are the TUC bosses against whom the RL strikers must contend.

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Once again the BL work-

force had been held down by the river by its leaders.

Many of these last leaders are busy at work in the final few days before this round of elections, seeking to dig out of the hole that represents a fractal challenge to both Edwardes and the Trafal-

gar government.

The costs of past betray-

als for BL workers have been huge in lost jobs, liv-

ing standards and working conditions. But the lesson of these betrayals must now be learned with urgency by BL workers and the coming struggle will show that lesson is that a major leadership must be built in every plant, ready to act with the CGT for the interests of the working class.

JOHN LISTER

longbridge

convener jack

The Longbridge call to RL workers was in support of the 'Edwards plan', and the ConHyS campaign actively to support of Ed-

wards. They called for a 'yes' vote in a postal ballot of the workforce.

BETRAYAL

TGWU leaflets calling for a 'no' vote were not distributed until after the ballot - which produced an unremarkable seven-to-one vote to back the plan. The pay review deadline re-

mained for the RL Convener Com-

mittee to take its case from the TGWU. But a meeting of 300 convener members was called for Monday, and - after eight hours of strike notice was given. Five hours later a strike vote was taken.

Challenges

But in, once again, came the General Secretaries. Disregarding the vote on the shopfloor they went straight into private sessions with Edwards. They came back to their own workers to accept the offer.

Defined

Nothing was further from the thought of the union negotiators. In February they met - and decided to accept the offer, or not to strike at all. Their view was that the strike again might not be able to help out.

In talks with the Nation-

al Coal Board on the miners' pay review - also due for settlement on Nov-
ember 1 - Gormley al-

owed the whole proceed-
ings to be adjourned until November 14.

Gormley left workers in no doubt that this was a deliberate move to leave the RL strikers isolated. The forthcoming struggle was 'definitely one factor' in his decision, he admitted. Such are the TUC bosses against whom the RL strikers must contend.

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BL Women Must Play Leading Role

Follow example of steel strike:

Help us make our circulation JUMP!

Take a bundle of SO to sell!

SUBSCRIBE!

Leyland ACTION

What you can do:

JOIN THE LAC!

If you are a BL worker, why not join the Leyland Action Committee, which is actively campaigning for many of the policies set out here?

Contact: LAC, 194 Dawlish Road, Sally Oak, Birmingham 29.
In the light of recent de-
flections of Labour (I won't call them 'socialist' because they probably don't even know the meaning of the word) MPs and council-
ers to the SDP, I would like to say something.

Now I'm only a simple middle-class MP, and unadorned belief in true socialism, society is life to me; I'm not sure what social democracy is, but what the bloody hell is going on? One of our simple beliefs is that the day of a local or general election we vote for the party we believe in. But this is not so. No, suddenly it's all changed.

The truth of the matter has been vividly exposed to us, the poor underserv-
voters, by the ship-
ments of defectors coun-
cillers and MPs who have been walking off to the new par-
ises. It is a fact that the Social Democratic and Labour party has been made up of thousands of people over the years, who have been elected to represent their constituencies.

The campaign letters you get through your door – Vote Labour! – are a good example. If you vote for a party member, you then vote for a party, not for an individual.

I don't know what has to be done to change it, but I know it must be changed. There are hundreds of thousands of Labour voters who have been sold out by yellow, dream-chasing defectors to the SDP.

MARK McCall,
Brentford, W12.

SIRs' and Duffy's trip to South Africa has been now been cancelled. This information is that the FOSATU unions are very upset about the visit and have been sending reports of racist deportation.

However, these incidents have nothing to do with the case personally, until I came across the case of Shirley Grouping.

I have been given per-

DEPORTATION THREAT

The FOSATU unions have been very perturbed about the FOSATU unions and the International Metal Workers' Federation in South Africa. They have been apprised of the fact that the government has been planning deportations. Either the white-dominated unions have not volunteered or, if they have, they have not been allowed to get around.

"Could it be because of her marriage, or because she didn't come to Europe?"

Shirley's husband was already married, and he hadn't told her. When Shirley came to England, she employed solicitors to legally send her marriage. She was sure it was not her fault that her first husband was a liar.

'In August, 1973, after a short trip abroad, Shirley was, without warn-

SUPPORT BLACK UNIONS

The General International Conference of the International Chechny has been convened; six of the member countries have been invited to attend.

One of the main issues is the question of the black workers' rights in South Africa. The black workers have been facing an uphill battle in their fight for justice and equality. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has been actively involved in the struggle, and has played a significant role in promoting the rights of black workers. However, the black workers continue to face discrimination and exploitation in the workplace. It is essential that the international community continues to support the struggle of the black workers in South Africa.
Labour Party

Time to seek support from the wider movement

Should a new activist alliance of the Labour Left be developed after the Brighton conference? If so, how would it be constituted, and has it had setbacks, take a defensive stance?

Annett Pettifor continues the debate in the context of Socialist Organiser, with a reply to Vladimir Derer.

VLADIMIR Derer's article in Socialist Organiser (No. 67) provides a realistic and necessary assessment of the extent to which the Left, and the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy in particular, are run by the Left, this year's Annual Conference.

It is absolutely right to dispel any political illusions or 'emotional comfort' that may have been drawn from Dennis Healey's narrow win, and to draw attention to the way in which right-wing trade unionists and parliamentarians are gaining power. In many areas of the party to extend their control over its constitution and executive committees.

However, Vladimir's assessment is biased and inaccurate in several ways. First, he believes that a consensus will be reached and that the framework we know and understand, will be conserved by the party, as constitution and procedures -- and the elections that are conducted outside of this narrow base.

Which brings me to the second accepted argument behind Vladimir's article. Namely, that a campaign outside of the normal Parliamentary and trade union procedures has been seen as divisive, and therefore it is divisive.

To get around this by fully integrating the campaign with the normal procedures is the way forward. It is the way which will make our representative procedures more responsive and accountable, in a democratic movement where the influence over policy is seen to be, and indeed is, divisive.

But an attitude widespread throughout the Left is that the right in the party, namely that we do not have the framework to work outside of this base.

In my view, this argument is not valid. It is not valid because it is not valid.

Directly

Without disputing the fundamental application of the mandatory referendum, it is possible to argue that the referendum must not be used to resolve difficult matters that must be resolved.

Directly, without an immediate political or personal decision, the subjects of our support are nuclear disarmament, withdrawal from Euro-ope, and an alternative economic and social programme.

After the Brighton conference, the Left needs to reach out beyond the conference rooms in any view, to court defeat both for our policies and for our constitutional reforms.

Storage

The most striking outcome of the depression in storage, like the Federal Labour Party, is that the Left's policies, values and goals are moving away from the centre of political life.

For the Left to achieve similar support for its constitutional reforms, the following must be true:

(a) The NEC has failed to implement the conference's proposals for changes in the NEC's structure, and that its failure to do so will still be seen as a sign of opposition.

(b) The party's leadership will be seen as being divided.

(c) The party's policies will be seen as being divided.

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SCOTS WOMEN CALL FOR DEMO

The Scottish Labour Party Women's section, meeting on 17th October, called on all local supporters to join the Labour Party and the Scottish TUC to support the demonstration for a woman's right to work.

The resolution came from Edinburgh Central CLP women's section.

On many other issues, too, the conference showed a lot more vitality than the last such conference held in 1974, with only half a dozen resolutions submitted, and the regional women's organisation (now a member of the SLP) not even bothering to turn up.

 Despite appeals from the platform to the result, the conference passed (with one vote against) a motion from Hillhead CLP calling for an annual conference, a commitment to trade union, and an urgent consideration of the appointment of a full-time women's organiser.

Withdrawal
A motion on Northern Ireland condemning bi-partisanship (but calling only for a non-sectarian police force, which would "toughen up"
the police) was carried by a large majority. The conference voted against this resolution, not because of its content, but because the delegates felt that the time was not ripe for such a move.

Practice
The follow-up to the conference is very important for the movement itself — which passed many good resolutions without indicating how they would be put into practice.

The Labour Campaign for Gay Rights (LCGR) has arranged two conferences for the labour movement on the Labour Party’s discussion of the movement. The conference will take place on 12th October at the Queen Margaret Union, Glasgow University, starting at 15.30.

Victimisation
The conference agreed to support the Scottish Homosexual Rights Group (SHRG) and to use all its resources to support the victims of police harassment.

Dusty
The Scottish TUC has arranged a conference on sexual harassment for October 15th.

The Scottish Labour Party Women's section has agreed to send a delegation to the SLP conference on 10th November.

Reformulation

GET ORGANISED!

Where we stand

Socialist Organiser Alliance

To make Socialist Organiser a real campaigning paper that can organise the left in the movement, it needs its own organisational support — and money.

The above demands are the backbone of our new campaign. Money raised by the Socialist Organiser Alliance will help build up the paper’s resources.

Organisation

Organise the left to beat back the Tories’ attack on union rights; defend workers’ rights; defend the unemployed; defend the defence movement.

Organise the TUC member forces to defeat the Tories’ attack on trade union rights; defend workers’ rights; defend the defence movement.

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Organising the unemployed

TUC ‘REGARDS UNEMPLOYMENT AS AN EMBARRASSMENT’

An unemployed conference on Merseyside on October 19 brought together some diverse experiences, Chris Erosewicz reports.

GROUPS represented at the conference were the TGWU, the National Union of Construction Workers, the TGWU’s National Amalgamation of the Building Industry, the National Union of Railwaymen, the National Union of Public Employees, the National Association of Civil Servants, the Transport and General Workers’ Union, the National Union of Public Employees, and the Transport and General Workers’ Union.

In addition, many community and welfare organizations were present. About 100meat the conference was held in all, including local Labour MP Max Ehrlich. The conference was a full house by a merit in about two months.

Bobby Owens – an unemployed ex-Triumph Spokes worker and chairman of the TUC’s branch in the region – lead the opening session with a brief overview of the TUC’s work on unemployment in Liverpool.

Owens stressed that it is necessary for unemployed workers to join the TUC and campaign in the workplace for the rights and needs of the unemployed – not accepting the status quo of official unemployment figures.

From the TUC’s branch in Liverpool, I reported that the group had discussed the TUC’s role in the management of unemployment. We felt the TUC had no mandate from anyone unilaterally to impose the status quo, and there had been no consultation whatever with the unemployed.

The TUC also lays down the lines of management, committees must be 50% local authority representatives, 25% TUC representatives, plus a 25% local government worker.

The TUC branch group had decided that it must be a majority of unemployed on the management committees. Funds will be accepted from the government’s Metropolitan Services Commission (on which the TUC is represented) and the local government will be subject to the call for a national conference of the TUC to discuss these terms or not.

In the west, a group of local Labour MPs has been established to pursue the issue of unemployment in the local community.

The TUC branch in Liverpool has been established to pursue the issue of unemployment in the local community.

Talents

A glaring omission from the TUC’s report was any perspective on job creation at the conference. The TUC’s report was a call to action for unemployed people to show themselves to be active in the search for public workers out of local inquiries into the needs of the district.

It is an issue from the Truro centre that some centres have been holding seminars to equip unemployed people with the skills necessary to compete for work.

In this case, the TUC’s policy on training and job creation is not being followed by the local Labour party in the area – at first they refused to put the TUC’s policy into action.

In the report, however, the TUC indicated that it was willing to work with the local Labour party to ensure that unemployed people have the opportunity to compete for work.

The TUC also has a role to play in the creation of new jobs, particularly in the areas of local government and education. The TUC is working with local authorities to ensure that the unemployed have access to training and education opportunities.

Evasive

From the TUC’s branch in Liverpool, a number of local unemployed groups were represented. The TUC branch group is working closely with the local Labour party to ensure that unemployed people have the opportunity to compete for work.

The TUC branch group is also working with local authorities to ensure that the unemployed have access to training and education opportunities.

Strong

In the west, the Polish economy has grown rapidly between 1960 and 1970. Industrial production rose by 70% with engineering output increased by 90%. Industry expanded its production of goods, increasing industrial production by more than 80%.

A powerful working class in Poland is demonstrating its determination to fight for the socialist economy and its workers are prepared to fight for the socialist state.

To succeed, the Polish workers must be prepared to fight for their rights and interests.

In conclusion, the TUC branch group is working closely with the local Labour party to ensure that unemployed people have the opportunity to compete for work.

The TUC branch group is also working with local authorities to ensure that the unemployed have access to training and education opportunities.

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Organising the unemployed... conference offers national focus

The rapid rise in unemployment and the consequent damage for the problems of the unemployed from the leaders of the Labour movement have brought many new organisations into the picture, and some more of the unemployed organisations.

In some areas union branches have taken the task of retaining and entering new members; elsewhere, new, autonomous 'unemployed workers' unions' or claimant organisations — often appealing most directly to those with little or no history of trade union organisation.

In other areas nothing has been done to direct, organise, or to hope to the army of unemployed — leaving work and youth to try to follow the propaganda of the parties and factions.

There is a great need to provide a national focus for the unemployed, and to provide real means of support and an opportunity for unemployed people in struggle against the common enemy — the Tory government.

This weekend's Unemployed Workers' Conference of London is one of many precisely such a lead. Following on from a successful conference in Leicester this summer, the new London office is now launching a national conference to establish a network of local groups, unemployed workers' union branches, and claimant organisations that can affiliate to it and which will step up the fight to organise the unemployed right across the country.

For the unemployed, young and old alike, it is important to offer a serious programme of action to resolve their problems.

In other words it is necessary to spell out a commitment to fighting for the creation of three million new jobs to offer every unemployed worker and woman the right to work.

Jobs Experience under both Labour and Tory governments and the present economic plight of British industry have proved that it is impossible to create these jobs under capitalism. As long as the system remains intact, workers face an indefinite future of mass unemployment.

Only action to take the ownership and control of industry and the hands of the banks of the capitalist speculators and capitalists can create conditions for the necessary crash programme of useful public works to confront the crisis in housing, social services and education at the same time as providing jobs for the unemployed.

The Tory programme will do no such thing. To tackle unemployment means to tackle the neo-Thatcherite policies, to change the system, and to establish not only the mobilisation of the whole labour movement.

The national unemployed conference meets next weekend — October 31/November 1 — at Goldsmiths College, New Cross, London. JOHN LISTER discusses the movement's perspectives.

Make unions fight!

Chris Erwist reports on the trade union branch which is campaigning to organise the TGWU 6/121 branch in Liverpool.

WHEN the R.J. Spoke factory closed down in 1978, the TGWU 6/121 branch became busy. Some 120 workers were on the books, and the branch and union were active, with other branches in the same position: Dudley, Walsall and now Courtaulds.

This has not been an easy business, with the national and national unions in a bureaucratic struggle to close the branch at a time when, for all the TGWU's talk of modernisation, there has been no overall commitment to employing more.

Refusing to be bound by the acracy, the activists in the branch have been able to encourage the regional leadership challenge the existing complacency on the TGWU's role in the closed shop. The branch has now decided to support the TGWU 6/121 branch in Liverpool.

Pressure

When the TGWU's national chairman, Stan Penman, came to the local trade group coordinating committee to give his support for the TGWU 6/121 branch, he declared: "When you are going to set up an unemployed branch in every town, he replied with some irony.

In other unions, like the ISTC, there have been similar developments. For example, the branch covering the closed Shotton steelworks has stayed in existence as an unemployed branch. There must be many other branches that have come into existence, but they are not always a part of the union's strategy.

Perhaps a similar union activity might be possible in these circumstances, but there are many obstacles to overcome, particularly in the closed shop, where overseas employers do not have the opportunity to set up new branches.

Among the cuts in public expenditure being pushed by President Reagan is a small item: Social Security benefits will be reduced.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration may be cut by $500 million, and the space station may be delayed. In addition, the budget of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare may be reduced by $3 billion.

Scientists say that the cuts will have a significant impact on the future of space research in the United States.

Space research is a potential source of jobs and income, and a key to finding new ways to deal with the problems of pollution and resource depletion.

Space research is also important for national defence, and for the development of space-based technologies.

In recent years, space research has been a major contributor to the US economy, providing jobs and income for tens of thousands of people.

But in recent years, space research has been in decline, and many scientists fear that cuts could lead to a loss of jobs and income for workers in the field.

The cuts in public expenditure are part of a broader trend towards reduced funding for public services and social programmes.

This trend is likely to continue, as governments seek to reduce their spending in order to balance their budgets.

In the US, for example, the budget of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is set to be reduced by $3 billion, and the budget of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is set to be reduced by $500 million.

These cuts are likely to have a significant impact on the future of space research in the United States, and on the ability of the US to compete with other countries in this field.

The cuts are also likely to have a negative impact on the economy, as space research is a key driver of innovation and growth.

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These cuts are likely to have a significant impact on the future of space research in the United States, and on the ability of the US to compete with other countries in this field.

The cuts are also likely to have a negative impact on the economy, as space research is a key driver of innovation and growth.

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Europe's youth demands: SCRAP THESE WEAPONS!

MICHAEL Foot was greeted enthusiastically, but there was a mood of frustration for trade union militant Mike Marsh, who denounces Labour's pro-NATO split, as a spokesperson, Byrom John.

The Labour Party conference was considering the issue for unilateral disarmament, but still, it's a shadow cabinet that continues to work against this line.

Target
Few issues bring home so clearly the need to fight for accountability in the Labour Party and trade unions.

Over a quarter of a million people marched through London on October 24 to demand that Britain junk its nuclear weapons. As in the late 50s, CND has managed to mobilize many thousands of people new to politics.

The London march was paralleled by several giant demonstrations in Europe. About a quarter of a million marched in Germany, the principal target of German feeding the US nuclear weapons in Italy.

In Brussels, 200,000 took to the streets. It was Belgium's biggest demonstration ever, with four per cent of the country's population participating. In Paris, 50,000 demonstrated, and there were several other marches in the suburbs.

Overthrowing
In Bonn a fortnight ago, the biggest demonstration in West Germany since World War II mobilised 300,000, protesting primarily in Bonn, Cologne, and Pforzheimer mass protests.

The reverberations of that massive protest were clear up to the moment a week later of NATO's nuclear weapons. It worried they expressed at the demonstration in Brussels, that the movement completely disproves the claims of the empty rhetoric, that the march expresses no one's wish to keep nuclear weapons.

Hoovers must occupy!

by Ian McLeish

DESpite shop stewards' attempts to prevent the factory being attacked, the fight against the Fascist regime is already out on the streets already.

"They have to be able to be leading the fightback. There is no doubt that the union would endorse that. Exactly how we will fight the factory will depend on discussions locally," said a union official.

The CSMBU workers, who have been on strike for over a week, are demanding that the factory be returned to their control.

Support
"We were surprised that the government's plans to sell the factory to a British company," said a worker. "We are not opposed to the factory, but we want to ensure that the workers will be able to continue to work there."

That sort of trade union involvement must be developed to win the fight against the Bomb - by disposing of the capitalist warmongers.

ST MARY'S W9
Wards under threat

DEFEATd by the ambulances' action in their plans to close down Casualty, management at St Mary's Hospital, London W9, are using dirty tricks to try to empty Ward 2.

Large sections of the hospital are already demanding, and these wards are due to be the first to go.

No new patients are being allowed in, and the management plans to put patients now in Ward 3 into Ward 1 after they have been in the operating theatre.

This is already a situation with the doctors and nurses working in a very difficult atmosphere, but they have to be able to be leading the fightback. There is no doubt that the union would endorse that. Exactly how we will fight the factory will depend on discussions locally."

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By Dettie Clinton

good of the patients as their very own consideration and are reluctant to play management at their own game. However, they know that only action against every cut has maintained this hospital.

Doctors must speak out and not follow the dictates of the cutters. Nurses and porters working in unison will have to defy these directives.

The ambulance drivers decided they would bring patients to St Mary's casu-

ally whatever the admin-

strators said, and forced them to back down on their instructions not to bring in ambulances. This sort of determined action is the only language they understand.

The doctors, too, have refused to be intimidated and are supporting ambulance drivers. The workers have the support of the ambulance workers, and have been able to organise the fightback now.

If, as CSMBU workers believe, doctors want to move the bulk of their work away from the factory, then how can we get the doctors to come back to the factory and to be in the operating theatre.

The nurses and sister on Ward 2 are very upset about this decision of the cutters. Staff are forced to choose between taking the patients back to Ward 2, or letting it be run down.

To cover up this abuse of patient's rights, the administrators have offered more money to staff, including agency nurses in Ward 1.

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