



# EDITORIAL

## Pressure politics

LAST week brought what for many Timex workers was a baffling sequence of events. It began with them confident that their dispute was fully and energetically backed by the AUEW leadership, and praising the stand taken by its General Secretary Gavin Laird.

It ended with them having to vote down a squalid sell-out deal cooked up by Laird with the employers — offering the occupiers 13 weeks of 1 day per week working, clearing out the machinery from the doomed watch-making plant!

Wouldn't it be easier if union leaders were consistent — the right wing always openly opposed to strikes, the left wing always in favour?

This does not happen — because the nature of the full-time trade union bureaucracy itself. It is an intermediate layer — a grouping of power-brokers, whose position of influence and privilege rests on the one hand on the organised working class, but on the other brings them under the day-to-day pressure of the employers.

However much the right wing may appear to agree with every detail of the employers' arguments, they are not employers, opposed in every instance to strikes. They cannot completely ignore the rank and file. Rather, like steam locomotive drivers, they must have regard to the pressures that give them power — and, where necessary, vent excess steam to prevent an explosion of uncontrollable rank and file anger.

The extreme right wing can call strikes. Steel union chief Bill Sirs called the biggest all-out strike against the Tories; Terry Duffy called strikes for the 39 hour week; the shipbuilding unions have now even called for sit-ins to oppose the latest sackings.

Conversely, the 'left' wing does not always give the expected call for action. NUPE's 'left' talking leadership refused to act on an all-out strike resolution during last year's NHS pay fight; and Arthur Scargill, having collapsed during February's jobs fight, is now devising schemes to avoid a national strike call.

What is almost invariably true is that having called action, the right wing officials do little or nothing to achieve it (shipbuilding), and, once workers are out, do nothing to build, extend and strengthen the action.

What union bureaucrats fear above all is the emergence of a rank and file leadership that has any serious political and organisational independence. So they seek to dominate or stifle strike committees and control the spread of publicity. Left speeches are ten a penny; but only under a massive pressure will most officials do anything to spread a dispute, fight for real solidarity strikes or boycott action, or even arrange adequate finance for long disputes.

But the most dangerous time of all is when the rank and file appear to be getting things their own way, and have grasped the employer by the short hairs: it is always at this point that the bosses' pressure is most acute on the officials to turn about and knife the struggle they have supported. So many bitter experiences in BL, the NHS pay fight, the ASLEF strike, Timex show the unending ability of union leaders to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

This is no reason or recipe for despair: the strength has always been with the rank and file, the weakness in the conservatism, careerism and class collaboration of the leadership, which ruthlessly exploits every chink in the armour of the membership.

Place not your faith in full time officials — whether right wing or left wing; Labour loyalist or Communist Party Stalinist.

Work with us instead towards the building of an alternative kind of leadership: a principled, revolutionary leadership, dedicated first and last to the interests of the working class and the struggle to overthrow the power of the employers.

We will need such a leadership whoever wins the election.

# DEFEND THE NEWHAM 8!

The Newham 8 — Asian youths aged between 15 and 21 — face charges of conspiracy as well as threatening behaviour and actual bodily harm.

They were arrested on September 24 1982 after an incident with plain-clothes police officers. In the previous week there had been three major racist attacks on Asian schoolchildren at Little Ilford School, in Newham, and an incident where 60 or 70 white youth with iron bars and sticks went on the rampage in East Ham and Manor Park.

Send invitations for speakers, or resolutions of support, to Newham 8 Defence Campaign, c/o PO Box 273, London E7 9JN.



## Shipyards jobs fight

# We should be occupying already

OF THE 9,000 redundancies now threatening shipyard workers throughout Britain, nearly one third are due to be implemented in shipyards on the Clyde: 2,150 at Scott Lithgow alone, and 600 in the yards on the Upper Clyde.

The union's Shipbuilding Negotiating Committee (SNC) have called for a sit-in of every yard in the country unless the threat of all redundancies is lifted. But how serious are the union leaders about their apparently militant stance? And what are the problems involved in mounting an effective sit-in of the yards?

Such questions are posed particularly sharply for union militants at Scott Lithgow, since these yards are threatened with the lion's share of the redundancies.

S.O. spoke to Joe O'Rourke, a union activist at Scott Lithgow, about such problems.

SO: So you think the union leaders are going to launch a serious fight this time against the job losses?

JO'R: No. There's devious thinking behind their call for a sit-in. In fact, they'd settle for 9,000 voluntary redundancies. Or if the number of redundancies was cut to 5 or 6,000, they'd call it a victory. There's not a snowball's chance in hell of them actually leading official action.

Their first trick is to call a sit-

in in the expectation it won't take place. Before meeting management, the SNC got a blank cheque from the membership to support whatever they decided. They were never subject to any mandate!

Then the SNC decided to call for a sit-in. But there had never been any discussion with the members beforehand. That call is now being put to mass meetings in the yards for endorsement. It'll get the endorsement all right, but if it's anything like the mass meeting here, it'll just be a blind vote, with no discussion again.

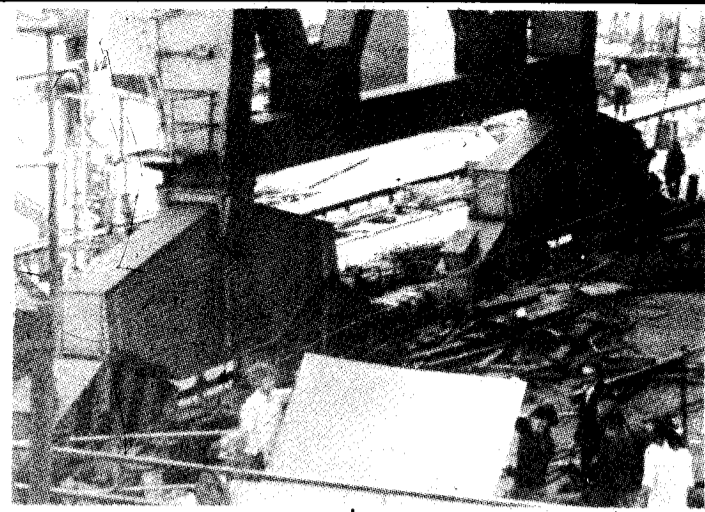
The SNC probably reckon that yards like Yarrow, Vickers, and the yards in Sunderland won't occupy. A national sit-in won't be possible. And then the SNC will turn round and blame the members.

Even at Scott Lithgow, I don't like talking of leadership, but there's a distinct lack of fighting leadership. Some of the stewards were even prepared to testify against Pat Clarke (a victimised shop steward) at his tribunal.

Duncan McNeil (convenor at the yards) is rumoured to have said that any sit-in should start not with the announcement of the date of the redundancies, but when the first workers go out the gate.

McNeil's attitude is summed up in his expression, 'at other yards they build Minis, but here we build Rolls Royces.'

All the strikes we've ever had in this country have always



suffered from being isolated. The only partial exception is the miners' strike of 1974. We need more than a national fight, we need an international fight. But what did we do for the Polish workers? We just sent them a telegram.

We have fallen down in supporting other workers in struggle. So how can we expect support from them now it's our turn?

Going to the community is OK. But an all-Party alliance, involving Tories and the Liberals is a waste of time, though it's the Communist Party's favourite line.

The local Labour councillors will all be ready to come down and have their photos taken standing outside the sit-in. But what they should do is put a freeze on paying rents, with no arrears to be paid after the end of the sit-in.

People are waiting for something to happen, instead of making something happen. They're sitting back, letting British Shipbuilders pick the time.

Stewards should be getting together and organising action now. We should be occupying already. If one yard occupies, then it can spark off spontaneous opposition. There's a lead, people will say, and they'll follow it.

We should be occupying now, spontaneously, instead of waiting around.

## Albion strikers hold out

SINCE Monday, May 9 1,300 workers at the BL Albion Plant in Scottstown (Glasgow) have been on strike in opposition to management's demand for 146 jobs to be cut from the plant's 1,750-strong workforce (110 shop floor, and 36 office staff).

1,000 jobs had already been axed over the last three years at the Albion plant before the latest threat. The demand for a further cut of 146 jobs came at the end of March; management said there would be compulsory redundancies if not enough 'volunteers' could be found. The unions imposed a ban on overtime and a ban on any work being sub-contracted out of the plant.

At the beginning of May, the management threatened to lay off 60 workers without pay unless the overtime ban was lifted. A mass meeting, held on Friday, May 6, voted overwhelmingly to respond with an all-out strike until the threat of compulsory redundancies was lifted.

Management has responded in the usual fashion, sending out a letter to the entire workforce on the second day claiming that the action meant the danger of further redundancies and was purely 'self-destructive'. The letter — which came from the managing director of BL trucks division — also demanded that a mass meeting be called to decide the future of the strike!

Management has also warned of possible lay offs in other BL plants supplied by the Albion plant — though only three days before the start of the strike, they had claimed that 200 workers there might be laid off at Albion because the plants it supplied were over-stocked.

As yet there has been no official contact by the Albion strikers with workers at other plants, although a meeting of the BL Trucks Division Combine Committee is being held this Saturday (May 14).

In the short term management has clearly been unsuccessful in its efforts to isolate and intimidate the strikers. In the longer term though, only if active support is won from other BL plants can isolation be prevented and a successful defence of jobs achieved.

# Curb Police powers!

by Mick Liggins

OVER 250 people attended a meeting in London last weekend, organised by the Hackney Black Alliance and the Campaign to Curb Police Powers. It was supported by many Labour Movement and Black organisations countrywide, with the purpose of organising a national campaign against the proposed police bill.

If the Tories get re-elected they will see the Police Bill as their main priority, telling the 'wets' who opposed clause 10 of the bill where to get off.

The morning session was billed 'Briefing on the Bill'. Cecil Gutzmore from the Brixton Defence Campaign outlined the racist nature of the Police Bill, and pointed to the link with Northern Ireland and the experience of Irish workers in Britain with the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Trudey De Haney — a G&M full timer and secretary of Nottingham Inter Union Race Relations Group criticised the TUC for doing nothing practical for black workers and showed that in many cases black workers are not given full representation by their shop stewards. On the election she said as a Labour Party member she would be fighting for a Labour government although she didn't have illusions. She would rather be fighting a Labour government than a Tory one.

Speakers from the floor included many black organisations

including the Caribbean Teachers Association and black workers in the Labour Party. One said 'I didn't join the Labour Party to rub shoulders with the MPs, I joined because I believe it is the vehicle for radical change right now.'

Trade Union speakers included the AUEW North London District Convenor who fully backed the conference and Hackney NUT, who have got the police banned from all but 2 schools in the area.

The afternoon session was supposed to be a discussion on how to build the campaign, but inevitably was disorganised because there was a free for all on resolutions. Anyone and everyone could put them forward throughout the afternoon.

From the platform, John Fernandes, sacked from Hendon Police College for leaking essays from cadets that were extremely racist, read out some of the sick contents and asked why these racists remain in the force.

Ernie Robers spoke mainly on the Colin Roach campaign and made some dubious remarks about 'Dixon of Dock Green policing', which provoked comments that it never existed — although his presence and consistent support was very much welcomed.

The afternoon was taken up by resolutions. The main resolution structured the campaign and committed us to the demonstration on May 22.

A resolution was passed calling on the GLC to keep its pledge of funding for the demo. The GLC withdrew the funding when the election was called

without consultation. One militant from the Hackney Black Alliance said that the GLC were using us and that black people will not be told when and when not to march by the GLC.

An important resolution was passed from Hackney Trades Council which called on support from the trade union movement and the writing of a leaflet from the campaign directed at trade unionists.

Overall the conference laid the basis for a mass campaign against increased police powers.

But to do this, SO supporters must play their role too. There were only 2 present at the conference, despite the importance of the issue. Where were the others?

We must put this right by sponsoring the campaign, fighting actively to build it.

The campaign can be sponsored through; Campaign to Curb Police Powers, c/o Hackney Town Hall, Mare St.

Sunday May 22, 1pm: demonstration from Brockwell Park to Hyde Park.  
Saturday June 4: national day of action with pickets of police stations.  
Contact the campaign c/o Room 116, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St., London E8 (01)-986 3123 ext 252.



## Timex interview

# 'We're more determined than ever'

IT'S NOW going on for six weeks since the beginning of the occupation. Are you still finding support for it?

Yes, we're still getting overwhelming support - from the Scottish TUC, or from the AUEW National Committee last week, for example, where John Kydd (the deputy convenor) got a standing ovation, which has only ever happened two or three times before.

(Gavin) Laird and (Ken) Gill have made the dispute official, and Laird has taken a good line publicly, which has been a big boost for morale. We've also been sending speakers round the country.

There is not a union that hasn't pledged support. And in Dundee in particular we're obviously getting a lot of support. Council workers are operating a 50p per week levy, and other Timex factories £1 a week. Many other factories are holding weekly collections.

Workers in occupation have reacted differently when faced with a court injunction to end an occupation. At BL in Bathgate or Bestobell in Glasgow, they vacated the premises, but at Plesseys Bathgate they sat tight. If the Timex management gets an injunction, do you know what will happen then?

No, we will have to look at the situation after the court hearing. But even if we did get cleared out, then we'd keep up picketing on the gates, and nothing would move in or out of the factory.

How many workers are now involved?

It's complicated. Of the original 197 facing compulsory redundancy, 67 have gone for one reason or another, leaving 130. All these 130 have now been dismissed for involvement in the occupation, though obviously we don't accept the dismissals.

Another 200 have been served with dismissal notices, also for supporting the occupation. Management has also declared another 300 redundancies, blaming the occupation, but 200 of these 300 are the 200 who already had the dismissal notices.

There are 348 names mentioned in the legal proceedings to end the occupation. That's about one sixth of the Timex workforce.

Have you managed to maintain links with the French Timex workers?

There's been no contact of late, though we have had messages of support from them. It's a bit dodgy with the EEC inquiry situation.

Stan Crooke spoke to members of the Timex Occupation Committee on Thursday May 12, just before the attempted settlement.

Don't you think that the call for an inquiry into whether the French Timex factory is receiving 'unfair subsidies' in terms of EEC regulations is problematic? Won't it weaken or prevent support from the French workers for the occupation?

The inquiry isn't something we really wanted. It's up to the government to get an inquiry into what another government is doing. The outcome isn't likely to affect our situation anyway.

The important thing about it is that the government has been forced to admit that work will be transferred from here to the French factory, and that management has therefore been lying all along.

What has been done to make it possible for women to get involved in the occupation? There has been a report of a creche being set up.

We've got facilities here for children, and parents bring their children in if they want. We discussed the idea of a creche, but never set one up as such. But there aren't any problems for people bringing their children in.

And we don't operate a hard and fast rota. People cover for each other if something crops up at home for someone. And people with children get the weekends free.

Timex has a large Labour Party branch. Has there been friction between the branch and the shop stewards' committee, or has it been an advantage to have the branch?

There's never been any problem in terms of relations between the branch and the shop stewards' committee, even before the occupation. There is a lot of overlap anyway. About 70% of the shop stewards' committee are Labour Party members.

Because so many of the stewards are involved in the Labour Party, both inside and outside the factory, they are known in the Labour Party and have the contacts. It helps to do away with barriers and formalities when getting support.

The Labour-controlled Dundee City Council has been excellent. They gave us an initial £10,000 towards our expenses, which we are still using. They have also passed a resolution which means that we can have access to council facilities whenever we need them.

How do you see the dispute developing?

There is a determination to win. We've been through a lot, and a few have left, but you have to sympathise since everyone has their own breaking point. What's left now is the hard core. Morale is excellent and we're more determined than ever.

Timex must eventually realise that the occupation is not going to collapse. They have been through pages one to ten of the Michael Edwards Book of Industrial Relations and got nowhere. So there's nothing left for them but to negotiate with us.



During CPSA conference delegates took time off to demonstrate against the Special Claims Control Unit in Hove

PHOTO: JOHN HARRIS

# Timex sell-out plan

FRIDAY the 13th may be lucky for some - but certainly not for the AUEW national officials whose hopes of ditching the Timex sit-in in Dundee came to grief last Friday.

On the two days prior to May 13 there had been negotiations with Timex management in London in an attempt to find a give-and-take compromise solution to the dispute. The union officials were ready to give up, and Timex management was ready to take up the offer of surrender.

The solution involved the reinstatement of 120 workers declared compulsorily redundant, but on the basis of short-time working, one day a week. And if at the

end of 90 days the number of redundancies required by the management had not been achieved by volunteers and natural wastage, then compulsory redundancies would be reintroduced.

Having reached agreement with Timex management on these points, the AUEW officials then looked for the occupation committee's endorsement. But the occupation committee rejected the proposals, and so did the shop stewards' committee.

When the proposals were put to a mass meeting of the 350 workers involved in the sit-in on Monday May 15, there was a clear recommendation to reject. The meeting lasted nearly three hours

but ended with an overwhelming vote against acceptance.

Unfortunately, though, the meeting also voted to end the sit-in if ordered to do so this Wednesday (May 18), when the Court of Session in Edinburgh will hear Timex management's application for an injunction to be served on the workers in occupation.

(The hearing had been due to take place on May 13, but was adjourned in the expectation that the talks with union officials would end the sit-in.)

If the court does grant the injunction, and the sit-in is ended, the workers will continue to fight for jobs by picketing the factory gates (see interview).

Although the end of the sit-in would represent a setback, the fact that the workers refused to accept the union full-timers' plans underlines their continuing determination to prevent any compulsory redundancies.

The labour and trade union movement must respond to that determination by stepping up its support for the Timex workers, and by stepping up pressure on the AUEW full-timers to prevent them having another go at ending the sit-in.

For speakers from the sit-in phone Dundee 450308. Donations to John Kydd, 81 Brownhill Road, Dundee.

# Tough fight ahead of UCW delegates

TWO WEEKS before the Union of Communication Workers (UCW) conference (May 22-27), the EC got a majority of 85,000 to 52,000 for their recommendation to accept an insulting 5 per cent pay rise. But the size of the vote against, and the solidarity action for the NHS dispute last year, show that there is a growing number of UCW members prepared to fight.

Many members are disgusted with the EC's record. Policies passed at previous conferences on wages, on jobs, and on new technology, have been ignored.

Jean Lane, from Coventry Post Office and delegate to previous UCW conferences, reviews the resolution book for Socialist Organiser.

THE agenda pad is now out, with a mass of motions, resolutions and amendments on every subject under the sun - from the cleaning of postal buildings, through new technology, racism, and Greenham Common in Beirut. The size and weight would put Moses to shame.

What is frustrating is that very little of it actually gets discussed at conference. Less than one third of the agenda is got through.

The rank and file members in the branches have little or no

involvement in the whole process. They have seen their standard of living falling and differentials rising, and when they feel strong enough about an issue to come out, repeatedly they have been told by their leaders to get back to work.

The good resolutions certainly need to be passed, but then we need to make sure that they are campaigned for and that the EC carries them out. What are the main issues?

• **New technology:** A number of amendments have been submitted to the EC's report on the use of ECOM, OCR and DUCOM. ECOM and OCR threaten thousands of jobs.

All amendments insist that there should be no agreement, and existing cooperation should be withdrawn, until there has been a substantial cut in hours (currently 43) and a comprehen-

sive new technology agreement reached along the lines adopted at the 1982 conference.

Wage controls will also be a big issue. The EC want support for the TUC/Labour Party 'National Economic Assessment' which they accept means that all incomes must be part of any assessment of what can be achieved. The amendment to reject this new 'social con-trick' must be supported, and also the instruction that UCW delegates should support free collective bargaining at the TUC, unlike last year.

• **Privatisation** will be a major issue at the Main Conference and at the Telecoms Group conference.

Conference should vote, for composite amendment 2B, that the EC should instruct members to take action alongside other BTUC unions.

• **Trade union rationalisation:** Last year conference passed an amendment supporting amalgamation with the other main unions in the Post Office and British Telecom, but separate from management unions. Having been defeated then, the EC are back this year wanting to re-open negotiations with the Communication Managers' Association.

This should be rejected and last year's policy reaffirmed. But it won't mean much unless the UCW starts taking industrial action side by side with the other unions, particularly against the threat of privatisation.

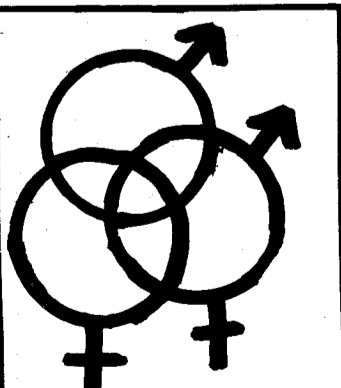
• **Labour Party:** a number of resolutions deplore the witch-hunt, and composite 4A states that "the union should urge the Labour Party to cease such expulsions and reinstate expelled members".



Conference fringe meeting  
Fight for a Labour victory and socialist policies: build Labour Party workplace branches

Speakers: Alan Fraser chair  
Birmingham postal workers LP branch: Billy Hayes chair  
Liverpool postal employees LP branch: Lol Duffy (Socialist Organiser; secretary Cammell Lairds LP workplace branch: shop steward, GMBATU(B)).

Mannin Hotel, The Broadway, Central Promenade, Douglas, Monday May 23, 8pm.



Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, c/o 61A Bloom St, Manchester 1

International news

# Stop Iranian pogrom!

By Harry Sloan



Khomeini

IN ONE of the most cold blooded declarations to be made by one of the most cold bloodedly repressive regimes in the world, the commander of Iran's 'revolutionary guards' has announced the intention of executing leaders of the Tudeh (Communist) Party, and torturing 1,000 of its members, now under arrest.

Mohsen Rozai told reporters in Teheran that the Islamic regime, which has dissolved the Tudeh Party and demanded that its members surrender to the authorities, was 'not in any rush' to deal out death sentences.

After torturing 'confessions' of 'treason' from Tudeh General Secretary Nouredin Kianouri, they were hoping to procure similar declarations from others. The statements he and others have made have 'signed their executions'. The newly arrested Tudeh members, he claimed, 'have only given us one hundredth of the information they could give us,' and will be further interrogated.

Nothing could more clearly confirm that beneath its thin veneer of anti-imperialist rhetoric, Khomeini's Islamic regime has always been in essence a viciously anti-communist movement, ruthless in its repression of the working class and its organisations.

The regime's turn against the Tudeh Party serves a dual purpose. Firstly, it strikes a further blow against any working class resistance to the regime, following on the repression of the left wing forces of the Fedayeen, and of the Mujahedeen.

In addition, by publicly humiliating and crushing the political party identified with the Soviet bureaucracy, extorting 'confessions' that Kianouri and others were spies for the KGB, and expelling 18 Soviet diplomats from the country, the Khomeini regime is declaring its alignment with the Cold Warriors of the imperialist nations, and putting out the welcome mat for American trade delegations.

Reagan will be well pleased with these moves — and with the growth in Iranian support for the Islamic guerrillas seeking to overturn the Soviet-backed regime in Afghanistan.

The main US concern over Khomeini had been that under pressure of the mass movement unleashed in the struggles to oust the Shah he would break completely from the control

of Western imperialism and realign Iran with the Soviet bureaucracy. This worry reached its highest point during the early barrage of anti-imperialist rhetoric, the US embassy occupation, and the conflict over Iranian debt payments.

At no point have the imperialists been at all concerned for the 'human rights' of the Iranian working class or national minorities, which have faced a draconian repression that has intensified under cover of the war effort against Iraq.

Indeed the repressive apparatus of the Shah's regime — the SAVAK Secret Police — remained intact after the Islamic revolution and is now being used by Khomeini to continue the attack on the left.

Now, overjoyed at the Iranian break from Moscow, American businessmen are scampering around Teheran in search of new contracts, US bankers are coining in the cash as Iran settles its debts, and US oil companies have been meeting with Iranian officials to discuss new deals for the future.

Similarly, links are opening up between Iran and the vicious pro-imperialist regimes of Turkey and Pakistan.

But despite the 30,000 political prisoners, the countless

executions, and the repeated evidence of the reactionary character of the Khomeini regime, the Tudeh Party has clung throughout to the notion that it is a 'progressive', 'anti-imperialist' regime — and supported its jailings and executions of left wing oppositionists.

Even now the British Communist Party, opposing the frame-up and murder of its Tudeh 'comrades' limply queries whether or not the regime is reactionary:

'The Iranian Islamic leadership is now in a critical position. Having been in the vanguard of the revolutionary movement which mobilised the whole people to overthrow the Shah and his supporters, they now have to face the testing of their philosophy and policy: will it advance the interests of the people, or mean retreat in face of the contradictions and powerful pressures within Iranian society?'

(Morning Star, May 7)

There is no doubt: the Islamic regime in Iran is a ghastly, grisly regime currently engaged on a pogrom of Communist forces and committed to the destruction of any independent organisations of the working class.

To revive the revolutionary movement that ousted the Shah is to prepare the Iranian workers' movement, the oppressed minorities and the countless women and gay people intimidated by the regime, for a struggle against Khomeini's Islamic republic and for a workers and peasants' government.

In the meantime, however, every trade unionist and socialist should raise resolutions throughout the British labour movement demanding an end to the pogrom against the Tudeh Party, the release of Kianouri and the imprisoned Communists, and full freedom of organisation and expression for organisations of the Iranian working class.

Address: Ambassador Ali Reza Farokhrouz, Iranian Embassy, 27, Princes Gate, London SW7.

## Italy's moderate marxism

THE political platform of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) for the country's June 26 elections makes even the British SDP appear left wing in comparison.

To meet the economic crisis, the PCI proposes:

- increased public sector capital investments
- steps to encourage labour mobility to enable a further 'restructuring' of industry
- a 'rearrangement' of working hours
- measures to help the creation of small and medium-sized companies, 'the backbone of the national economy'.

Thatcher in Britain has attacked Labour's plans as 'Marxist' socialism: how would she cope with a 'Communist' Party whose policies are barely distinguishable from her own?



Assad (right) has blocked the schemes of Schulz (left) and Begin

# Syria puts Schultz shuttle in limbo

THE agreement of the Lebanese government to the latest American 'peace' initiative in the Middle East was no great surprise.

Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel has been courting and courted by the Reagan administration since he took office last year amid the devastation caused by the Israeli invasion.

Desperately searching for the wherewithal to finance the reconstruction of the shattered economy, Gemayel has been unable to secure the kind of cash he had been hoping for from the Arab rulers of Saudi Arabia and the gulf states.

The price of added support from the West, however, has been some kind of compromise deal with the Israeli government which would facilitate a withdrawal of Zionist troops from Lebanon in exchange for 'ironclad' guarantees on the security of Israel's northern border.

The plan which has in fact emerged from George Schultz's nine days of shuttle diplomacy is in many ways tantamount to a treaty between Israel and Lebanon — only the second such bilateral deal between the Zionist state and an Arab regime.

But whereas Egypt's President Sadat went out on a limb and volunteered to participate in the Camp David accords, the Lebanese President was clearly forced into a corner by the situation following the Israeli invasion.

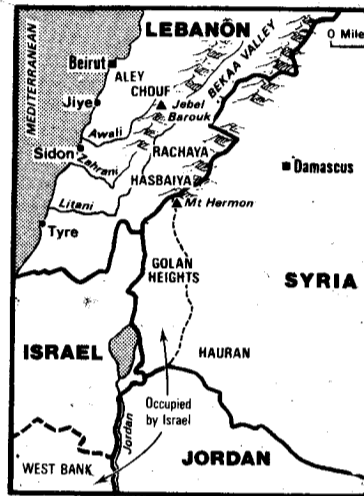
And the Schultz plan itself — including an eight week timetable for an Israeli withdrawal — is likely to remain a dead letter for the foreseeable future, since it depends upon the agreement of the Syrian regime to withdraw its 40,000 troops from Lebanon: and Syria is very much determined to stay put.

The agreement is obviously to the benefit of the Zionists: its published provisions include sanction for joint Israeli/Lebanese military patrols across a 28-mile security zone in Southern Lebanon; and it could be discarded by the Begin government at a moment's notice should they decide it suited them.

More significantly, given the certainty that Syria would reject the agreement, the Israeli acceptance of the Plan gets Prime Minister Begin off the hook with his American backers who had been pressing for an early withdrawal from Lebanon — shifting the heat onto the Syrian regime, while 35,000 Zionist troops stay put.

The Syrian rejection of the Schultz plan was as predictable as the Lebanese acceptance. Since last year's massive Israeli invasion underlined their overwhelming military dominance in the area, the Syrians have feared that they would be left isolated and vulnerable to Zionist military attack and imperialist moves.

The Syrian forces in the North of Lebanon and the



Beka'a Valley serve a combined purpose: they are an advance line of defence against an Israeli attack on Syria; they are a support to forces of the Lebanese left and the PLO (who form a valuable counterweight to Gemayel's Phalangist power); and their presence in the current situation keeps a large Zionist army of occupation bogged down in Lebanon, thus making further moves against Syria more difficult.

### Rejection

Syrian President Assad has been made the more confident in his rejection of Schultz's diplomatic advances by the arrival of vast quantities of Soviet military hardware, including a new missile screen that comprises some of the most up-to-date SAM-6 missiles.

The Soviet bureaucracy, for its part, is doing everything it can to hold on to its alliance with Assad — their last moderately firm foothold in the Middle East. It appears that they are supplying the arms on extended credit, partly in exchange for Syrian civilian contracts and

orders for power stations, rail equipment and airlines.

It also seems that a combination of Moscow and Syrian pressure has produced the sudden recent switch of tone from PLO leader Arafat.

Only a month ago, Arafat was prevented at the very last moment from doing a deal with King Hussein of Jordan which could have given a boost to Reagan's peace plan.

Yet this last weekend saw Arafat turn round completely and make an apparently militant speech, declaring that:

'Effective war on the practical level is the only available means now of recharting the political map through an Arab military movement supporting the Palestinian-Lebanese national struggle.'

To procure a lessening of Syrian resistance — and thus also create conditions for Arafat to revert to the kind of diplomacy he was engaged upon with King Hussein — could prove a costly and difficult venture for the USA.

It would involve breaking Syria's economic and military dependence upon the USSR — and offering guarantees of military protection against the Israelis, along with some hopes that a road of compromise might retrieve the Syrian Golan Heights from Israeli occupation.

Since the USA has shown itself time and again incapable of dictating terms to the Begin government, President Assad is likely to remain convinced that the only defence of Syrian interests against its aggressive neighbour is military defence.

And with the conservative Saudi regime apparently still sitting on the fence, siding with the imperialists on the one hand while bankrolling the Syrians to the tune of \$800m per year, there is no immediate chance of a change in this line-up.

## Support the fight!

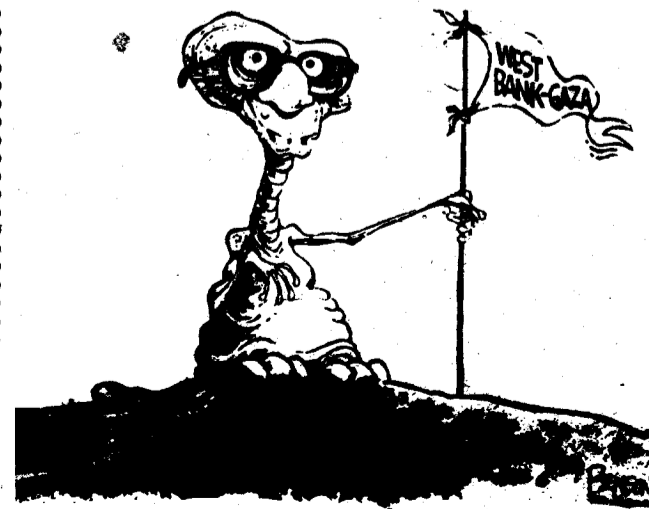
LABOUR Movement Campaign for Palestine — first national conference postponed because of election from May 21 to June 26.

Also, on June 18-19, a weekend school with speakers including Avishai Erlich, Moshe Machover, Nira Yuval Davis, Uri Davis.

Contact: LMCP c/o 28 Carlton Mansions, Holmleigh Road, London N16.



## E.T. The Extra-Territorial



# International news

## Union backing for Salvador fighters

Every Area of the National Union of Mineworkers was represented at the El Salvador Solidarity Conference last Saturday 14th.

There were 338 labour movement delegates altogether, plus 100 observers.

Jenny Pearce (author of the book 'Under the Eagle') and comrade Juan Martinez of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Trade Union Federation told us how landless rural labourers were forced to look for work in the towns, and how those lucky (or unlucky) enough to find work in industrial free trade zones were forced to accept low wages and subjected to persecution if they attempted to organise unions.

Militant unions have been organised since the mid-70s, despite the repression. They now fought around six demands:

- 1 A living wage;
- 2 Decent housing for all;
- 3 Repeal of all anti-working class legislation;
- 4 Release of all political prisoners;
- 5 Reductions in the prices of basic goods;
- 6 A national dialogue between government and oppositionists.

On the question of Nicaraguan and Cuban involvement in El Salvador, Martinez declared 'Revolutions cannot be exported, but great examples have no frontiers'. More revealingly, Jenny Pearce reported that a US State Department official had concluded that the Nicaraguans were giving the FLMN 'no more than peanuts'.

The Conference was undoubtedly a great step forward for the solidarity movement in this country - a turn towards the labour movement and away from middle class pressure group politics.

Politically, however, it was

### By Paul Muddle

El Salvador Solidarity Campaign: c/o 29, Islington Park St., London N1.

**IN Washington, the uneasy combination of 'liberals' and conservative politicians who have held back Reagan's Central American war effort appears to have arrived at a compromise package of military and economic aid to the Savadorean junta.**

**Military aid for this year is fixed at \$76m - \$60m less than Reagan had requested. Otherwise his demands are largely accepted.**

**Meanwhile it has been revealed that yet another US clandestine agency is active in Central America over and above the CIA forces now acknowledged by Washington.**

**The Army Intelligence Support Activity is pushing its nefarious line of work in both Nicaragua and El Salvador.**

dominated by those sectors of the FDR/FLMN who are in favour of a negotiated settlement with the regime. Salvador Moncada, UK representative of the FDR, argued at length for negotiations, and an EISSC declaration, issued at the Conference, includes the follow-



## Murder!

TWO American lawyers who interviewed Guatemalan refugees in Southern Mexico have drawn up a damning report on the bloodstained Guatemalan military regime's slaughter of the Indian population.

Between 70,000-100,000 Indians have fled across the border into Mexico, running the gauntlet of a 'free fire zone' along the border.

Guatemalan troops are murdering Indian men of all ages, women and children. Women are routinely raped before being put to death.

But an American government spokesperson claimed that the refugees - survivors of the bloodletting - are 'not a representative proportion of the population'.

'Although some are not guerilla sympathisers, others might be,' he warned.

The Reagan administration recently re-opened the flow of arms and aid to the Guatemalan regime, whose President Rios Montt is a lynch pin of State Department plans to crush left wing guerilla forces.

## New US sanctions

THE undeclared American war on the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua saw a further front opened up last week as Ronald Reagan announced economic sanctions which will virtually eliminate Nicaraguan sales of sugar to the US market from October.

The cutback amounts to a 90% drop in the current 58,000 ton import quota: the remaining 'shipload' would be allowed in, say officials, to show that trade could expand in the regime kow-tows to American demands.

Reagan claims that Nicaragua is sending extensive aid to the guerilla forces currently striking heavy blows at the puppet regime in El Salvador.

It has been suggested that if this support were halted, and the war in El Salvador settled, then US harassment of Nicaragua might be ended. But every indication is that the Reagan team have set their sights on destabilising the Sandinistas as part of a long-term preservation of the right-wing, slavishly pro-imperialist regimes elsewhere in Central America.

The only hope for defence and development of the Nicaraguan revolution is through its extension across the arbitrary borders of Central America as part of a sustained struggle against imperialist domination and for socialist revolution.

# Socialist Fight appeal

The Australian socialist monthly Socialist Fight is appealing for funds to finance expansion.

**THIS is the 21st issue of Socialist Fight!**

During our period of publication we have built up readership, contributions and debate. We have shown ourselves

willing to work with others of various political opinions on the Left, with the aims of constructive debate and furthering action and demands for the interests of the working class and the oppressed.

The class collaboration of the Economic Summit makes it more obvious than ever that a resolute fighting left is needed in the ALP and the unions.

Now that there are five Labour governments in Australia, Australian workers can expect a halt to declining living standards and social services and rising unemployment.

### Hawke

The struggle for the maintenance of real wages will challenge the prices and incomes policy of the Hawke government. Building workers showed the way with demands for catch up rises and a 36 hour week. These demands must be supported in the labour movement. Other struggles for the defence of social services and public enterprises, begun under Fraser, need to continue and develop. The fight for jobs is desperately important.

If the left of the labour movement does not mobilise to build support for the mounting struggles and to relate these to a programme for socialist change

the capitalist policies of the Hawke government will produce a swing back to the Liberals and demoralisation of the labour movement.

In the context of this urgent need to organise a broad fighting alternative in the labour movement, Socialist Fight aims to broaden out. We aim to publish more frequently, to increase written contributions from a wider range of views, and to devote more space to labour movement issues.

To achieve this Socialist Fight needs your support. Our pages are open for your written contributions. Any help with layout would be welcome.

To pay for our new format we will need an extra \$3,000 this year. As bills come in regularly, our budgeting would be facilitated by promises of regular weekly and fortnightly contributions, arranged by bank order. Lump sums are also, of course, welcome.

Finally, there will be more work in distributing a more frequent paper. If you are prepared to sell on a regular basis, even if just a few in your ALP branch, union or campaign group, we will provide you with the number required.

Contact SF  
Sydney: PO Box 147, Rozelle, 2039; Melbourne: PO Box 1729 GPO, Melbourne 3001.



(Dessin de PLANTU.)

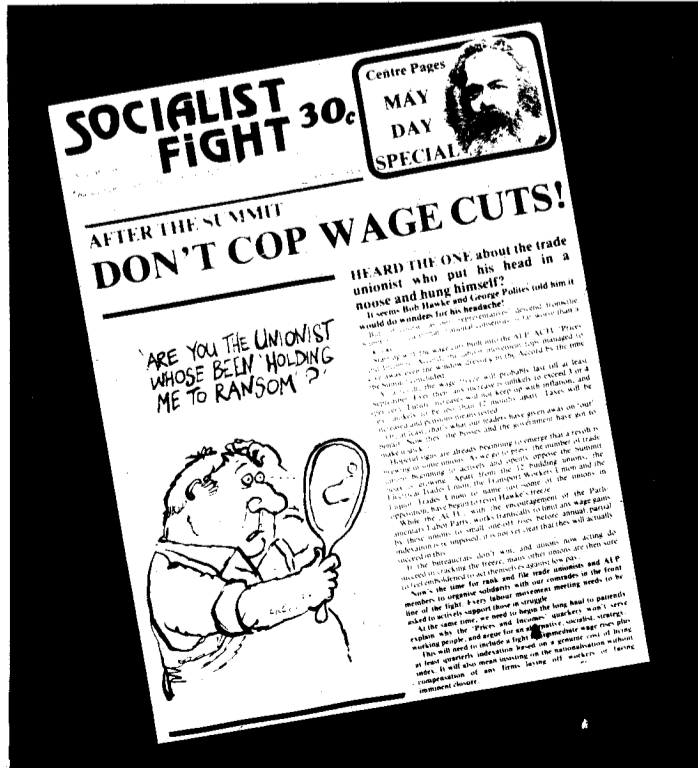
## Chilean junta cracks down

THE Pinochet dictatorship in Chile has cracked down in the wake of a mass demonstration and street-fighting on May 11-12.

In the early hours of the morning on May 14, the police and the army descended on working class areas of the capital, Santiago. 'It was six hours of nightmare,' a witness reported. 'Everything began at 4am. The military came into our houses, woke us up, and made all men aged over 14 go out into the street. We were very afraid because they made us lie on the ground...'

2,000 people were taken in for 'checks', and 200 detained. On May 11-12 itself, when a protest called by the copper miners' union federation was followed by street-fighting and barricades through the night, two people were killed and 550 arrested.

Behind the growing revolt against the dictatorship stands the economic crisis, more abrupt in Chile than almost anywhere else in the world. Unemployment is about 30%, the country is deep in debt, and industrial production went down 22% last year.



# Brent gets that Fulham feeling

BRENT East know how Fulham feel. In the last minute Thatcher invaded the pitch and the National Executive Committee abandoned the game before we could beat Freeson.

The May 12 Brent East Labour Party GMC, wrongly in our opinion, voted to take legal advice with a view to taking the NEC to court. Most dangerous was the view put by some comrades that if Freeson were imposed they would abandon Brent East and only work in marginals.

This would allow the right wing to take over the campaign and improve their presently marginal position in the party.

At present the Freeson clique are organising their election campaign in secret from the party. The party should take the campaign out of their hands and fight it on Brent East policies to build the party and prepare for the next round.

Brent East has stood in the front line against the witch hunt. Its democratic right to reselect its MP has been denied it by the right wing caucus on the NEC including Kinnock and Foot.

Refusing to be intimidated Brent East will go ahead with its reselection process on Wednesday 18th and will again lobby the NEC on Thursday 19 to demand that it recognise our democratically selected candidate.

In the event of Freeson being imposed local Irish groups will probably stand their own candidate. The people allowed into his little anti-party caucus are incapable of fighting the election adequately and it is possible that he could reduce his majority if not lose the seat.

This local microcosm of the defeatist and coalitionist drive of the bureaucracy shows that the fight for a Labour victory, socialist policies and democracy are inseparable. Win or lose the election we are going to be fighting much harder in a much more dangerous environment against the Tories and the bureaucracy.

## Election '83

Peoples march for jobs

SCOTLAND

TGWU

TOP TORY CUTS

### Look what the Tories have done to women:

- ★ When nurseries close, who stays at home looking after the kids?
- ★ When meals on wheels and home helps disappear, who pops round to grandad every day?
- ★ When the geriatric ward closes, who leaves work to look after the old folk?
- ★ Who looks after the handicapped and disabled without a break when local social services support is cut?

Tax cuts of thousands of pounds a week for the rich have been paid for by 'saving' on public spending. Women's jobs as teachers, cleaners, school dinner ladies, hospital workers, clerks and nursery nurses, home helps, social workers, have been done away with.

And with the services gone, women have had to do the caring work, unpaid, at home.

Since the Tory government took its axe to the welfare state, thousands of women have had to give up jobs, state, free time, holidays and social life to devote themselves to caring. That is the reality of the Tories' so-called 'community care'.

### LABOUR WILL:

- Extend employment rights to part-timers and homeworkers.
- Give extra help to one-parent families.
- Improve support for families with children and disabled dependents.
- Make sure that every local authority provides nursery education for all pre-school children whose parents wish it.
- Expand social services for the elderly, the sick and the disabled.
- As a major employer, give a lead for equality at work, in training and promotion.
- Strengthen the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts to close the loopholes. Take action against low pay.
- Increase child benefit and make sure it keeps up with the cost of living. Increase maternity grant and restore maternity leave rights.
- Provide fair treatment for widows; work to establish equal treatment in tax and social security.
- Give more support for victims of rape, and review police and court treatment of women who have suffered rape and violence. Support more refuges for battered women.
- End VAT on sanitary protection; improve ante-natal and maternity services, and respect the wishes of women in childbirth; improve NHS preventive medicine, screening, community and child health services. Improve family planning services and remove barriers to a woman's right to choose whether to have an abortion.

## Use Labour's conference policies!

# Don't hand over to the right wing

'SOCIALISTS for a Labour Victory' has now done its mailing to Constituency Labour Parties, with model leaflets arguing Labour conference policies on youth (reproduced, right), on the Bomb, on racism, and on Ireland. Other model leaflets are available to CLPs who want to fight the election by arguing socialist policies, instead of the Foot-Healey approach of fudging all the issues. The London Labour Party has leaflets on racism (SO last week), women's rights (excerpts above), etc.

There are also local leaflets, like the draft on jobs reproduced on the right. And leaflets from CND, from the Campaign against the Police Bill (top right), etc. can be used to argue issues without counting against election expenses.

ice Bill, Room 116, Hackney Contact: SLV, 28 Middle Lane, London N8 (Andy Harris, 01-633 5000); CND, 11, Goodwin St., London N4 (01-263 0977), Campaign against the Pol-

Town Hall, Mare St., London E8 (01-985 3123 ext. 292), London Labour Party, Herbert Morrison House, 195, Walworth Rd., London SE17 (01-701 4760 or 703 6511).

LABOUR will restore the right to a decent job, by reversing the Tories' crazy economics.

We will expand public services and public investment. It is crazy to have building workers and teachers jobless while waiting lists grow for housing and school classes are overcrowded.

We will scrap nuclear weapons, and redirect resources to socially useful production. It is crazy to spend millions on megadeaths while penny-pinching for vital needs.

The Labour Party and trade unions are committed to fight for a shorter working week — 35 hours without loss of pay. It is crazy to have some people working long hours and others unemployed, when you could have them all employed on shorter hours.

We will expand nursery facilities and combat sex discrimination so that women have an equal right to a job.

### Photocopies

Westminster branch has since circulated the country asking branches to give them support, and enclosing photocopies of Foot's letter.

So the calling off of the selective action was to be expected. The leadership have used industrial action solely as protest aimed at the general public, and have seen the return of a Labour government as the only possible way to stop privatisation.

The Broad Left has argued for mobilising the rank and file, but has never counterposed this to using Parliament.

99.9% of the activists in the POEU will be out working for

the return of a Labour government committed to scrapping plans to privatise BT.

But even if Labour does win the election, the problems facing workers in BT will not disappear.

POEU workers had to fight for a shorter working week the last time Labour were in power. The CPSA had to fight for their wage increase under Labour.

The increasingly hostile management, the drive for increased profits, and the introduction of new technology at breakneck speed mean that workers in BT face difficult problems in the immediate future. The return of a Labour government alone will not solve them.

### Impact

If the Tories are re-elected, the right wing leadership may throw in the towel as they see no way of forcing Thatcher to retreat. Cosy deals such as the newly hatched National Economic Assessment can be stitched up with Labour in power, but not with Thatcher.

If the Tories are re-elected, demoralisation may be spread

We will expand public ownership and move towards economic planning, democratically controlled by working people. Where employment depends on profit-making, then you get a crazy spiral: people remain jobless because it is unprofitable to employ them, it is unprofitable to employ them because demand for goods is low, demand is low because so many are jobless.

There is an alternative to Tory devastation. Tory policies are dictated by the interests of a small privileged class of profiteers and millionaires who want mass unemployment because it enables them to rule by fear. Your local Labour Party stands against that privileged class, for the interests of working people.

Vote Labour, join the Labour Party and join the fight for socialist policies.

### Rejection

The supporters of the Broad Lefts of all BT unions need to develop and fight throughout the Unions for a workers' plan for the industry.

Policies such as a sliding scale for shortening the working week with no loss of pay to fight the threat to jobs; a sliding scale to increase wages in line with inflation; a working class price index; and workers' control of industry need to be adapted to BT for BT workers. A workers plan for the industry must be worked out and presented intelligently and concretely.

We must also link up with workers in other industries for a united working class response to the crisis facing not only workers in BT but workers everywhere.

1984

### A Police State in Britain?

The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill has been stopped from passing into law by the General Election. The Bill, though, is not dead. There is a great danger that it, or something worse, will return in the next parliament. Had it been passed, the police would be entitled to:



Break into your home without a warrant and seize your possessions without as evidence of another person's alleged crimes — even if there are no charges against you.

Stop and search you on the streets — just because they thought you looked suspicious.

Arrest you for dropping litter in certain circumstances.

Hold suspects in a police station for up to four days without a charge.

Deny suspects held in police custody access to a solicitor for up to 48 hours.

Conduct forcible intimate body searches on suspects. Set up road blocks for as long as they want and to cut off whole neighbourhoods if they think a crime MAY be committed in the area.

## Labour says YOUTH DEMAND A FUTURE

What does a new Thatcher government promise young people? NOTHING AT ALL. Since the Tories got elected four years ago, there has been:

- No jobs. Less than half of this year's school leavers will get a job.
- No training. There are 40% fewer apprenticeships than in 1979.
- No money. No Supplementary Benefit for two months after leaving school. Training allowances kept down to £25. Grants worth 10% less than in 1979.

Tory Party 'thinkers' have their plans for young people. They dream of going back 100 years to Victorian Britain.

- They talk of stopping Supplementary Benefit payments for all 18 year olds.
- They threaten to cut off dole money to force young people onto non-union, £25 a week slave labour 'training' schemes; and maybe into the army.
- They will cut college courses that aren't needed by industry.
- They will reintroduce their Police Bill.

The Tories promise a kick in the teeth by the police for those who are black or who complain. They want to give the police more powers, like detaining people for four days without access to friends or lawyers.

The main promise young people can expect from the Tories is nuclear war. For young people, the 'Tory Future' is one without jobs, flats or education. They will have plenty of time to stand and watch as the Tories spend billions on bombs, enough to blow us up 30 times over.

IF YOU WANT A JOB, THEN MAKE SURE THATCHER IS BEATEN ON JUNE 9th.

### LABOUR STANDS FOR:

- Unilateral nuclear disarmament
- A grant for FE students
- An increase in training allowances
- Trade Union rights on training courses
- No Police Bill
- Cutting unemployment
- Special training schemes for young women to help them get better paid jobs.

DON'T WASTE YOUR VOTE. VOTE LABOUR. THIS GOVERNMENT IS TOO SERIOUS TO MUCK ABOUT WITH.

But don't just vote Labour. Help make sure it carries out the policy. Join the Labour Party Young Socialists and organise with other people to force the government to give us what we need — A DECENT FUTURE.

# Stop the hive-off; stop the Tories!

ON THURSDAY May 12, following the announcement of the General Election, the POEU leadership called off the selective action in London against privatisation of BT.

The London City branch, one of the branches taking industrial action, sent a letter to the may 12 Executive meeting recommending that the industrial action continue.

The BT Bill has now fallen — but it will be rushed through

By Ricky Houston

Parliament if the Tories are re-elected.

During the previous fortnight another letter had been delivered

## No time to lose!



• Socialists for a Labour Victory, 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

## Don't get caught!

IN THE rush for the election, don't forget this year's Labour Party conference.

The deadline for resolutions is July 8. Normally wards would discuss them in June. But now most regular June ward meetings will be cancelled.

Make sure your ward organises a special meeting in June to discuss resolutions in time to go through the GC for the conference schedule.

The last Socialist Organizer delegate meeting decided to back model resolutions from the Labour Committee on Ireland, the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (its resolution on the 'Greenwich amendment', and the constitutional amendment to clause 9), and the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights. There will also be a SO model resolution on incomes policy.

Also: the closing date for payment of affiliation fees is June 10. Make sure your CLP treasurer doesn't miss it, or you lose your vote!

**Election  
'83**

Peoples  
march  
for jobs

SCOTLAND



# The not-so-nice policies of the anti-worker Alliance

'Here we are again,  
Happy as can be,  
All good pals and  
Jolly good company!'

Those terribly nice and civilised Social Democratic People and their lovely Liberal friends have got together a frightfully nice manifesto, with something for absolutely everyone, haven't they?

Well no, actually, they haven't: but the two Davids, Roy, Bill and Shirley are going to do their best to win the 'soft' right vote of the horse-owning, professional middle classes, together with a few worn-out or confused former Labourites and faint-hearted Tories.

It all sounds terrifically moderate and well directed. The Alliance manifesto promises a government that will turn its back on 'dogma and bitterness', act in the best marriage guidance tradition to 'bring people together again', and listen to 'ordinary people'.

They are even prepared to see some good in the period of Tory government: 'Britain needed a shake-up', they assure us, 'But the government has not succeeded. ... The last four years could now be forgiven if we had a springboard for the future. We do not.'

The reason of course is that the Tories — representing big business and the bankers — are not as nice and cosy as the Alliance and its well upholstered clientele of managers, lecturers, administrators and small business people.

'Our whole approach is based

By Harry Sloan

on co-operation: not just between our parties but between management and workers, between people of different races and above all between government and people ... The vision which unites us is of a nation of free people working together in harmony, respecting each others' rights and freedoms and sharing in each others' success.'

The only problem which the Alliance would lull us into forgetting is that some of these 'free people' are stinking rich employers, ruthlessly speeding up their workforce, closing down plants at will in pursuit of profit, and living off the sweated labour of other 'free people'.

There are all kinds of suggestions to reform existing institutions: but predictably there are no plans to do anything about the power, wealth and privilege of the ruling class.

Indeed while the Alliance repeatedly bemoans the 'class-based' politics of the Tory and Labour Parties, its own programme puts forward proposals to shackle only one class — and, surprise, surprise, it's the working class!

Mind you, they do it from terribly nice and civilised motives, 'not in any spirit of union bashing'. But central to their plans are new anti-union laws to enforce

□ compulsory secret ballots, normally on a postal basis, for the election of the national executives of unions and where appropriate General Secretaries'

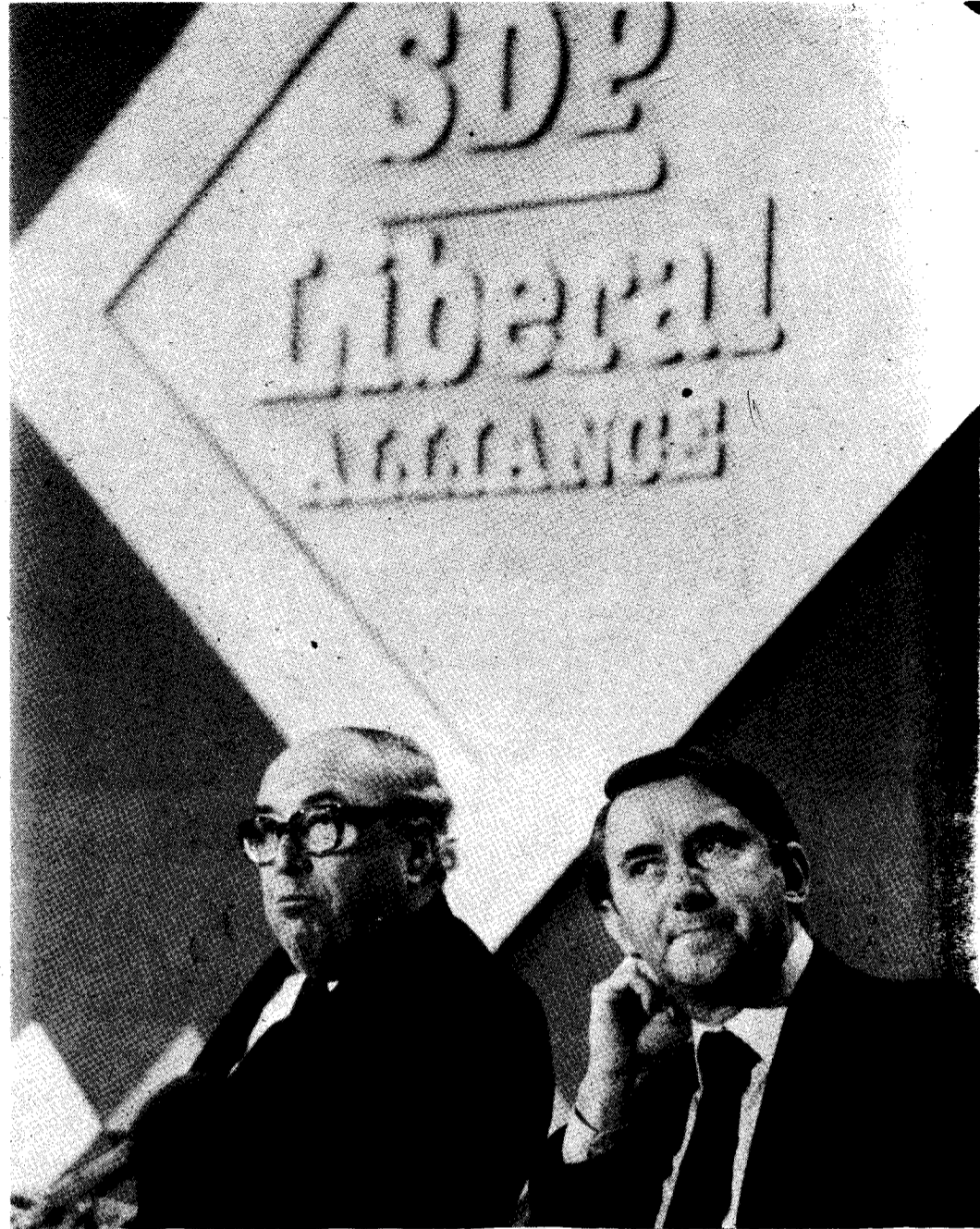
□ The right of a tiny section — about 10% — of the relevant bargaining unit to require a ballot before an official strike can be called.

□ Encourage arbitration — including laws to force public sector unions to go to arbitration before taking strike action.

□ Changing the law to force trade unionists who wish to support the Labour Party to 'contract in' on the political levy and enforce secret ballots to decide on the unions' political affiliations.

#### Package

Add to this not-so-nice little package the Alliance's sole categorical and consistent election promise — that an Alliance government will impose an incomes policy by law — (backed up by all kinds of terribly



Behind the "terribly nice and civilised" front — "the sharpened knives of a far from liberal middle class anxious to get at the throats of the working class"

sophisticated and refined mechanisms like a 'counter-inflation tax' on firms who pay over the odds), and you can see that they are not offering much to people like you and me.

This should be no surprise: after all, the Alliance makes no bones about the fact that

'We believe in enterprise and profit and in sharing the fruits of these'.

Most of the followers would agree with at least the first part of that statement, and also agree that the 'moderate and well directed stimulus to the economy' which the Alliance promises should 'unlike the Labour Party' be done 'in a way which encouraged private business.' After all, there's no use being nice and civilised if you're as badly off as the really ordinary people, is there?

#### Foster

In contrast to the moves against the unions, there are plans to foster the growth of new and small businesses — and a whole page of proposals aimed at throwing up a plethora of well-paid quangos, managerial consultancies and 'admin jobs for the aspiring petty bourgeoisie.'

This is the real meaning of the Alliance's plans for 'decentralised' regional and local structures, their 'broader bridges', their 'major reorganisations', and 'constant and rigorous examination' of issues: it is one reason why they favour more spending on the NHS and education.

Meanwhile other middle class sacred cows are left to wander the streets unharmed.

The milking of the NHS by the drug monopolies is to be curbed but not halted by stopping excessive prescribing of branded drugs; and private medicine and private education are to remain untouched by these great egalitarians.

Shouldn't 'ordinary people' who want to jump hospital waiting lists or send their sons to Eton have the right to do so?

The middle class ideal of house ownership is to be further promoted at the expense of existing council estates where the Alliance would maintain the Tory 'right to buy'.

And the sacred cow of animal welfare is given an insipid bale of hay from the back of the Alliance Volvo, with the promise to 'establish an advisory standing commission on animal welfare' which should offer a few people a free lunch and expenses cheque occasionally.

On nuclear weapons, the Alliance steers niftily clear of the Liberal Conference policy of outright opposition to Cruise missiles, but calls for the cancellation of Trident.

David Owen — one of the last friends the Shah or Iran could count on — and veteran cold warrior Bill Rodgers have ensured that the manifesto pledges support to a strengthening of NATO's conventional weapons.

The "first past the post" voting system ensures the under-representation of all those who reject class as the basis of politics. Electoral reform is thus a pre-condition of healing Britain's divisions and creating a sense of community.'

The Alliance points out that

under their proposed system 'in order to form a government, parties ... will need to command the support of about half the voters.'

Given the immense material disadvantages under which the labour movement operates in capitalist society, the Alliance are justifiably confident that a majority Labour government under such conditions would be highly 'unlikely. What would dominate would be more or less 'civilised' combinations of the Alliance with the Tories.

This — if the brutal impact on Labour of the recent boundary commission changes were not enough to make the point — should at least serve to remind workers of the limitations of the existing democracy and the extent to which they must look not to the Parliamentary set-up but to their own class organisations to defend and fight for their interests.

The 'nice people' of the Alliance can certainly not be looked to as friends in need. Inside the fur coats and sports jackets are the sharpened knives of a far from liberal middle class anxious above all to get at the throats of the working class.

**TROOPS OUT  
NOW!**

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Committee  
on  
Ireland!



BM Box 5355,  
London WC1N 3XX

Some "free people" are stinking rich employers, living off the sweated labour of others

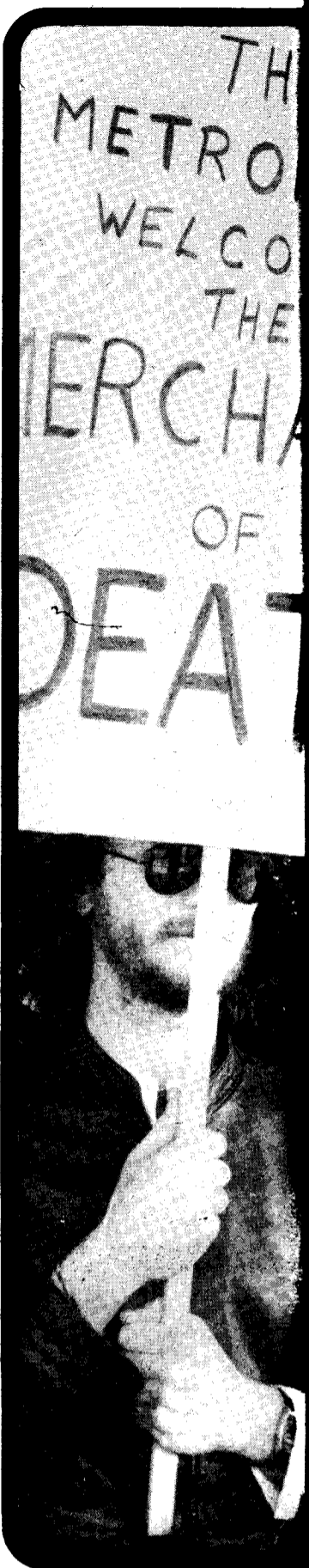
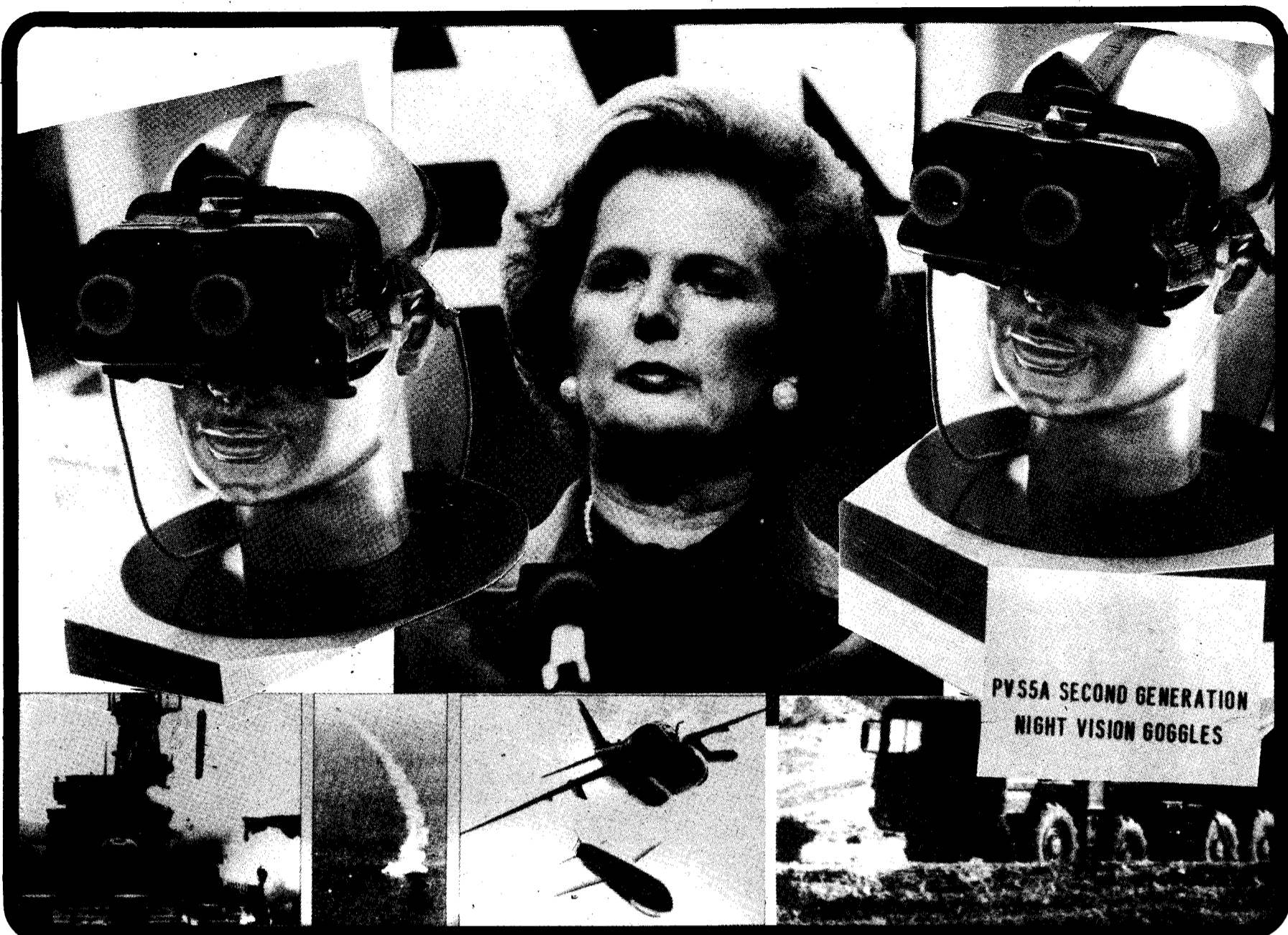
**CLASS FIGHTER**



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PHOTO: JOHN HARRIS



# Tories' arms bonanza

AS UNEMPLOYMENT has rocketed and the devastation from social spending cuts has mushroomed across Thatcher's Britain, one area at least is booming: military expenditure.

Irradiated in the glow from the Tory cold war policies, and given a boost by the Falklands war, military spending for 1983-84 will top £16,000 billion — a rise of 22% in real terms since the Tories came to office. During the same period public service spending has gone down 9.5%.

The lift-off in defence spending includes massive increases in pay for the armed forces designed to drum up new recruits from the battalions of the unemployed, and also the best part of £1 billion per year for the next 12 years to purchase the new and lethal Trident submarines and missiles.

The election of the 'Iron Lady' in May 1979 had been preceded by salvos of Tory anti-Soviet rhetoric, and coincided with a new burst in the arms race led by US President Carter.

Carter's plans, since expanded even more recklessly by Reagan, included not only a vast new missile system — the ten-warhead MX — to be based in the USA, but also the development of new 'conventional' weaponry and a 'Rapid Deployment Force' for use in any future Middle East conflict.

Reagan's schemes include the

**Tory plans would build up a stockpile of ten tons of TNT for every person in Britain by 1995. Harry Sloan looks at these plans and why they should be fought.**

deployment of Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe, along with vast arsenals of Cruise missiles on US ships and plans, in an all-round \$1.6 trillion five-year build-up of nuclear and conventional weapons, which would increase the US stockpile of nuclear warheads by no less than 65%. There are moves afoot to base US nuclear missiles in South Africa and in US outposts in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific.

Against this titanic effort, the

Tory contribution to the arms race may seem a mere pin-prick: but it would be a big mistake to underestimate it.

In launching the Trident project, Thatcher has given the go-ahead to construct four gigantic nuclear-powered submarines (three times the size of an average destroyer), each carrying 64 missiles armed with a total of up to 896 warheads.

This, compared with the present British strike force of 64 Polaris missiles, is a fourteen-fold increase.

On top of this, the Tories are planning to double to 412 the number of aircraft with a nuclear strike capacity. Nuclear stockpiles will double or treble over the next 12 years if the Tories have their way, reaching by 1995 the equivalent of ten tons of TNT for every man, woman and child in Britain.

### Isolation

Of course it would be crazy to see this Tory war effort in isolation from that of Reagan. In particular Thatcher has led the pack of European governments prepared to give house-room to American land-based Cruise missiles. 160 are to be sited in Britain — 96 at Greenham Common and 64 at Molesworth in East Anglia — if the Tories are re-elected.

A tactful shroud of mystery hangs over exactly how many US military bases there are in Britain — and how many of these hold stocks of nuclear weapons. It appears that there are at least 52 main sites, including the long range bomber stations at Lakenheath and Upper Heyford, the Poseidon nuclear submarine base at Holy Loch in Scotland, and the arsenal for nuclear shells at Burtonwood.

Alongside this array of nuclear hardware, Thatcher's gang, like the USA if on a much reduced scale, sees the armed forces as not so much for 'defence' as playing a global role in pursuit of imperialist diplomatic and military advantage.

Hence, in the wake of the

Falklands war, the Tories are committed to a long term massive 3,000-4,000 strong garrison, equipped with the latest weaponry, sustained at enormous cost (£424 million in 1983-4 alone) to 'show the flag' of imperialism in the South Atlantic.

### Entrenched

British troops are also expensively entrenched in the six counties of Northern Ireland, and, at an annual cost of £1.9 billion, in NATO bases in West Germany.

Obviously, unlike the US generals two thousand miles away, no British political or military leader could seriously expect to escape a nuclear war in Western Europe. Yet Thatcher, Heseltine and other Tories have slavishly echoed those American warmongers who have argued in favour of NATO's policy of using nuclear weapons first in the event of serious military conflict in Europe.

This is why the Tories' plans — temporarily held up for the election — include measures to compel local councils, council workers, and health workers to engage in so-called 'Civil Defence' preparations.

In effect the plans amount to conscripting the services of tens of thousands of civilians in rehearsing for the ghastly prospect of a nuclear war which in reality would annihilate them all.

### Sustains

The Tories — and some right wing union leaders — claim that the military effort sustains jobs in the armaments industry. Yet the fact is that the sums expended are huge — and the potential to convert munitions plants to peaceful use, and divert the workforce to socially useful employment is correspondingly large.

There will be work for the foreseeable future to occupy the scientific research staff

currently employed on the British nuclear programme, who would need to find safe means of disposing of the dismantled warheads of scrapped nuclear missiles, bombs and shells.

In any event experience over the past period shows that rising military spending has run alongside a fall in civilian employment — and indeed the closure of naval dockyards and repair facilities.

Even in the USA, where Reagan's much bigger runaway arms spree does appear to be creating a boost for employment in some of the vast military manufacturers, the cost is estimated at one job per \$120,000 spent — four times as much as civilian jobs programmes. Westinghouse expect sales revenue to double, but their workforce to expand only 10%.

There is no argument that justifies the retention of Britain's nuclear arsenal, or the sustained increase in military spending to which the Thatcher government is pledged if re-elected.

Vote Labour on June 9 — and keep up both the fight inside the Labour Party, and the campaigning on the streets, for nuclear disarmament.

## Peace won How Le

IN Leicester, it won't be a general strike, as women had initially hoped for, but some workplaces are coming out for the whole day, and unions have pledged support for the lunchtime rally.

The Leicestershire and District Trades Council and other union banners (e.g., NALGO, T&G, National Union of Hosiery and Knit-

**TO REPLACE the Thatcher government with a Labour government, whose stated policy is to ban Cruise, scrap Trident, expel US nuclear bases and abandon Britain's existing nuclear armaments, is a vital starting point in the fight against the nuclear threat.**

It would however only be a starting point: whole sections of the Labour leadership have a long-standing and undisguised commitment to British imperialism and the NATO alliance.

It was the post-war Attlee government which began work on the British atomic bomb; the same Labour government that helped found NATO as an anti-Soviet alliance. In the 1960s Labour Prime Minister Wilson supervised the purchase and deployment of the present-day Polaris submarines, and authorised research on a more advanced warhead, later to become the Chevaline project, on which the Callaghan government spent £1 billion in the 1970s.

To break this run of betrayals on the disarmament issue, it is necessary not only to vote and campaign for a Labour victory, but to maintain the fight in the trade unions and the Labour Party for the policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament — and for the removal of Denis Healey and any other Labour leader who pulls back from its implementation.

**Scrap the bosses!**

**Stop the Bomb!**

A Class Fighter pamphlet

10p

## New

The Bomb and how to get rid of it — a new pamphlet from Class Fighter. 10p plus postage from Class Fighter, 214, Sickert Court, London N1 2SY.





Picket outside arms exhibition in Brighton

## Women reach into unions, Labour Party

# Leicester built for May 24

### Colleen Molloy reports.

Wear Workers, and AUEW) will be on the lunchtime demonstration through the city to the Town Hall square.

Women have persuaded the Nuclear Free Zone (NFZ)-Labour City Council to give them free office space. And they are going outside the city itself, to tour Leicestershire villages, showing Helen Caldecot's video 'Critical Mass', and initiating discussions on the arms race.

Other groups of women are decorating all the main roads into Leicester with banners and washing lines strung with symbols of life (children's photographs, nappies, etc. similar to the fence at Greenham on December 12, 1982).

#### School

Many mothers are keeping their children off school, and will be writing to the school to explain why.

A temporary peace camp will be set up in one of Leicester's parks and leaflets distributed to let people know that the park is within a 200 mile radius of Greenham Common. In times of national emergency, Cruise missiles will be transported anywhere within a 200 mile radius on the backs of lorries.

#### Bunker

The City Council's nuclear bunker (ironically just below the women's peace office) will be opened by women for a children's party and a creche. Leaflets distributed outside will draw the links between arms spending and cuts in nursery facilities.

Leicester station will be decorated with banners and leaflets will draw attention to the nuclear waste trains passing through Leicester.

NALGO women are building a nuclear shelter according to the government's 'Protect and Survive' pamphlet outside the County Rooms. City and County NALGO have organised showings of 'Critical Mass' in local government offices.

A peace memorial is being erected beside Leicester's war memorial. The town hall square is being turned into a

peace camp from the day before, with entertainment by women's groups in the evening.

Contacts in some workplaces are organising for meetings and showings of the video 'Critical Mass' after May 24. For May 24 is just the beginning. All the hard work, organising, making contacts in the labour movement, learning about the different bureaucratic machinery of the trades unions, etc., has established the groundwork, the network and the experience for even bigger and more widespread action against nuclear weapons in the future.

The strength and beauty of the women's peace movement lies in its ability to foster the creative self-activity of women. Women in work, women at home, women who have never made a conscious political act in their lives before will be leaving their normal jobs for the day and taking positive action for peace.

#### Budge

Women in Britain and in Europe where the call has been made will be joined by women in Japan, Australia, India, Scandinavia and Canada (25 countries in all).

All this is hardly likely to budge the Thatchers and Reagans, but it is bound to have a profound effect on the people of Bri-

tain two weeks before a general election. The election will give us a chance to vote out the reactionary and repressive Tories, and replace them with a Labour government formally committed to unilateral disarmament.

Women who have been politically awakened by the peace movement will in all likelihood vote Labour. But many are not under the same illusions as many Labour Party delegates who voted for unilateral disarmament but against withdrawal from NATO. From their experiences, these women are fully aware of the need to completely do away with the present power relations and economic structures that inevitably lead to warmongering.

As one woman - Andrea - put it: 'We know it is not simply a question of getting rid of the weapons, because it would be impossible to get rid of the knowledge of how to make them; it is the whole structure of society that must be changed, so that the need to possess these weapons in order to protect positions of power and privilege is eradicated.'

So, whether or not Labour gets in, the struggle against nuclear weapons and the struggle to take this into the unions and to the mass of the working people will continue.

Colleen Molloy



PHOTO: JOHN HARRIS

"We are all Trotskyist infiltrators"?

## END greets Greenham women

AT THE European Nuclear Disarmament conference last year, in Brussels, the Greenham Common women had to fight to get a hearing. This year, in Berlin, they were greeted with a standing ovation.

Last year there were 800 delegates. This year 2000 delegates came to West Berlin, from nearly every country in the world, it seemed.

The biggest ovations I heard were for some survivors of Hiroshima, for Luis Caldiero (representing the Sandinistas and speaking of the struggles in Central America) - and for the women of Greenham Common.

There were many sessions that I could not attend, but I read or heard about speakers from Turkey, from Chile, from the Mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina, and from the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The feeling of solidarity with the oppressed, and a direct link between their struggles and that of the peace movement, came over very strongly. As one Dutch Christian delegate put it, "The Third World War is not likely to start at Checkpoint Charlie, but from one of the 46 so-called little

**'Not a Third Force, but the regeneration of the labour movement', was the message that Dave Spencer took to END conference**

local wars, and we can't afford to stay neutral on the sidelines in this. We must stand with the violence of the oppressed against the oppressor".

Although there was some dissent from this view, it did seem to have the majority.

The largest gap in representation was from the Eastern bloc. The official peace movements there were invited to send observers only, and they declined. Representatives of dissident peace

groups were refused visas.

Thus the only spokespeople were exiles. I heard representatives of Solidarnosc, Dialogue of Hungary, and Charter 77 of Czechoslovakia. A letter written that day was read out from some peace activists in East Germany.

#### Greens

This issue came alive when Petra Kelly led a group of four German Green MPs into East Berlin on the first big day of the conference, unfurled the banner of the East German peace groups bearing the slogan 'Swords Into Ploughshares' and started giving out leaflets. They were all arrested. The East German media went through the rather embarrassing process of first denying that the Greens had been there, then denying they had been arrested, then releasing an apology.

From then on the conference received wide coverage in both the East and West German media.

The arguments this created in the conference seemed mainly to concern tactics rather than principle. Some people obviously resented not being involved in the action and felt that it had been a publicity stunt for the Greens. In general, however, there seemed to be support for the action, and Wolf Biermann received tremendous applause when, during his benefit concert, he defended it.

#### Mentality

West Berlin was chosen for the second European Nuclear Disarmament conference because it represents, with the obscenity of the Wall, the cold war mentality that the peace movement sees itself breaking down. There was a lot of talk about creating non-alignment, a third force, an alter-

native to the blocs. Criticism was levelled at the step-by-step approach of German Social Democrat (SPD) spokesperson Egon Bahr, who seemed to many delegates to rely on changing the minds of existing politicians rather than building a movement from below.

Missing from these discussions was the experience of socialists attempting to renovate the labour movement - for example in Britain, our efforts to sweep out the bureaucrats and careerists in our movement, the trade unions and the Labour Party.

I did raise this issue in one session on Nuclear Free Zones, when I described the experience, as I saw it, of the NFZ campaign in Britain. This linked up very much with the experience of council representatives from Italy and the USA, who saw, time and again, the declaration of a Nuclear Free Zone as an attempt by bureaucrats to head off a mass campaign, rather than to start one.

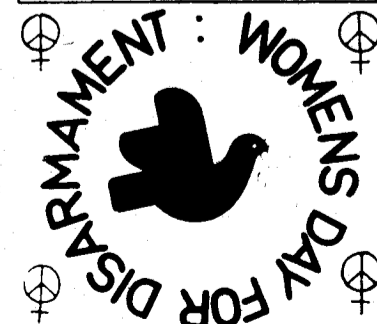
There was a lot of support for the concept of strike action by workers involved at every stage in the manufacture and transport of nuclear products. German SPD politician Oskar Lafontaine reminded trade unionists of their anti-war traditions. Also, he said, the peace movement must make the link between high expenditure on defence and mass unemployment.

In a very moving speech summing up the conference, author Robert Jungk pointed to what we must learn from the women of Greenham Common - a different approach to action, a different vocabulary, a change particularly in men's attitudes.

We shall overcome, he said, not with a mailed fist, but with our arms crossed as we strike against our class enemy but open in love towards our comrades and friends throughout the world.

## ALL OUT!

**MAY 24**

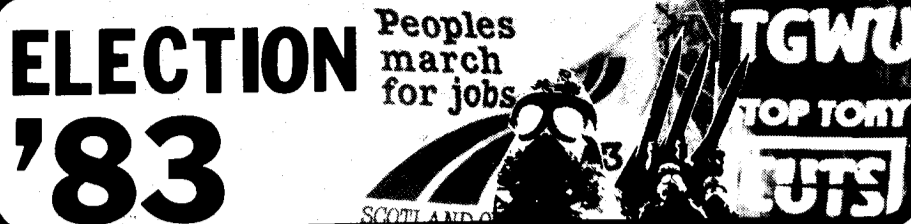


\* NUPE and ACTT have pledged support, and the NALGO leadership has promised to consider requests for strike action from local branches. Press for action in your workplace: call on men to take supportive strike action and help by organising creches.

\* Phone 0273 553466 for your regional contact, find out what's happening locally. If nothing - organise a local group, plan action.

\* Press Labour Party women's sections and Labour NFZ councils for support.

\* Leaflets can be got from the London Greenham office, 5, Leonard St., London EC2.



## Why socialists oppose incomes policy

# Wilson's road to wage controls

ONE OF the most vital points in the Socialists for a Labour Victory programme is the 'no incomes policy' demand.

A central question facing any incoming Labour government will be the question of wages. This issue, as in 1964 or 1974, will be the essential touchstone of whether such a government will move to act in the interests of the working class, or whether it will move to control and discipline that class in the interests of capital.

A government which tries to make the existing system work in conditions where profits, the engine of that system, are in collapse has no alternative but to cut wages. It was the incomes policy issue more than any other which dug the grave of the '74-'79 Labour government. That experience is rich in lessons for those of us today who argue that we must vote Labour but prepare to fight.

The Labour government came to power in March 1974 through the direct action of the miners in bringing down Edward Heath. Other groups of workers in emulation of their militancy moved into the breach. By November average earnings were 26% higher than a year previously.

The postal workers won a 24% increase, the power workers 31%, civil servants 32%, gas workers 34%. Average earnings were increasing at twice the rate of retail prices.

The minority government, knowing it owed its existence to militancy, could not act before another election. The employers were pushed onto the defensive.

The Manifesto itself had supported free collective bargaining. It specifically rejected the authoritarian and bureaucratic system of wage control imposed by the Heath government. However, its exact wording like that of today's Economic Assessment carried within it the seeds of wage control. The social contract is not concerned even primarily with wages. It covers the whole range of national policies. The unions in response confirm how they will seek to exercise the newly restored right of free collective bargaining.

Naturally the trade unions see their clearest loyalty to their own members. But the social contract is their free acknowledgement that they have other loyalties to the members of other unions too, to pensioners, to

## John McIlroy looks at the arguments about the 'National Economic Assessment'



'Mini wages' - that's what the Social Contract meant

the lowest paid, to invalids (!), to the community as a whole.

This represented the thinking of the leadership of the TUC General Council newly crystallised around Len Murray and Jack Jones. They saw the advent of the Labour government as heralding not an onslaught on the capitalist system, but as providing once and for all guarantees of their role within that system.

Frightened by the instability that the 1968-74 militancy they had failed to control had created, and, fearing confrontation with the state, they were determined to integrate themselves into the state. Wage control was an essential part of this process.

What they felt was vital was that it should not be imposed directly by the state but through their own good offices. That was their job, the job Heath had cheated them out of - acting as brokers between capital and labour.

Four weeks after the first 1974 election, Jones was opining 'The social contract does not mean control of wages but it does mean a realistic approach.'

By June the General Council were telling the membership what a realistic approach meant. Its statement *Collective Bargaining and the Social Contract*, formulated prior to any decision making within their unions by the tops, many of whom were acting in violation of Conference decisions, instructed negotiators to recognise that 'the scope for real increases in consumption is limited'.

Their objective should be to simply see that 'real incomes are maintained'. The document also insisted on a 12 month interval between major increases.

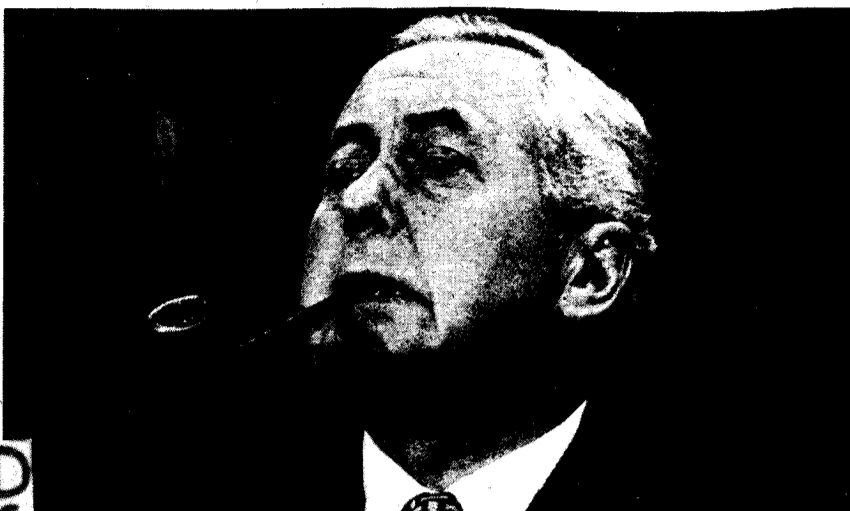
We were already some way from free collective bargaining. By the TUC Congress in September miners leader Laurence Daly was publicly urging 'some form of incomes policy'. Murray was pontificating 'Do not confuse the sort of wage restraint we are asking unions to accept temporarily with the sort of restraint governments tried to impose on unions in previous periods. The purpose is different and the policy context is different'.

Some failed to appreciate Len's subtle distinction. As Ken Gill acidly commented, 'It appears we are saying that we hate restraint under Heath but we welcome it under Wilson ... instead of the employers refusing, we don't ask'.

Nonetheless the policy was carried. With the TUC going in as spineless, the Labour leaders followed fast.

In his first TV address after the victorious October election Wilson was indistinguishable from Heath. The country 'could not afford the big battalion philosophy with power groups, whoever they are, trying to seize more than their share of what is available.' By January 1975 with wage militancy showing no sign of abatement Healey was putting it straight on the line: 'Britain must now accept lower average wages or

Wilson's social contract was argued in just the same terms as today's 'Economic Assessment'



of right. Their request for a price freeze was also turned down on the grounds that it would affect investment. Despite the 'voluntary' nature of the policy there would be sanctions against employers who did not comply.

With inflation now running at 30%, the policy represented a real wage cut for most workers. Once again they were to pay for capital's problems.

In return the unions got nothing. The 'temporary' policy soon entered a Phase II. Now it was required not just to stop unemployment increasing, but to stave off cuts in the welfare state. By the end of Phase II real earnings were 10% down on their 1974 level.

The economists Andrew Glyn and John Harrison argue that there had been no comparable collapse since the 1850s.

Unemployment nearly trebled from 600,000 in 1974 to over 1½ million in 1978. Nor was the welfare state protected. School building was slashed by over 60% between 1974 and 1979; council house building fell below the levels of the Heath years; and hospital construction was cut by over a third as Wilson and Callaghan blazed the path for Margaret Thatcher.

Because today's capitalist crisis is deeper, we could expect any Labour government to move even faster towards wage control. But what the 1974 experience shows is that the General Council would be even quicker off the mark.

As Dennis Healey said of 1975: 'The most impressive thing has been the speed with which members of the General Council have themselves reached a voluntary agreement on a limit to pay which falls considerably short of the full compensation for the increase in the cost of living and which will mean some reduction in real take home pay. I do not think there has been any previous occasion in the history of this country or maybe any other country in which the trade union movement of its own will has not only agreed to such a policy but has agreed to it in very great detail'.

If we cannot rely on the union leaders to fight an incomes

policy we cannot rely either on the left MPs. There is no evidence that Benn argued against incomes policy within the Parliamentary leadership.

Thirty-four MPs went against in the Commons and Ian Mikardo made a well justified onslaught on Jones at the Labour Party Conference. But the left MP's line on the maintenance of the government at any cost, and their conception that any alternative would have to be implemented by Parliament, left them impotent, with no alternative. Having made the breakthrough on incomes policy, Wilson was then able to gut the remainder of the very limited Alternative Economic Strategy.

Yesterday the Social Contract. Yesterday the Economic Assessment. Always incomes policy. The major lesson of the 1974 experience is that whilst we have to fight within the Parliamentary Party and the union hierarchies, the basic fight against incomes policy would have to come from the shop floor. And whilst the '74 experience unmasked the limitations of democracy in the labour movement, it also illustrated the limitations of militancy pure and simple.

The rank and file failed to overcome the orchestrations of their leaders. Crucial sections of the rank and file saw no alternative.

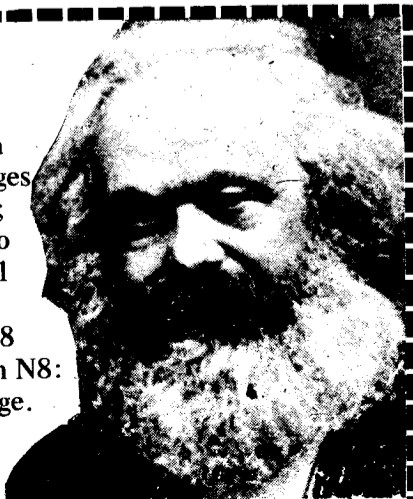
Inflation is a problem for workers although a different problem than it is for the employers. We have to fight negatively against incomes policy but to say no is not enough. We have to provide alternatives

The labour movement should demand that a new Labour government legislate a national minimum wage - and deal with the problem posed by the working class by inflation by legislating for automatic monthly rises in wages and benefits, tied to a working-class price index. And we should also demand for inflation-protection of wages a programme for direct trade union action, against individual employers and against Tory or wage-cutting Labour governments.

## BOOKS

Critique of the Gotha Programme, 30p; Wages, Profit and Capital, 40p; Communist Manifesto 60p; Capital volume 1 £3.95. Available c/o Socialist Organiser, 28 Middle Lane, London N8; add money for postage.

by MARX

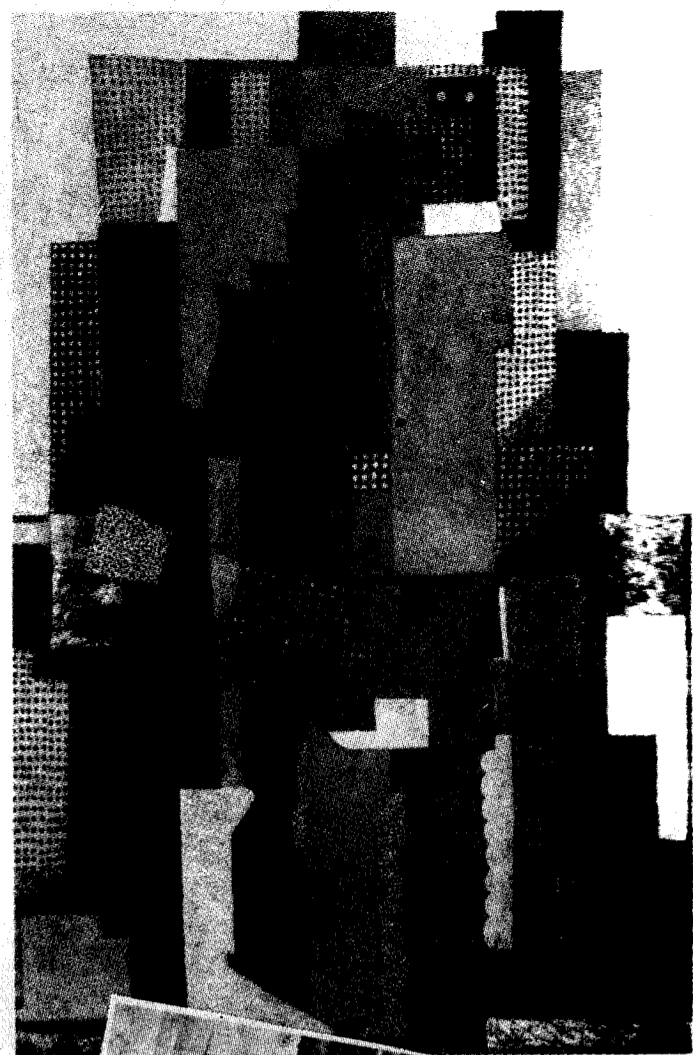


## HARD TIMES

From Pluto Press: an analysis of capitalism in crisis from regular Socialist Organiser contributor Bob Sutcliffe. £2.50 from bookshops, or (with 50p post and packing) from Pluto, The Works, 105a Toriano Avenue, London NW5.



Clockwise: Juan Gris, 'My Mother'; Pablo Picasso, 'Nude Woman in an Armchair'; Pablo Picasso, 'Man Leaning on a Table'; Georges Braque, 'Homage to J S Bach'



## 'Essential Cubism' reviewed

# "The last optimists in Western art"

WHAT does your mother look like? It probably wouldn't be merely diplomacy which prevents you from describing her as a complex fragmented pattern of angular shapes.

That, however, is how you might describe a famous work called "My Mother" by Juan Gris, one of the handful of artists who revolutionised painting in the first two decades of this century.

Gris's more famous artistic comrades were George Braque and Pablo Picasso and the movement, or rather style, which they collectively established became known as Cubism — a name coined by art critics and not by the painters themselves.

Only the paintings done by Picasso and Braque in 1907 and 1908 can strictly be called cubist (literally made up of cubes). But the name is now

**Bob Sutcliffe reviews the 'Cubism' exhibition which is at the Tate Gallery until July 10**

used to describe a whole series of related paintings done from 1907 to about 1919.

That, at least, was the time when Cubism was a revolutionary movement in art — a movement in the vanguard of culture.

The Marxist critic John Berger, one of the most illumin-

ating writers on Cubism, has argued that, though Cubists like Braque continued painting in the style after 1920, it had by then become a conservative form. Cubism was revolutionary for only a brief moment of history.

Beautiful

The beautifully compiled exhibition, Essential Cubism, at the Tate Gallery pulls together a wonderfully large collection of paintings from that revolutionary movement.

How revolutionary was it? Some idea of that can be given by the way even today — three-quarters of a century after they were painted — many of these paintings, though very familiar, look extremely modern.

How much more modern they must have seemed in 1907! This exhibition is designed in such a way that you can get some idea of what that initial impact must have been.

The first picture you see is a landscape by Braque which looks almost exactly like the paintings which the great landscape painter Paul Cezanne was doing at the same time. It is as if the seedling of cubism in these landscapes was transplanted from Cezanne to Braque.

Very shortly you can see, since the pictures are presented in roughly chronological order, how the seedling developed in an explosion of growth in the fertile imagination of Picasso, Braque and their friends.

Juan Gris expressed the nature of the revolution wrought by the Cubists as "simply a new way of representing the world". Picasso, in apparent contrast to this, said that "Cubism has kept itself within the limitations of painting, never pretending to go beyond it."

These statements express two sides of Cubism. It was about the world in the sense that none of the Cubist paintings are abstract, however much they

may look it at first sight. They are all paintings of something in the world.

Juan Gris's picture of his mother might not be acceptable to the state authorities as a passport likeness, but it is still a picture of his mother and not just a design.

But the Cubists were not so revolutionary in their choice of subject matter even though they chose to paint everyday objects rather than exotic or sophisticated ones — more gin bottles and daily newspapers than bowls of flowers or elegant people and buildings and views.

They were more revolutionary in their choice of materials — especially the collages made of wallpaper and newspapers. In this, John Berger observes "they challenged the whole bourgeois concept of art as something precious, valuable and to be prized like jewellery."

But Cubism's real revolution was in how it depicted these things. Its "new way" consisted in finding an answer to the contradiction between the four-dimensional nature of reality and the two dimensional "prison" of painting which hitherto seemed forced to restrict its depiction of reality to a single vantage point and a single instant of time.

Cubism, by shattering its objects, was a way of viewing them simultaneously from different vantage points — or showing how their appearance changed during a period of time. It was in Berger's words "the most complex view of reality ever attempted in the visual arts."

The object of a Cubist painting is integrated and whole in the mind of the artist. But in the two dimensional painting it has been fragmented, almost dissected, to reveal its interconnected many-sided nature.

These fragmented images can then be reintegrated in the mind of the beholder of the painting.

One of the things which makes these Cubist paintings

exciting to look at is that a creative effort is clearly required of the viewer.

John Berger has written that "Before Cezanne, every painting was to some extent like a view seen through a window. Courbet had tried to open the window and climb out. Cezanne broke the glass. The room became part of the landscape, the viewer part of the view." (Success and Failure of Picasso, p. 55).

Unfortunately if you wanted to become part of the view in this exhibition to the extent of buying the catalogue you would have to pay the outrageous sum of £10.

For 40p you can buy a fairly informative Tate Gallery booklet called "What is Cubism?". This, however, is an example of the tendency condemned by John Berger to see Cubists entirely in the context of art history, thereby losing their historical significance.

Berger's own writing on Cubism is scandalously not even mentioned in the pamphlet's bibliography. For that reason it is worth ending this review with a lengthy quotation from John Berger's own evaluation of the historical significance of Cubism:

"Usually it is explained purely in terms of art history. By so-called Marxist critics in Moscow it is condemned together with Expressionism, Dadaism and Surrealism, as modernist and decadent. To do this is ludicrously unhistorical.

"Dadaism and Surrealism were the result of the 1914 war. Cubism was only possible because such a war had not yet

been imagined.

"As a group the Cubists were the last optimists in Western art, and by the same token their work still represents the most developed way of seeing yet achieved. It is to Cubism that the next serious innovators are bound to return.

"Today the magnitude of the Cubists' achievement is unappreciated in the West because of our overpowering sense of insecurity and Angst. (Their paintings fetch high prices — but as treasures from another world).

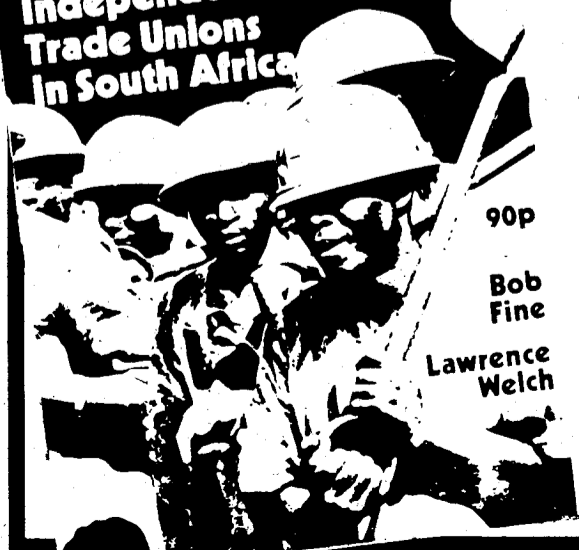
"It is unappreciated in the Soviet Union because there the official view of the visual arts is still that of the nineteenth century. When eventually the full Cubist achievement is appreciated, it will not be possible to explain it in terms of personal genius alone. The comparison with the early Renaissance will again apply.

"The Cubists were at a point of startling coincidence. They inherited from nineteenth century art the revolutionary promise of dialectical materialism. They sensed at the turn of this century the promise of the new means of production with all its world implications. They expressed their consequent enthusiasm for the future in terms which are justified by modern science.

"And they did this in the one decade in recent history when it was possible to possess such enthusiasm and yet ignore, without deliberate evasion, the political complexities and terrors involved. They painted the good omens of the modern world". (Success and Failure of Picasso, pp. 70-71).

## Dissecting the object to reveal many-sided nature

**A QUESTION OF SOLIDARITY**  
Independent Trade Unions In South Africa



90p

Bob Fine

Lawrence Welch

Published by Socialist Forum for Southern Africa Solidarity. Available (at 90p plus 20p post) c/o SO, 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

# Agenda

Paid ads 5p per word, £4 per column inch. Send copy to Socialist Organiser, 28 Middle Lane, London N8, to arrive by Saturday for inclusion in the following week's paper.

**SOUTH** London CND/labour movement conference originally scheduled for May 21 — postponed because of general election.

**BROADWATER** Four Defence Campaign/Newham 8 North London Support Group/Haringey Immigration and Nationality Action Group: 'Resistance to racism social', 8pm to midnight Friday May 20 at Haringey Community Centre, Brabant Road, N22. Tickets £2, unwaged £1.

Labour CND West inaugural meeting, Sunday June 26, 2.30pm, Taunton CLP

meeting rooms, 24 East Reach, Taunton. LP members only.

**CONFERENCE** of Socialist Economists conference 1983: The World Economy in Crisis. July 9 to 11 in Sheffield. Details from 25 Horsell Rd, London N5.

'POPULAR Planning for Social Need': conference 'to develop a democratic Alternative Economic Strategy'. Saturday May 21, 11am-5pm, County Hall, London SE1. £2.50, £1 unwaged. Organised by CAITS.

**NEWHAM** 8 Defence Campaign. Details of activities, speakers and model resolutions from PO Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7.

**DEMONSTRATION** against the Police Bill. Sunday May 22, assemble 11

am at Brockwell Park, Brixton, and march to Hyde Park. Called by National Campaign against the Police Bill.

**"VOICE OF SOLIDARNOSC"** £8 for 6 months to Solidarnosc Information Office, 314-320 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP (01-837 9464).

**GREATER** Manchester CND trade union conference. Speakers Ron Todd (T&G), Les Huckfield MP, Greenham Common speaker. Afternoon workshops. Saturday May 28, Town Hall, Manchester. Further details: 061 682 9334.

**RICHMOND** LPYS public meeting, Tuesday May 24, 8pm, at Starr House, 57 Church Road, Richmond, Surrey. 'Socialism and Peace': speakers Tariq Ali, Keith Vaz (Labour PPC), Chris Hickey, and a woman from Greenham Common.



THOUSANDS of NALGO members will be striking against the bomb on May 24.

NALGO is one of the main unions to have pledged support for the Women's Day of Action for Peace. Largely thanks to the efforts of the union's women's organiser, Tess Woodcraft, and its equal opportunities committee, a mass publicity campaign of posters, stickers and leaflets has been launched.

Despite a request from the equal opportunities committee for industrial action on May 24 to be authorised, the national emergency

committee agreed only to consider applications from individual branches. So far 26 NALGO branches have made requests to take industrial action.

This support must be developed into ongoing action in support of the women's peace movement and the fight for nuclear disarmament.

HULL NALGO local government branch has agreed to ask the national executive for permission to take strike action on May 24.

A local NUT branch has agreed to circularise schools

with leaflets, and other activities are taking place at school level.

Action on the day will start at 9am, with women placing flowers on the local Cenotaph and reading poems.

Then there will be a picnic in Queen's Gardens at 12.30pm. There will be street theatre, balloons, badges, songs, and fun.

We will be walking to the Guildhall at 2.30 to present our peace requests to the leader of the city council — for: more publicity to be

given to the fact that Hull is a Nuclear Free Zone; asking the council to refuse to cooperate with government civil defence exercises, and refuse to give tenders to firms involved in construction work on bases preparing to house nuclear missiles, etc.

The events on May 24 in Hull are being co-ordinated by the Hull Women for Peace. Contact numbers are 445263, 43380, and 446-893. We hope many women and children will join us and men will support us.

## Where to find Socialist Organiser

### • SCOTLAND

Glasgow. For details of meetings contact paper sellers or Stan Crooke, 114 Dixon Avenue, Glasgow G42. SO is sold at Maryhill dole [Tuesday mornings] and Rutherglen shopping arcade [Friday lunchtime].

Edinburgh. For details of meetings ring Dave, 229 4591. SO is sold at Muirhouse (Saturday 10.30-12) and the First of May bookshop, Candlemaker Row.

### • NORTH-WEST

Rochdale. Meets second Monday of the month, 7.30 Castle Inn.

Manchester. Public meeting, Thursday May 26, 7.30 at the Millstone pub, Thomas St, off Tib St. 'Kick out the Tories — for a new Labour government'. Speaker Jim Denham. SO is sold at Grass Roots Books, Newton St, Piccadilly. Contact: 273 6654.

Stockport. Contact c/o 38 Broadhurst St. Meetings every Sunday, 7.30pm: phone 429 6359 for details. SO is sold at Stockport market every Saturday, 11 to 12.30.

Wirral. Contact Colin John-

stone, 1 Wellington Rd, Wallasey.

Liverpool. Contact 733 6663. SO is sold at Progressive Books, Berry St, and at News from Nowhere, Whitechapel.

Hyndburn. Contact Accrington 395753. Meetings weekly — see SO sellers for details. SO is sold at Broadway, Accrington, Saturdays 11.30 to 1pm.

Stoke. Contact Paul Barnett, 151 Broadway, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent (328198).

### • YORKSHIRE AND NORTH-EAST

Huddersfield. Contact Alan Brooke, 59 Magdale, Holey, Huddersfield HD7 2LX

Durham. SO is sold at the Community Co-op, New Elvet.

Leeds. Contact Garth Frankland, 623322. SO is sold at Books and Corner Books, Woodhouse Lane.

Bradford. Contact Barry Turner, 636994. SO is sold at the Starry Plough bookshop.

Sheffield. Meets every other Wednesday, 7.30pm at the Brown Cow, The Wick-

Hull. Meets every Wednesday, 8pm: details from SO sellers. Childcare available. SO is sold at the Prospect Centre (Saturday 11 to 12).

Halifax. Contact 52156. SO is sold at Halifax Wholefood, Gibbet St, and at Tower Books, Hebden Bridge.

York. Contact 796027. SO is sold at Coney St on Saturday mornings, at the Community Bookshop, outside

the dole office most mornings, and at the University on Friday mornings.

### • WALES

Cardiff. Contact 492988.

### • MIDLANDS

Birmingham. Meets alternate Fridays, 7.30pm, the Hen and Chickens, Constitution Hill. Next meeting Friday May 20. SO is sold at the Other Bookshop,

Digbeth High Street.

Coventry. Contact Keith White, 75623. SO is sold at the Wedge Co-op, High St. Meets on first and last Thursday of the month, 7.30 at the 'Queen', Primrose Hill St, Hillfields.

Leicester. Contact Phil, 857908. SO is sold at Blackthorne Books, High St.

Northampton. Meets every other Monday. Next meeting May 16. Details: contact 713606.

Nottingham. Meets every Friday, 7.30pm at the International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd. SO is sold outside the Victoria Centre (Saturday 11 to 1) and at the Mushroom Bookshop, Heathcote St.

### • SOUTH

Oxford. SO is sold at the Cornmarket (Saturday 11 to 1) and outside Tesco, Cowley Rd, Friday 5 to 7. Also at EOA Books, Cowley Rd.

Basingstoke. Meets every other Tuesday, 7.30 at Chute House.

## Where we stand

\* Organise the left to beat back the Tories' attacks! No to attacks on union rights; defend the picket-line; no state interference in our unions! No to any wage curbs. Labour must support all struggles for better living standards and conditions.

\* Wage rises should at the very least keep up with price increases. For a price index calculated by working class organisations, as the basis for clauses in all wage agreements to provide automatic monthly rises in line with the true cost of living for the working class. The same inflation-proofing should apply to state benefits, grants and pensions.

\* Fight for improvements in the social services, and against cuts. Protection for those services against inflation by automatic inflation-proofing of expenditure. For occupations and supporting strike action to defend jobs and services.

\* End unemployment. Cut hours, not jobs. Fight for a 35 hour week and an end to overtime. Demand work-sharing without loss of pay. Organise the unemployed — campaign for a programme of useful public works to create new jobs for the unemployed.

\* Defend all jobs! Open the books of those firms that threaten closure or redundancies, along with those of their suppliers and bankers, to elected trade union committees. For occupation and blacking action to halt the closures. For nationalisation without compensation under workers' management.

\* Make the bosses pay, not the working class. Millions for hospitals, not a penny for 'defence'! Nationalise the banks and financial institutions, without compensation. End the interest burden on council housing and other public services.

\* Freeze rents and rates.

\* Scrap all immigration controls. Race is not a problem; racism is. The labour movement must mobilise to drive the fascists off the streets. Purge racists from positions in the labour movement. Organise full support for black self-defence. Build workers' defence squads.

\* The capitalist police are an enemy for the working class. Support all demands to weaken them as a bosses' striking force: dissolution of special squads (SPG, Special Branch, M15, etc.), public accountability, etc.

\* Free abortion on demand. Women's equal right to work and full equality for women. Defend and extend free state nursery and childcare provision.

\* Against attacks on gays by the state: abolish all laws which discriminate against lesbians and gay men; for the right of the gay community to organise and affirm their stand publicly.

\* The Irish people — as a whole — should have the right to determine their own future. Get the British troops out now! Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Political status for Irish Republican prisoners as a matter of urgency.

\* The black working people of South Africa should get full support from the British labour movement for their strikes, struggles and armed combat against the white supremacist regime. South African goods and services should be blacked.

\* It is essential to achieve the fullest democracy in the labour movement. Automatic reselection of MPs during each parliament and the election by annual conference of party leaders. Annual election of all trade union officials, who should be paid the average for the trade.

\* The chaos, waste, human suffering and misery of capitalism now — in Britain and throughout the world — show the urgent need to establish rational, democratic, human control over the economy, to make the decisive sectors of industry social property, under workers' control. The strength of the labour movement lies in the rank and file. Our perspective must be working class action to raze the capitalist system down to its foundations, and to put a working class socialist alternative in its place — rather than having our representatives run the system and waiting for crumbs from the tables of the bankers and the bosses.

Socialist Organiser is not just a paper. We fight to organise workers in the struggle for a new leadership in the labour movement. If you agree with what we have to say, you can help.

### • LONDON

North-West London. Readers' meetings first Sunday of month. Phone Mick, 624 1931, for details. SO is sold at Kilburn Books.

Hackney. Contact Andrew Hornung, 28 Carlton Mansions, Holmleigh Rd, N16.

Haringey. Contact 802 0771 or 348 5941. Meets every other Thursday, 7.30, Trade Union Centre, Brabant Road.

Hounslow. Next meeting Sunday May 22, John O'Mahony on 'Socialist Organiser and organising the left'. For venue see SO sellers. SO is sold outside All Saints Church, Hounslow High St, Saturday 10.30am to 12.

Islington. Next meeting Sunday May 29, 6pm to 7.30 at Caxton House, St John's Way: business meeting. For childcare phone Nik, 278 1341.

Southwark/Lambeth meets every other Wednesday at Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, SE5. Business meeting 7.30pm, open forum discussion 8.30pm.

Tower Hamlets. Meets fortnightly on Fridays, 6.30 to 8.30pm. Contact 377 1328 for details.

SO is sold at the following London bookshops: Colletts, Central Books, The Other Bookshop, Bookmarks, Bookplace (Peckham Rd, SE15), Kilburn Books, and Reading Matters (Wood Green Shopping Centre).



Rates: £5 for three months, £8.75 for six months, and £16 for a year.

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# Which way forward for LCI?

MARTIN Collins' letter on the Labour Committee on Ireland (LCI) AGM (SO, last week) is both wildly misleading and blurs over the real issues at stake.

Firstly he claims that such ideas as affiliation to Socialists for a Labour Victory, opposition to the witch-hunt and continued recognition of expelled members, work in the unions and a model resolution on the Assembly for this year's Labour Party conference, were Socialist Action initiatives.

In fact, all of these points were generally uncontroversial within the LCI. They were supported, and in some cases introduced into the LCI, by SO.

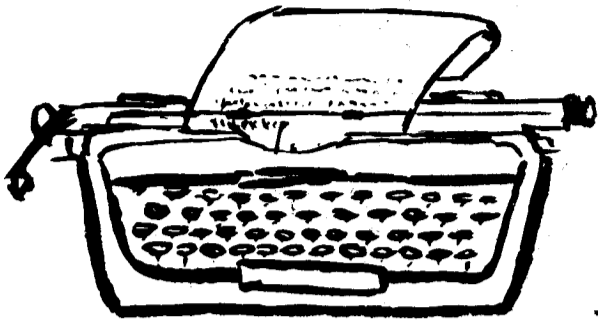
As for work in the unions, two sets of proposals, were put to the AGM in April: one in Martin's name, and one in mine and those of two other SO supporters. With the exception of the idea of a trade union delegation to the Six Counties (which I support) the practical conclusions were identical.

No "SO ideas about establishing a front organisation in the unions" were put to this AGM. Last year SO supporters put a proposal for an LCI-type organisation for the unions to get round the problem that (for good political reasons) only Labour Party members are able to join the LCI.

What then was all the fuss about? There was a major argument about the LCI's publications, which was based on a major difference of assessment of the stage of development and potential of the Irish solidarity movement in Britain today.

Martin and other Socialist Action supporters put forward a

# Writeback



Send letters to Socialist Organiser, 28 Middle Lane, London N8. No longer than 400 words, please: longer letters are liable to be cut.



A new new mass vanguard in the making? An opinion poll came up with the result that the Pope and Ken Livingstone are the two people most admired by Londoners.

proposal (which he doesn't mention) for a regular bi-monthly 28/32 page discussion journal, less closely linked to the LCI than the present 'Labour and Ireland'. The political justification for this was that the election of Sinn Fein Assembly members and the publicity given to Ken Livingstone's visit to Belfast had drastically changed the situation the LCI faced, and presented us with a potential mass audience.

Never mind that the LCI's resources are small and stretched to the limit; never mind that active interest in Ireland in the Labour Party is at a far lower level than in 1981; never mind that the solidarity movement (particularly the Troops Out Movement) has been intoxicated for years with the illusion that at

some point a mass movement for withdrawal can be conjured out of nothing. No, instead the LCI was invited to gamble all on Socialist Action's leap in the dark based on wishful thinking.

As evidence on this mass audience, we were treated to vague generalisations and Martin quoting a radio poll in which Londoners had placed Ken Livingstone second to the Pope as the person they most admired. Maybe as a result the Catholic Herald has doubled its print run!

Martin's letter passes over all this and implies that here the LCI followed Socialist Action, rather than the pessimists of Socialist Organiser. In fact SA's proposals were overwhelmingly rejected by the AGM in favour of more modest and real-

# Permanent Revolution is not relevant

Dear Comrades,

Most of those who have written in over the past few months to take issue with John O'Mahony's views on Ireland are clearly people with no great knowledge of Irish society, Irish history or of the basic positions of communism — Peter Flack (SO Feb 10) being a classic case in point.

One might, however, have expected better from Rayner Lysaght. But when you cut away

the U Sec gobbledegook, all comrade Lysaght has to say is:

1. All attempts to conciliate the Protestant community (e.g. through Federalism) are futile until after the creation of a 32 county state.

2. To even attempt to foster unity between the Catholics and those who 'oppose imperialism ... if at all, from the right' (i.e. the protestants) inevitably leads to rightist deviations and capitulation to British imperialism à la BICO, SFWP, 'Militant' and ... Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien!

3. BICO, SFWP, 'Militant', the Cruiser and John O'Mahony all share one original sin: they 'all deny Permanent Revolution's validity in Ireland'.

I get the impression that comrade Lysaght objects to talk of workers' unity in the existing Irish context essentially because it sounds like the sort of thing 'Militant' uses as a cover for their scab position on the national struggle. That's certainly the reaction of many comrades in England, anyway. But what a tragedy it would be if we were to discard such a fundamental communist slogan simply because renegades like 'Militant' have misused it!

## Paradox

Does comrade Lysaght believe that a united Ireland can be achieved by militarily defeating and physically crushing the protestants? Does he advocate such a strategy for the creation of a united Ireland? I cannot believe that he does, but that seems to be the only logical conclusion once you've ruled out conciliating the protestants — and (paradoxically) it also consigns the goal of a united Ireland to the dim and distant future when the forces of 'Permanent Revolution' have had their way!

The comrade's confusion seems to me to stem from a misconception he shares with many socialists on the mainland, who in their (correct) eagerness to solidarise with the nationalist cause, end up forgetting the

ABCs of working class politics and lapsing into petty bourgeois nationalism. In fact, there need be no contradiction between being 'an anti-imperialist supporting the Irish national democratic struggle', and advocating measures to conciliate the Protestant working class (and, really, whether or not any Protestant worker is bothered about Federalism is a rather cheap way of dismissing the orientation that O'Mahony advocates). The only people who see any contradiction are those who have given up any independent working class view of the situation and opted instead for Catholic nationalism plus 'Trotskyist' rhetoric.

Finally, although I don't intend to go into the whole business of Permanent Revolution and Ireland, two points must be made. For a start, 'Militant' do not 'deny Permanent Revolution's validity to Ireland'. In fact they proclaim the applicability of this theory to Ireland very loudly and with monotonous regularity — and I'm surprised comrade Lysaght is not aware of this. So much for the idea that allegiance to this particular view of the Irish struggle guarantees intransigent anti-imperialism...

Although comrade Lysaght clearly sees 'Permanent Revolution' as some kind of on-going process, complete with 'vanguards', 'rearguards' and 'the centre' (??), I would still ask him — along with all those who proclaim the relevance of this theory to Ireland — where are the 'peasant masses', and where is the unresolved 'agrarian question'? As far as I can see, to try to apply Trotsky's theory (of central importance in backward, non-industrial societies) to an advanced, industrialised country with a numerically dominant proletariat and a developed labour movement, is at best misleading, and at worst to use Trotsky's theory as a cover for seeking an alliance with the national bourgeoisie.

Yours,  
Jim Denham

# WRP pamphlet: a 60p smokescreen

by Sean Matgamna

AND STILL they have not sued!

The WRP and their suer-in-chief, Ms V. Redgrave, have still not acted to wipe off the public record their implied admission that the WRP is subsidised by the Libyan bourgeois government.

They have still not dared sue me for saying and repeating that all the political and circumstantial evidence indicates that they are pensioners of the erratic Islamic despot Col. Gaddafi. Nor have they sued me for saying and repeating that at the time, four years ago, when Newline endorsed, justified, and defended the shooting of members of the Iraqi Communist Party, there were similar indications that the WRP was receiving money from the vicious Hussein regime that shot them.

As regular SO readers will know, this is not because of a principled reluctance to invoke the courts against a labour movement organisation. The WRP have steadfastly refused our call for a labour movement inquiry, and

through Ms Redgrave they have involved Socialist Organiser (through John Bloxam and myself) in a costly law suit for, among other things, comparing them to a quasi-religious sect. If they do not sue me now, it is because they do not dare.

It is because they know what I say to be true and indefensible.

Now even those who have so far been inclined to give the WRP the benefit of the doubt have no good reason left for doing so. The WRP's inability to sue is itself the final clinching piece of circumstantial evidence: it is an admission of guilt.

They don't dare act to try to wipe out this implied admission. Instead they continue to try to bury it. For the last two months they have waged their biggest and most energetic campaign in the labour movement these many years. It is quite a skilled campaign of its — Stalinist — kind. They denounce the BBC's 'witch hunt' (the BBC 'Money Programme' said they were subsidised by Libya) — they do not answer the charge. Their message is: 'The BBC says it, so it can't be true'.

Such is the hostility to the media in the labour movement that it protects those whose basic 'case' this is. But it is both illogical and irrational.

We have no other source for most of our information about the world than the serious bourgeois media — no more than did Marx and Engels for all their lives or Lenin and Trotsky for most of theirs. It is necessary to read and view critically and with due regard to bias. But to say you don't believe anything the media says would be to say you know virtually nothing about the world you live in! There is no independent working class world-wide information network, and the Stalinist media are qualitatively worse than the liberal bourgeois media.

The cry of 'bourgeois lies' has always helped the Stalinists hide the horrors of their regimes from the labour movement.

50 years after it happened, one could still find Maoists obsessed with the fact that Trotsky contributed an article to the Daily Express in 1929! It is necessary to know how to separate the essential from secondary or even trivial considerations.

The WRP have also skilfully used the Stalinist technique of the 'amalgam'. Socialist Organiser, which has long said what the BBC said about the WRP and Libya, did not denounce the BBC as 'witch-hunters' for saying what we say and believe to be true — for that would be to say either

that we ourselves were 'witch-hunters', or else that the anti working class BBC saying it made it untrue or irrelevant that a sect claiming to be part of the labour movement may be a bought and paid for stooge of one or more bourgeois states.

The WRP cover their guilt and deflect attention from the issue by denouncing the latest accuser — the BBC — and in the same operation try to cover Socialist Organiser in mud.

## Arsenic

Now the WRP have put their articles on the BBC — and Socialist Organiser — into a glossy 60p pamphlet. Its cover is appropriately green — the colour alike of Gaddafi and of arsenic poison, the physical equivalent of the 'politics' that the WRP purveys. It is called 'The Money Programme Exposed'. What it exposes is that for the WRP SO is the real target. The selection of 'readers' comments' is concerned far more with SO than with the BBC.

That's the name of the game. Even if the allegations about the WRP and Libya first appeared in the Sun, that would be less important than establishing whether the allegation is true or not. Do

they get money from Libya? Are Healy, Banda, Redgrave and Mitchell people whose organisation was being paid by the Iraqi military dictatorship at the time they justified that regime's butchery of Iraqi CPers? These are the

issues. Of course, Healy, Banda, Mitchell, Redgrave, you could still try to retract your implied admission of guilt by suing me. You don't dare.

## YCND conference

**Manchester, July 2. For details contact YCND, 11 Goodwin St, London N4. To join YCND, send £1 to 11 Goodwin St.**

# Watershed for CPSA militants

CPSA conference 1983, held last week in Brighton, was a watershed for the left in the union. After a year of an overwhelming Broad Left majority on the National Executive Committee, the right wing 'Moderate' group swept back to power, leaving the union once again with right wing leadership and left wing conference policies.

Despite a clear Broad Left majority in the conference hall, affiliation to the National Abortion Campaign, and the constitutional amendment to affiliate to CND (which required a two thirds majority) were lost. These two defeats, with the election result, showed the failure of the Broad Left to organise in the branches throughout the year.

Large Broad Left branches, such as the DHSS Newcastle complex, were mandated against affiliation to NAC after AGMs which concentrated far more on nominations for elected positions than debates on the issues.

## Left-talking

That this left-talking executive had also capitulated to management over the Birmingham/Oxford staffing dispute, sealed its fate. The right wing mobilised in force.

Even in the conference itself, the only serious attempt to organise the left and orientate to the rank and file was made by the Socialist Caucus within the Broad Left (which includes SO supporters). A fringe meeting organised by the Socialist Caucus attracted a number of activists who rejected Militant's programmatic block-buster approach to the conference but wished to distance themselves

## Penny Barnett reports on CPSA conference



PHOTO: JOHN HARRIS

Kevin Roddy

from the 'Labour Left' approach.

The conference itself, chaired by the 'Militant' outgoing president Kevin Roddy, was conducted, for the first time in four years, in an orderly and dignified manner. A wide range of bread and butter issues on pay and conditions were debated. But when conference moved onto the key political issues, it became obvious that Roddy intended the debate to be between Militant and the right wing. The rest of the organised left was squeezed out.

This was most glaringly obvious in the debate on the proposed merger with the management union SCPS, where no left opposition speakers were called, despite the fact that much of the non-Militant left opposes a merger.

Again, the debate on the Oxford and Birmingham sell-out was smartly curtailed. Although Militant supporters were lined up to vote for the censure on the executive, no analysis of the dispute or reference to Militant's dubious role in it was wanted. This bodes ill for the strikers in Liverpool DHSS, again fighting staff cuts, and at Hackney DE and DHSS, locked out after protesting at over crowding.

The fight in the CPSA on women's issues is only just beginning. Although the setting up of a women's rights committee by the Broad Left NEC, and minor steps taken to increase representation on it, are advances, Militant lined up with the right wing to block attempts to introduce women-only schools into the union's education programme and to bar any mention of positive discrimination or separate organisation.

Yet the need for these steps was graphically illustrated within the conference itself. In a union which is three-quarters women, on an average day 68 male speakers were called and only 18 women. In some debates no women at all were called, although there were (a few) women on their feet.

Broad Left attempts to cooperate with the Civil Service Women's Rights Group seemed doomed to failure after they forgot to book a room for a creche at the Broad Left/women's rights meeting. In a union so dominated by women, and in which so few are active, taking up women's problems and drawing them into the activities of the union has to be a major perspective for the left. It arises directly out of the need to orient the Broad Left towards rank and file - instead of allowing the current factional heat to force moves to turn the Broad Left into nothing more than a delegate meeting which draws up an annual election slate.

# Why Broad Left failed

IN ITS final bulletin to CPSA conference on Friday 13th, the Militant tendency declared that 'conference this week has carried many important policies on behalf of members' - 'against low pay, for a 35 hour working week, the defence of jobs in opposition to privatisation and the defence of the NHS'.

## Great week

It concluded by saying that it had been a 'great week for the rank and file and for Militant'.

The reality is different. The 'victories' claimed by Militant were in fact no more than repetitions of last year's conference policies not yet implemented.

Why has the biggest Broad Left in the trade union movement suffered such a major setback? The answer lies not only with the Broad Left dominated NEC and its inept handling

## by Ian Leedham

Member CPSA National Broad Left Steering Committee  
Broad Left candidate for NEC

of disputes such as the Oxford and Birmingham DHSS strike, but also with the organisation of the Broad Left itself and the attitudes that some comrades have about the purpose of the Broad Left.

The Broad Left this year has been seen as nothing more than an election machine. It has not inspired members into action. What we need to do now is take a cold clear look at the organisation and learn by our mistakes.

Our first major sin this year was complacency - many comrades did not believe that such a large Broad Left majority on the NEC could be overturned in one year, and there was still a belief that the election of a

Broad Left run NEC would mean all of our policies would be implemented from the top. When it became evident that this was not going to happen the rank and file membership became disillusioned.

Secondly, we were not organised. The Broad Left journal 'Broadside' only came out twice in the year - not because the editor was unwilling to produce it, but because no one had written any articles for it. The Broad Left steering committee met only twice - there hasn't been a meeting of local Broad Left convenors for over a year - the list is endless.

The most fundamental reason for the failure was reliance on resolutions to conference and the election of Broad Left candidates, rather than the building of Broad Left Groups and campaigning amongst the members for our policies. In the next year the Broad Left needs to re-establish its links with the rank and file.

I support the Socialist Caucus in CPSA, and would obviously prefer to see people join that grouping within the Broad Left. Nonetheless, the overriding aim of the Broad Left must be to attract members: only after this can we concern ourselves with attracting them to particular factions within the major Left block.

IN LAST week's report from CPSA conference, we wrote that "over 4,000 members were prepared to take all out action" on pay. It should have read "over 12,000".



Jim Cronin (left foreground), barricaded in Arlington House as Rowtons moved to evict the strikers

ANDREW WARD (REPORT)

# Lessons of hostel strike

Martin Thomas spoke to Jim Cronin, TGWU convenor at Arlington House hostel, and to other strikers, about their nine month struggle.

They came out on strike last September for an increase on their wages, which ranged from £26 for 40 hours. Since then they have fought sacking and eviction from their rooms in the hostel. Now moves are underway for the local Labour Council (Camden) to buy the hostel.

First Jim Cronin explained the present situation.

"The independent valuer is still doing his work. We hope his report will be ready by May 25.

Then it goes to the three councils involved [Camden, and Tower Hamlets and Lambeth, the two other London boroughs with hostels for single men belonging to Rowtons, the owners of Arlington House].

There is already agreement from the three councils and the GLC, and I think Rowtons, that they will respect the report. Whether Rowtons goes through with it is another kettle of fish.

We're part way through negotiating on wages and conditions with the UK Housing Trust [who will take over running the hostel when Camden Council buys it]. The negotiations are going well.

They've undertaken to renovate the place. There'll also be a survey done of the residents to find out what exactly they want.

There's a lot of guesswork by different organisations as to what they want, but no-one has asked them yet. We don't want a bunch of do-gooders telling them what they want".

Another striker added:

"They'll be respected. Before, if you mentioned you lived in Arlington House, employers would not employ you, you couldn't even get on doctors' lists. We want the residents of Arlington House to be respected citizens..."

"... Give them self-respect, and then they can get respect from the community. It'll be a good place to work".

What enabled you to win?  
"It's just a small group that has stuck together. We got backing from the labour movement in

general - not just the Labour Party. People have come to see that the single homeless are a problem."

What have the union officials been like?

"We did have a problem at the beginning, but after that they've been good. We have a very good district official - not just as a union official, but a man who cares about the single homeless".

How did you get support?

"We went to every meeting possible in the labour movement to ask for help. Fortunately for us about half of us are members of the Labour Party.

The Labour Party has been very good - supported us all the way through, especially the Arlington Action Group, in which Labour Party members from Chalk Farm are active. They were mainly behind the union being formed in Arlington House.

Eventually what happened was that one of the staff got badly beaten up by a senior member of Rowtons staff. The idea of the union was there before, but that made everyone's mind up. We had a stoppage that evening. Then we had 95% union membership from the start".

What do you think a new Labour government should do about places like Arlington House, and about the problem of low wages and unionisation in hotels and catering?

"I think they should purchase all these places and put them under socially responsible ownership - the Salvation Army, the lot. There are a lot of hostels as badly

run as Rowtons or worse. Some of them are death traps. The sooner Jim Marshall's Bill gets through, the better. [The Private Members' Bill by Labour MP Jim Marshall seeks to establish checks by local authorities over 'Houses in Multiple Occupation']".

I think there should be a minimum wage. The GLC has a policy of £100 minimum wage. It should be a law, not just policy.

At the moment the unions are not strong enough. There are too many right wing top officials in all the unions, not just the T&G.

The unions need a good victory. They have never won a big dispute yet in hotels and catering - only some small ones".

Isn't the reason that widespread blacking is necessary to win these disputes, and the unions have not been willing to organise that?

"Yes. That's right. When a restaurant goes on strike, there should be the full power of the union behind that one little strike - we should blow it up out of all proportion, if you like.

I think the unions would get a lot more members that way. You have to show by example before people will join".

We discussed the problem of employers in hotels and catering using immigrant labour to undercut the unions. Australians and New Zealanders were particularly mentioned, and some of the strikers suggested that the answer was to keep them out.

Jim Cronin's view was: "It's not going to help the unions keeping them out. We should bring them all into the union. People say that immigrants take jobs away from the British - but they sometimes do what the British wouldn't do".

Then the discussion came back to the union leaderships again. The view was put that "the catering industry has not got a man in a top position in the union to look after it. The men at the top are from other trades. They don't know about catering. They know about engineering, or the motor industry".

Sometimes, I said, the union leaderships did not do very well in the motor industry. either. What about election of officials?

Jim Cronin replied: "Yes. If they were elected every so often, instead of being stuck there until they retire, it would be better. Then if they're no good you can dump them."

For an independent inquiry into the death of Colin Roach!  
Roach Family Support Committee, 50 Rectory Rd, London N16



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# Social Contract prepared

# NUPE turns sharp right

IN A SHARP swing to the right, the NUPE conference has effectively prepared the way to support a wage controls deal in the form of a National Economic Assessment involving the TUC and a Labour government.

NUPE's new 'left wing' general secretary Rodney Bickerstaffe steered through this fundamental shift in NUPE policy, from free collective bargaining to wage controls, with many of the skills of more experienced general secretaries.

He had nailed his colours to the mast on the first day of the conference. "The press will be waiting to know the NUPE view of the National Economic Assessment. Is it an incomes policy or is it not an incomes policy? I will tell you what NUPE sees it as. It is an attack on unemployment in this society and an attack on the low pay of our members".

The pay policy debate on Tuesday was a walkover for a well organised platform. The left was weak and disorganised, and most seemed oblivious to the issues involved, although the timing of the NUPE conference clearly made its decision crucial for the immediate adoption of a new social contract should a Labour government be elected on June 9.

## Opposition

Composite resolution A, moved by Socialist Workers' Party (SWP) member Alan Walter from Camden, called for "total opposition to any form of wage restraint, incomes policy, or productivity scheme, whether introduced by the Tory, SDP, Liberal or Labour Parties". Unfortunately it went on to make a number of demands about the conduct of a future wages struggle, such as a common review date and a united struggle of the public sector. Although correct and important, these were completely subordinate to the main issue of wage restraint.

Composite A was counterposed to an executive statement on pay policy which took no position either way on wage restraint, and a resolution from the Stafford branch calling for a statutory incomes policy.

The major issues involved did

## Bill Peters reports from NUPE conference (May 15 to 17)

not come out in the debate. The mover of Composite A managed to mention the National Economic Assessment not at all, and incomes policy only briefly. Both he and the SWP speakers who followed him spent the bulk of their speeches talking about tactics for the next pay round.

The Communist Party openly supported the executive statement (and this was reflected in the uncritical report in Tuesday's Morning Star). Only one delegate, Anna Lunts from Manchester NHS, a Socialist Organiser supporter, spoke on the National Economic Assessment and called for specific rejection of it along with all forms of wage controls.

Bickerstaffe could not have had an easier ride. In his summing up Alan Walter failed again to mention wage controls or the National Economic Assessment.

The platform successfully called for rejection of both composite A and the Stafford resolution, and acceptance of the executive statement.

This left the conference with no policy on wage controls except Bickerstaffe's unchallenged statement the previous day supporting the National Economic Assessment - which will be used in the event of a Labour government to support a social contract Mark II.

Although the SWP, which had the biggest group of delegates on the left, fell into the trap because they regard the struggle within the Labour Party as irrelevant and direct themselves ever more to minimal 'rank-and-file'-ism, all this was consistent with the general mood of the conference, which was not to take up the Labour Party or a future Labour government, but simply to have an anti-Tory jamboree.

Conference opened with long militant speeches ridiculing Thatcher and Thatcherism from assistant general secretary Tom Sawyer and from Rodney Bickerstaffe, without a word about why That-



Rodney Bickerstaffe

cher has been able to impose her policies so effectively. Labour Party general secretary Jim Mortimer was brought in to make a militant speech. The overwhelming mood of the delegates, including the Labour Left, was to go along with the unity bandwagon and to cooperate with the platform in order to 'win the election'.

This could have been challenged in the wages policy debate if the implications of what was happening had been forcefully pointed out. The sharpest reflection of the mood for sinking differences was the success of the leadership in getting the withdrawal of the motion condemning the witch hunt in the Labour Party in favour of an anti-Tory statement by the executive.

## Section

The key section of the motion was as follows: "We urge this year's delegation to the Labour Party conference to vote in National Executive Committee elections first for those candidates who support NUPE's main policies, including opposition to ex-



Water strikers lobby NUPE negotiator Ron Keating

"We don't want a pay policy, not even one cleverly disguised as an economic assessment".

— Manchester delegate Anna Lunts

## 'Bickerstaffe steered through a fundamental change in NUPE policy, from free collective bargaining to wage controls'

but school meals delegates had to organise and campaign in the conference to get the item discussed.

The conference passed overwhelmingly a motion calling for unilateral nuclear disarmament, but an amendment from Manchester NHS "to secure Britain's withdrawal from NATO membership, which inevitably draws Britain into the centre of any future conflict" was rejected on the advice of the platform.

Manchester delegate Anna Lunts said: "NATO is not just a military alliance. It is a political alliance developed in the cold war period. Whilst we are tied to NATO, Britain is tied to an alliance which is prepared to use nuclear weapons". The right wing opposed with the argument that the Labour Party will be fighting the election on the basis of continued membership of NATO. "We should not get unilateral nuclear disarmament and NATO mixed up". The EC opposed the amendment with the argument that it was "divisive at this time".

There was a useful debate on Ireland, around a successful motion, supported by the executive, to "continue to exert pressure for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and in particular to highlight the deplorable use of the Act on NUPE members and other trade unionists in the course of their union duties".

The brevity of the conference - effectively two days - led to important issues like women's oppression and racism being left off the agenda. The conference ended as it began, with calls for unity around the election and for a Labour victory on June 9. Little, however, had been said as to what should be done on June 10 or after.

assing time when one motion in the debate revealed that NUPE has bought shares in Grand Metropolitan, one of the major contractors involved. The resolution said the following: "This conference is appalled that NUPE's funds are invested in private service companies such as Grand Metropolitan and calls for the immediate and complete withdrawal of union investment in any company or institution that is in any way connected with the attempted privatisation of local authority services".

Although the platform immediately pledged to sell the shares, they actually defended their decision to buy them on the basis that they had been able to make a successful intervention into the shareholders' meeting.

In the course of the debate it was noted that 50,000 women have lost their jobs in the devastation of the school meals service,

pulsions from the Labour Party under the register. We also ask that our member of the NEC opposes any expulsions, and supports the reinstatement of any member. Conference defends the traditional right of Party members to belong to pressure groups within the Party, and considers that such groups should no longer be subject to arbitrary powers of the Party's National Executive Committee".

The Labour left went along with the withdrawal of this motion, as did Militant. Speech after speech justified the withdrawal of the motion. In the words of one delegate, "We have to drop this resolution in order to win the election".

The daily bulletin of the NUPE Broad Left, heavily dominated by the Communist Party, commented that this action "confirms the tactical sense of the comrades in the Labour Party debate in remitting their resolution in order to avoid what would have been an acrimonious debate in the election run-up".

The unity mood even overtook the debate on last year's eight-month NHS dispute, and the failure of the NEC to carry out the all-out strike decision of last year's conference. The platform spent their time congratulating themselves on the way they had led the dispute, and despite some sharp criticism, got an overwhelming vote against a resolution which sought to censure them for not carrying out last year's conference decision.

## Privatisation

Privatisation was inevitably an major item on the agenda, since if it is not stopped it will wipe out not only thousands of jobs but NUPE as a union as well.

Although the resolution called for joint trade union committees at local level to organise against privatisation and private contractors, and pledged "maximum support to members fighting contractors", many delegates pointed out that a similar resolution was passed last year and privatisation has not been seriously challenged by the union.

The platform had an embarr-

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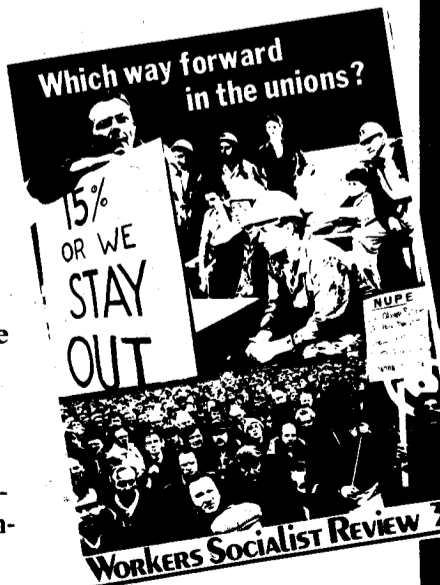


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# Socialist ORGANISER

**New pit closure threat**

AFTER Lewis Merthyr, the National Coal Board has moved against Cardowan colliery in Scotland. But the miners there are ready to fight.

The issue has been taken to national level to delay the closure. But direct action is also being discussed. And then the outcome will depend on the willingness of Mick McGahey, Arthur Scargill, and other NUM leaders to fight to spread the action nationally.

Stuart McCann spoke to Alex Hogg of Cardowan NUM. "Specific action has not totally been worked out by the branch committee or the members. But to go for occupation is more than a possibility. We will be prepared to resist to the maximum.

Resistance will depend on the type of support the rest of the

If the men of Cardowan take positive action in defence of their jobs, then the responsibility for the support from other Scottish miners rests with the area leadership. I believe there is a wind of change going through the industry and indeed the nation. The men now realise that the promises of a secure long-term future at another colliery are meaningless.

To quote a recent example: some members were transferred to Cardowan 15 months ago and promised a long-term future. The promise of a long-term future is a massive con-trick.

We fight now or become industrial gypsies, tramping from area to area at the whim of the National Coal Board.

Young socialists in the labour movement must be actively involved in ensuring that their trade union is not found wanting in any department to support any action the Cardowan miners may take. Activists in the political wing of the movement must pressurise councillors and MPs to make clear cut statements of support, and must ensure that these people are using their positions to pressurise the powers that be to concede the justice of our case.

When the Cardowan men take action, we expect the entire labour movement will be prepared to extend physical and financial support".

**'Non-political' farce must cease**

## LIFT THE

## GAG ON

# PEOPLE'S MARCH!

THE PEOPLE'S March for Jobs was already well under way when Thatcher called the election. The march will converge on London for a massive rally on June 5 - just four days before polling day.

It ought to be a golden opportunity for the labour movement to link up the struggle for jobs with the need to kick out the Tories. But the march organisers, dominated politically by the

Communist Party and their fellow travellers in the trade union bureaucracy, have decreed that the march must 'non-political'.

The official slogan, 'Make Full Employment a First Priority', is, they say, aimed at all parties and all governments - including the Tories.

SDP councillors have been invited onto the People's March platforms. But marchers who have attempted to raise politics have been told to shut up and threatened with expulsion by the march marshals.

Our latest information is that three marchers have been thrown off for shouting anti-Tory slogans, and that another six or seven, including a TGWU official, have left the march in sympathy with them.

The march organisers must not be allowed to succeed with this gag law. Militants in each area should bring their Labour Party banners onto the support marches and raise anti-Tory slogans. Workers in struggle should be brought onto the platform at every march rally.



In Manchester the organisers were persuaded to accept a speaker from the Greenings dispute. He spoke strongly about the link between the struggle for jobs and the need to elect a Labour government - much to the annoyance of both the 'non-political' CPers and the sectarians from the SWP who also objected to any mention of the Labour Party!

As the march reaches the Midlands and polling day gets closer, it will be increasingly difficult for the organisers to maintain their grip. Our job must be to organise

maximum support for the march, and to turn it into a workers' march against the Tories and for a Labour victory!

STOP PRESS: TGWU region 6 committee, Merseyside County Association of Trades Councils, Wirral Trades Council, and Liverpool Trades Council, have all condemned the three expulsions from the march, and called for the march to be politicised.

## Merseyside marcher's diary

8.5.83: Arrived in Ellesmere Port yesterday from Shotton (Deeside, Wales). We leave from Birkenhead from Liverpool this morning, about a nine mile march. For second night running had to sleep on hard floors. At the moment I'm sitting at the breakfast table waiting for the beans to arrive.

The CP seems to be/is dominant in both presence and authority. All the marshals and some stewards are CPers. Apart from

that there is no other large grouping in our contingent - one WRP, one non-aligned YS member, us two SO supporters, two ordinary Labour people, and two Arlington House strikers.

The official slogan is: "This is the People's March for Jobs... we are marching from Wales to London... there are 5 million people unemployed... we call on this government to make unemployment its first priority". When I suggested that we all start chanting, the stewards asked what, and I said: "Maggie Maggie Maggie Out Out Out!" I was told that this was not an official slogan and that we should not personalise the issue, but make a call to all governments!

Between here and Birkenhead, the only sign of life on the march comes from the supporters who are chanting anti-Tory, anti-nuclear slogans. There were banners from the Wirral support march - Labour Party, Trades Council, CND, and NALGO.

At Birkenhead we heard that the CP marshals were furious because one of the speakers at the rally raised the question of women and unemployment. I made a speech of thanks, and then we were bussed to Liverpool Students' Union. I was looking forward to hearing the Au Pairs, but they're not on because apparently they've split up.

9.5.83: Breakfast was good, the student union accommodation the best so far. On the way to the rally, stopped at a picket line at 'Lady at Lord John', where the

local manageress had been sacked when she complained about the area manager's sexual harassment of women staff.

Arrived at Liverpool Pierhead for the rally, the largest so far though the Liverpool people were saying it was a poor turnout because of the weather. Heard speakers from the council and the Labour Party, and a vicar. The size of the march was more than doubled by supporters.

After the lunchbreak the CP showed themselves for the rats they are. The chanting was what really brought things to a head. The Liverpool contingent, Labour Party, dockers, etc. all started chanting their own slogans like "Occupy, Organise, Kick the Tories Out".

It didn't take the CP long to bring their megaphone over to where we were chanting to try to drown us out with 'official' and 'non-political' slogans. After a while we simply added our slogan onto the end of the CP's. This really wound them up, and one of the marshals started ranting about what we'd done in the class struggle compared to his record. The replies he got from some of the Liverpool militants soon shut him up.

We arrived in St Helens (about 22 miles from Liverpool) and were received at the town hall. Here we were told where we'd be staying. Me, my mate John and a CP branch secretary ended up staying at the very large house of two Tribune teachers. For the first time since the march began I had a bed to sleep in!

11.5.83: Left Leigh, where we'd stayed the night before, and set off for Salford - only about six or seven miles. As we came into Salford, we started to chant slogans that the CP didn't like again. We met up with the main march about 12 noon, and some of our chants were taken up by them.

Someone from the main march told me that they had tried to sing as well, but the marshals had stopped it.

On the way to the town hall, we had the best reception so far from people in the streets. Even the little kids in an infants school were singing "Maggie Out".

12.5.83: Penniless. We got stranded in a comrade's flat where we were staying, and had to call NALGO to come and pick us up and take us back to the march. Some of us organised an 'opposition' meeting of rank and file marchers where we outlined our demands: regular meetings, election of marshals, stewards to be allowed into marshals' meetings.

13.5.83: A marchers' meeting this morning. It lasted nearly two hours, and got quite heated, the CP arguing more or less for keeping the march as a-political as possible and against anti-Tory slogans. Thinly veiled threats to throw us off if we continued to chant "Maggie Out".

## FUND ALERT

WE'VE had £112 worth of response to last week's appeal for donations, including some contributions sent specially to help us in the election period.

£112 is an improvement on the first 2 weeks in May, but it has only brought the total to £159.75 - a long way short of our £1,000 target for May.

We need a flood of donations now to boost the May fund.

Meanwhile, Coventry SO group has set the pace for fund-raising in June. Veteran Social organisers (their last social raised over £75), they've planned a social to take place immediately after an SO public meeting on June 17, organised to discuss the way forward after the elections. Other groups should follow their lead, and make their own plans now, too. It'll be too late if you wait till after the election.

Thanks this week to: Dai and Sarah Stephens, £50 to help with work around the election; a donor in York, who sent £10 to 'aid the struggle for a Labour victory'; for £10 donations to Cheung Siu Ming, a supporter in Putney, and Alan Clinton; for £5 donations to Jo Thwaites, Bob Sugden, a supporter in East London and Stephen Corbishley; and this week's contributions from Brent supporters, Christine McKimmie, £1, and Matt Hanlon, £1.

Send donations to.

The Treasurer, 214, Sickert Court, London N1 2SY.

**TORY industry minister Norman Lamont last week confirmed that the government intended to privatise BL "as soon as possible".** Meanwhile the Labour Research Department has published a new report on privatisations already concluded. Its findings: speculators make a killing, privatisation is followed (as well as preceded) by massive job cuts, and the subsequent profits fill the pockets of a wealthy few.