CIVIL SERVICE CUTS

SAVINGS, JOBS, CUT-OUT

TENS OF thousands more school leavers will be without the benefit of school leaver job this summer.

The Tories have imposed a ban on recruitment in the civil service for the next three months. This will hit hardest in the lowest clerical grades, where turnover is biggest — and where many school leavers have traditionally found jobs.

The CPSA (the biggest grade civil service workers' union) has already called for an overtime ban and no cover for vacant posts. Indeed, the IRSF, the tax staffs' union, has also imposed a no cover policy.

The National Executive of the CPSA (the biggest civil service union) will be deciding policy this week; and the Sectional Executive in the DHESS is calling for an industrial action on cuts in staffing.

The immediate reason for the ban on recruitment is the last pay deal. The Government intends to claw back about £100 million in the wages bill by cutting jobs — in other words, in force through a productivity deal via cash limits.

Mostly centrally between 7,500 and 11,000 vacancies in the civil service, mainly in lower grades. The three-month ban is scheduled to cut 22,000 jobs, or 3% of the civil service total.

It could cut even more sharply in some London departments where turnover reaches 30% a year.

The individual office-by- office exemptions will be advertised.

It is only a continuation of what Labour started, and a beginning of what the Tories intend. The DHESS is currently trying to hit 1,000 industrial cuts. The budget on June 12th will also contain further cuts. Other public sector workers — teachers, hospital workers, on direct works, and hospital workers — will also be under attack.

The Tories' ban relies for its effect on 'natural wastage', i.e. staff turnover, rather than sackings, so they hope they can get it through without too much resistance as a softening-up exercise. And the more full-time officials' response has been plaintive bleating. CPSA General Secretary Ken Thomas said the ban was 'a silly act and an unnecessary act'.

The effective response must be:

- No overtime
- Every vacant post must be blocked.
- No job flexibility to off-set the unfilled vacancies.
- The unions should refuse to cooperate on new machinery and procedures until the recruiting ban is lifted.

Official backing must be guaranteed for any action taken by branches and work places against the cuts, and if workers are suspended for refusing to cover or cooperate, the unions must reply with industrial action.

The Tories will talk about cutting waste and bureaucracy. The real issues — saving jobs, saving services, combating speed-up — must be got across, first to the civil service unions' membership and then to the broader labour movement. The unions should call meetings in work time to discuss and organise against the measures, and develop rank and file links with other public sector unions, to extend the fight and get the members prepared for the further cuts to come when Howe announces his plans on June 12th.

But no reliance can be placed on the TUC Public Service Committee, or the top bureaucrats of the National Steering Committee Against the Cuts. Rank and file members must keep control of the fight. And it must be linked to the general fight on jobs for the fight to cut hours without loss of pay, to share out the work under workers' control, and to strike employed and unemployed round the demand for jobs for all.

by Stephen Corblishley (CPSA NEC, in personal capacity)

IN INSIDE

Magazine section: p.2-4
Three in the EEC, Kautsky and Luxembourg on the mass strike p.5-6

International: p.7-9
Iran, Namibia, p.2-5
Analysis: the left and the elections p.6-7
The Tory area and the lightback p.3
Private medicine and the NHS p.12

FUND DRIVE
Received this week: East London £21 Manchester £55 Total in date £138 Target £250 to help cover the cost of expanding W.t to 12 pages. Send contributions to Fund, PO Box 135, London NW6 9PL.

IRAN: fight for the Constituent Assembly

IRAN'S Islamic rulers have now junked their repeated promises to call elections for a constituent assembly. The draft constitution due to be ready on June 8th will be discussed by 'representatives' drawn from the different regions and national minorities.

After that discussion, the draft will go to the secret 'revolutionary council' headed by Ayatollah Khomeini. Then it will be voted on in a plebiscite.

The people of Iran are faced with a repeat of the March referendum, where they could simply vote yes or no to Khomeini's 'Islamic Republic' — but with the warning that those who voted no would be branded as supporters of the Shah!

Having mobilised the people of Iran against the Shah, Khomeini and his henchmen now want to stop any mobilisation, and to consolidate a new repressive regime. In blocking Constituent Assembly elections, they aim to cut dead all real political debate in the country.

Meanwhile, although Khomeini has said the death penalty will be used only against those guilty of waging war, this can only be used against those guilty of waging war. Those guilty of waging war can only be used against those guilty of waging war. The victims of the rape are said to have committed suicide.

A third person for having allegedly raped a ten year-old girl.

The attempt to whip up Islamic moral feeling, and the political blackmail of the referendum, show Khomeini's weapons are in daily use to stop and reverse the revolution. Iran's workers and peasants have not said their last word. They still need our support — now, first of all, in the fight to make sure the Constituent Assembly is convened despite Khomeini and his government.

... See inside, page 5: The workers and Khomeini.

Turkman fighters facing Khomeini's troops. By not calling a Constituent Assembly he hopes to evade the demands of the national minorities like the Turkomans and Kurds, appealing instead to their common religion — Islam.

12 pages
June 2-9, 1979
No. 143
15p

Now civil service workers are in front line of the fight

...
The mass strikes of 1973, the fall of Portuguese colonial rule in Mozambique and Angola in 1974-5, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, have provided a backdrop of black animosity against the white regime in South Africa. It has been estimated that the black population of South Africa is about 20 million people. Among these, there are approximately 5 million workers who are employed in the formal sector of the economy. These workers are mainly employed in the mining, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors. The strikes of 1973 and 1974 were a direct response to the conditions of work and living that exist in South Africa.

The strike of 1973 included a general strike that lasted for 20 days, during which all workers in the formal sector of the economy participated. The strike was called in response to the government's decision to increase the prices of food, which led to a sharp increase in the cost of living. The strike was supported by a number of organizations, including the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)

The strike of 1974 was called by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in response to the government's decision to introduce a new wage structure for miners. The strike lasted for 30 days and was supported by a number of other unions, including the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA)

The strikes of 1973 and 1974 were significant because they demonstrated the strength of the black workers' movement in South Africa. The strikes were also significant because they showed that the workers were willing to fight for their rights and to challenge the government's policies.

In the years following the strikes of 1973 and 1974, the government took a number of steps to try to suppress the workers' movement. These steps included the introduction of the Internal Security Act, which gave the government the power to arrest and detain workers without charge, and the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which gave the government the power to ban political organizations.

The government also attempted to weaken the workers' movement by introducing a number of economic measures, such as the introduction of a new wage structure for miners, which was designed to keep wages low and to reduce the cost of living for workers.

Despite these efforts, the workers' movement continued to grow, and the strikes of 1973 and 1974 demonstrated the strength of the workers' movement in South Africa. The strikes were a significant event in the history of the workers' movement in South Africa, and they are remembered as a testament to the workers' determination to fight for their rights.
Organise now!

The government is making it easier for Tory councils to privatise their housing stock and lease tenants’ houses so that landlords can get transfers from tower blocks or run down estates. Imposing lower standards will make it easier to sell council houses.

Further into the future, the Tories now want to replace compulsory councils to sell their housing stock. This threat has produced a node of resistance in Labour councils in Manchester, South Tyneside, and elsewhere. They have already said they will resist.

But the same happened with the housing bill. The compulsory councils to increase rents and the Austerity Act. Dentons of Labour councils cannot resist it. Only a handful did. Only Clay Cross stuck it out to the end, and they were cut to the bone by the Labour leaders. This time, the government is waiting for the wholehouse to cave in, hoping that the result of the election will bring no permanent campaign.

The lesson is clear. We should resist the whole house and look in full knowledge of the fact that the council leaders faced with “the majesty of the law of the land” will defend the Tories.

Campaigners looking for loopholes in the Tory legislation can be disappointed. One development which involves cutting the loss of houses while complying with orders to put them on the market certified, existing, or just ‘evict’ the house. The Tories have blocked this through Labour Weekly reports of a ‘Levenshulme cut’.

Allowing tenants to go to the District Valuer (an employee of the Department of the Environmen- t) and on an independent valuation hearing on the council.

For Labour councils, this means “there will be no trouble with the council about it”. This is an avalanche. Whatever else the council does with the law, they are not going to challenge the property to allow one body to demolish another. Councils will still have to choose to defy the law or co-operate.

Tenants and trade unions should organise for political action: write to elected people who stand to see the councils through, write to the councils and include the costs. People will now have to decide what they do want to do, whether they want to co-operate, to resist, and to picket. The democratic ideals of the bourgeoisie of two centuries ago are too radical for Callaghan.

The Tories argue that compulsory councils, in the opinion of many reformers, are anachronistic. The government in Britain is not, nor is there any question of a new Labour movement.

Losing sight of the conclusion, most of the left have posed the question of the EEC against Brussels. This nationalistic approach has gripped the left like a fever... even if some, like the IMG, try to make a workers’ movement against European integration.

VOTE TAYLOR ALI SOCIALIST (IMF)

Bernadette Devlin-McAliskey is standing as an Anti-Regional Party candidate in the European Parliament. She says, "I'm a working girl, 'but if I'm elected, I'll be talking about Ireland.'" This has been 80 years since the Irish people voted in the majority for Home Rule. She wants to go back to the "time when Faws was free. It's time for the independent of Britain. That's the decision for our country, I want to rekindle that spirit.

SEE PAGE 8: Feature on the EEC
THE UNIONS

ANTI-TORYISM WON'T BE ENOUGH
THIS TIME EITHER

At the Fire Brigades Union conference on May 11 and 12, delegates called on the British government to keep its promise to pay a real wage to all firefighters and to tackle the crisis in the movement.

Many trade unionists and Labour Party leaders want to continue the approach of the Concordat with the Tories in power to hold back the struggle and keep the Tories on the back foot. Calligraphy and no longer support the Labour government.

The Tories, that the Labour Party is a very important. We are on the defensive now because of the double effect of the results: the Tories won, and the Labour Party leaders also are in the terms of having their right-wing policies dominate the campaign for Labour's re-election. The Socialists Conference for a Labour Victory tried to push a socialist alternative, but more needed to be done. We now face a double task in building a new anti-government movement that would be harder and stronger than the last one, and the trade union movement that went to sea under the Labour government.

The rank and file movement, given two forms in the struggle against Heath. The militant left campaigns, the unions' committees and shop stewards' committees, and the movement's political parties

And if we are determined to maintain a decent wage, we can negotiate with the government this year and last, which has massively widened the gap.

Several resolutions called for a new wave of firemen's wages at the level of the workers' movement. In March 77, the Socialists concluded the strike was not to be a compensation for the EEC for this rule change was a victory for the working class. The 300 resolutions and the TUC's open opposition to militant unions were the result of the left's political and ideological vacillation in the Tories' campaign on the closed shop shows that:

When a union like this is by its very nature a political organisation, the labour movement will win. Only the labour movement can accomplish this. We must always remember that to win the labour movement must be the main goal of the labour movement. The Tories have no strategy of their own but act merely as agents of the Tories in the movement. The Tories themselves have no strategy of their own but act merely as agents of the Tories in the movement.

In the end, the Tories' only hope is to suppress the Labour movement. We should not be afraid of the Tories' attacks. We must never be afraid of the Tories' attacks. We must stand up to them and fight for our rights. We should never be afraid of the Tories' attacks.

FOUR

FBU Conference
Showing a healthy distrust for the officials

FBU leaders still not trusted

SOCIALIST ORGANISER

June issue will be out on June 9th. Socialist Organiser groups are being set up in every area where the paper has active supporters.

For more information, or for details of your local Socialist Organiser group, send this form to Socialist Organiser, 5 Stamford Hill, London N16. For a copy of the June Socialist Organiser, send 22p in stamps.

SOCIALIST ORGANISER

EQUIP

Now we plan to build Socialist Organiser groups in every area where there are supporters and readers. These groups should not just operate as left caucuses for the Labour Party. They should do that, too, but also organise programmes of political discussion and education, and organise Labour Party members to turn outwards towards the struggles in the workplaces and the communities. And they should decide on the paper's approach and the editorial Board meetings every two months.

The SCLV Steering Committee believes that we must involve socialist groups, especially union militants, in the writing of our paper. The Labour movement and the socialist groups must involve socialist groups, especially union militants, in the writing of our paper. The Labour movement and the socialist groups must involve socialist groups, especially union militants, in the writing of our paper.

There were different views on what the left in Labour Party. Everyone recognises that the main reason for this defeat was the refusal to fight the Labour Party's policies. This has paved the way for the Tories and a left that left later to organise the narrow working class and to use the Tories as a weapon to keep the Labour movement.

Debate

The Steering Committee has referred to its previous issues that Socialists Organiser should debate with groups of the Labour Party. The aim is to try to win them over to policies for organising a fight now and away from the reformist 'wouldn't it be nice if... think-tank' approach but also stressed joint work with the Tories. We should be prepared to work with the Tories but be prepared to fight for our rights.
KHOMENEI CALLS FOR PURGE OF ATHEISTS

by Mary Corblish

In practice, the main efforts of the religious leaders have gone on preventing students from gaining employment in factories or joining the peasantry. The first issue of the Fedayan newspaper, Islamic Labour, reported attacks by Islam's committee on students going to factories and workers going home to the universities. The purging of 'non-Islamic' elements from the media continues; a number of journalists were recently expelled from the Islamic Republic's daily Kayhan on such pretences.

On the large May demonstration against the Unemployed, the 100,000 marching march of the left alongside other workers, students, intellectuals, demanding nationalisation of foreign companies, the right to strike; the participation of workers in drawing up the constitution; and the democratisation of the press.

The demand for an accurate presentation in the press has been a consistent one by the unemployed. As one of their leaders said, 'they have presented us sometimes as lazy, as good for nothingings, and sometimes as counter-revolutionaries'.

The Islamic Republic Party has come out clearly in attacks on the rights of workers. Their leader Barid Sadghe called on workers to demonise the strike weapon as 'an insult to injury on the economy'. The setting up of Islamic Workers' Committees has been counterposed to the organisation of trade unions.

Anti-Zionist held in Haifa

AS THE Israeli flag was lowered over El-Arik in the Sinai to mark the opening of the 1981 season on Egypt and Israel, the Zionist state was, as it is, its true colours elsewhere.

In the north, the Israeli army was striking at Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon. In the south, it was in Egypt with the status of Jerusalem and the occupation of Palestine, 'injustices'; the Israeli representative has taken the expected hard line of rejecting any notion of Palestine sovereignty and any Palestinian claims on Jerusalem.

In the face of continued opposition, Khomenei has raised the banner of Islamic nationalism even higher. He demands a revolution of the working class, a strike of the unemployed. Their association has said it will step up its activities.

Meanwhile, despite the denunciations of strikes, 7,000 dockers were on strike in the port of Khorramshahr. In the light of the increasingly anti-working class stance of Khomenei and his followers, the continued opposition and organisation of workers will be the measure of the revolutionary potential in Iran, combined with the building of a revolutionary party which can lead the struggles of the workers to victory.

SLEEP TORTURE IN PADDINGTON GREEN

ACCORDING TO the Guardian, "it is understood that the prison of Paddington Green and other police stations, particularly those charges who have been routinely wake at night to make statements against them to no harm'.

A former 3rd Battalion, which was later to be known as the "Sleepy B" because of the custom of letting prisoners who had been on patrol every two hours for four nights in Paddington Green, is accused of using the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Public Order Act 22 in wave of over a dozen arrests of Irish Sinn Fein prisoners. Britain, apparently in connection with London's top Tony Avery's case over his March 2nd death. Other suspects received the same treatment. Peter Grimes, a former IRSP member, was held for over 30 minutes and released when after his doctor reported he was physically ill, it was later reported that his mental health was at risk. His brother, Tony Grimes, was taken into custody on Wednesday 23rd, after his release. Grimes was as brightened I was prepared to write anything, especially anything for anybody, just so they would give me a per cent of peace'.

Exiles

'Sensory deprivation' through preventing sleep is a form of torture. John MacCormick has been subjected to that and now is faced with exile and the loss of his ability to work — he moved to Britain to find a job.

The Times reports that the government is starting as ferociously as the Israelis themselves in its persecution of Irish militants — here as well as in Ireland. NIK BARSTOW

Defence campaign for Pat Arrowsmith

PAT Arrowsmith stood as an independent socialist candidate in the general election, campaigning against the British withdrawal from Ireland.

On Saturday 14th April she arrested while making an election speech in Queen Street, pedestrians present. The charges were: 'insulting language likely to cause a breach of the peace under the Public Order Act, 'obstructing the highway', and 'obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty.' Arrowsmith was arrested and charged with obstructing the highway and charged with obstructing the highway.

A defence campaign has been set up which says in its circular: "Factual issues are at stake. The right of a socialist candidate to put across their views to the public. The right to hear Pat Arrowsmith's views, in particular on the British intervention in Ireland. The defence campaign is organising a petition, meetings and demonstrations; details: from S.Bell, 168 Saltburn Rd, Cardiff.

Massacre in El Salvador

As a crowd of left-wingers dropped and lashed outside the cathedral in San Salvado, Salvadoran policemen opened fire killing some 20 people. The slaughter was in retaliation for the leftists holding two far right ambassadors hostage and their occupation of the cathedral in an effort to free the detained leaders of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc. Almost all the dead were priests who were in the back as they tried to reach safety.
Having had time to consider and comment on the election campaign, the paper reports the results of the left's campaigns. An article from Social Worker (March 12th) commented on the election for the Anti-Nuclear Front.

It was a victory for the Workers' Party, but a setback for those less than ... once, up to the end of February, but by October 1974, and no great amount, as it was not to be expected from the downward trend of the vote in recent years — was partly, as SW argued, a victory for the Anti-Nuclear Front.

But it was a victory for the Workers' Party, and they were not the only ones on the left that could claim a victory in the election. In the Socialist Challenge, on April 12th, during the election period, it blandly explained his party's political strategy.

This [the election] is an issue we should not get very excited about. There are no national alternatives to vote for the party at issue, and vote accordingly . . .

Readers of SW are still waiting — after all the excitement and the work-up — for what exciting things the SW was excited about. The election was exciting indeed among the elections — almost every time the SW is talking, the politicians are talking, and the politicians are talking about the SW. But the election was exciting in its own way.

In reality, all those who are excited about the election are excited about the election. The election was not important enough for the SW to get excited. The election was not important enough for the SW to get excited about the election. The election was not important enough for the SW to get excited about the election. The election was not important enough for the SW to get excited about the election. The election was not important enough for the SW to get excited about the election.

In an election, abstention from voting against the dominant forces (i.e., the SW) and against the government (i.e., the SW) is a direct and immediate measure of class solidarity. In an election, abstention from voting against the dominant forces (i.e., the SW) and against the government (i.e., the SW) is a direct and immediate measure of class solidarity. In an election, abstention from voting against the dominant forces (i.e., the SW) and against the government (i.e., the SW) is a direct and immediate measure of class solidarity.

The SW's electoral success is due to a combination of factors. Firstly, it is due to the SW's ability to build up a broad, non-party movement that is capable of mobilizing the masses. Secondly, it is due to the SW's ability to build up a broad, non-party movement that is capable of mobilizing the masses. Thirdly, it is due to the SW's ability to build up a broad, non-party movement that is capable of mobilizing the masses.

The SW's electoral success is due to a combination of factors. Firstly, it is due to the SW's ability to build up a broad, non-party movement that is capable of mobilizing the masses. Secondly, it is due to the SW's ability to build up a broad, non-party movement that is capable of mobilizing the masses. Thirdly, it is due to the SW's ability to build up a broad, non-party movement that is capable of mobilizing the masses.
UP! T HANGE R UNITY and the Election

Militant

The Economist Socialists Party is curiously paralysed by the Labour-loyalist Militant. Militant’s mixture of appeals to vote Labour because the Tories are so terrifying and general talk of socialism was very much like SWP’s. The link is that both Militant and SWP operate with a notion of the British working class moving towards revolution socialism without any need to explode the conditions of the Labour-Labourist SWP, because it sees Labour (or they see it) as very interesting. Militant because it sees Labourism as already expressing all the socialist consciousness needed for victory.

Thus Militant complimentarily commented (May 13th): “Tony Benn and a number of the Tribune MPs have rightly called for a return to Fundamental socialist ideas. Recent gains may be played down, but the fact remains that Militant’s campaigns for the support of the Labour Party, in its traditional role as the social democratic alternative to the Tories, have been an important factor in recent gains.”

The impact of Socialism Unity’s socialist propaganda. The focus is on voting Socialism Unity or for the trade union party, which was more or less the real alternative in Thatcher, could only have the effectiveness of propaganda for alternative policies. It presented such policies in a sectarian package. The task of Marxists in the election was to organise the class struggle left in the labour movement. In face of this task the Socialism Unity

Labour’s policies outraged many sections of workers, but did they work? Labour?

The Economist Socialists Party are confusion on the Left with the for the parliamentary left’s opposition to the programme. The Militant’s campaign was not much different during the period. The Conservative opposition to the Labour foreign policy, the Labour Party is essentially right-wing. Militant’s opposition to Labour is essentially right-wing. But it turns out that Labour Party and Militant have both the necessity of piecemeal change in the capitalist press”. For Militant the task is to explain, again and again, that Labour leaders still have the illusion (or they want us to believe that) that they can coexist within the framework of capitalism and without major changes in the conditions of the working class.” (April 13th). Explain for long enough, and the misunderstanding will be cleared away.

This shows both the Militant tendency and the Socialist Workers’ party see the process in the labour movement as a ripening towards socialist consciousness. To see this as a reaction of the working class gradually building up strength and overcoming the experience of the capitalist world is a serious mistake. Socialism Unity has not exactly a changing programme of agitprop. Militant’s programme of agitation is essentially a daily struggle of the trade union movement. While extolling a socialist future which not very rarely relates to the routine struggles, except through being better than what we have.

The SWP is a very consistent party of revolutionary socialism, Militant in practice does not use them.

A few days before the election there was a mass confrontation between black youth and the police, an event which could be expected to shake loose those youth from the authority of their community leaders who were too busy establishing new “black power” organisations. Militant’s candidate was one of the most publicised black men in Britain. The Labour candidate had signed the Parliamentary Select Committee’s report which advocated the introduction of the new laws in Britain for many thousands of his constituents. The alternative reason why revolutionaries might stand in an election, no matter how few votes they could expect, would still be to utilise the election campaign to make propaganda. That was not relevant in conditions in which the SCV proved in practice that it was possible to run a parallel campaign within the limited fibre of the election campaign, making socialist propaganda which included a condemnation of the Labour Party in office and in some constituencies making its policies the official Labour Party position. What the SCV could do was shown to be limited only by its support.

In Militant’s pipe dreams, Benn will push Labour further to the left in its struggle, in parallel with the existing political Labour movement for the SWP, outside the Labour Party for Militant, inside it, and using the existing structure as a front. Militant consider opportunism manoeuvring and adulation of political responsibility as necessary and permissible in order to stay in the Labour Party or to get converts (Militant) or to keep close to the trade unionists who vote Labour (SWP). Both are essentially left-wing by the very right-wing standards of the 1940s.

JOHN O’MAHONY

Our feature article on the Industrial Relations Act & the fight against it, scheduled for this week, has had to be held over for lack of space.

The Election

THE ECONOMIC SOCIALIST WORKERS’ PARTY is curiously paralysed by the Labour-loyalist Militant. Militant’s mixture of appeals to vote Labour because the Tories are so terrifying and general talk of socialism was very much like SWP’s. That SWP operate with a notion of the British working class moving towards revolution socialism without any need to explode the conditions of the Labour-Labour Party, which was more or less the real alternative in Thatcher, could only have the effectiveness of propaganda for alternative policies. It presented such policies in a sectarian package. The task of Marxists in the election was to organise the class struggle left in the labour movement. In face of this task the Socialism Unity

The impact of Socialism Unity’s socialist propaganda. The focus is on voting Socialism Unity or for the trade union party, which was more or less the real alternative in Thatcher, could only have the effectiveness of propaganda for alternative policies. It presented such policies in a sectarian package. The task of Marxists in the election was to organise the class struggle left in the labour movement. In face of this task the Socialism Unity

Socialism Unity had been to show up the SWP that the SWP was the alternative to Labour, by getting more votes than the Labour Party. By this means, Socialism Unity could have been effective in persuading the Socialist trade union movement to build its own party, rather than relying on the SWP. The task of Marxists in the election was to organise the class struggle left in the labour movement. In face of this task the Socialism Unity

Socialism Unity had been to show up the SWP that the SWP was the alternative to Labour, by getting more votes than the Labour Party. By this means, Socialism Unity could have been effective in persuading the Socialist trade union movement to build its own party, rather than relying on the SWP. The task of Marxists in the election was to organise the class struggle left in the labour movement. In face of this task the Socialism Unity
Britain against Brussels

Sociologists condemn capitalism because it reduces men and women to fragments of what they once were. Capitalism means that many and in the first place through its ceaseless drive for profit, which has achieved a scope and power of alienation for the purposes of enriching millions dominates the lives of the majority.

British workers who have been crushed by technology.

Capitalism brutally closes off these possibilities. It excludes them not just from the frugal, but also from the blue-collar, white-collar work. It allows them to become a handful of rich owners, but it makes it impossible for each individual to develop himself. The scale of his life is much too narrow.

Socialist party-socialist would not make it possible for each individual to develop himself. The scale of his life is much too narrow.

Socialism and its socialists who see a future, a life for all, beyond the narrowness of the capitalist market.

The struggle to survive, European capitalists have been forced to combine to form a giant, multinational company. It is based in more than one country, such as Dunlop-Firestone, or by uniting to form very large national firms under the leadership of a European capital.

American companies have been able to keep their relative superiority. With their huge market, they maintain a competition by bilaterally and in the high-technology fields, the states of Europe are in the process of building up scientific expertise.

The new European market hoped to break down the old national boundaries in Europe which hindered the growth of economic units capable of competing with those of the USA. However, in Europe, as in other countries, the separate European economies are incapable of competing effectively against the giants of the United States. This is why other the need to spread risks and get a sufficient home market is of the first importance.

Britain refused to join the EEC at the start because the Commonwealth seemed to provide a much greater pool of markets than the smaller EC, and the EC has generally supported the EEC. This has mainly been because the EC has helped to a greater extent to develop national companies in Europe. Firms such as Ford of Europe are among the largest concerns in Europe, in their own right.

In fact, the British view of the world, and their economic integration has been slow since 1958. The various capitalist classes in Europe still compete vigorously with each other.

The EEC's main 'achievements' to date have been a agricultural policy which has protected the British farmers, but which has not served to benefit those who are profiting by it, to allow any change, and the European Monopoly Commissions, which enable them to make a profit on the goods they produce.

In its youth, in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, the capital- class, fighting for freedom, have always been fighting against the capitalist class, which has always been fighting for its own particular interests. The capitalist class is a national class, a united national system, a unified system of labour and uniform political and economic control, carried through by the capitalist class when it was a revolutionary class, was essential for the further growth of individualism.

Today the giant productive forces created by capitalism are used for the benefit of the few. The economy is capitalist society and the EEC's role is to cement it. It is an endless struggle of the left against the right, not only on an international level, but also within society.

The attempt at 'internationalism' — the EEC is a miserable failure. The British working-class in Europe will really be able to carry through the international unification of the continent.
WE ARE continuing our publication of the 1910 debate on the mass strike in the German Social Democratic Party. This is the first section of Karl Kautsky's article "What now?" and the beginning of Rosa Luxemburg's reply, "Attrition or struggle?"

As Kautsky notes, Luxemburg comes to look at the prospects for socialism in Germany. His conception of the working class is very clearly brought out here. He argues that there are a whole number of objective factors (such as unemployment, social discontent and the danger of war) leading inevitably to growing successes for the SPD. Conscious or active initiative by the working class plays little role.

Rosa Luxemburg sees the economic factors as determining class consciousness, with consciousness thus moving forward in parallel with the development of economic conditions and the contradiction of capitalism. She can hardly conceive of a revolution in working-class consciousness by force alone. For her, the SPD party makes a needless adventurist error. He sees it as possible to maintain the agitation for a change in the unequal Prussian suffrage system without escalating the struggle until the Reichstag elections due to take place a year and a half later.

For Kautsky, those elections were the real focus for the SPD, a focus which should be maintained against Luxembourg's "adventurist" conception of the mass strike. He saw the SPD's intervention in the elections and the winning of an absolute majority in them as the means for the SPD to pick the "fruit" which had ripened in the previous few years.

"We have the key to this momentous historical situation already in our hand: the elections, already in our pockets through the whole country. The SPD is the only one that can at least simultaneously to us losing... an act of stupidity on our part. And it would be such an act if we allowed ourselves to be drawn through a false consciousness in the situation that they have ripened..."

Kautsky essentially grasped the fact that revolutionary movements have an inner life, a logic of their own, which cannot be reduced solely to the development of consciousness or capitalism. While such economic conditions provide the preconditions for the possibility of a revolutionary movement, the force of the working class, the subject of history, can make a revolution.

"The Marxist conception consists precisely in considering the masses and their consciousness as the determining factor in all the political actions of social democracy. All the accusations of spontaneism often levelled against her, Luxembourg did not see socialist consciousness in any way. She does not see, as Kautsky envisaged, the action of the workers, but to be nurtured, given an overall aim and keep an eye on the numbers of the party. If the party cannot be directed the spontaneous struggle, the workers' consciousness would be technological, and any chance would lead to a step backwards for the whole movement, as well as discredit the Social Democracy.

Luxembourg appears almost to ignore the role of political leadership; in fact, however, she was heavily arguing for a bolder policy on the part of Social Democracy. Rosa... and... not... in... an... realistic... in... the... revolution... to... the... elements... of... socialist... consciousness... Kautsky saw it as an attempt... Socialism... luxury... lux... Rosa... Luxemburg herself to educate... revolution... into... advance..."

by Bruce Robinson

and to bring it together organisationally as far as possible. The most that can be said is that in her historical-philosophical evaluation of the labour movement, the programme of political leadership. In this connection with the mass actions that were to be expected, fell too short.

Luxembourg begins her article by showing that the demand for the mass strike was not something she had dreamt up, but was being widely discussed in the SPD as a result of the sufferage agitation. She argues that the discussion is "necessary... because the mass strike is posed by the development of the political situation..."

Kautsky, on the other hand, sees the mass strike as one of a variety of weapons from which the Social Democracy may be challenged. He sees it as something which will occur if Social Democracy and the unions "balk" it, or can be avoided if they decide to "ban" it. His military analogies are not accidental: the SAP is very much like the relation of military commanders to the rank and file.

Kautsky, however, notes that this conception is essentially the same as that of the Anarchists. The Anarchists believed that capitalism would collapse if, on a certain day, everyone decided to stop working because they were tired of working for the profit of the capitalist. Kautsky, therefore, opposes the idea of a general strike. The state would be paralysed and unemployment would be a natural consequence.

Kautsky, though of course opposing the use of the mass strike in most situations, also saw it as something that could act as a spur to the development of the self-activity of the working class, similar to a demonstration for which one only has to name a time and place. Both Kautsky and the anarchists also agreed that the reason the working class can not be organised for the general strike, and see it only as a catalytic weapon for use to finish capitalism.

For Kautsky, workers' actions appear as merely a function of a general political struggle which is not its own, but rather the product of class struggle. The mass actions are seen as mere manifestations of laws of capitalist development. The state does not of its own accord create socialism, but only the preconditions for it. Only working-class activity can transform those preconditions into the reality of socialism. She restores Marx's dictum that "men make their own history, but under circumstances not of their own making" to its place as a basic thesis of Marxism.

Karl Kautsky: WHAT NOW? IV

The fear that the masses will abandon us is therefore no reason for us to use sharper methods and go over to the strategy of overthrow.

The conflicts certainly become sharper in any struggle. Its simple duration increases, but in addition class contradictions are sharpened by economic development and the growth of the working class, involved through growth of economic organisation and technical progress. But the debate is not about the gradual and spontaneously developing "inner logic" by which an escalation and sharpening of mass actions comes about. It is about adopting new, sharper methods to be introduced only in the context of a mature agitation of the party.

The fear of disillusioning the masses gives no basis for this. The dilemma of which Comrade Luxembourg speaks does not exist as far as we do not create it through our own agitation. We could only have one reason, apart from that mentioned in the last section, to give up the strategy of attrition and go over to the strategy of overthrow through rapid stepping-up and sharpening of mass actions. It is about a coming of adopting new, sharper methods to be introduced only in the context of a mature agitation of the party.

The fear of disillusioning the masses gives no basis for this. The dilemma of which Comrade Luxembourg speaks does not exist as far as we do not create it through our own agitation. We could only have one reason, apart from that mentioned in the last section, to give up the strategy of attrition and go over to the strategy of overthrow through rapid stepping-up and sharpening of mass actions. It is about a coming of adopting new, sharper methods to be introduced only in the context of a mature agitation of the party.

The fear of disillusioning the masses gives no basis for this. The dilemma of which Comrade Luxembourg speaks does not exist as far as we do not create it through our own agitation. We could only have one reason, apart from that mentioned in the last section, to give up the strategy of attrition and go over to the strategy of overthrow through rapid stepping-up and sharpening of mass actions. It is about a coming of adopting new, sharper methods to be introduced only in the context of a mature agitation of the party.
bourgeois parties and masses are also coming to experience this brutality and ruthlessness to an increasing degree. The Junkers artificially put the food prices back on the market, they drive the people into the cities, they tax the stables, give taxes off their own shoulders and others, class warfare is eroding the system of government and justice. They are frequently exposing themselves, and treat government, courts and police as if their tools to beat down the working masses. Everything that the Junker regime finally becomes burdensome even to the most hardened exploiters and enemies of the proletariat. How to explain the fact that the masses of middle-classier capitalist world outside of Russia, Prussia and Japan have understood — that the working class has become a force for a it to be kept down by brutal methods of compulsion — are ideological and psychological barriers.

 Everywhere governments and exploiters hate the militant proletariat, and are determined to put it in its place. They have recognised that the possibility of hindering the advance of the working class is in a very high degree in a very large measure the result of methods those which a police state knows how to use. Their best method is arme compromise which can only sharpen the working class's awareness of its most energetic elements and weakening the rest, as has been temporarily achieved in England and France. The more intelligent advocates of capitalist exploitation in Prussia and in the rest of Germany look on in horror as the ever-advanced brutality of the Junkers and their government rally the ranks of the working class, arouse them, and make their feelings and thoughts more and more revolutionary. Thus it is not only the working masses but also broad sections of the bourgeois world who turn ever more strongly against the Junkers. They have the most rights. And sometimes quite contradictory reasons, but they are all the more so because of the result that is registered in Germany towards an abyss.

 To them the most and most unified in the lower strata of society, who suffer most from price rises, the tax boycott, the food shortage, the occupation of their streets, these are the social political. It enables them to see social democracy as their shelter and the champion of their interests. The increasing social antagonisms have such force and importance and for the ranks of the Social Democratic Party by standards which have so far been overpowered? It is well known that enthusiasm is not something which can be taken advantage of if we must do so at once. Since the arena of the Reichstag elections the situation has changed, particularly for the Social Democrats. In the collapse of the Anti-Socialist Laws and the remarkable gains in the Reichstag elections of 1907, was partially caused by the prosperity developing from 1880 after a long crisis.

 Those who remember that period will see many similarities with the present situation. At that time, too, a regime was about to be overthrown, but it was met with more energetic opposition from the working class. It aroused less and less enthusiasm and confidence in its own strength. It had to grapple with growing difficulties in international relations, and it failed in everything at home and abroad until defeat in the elections of 1890 led to its collapse (13). But in the December 1912 situation the Social Democrats no longer for an

The causes for the present arousal of the masses will be just as strong in 1911 as in 1910, probably even stronger'

Price rises will not slow down. Anyone who wants to know what to expect should follow the American situation, which is in a similar situation. The tariff increase in the United States will give the growing profiteers a considerable advantage over those who have to keep to the prices they have to charge. And even more in the period of prosperity, the growing profiteers in the country will make it clear that price rises will not get much more than the rising prices — for pro-

‘There is the danger of a war against England, and the 1907 share of the votes has been life and death of a few fliers of exploiters, would be fought out. As soon as in the war against England and the situation is in very promising — that, doubling its share in the votes, then it could achieve another share in the votes. In order to obtain it, we shall have to make a new front. But everybody is agreed that we will...

The election may finally drum dialectics into the ruling elements, so that they understand that they must do certain things and therefore they decide to adopt western methods in order to hold back the rising flood of opposition. They will attempt to organise the workers of the working population by means of concessions. In the midst of the high level of revolution the great sharpening of contradictions, these would be considerable con-

Alternatively and more probably, our victory will have the opposite effect it will spoil on the basis of the existing legal laws. The situation is so advanced that we can not possibly... make a powerful advance which makes the achievement of the absolute majority of votes a question of a few years. If that becomes clear in the next period, then the mass movement develops many times more powerful than the one we had before. The present situation, in view of the high level of activity of the popular masses and the tense political situation, such a victory means nothing less than a catastrophe for the whole ruling class.

For me there is no doubt that the next elections will shake this regime to its foundations.

The elections may finally drum dialectics into the ruling elements, so that they understand that they must do certain things and therefore they decide to adopt western methods in order to hold back the rising flood of opposition. They will attempt to organise the workers of the working population by means of concessions. In the midst of the high level of revolution the great sharpening of contradictions, these would be considerable con-

Alternatively and more probably, our victory will have the opposite effect it will spoil on the basis of the existing legal laws. The situation is so advanced that we can not possibly... make a powerful advance which makes the achievement of the absolute majority of votes a question of a few years. If that becomes clear in the next period, then the mass movement develops many times more powerful than the one we had before. The present situation, in view of the high level of activity of the popular masses and the tense political situation, such a victory means nothing less than a catastrophe for the whole ruling class.

For me there is no doubt that the next elections will shake this regime to its foundations.

The elections may finally drum dialectics into the ruling elements, so that they understand that they must do certain things and therefore they decide to adopt western methods in order to hold back the rising flood of opposition. They will attempt to organise the workers of the working population by means of concessions. In the midst of the high level of revolution the great sharpening of contradictions, these would be considerable con-

Alternatively and more probably, our victory will have the opposite effect it will spoil on the basis of the existing legal laws. The situation is so advanced that we can not possibly... make a powerful advance which makes the achievement of the absolute majority of votes a question of a few years. If that becomes clear in the next period, then the mass movement develops many times more powerful than the one we had before. The present situation, in view of the high level of activity of the popular masses and the tense political situation, such a victory means nothing less than a catastrophe for the whole ruling class.

For me there is no doubt that the next elections will shake this regime to its foundations.

The elections may finally drum dialectics into the ruling elements, so that they understand that they must do certain things and therefore they decide to adopt western methods in order to hold back the rising flood of opposition. They will attempt to organise the workers of the working population by means of concessions. In the midst of the high level of revolution the great sharpening of contradictions, these would be considerable con-

Alternatively and more probably, our victory will have the opposite effect it will spoil on the basis of the existing legal laws. The situation is so advanced that we can not possibly... make a powerful advance which makes the achievement of the absolute majority of votes a question of a few years. If that becomes clear in the next period, then the mass movement develops many times more powerful than the one we had before. The present situation, in view of the high level of activity of the popular masses and the tense political situation, such a victory means nothing less than a catastrophe for the whole ruling class.

For me there is no doubt that the next elections will shake this regime to its foundations.
Rosa Luxembourg: ATTRITION OR STRUGGLE?

AS A RESULT of speaking at agitational meetings across the country in the last few months in replying to Comrade Kautsky, I would be well satisfied if my article on the mass strike made no headway. But I do not want to begin a discussion in the party on the tactic and to discuss this question from all sides. The cadre of our party is large enough to discuss this question from all sides, and even more so the public. And the next foreseeable opportunity of delivering a shattering blow to the enemies of the movement to call all the strength of the elections. We have to summon up all our energy and put it into these elections.

"Our current agitation should reach its peak not with the one-day strike, but with the Reichstag elections!"

Let us continue with our previous strategy of struggle. Let us keep a free hand in the choice of our methods of struggle and in the direction of our agitation. If there is any new achievement, we will place us in a dilemma which could force us to bring our final and crushing strike. But it is not the right moment in this, with the wrong time and in the wrong place, thus wasting them.

Precisely because we are convinced that we face great and difficult tasks, we are close at the point at which the strategy of agitation must go over into the strategy of overthrow. But we are not yet in a position to allow ourselves to be led by impatience into premature action. The real chance is to keep and strengthen our forces.

The National Socialists are aiming to arouse the working masses to expect that in the next few weeks we shall use sharper and sharper words and to break up the government by mass strikes. Agitation designed to place us in a dilemma of positive or negative action. But at that point at which the situation is master of us, agitation which would face us with the alternative of large-scale sacrifices for the national, or the burning of the laughing stock of the world: such agitation was never more necessary. The struggle for the masses to bring to nothing the victory without it, a victory which promises to open the road to the real victory. So long as this knowledge of the facts, this we could not follow. If it is true, it is being necessary to get the means to place us in a dilemma to the mass strike and to make it seem as if we are of the masters and not of the masters. It would certainly have chosen a very unfortunate and easily misunderstood form of action, one which would have been with lying in this sense.

In the whole existence of the German Empire the social, political and international contradictions have never been as sharply defined as today. The National Socialists render an overwhelming defeat for the ruling system inherent in the German nation. Even the head of the supporters of the system will unleash big battles against the class of exploiters in our country. Socialists and trade unionists in the elections themselves. They have more cause to do so than we do. That does not mean that with everything our enemy does, and that we should face him unarmed. Nothing is more necessary, but at the same time more difficult, than to struggle for the masses in the elections.

Just as it is necessary to keep our powder dry for the next great battle; just as it seems to me probable that the battle will be fought in the coming Reichstag elections — so also it would seem to me to be equally out of place not to exert every single ounce of our forces in order to prevent any of these events occurring, and even more out of place to regard the Reichstag elections as the time for our final course.

In the present situation we have all the trumps in our hands. To focus on the present tendency to the current, old and old, is out of the question here. For the great mass of our comrades, whose whole being underlies the struggle against the whole social order, the struggle against the present situation the day we arrive. The only possible response to the constant stimulus of new, ever more dangerous events, is a clear understanding of the fact that the march of the bourgeois society is directed against the whole social order.

In the present situation we have all the trumps in our hands. To focus on the present tendency to the current, old and old, is out of the question here. For the great mass of our comrades, whose whole being underlies the struggle against the whole social order, the struggle against the present situation the day we arrive. The only possible response to the constant stimulus of new, ever more dangerous events, is a clear understanding of the fact that the march of the bourgeois society is directed against the whole social order.

The ruling parties could wish for nothing better. We would provide them with new ammunition against the masses, which is what they seek.

The current agitation should reach its peak not with the one-day strike, but with the Reichstag elections!

NOTES

11. "The Road to Power", written by Kautsky, first appeared in 1909. In his day he laid down his revolutionary conception of how capitalism could be abolished, which has not since been realized.

12. Kautsky was punished by the Party by having to roll a large rock to the top of a hill after this article was published. Kautsky is being referred to in this article.

13. For socialists, and for the masses, the socialists are "bourgeois liberals", who win elections with the laborers, but who are "bourgeois liberals" constantly opposed to the working class. The working class's natural allies, wages have been paid to the laborers, but who are "bourgeois liberals" constantly opposed to the working class. The working class's natural allies, wages have been paid to the laborers, but who are also the natural allies of the bourgeous liberals. The working class's natural allies, wages have been paid to the laborers, but who are also the natural allies of the bourgeous liberals.

14. Emporer William I died in 1888. His Chancellor, Bismarck, was removed from power by William II in 1900.

15. Rosa Luxemburg and her work have been the subject of many books and articles. However, the text provided here is excerpts from her writings, which may be found in "Rosa Luxemburg: The Political Writings", edited and translated by Nick De Capua ( Pluto Press, 1996).

16. "The road to power" by Kautsky, first appeared in 1909. In his day he laid down his revolutionary conception of how capitalism could be abolished, which has not since been realized.

17. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

18. Money was a tool for buying power, but it was also used to buy the loyalty of the workers and to prevent them from joining the strike. The strike was not only a political struggle, but also a class struggle for control of the government.

19. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

20. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

21. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

22. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

23. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

24. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

25. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

26. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

27. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

28. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

29. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

30. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

31. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

32. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

33. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

34. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

35. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

36. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

37. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

38. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

39. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

40. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

41. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

42. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

43. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

44. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

45. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

46. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

47. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

48. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

49. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

50. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

51. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

52. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

53. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

54. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

55. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

56. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

57. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

58. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

59. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

60. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

61. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

62. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

63. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

64. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

65. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

66. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

67. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

68. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

69. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

70. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

71. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

72. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

73. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

74. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

75. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

76. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

77. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

78. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

79. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

80. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

81. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

82. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

83. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

84. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

85. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

86. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

87. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

88. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

89. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

90. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

91. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

92. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

93. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

94. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

95. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

96. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

97. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

98. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.

99. The Social Democratic Party was founded before the First World War.
EVENTS

Small ads are free for labour movement events. Paid ads, $1 per word, $5 per column, minimum 1 column. Send copy to Events, PO Box 55, Redfern, NSW 2016, by Friday for inclusion in the following week's edition.

Saturday-Monday 2-4 June, Lettie Dorries fele, near Maclean, NSW, PO Box 130, Lindsay 2011

Sunday 23 June, 'Defend Our University' strike call meeting. New Century Hall, Macquarie University, student union delegates, 1 to 3 pm, level K4, ANU

ANTI-APARTHEID

MOVEMENT

Trade Union Conference on
Sanctions Against South Africa
June 2nd at St Pancras Union Hall, Euston Road, London NW1, 10.30 to 5.30 "No apartheid...no peace...no peace for the people's liberation". For more information, please contact the South Africans' Action Group, 84 Great Western Rd, London SW11 3UH, or subscribe to the 'South African Voice', for which SAAG will send you a free trial kit. Published by Workers' Action, PO Box 135, London NW1 6DD, and available from Socialist Campaigns (TU). Registered as a newspaper at the GPO.

STOP PRIVILEGE LEECHING

THE HEALTH SERVICE

by JAMES DAVIES

THE NATIONAL Union of Public Employees (NUPE) has called a conference demanded on May 20 to protest the government's phase out all pay beds in National Health Service (NHS) hospitals by January, last week, NUPE's London area asks all NUPE members to provide evidence of pay beds being for private patients. The resolution was opposed by the conference but was passed by the membership.

The speech that Tony Jowser, Local Government conference came from Socialists Workers Party member Bill Goddard. BUPA is asked for a written report. "Every rich person can have his/ her own hospital," said, "will only benefit the rich" without a National Health Service to pay the bills. The reason is obvious, because he's got a bit of extra money to pay the cons. The private sector has its hand round the neck of the NHS, so it is saying, 'if I don't I think it is our duty in this conference to cut that hand off.'

After a campaign of protests against the milking of the NHS by private medicine, NUPE proposes a 'comprehensive' devaluation to be held in a Labour government (who leads the Fleet Street publishers). NUPE has: 1,000 pay beds were to be phased out, over 20 years, by the end of the century. The NHS must be taken out of line with the private medical profession.

Three million people have private medical policies. And the largest of the private health insurance companies, Adrian and Co-operative. Despite the fact that the private sector is a small sector, it remains potential for the NHS to have the private sector be used in the private medical industry. In May 1977, the Health Service Board has slowly whittled away many of the pay beds in the NHS (after the initial 1,000 pay beds were sold in 1977 and 1978, a further 2,000). At present it is estimated that there may be a further 566.

The argument is that the pay beds are a drain on the NHS. Does the cost of the private medical profession. The claim is that there is a drain on the public sector too. The public sector, the hospitals, is the lowest cost bed in the private sector.

It's cheap at Woolworths—a life costs less than £200

Although substitutes and fireproof materials are available, the manufacturers' motives seem to be to make a profit, not to prevent the stubborn self-interest of the makers prevents a ban on the material.

The fumes from polyurethane foam also appear to have played a tragic role in the fire that destroyed an old people's home in Sutton Coldfield, which was compounded by penny-pinching.

Six old people burned to death in a dormitory annex where no smoke-detectors were installed, although most of the residents were invisible and needed plenty of oxygen to survive.

The local fire station had recently been reduced from four engines to one, which meant that only one breathing apparatus team was available immediately.

When confirmed as what firemen had been saying for years: cuts kill.

DOUG MACKAY

SACKED FOR SPEAKING OUT

WANDSWORTH Council, take over by the Tories in 1976, sacked their own Direct Works department. First the council stopped the department tendering for new work, and now an attack has been launched on trade union organisation on the sites. New stewards have been sacked or victimised since the Tories gained control.

The latest sacking is of Ray Mills, the convenor of the Direct Works Kamhala Road site in Battersea. The reason for his sacking was a letter he wrote to the South London Press exposing the rundown of the site and how this delayed the building of council houses for working people. Mills said that Mills had broken 'confidentiality' by sending the letter — it was never even published.

They have now altered their 'trumpet-up charges' to one of defaming senior management. The real reason is simply that Mills spoke up for the workers he was elected to represent on the site.

The official procedure Mills would have to go through to be reinstated has been guaranteed to produce no result. He would have to appear before a panel of councillors, two Tory and one Labour.

In a letter of relying on a change of heart by the Tories, the 'Defend Ray Mills Committee' is calling for a mass picket of the Kamhala Rd site to demand his immediate reinstatement in his capacity as convenor.

The picket will assemble outside the Kamhala Rd site on Falcon Rd, Battersea, SW11 (near a station Clapham Junction), at 7.15 am on Monday 4th June.

Messages of support and donations to: 'Defend Ray Mills Committee', 17 Ravenet Court, London SW11.

NIK BARSTOW

Bill Goddard's appeal must be supported. There has to be a mass campaign of action to try to force the private health system to retreat. A defying NHS for the vast majority of the people, and a private medical service for the rich. This means a mass campaign of pressure against the whole private sector without compromise.

The campaign should also demand that the industry be nationalised without compensation and that the private healthcare control. The NHS must be created as a nationalised health service to replace the private medical service. The state sector used to make the private sector deliver at the cost of the state sector.

A fight against pay beds, one that politics paid for, but the whole private medical system is implicitly socialistic. It is up to the millions of people to struggle to make sure that a private sector service becomes explicit.