

DURHAM MINERS GALA:



Thanks for a great day! p.6

BLOCKADE THE APARTHEID STATE!

AFTER months of brutal repression, the South African working class continues to defy the Botha dictatorship.

Every day, men, women and children are being beaten, arrested, tortured and murdered.

But Botha is not one step nearer ending the struggle of the masses for freedom.

Their courage and determination is the same spirit of our forefathers who fought, sacrificed and built the British trade unions.

Last week the Confederation of South African Trade Unions, whose leaders are in jail or in hiding, and whose offices are deserted, called a one day strike.

On the same day, thousands of schoolchildren starting a new term and boycotted their classes in protest at new security regulations.

But they face an enemy supported financially and politically by the bankers and governments of Britain, Europe, Japan and the USA.

Reagan, Thatcher and Botha disagree on only one question — how best to strangle the South African revolution.

Through their unions and liberation movements, the oppressed people of South Africa have called for help.

In June, Oliver Tambo, leader of the African National Congress, told the European trade unions that they had the power to stop

trade with the racist regime and that they must use it.

In Britain every opponent of the Tory government must take a stand and say loud and clear: No more waiting for Thatcher; Workers' sanctions now!

Delegates

In 1973, at the Geneva conference of the International Labour Organisation, the British TUC, along with delegates from 200 organisations representing 180 million workers, voted for a total economic, political and cultural boycott of South Africa.

Only four months later, the TUC began to undermine this stand by sending a delegation to South Africa.

Last week another TUC 'Eminent Persons' delegation flew to Johannesburg.

BY BOB MYERS

Speaking before he left for the trip, Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, pleaded for a meeting with the prime minister.

'We want to see Mrs Thatcher before the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference to warn her

THE following trade union and Labour Party organisations support the lobby of the TUC GC:

Birmingham Trades Council; Lambeth Trades Union Council; Charing Cross hospital Shop Stewards Committee; Gt. Ormond St. hospital Shop Stewards Committee; Vauxhall College National Association of Teachers in Higher and Further Education; Newham National Union of Teachers; Greater London Association of Trades Councils; Lambeth NALGO Executive Committee; Streatham Labour Party, Town Hall ward; Wandsworth Trades Council; Mid Glamorgan AEU District Committee.

of the dangers of being isolated throughout the commonwealth and the rest of the world.'

Thatcher will doubtless be grateful for the warnings.

Who are Willis and Todd going to represent — the British workers' trade unions or Mrs Thatcher? Are they seeking to help Mrs Thatcher and the commonwealth prime ministers whose concern is to protect investments in South Africa?

Those are vital questions which trade unionists in this country will be asking.

British trade unionists want them to assist African trade unionists against the apartheid regime.

At the NUM conference two weeks ago the leader of the South African NUM, who faces imprisonment on return to his country, appealed for action.

'In the past you have inspired us with your militancy, but the entire labour movement in Britain stands on trial. Thatcher will not evoke sanctions, you must do it yourself. The whole South African working class is watching!'

This Wednesday, July 23, the monthly meeting of the TUC general council takes place.

Birmingham trades council and the Greater London Association of Trades Councils, along with other union bodies and stewards' committees are lobbying that meeting to demand action.

This lobby must be made the beginning of a campaign to take

the demand for trade union sanctions into the centre of the annual Trades Unions Congress in September.

Trade unionists must call for the immediate ending of all trade.

It is trade union members who make, ship, distribute and sell South African goods.

It is trade union members who can stop them.

This campaign must be taken to workers in docks, hospitals, shops, airports and factories in Britain and Europe.

Every day that goes by without action being taken sees more people killed in South Africa.

Do not wait for Willis to act. Force the TUC by imposing your own sanctions now.

A blow struck against Botha is a nail in the coffin of this Tory government.

- Join the lobby on July 23.
- Demand the Trades Union Congress in September calls for trade union sanctions to blockade South Africa.
- Free Nelson Mandela and all imprisoned trade union and liberation leaders!
- For trade union sanctions now!
- Victory to the Azanian revolution!

July 23: Lobby the TUC

Welsh youth defy apartheid boss

THE OCCUPATION by strikers at Tudor Garden Products, Port Talbot, ended with a raid by the company and police.

The manager, driving a Ford Sierra estate, rammed the bonnet of the car under a roller-shutter door at the rear of the factory, stopping the strikers from closing it.

As there were only a small number of pickets present,

they could not stop the employers taking over the factory.

The strikers promptly set up a picket line opposite the factory after they had blockaded the rear entrance.

Next morning, in another surprise raid by the police, 19 strikers were arrested.

The employers claimed that £5,000 of goods had been stolen during the occupation.

The police would not divulge any information to the

AEU district secretary, Jim Bevan.

He said that the police had told him it was not a trade union issue.

The strikers were released, without any charges being brought, after being detained for 12 hours.

They immediately took up their positions on the picket line. Their arrest had strengthened their resolve to carry on the strike.

On information that the company was re-starting

production this week, a demonstration was held outside the factory by the strikers and their families.

But the threatened importation of non-union labour from another firm owned by the company did not materialise.

One of the strikers told Workers Press that the company, owned by John Bevan, also had a firm based in South Africa. He commented:

'If he thinks he can apply

South African slave wages and conditions here, he can think again.'

The strike is gaining widespread support throughout the town from trade unionists in other factories.

The strikers are organising a public meeting and a campaign to boycott the company's products and supplies.

● Letters of support and donations should be sent to AEU District Office, 25 Victoria Gardens, Neath

LOBBY THE TUC

● FOR WORKERS SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA!

● BLOCKADE THE APARTHEID STATE!

WEDNESDAY JULY 23

8.30am
CONGRESS HOUSE, GREAT RUSSELL ST
LONDON, WC1

(Nearest Tube: Tottenham Ct Road)

MEETING

11.00am CONWAY HALL
Red Lion Square
Speakers include Dunnes
striker CATHARINE O'REILLY

WORKERS PRESS visits Belfast P.8

'Justice' Campaign opens London office

THE NATIONAL Justice for Mineworkers Campaign opened a London office last week at the Hammersmith Unemployed Centre.

Hundreds of miners remain sacked.

In Nottingham the number has actually increased by three since the end of the strike. Many are still in jail.

Terry French, a Kent miner who received five years, has just had his appeal for parole turned down.

He is now unable to reapply until August 1987.

It is against this background that the miners opened their London office to bring the campaign to the South East. It will be manned by a rota drawn from the sacked men.

At the opening press conference, Billy Etherington from the NUM NEC and convenor of the Justice campaign, described how the initial group calling for an amnesty was formed.

Change

He told how this name had been changed as the word amnesty implied that men had done something wrong.

He stressed that they had

committed no crime other than to fight for their union.

Indeed many of the sacked men had been to tribunals which had found that they had done nothing to warrant the sack.

Re-instate

But few of these had been reinstated.

In Scotland only 3 out of 37. Etherington pointed out that these men had been victimised for carrying out TUC policy and they were now looking for support from the rest of the TU movement.

In particular, he said, a future Labour Government must be made to reinstate these men.

Paul Whetton, a sacked Notts miner who had worked in the pits 30 years and who will be the first miner to man

the new office explained how he was sacked for putting up a union poster.

This was an attack on the whole TU movement.

Whetton also spoke of the change from an amnesty to a Justice campaign and stressed that it must be a fight for justice for all victimised workers like those at Wapping and Silent night.

He contrasted the two Welsh miners languishing in jail who went out only with the intention of stopping a scab from going to work and the policeman who went into a child's room, gun in hand, trigger cocked, safety catch off and shot a child.

Violence

He is now walking free.

Whetton compared the violence of the miners with the destruction of steel and coal



BILLY ETHERINGTON (seated) and sacked Notts miner PAUL WHETTON at the press conference in Hammersmith

carried out by Macgregor, and he ended with this 'I have a message for the employer, a message for this Tory government and for any future Labour government on behalf of the victimised

miners we will not go away.'

Both speakers urged all trade unionists to contact the new London office, to send donations and to arrange for a miner to speak at their organisation.

The London office address is National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign, Hammersmith Unemployed Centre 190 Shepherds Bush Rd London W6.

Tel: 01-603 1831

TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR CORNISH TIN MINERS

CORNISH tin miners at the three remaining operational Cornish tin mines, South Crofty, Wheal Jane and Pendarves face redundancy on August 1 unless the government gives the mines £50 million to keep them running over the next five years.

The Geevor Mine, near St Just, closed down at the beginning of April, with the loss of 375 jobs.

Geevor Mine is currently only being used as a tourist attraction with guided trips down the mine.

If money for maintenance at this mine runs out it could be flooded and lost for ever.

The workings at Geevor mine, where tin has been mined since the seventeenth century, go down 2,000 feet and extend over two square miles, mainly under the Atlantic.

Eight months ago an old shaft at Botallack mine a couple of miles south of Geevor was bought as the beginning of an expansion southwards into the abandoned workings at Wheal

Oules, Wheal Edward and Botallack, which stretch far out into the Atlantic.

Work on reopening the shaft was stopped in October when the collapse in the tin price hit.

Geevor is an independent mine, whilst the other three mines in danger, South Crofty, Wheal Jane and Pendarves, are all owned by the multinational company Rio Tinto Zinc, which is operating an illegal uranium mine in Namibia and heavily backs the apartheid state of South Africa.

BY JOLYON RALPH

However, as a result of its own economic interests, rather than compassion for the workforce, it has offered to give the £12 million it would cost to shut the three pits towards keeping them running as long as the tinworkers themselves and the government raise the other £38 million.

There is enough tin in Cornwall for mining to continue for 200 years, but Cornwall's mining heritage, going back to the middle ages, and more importantly, whole communities could be destroyed.

What you can do. Pass resolutions in your union branches supporting the tin miners and contact the Tin Miners Support Group on Penzance (0736) 788412 or write via the Town Hall, Chapel Road, St Just, Penzance, Cornwall.

FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR!

- For a public enquiry!
- Picket the Home Office

Monday
JULY 21

5.00pm — 6.00pm

Queen Anne's Gate,
Petty France
London, SW1

Nearest tube: St James's Pk

WORKERS PRESS UNION CONFERENCE NEWS

NUR: Knapp boards the witch-hunt gravy train

Rights 'relieved' by no-strike vote

THE DEFEAT of the motion for strike action over proposed workshop closures at the NUR Conference was a blow to the left-wing delegates but seemed to bring relief to the right-wing.

The vote announcement was 5,956 in favour and 11,775 against. The total ballot papers issued were 23,442. 17,759 were returned.

The 'No' vote was not surprising: there has been a half-hearted approach to the latest announcements on the cutbacks and closures within BREL.

The fight at the Shopmans Conference, and now at the NUR AGM, for strike action shows that the right-wing are preparing to counter and stifle opposition within the ranks.

This was also shown on the question of Militant where the NUR leadership, led by Jimmy Knapp, pushed through a motion calling for a firm stand against Militant members in the Labour Party and their supporters.

Charles Turnock, a leading right winger, has been prominent in the campaign against the Liverpool Council.

This attack on Militant and their supporters shows that the right-wing of the union is gearing itself for the next election.

There is a hesitation, and in some cases deliberate avoidance, to fight Tory legislation which shows the depth of complicity between the NUR leadership and Kinnock.

This cannot be tolerated by active trade unionists

The Tory government intends to smash up the national sector of industry and it is clear that Kinnock will not repeal the anti-trade union laws even if he gets into parliament.

Another factor worrying the NUR is the decline of membership. In 1970 there were 199,575 members: this had fallen to 130,332 by 1985.

Motions and amendments on restructuring the present needs of the union which are being pushed through will mean that small branches will disappear.

A resolution on privatisation by Derby No 2 branch, which was amended to include strike action, was passed but this seems formally academic.

Resolutions on Ireland, including opposition to the Anglo-Irish deal, were narrowly lost. The executive stated that we must continue with existing policy.

On the question of the anti-union laws, resolutions on taking Tory cash fell but support for the printworkers and miners was endorsed.

The Driver Only Operation issue is still contentious, with guards stating continual management harassment.

(The ballot on the question of Confederation of Shipbuilders has not been officially issued, but the signs are a large No vote.)

MSC/YTS policy remains as last year, i.e. to work with the MSC/YTS, which was in opposition to the policy of 1984.

Although the ballot result was a blow, the fight must continue.

All activists and supporters must continue to fight the Tories and their policies.

At the same time there can be no room for illusions about Kinnock and Knapp



JIMMY KNAPP — called for a firm stand against Militant and its supporters. He is gearing up for an election — in two years time. He has nailed his colours to the Kinnock mast

Mark Hogg: The last eight days

GEOFF BARR REVIEWS AN IMPORTANT TV DOCUMENTARY

THIS IS the first review in Workers Press of a programme made by the South West's ITV company TSW.

It is of an excellent film which should be shown to the whole country.

It investigates the last few days of Mark Hogg's life.

It goes from his ill-fated escape attempt on September 27, 1985 to the beating he received at Yeovil police station and onto his death at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital in Exeter.

Much of the film deals with the events in Yeovil police station.

Most people think of Yeovil as a pleasant west country town, where the only sign of life is in the Westlands helicopter factory.

However peaceful the town seems, keep away from the police station.

The programme interviewed local councillor, Joan Vickers and had seven other statements that all pointed to regular beatings being given by Yeovil police.

These officers have nothing to learn from big city policemen about violence.

Mark Hogg and Philip Rutherford were taken to Yeovil after attempting to escape while being taken from Exeter to Wandsworth.

At Yeovil the police examined Hogg and found only the slightest injury.

Philip Rutherford's evidence shows that Hogg was attacked by a special Task Force group of police.

The Task Force had taken control of the cell block at Yeovil, although the Hogg inquest heard that guarding prisoners was not part of their job.

On return to Exeter prison Hogg was examined by a medical officer who noted grazing, bruises, scratches and discolouration. He missed Hogg's fractured rib.

Asked in court about how he missed the rib, the officer, Dr John Gordon, explained that 'I'm just a little absent minded I'm afraid to say.'

Hogg's complaints about being assaulted by police in Yeovil were not recorded.

For seven more days Hogg existed in the punishment block. He suffered from sickness, headaches and pain in the stomach.

BY GEOFF BARR



MARK HOGG

He was seen daily by prison medical staff and his cell was 300 yards away from the prison hospital.

He only got any hospital treatment the day before he died.

During his terminal suffering, he was seen by senior medical officer Dr Joseph Mieszkowski, who described Hogg's behaviour as 'very theatrical'.

He noted that Hogg was 'fit for the punishment block'.

This was despite Hogg pleading with Dr Mieszkowski 'Please help me you are the only one who can help me'.

When they finally decided to admit Mark Hogg to the prison hospital, he was forced to walk, although he could not go without support

and was tottering all the way.

With only one day left Hogg was transferred to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital in Exeter.

Dr Mieszkowski wrote to the RD&E that Hogg had not been vomiting — despite evidence that he had.

At the hospital Hogg told five doctors that he had been assaulted.

The doctors were certain that the cause of Hogg's kidney failure had been present for at least six days.

He was put on dialysis but a heart attack ended his life.

Shortly after Hogg's death, his wife and mother arrived at Exeter to visit him. They did not know of his illness.

They were told by the prison chaplain that Mark Hogg was dead when they phoned the prison from St David's Station.

After the film, the programme moved on to interviews between John Underwood, TSW's reporter and James Sharples and Simon Hughes.

James Sharples is Deputy Chief Constable for Somerset and Avon police. He answered the film and Underwood's questions with standard police denials about the assault on Hogg and all other cases.

He sought refuge in reports of the discredited Police Complaints Authority and dismissed the serious evidence of violence in Yeovil police station as nonsense.

Simon Hughes is the Hogg family's MP. He discussed with John Underwood the fact that the police, warders and prison doctors all had barristers financed by the taxpayer but the family had to raise money for their case.

He pointed out that the family had no absolute right of legal representation in the Coroner's Court.

The programme illustrated what happened in one of the many cases of death at the hands of the police.

It should be seen everywhere. John Underwood and his team are to be congratulated on a vivid, lively and well researched programme.

An inquest ends — BUT THE ORDEAL GOES ON:



MARK HOGG's widow, Janet and his sister, Kim, photographed on the steps of County Hall, Exeter where the inquest was held

THE INQUEST into Mark Hogg's death ended with a surprise.

Mark's widow, Janet, was called back to the witness box in a last minute attack on the Hogg family.

At 10am on Wednesday July 9, Mrs Hogg was asked by Mr Neil Butterfield, the prison officers' barrister whether she could have passed substances to her husband during her prison visits.

He claimed that Hogg's visits to the prison doctors to complain of rashes etc seemed to coincide with Mrs Hogg's visits.

Janet Hogg denied this, saying the only things she gave Mark were tea and peanuts which had been bought within the prison: nothing was ever brought in from outside.

The only possible point of this questioning was to imply that Mrs Hogg had passed drugs to Mark.

Would they conspire?

After the last minute appearance in the witness box was over the coroner began his summing up.

He asked if they could rely on Rutherford's testimony.

The jury may decide, he said, that Mr Rutherford was the sort of person who might try to create problems and difficulties for prison officers and for the prison service in order to try and gain revenge on those he considered murderers.

He suggested to the jury that an enormous conspiracy would have taken place if Hogg

had actually been beaten up, a conspiracy involving police, several prison officers, prison doctors and many doctors at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

The coroner told the jury that their verdict must not imply criminal or civil liabilities on the part of anybody.

He said that the jury would have to decide whether Mr Hogg died a natural or unnatural death, and that the cause would have to be known before this could be done.

However, he said, it is often difficult to decide whether causes of death are natural or unnatural.

He told the jury that they may not express an opinion in their verdict that was not directly concerned with how Mr Hogg came to his death.

The jury returned an open verdict.

In a statement the foreman of the jury said that they had been unable to find any evidence of definite lack of care, but certain aspects of Mr Hogg's care whilst in custody may have accelerated, or contributed to his death.

However, he continued, the seriousness of Mr Hogg's illness meant that it was highly debatable whether he would have survived anyway, irrespective of whether his care was adequate or not.

The coroner ruled that this was an inconsistent verdict.

The jury, he said could not say that there was no evidence of a definite lack of care and that certain aspects of care may have contributed to death.

The jury had to retire again and ended up with a simple open verdict.

Red and Green bus drivers both signal 'Go!' for London wages fight

LONDON bus crews have voted by 9,153 to 1,262 to reject a two-tier wage system which would have meant new drivers based in outer London working for £22 a week less than those in inner London.

Crews already working in outer London would have had a £22 per week cut in 1988 with a 5 per cent increase this year.

In very heavy voting, only one of the 56 garages voted to accept the offer. Votes were 10 to one against in most garages.

London Transport is short of over 900 bus drivers — and a steady stream is leaving the job.

In each of the last two years, twice as many of London's bus drivers have been retired as medically unfit as have reached retirement age.

Increasing traffic congestion, the extra stress of one-person operation and mounting assaults on bus crews have led nearly 300 a month

to quit.

Under the direction of John Moore, the new Secretary of State for Transport, London Regional Transport proposes to put another nine bus routes out to tender by private bus companies with the aim of cutting wages.

But companies which have won tenders for London bus routes — London Country Bus Company, Eastern National Buses and Len Wright Coaches — are hav-

ing difficulty running the services.

They cannot get drivers to work at their low rates of pay.

Bus crews on the London Country green buses have this week also voted to reject a new agreement.

This proposed a small wage increase and consolidation but gave the employer the right to cut nearly £20 a week off pay if the company ran into unforeseen problems.

● The joint rejection by both red and green bus crews of the employers' wage-cutting policy is both a springboard for joint action to defend wages and contracts and for an attack on the Bus Negotiating Committee of the T&GWU — which was even prepared to take the management proposals to the membership.

STOCKPORT APARTHEID LOBBY IS CALLED

ANTI-APARTHEID is calling for a lobby of the full Stockport council on July 22.

The council will be voting on a resolution which, if passed, will commit it to:

1. Not buying any South African commodities such as fruit or vegetables for council canteens.
2. Withdrawal of all investment in South Africa and severing connections with

firms that have investment in South Africa.

3. Stopping any cultural or sporting activities with apartheid South Africans.

All council workers and trade unions should support this lobby.

The labour movement in Stockport should use the lobby as a starting point to bring their trade unions to call for sanctions now.

The blockade of South Africa cannot be left to the leaders of the Labour Party. They have continuously

ignored the fight against apartheid.

In Stockport, it was the Liberals who first brought the motion to the council, not the Labour Party. The Liberals are bringing this motion in order to head off the demands for workers' sanctions.

● For workers sanctions not against South Africa!

● Lobby the Stockport council on Tuesday July 22 at 6pm Main Council Chamber Stockport Town Hall.

Cardiff warms to Wapping fight

but print leaders sing the same old chorus

A LIVELY demonstration of about 500 marched through Cardiff last Saturday (July 12) in support of the sacked printworkers from News International.

Crowds of shoppers in the packed city centre applauded the march, organised by the Welsh TUC.

At a rally in Sophia Gardens all the speakers called for a boycott of Murdoch's papers as the way to win the dispute.

David Jenkins, Secretary of the Welsh TUC, opening the rally, told the demonstrators:

'We owe it to the 5,500 sacked printworkers to support them, otherwise it will become open season for every employer to do the same.'

He added that the boycott campaign would ensure victory.

Tony Dubbins, General Secretary of the NGA spoke of the need for the support of working people up and down the country, adding:

'The dispute was never about new technology or about greedy Fleet Street workers, it is about the right to have trade unions recognised and the right to work.'

'Murdoch's papers here have been his most profitable, but he sacked his Brit-

BY ALAN CLARK

ish workforce to fund his investments in the United States.'

He continued: 'During the Miners' strike the "Sun" and "Times" told Scargill to have a ballot, yet we have had two ballots and each time Murdoch has gone to the courts instead of negotiating.'

Dubbins finished with a call to make the boycott campaign effective.

'If you see someone reading a "Sun" or buying one, don't hesitate to tell them that they are depriving a printworker of his job.'

Gavin Laird, General



Secretary of the engineering union AEU said that whatever differences emerge in the TUC 'we have to stand together in defence of the printworkers.'

'It's not the TUC that's letting workers down, it's the failure of industrialists not investing in this country that is the real problem.'

There were constant calls from the crowd about the EETPU.

Harry Conway, General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, gave us one of those 'if only' stories.

'If only my members had obeyed union instructions not to go into Wapping', he said.

Shouts from the crowd to expel them were ignored.

Those who went in knew that they would be sacked if they didn't!

Conway ended by castigating those 'Sun' journalists who took the extra money that Murdoch offered (more calls for them to be expelled) and called for a boycott of his papers.

Gerald Kaufman, the Labour Party's shadow Home Secretary, reminded everyone that he was a journalist in his early days and that he knew Rupert Murdoch better than anybody.

(Then perhaps he should have warned the printworkers what Murdoch would do!)

He went on to say 'The police do not want to be there (Wapping).'

When a football club needs police they have to pay so why shouldn't Murdoch pay?

'We need to change the laws for picketing, because if the Public Order Bill is passed, picketing will become unlawful.'

'There is a fundamental principle here for the Labour and trade union movement.'

'When we come to power we must change the law.'

Brenda Dean, General Secretary of Sogat 82, was the last speaker on the platform.

As she rose to speak many

A LIVELY contingent of women on the march — it seems to have slipped Brenda Dean's mind that they have been in the forefront of the fight all along. Right: The NUM Phurnacite Lodge was prominent on the march

Sogat members in the audience walked away.

They didn't miss much, this must have been the worst speech she has ever made.

She told the rally: 'Our members told Murdoch "no" to your money, but we must get Murdoch to negotiate, we need an independent ombudsman to negotiate.'

She said that the injunctions against certain branches and individual members would mean no more demonstrations, but made no reference to what the unions would do if they lost the injunctions.

Dean then made a call to the women, saying: 'If someone in your house or family or a friend buys the "Sun" go and tell them what it means and tell them not to buy it.'

It must have slipped her memory that the women have been in the front line of the dispute and would have done this months ago.

She went on to tell us (again) just how successful the boycott campaign is.

When the meeting finished several Sogat members tried to speak to Brenda Dean but she was in too much of a hurry to spare them any time, unlike Tony Dubbins who hung around talking to members and listening to what they had to say.

Banners on the march included NUM lodges at Maerdy, Phurnacite and Oakdale Navigation; the National Union of Seamen, National Union of Journalists, Inland Revenue Staff Federation, ACTT, South West Wales NGA, Wales TUC, Welsh Communist Party, Labour Party, Red Choir of Cardiff, South Wales Womens Support Groups, and Union of Post Office Workers as well as banners from London Sogat branches.



TONY DUBBINS — who stayed to talk to marchers after the speeches were over and (below) BRENDA DEAN — who didn't



NATIONAL JUSTICE FOR MINERS CAMPAIGN

Affiliation fees

National organisations	£50.
Regional Organisations	£25.
Local organisations	£5.

● Cheques payable to:
National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign
and sent to: NJMC, c/o NUM,
Durham Mechanics Association, 26 The Avenue,
Durham, DH1 4ED.

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

- SOUTH WALES**
DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicestershire.
- RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicestershire.
- KENT**
TERRY FRENCH: Betteshanger — Four year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent.
- DURHAM**
JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.
- GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Aifray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody. (not a miner, but arrested during the course of the strike)
- YORKSHIRE**
MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.
- NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.
- PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18 month sentence. G76424. Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston, Lancs.
- CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three year sentence from April 1985. G79348. Ackington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.
- N. DERBYSHIRE**
DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037. A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Dockeyton Road, Wellington

LONDONERS DEFY THE FASCISTS

A CAMPAIGN against local fascists was launched in Islington, north London, last week.

The attacks on the local Bengali community, especially school children from Highbury Quadrant School, where children are presently having to be escorted to and from school by their teachers, was attended by over a hundred local anti-fascists including parents and teachers.

Some of the incidents are felt to be directly related to the existence of a nest of fascists who have set up shop opposite the Arsenal stadium.

They have launched, for instance, a series of cowardly nightly attacks on

the home of a Bengali mother and her children.

These included smearing the letter-box with dog excrement, hashing down the front door and throwing burning material into the house which caused extensive damage.

The Council has since promised to re-house the family after weeks of pressure.

The fear is that the fascists are preparing for a major recruiting drive amongst Arsenal supporters in the coming season.

They are also known to have contacts in Germany.

They have equipped their base in Avenell Road with cameras to detect who enters and leaves the street.

The meeting was highly critical of the slow and indifferent response of the

local council and police to these criminal and terrorist assaults upon the local Bengali community.

As part of the planned activities the meeting agreed to lobby the next Council meeting on Tuesday July 22 at 7.30pm at the Islington Town Hall, to compel the Council to take up its responsibilities in defending the community from fascist attacks.

● All Workers Press readers and supporters are urged to participate in, and support this campaign.

Australian building workers — militancy attacked

BUILDING workers in Australia, especially those in the Builders' Labourers Federation (BLF), have been under attack by the Labor state governments of New South Wales and Victoria as well as the federal Labor government.

With the election of a Labor government in Victoria in 1981 and the Hawke Labor Federal government in 1982, building workers expected the attacks of the outgoing Liberal governments to stop.

Instead of strengthening and defending the gains of the building workers, the new Labor governments took up the attacks of the Liberals.

With the connivance of the ACTU (Australian equivalent of the TUC) and leading Stalinists in the Building Workers' Industrial Union (BWIU), the employers and police have now got legislation to declare the BLF illegal.

Over the past three years BLF members have seen their Federal Secretary Norman Gallagher jailed three times.

He was sentenced to 18 months for taking secret commissions from the employers while the employers involved were given suspended sentences or bonds.

Gallagher was also charged with contempt of court for thanking building workers for taking industrial action in his defence when he was under the threat of jail.

The building industry has a history of deaths and serious injuries due to the nature of the work and the drive for maximum profits by the employers.

Through militant struggle the building unions, especially the BLF, have won significant gains over the past 20 years — a closed shop agreement, a nine day fortnight (with no loss of pay), industry-wide portable superannuation, safer working conditions (no work in rain etc.) and big wage increases.

All building workers enjoyed these benefits but it was predominantly the BLF who took the initiative in the struggles.

But the profound effects on the Australian economy of the deepening recession

BY GERRY BEATON

meant the employers had to increase the intensity of their attacks on the gains won through the boom periods of the post war era.

The election of the Hawke Labor government began a period where government intervention on the side of the employers became an everyday event.

Unions were threatened with de-registration if they operated outside guidelines set by the government and the ACTU.

These guidelines were agreed at the economic summit called by Hawke immediately after winning power in 1982.

Represented

The summit represented both employers and unions in a huge display of corporatism and resulted in the Prices and Income Accord.

The Accord stated that unions would only pursue wage increases through the Arbitration Commission every six months and no improvements in conditions would be awarded without its agreement.

The employers for their part would consider the implications of price increases.

The BLF leadership signed the accord along with all other unions bar one.

But they came under concerted attack by the employers for their refusal to abide by the accord when they continued to fight for improvements which broke the guidelines.

Hawke was urged by the employers to take strong action against the BLF.

When the ACTU and the other building unions gave



BLF members in Melbourne. Instead of defending the gains of building workers, Labor Govts. around Australia have increased attacks on their strength.

their consent, the legislation to make the BLF illegal was carried through parliament with the total support of the Liberals.

This legislation, passed by the three governments, has been described as the most draconian in the history of Australia.

In Victoria, the BLF's stronghold, the Cain Government took the legislation one step further in the Building Industry Act 1986.

The Act proposed a number of ways to smash the BLF.

Employers could be fined for recognising the BLF.

Other unions could be immediately de-registered if they accepted known BLF militants as members.

An official blacklist was to be set up.

The BLF's assets were to be sold and the money distributed among the former members.

These actions were in breach of the International Labour Organisation's Conventions to which the Federal and State Labour governments are signatories.

The reaction of BLF members on building sites was business as usual.

The governments were forced to bring the police onto sites to force BLF members into other unions.

Every morning at the site entrance labourers would face a Department of Labour representative, the site supervisor, police and an official of the BWIU.

They were told that unless they resigned from the BLF and joined an appropriate union they would be sacked.

Members

The carve-up of BLF members was agreed in discussions between the governments and officials of the other building unions.

Pickets were set up and the police moved in arresting BLF members and officials.

Members were urged to sign the forms so that the union could maintain a presence on the sites.

On numerous jobs as soon as the police left the labourers held a meeting and resigned from the BWIU.

Where known militants were blacklisted, strikes broke out involving all workers on the sites, in defiance of union officials.

As a direct result of official sanctioning of the use of police on picket lines, there is a lot of bad feeling between members and officials of the other building unions.

From 1948 to the early 1960s the BWIU was itself de-registered. It was only able to operate as an independent union because of the support it obtained from other unions including the BLF.

The situation that the BLF now faces is not only a result of the rightward turn of the Labour governments, supported by the leaderships of other building unions.

The BLF leadership previously used the courts and the police to defeat the leadership of the New South Wales branch.

The ability of the government to isolate the BLF is related to that action by the BLF leaders.

Building workers are realising that defeat for the BLF will mean a threat to the gains they have won.

Already there have been serious injuries and deaths as a result of BLF work practices being broken.

The lessons of the attack have not been lost on the employers with calls for the

use of the 'BLF technique' against other unions who are currently engaged in defending hard won gains.

The BLF is still operating as an independent union despite the claims made by the Minister responsible for the action against the BLF, Steve Crabb, the Stalinists of the Communist Party of Australia and the officials of the BWIU.

The press releases and public statements made by the premier Cain and Steve Crabb have reminded some people of nazi propaganda of the war era.

Officials

The labourers on the sites are still calling BLF officials to their disputes instead of the other unions that they are nominally members of.

The determination of the BLF members to defend their union has taken the Government by surprise. On a number of large sites where their is large investment by overseas companies the BLF has been left alone.

By staying on the sites and fighting for the unity of all building workers the BLF has been able to hold back the attacks that the Government has waged

ANNOUNCING... Socialist Press

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LISTINGS

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT DELEGATION TO THE NORTH OF IRELAND. Belfast, 8-11 August. Delegates invited from individuals and groups, to stay as guests of local people and discuss the Irish labour movement, Irish culture, plastic bullets, strip-searching and show-trials with political and community activists. Join the Belfast Interment Commemoration march and rally, Sunday August 10. Details from: Delegation Organising Committee, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

MARCH: Close Britain's Concentration camps! Troops out of Ireland! Prisoners out of jail! Saturday August 9. Assemblies 1 pm,

Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1.

NON-STOP PICKET OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY. Organised by City of London Anti-Apartheid, the non-stop picket for the release of Nelson Mandela and sanctions against the apartheid regime continues outside South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, London WC1.

IRISH PRISONERS APPEAL COURT PICKET. Support Jo Tully, who was charged with obstruction while picketing outside the Old Bailey during the recent trial of 5 Irish Republicans. Tuesday July 22, 9.30 am at the Guildhall Court, London EC1.

TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS ANNUAL RALLY. Sunday July 20, in Tolpuddle, Devon.

BROADWATER FARM DEFENCE CAMPAIGN MARCH AGAINST POLICE HARASSMENT. Sunday July 20, assemble 12 noon underneath Tangmere, Broadwater Farm, London N17. March 1 pm from Willan Road to rally at anti-racism festival in Finsbury Park.

DEMAND POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR GARNETT KORLER. Contact the campaign for political asylum for black South African Garnett Korler, who will be in danger if the Home Office succeed in deporting him to South Africa, c/o Manchester Law centre, 584 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester

12; phone 061-225-5111.

PICKET CROMWELL ROAD SAINSBURY'S against South African goods. Saturday July 26, 10.00am to 1.00pm. Organised by Earls Court A/A, phone 373 3726.

MONEY — A MARXIST VIEW guided tour of British Museum exhibition. Meet Museum steps 4.30pm. Sunday July 27. Discussion at Duke of York Pub, York Way, 7.30pm.

WOMEN MARCH AGAINST MALE VIOLENCE National demonstration, Saturday July 26, 1986. Assemble 12.00 noon at Hyde Park, march to Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Rd., SE1. For information contact 843 0578 or 574 5123. Organised by NOW

DEMONSTRATE against Ba'hist regime in Iraq. Saturday July 19, Platt Fields Park, Rusholm, Manchester, 1.00pm. Organised by Islamic Union of Iraqi Students

ANTI APARTHEID CULTURAL EVENING Bryant Street Methodist Church, Stratford, E 15, 7.30pm Friday July 25. Five minutes from Stratford underground. **Lioness Chant, Pula, Arts Kommune & NOW.** £2.00, UB 40s 50p. Organised by Azania Solidarity Campaign

'PRESS GANG' a play based on News International dispute. Lambeth Town Hall, Room 119, Thursday July 24. 7.30 refreshments; 8.00 play starts. Tickets £1 at door. Lambeth Printworkers' Support Group

plus Rank & File Theatre Group

ALTERNATIVE ROYAL WEDDING SHOW outside Fortress Wapping, 4.00 - 9.00pm Weds July 23. The **Ragged Trousered Cabaret** brings music, poetry, song and socialist magic. Wellclose Square, the Highway, Wapping. Admission free

Please send details of your meetings and events to Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT, to arrive not later than the Monday before publication. Please mark envelope clearly 'Listings'

A warm welcome for visitors to:



THE 102nd DURHAM MINERS GALA

THE ONE hundred and second Durham Miners' Gala welcomed guests from all over the country last Saturday, July 12, and provided an atmosphere which none could ever forget.

It was a celebration of the strength of the history of Durham's miners — as the brass bands and the banners paraded the picturesque and history-steeped cobbled lanes, miners and their friends rejoiced in the proud heritage of generations who had celebrated the Gala before them.

The miners this year, just over one year after the end of the Great Strike of 1984/85,

Early unions held 'a big meeting' to decide whether or not they would sign the bond.

Eager to induce the miners to accept another harsh contract, the employers put on cheap beer and offered each miner who signed a contract a bounty of two week's wages, more money than any miner would normally hold in his hand at once.

Throughout the last century the Durham area saw enormous struggles to establish unions.

All housing was owned by the collieries so any miner who took strike action would be

HOW IT BEGAN

BY LYNN BEATON

cluded a pride in themselves and their knowledge of the part they had played in their own history, as well as a great respect for the courage of their forefathers.

This respect was tinged with a bitterness at the cruel brutality which is part of the story of every miner.

The history of the Gala itself is the history of labour learning to fight against the rapacious brutality of pit owners.

Until towards the end of the last century miners in Durham worked under a feudal and system.

Every year, miners signed a contract with an owner, which bound them for the next twelve months.

Any miner who broke his bond, by refusing to work or accept the harsh conditions of the bond, was called before the magistrate and handed out at least a prison sentence.

One day a year, on the day the contracts were signed, miners were free.

immediately evicted and forced to live in the moors.

Often the army was brought in to carry out evictions and force miners back into the pits. At times the whole of the Durham area was occupied by the army.

When bonding ended, 'the big meeting' was turned into a Gala to celebrate the freeing of the miners.

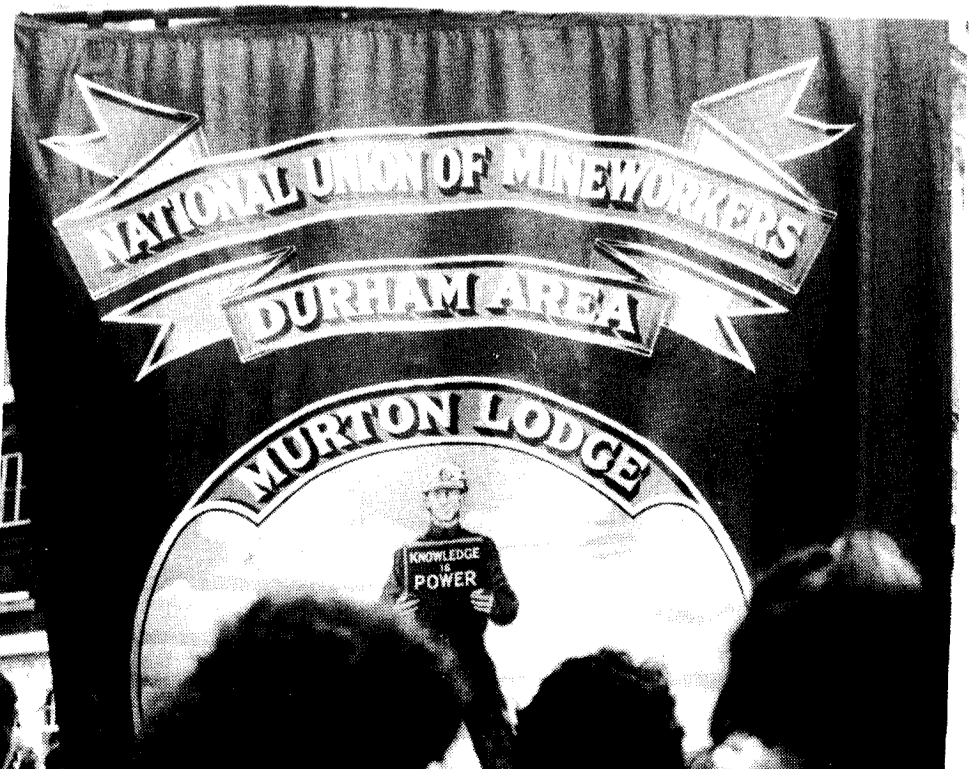
It still retains that sense of celebration today.

At the same time it also contains a bitter sadness at the destruction of the coalfield in the last forty years.

In 1942 there were 120 pits. Today there are only six, one of which is immediately threatened with closure.

The banners of all the closed pits were exhibited in a marquee which was the most popular of the events on the field.

They hung in long lines and their silence told of the death of an era while their colours told of the battles that each represented.



A spirit of continued strength

IT HAS always been a tradition of the Gala that Lodges march past the County Hotel where speakers of the day and union officials watch the procession.

This year saw a very noticeable absence: NUM President Arthur Scargill, who instead was carrying the banner of the Barnsley Womens Support Group.

The common themes throughout all the speeches were that it was imperative that the trade union and labour movement attains unity and, as soon as we have a Labour government with Neil Kinnock as Prime Minister, everything in the garden will be lovely.

First to speak was Ron Todd of the T&GWU, who praised the marvellous struggle of the miners, their wives and the mining communities; they were not short of courage but of trade union allies.

He reconfirmed his union's support for the reinstatement of all sacked miners.

He then went into raptures about the need for unity and what plans the next Labour government had for the country.

Durham Miners Secretary David Hopper called for defectors to the UDM to return to the fold of the NUM and for the reinstatement of those men sacked and victimised by the strike.

The Durham Gala, he said, was a platform for the success of a future Labour government which would be a springboard for a better society.

Peter Heathfield reminded

BY FIONA NICOL

us that Arthur Scargill had predicted in 1982 that the NCB intended to close eight pits in the north-east coalfield and the press had immediately accused him of scaremongering.

Meanwhile, of course, eight pits have closed and the onslaught is still going on, with the prospect of forty thousand job losses to come.

Dennis Skinner brought a welcome from Clay Cross where, in 1972, eleven Labour councillors refused to implement the Housing Finance Act and were bankrupted, surcharged and banned from holding political office.

Last week saw the first of these councillors eligible to seek re-election take victory with an eighty-five per cent majority.

After telling us that the Notts miners were used in the same way as Chief Buthelezi in South Africa; that overtime payments for the Wapping dispute are already running at £1.17 million and that we must shift the balance of power and wealth, Dennis Skinner's speech verged on the ridiculous.



It was not worthy of someone who had taken a principled stand during the miners' strike and was more akin to a circus clown's act.

The last speaker of the day was Neil Kinnock.

There were big divisions among the miners' Lodges as to whether Kinnock should be asked to speak.

Slightly nonplussed, he told us that he was a miner's son and a miner's grandson; we will defeat the Tories; we must have power to stop the waste and injustice that exists.

The coalmining communities have paid the price for Thatcherism; if given pow-

er, Kinnock assured the crowd, any miners still sacked would immediately be reinstated (time alone will tell on that one).

Disunity was being prolonged in the mining industry; communities in every coalfield were suffering.

This 'disunity' speech was aimed at Scargill and Heathfield: he made it clear that he wanted a compromise between the NUM and the UDM — and intended to back any behind-the-scenes moves to that end.

This was the second Gala since the end of the miners' strike.

Last year, for the first time in its history, women were allowed to march under their own banners.

This year the gala procession was opened up to the broader trade union movement.

The 'Big Meeting'

DURHAM Miners Gala, 'the big meeting' is a day of memories.

Memories of over a hundred banners and a hundred brass bands, of Durham's narrow streets so packed with miners and their families that the shop fronts had to be boarded up to prevent the sheer pressure of the crowd smashing the glass.

We remember the time when a quarter of a million listened to the speeches.

How the 'big meeting' used to be split up into a number one platform dominated by the right-wing and a number two platform — where as children we listened with awe to the left words of a young Michael Foot.

We remember the 1976 Gala and Mr. Wilson giving us hope that the Seaton Carew power station might be coal fired.

A year later the plans had been laid by that same Labour leader to

build a nuclear fired power station in the middle of the biggest coal field in Europe.

They used to say Durham 'big meeting' was the biggest political demonstration in the western world.

We could add, dominated by the most treacherous right-wing leaders known to man.

But deep changes are taking place. After a year's strike and after the near destruction of the coalfield, a new generation of miners marched on Saturday.

As Kinnock spoke the crowd noticeably thinned out.

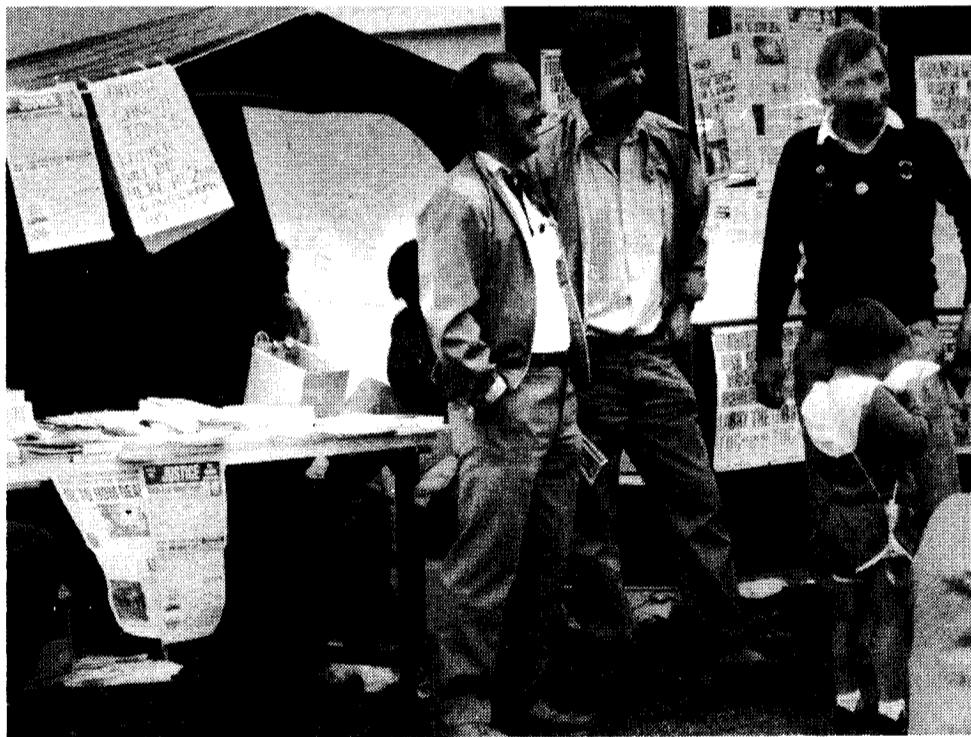
Horde brass band struck up a tune and the Lodge marched off the field.

● The Durham miners, once the backbone of the Labour party, have become sceptical of reformist leaders and their holiday speeches.

Dave Temple

associate themselves with the miners.

● The spirit of the Gala was one of continued strength and defiance. Unity was expressed around the common theme of absolute hatred for this Tory Government.



FIRST VISIT FOR 20 YEARS

ATTENDING the Gala for the first time for twenty years, I was struck by how quiet it was when we arrived.

I remembered in the past bands collecting and marching as early as 7.00am.

Pit closures and the refusal to bring alternative employment into the area has reduced the event in size but has not affected the enthusiasm of the communities in Durham.

Smaller yes, but the spirit of solidarity and comradeship dominated the day.

Tradition dies hard in this very beautiful city.

Youth clambered to jump off a bridge into the River Wear, carrying on a tradition born of a story that locals, intending to throw

'the pulse of a determined class'

the Bishop into the river, threw the Dean in by mistake.

Workers Press and the WRP made a solid presence on the field among the other stalls.

We met many new com-

rades and renewed friendships with old ones.

The spirit of the Gala continued in the evening; miners' strike songs, womens' support group songs and Irish rebel songs were all sung with gusto.

It all ended with a verse of the Red Flag dedicated to the struggle of the South African workers and an enthusiastic chorus of the Internationale.

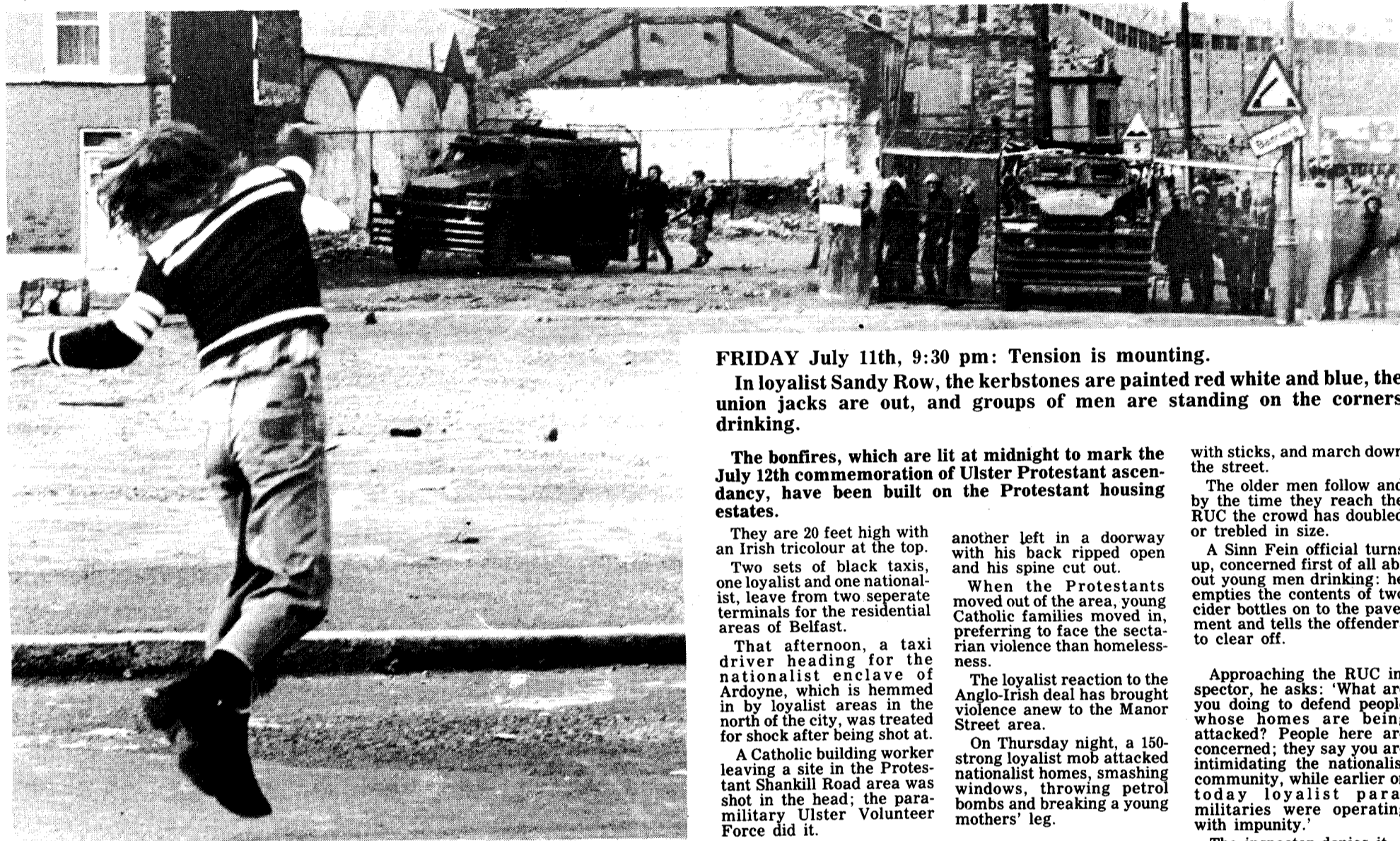
None of this was forced meat, this was the very pulse beat of a very determined and undefeated working class.

Norman Harding



THE BELFAST B

Where the Provos won their spurs:

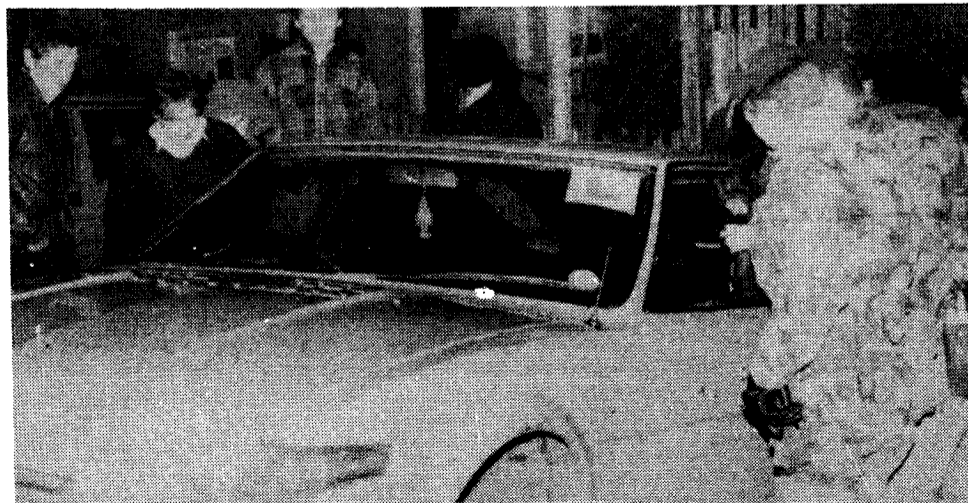


'You are nothing but a shower of sectarian murdering bastards,' interjects a teenager. 'Well I get paid for it at the end of the week,' replies the inspector.

AS THE ORANGE marching season gets underway in the north of Ireland, community leaders and Republicans are faced with the task of defending nationalist areas from attacks ranging from window-smashing to assassination.

In north Belfast, Republicans say that authorities have carried out a deliberately sectarian housing policy, forcing young Catholic families desperate for a roof over their heads into the path of loyalist provocation.

A Workers Press correspondent who was in Belfast last weekend reports.



THE CAR in which 'Shankill butcher' leader Lennie Murphy was killed by the IRA in November 1982. Although named by fellow killers in open court, he was never charged in connection with killings attributed to the 'butchers'. Commander of the UVF prisoners while in the H-blocks, he was released with full remission in August 1982. He resumed his place in the UVF hierarchy and the almost

unbelievably brutal sectarian killings resumed. Again arrested but released without charge, justice was finally meted out by the IRA when the 'master butcher' was shot in a well-planned operation. His executioners' trail was hidden by Murphy's own involvement in internal UVF killings — which led police to look in completely the wrong direction

FRIDAY July 11th, 9:30 pm: Tension is mounting.

In loyalist Sandy Row, the kerbstones are painted red white and blue, the union jacks are out, and groups of men are standing on the corners drinking.

The bonfires, which are lit at midnight to mark the July 12th commemoration of Ulster Protestant ascendancy, have been built on the Protestant housing estates.

They are 20 feet high with an Irish tricolour at the top.

Two sets of black taxis, one loyalist and one nationalist, leave from two separate terminals for the residential areas of Belfast.

That afternoon, a taxi driver heading for the nationalist enclave of Ardoyne, which is hemmed in by loyalist areas in the north of the city, was treated for shock after being shot at.

A Catholic building worker leaving a site in the Protestant Shankill Road area was shot in the head; the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force did it.

To get to the Ardoyne you have to drive through the loyalist Crumlin Road.

The mills towering over the side streets there have long been closed; they serve as a no man's lands between the two communities.

Because of the two shooting incidents, nationalists have erected make-shift checkpoints made of oil drums and metal piping.

To understand the tension on the eve of the twelfth, you have to know the history of the area.

In 1969, Ardoyne suffered some of the earliest and most savage loyalist attacks.

Hundreds of families were burned out of their homes.

The toughest units of the Provisional IRA were formed in the struggle to defend the area: Republicans there recall with pride how, after local residents showered them with derision for not protecting homes, the IRA staged full-scale gun battles first with the paramilitary loyalists and then with the British army.

Killings

In the early 70s, the Manor Street area where nationalist Ardoyne meets the loyalist Shankill Road district became known as 'murder mile'.

There were about 50 sectarian killings, nearly all the victims Catholic.

The 'Shankill butchers' operated here, horribly torturing and mutilating their victims: one shot in front of his young family; one hung upside down and stabbed more than 100 times;

another left in a doorway with his back ripped open and his spine cut out.

When the Protestants moved out of the area, young Catholic families moved in, preferring to face the sectarian violence than homelessness.

The loyalist reaction to the Anglo-Irish deal has brought violence anew to the Manor Street area.

On Thursday night, a 150-strong loyalist mob attacked nationalist homes, smashing windows, throwing petrol bombs and breaking a young mothers' leg.

Military

On Friday, men in paramilitary get-up emerged provocatively from nearby Protestant houses.

Some nationalists claim they had guns.

By Friday night, besieged Ardoyne is preparing.

The clubs close early at 10:30 pm, with a message from the Republican movement being read out, appealing for disciplined conduct.

Most people, of all ages, are on the streets, talking, watching and waiting.

About 10:30 pm a gang of youth brush with the Royal Ulster Constabulary; petrol bombs are thrown and a plastic bullet fired.

Two RUC armoured landrovers position themselves at the bottom of one of the side-streets, just inside nationalist 'territory'.

They bulldoze the cans and pipes erected to block the road from loyalist attackers.

Half a dozen RUC men strut around with plastic bullet guns; the landrovers' searchlights flick from one terraced house to another.

It is incredible that RUC attention is directed solely into the nationalist ghetto.

Loyalist crowds gather at their bonfires one or two hundred yards away, chanting and flute-playing clearly audible: everyone thinks they will attack nationalist homes but the RUC ignore them.

The first reaction to the RUC's stance, regarded as blatantly sectarian, comes from the youth.

Fifty of them emerge from some entries, many armed

with sticks, and march down the street.

The older men follow and by the time they reach the RUC the crowd has doubled or trebled in size.

A Sinn Fein official turns up, concerned first of all about young men drinking: he empties the contents of two cider bottles on to the pavement and tells the offenders to clear off.

Approaching the RUC inspector, he asks: 'What are you doing to defend people whose homes are being attacked? People here are concerned; they say you are intimidating the nationalist community, while earlier on today loyalist paramilitaries were operating with impunity.'

The inspector denies it.

We are here to keep the peace, he says.

'You are nothing but a shower of sectarian murdering bastards,' interjects a teenager.

'Well I get paid for it at the end of the week,' replies the inspector.

That ends the conversation.

As midnight falls, a loyalist gang goes on the rampage and petrol bombs start landing in the gardens of a row of nationalist homes.

Again it's the 16- and 17-year-olds who take the boldest action.

Crates of petrol bombs are rushed to vantage-points, gangs armed with sticks run through the entries and gardens.

RUC

Women start banging dustbin-lids on the pavements, calling the community to action; the older men, who have seen it all before, walk into the battle area, shouting encouragement and directions.

The nationalist petrol bombs sail over the roof-tops in retaliation.

'Over this way', 'go higher', shout onlookers trying to improve the direction of fire.

It's not long before two RUC landrovers come into the ghetto; as they turn the corners shouts of 'it's the peelers' go up.

Sinn Fein men tell the youth to leave them alone.

At 1:30 am the crowds start fading and people return home.

ATTLEGROUND

'They exploit the housing crisis to fan the sectarian conflict..'

SINN FEIN councillor GERRY McGUIGAN explains to Workers Press how the authorities are taking advantage of the desperate housing crisis facing Catholic families to put them as close as possible to loyalist areas, thus fanning the flames of sectarian conflict.

'The area where the trouble took place, between Old Park Street and Cliftonville Road, at Rosapenna Street, was emptied of people in the mid-70s because of sectarian assassinations.

'They re-developed the area beside the shopping centre on Old Park Road.

'They built 101 houses in the scheme.

'Fourteen of them face into Rosapenna Street, which is a nationalist area.

'These were given to Catholic families who were emergency re-housing cases.

'They were physically divided from the rest of the estate by a wall, and a 3,000-square foot patch of land which was supposed to be for an electricity sub-station.

'The other 87 houses went to loyalists, who had perhaps 30 or 40 housing points, putting the 14 Catholic families in a very difficult situation.

Homes

'This is despite the fact that there are hundreds of nationalist families with 100 points or more, as well as two classes of emergency re-housing cases: A1 cases who have lost their homes through fires or intimidation, and A2 cases who suffer exceptional social problems of one kind or another.

'The middle management of the Belfast Development Office had expected and planned for a natural expansion of the nationalist community.

'They were dealing with the reality of meeting families whose cases could only be described as pathetic.

Pressure

'They were relying on those 101 houses to relieve the pressure on the area and were very annoyed at what happened.

'We believe that British army intelligence has an input into the housing executive and is deliberately encouraging a sectarian housing policy.

'This is in part due to a deal made between John Carson, who was Unionist MP for North Belfast, and the last Labour government.

'He saw that the natural expansion of the nationalist community would destroy his majority.

'He got a commitment from the Labour secretary of state that if he voted a cer-

tain way on a crucial issue in the House of Commons — this was at the time that Labour was a minority government — they would stop this natural expansion.'

McGuigan also says that the state covertly encouraged the loyalist assassination gangs in the 70s, who shot Catholics in retaliation for soldiers or policemen being killed by the IRA.

'This put the nationalist population in areas like this under extreme pressure.

'They were getting shot in the streets, or bundled into cars, taken away and tortured.

'There was an enormous housing problem, especially for young married couples, so they couldn't move.'

This in turn created a situation where Catholics were demanding that the IRA carried out retaliatory killings of Protestants.

Actions

'It would be a lie if I said Republicans never engaged in retaliatory actions: IRA men were being abused on the streets for allowing the loyalists to continue.

'But these actions were never sanctioned by the IRA leadership.

'There was a period when



HOUSING in the Catholic areas of Belfast

attempts were made to go for selected targets, loyalist para-military leaders.

'Obviously attacking selected targets was not easy.'

'The bombing for which Brendan Macfarlane is being sought by the state was such an action.

A visit to the Ardoyne certainly convinces you there are no simple answers to the problems of the Irish working class.

For centuries, the British ruling class has deliberately fostered Protestant privilege; it has been going on far longer than sectarianism

in Sri Lanka, India or South Africa.

For almost as long, most British socialists have ignored the Irish struggle or been satisfied with platitudes about 'working class unity'.

● It is our responsibility to consider these things much more seriously.

DEFEND ARTHUR SCARGILL!

MILITANT MINERS and all serious trade unionists must mount opposition to the latest moves against Arthur Scargill.

These are being organised by right-wing reformists and trade union leaders assisted by leaders of the Euro-communist party.

An 'exclusive' report in last Sunday's Observer described a 'Kinnock-McGahey axis bent on removing Mr Scargill'.

'Arthur Scargill is on the verge of becoming an outcast from the miners' union in a palace revolution by left-wing NUM leaders backed by Mr Neil Kinnock' declared the Observer's reporters.

That is nonsense, of course. The rank and file will have something to say on that.

The right wing and the stalinists are bouyed up by the defeat of Scargill's position on the UDM at the recent miner's conference.

However, as Dave Temple pointed out in last week's Workers Press, the NUM conference is a great step removed from the rank and file.

Euro-communist trade union leaders, led by M McGahey, are rapidly losing even their very thin cover of left varnish.

For many years now, their leading intellectual, Eric Hobsbawm, has been an advisor to Mr Kinnock.

He and the other Euro-communists around Marxism Today embrace Kinnock as the 'realistic left'.

As Temple said, Scargill is, of course, not a Trotskyist and that is official.

However, he is now being attacked not for his weaknesses but for his strength.

COMMENT

By Bill Hunter

What spurred forward the reactionary alliance against him was his open declaration that the miners should prepare for further struggle.

Like the trade union leaders after the General Strike of 1926, among the present trade union bureaucracy there are not a few who say 'Never Again!'

All, including the Euro-communists — or more correctly Euro-stalinists — are paralysed in front of the international combines and before the attacks of the state on trade union rights.

They fervently wish the printers strike would go away.

Their cry to workers is: 'Hold it! Wait for a Labour Government in two years time.'

The big question for trade unionists is of course: 'What type of Labour Government is Kinnock preparing?'

It is very plain by Kinnock's actions today that he is preparing for a Labour Government that will carry forward state control of the trade unions and which is not going to threaten the policies of monopoly capitalism.

The moves among leaders of the Labour Party to delete policies of nationalisation from the plans of a future labour government are a direct pledge to the

multi-nationals.

It is in the light of the desertion by the trade union leaders of the defence of the trade unions and their fear of the mobilisation of the working class that we have to understand the witch hunt in general in the labour movement and the attacks on Arthur Scargill in particular.

It is also the key to understanding their refusal to organise the widespread anti-Tory sentiment into action and their resistance to leading the working class into decisive blows against the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The most reactionary wing of the trade union leadership (EPTU/AEU together with the leaders of the scab UDM) is now setting the pace for the TUC — with the assistance of the stalinists.

The militant forces in the unions must and will rally to fight back.

The task is to develop the greatest possible movement against right-wing trade union leaders on basic principled demands.

- Defend trade union rights against the witch hunt.
- All-out defence of Scargill against the right-wing and stalinist attacks
- Against the retreat on legal and state attacks on the unions
- Against Kinnock's preparations to carry out capitalist policies in a future Labour government and betray the widespread anti-Tory feeling.
- No cessation of struggle on the basis of waiting for a Labour Government.
- Make the struggle to bring down the Tory government part of the defence of trade union rights.

MANIFESTO

AT A SESSION of its Eighth Congress on June 21 and 22, the Workers Revolutionary Party adopted its manifesto 'A Programme of Action for the Crisis'.

For the first time in many years, the whole Party was involved in preparing and seriously discussing the political basis on which it fights in the class struggle.

Many amendments were put forward from branches and hotly discussed at the congress.

The experiences that Party branches make in fighting for this Manifesto will now be the subject of continuing discussion in 'Workers Press'.

To open this discussion, Bernard Franks this week proposes ways of elaborating the Manifesto in relation to social security, the health service, education, local authority services, cheap labour schemes and religion.

Health Services

ALL AREAS of the National Health Service are under attack: wards, departments and entire hospitals are being shut down, the latter to be bulldozed flat or sold off.

Purely to cut spending and make money on land sales, patients are being ejected from institutions for the physically disabled, the mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

Previous removals of this type have ensured that those remaining are some of the most severely disabled or disturbed, yet facilities in the community to receive them are appallingly inadequate.

Inevitably this will lead to increased suicides and a rise in the number of those who are a danger to themselves and others.

Meanwhile, thousands of mental outpatients, including many who have suffered sexual abuse, fear they will lose their counselling services and simply be left to rely on powerful tranquilisers.

Today, accident and emergency units are being shut down while those left have to cover ever greater catchment areas; nurses are being driven out of their accommodation, again to enable lucrative property sales to go through; cash cuts are killing kidney and other patients and are hitting vital research into prevention and cures.

Because no allowance is made for extra cover, both hospital and GP services now face crisis every year during the winter overload and in the summer holiday period.

Within the hospitals a dangerous erosion of standards of hygiene is occurring with the putting out of laun-

dry, kitchen, domestic and ward orderly work to private contract tendering.

The only way these firms can make the lowest bid yet achieve big profits is to cut wages, hours and the 'service' they provide.

This can only threaten staff and patients alike with increased dangers of infection, for example, from salmonella poisoning.

The introduction of short-term contract management into the Health Areas, whose primary aim is to introduce business efficiency systems, means that all concern for patient care is to be subordinated to Thatcherite 'value for money' principles.

Patients, particularly women in labour, are to be processed like so much meat in a packaging plant.

At the same time, cancer screening units and outpatients' ambulance provision are both under threat.

These massive attacks on the health service by the Tories seek to undermine it to enable further inroads by private firms.

Long waits for operations inevitably force those in agony to seek a quick solution in private hospitals.

Corruption begins to creep in with international bidding for human organs to be used in transplant operations for those willing to pay the most.

For those unable to pay,

Thatcher's concern with 'Victorian values' can be translated to mean a return to the 19th-century system of charity hospitals and Poor Law infirmaries.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock calls plans to repair the damaged services 'a fantasy'.

Likewise the health union leaders have sold out struggles or failed to show themselves where battles have occurred to defend services.

Yet again and again committees have linked with hospital workers to stop closures and defend patients' rights.

We say:

- Stop the erosion of the 1945-1948 provisions — on the contrary, extend them along the road they should have taken: nationalisation of the drug companies and equipment suppliers, including the gas monopoly, the British Oxygen company, with a world-wide campaign to expose the role of the giant international operation.

- Eradicate all private practice and universalise the health service to include all provision at present under private or charitable control
- Run the hospitals not with bureaucrats and businessmen, but with committees of workers and patients

- All patients must have the right to know about their treatment and the right to choose, with advice, the best course for their particular problem
- All closures should be stopped and all services extended.

If this costs billions, what of it? Is there a more important subject to spend on than health?

A programme of action for the crisis

Local authorities

SINCE TAKING office, the Tory government has worked systematically to undermine the services provided by local councils.

At the forefront of their campaign has been action to bring about privatisation in all areas by the enforcement of competitive tendering.

The main weapons against those seeking to defend local amenities and jobs has been rate-capping, the abolition of the GLC and of the metropolitan councils along with surcharging and disqualification of councillors who refuse to enforce the destruction of vital services.

The cuts in direct labour departments contribute to the crisis of inner city decay as repair and new works goes undone or ends up with the worst of the 'cowboys'.

We have seen the shocking treatment of homeless young people who occupy empty premises and are evicted with the use of bailiffs and riot police.

Now the Tories want to give local authorities the right to throw tenants off council estates so that these can be sold off to private property companies.

At the same time streets go filthy where a similar onslaught has been launched against refuse collection services.

Other amenities such as libraries, swimming baths, rights offices and road maintenance have been hit by finance cuts.

Real dangers to the community are inbuilt in the Tory concern to measure fire and ambulance services in terms of cash savings instead of value to the community.

Rationalisation of these vital services will inevitably cost lives.

Meanwhile home helps and social workers struggle with vast and increasing case loads as the sick, disabled and the isolated in the community are not only more numerous but also more severely disabled or disturbed.

Of course this means mistakes will occur for which the workers in the field will be made scapegoats to cover for the iniquities of bureaucrats and government.

Now plans are being laid to abolish the existing rate system, to replace it with a poll tax, a flat rate, so-called community charge, imposed on all residents over the age of eighteen, including the unemployed.

The last tax of this kind sparked off the great Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

Naturally the local business rate payers hope that the new system will transfer

their contribution to the residential sector.

Local council workers must join with tenants associations and other local residents' organisations in fighting cuts and privatisation.

Industrial action and

occupation of council offices should meet the attempts to destroy jobs and services.

Under a workers government tens of thousands of jobs could be created for the unemployed in renewing and extending council amenities, including housing, recreation facilities, parks and services.

In fact the work to re-establish and supply all the essential services, together with arrangements with ex-colonial countries to provide them with goods, services, know-how, welfare and means of production on extremely favourable terms to themselves, would incidentally be the basis of eradicating all unemployment in this country.

Public Health

CONCERN is increasing among public health inspectors at the growing incidence of food poisoning in institutions and in society at large.

They also warn of the dangers of overcrowding in bed and breakfast accommodation.

Hygiene laws covering production, sale and consumption of food, water supply and working and living conditions, general

sanitation, sewage treatment and refuse disposal have taken over one hundred and fifty years to reach the present standards.

They are now under threat as funding is withdrawn and the inspectorate reduced.

It is clear to all except those who regard 'value for money' as the sole basis for deciding priorities, that this service must have all the funding, staff and facilities it needs to do its work efficiently and well.

Cheap labour

IN THE RECENT period there has been a major turn by employers, encouraged by the government, to casual labour, part-time work, cheap labour, short-time contract and tendering systems, with a view to undermining trade unionism and breaking down traditional employment structures.

In some cases workers have taken up the fierce struggles against these schemes, to protect their jobs and livelihoods.

Elsewhere new forms have been imposed without opposition.

Where these operate it must be remembered that, due to the high turnover of labour in such jobs, within a year or so the workers in them will not all be scabs or those who have taken others' work, but simply working people who have answered

job adverts.

As part of their battle against privatisation unions therefore must have policies for recruiting these workers also.

The main problem will be that faced in the early days of struggles to unionise the low-paid and casual labour, that workers with no employment rights can be instantly sacked the moment they join a union.

Recruitment campaigns in this sector should therefore be built around a twin fight: for higher pay for these appallingly low paid workers, combined with a battle for legally enforceable employment rights and protection equal to those of full-time workers in normal employment.

In any case workers in every union should be demanding that their leaders set up research projects and conferences on these serious changes in the structure and methods of employment.



Education

Schools

ALL sections of public education are under attack. Schools are in a downward spiral of decaying building, ageing equipment and an increasing lack of facilities, materials and books.

Teachers are increasingly called upon to make up for the poverty of provision by extending their own efforts, yet are treated with contempt in terms of pay and responsibility.

Parents are virtually blackmailed into paying for books, paper, materials and equipment and even into decorating premises if they want to see their children educated. Many do this willingly, but their good intentions are entirely misplaced as this provision is then assumed when preparing more cuts.

As for the pupils themselves, they find increasing dissatisfaction in the way their interests and their needs are ignored and school becomes no more than a system of policing the young.

In line with their policies for smashing and rationalising industry and services the Tories see education for the working class in terms of supplying employers with the necessary few skilled technicians and with a mass of cheap labour.

To this end they encourage an increasing involvement of YTS TVEI and other Manpower Service commission work projects with schools and further education colleges.

Meanwhile, the destruction of the School Meals Service, the last remaining welfare provision of the 1944

Education Act, occurs at a time when concern is rising at the declining nutritional standards of foods consumed by the young.

Today, private education is booming, a result of the deliberate destruction of the public sector and the consequent switch of middle class parents and others with money to what they see as superior provision.

We say the rot must be stopped.

- Give unemployed building workers jobs renovating the schools and constructing new ones.

- Reduce class sizes and give teachers, parents and pupils the dominant say in education policy.

- Bring an end to private education and ensure positive discrimination for pupils with language or learning difficulties and with handicaps.

- Break all links with MSC cheap labour schemes, which have nothing in common with genuine education about work, trade unionism and the economics of society.

- End sexism in subjects taught, both boys and girls to



learn cooking, driving, car maintenance, DIY, first aid, current affairs as well as their own free choice of vocational, recreational, technical and academic subjects.

- Pupils must be given the rights and responsibilities in running schools and deciding and preparing courses, not simply be recipients of others' decisions.

- Teaching must be treated in a way which reflects the importance of their role in modern society.

Further education

EVERY year more than 60,000 young people fail to get places at polytechnics, yet the Tories have ordered

more cuts in the numbers of teachers and closure of courses and colleges.

Lecturers have been coming forward to defend their conditions and to oppose staff reductions and the encroachment of private teaching operations into public sector colleges.

At the same time polytechnic students have been in the forefront of the battle against racism in education.

In the name of 'free speech' the Tories plan laws to muzzle those who refuse to see the fight to save education split by racists and fascists.

Now the government seeks

to extend the role of cheap labour schemes by increasingly involving polytechnics in their development.

Students and lecturers are right to unite in the battle to save their colleges and courses and to demand that their unions support and extend these struggles nationwide.

Further education must be a right freely available to all without impediment.

Higher education

THE universities suffered a 10 per cent cut in funding between 1981 and 1985 and are being forced to plan for reduc-

tions of two per cent a year for the rest of the decade.

Thousands of well qualified school leavers fail to get places each year; Britain is in fact almost bottom of an international league table in relation to how many of its students are in higher education.

Recent years have seen a positive trend towards increased numbers of working class women, mature and ethnic origin students in the colleges.

The Tories are determined to reverse this trend and revert to an elitist structure catering for the rich alone.

To this end colleges which cater for working class students are threatened, grants are slashed so private funding is needed to go to university, social security payments to students are ended and a loan system is advocated which will mean paying back thousands of pounds once employment is attained.

Meanwhile, vital research in medical, scientific and social areas is hit by cuts in funding while plans are laid for greater say by private industry in university operations and course structure.

We say: oppose the cuts, fight to keep all colleges open, occupy those threatened with closure and keep the courses going.

Open the universities to the worker and the mature student, pay students a proper wage while they study, give staff and students jointly the primary say in running the colleges and defining policy.

Social Security

MILLIONS of people in Britain are forced to subsist on state benefits: the unemployed, the severely sick and disabled, many one-parent families, retirees whose pensions are inadequate, and those who care for severely handicapped relatives.

All have in common the problem of trying to live on a grossly inadequate income, made as low as possible to discourage claims by all except those in most dire need.

Four million people are caught in the 'poverty trap' of housing benefit which falls as income rises; 220,000 workers have wages so low they have to claim Family Income Supplement.

For years the Social Security system has been undergoing deliberate erosion.

For example, although the number of claimants rose from 2.5 million in 1979 to 5 million today, DHSS staff numbers have been cut by 10,000 in the same period.

During this same period the scandal has come to light of ex-hospital patients and

homeless elderly people being dumped in private 'homes' — in reality, seedy boarding houses — at vast expense to the DHSS.

While virtually nothing has been done to prevent this massive rip-off of taxpayers' money, the activities of the DHSS 'fraud squad' have been stepped up in its work of bullying and intimidating claimants out of their due.

To their great credit, DHSS staff have struck in protest at these operations.

The £3.5m or so a year recovered by the fraud squad is in marked contrast

to the £11 billion estimated to have been 'saved' by cuts in provision and in non-payments since 1979 — £1.32 billion alone by changes in the basis for fixing payments to pensioners.

Now, a new and more direct onslaught is planned through the Social Security Act. Millions are to face reductions in housing benefit and other payments.

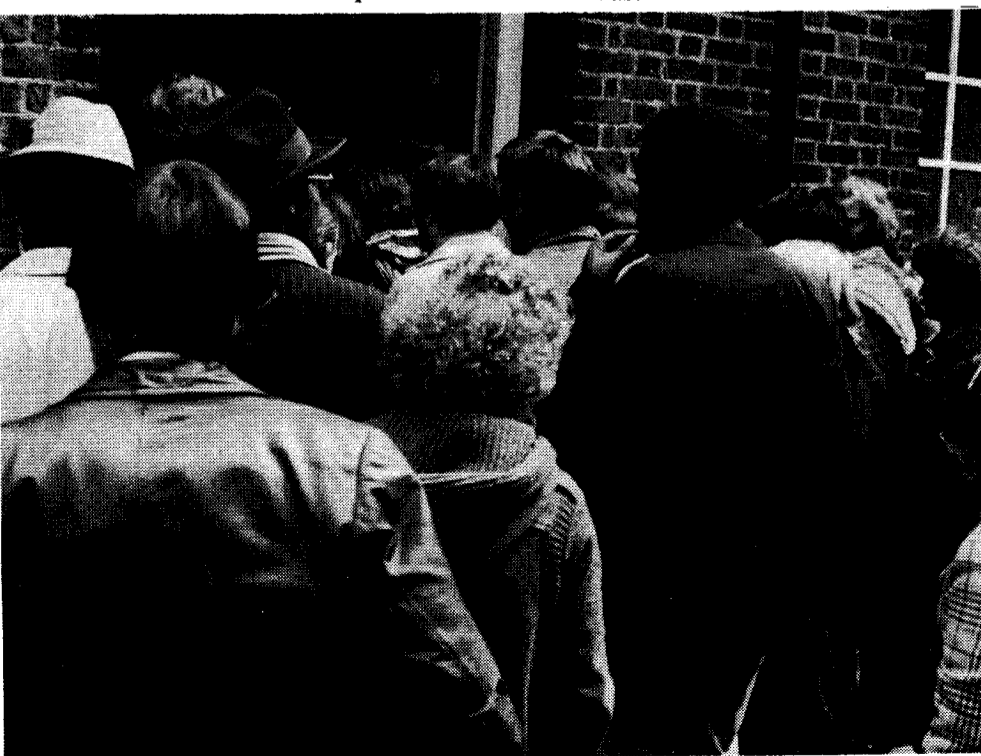
We say:

- Trade unionists must join with claimants and DHSS workers to oppose this attack

- Demand that those unable to work through no fault of their own be paid the average national wage as of right

- End the scandal of private doss-houses passing off as 'nursing homes'

- End the disgrace of deliberate impoverishment by the state of the young, the homeless and strikers.



Public Transport



SAVAGE cuts in the services, along with the loss of thousands of jobs and huge increases in fares will follow from the privatisation and deregulation of public bus, rail and ferry transport ordered by the Tory government.

Whatever the alleged plans for subsidising uneconomic services, no private owners will want to know about unprofitable routes, nor want to operate on quiet days or at uneconomic times of day.

Vast areas of the countryside will therefore be without public transport, putting poor people, the elderly and the unemployed in an impossible position.

More village schools will close, shopkeepers will be forced out of business and communities will die.

Townspeople will face longer waits to get to shops or work and undergo greater travel stress as services are rationalised and as co-ordinated bus-rail systems are broken up for separate

sales by competitive tender.

Existing services will likely be streamlined to make them more attractive to buyers — ie by being run so infrequently that they are always full to overflowing.

We say, travellers and residents of entire localities should unite with transport workers to save vital services from the profiteers and

community wreckers.

Far from being cut and privatised, public services should on the contrary be vastly extended.

This growth would rest on a policy of systematic fare-cutting to encourage more users, while reducing congestion on the roads by giving the motorist a viable alternative.

Religion

AS MARXISTS and Communists we are not religious people. We believe that the world has arisen and developed by natural, not supernatural means.

At the same time we are firmly of the opinion that it is vital to have a philosophy and a world outlook, which is the basis for all thought and action, which in turn is based on our understanding of the way the world has arisen and how it operates.

This philosophy is Dialectical Materialism, an outlook which recognises that the world is material and that all

things in it are in a constant process of either growth or decay, and both simultaneously.

However, while having no religion ourselves, we respect the right of everyone to hold and profess religious beliefs and non-beliefs, to publicly practice their particular forms of rites and worship, and to organise themselves and build churches or other structures accordingly.

We totally oppose all persecution of the religious and all persecution by the religious of those with other beliefs or with none.

Solidarność

THE POLISH OPPOSITION

ANOTHER ISSUE we are paying a lot of attention to is housing, which is the number one social problem in Poland.

'The POR is involved in organising struggles around this question, and these have had a big response.

'We've also managed to draw other sections of Solidarity into work on this.

'Getting a flat is the biggest problem facing young people in Poland.

'Many young couples, including ones with children, have to share a flat with parents, grandparents, etc.

'On the other hand, the select elite have no problems.

'Those with money can afford to build their own luxury villas.

'Those with contacts — people in the bureaucratic apparatus — are given flats by their place of work or admitted into subsidised 'co-operatives'.

'A full solution to this problem is only possible through social control of the management of housing resources and of the construction industry, and a workers' plan for housing construction.

'We are also involved in more immediate struggles against the latest rent increases, helping to organise rent strikes.

'This particular form of struggle can be launched easily, involves little risk of victimisation and usually proves very effective.

'What we have often also found is that many people who might hold back from other protest actions are willing to get involved in struggles on this question.

'What we are talking about is defending the national economy defending it from the state bureaucratic power, defending it from the Party

bosses and the management in the factories.

'Poland's economic resources — its plant and machinery, its mineral resources, its whole economic infrastructure, the skills of its working class — are being squandered and devastated.

'We believe that there are three basic reasons for this:

'Firstly, appalling bureaucratic mismanagement, from the Planning Commission and the ministries down to the individual mine or factory.

'Secondly, the current economic strategy, which amounts to the deliberate application of a 'robber economy' in a desperate attempt to increase production and service the foreign debt;

Corruption

'Thirdly, the generalized managerial corruption, fraud theft and criminal incompetence. These are things every worker sees all around him every day.

'When you add it all up, it looks like a conscious policy of governmental, ministerial and managerial sabotage.

'A Polish worker puts in an 8 or even 10 hour shift in his mine, factory or shipyard, only to see his work obstructed by organizational

THIS WEEK, WORKERS PRESS prints the second half of an important interview released by POR, the Polish Alliance of the Workers' Opposition.

The first part was published in Workers Press no 28 (June 14, 1986).

It explained that POR was an alliance of various structures within the Polish opposition movement. In it, the POR spokesman said:

'The POR was set up with a single aim in mind — to co-ordinate the activities of those in opposition who believe we have to base ourselves firmly in the working class, both in our current struggles and in our strategy, in the political perspective we present.

'We are all, as individuals, members of Solidarity'.

It described how the Polish working class was continuing the underground opposition to the Jaruzelski regime.

It went over some of the problems Polish working class face, such as inflation and income differentials. The spokesman continued:

'We are campaigning for a united front around the two main slogans of the programme: the defence of living standards and the defence of the national economy'.

In the material published this week, the POR spokesman outlines what this means in relation to struggles over housing and the key issue of the Polish economy.

We wish to apologise for the delay in publishing the continuation of the interview. In the last few issues we have extensively covered the speaking tour of Britain by Polish oppositionist Stefan Bekier.

Bekier spoke at public meetings in Scotland, the north east, the Midlands, East Anglia and London.

chaos, the product of his labours wasted, expensive machinery left forgotten and rusting in the yard.

'He also feels the effects of all this financially, since he loses his productivity bonus because obsolete equipment breaks down, supplies don't turn up, there's another power failure, or simply because management can't allow production to be higher that month, as it would set a bad precedent and might mean the factory was given increased norms for the future.

'In this situation, our call for the defence of the national economy corresponds to the gut feeling of the working class. For forty years, the workers have been told that the factories belong to them, that the whole economy, the whole state, is theirs. So they are seeing their economy being ruined by waste and corruption.

Action

'What we are proposing is a comprehensive program of action to expose managerial waste and corruption, to fight against it, and to lay the basis for the rational use of Poland's economic resources once these are under the democratic control of the workers themselves.

'One aspect of all this that merits special attention is the question of health and safety, which is both a function of the lack of adequate safeguards in the shape of legal trade unions and of the organization of production itself. Health and safety standards in Polish industry are disastrous, an absolute parody of the legislation on this question, which is ignored as a matter of course.

'In addition, we are putting forward the more general, yet critically important, demand of the complete openness and accessibility of all economic and financial information, from the enterprise to the Government Planning Commission. This includes all foreign trade agreements, and the detailed budgets of all party and other political organizations, surreptitiously financed from the wealth produced by the working people.

'Finally, we are promoting the preparation of alternative economic plans at plant level.

'Experience has shown

He discussed with leading trade unionists in the shipyards on the Clyde and in Wearside, republican youth in Glasgow, miners in Durham, particularly the executive committee of the Durham Mechanics section of the NUM, Yorkshire miners and hospital workers in the midlands.

He had a long discussion with shop stewards at the Fords tractor factory at Basildon, attended the NUM conference at Tenby as a visitor and discussed with NUM lodges in Wales.

Everywhere, certain questions were raised in discussion.

Workers wanted to know the role of 'Solidarność' in the Polish working class and the real problems faced by Polish workers

They all expressed concern for the protection of the gains of the Polish economy and the abolition of private ownership.

They were all concerned about the influence of the Catholic church and the dangers of a restoration of capitalism in Poland.

Bekier was able to point out that it is the bureaucracy of Jaruzelski that endangers the nationalised property relations in Poland and which in fact has opened Poland to the International Monetary Fund.

In all the discussion he insisted in the most principled way that trade unionists in Britain should fight for the liberation of all the 'Solidarność' political prisoners whatever their political or religious views.

A number of trade unionists, like the Dinnington branch of the NUM in Yorkshire, have written to the Polish embassy to protest against the arrest of underground 'Solidarność' leaders Zbigniew Bujak and have decided to adopt a 'Solidarność' body at a Polish coal mine as a 'twin'.

We now present the second part of the POR interview as a service to the discussion in the British labour movement.

fence against repression, etc. However, the central axis of the demands we raise and the strategy we are fighting for within the movement is undoubtedly self-organisation. In fact this is the key to understanding all the demands I've already mentioned, which are by no means purely economic, but deeply political.

'All of them are linked to the establishment of self-organization in the workplace, in the neighbourhood, and at the inter-factory level.

'The reception our ideas have been getting indicates

that our current should continue to grow within the Polish social movement. Internally, I know many of the militants and structures participating in the POR will be developing specifically political work, including the creation of revolutionary political organisations and parties. At this time, a new branch of our current is developing — the Political Groups of the Alliance of the Workers' Opposition.

'They are based on revolutionary democratic socialism and are accumulating political forces of the workers' revolutionary left.'

PUBLIC MEETING & DISCUSSION 1974

● The events surrounding the expulsion of Alan Thornett from the WRP

SUNDAY AUGUST 31
1.00pm to 6.00pm

East Oxford Community Centre
Princes Street, Oxford

For Details, ring: Oxford 717821 or Swindon 724714

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY DAY SCHOOL ON MARXISM & PHILOSOPHY

Saturday July 19, 10.30am to 4.30pm
Steve Biko Room, (Corner Lounge)
Cornwall House, Exeter University

Morning Session: Why Marxists Study Philosophy
Dave Bruce (WRP Central Committee)

Afternoon: From Hegel to Marx: How Marx became a Marxist
Ian Hampsher-Monk

Admission 50p: Refreshments Available



STEFAN BEKIER being presented with a memento of his visit to the Fords Basildon tractor plant by members of the shop stewards committee



A typical street market in Poland. The POR argues that it is the bureaucracy that threatens the return of capitalist economic forms, not the Solidarność trade union

GEORGE MYERS

1945-
1980

GEORGE MYERS, a member of the Central Committee of the WRP, was killed in a motor cycle accident six years ago.

I will make no claims as to which side George would have taken in the recent splits in our party.

I write in memory of a comrade who spent his entire adult life fighting to build a revolutionary party — a fight which I believe was continued by the majority of members when they threw out Healy.

I remember it was tea-break in the factory where I worked when news of the accident came through to me on the phone.

Next day, in a village near Doncaster, my father and I stood silent, waiting for Roy from the Central Committee who had been inspecting the scene of the crash.

He returned and we got in the car. I took Dad's hand. I could see he was crying.

Roy and I went again to look at the skid marks to see if we could decide how George had collided with three tanker lorries on a winding country road.

In the ditch were scattered copies of News Line and leaflets.

On the eve of the funeral, George's wife, Jean, their two children and I went to the undertakers.

We stuck a picture of George on the coffin and the children kissed it and said goodbye to their dad.

The next day hundreds of people came to the funeral and memorial meeting.

My brother was born in South London in 1945.

We were brought up in a background of rationalism, Fabian socialism and Workers' Educational Association friends.

Food rationing ended and the post-war boom developed.

My father went to night school nearly every night for years and, in the fifties, finally got the qualifications to start teaching at a technical college.

So we grew up on a tide of rising prosperity.

Life for us children was happy and comfortable.

From early on my brother took any interest he had very seriously.

He was a keen ornithologist, loved sketching and was a keen cyclist and youth hosteller.

But these were not just the boom years.

It was also the time of the Vietnam war and the Atom bomb.

We listened to the Polish woman next door tell of the Nazi concentration camps.

We pored for hours over the pictures of the Jews being pulled out of the gas chambers.

International

The papers carried stories of the Mau-mau, the Sharpeville shootings, the Congo.

Our earliest political thoughts were on a world scale.

About 1960 George started to keep a scrap book of current events cut from the Manchester Guardian.

In 1961 he went with my mother on the Aldermaston CND demonstration.

Shortly after he joined the Labour Party Young Socialists.

He won a scholarship to Oxford from the Atomic Energy Authority and before he went to university and during the vacations he worked at various nuclear research sites.

BY BOB MYERS

At Oxford he joined the University Labour Club and supported the Socialists Group — the left wing forum of the club.

This was a period of great change — the eve of the Wilson government.

The universities were in ferment and the discussion at the Labour Club was dominated by the question of what policies the future Labour government should pursue.

George and another undergraduate, Alan Clinton, led the campaign to prevent the right-wing gaining control of the Labour Club and won, temporarily.

The Labour Party had expelled the leading members of the Young Socialists who had been won to the policies of the Socialist Labour League (SLL).

This fight was mirrored in the National Association of

tion of the stalinist parties and the treachery of the reformists and, above all, Trotsky's fight for the permanent revolution.

After a year studying physics, George decided to abandon the course and changed to Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

He could not settle for the apparent narrowness of physics and especially the nuclear physicists he worked with.

Alan and George soon found themselves very much in the leadership of the Oxford branch as an older generation of members for one reason or another left the area.

Work had begun on sales of the weekly 'Newsletter' outside the car plants of Cowley and a group of car workers, several of them ex-CP members including Alan Thornett, joined the SLL.

The party began to develop in the organised working class in the area.

There was now a gulf between George and his friends in the Socialists Group who

'Our earliest political thoughts were on a world scale'

Labour Student Organisations.

The Wilson government were busy clearing the decks for the first assault on the working class with 'In place of strife'.

In the midst of this battle in NALSO and the Labour Club, George came into contact with members of the SLL and he joined.

My brother and I then began a year long argument. I was still in the LPYS and would spend the weekends with George as he went visiting political contacts and selling papers.

He would explain the crisis of capitalism, the degenera-

tion of the stalinist parties and the treachery of the reformists and, above all, Trotsky's fight for the permanent revolution.

Tariq Ali, president of the Oxford Union at the time, and many others were developing the theories of the student protest movement which were to blossom with the May-June events in France in 1968 and the Vietnam war campaigns.

In 1967 George and Alan wrote an article on the effects of the Russian Revolution on the British labour movement.

To do this George spent much time at the British Museum going through the early socialist press.

After getting his degree he went to Hull University to do a PhD on research into the early socialist movements, but this was later abandoned.

The activities of fund raising and selling the new daily paper dominated everything.

Building

He started work at a Hull secondary school but after a couple of convictions for obstruction (selling the paper) he was moved to a primary school to teach five year olds who presumably could not be corrupted. He hated this job.

George was building the party in Hull and established readers and members in the factories, estates and on the docks.

He also established YS branches and at one of them met Jean, whom he married.

She listened to him speaking at a meeting and decided his odd socks with holes in and untidy hair needed attention.

Healy twice went to Hull to try to prevent the marriage. He was a leading cadre, Healy told him, and must dedicate himself to the party.

'Look at me,' said Healy 'I had all that, wife, kids but I put it all behind me'.

George got married, had two children and tried to maintain the marriage and the party work. No easy task.

At the time of the change from the SLL to the WRP, he was removed from the area leadership and, while he continued to speak at meetings and classes, he never did any more writing.

His speeches became the apocalyptic, gold price/oil price-dominated stuff we all churned out.

But no matter what press-



ures, domestic or political, no matter how exhausted from the 18-hours a day, 363 days a year (two off for Xmas) fight for the party, he never quit his commitment to what he saw as the struggle for revolutionary socialism.

In 1979, on the eve of the great steel workers strike, he left his teaching job and became a full time organiser for the party.

Released from the hated teaching job and with the Yorkshire area heavily involved in the strike, he fought for the party, bringing groups of steel workers to party meetings.

Returning home after a two day visit to Doncaster he was killed.

The following spring Healy asked me to come to Clapham to talk about working for the party:

'Its what your brother would have wanted.'

Then Healy suddenly came out with a comment I will never forget, 'Your brother conned me — he said he could ride that bike.'

A whole jumble of ideas that had been going through my mind for months chimed in.

So it was my brother's fault. Why had the Central Committee years earlier forbidden the riding of bikes?

Why was my brother riding a bike and not the car he had been promised?

Why did Healy have a car and a driver and Torrance a new sporty Escort?

But this was bourgeois individualism, hostility to leadership. Of course Gerry and Sheila needed the facilities to do their job.

I said nothing and we parted but I wouldn't take the party job.

A few weeks later I was up in front of the Political Committee of Healy, Torrance, Banda, Mitchell, Redgrave, V for not attending a party conference.

Healy pokes me and says 'You scum, you're not fit to tie your brother's shoe laces'.

I would ask Healy — Why was such total care taken for your security and comfort

and another leading member expected to ride a motor cycle, a dangerous form of transport for anyone but for exhausted party activists virtual suicide, as recognised by a previous decision after another comrade died in a similar accident.

Why could the party afford steak every day for you, Perrier water day and night, cars (one hidden away for a getaway), drivers, two-way radios etc and expect others to work in primitive conditions?

A simple question. But of course we know the answer. The skull of Healy in which all dialectical knowledge was stored had to be treasured above all else.

And for the 'revolution tomorrow' anything else could be sacrificed.

Loyalty

Like most WRP members at that time, George would have defended Healy through thick and thin for they saw in him the leadership of the party.

But like all bureaucrats he valued his own skin higher than anyone else's.

My brother wanted to build a Bolshevik party. From the age of 18 he subordinated his individual life to that aim.

His hatred of reformism, stalinism and bureaucracy was shared by those who six years later took up the fight to clean up our own party.

I was reading 'An Phoblacht', paper of Sinn Fein, the other day.

A paper we would never have thought of reading in the old days. There is a section of memorials for those who have died fighting.

I read one I could not better, which will have the Healyites sniggering for its idealism but which every communist will understand

'In loving memory of my brother... In the quiet hours of the night I still cry for the memory of that lost childhood friend.

'We will always be together in the struggle for victory.'



STUDENTS fighting police in Paris during the May-June events of 1968. For many, these were dramatic proof of the revolutionary potential of the metropolitan working class on the one hand and of the counter-revolutionary role of stalinism on the other

LETTERS

The Irish divorce referendum shows that forces are developing for a socialist, secular Ireland

IN HIS article on 'The Divorce Fiasco' (Workers Press July 5) Gerry Downing correctly makes the point that 'the fight to build a secular, socialist united Ireland' is the task of the Irish working class.

The result of the divorce referendum clearly shows that there can not be a secular Ireland outside of a socialist united 32-county state.

In the timid half-hearted way that the Fitzgerald government introduced and conducted the campaign is demonstrated the historical weakness of the Irish capitalist class.

It is true that there was and is a massive demand for divorce in Irish society (50,000 to 70,000 are variously estimated to be affected by marital breakdown) and that this need was politically expressed by the liberal middle-class wing of the southern urban bourgeoisie.

Nonetheless, the decisive motive for holding the referendum was the desire of the coalition government to pacify the Unionist opposition to the Anglo-Irish treaty.

This divorce — a basic democratic right, a progressive gain for humanity — was introduced and promoted in Ireland for the most reactionary cause, the appeasement of the bitterest enemies of Irish nationalism.

Supported by only a

majority of his cabinet, half of his coalition and only some of his party, Fitzgerald from the start yielded the advantage to traditional Catholic conservatism.

And the church was not slow to avail of it.

With its organisational structures intact from the anti-abortion referendum of 1983, Catholic reaction swung rapidly into gear.

The initial pro-divorce sentiment evidenced in the early polls was soon reversed under an avalanche of legal argument, emotional blackmail and moral intimidation.

Fianna Fail, the main opposition party, official declared its neutrality but in practice campaigned vigorously in alliance with the hierarchy.

The pro-divorce campaign was led by the Divorce Action Group, composed of reformists, Stalinists and liberals who pleaded their case on the basis of compassion.

By denying the progressive political implications they left the field clear for reactionary politics.

These middle-class elements are now stunned by the ferocity of the latest clerical fascism which was aroused by this elementary democratic demand.

Jean Tawsey, a DAG leader, complained that 'the Irish people have once more disgraced themselves'.

Which Irish people? Not the 538,279 who, virtually leaderless, withstood the onslaught of the hierarchy in the cities and towns.

Nor can we really condemn the rural poor, facing economic extinction under the imposition of the EEC and the legacy of centuries of British domination.

Abstract appeals for compassion meant little to thousands of impoverished farmers etc, who cannot afford to support a wife and family and who opt for emigration or a life of bachelorhood.

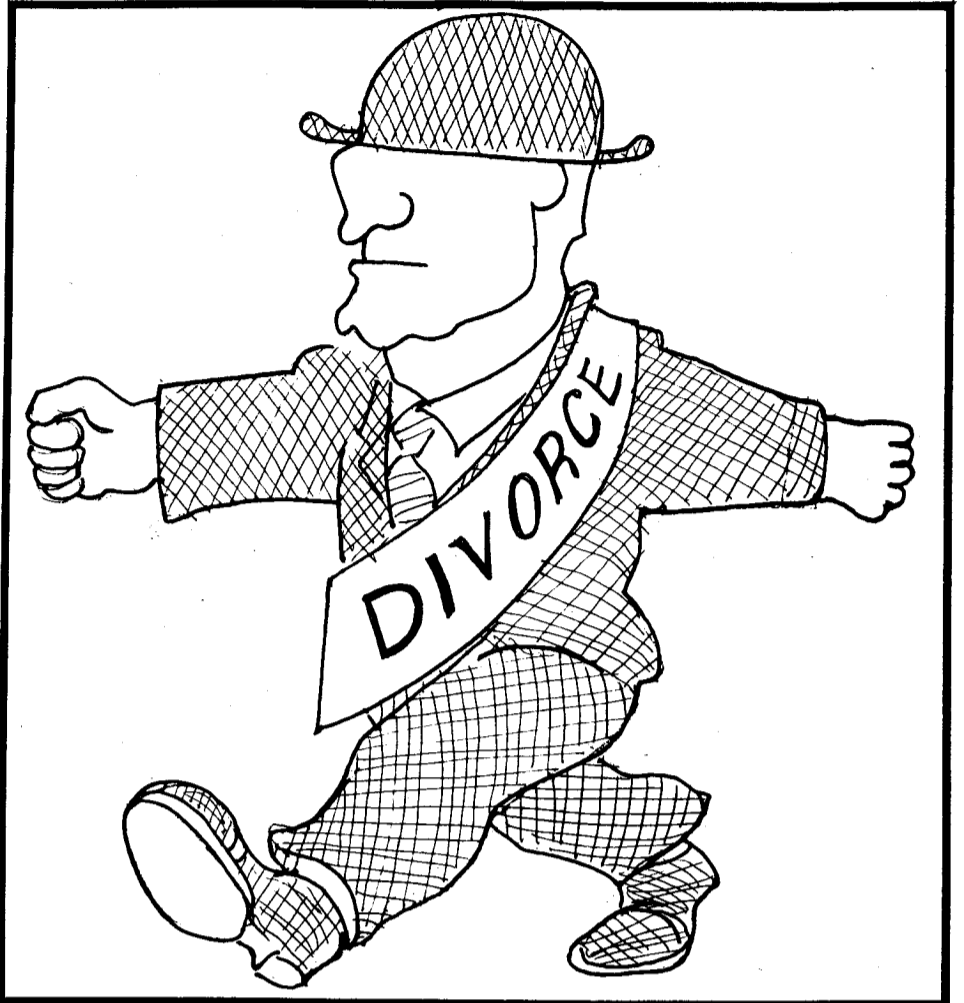
A fumbling, bumbling coalition did nothing to allay fears of losing family property rights etc: issues so adroitly exploited and distorted by the anti-divorce element.

In contrast to the reformists and Stalinists, revolutionary socialists are not dependent about the result.

That one third of those who voted were resolute against all the confusion, distortion and emotional blackguardism of clerical fascism is a positive indicator that the forces are developing for the secular socialist Ireland.

The task now is to win the most resolute and progressive elements in the middle classes to the banner of socialism, to aid the building of the revolutionary leadership of the Irish working class and its allies.

PB, Dublin



No Marks for Presentation

After AT's 'Owzat!' Steve Masterson cries 'No ball!'

IN WORKERS Press (July 12) Alan Thornett spends nearly a page attacking me over an interview I did for the paper six weeks ago.

Since that interview I have become a supporter of Workers Power.

I suspect that this fact, rather than the interview itself, has prompted Thornett's attack on me.

Workers Power, like Socialist Viewpoint, have been intervening in the debates around the WRP since this split with Healy.

The difference is that Workers Power has openly and confidently made known its analysis of the past (characterising the IC and IS traditions as centrist) and its perspectives for the future: the refounding of a revolutionary International on the basis of a re-elaborated Transitional Programme).

Thornett's intervention, on the other hand, has been characterised by unprincipled manoeuvrings.

In particular his aim is to pull as many WRP members as he can into the Mandelated, United Secretariat of the Fourth International — an organisation which, in the best (or rather worst) traditions of Pablo, argues that the petit-bourgeois Sandinistas have established a workers state in Nicaragua and should be hailed as revolutionary heroes for doing so.

Thornett's project for doing this — one that I came to oppose during the aftermath of the break up of Labour Herald — is the launching of a fortnightly paper, Labour Briefing and a fusion with the British Mandelites, the International Group.

So, in attacking me, Thornett also aims to attack the group, Workers Power, which rightly characterises what he is up to as a centrist lash-up.

So much for his motives; what of his substantial charges against me?

In his 1500-word tirade, he

finds room for only one small quote from my interview.

I said: 'What we've managed to achieve with the UPSG is to change the whole concept of what support groups are about. We have made them more political with the concentration on direct action, i.e. picketing, rather than collecting money or beans'.

On this basis alone, Thornett concludes that I was denouncing the work and legacy of the miners support groups.

Indeed, he claims that I 'slag them off', and that I 'use the UPSG platform to cast them aside as simply collectors of money and beans which is a disgrace.'

I am also 'flippant to belittle' the food collectors, etc.

Thornett's method of polemic is dishonest. Far from being guilty of these crimes I said in the interview immediately before the one he quotes: that 'most support groups were formed on the

backs of the old miners support groups'.

That is, I acknowledge the fact that without the MSGs, building PSGs would have been a hundred times more difficult.

Though I do not deride the MSGs as Thornett suggests, nor do I romanticise them in the way he does.

He thinks he can smear me by saying I know nothing about the MSGs, because I was under Healy's orders.

Comrade Thornett presumes too much. My loyalty to the class struggle has always been stronger than loyalty to any guru.

I was a member of two support groups, one with my local Labour Party which was twinned with Frickley and South Kirkby and the other with Camden Assembly, twinned with Blidworth, having visited and picketed with miners and their wives from the three pits.

My experience in those groups — having witnessed

the December national support conference that Thornett refers to — has left me in no doubt that the support groups suffered from being politically subordinate to an NUM leadership that did not want to lead a campaign for effective solidarity action over the heads of other union bureaucracies.

The NUM leaders wanted to confine the MSGs to being more or less collecting agencies. They were largely unsuccessful.

Of course money and food were vital to the strike, but they were never enough to win it.

That is something that most, though not all, MSGs failed to come to terms with.

The work of the Oxford Group in getting pickets of Didcot is to be applauded.

But such activities were an exception. In London, for example, pickets at Neasdon and Tilbury were turned into carnivals of jugglers and musicians by the Black Dragon (!!) leadership of the support groups.

With regard to UPSG, Thornett accuses me of SWP-style 'rank and filism'.

This is again a dig at Workers Power. The 'old boys club' of IC fragments may disagree on many things, but against Workers Power who come from — and have totally broken from — the SWP tradition, they are united.

The charge is really a bit much considering that the Fleet Street Support Unit, which we have supported and tried to help develop into a rank and file organisation, was set up after a struggle with the SWP who opposed building a militant rank and file movement opposed to the Dean/Dubbins leadership.

Far from being guilty of a rank and filist dodging of the crisis of leadership as Thornett claims, I, along with Workers Power, have argued that militants in Fleet Street need to build rank and file organisations, not to mention a democratic strike committee, to take on the traitors, and to openly fight their treachery.

Moreover, I made this clear in the quote immediately following the one Thornett uses to — in the real sense of the word — slag me off. I argued:

'The UPSG position in support of rank and file printworkers against the leadership has forced political fights in every support group.'

'This has brought the central question before all those supporting the print fight and amongst printworkers themselves — Who is going to lead the fight? Who wants to win? How do we win?'

'The question of leadership comes to the fore and, for Marxists, excellent conditions are created for our intervention.'

Thornett has systematically twisted my position. He has replaced the methods of honest and comradely polemic with distortion, slander and selective quotation.

This may suit his own factional purposes. It may be of use to those in the WRP leadership who have consistently opposed the approaches by Workers Power for discussions aimed at revolutionary regroupment.

But this will not convince a single serious Marxist who must have a concern for truth in polemics.

They won't find it in Thornett's rant. Truth and centrism do not mix well.

Steve Masterson
Supporter of Workers Power.



BLIDWORTH pit families eating food collected by Camden Assembly — photo Steve Masterson

REVIEWS

A new biography of Marx's Wife

THIS IS a biography of the most faithful of Marx's comrades, his companion for four decades of sometimes bitter struggle.

In telling his wife's story, it depicts the life and work of Karl Marx from her standpoint.

Written by someone who makes quite clear his lack of sympathy for communism, it contains no startlingly new material.

But it does have an interesting angle on the early history of our movement.

Jenny von Westphalen — Baroness von Westphalen as she would occasionally remind people — came from a background unlikely to produce leaders of the proletarian revolution.

She was brought up in the Rhineland town of Trier, daughter of a leading government official.

A noted beauty, the belle of many a ball, she fell in love with the son of the Jewish lawyer Heinrich Marx, a friend of her father.

By the time Jenny and Karl were married in 1843, he was already recognised as a dangerous character.

Both she and her brother Edgar had become adherents of his radical views.

then at the stage of revolutionary democracy.

Her half-brother Ferdinand, however, was a different matter: he went on to become the Prussian Minister of the Interior.

Jenny's family agreed to the marriage only with great reluctance, largely on the basis of Karl's appointment as editor of the 'Rheinische Zeitung'.

But by the wedding day, the Prussian censors had closed down the newspaper.

Her husband's brilliance, agreed on all sides, never brought Jenny a life of bourgeois comfort.

This book describes the sufferings of the Marx family, as they were driven from country to country by the ruling class and its agents.

Insecurity and grinding poverty were the rewards for the wife of the theoretical leader of the European revolutionary movement.

Red Jenny: A Life with Karl Marx. By H F Peters. Allen and Unwin, £9.95

First the young couple settled in Paris, where Karl met the manufacturer's son Frederick Engels and developed the ideas of scientific communism on a materialist basis.

After only 18 months, the Prussian king sent a request to his French friend Louis Philippe to throw out these communist atheist conspirators.

The French prime minister Guizot sent his police to order Karl Marx out of Paris.

Jenny followed him to Brussels in February 1845 with their baby daughter, Jennychen.

They lived there, in great poverty, amid a small colony of German communists, until the news arrived of the February 1848 revolution in Paris.

It was the turn of King Louis Philippe to be exiled.

The Marx family, now with two daughters and a baby son as well, returned to Paris.

In a few weeks, however, the revolutionary movement spread to Germany and they were once more on the move.

In Cologne, Marx and Engels started their 'Neue Rheinische Zeitung' and became central figures in the left wing of the German revolution.

Jenny was busy copying Marx's articles for the paper.

She spent a large part of her life transcribing his appalling handwriting for publication.

But the defeat of the Paris working class in June 1848 and the miserable cowardice of the German bourgeoisie sealed the fate of the German revolution.

In May 1849 Karl Marx was once more served with an expulsion order, to leave Germany within 24 hours.

Soon the family was in Paris once more — but not for long: within four days the French authorities had exiled Karl to Brittany.

Instead, the entire family, now including Jenny's faithful companion Lenchen, went to London.

Peters entitles his next three chapters 'The Hells of London,' 'Death Street' and

'At the Edge of the Abyss', for it was the early years of exile in England that were the most terrible, especially for Jenny.

'Death Street' is Dean Street, in Soho. In their miserable house there Jenny lost three of the six children she bore: her son Edgar ('Musch'), another boy and a daughter, Franziska.

When Franziska died, aged one year, the £2 to pay for a coffin was donated by a French refugee.

Many times, there was nothing to eat and the family property disappeared into the pawnshop.

The letters to Engels, asking for money to be sent urgently, are well-known.

Peters deals with some sympathy with the story of Frederick Demuth, to whom Lenchen gave birth in 1851 and whose father is now known to have been Marx himself.

The further misery this affair meant for Jenny is his chief concern and not, like some writers, to seek a weapon to scandalise the name of Marx.

An inheritance in the 1860s brought somewhat better times for the Marx family. They moved to a house on Haverstock Hill in 1864.

Although they were never prosperous, Jenny could bring up her three daughters in a little more comfort.

She was now in her fifties and worn out by years of poverty and turmoil, but to the end of her life she continued to work in the cause of communism.

All three of her daughters became leading figures in the international workers' movement.

But the most powerful force in her life was not devotion to the theories of Marx but her love for their author and his love for her.

Peters quotes the letter Marx sent her in 1856:

'I feel again I am a man, because I feel a great passion and the diversity that studies and modern education give us and the scepticism with which we necessarily criticise all subjective and objective impressions, can easily make us small and weak and cross.

'But my love, not for Feuerbach's man, not for Moleschott's metabolism, not for the proletariat, but my love for the loved one and particularly for you, makes the man again a man.'

Karl Marx lived only a short time after the death of his wife. This book reminds us how large a part she played in his life and work.

We should not forget what a distortion of Marxism is implied by ignoring that part.

Cyril Smith

Spain — not a single Question is answered

THIS book is a disgrace, an insult to all those who fought for the Spanish Republic and especially those who died at the hands of the GPU.

But it has a lesson for the working class today: Stalinism has no progressive side. It was and still is counter-revolutionary through and through.

While informative, this small volume is no use whatsoever if we want to know anything about the war in Spain or the problems faced by the Spanish working class in the fight against Franco.

In almost every line it expresses the incurable theoretical degeneration of the Communist Party.

It describes selected events during the Spanish Civil War but it is really about Popular Frontism, both in Spain and 'now, when very broad alliances of the progressive forces are being built'.

Any British writer who questions the role played by

Spain Against Fascism 1936-39. Some Questions Answered. By Nan Green and A.M. Elliott. Published by the History Group of the Communist Party in the 'Our History' series, No.67, second edition. £1.

Stalinism in Spain is equated with 'British Tory governments'.

Appallingly, it quotes Lenin to blame the anarchists for the defeat — their policies were 'calculated to alienate the middle class and the peasantry'; it attacks the POUM for 'excesses', it has an interview with Santiago Carillo, who personally had 'no proof' of GPU prisons and no contact with 'Soviet services'.

The authors describe at length 'the problems of Trotskyism' with analysis such as: 'To the extent that Trotsky's policies were followed they cost the Soviet Union dear, and if they had been carried through to the end, the consequences for the Soviet Union and doubt-

less for all mankind would have been altogether disastrous. . . .

There is, naturally, no mention of the defeats suffered by the working class internationally in those years; nothing about the disastrous effects of the Third Period; nothing about Hitler coming to power nor the purges in the Soviet Union.

The book commends Monty Johnstone for examining the views of Trotsky, who was . . . so utterly obsessed by his hatred of the Soviet leadership and the leadership of the Communist International that he was no longer capable of those flashes of insight and good sense which he had shown earlier, notably in relation to the situation in Germany'.

Worst of all, in this context, there is no explanation for the defeat in Spain: 50 years on these authors will not admit that the Stalinist policy of handing the workers' movement to the bourgeoisie smashed the resistance to Franco.

John Peters



JENNY MARX, photographed in 1850

TV Preview

Saturday July 19

5.00 pm, BBC 2. **20/20 Lime-light.** 1952. Charlie Chaplin wrote, produced, and directed this film, which is the only one in which he teamed up with that other deathless comedy genius, Buster Keaton. Not as good as the earlier ones, but still good for a laugh. . . . followed by . . .

6.05 pm, BBC 2. **20/20 Modern Times.** Charlie Chaplin stars as the little man struggling with the mechanical world — his adventures include being mistaken for the leader of a street riot, and accidentally preventing an attempted jail break. This film is for all whose heart goes out to the hapless innocent whose innocence defeats a heartless world — ie not for the Healy ramp.

11.00 pm, Channel 4 **20/20 The Enforcer.** 1951 Humphrey

Bogart in the starring role as a tough District Attorney assigned to smash an organised murder ring. One by one all the state's witnesses are murdered, until only the one vital witness is left — but a hired killer is assigned to kill her.

Sunday July 20

2.30 pm, Channel 4. **Teen Kanya (Three daughters).** Second part of Channel 4's season of films by Ray on Tagore, these are two stories of changes in traditional Indian life, both about young men from the city and their attempts and failure to cope with traditional Indian village life.

10.15 pm, Channel 4. **Dead End.** 1937. Written by Lillian Hellman, and starring Humphrey Bogart, this film is a powerful indictment of the desperation and futility of New York slum life.

11.05, ITV. **The Battle For Warsaw.** This programme contains rare archival footage of the 1944 Warsaw uprising, which claimed the lives of a quarter of a million Poles.

Monday July 21

10.00 pm, Channel 4. **Commodities: Leaving Home for Sugar.** Tells the story of how the development of the sugar industry has changed the face of entire countries and influenced the course of history. It takes us through the Caribbean into Pacific and African countries, over a period of 200 years, and into the era of slump and destruction of the single crop economies.

Tuesday July 22

9.00 pm, BBC 2. **Newsfront.** 1978. The best film ever to come out of Australia, and that's saying a lot. Set around two rival

newsreel companies in the 1950s, it also takes a long hard look at Australia's version of the Mc Carthy era, which was just as vicious and nasty as the American one, but for some strange reason it does not get as much publicity — so cancel all your meetings and stay at home to watch this.

Wednesday July 23

8.00 pm, Channel 4. **Rear Window.** Television premiere of one of Hitchcock's typical masterpieces. A young photographer is immobilised by a broken leg, and spends his days gazing out of his rear window. Gradually he becomes convinced that the man in the opposite apartment has murdered his wife. Then of course, comes the problem of proving it, and also of avoiding the murderer when he realises that he is under suspicion.



HUMPHREY BOGART as a tough, crusading Assistant Attorney in the fast-moving crime thriller *The Enforcer* (1951), the first of two of his films this week-end on Channel 4, Saturday July 19, 11.00pm

Workers Press

Saturday July 19 1986. Newsdesk 01-720 2000



Pictures show police attempts to divert the march from its route in LEICESTER, which failed dismally



POLICE HARASS MENDIS MARCH - BUT THEY FAIL!

The March Diary

Tuesday July 8

A meeting was arranged at Stoke Town Hall by the Community Relations Committee of the Labour Party where Viraj Mendis said that deportations from Britain had increased fivefold over the last ten years.

Other speakers, including an anarchist, the RCG and WRP stressed the capitalist basis of racism, and women called for support groups to be set up to publicise the issue.

Wednesday July 9

The march went on to Stafford via Stone where we were met and fed by workers at the Unemployment Centre.

Thursday July 10

After a long march to Wolverhampton we were met by an open-air rally outside the civic hall where Viraj identified with the Som Raj Ray defence campaign who were there, saying it was one struggle and one fight.

Rick Stennet for the Community Relations Council said, the battle against immigration controls started in 1949 with the Labour government of Clement Attlee.

'Our people were once part of the British empire. Because we had the audacity to fight for the right to govern, the British replied with immigration controls.'

'This country has based its whole economy on the exploitation of other people.'

The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Bishan Das, welcomed us with an official reception and later food and

accommodation were provided by the Sri Krishna Temple.

Friday July 11

At West Bromwich, on the way to Handsworth, police with riot vans stopped the march entering Soho Road. They outnumbered us by about five to one and harassed us all the way to the Urtham Singh Welfare Centre where we were accommodated by the Indian Workers Association.

Saturday July 12

Today we were joined by the City of London Anti-Apartheid group, the Campaign Against Police Repression and the Metso Moncrieffe Defence Campaign.

When we arrived in Birmingham speakers at a public meeting at the Friends meeting house included Lillie Fitzsimmons from Sinn Fein, Laura William from NALGO black workers, Dr Maire O'Shea, President of the Irish in Britain Representation Group and was chaired by Mohammad Idrish, who has successfully fought deportation with the help of his union, NALGO.

Fraternal greetings were brought from the Irish Solidarity Committee in Manchester and Manchester Immigration Wives and Fiances Campaign Against the Primary Purpose Rule.

Viraj said the police harassment was an attempt to destroy the potential of the march for mobilising oppressed black people into fighting the immigration laws.

Dr Maire O'Shea stressed the urgent need for all the oppressed groups in the country to fight what is rapidly becoming a police state.

The Sikh community once again looked after the marchers.

Sunday July 13

We arrived in Coventry where the trades council met the march with their banner, Workers Power provided beds for the night, and a meeting was held at the Baras Green Social Club.

Monday July 14

We campaigned in the Asian community in Coventry and went to Leicester for a reception organised by the Red Star Youth Project, the Spectrum Theatre Company, Naya Javan Asian youth group and the WRP.

Leicester ASTMS no. 80 branch joined the march with their banner.

The police tried to prevent the march from going down Belgrave Road, with its predominant Asian shopkeepers, but the marchers pushed through confidently. Although over 100 people had joined the march the police made no arrests because of the huge support we had from the Asian community.

Photographers observing the police harassment were physically abused.

A rally was held at the old building of Moat Boys' School, which is occupied by Red Star in a struggle to retain it.

Feroz Khan, speaking for Red Star, explained how Red Star had evolved out of the Asian Youth Movement of the seventies.

He said the history of Red Star had been the fight against the Labour Party - which is supposed to be upholding socialism in this country.

Chris Proctor, speaking for the RCG, said that the successful challenge to the police, with no arrests, guaranteed the march would stay on the road to London.

Paul Henderson for the WRP said the capitalists would try to exploit the divisions between black and white, men and women, and the left and right wing of the trade unions.

Tuesday July 15

We were supplied with breakfast in the Leicester Transport drivers' canteen by the TGWU convenor, left Leicester in community transport for Coventry, from where we marched to Rugby, to be greeted by the Labour Party, and several other individual supporters.

The church provided food and a hall to sleep in.

The march continues despite the police harassment and little organisational support.

People are asked to join the march and to rally support in London.

FRONT

THERE will be a demonstration organised by the National Front in Queen Elizabeth Square, Oldham, on Saturday July 19 at 10.30am.

Anti-Fascist Action, one of the organisations supporting the Viraj Mendis March, has called a counter-demonstration and calls for a massive attendance.

THIS WEEK'S ROUTE

Sunday July 20

St Albans Social at Beehive pub, London Road, 8.00 pm

Monday July 21

Watford Details phone 01 837 1688 (London Support Group)

Tuesday July 22

Southall

Rally at Lancaster Road Community Centre, 7.30 pm

Wednesday July 23

Civic Reception
Brent Town Hall, 4.00pm
Rally at Anson Hall
Chichelle Road
Willesden, 7.30 pm

Thursday July 24

Civic Reception and Rally
Islington Town Hall, 4.00pm

Jeremy Corbyn MP
will meet the march
Public Meeting

Leytonstone, 7.30 pm
Friday July 25

12 Noon till 2.00pm
Delegation to Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1

March joins non-stop picket
outside South African Embassy,
Trafalgar Square, 3.00 pm

Public Meeting

St John's Community Centre
Meeting House Lane
off Peckham High Street, 7.30 pm
Also at 7.30pm

Rally at Hackney Asian Centre
18-22 Askwin Street
Hackney E8

Saturday July 26

12.00 March Assembles Islington Town
Hall Steps

to march to Red Lion Square
and mass rally in Conway Hall
Speakers, Songs, Bookstalls

MENDIS MUST STAY!

METHODIST HALL,
BRYANT STREET,
OFF WEST HAM LANE.

7.30pm