

# Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

25p

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21 years on...  
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Liverpool—  
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Liverpool

# Say NO

# to cuts package

## "Expert" report means cuts

**'MAKE LIVERPOOL pay for Tory robbery'—that's the advice of the enquiry team of 'experts' into Liverpool council's finances.**

The 'Stonefrost' report proves that there never was a 'solution' to the council's financial crisis without big cuts in jobs and services and big rises in rents and rates.

This report should have been the spur to the Labour leadership to launch an all-out attack on the Tory government whose robbery of money from the city's rate support grant is responsible for the underfunding of the council.

Instead Neil Kinnock used the opportunity to do the Tories' dirty work, attack the Liverpool councillors and try to turn the blame from the crisis away from the Tories.

He has in effect accused the Labour Group, the Labour Party and the trade union movement in Liverpool of deliberately concealing the facts.

### Financial burden

Kinnock's claim that the money was there all the time for those who "really wanted to look", means that he has not read the report or wishes to deliberately misrepresent its options. For the report urges a rate increase to raise extra money as a "cornerstone" of the package. This would mean a financial burden on every family in the city to compensate for the money taken by the Tories. It is directly contrary to the Liverpool Labour Party's election pledge.

The report's main 'options' are measures already rejected by the council because they mean making the workers of Liverpool pay for the crisis caused by the government. Kinnock's claim that the measures will protect Liverpool people, jobs, services and the housing programme is blatantly untrue.

They would involve "cut-

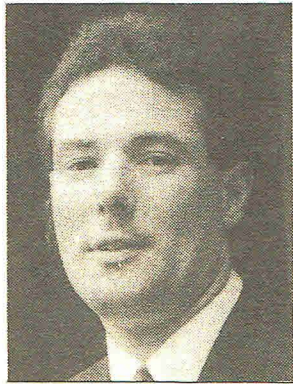
ting employee costs", freezing "a proportion of vacancies", and raising council house rents and cutting back the house building and renovation programme.

"The report demonstrates conclusively," says Kinnock, "that there was never any justification for seeking to sack or lay off 31,000 workers." He knows full well that the council never sought to sack a single worker. He had been told by the councillors the previous week that the issuing of 'redundancy notices' was no more than a tactical device to enable the council to pay its workers for two months longer before the money ran out. At this point the Tory government would be responsible for a lock-out of the workforce.

Liverpool's councillors are castigated for saying "that in order to balance its budget, Liverpool City Council would have to lay off thousand of workers, cut services and devastate its housing programme." Yet this report proposes options which mean just that, not only this year but with cuts carried through to next year. The options are totally unacceptable. (see page 2)

Yet Kinnock has the audacity to say "playing politics with people's jobs must stop and political dogma must give way to realism". This kind of 'realism' means accepting the Tory cuts and doing the Tories' dirty work for them.

At a time when Tory ministers should be under fire on TV from the leaders of the movement, Kinnock and the Environment spokesman Jack Cunningham are appearing on TV



**Derek Hatton**  
(Deputy Leader of Liverpool City Council) writes

and radio to denigrate Labour councillors. The government have been allowed to sit on the sidelines. A great opportunity to launch a campaign to force more cash from the Tories has been thrown away.

As an afterthought Kinnock has said that even if the council follow his 'practical course', Liverpool will still be a city of "high unemployment and great social need". If his advice is taken Liverpool will be a city of higher unemployment and greater social need.

PHOTO: right. Workers show their support for Liverpool Council.



Photo: Philip Gordon (Reflex)

## Don't miss Sunday's rally

THOUSANDS OF readers of *Militant* will be travelling to the Albert Hall on Sunday. *Militant's* third National Rally will be our biggest achievement.

Extra coaches have been put on in many parts of the country to accommodate the growing numbers. International interest has been fantastic, with well over 100 attending from as far afield as South Africa and the USA.

Come along and bring your friends! Bring cash as well to help our work grow. We have set a target of £21,000 to be collected at the rally. This would

be the biggest ever collection for the *Militant*.

Just 1,000 of those present giving £21 each would meet the target. But if anyone has £21,000 to give, then we promise to double it. Anybody unlucky enough not to be coming can still participate by sending a donation directly to us.

Make the rally even more memorable—*Militant's* 21st anniversary celebrated by £21,000.

See Page 3 for details.

By Rob Sewell and Nick Wrack

# Celebrate with £21,000

# Liverpool - no option but to fight

## Enquiry report means workers pay

THE LABOUR leadership and the Tory press have presented the Stonefrost report into Liverpool's finances as offering a painless solution to the city's crisis. In fact it confirms what the City Council have said all along—under the Tory government's financial restraints it is impossible to balance the books without cutbacks, or attacks on living standards.

The Labour leadership are backing the report. But if Neil Kinnock and the environment spokesman Dr John Cunningham want the council to carry out the report's recommendations—putting up rents and rates and causing sackings—they should have the honesty to say so directly. They should indicate which jobs should be cut, how much the rents should be put up.

The main options in the report have already been considered—and rejected—by the City council, because they mean shifting the burden for solving the city's problems caused by the Tory cuts onto the backs of Liverpool workers.

The report graphically describes how the city is grossly underfunded. The low spending targets set when the authority was under Liberal and Tory control in the mid-

seventies, set the precedent for today's low spending government targets. Yet the report does not conclude that pressure must be brought on the government through labour movement action to give the city back the money taken by the Tories.

The report coyly says: "We do not base our report on matters outside the immediate discretion of the council." It admits the government is to blame but then says the city's Labour council must do their dirty work. But for all its sanitised and diplomatic language, the report cannot disguise the fact that it is recommending and hinting at cuts—and substantial cuts at that.

Kinnock said that the "sums of money which exist or can be secured have not been invented by the inquiry. They were there all the time for those who 'really wanted to look.'" The clear implication is that millions of pounds in cash were kept concealed by Liverpool councillors. There is no excuse for this distortion for the report explicitly calls for extra money to be raised through rent and rate rises, non filling of job vacancies, and financial juggling which will inevitably jeopardise the housing programme and building jobs.

## What the report says

### Rates

The report suggests a 15 per cent rate rise in addition to the nine per cent rise already agreed. This is described as the "cornerstone" of the report's strategy. It says it will bring in an extra £19 million and "reduce the savings to be found from other options to £19 million, as well as give the council more flexibility in the next two years."

Although many workers, as the report points out, receive rate rebates (soon to be hit by the Fowler review) it would still mean a big cut in living standards to the majority of people in the city. This was why the city council fought to keep rate rises down. Small businesses—ironically the backbone of the so-called *Liverpool Against the Militant* organisation who urged Kinnock to take action against the council—would be hit particularly hard by such a rate increase.

And as has been seen in other areas, when Labour authorities push up rates, it undermines its electoral support.

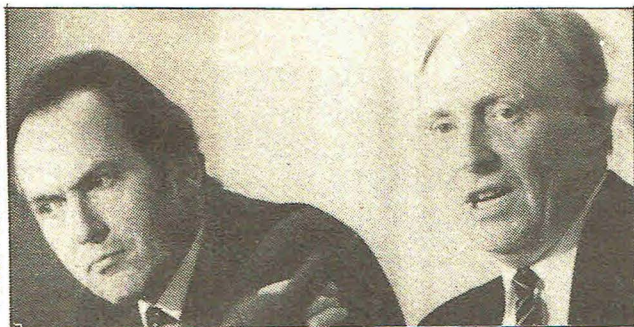
An added factor is that to accept a new rate would amount to an admission by the council in the eyes of the Tory law courts that the previous rate was illegal, reinforcing the threat of legal action against the councillors themselves.

### Jobs

The report says that money can be saved by sacking workers—or by cutting "employee costs" as the report blandly calls it. It calculates that a thousand made redundant at the end of 1985 would save the council £1 million this year and £7 million the next. Another option, it explains, is freezing a "proportion of vacancies for a significant time", of leaving vacancies unfilled.

### Rents

The report recommends rent increases for council tenants. They say every £1 a week increase would bring in £1 million this year and £3



Neil Kinnock and environment spokesman John Cunningham have misrepresented the enquiry report.



Liverpool is building more council houses than all other authorities put together.

million the next.

To back up its argument it points out that Liverpool has not had a rent increase since 1982. What it does not explain is that when Labour took office in 1983 the rents were higher than they are on average for other Metropolitan District councils today.

### Capitalisation

A substantial part of the report deals with capitalisation. It argues that the council's capital programme (the house building programme, etc) would not be damaged. But if the council deficit is bridged exclusively by capitalisation, massive job losses are inevitable.

The report proposes juggling finances from one account to another, to keep down the penalty payments demanded by the government. But something has to give. If for example they suggest money is switched from capital expenditure to house repairs, house building will lose out.

The report does not describe what capitalisation means in human terms. It means tenants will live longer in grotty tenements as

the house building programme slows down. Because of the council's building programme, 15,000 more building workers have been employed in the building trade since 1983. No matter how the report dresses it up, capitalisation of the building programme to whatever degree will inevitably lead to job losses for building workers.

### Next year?

Throughout the whole report there is a recognition that even greater financial problems face the council next year. It concludes therefore that "painful decisions"—cuts and redundancies—are necessary in order to minimise problems for next year. It says rate increases and other "accounting changes" would "reduce the scale of other real changes (increases in revenue income and reduction in staff and expenditure) which would be necessary in 1985/6 and 1986/7." In English that means greater cuts now will mean fewer cuts next year and so restore the council's "credibility" with the finance houses and banks for loans to the council.



A council manual worker—they know jobs are at stake.

## Workers ready to act

THE UNIONS representing Liverpool's 31,000 city council workers have been called to a meeting on Monday 4 November.

They will be informed whether the council will be able to pay wages the following Thursday. If not, both the unions in the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee (JSSC) and NALGO are pledged to take all-out strike action.

The responsibility will be placed firmly on the shoulders of Tory government which has robbed the city of its funds.

The JSSC have explained to their members that they have been catapulted into this situation by the National Union of Teachers (NUT) court action. This means that instead of being paid until 31 December, by the device of the 'redundancy' notices which the court declared unlawful, thousands of council workers are being forced into a lock-out in November.

The GMBATU is now preparing its members for

action. In a leaflet to all 9,000 members it says: "If the money runs out, we walk out. Defend jobs and services. Demand the money from the Tories". A series of mass meetings are planned to explain the position to the members.

The 'Trade Union Forum' which was ostensibly set-up to oppose the 'redundancy' notices, still remains in being, despite the withdrawal of the notices. Many UCATT members are outraged that their leaders are part of an 'organisation' which includes the NUT leadership who have openly called for 'capitalisation' which would mean cuts in the housing programme and building workers laid off.

There is a growing demand in NALGO to reaffiliate to the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee. Just days before the Tory lock-out, when unity is essential, the NALGO leaders are saying: "The time is not right".

However at the meeting of the NALGO Left, the overwhelming majority of the members present called for

reaffiliation to the JSSC.

In the NUT, the AGM of the Merseyside Labour Teachers was held last week and a series of meetings is planned. Leaflets are going out explaining how the Labour council has stopped short-term contracts for teachers used by the previous Liberal administration and that Liverpool is 400 teachers above the government limit.

Phones at the NUPE regional headquarters are being jammed by irate members from up and down the country demanding to know why their union is not supporting the council. Two NUPE Broad Left leaflets have gone out to the members.

As the crunch day looms closer, the councillors and JSSC are meeting to plan emergency services. The question on every worker's lips is: "Will the Tories let our city slide into chaos?"

By Richard Knights

## Support on the doorstep

THE COUNCIL campaign continues to build support for Labour. That was the message from the mass canvass in Broadgreen on Sunday. Support for Labour was well above the vote achieved at the last election.

The press poison had succeeded in confusing some workers, but it was easy to win them to supporting the council. Most people thought the government was totally unreasonable in

refusing to meet elected councillors. A 78 year old woman said: "The council is doing its best".

In a survey 140 supported Labour, including former Liberal and Tory voters, 20 were don't knows and 10 for other parties. Even some Tory voters opposed redundancies and big rate rises. One woman who had voted Tory all her life joined the Labour Party when the council's record was

explained.

One lad collecting with a guy asked a canvasser what he was doing. When told he was fighting to kick Thatcher out, he gave half the money he had collected for the *Militant* fighting fund.

Despite the torrent of hysterical lies from the bosses' press over 80 were prepared to read the truth in *Militant* and *Mersey Militant*.

By Mick Reed

# Strikers' support sinks Skipton witch-hunt

**AN ATTEMPT to ban Labour Party Militant supporters from office in Skipton was decisively defeated after local Silentnight strikers congratulated Militant for its support to their fight.**

Militant supporters in North Yorkshire, have been actively supporting the strike at the nearby Silentnight bedding factories in Sutton and Barnoldswick for the

past four and a half months.

The right wing rewarded their efforts by attempting a witch-hunt at the general committee meeting of Skipton and Ripon Constituency Labour Party on 21 October.

Delegates to the meeting were presented with an emergency resolution describing Militant supporters as "divisive and destructive" and calling for them to be barred from office and prohibited from representing the party in

public.

This followed recent reports in a local newspaper that a strike bulletin produced by Militant supporters had been distributed to the Silentnight strikers without the approval of their local union officials.

But their case collapsed when a letter from convenors and shop stewards at Silentnight was read out at the meeting, congratulating Militant supporters for their help throughout the strike. It

stated that the strike bulletin had been produced at the request of the strikers and with the full co-operation of union officials.

In spite of an obvious 'three line whip' on the right wingers, this shabby attack failed miserably, and the motion was decisively lost.

**By Andrea Capstick**  
(Skipton and Ripon Labour Party, personal capacity)

## Tory press backs Kilroy-Silk in reselection

**AS HE comes up for reselection, Knowsley North MP Robert Kilroy Silk has attacked Militant supporters for "packing" the local party with delegates from the Transport and General Workers Union.**

Recently in sympathetic articles in the Tory media, he has accused Militant supporters and the party chairman, Jim McGinley, in particular of "scuttling around the constituency" canvassing for Tony Mulhearn, Liverpool City Councillor, who has been nominated to stand against him. Kilroy-Silk has also told numerous horror stories about Liverpool Deputy Leader Derek Hatton.

### Accusations

Local party activists thoroughly reject his accusations. Affiliated union branches are perfectly entitled to democratically elect delegates to local parties. Indeed, in the television programme, *This Week, Next Week* (27 October), party

members said that in July, immediately after the party decided to hold the reselection process 20 new delegates, fifteen of them from the right-wing electricians' union, the EETPU were notified.

Knowsley North has never actually selected Kilroy-Silk as its MP. When constituency boundaries were redrawn in 1983, the Labour Party's National Executive ruled that they must accept Kilroy-Silk, the MP for the old Ormskirk constituency. The inaugural meeting of the new constituency registered its unanimous disapproval.

Kilroy-Silk has now said that if Mulhearn is selected, he will stand against him regardless.

Readers will remember a few months ago Kilroy-Silk putting out scare stories in the press that an unnamed 'Militant MP' was trying to get him to stand elsewhere.

It is difficult to see his present actions as anything but a desperate attempt at self-preservation at whatever cost to the party.



Over 100,000 mainly young people, joined the CND demonstration in London on 26 October. The huge crowd cheered CND's Bruce Kent when he said that the world could feed its hungry but not while it wasted resources in the arms race. CND Chairwoman Joan Ruddock called for an end to the Tory government.

Unfortunately sections of the new leadership want a less "political" stand. Even on Saturday trade union and Labour Party representatives were not invited to speak. CND's aims cannot be achieved without political action. The ruling class will be pulling out all stops to get the next Labour government to ditch all its more radical policies including those on defence. A massive movement will be needed to safeguard these policies. CND will need to mobilise all the resources possible, including campaigns to explain the dangers of nuclear war and put forward a programme of alternative employment. A "non-political" peace movement is an impotent peace movement.

Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

## Liverpool anti-fascist rally success

150 LABOUR Party members, Young Socialists and trade unionists demonstrated in Church Street, Liverpool against the increasing number of fascist attacks on labour movement activists.

The District Labour Party called the protest in the wake of the latest outrage

when on Saturday 19 October fascists from the British National Party and National Front attacked Labour Party paper sellers.

Three Labour Party members were injured; two needed hospital treatment.

Speakers at the demonstration the following Saturday were received well by

shoppers in Church Street.

The fascists have undoubtedly been encouraged by the increasingly hysterical campaign in the local media against the Liverpool City Council and the activities of witch-hunting groups such as the Liverpool Against Militant.

As a result of the attack two weeks ago a member of

the BNP will appear in court on Monday 4 November charged with Actual Bodily Harm and possessing an offensive weapon. A mass picket of the court is expected involving Labour Party members and black socialists.

By Militant reporters

★ Sunday 3 November • 11am  
★ Royal Albert Hall, -6pm

21

Third national



Rally

IMPORTANT  
Ticket arrangements

NOTE: all those who have pink Militant Rally tickets should go to the foyer of the main entrance (door 6) to the Albert Hall. These tickets will then be exchanged for ones with seat and row numbers. Please attempt to get to the Albert Hall before 11am so that there is no hold up as tickets are exchanged.

Last minute bookings

For last minute ticket bookings please telephone the Militant office and ask for the person in charge of "Rally Tickets". The number is 01-533-3311.

★ Hear: Derek Hatton (Deputy Leader, Liverpool Council), Ted Grant (Political Editor, Militant), Peter Teaffe (Editor, Militant), Jack Collins (Fent NUM) Harry De Boer (Minneapolis Teamster Strike Leader, USA 1934).

★ Films, displays, entertainments, food, drinks. Tickets £3 (payable: Militant Rally) Crèche—places must be booked in advance with children's names and ages.



A number of successful public meetings in East Scotland recently discussed Liverpool's fight. In EDINBURGH 230 people heard Bob Wylie. The biggest Militant meeting in TAYSIDE attracted 70 people to Perth and similarly a large meeting of 75 in FIFE heard Terry Fields MP speak about the council's fight. In Edinburgh sales of Militant and Militant's Liverpool broad sheet went very well amongst local authority workers. 20 broadsheets have been sold at a cleansing depot where Militant sellers now have a regular successful sale. (Eddie Donaghy)

A NOTTINGHAM Militant readers meeting to discuss Labour Party conference attracted 50 people to hear Willie Lane, Bolsover CLP delegate, and Peter Jarvis from Militant. £70 was collected for the Militant fighting fund. (Gary Freeman).

NEWCASTLE NALGO branch agreed at a special general meeting to donate £1,000 to the defence funds of surcharged councillors in Liverpool and Lambeth. (Jeanie Molyneux)

Linda Morrison of the Liverpool councillors support group spoke to the North Staffs Miners' Wives Support Group. After discussion the miners' wives agreed a donation to the Liverpool group. This is a real sacrifice for a group committed to raising money for sacked miners in the area. (Andy Bentley)

Militant supporters took Liverpool's case into

ISLWYN, Neil Kinnock's constituency. About 150 people heard Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool City Council. John Fletcher of Islwyn Young Socialists spoke of the desperate position of young people under the Tories. (Chris Peace).

A Militant public meeting on Liverpool, in GILLINGHAM raised £36 from the 30 people present. (Marc Green).

Two speakers from Liverpool Joint Shop Stewards Committee explained the city's position at a public meeting organised by STOKE-ON-TRENT local authority workers Labour Party workplace branch. Over 50 people attended, including local authority workers, miners' wives, and members of the NUM, NUR and TGWU. (M. Al-Baldawi).

A public meeting under the title 'Liverpool's fight for jobs' was held in Shawlands, GLASGOW. Mick Reynolds (executive committee member of Strathclyde Regional Council Shop Stewards Committee) and Councillor Stewart Bates both spoke in a personal capacity. (Gordon Anderson).

A SITTINGBOURNE LPYS public meeting supporting Liverpool council met in bizarre circumstances. The constituency party banned it as a public meeting and forbade the Young Socialists from giving out official leaflets. Nevertheless 20 people heard Mike Duggan, a Liverpool council steward. (Mary Hanson).

# Militant

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## 21 years of success

MILITANT CAN celebrate its 21st Anniversary with pride. Since our launch in 1964, *Militant* has become a major force within the labour movement. Our voice is heard in shop stewards committees, trades councils, local authorities, trade union executives and Parliament.

The constant barrage of hostile propaganda from the press, the Tories and Liberals and the right-wing leaders of the labour and trade union movement, have made *Militant* a household name.

But when *Militant* was first produced it was a very humble production, supported by the sacrifices of a handful of young workers with little resources but a clear perspective of the tasks ahead and a determination to build. In 1964, with the likely election of a Labour government, they decided that the time was ripe for a Marxist paper for the labour movement.

*Militant* warned that unless that Labour government carried out bold socialist policies against capitalism, then inevitably that government would fail. We had to explain that in the "you've never had it so good" era of the early sixties, modern capitalism, far from solving its con-

traditions would inevitably move towards crisis. Four million unemployed and plummeting living standards today prove that our perspectives have been borne out.

It was also essential to produce a paper which expressed the needs and interests of workers, especially the youth and the activists in the Labour Party and trade unions, and provided a vehicle to rally support for workers in struggle.

*Militant* has always stood openly under the banner of Marxism, in the traditions of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, whose ideas have remained fundamentally correct over the past century.

From that handful of early supporters has now grown a substantial force of supporters in the Labour Party, the trades unions and workers generally, especially among the young. They are the best fighters for socialism, working hard in the constituencies for the Labour candidate selected, whether on the right or the left. Support is always gained and retained by putting forward ideas, backed by facts, figures and arguments, never by personal attacks or manoeuvres.

Wherever the industrial struggle is hottest you will find *Militant* supporters giving support and mobilising solidarity action within the movement.

It is because of the growing support for our ideas that first the ruling class, and then the right-wing of the labour movement under pressure from big business and the press, have attacked the *Militant*. This culminated in the expulsion from the Labour Party in 1983 of the five members of the *Militant* Editorial Board—Ted Grant, Peter Taaffe, Keith Dickinson, Clare Doyle and Lynn Walsh.

Eighteen others have since been expelled by their local parties for their belief in Marxist ideas and their support for *Militant*. The press and the right-wing desperately try to present us as something alien to the labour movement, but they cannot fool the activists. Marxism has a long tradition within the trade unions and the Labour Party, of which it was a component from its very inception. Despite all the machinations of the right-wing over the years, Clause IV, committing the party to the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, has remained the bedrock of Labour Party ideology.

Marxism cannot be witch-hunted out of the Labour Party. Attempts to do so will only increase support for these ideas. The campaign to re-instate those expelled will gain growing support. The present support for *Militant* is only the beginning. The ideas of Marxism will become the dominant ideas of the labour movement. Workers forced into struggle will join the party in their thousands drawn by the Marxist ideas which offer them a way out of the crisis of capitalist society. Far from deterring workers from joining the party. Marxism is a powerful attraction for recruits.

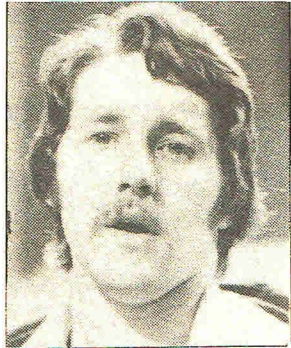
From its first issue in 1964, *Militant* predicted that the pressure of events will transform the labour and trade union movement. This process has begun. This transformation of the mass movement will lay the basis for the victory of socialism in Britain, which in its turn will prepare the way for the victory of socialism internationally.

## Stevenage threat

A STEADY stream of right-wing attacks on *Militant* supporters in Stevenage has culminated with the threat of expulsion hanging over the heads of ten Labour Party members.

The party's right-wing executive have launched an investigation into local *Militant* supporters, sending a 'questionnaire' to ten Labour Party members. It asks do they sell and support *Militant*, and even if they have ever "publically denigrated" the Labour leadership.

Among those threatened are Steve Glennon, a party member for 15 years, a regional executive member and President of Stevenage



Under threat—Steve Glennon

Trades Council; Jane James, a member for 12 years and chair of the constituency women's section; and Rob Walsh, a party member for nine years and vice president of the Trades Council. Of the ten, six are members of the party's general committee, two of them from their trade union branches.

The attacks by the right-wing began earlier this year when funds to the local LPYS branches were suspended. Then two *Militant* supporters voted onto the council candidates panel were knocked off by the party's vetting committee after McCarthyite style questioning.

Next, the party chairman at the September meeting said that anyone who took part in a *Militant* jumble sale would bring their party membership into question!

The Party's executive voted at the October meeting for the investigation. A special general committee has been called for 1 December where the 'investigation findings' will be discussed and it is likely the right-wing will put forward expulsions.

## 20,000 march against Fowler



Photo: Jex Coulson (IFL)

Thousands joined the TUC demonstration against Tory minister Norman Fowler's plans to cut £1 billion from social services. Pensioners and textile workers were predominant on the march while the LPYS made up a lively contingent. *Militant* paper sellers found much support for the stand taken by Liverpool City Council amongst the marchers.

## Stop the NF, November 10

EVERY YEAR on or near 11 November many people, mainly older workers, march down Whitehall to the Cenotaph in remembrance of the millions who died in two world wars.

Every year though the commemoration is marred by the fascist National Front holding a march later on the same day along the same route. Their Nazi-style parade is an affront to the millions of workers who fought against fascism in the Second World War, many sacrificing their lives. The only reason the NF have been allowed to march

without opposition is because anti-fascists did not want to show disrespect to those people on the official Cenotaph procession who wish to remember fallen comrades.

But many anti-fascists, while understanding that feeling, believe that these modern-day Nazis can be tolerated no longer. East London alone has seen a horrifying increase in racial attacks. In the past year Peter Burns, a black railworker was murdered while on duty, while members of the Kassam family were killed in their

home by a racist arson attack. Eustace Pryce was stabbed to death by racists on the streets of Newham last November. Allowing fascists to organise will mean more murders, more stabbings, and more fire bomb attacks.

For this reason anti-fascists are calling a counter-demonstration against the National Front, assembling on Sunday 10 November at noon at Bressenden Place, London SW1 (nearest tube—Pimlico). All anti-fascists are urged to arrive in groups.

## Defence fund reaches the ton

TWO 'TONS' were reached this week—a donation of \$100 from John Reimann in California and the number of labour movement bodies donating to the *Militant* Defence Fund reaching over 100.

Six weeks is now all we have in which to pay the £10,000 legal costs incurred in defending an article we published about a dispute between a Labour MP and the TGWU members he employed.

Our supporters in all areas should be drawing up lists of labour movement bodies and

individuals that can be approached for donations.

Local TGWU branches in particular should be approached for donations. Find out when the local TGWU branches are meeting and ask to speak, explaining that *Militant* is being penalised for standing by TGWU members in struggle.

### Contributions

The contributions this week include:  
TGWU 5/373 branch Notts, TGWU 1/1874 Lit-

tlehampton, AUEW 6 Keighley, ASLEF Polmadie branch Glasgow, EETPU London Press Branch, Harlow Trades Council, Arundel District Trades Council, Ron Brown MP £10, Peckham LPYS £10 and Notts E LPYS £20.

All these help to defend a socialist newspaper's right to print the truth and to continue its support for workers' struggles. Send money to:

*Militant* Defence Fund, 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church Street, London SE8 4SB.

## Witch-hunters knocked back

### Wrekin

LABOUR PARTY members faced with expulsion by the Wrekin Constituency Labour Party are fighting back. At the first of a series of meetings in Telford, Councillor Joe Morgan said that every member of the constituency management committee would be visited to gain their support against the proposed expulsions.

For the *Militant* Editorial Board, Lynn Walsh, himself expelled from the Labour Party, warned that if the party were trying to settle political arguments by expulsions, then it would not succeed. He urged all socialists to join the party, fight the witch-hunts and

continue the struggle for socialist policies.

### Sheffield

LABOUR PARTY member Rob Murray, a key figure in the attempts to expel *Militant* supporters from Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party, has been stripped of his position representing his union, NALGO.

He is no longer a shop steward and the AGM of Sheffield NALGO members voted to remove him from a slate of delegates to Sheffield Trades Council, by a three to one majority. Many members were unhappy about his witch-hunting activities in the party.

### Bracknell

AN ATTEMPT to ban *Militant* from being sold was defeated in East Berkshire Labour Party, which covers the Bracknell area.

A resolution was put before the general committee last week, calling for the sale of *Militant* to be banned during recruitment drives and election campaigns. However it was defeated by 14 votes to 9. Delegates pointed out that such moves were undemocratic and that *Militant* helped build support for the Labour Party and socialist ideas.

By Militant reporters

# Sam Bond: fighter against racism

**A YEAR ago Sampson Bond was appointed Principal Race Relations Advisor in Liverpool City Council's newly-established Race Relations Unit. Since then Bond, the unit and the council have been the victims of an orchestrated campaign of misrepresentation, abuse and verbal and physical attacks.**

The opposition to Bond's appointment centres around the Black Caucus, an unelected body mainly of 'race industry' professionals. Their violent objections to Bond's appointment can be reduced to the fact that their favoured candidate for Bond's post was not chosen by the appointments panel.

Their opposition to Bond has been eagerly seized on by a rag-bag of individuals and organisations, both inside and outside the labour movement, whose only point of agreement is hostility to the policies of the Liverpool City Council and the policy-making District Labour Party.

## Silence

Thus a conspiracy of silence hides the progress made by Bond and the unit under extremely difficult circumstances. A recent public meeting in Toxteth Sports Centre (16 September), called by the Black Caucus, ended in uproar when the overwhelming majority of the 600 or so present insisted on hearing Bond and passed a vote of 'no confidence' in the Black Caucus.

The Black Caucus is so confident and 'representative' that they closed the meeting, emptied the hall and locked the doors to prevent Bond speaking.

On 17 October 17 black organisations wrote to Neil Kinnock protesting at his meeting only the Black Caucus during his recent visit to Liverpool (see *Militant* 771). They describe Kinnock's decision to ignore this clear majority of Liverpool's black organisations as "divisive and unhelpful".

The Black Caucus are mainly the leaders of some black community groups in Liverpool, who are, as with many voluntary organisations, self-appointed with little or no accountability.

They have support on this

By Lynne Faulkes

issue from the leaders of the local government workers' union NALGO who have been instrumental in organising the official boycott of the Race Unit without any proper and full discussions of the issues.

They also claim support from the JSSC and some sections of the Labour Party. In fact the JSSC has not taken a position, but is monitoring a dispute between one union and the council.

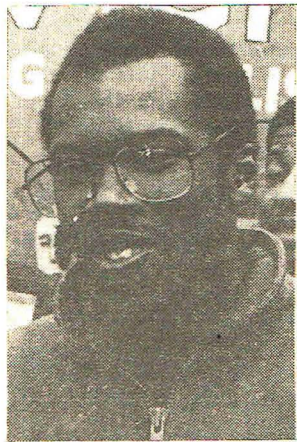
The council believes it is crucial that the black community and the council build unity to develop and pursue policies to tackle racism. It saw Sam Bond as the candidate best equipped for that job.

All six councillors on the interviewing panel chose Bond. He has stressed that "the strategy of Liverpool Council provides an excellent opportunity for the development of a systematic anti-racist policy within the framework of a broad social programme to tackle the fundamental problems of urban deprivation, which, after all, are the root cause of racial disadvantage."

The "experts" of the Black Caucus and the Merseyside Community Relations Council (CRC) take great exception to this attitude. They do not see the link between capitalism and racism, or the need to eliminate the system that breeds division of race and class.

## Qualification

Originally the council, with the agreement of NALGO and the Black Caucus, decided to waive the usual criteria of formal qualification in public administration, particularly as the job is seen as largely one of policy development in a very sensitive field.



Sam Bond, Liverpool's Principal Race Relations Advisor—the target of a vicious campaign.

But his opponents now complain that he has no qualifications or 'managerial experience'. In fact Sam Bond had better academic qualifications than most of the other candidates for the job.

His experience has been gained through the grassroots struggles of blacks in several major campaigns affecting the black community. Fighting racism cannot simply be reduced to a problem of management. It needs an understanding not just of the problems themselves, but of the underlying causes.

## Jobs for boys

But the Black Caucus obviously believe in jobs for the boys. Outraged that the Council did not bow to their demands, they have resorted not only to spreading lies and distortions about Bond's appointment, but to occupation of the Town Hall, violence and verbal abuse of councillors and staff, breaking up meetings called by the Council and the Labour Party on rate-capping, and violent attacks, some of which caused injuries needing hospital treatment, on members of the Labour Party.

Despite all the provocation, the council for some time attempted to settle the differences by agreeing to concessions, but this was to no avail.

The sections of the Labour Party who have sup-



Keva Coombs, leader of Merseyside County Council, at a meeting in Liverpool 8 earlier this year is questioned about his support for the Black Caucus.



A 'play-area' in Liverpool 8.

ported the Black Caucus are mainly right wing. They have also opposed the council's campaign and are mainly concentrated in the 'white' areas of the city. Ironically one such ward, Granby, covers a black area but is run by whites. Most active black members there are *Militant* supporters.

Already despite all the difficulties since Bond's appointment, some modest gains in the field of employment and housing for blacks

have been made. But crucial initiatives which desperately need to be taken by the council are being held up by the NALGO boycott of the unit.

The tactics of the Black Caucus have rebounded on them. Sickened by the violence, threats and abuse, and impressed by the council's determination, most black groups and individuals are now willing to give Sam a chance to prove himself.

## Kahn defence campaign

**SHAUKAT KHAN came to Britain over 13 years ago. He is living with his wife, and two British-born children, in Manchester.**

His wife has the right to live in this country, yet Shaukat is being forced to separate from his wife and children. The Home Office claims that it takes compassionate circumstances into account. However, in Shaukat's case they are denying the basic right for him to live with his wife and children.

The Khan Family Defence Campaign was set up on 14 August 1985. The major objective of the campaign is to keep the Khan family united and in this country. The first campaign meeting was attended by over 50 people including representatives of other defence campaigns, black organisations, trade unionists, political organisations, and members of the public. The campaign continues to meet regularly and is gathering tremendous support among the Asian community and the community in general.

For further details please contact the Publicity Officer of the campaign on: (061) 225 8701.

## Meeting calls for Honeyford dismissal

**THE ATTITUDE of local people to Ray Honeyford, headmaster of Drummond Middle School, was shown at a recent meeting of Bradford LPYS's 'Campaign against racism in schools'.**

This headmaster of a school that is 90 per cent Asian, Honeyford made his racist views known in the right-wing *Salisbury Review*. He has refused to resign his position, despite 80 per cent support for anti-Honeyford governors elected recently. Rumours are now widespread however that he will soon be leaving.

## Racialism

At the meeting Pat Wall, President of Bradford Trades Council said that "People look up to headmasters as important figures in the community. His statements are more dangerous than those of

fascists like the British National Party because he made racialism respectable".

Gazanfar Raja and Razina Bostan explained how the Tories were seeking to divide workers in Bradford by using Honeyford. The labour movement stood back from these developments at its peril. A campaign of leafletting, using Honeyford's own words, persuading the unions to take industrial action and a mass anti-racist rally were the minimum activities that were needed to combat the Tories' lies.

The overwhelming feeling of the meeting was that it would be wrong to buy off Honeyford with money from a budget which is already too small for local educational needs. He should be given no special privileges and should be dismissed immediately.

By Peter Watson

## Demonstrate for justice

**A DEMONSTRATION has been called to demand justice for Cherry Groce and Cynthia Jarrett, the black women who were innocent victims of police raids.**

On Saturday 28 September Cherry Groce was shot and seriously injured by police in a dawn raid on her home in Normandy Road, Brixton. The following Saturday Cynthia Jarrett died during a police raid on her Tottenham home. These attacks provoked the upheavals in Brixton and Tottenham, when the anger of the communities erupted.

Still no police officer has been charged as a result of these violent incidents.

The Groce Family Support and Community Defence Campaign (supported by the Groce family) has called the

demonstration on Monday 11 November to demand that the police officers responsible are arrested and charged, and an independent public enquiry. The march is supported by the Jarrett Family Public Enquiry Campaign.

The demonstration will start from Brockwell Park in Brixton and march through Brixton and Kennington to Hyde

Park for a rally.

Publicity and leaflets and posters are being distributed to every part of the country where there is a black community. Labour movement bodies are urged to support the demonstration and the demands of the campaign.

By Kevin Fernandes

**March details  
Assemble Brockwell Park,  
Brixton at 11.30am  
Monday 11 November  
March to Hyde Park**

Called by Groce Family Support and Community Defence Campaign

# FIGHTING FUND

This week  
£2078

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 London East	1957		3250
2 London West	1285		2650
3 Wales West	1419		2950
4 Eastern	1455		3500
5 Humberside	882		2100
6 London South East	847		2100
7 London South West	415		1200
8 Lancashire	428		1300
9 Southern	1650		5400
10 East Midlands	857		3050
11 Scotland West	999		3750
12 Merseyside	1659		6550
13 Yorkshire	1466		5800
14 Scotland East	739		3150
15 South West	499		2150
16 Manchester	544		2850
17 West Midlands	900		4700
18 Northern	792		4750
19 Wales East	359		3000
Others	5131		5800
Total received	24283		70000

## Your cash can make our ideas grow

**CASH IS still being rushed into us for the end of this quarter with massive amounts promised from many areas. Final figures and a final league table will be published next week.**

In our postbag this week was a copy of yet another letter from an irate Labour Party member reacting to Neil Kinnock's speech at this year's Labour Party Conference. Mrs SEM Lindsey of Ford Ward Labour Party has written to Mr Kinnock saying that although she is a moderate and certainly not a revolutionary the last election was lost "with your witch-hunting tactics".

Mrs Lindsey sent £10 to the Fighting Fund with a note congratulating Derek Hatton in his "fight for the people of Liverpool".

More and more people see the attacks on *Militant* as attacks on the working class itself. As Mrs Lindsey says: "The Labour councillors of Liverpool were elected democratically on a mandate to preserve jobs and services" and not to do that shows "a singular lack of courage by not seizing the opportunity to take Britain

down the road to socialism, down a road which could present Britain as a beacon of justice and democracy, down a road which could change the world."

The strength of our support can only grow, however, if we are able to reach more and more people with our ideas. For that we need more cash.

Last weekend's big demonstrations brought in lots of extras with 8 year old Rebecca Wrack collecting £11.70 in her rattling tin selling stickers on the TUC demo. We are starting to receive cash raised at 21st Birthday parties for *Militant*. £53.45 was raised at a Stevenage party.

Of course our biggest celebration will be the Rally this weekend. Don't forget to organise food and drink for the coaches. Do a raffle or open a book on the estimated time of arrival. We hope to have a mammoth collection at the rally itself so if any of your friends can't come to the Albert Hall, ask them to give their donation in advance! Ask them for £50, or £21 for 21 years of *Militant*.

Comrades can collect packs of Xmas cards, and Calendars for 1986 as well as

enamel stud badges, commemorative badges marking 21 years of *Militant*. Also available will be raffle tickets for the *Militant* Winter Draw. (See below) If you sell these immediately all areas could make a magnificent start to the new quarter.

### DONATIONS

Collection at Hull City Council Parks Dept. £5.60; NGA picket line paper extras raised £2.48; Ben Swinnerton, school student gave £8 from his part-time job; Harry and Olive Talbot, OAPs Dulwich £25.00; Cash from Willy's jar, Glenrothes £2.65; Isobel Wilson, Strathclyde, NALGO £4; Jim Mullen, Unemployed Cambuslang, £1.25; Broadgreen YS £5; Thomas McLoughlin, Kensington, Merseyside NUPE 50p; H. Haywood, Coventry NUS £1; Miguel Pino Spanish Civil War Veteran £1; Kieran Vosper (NUS) Plymouth £10; R. Adnett, Southampton University Labour Club £2; Mr. Kidd, Tooting £3; June Marsden £50 (Leeds, NALGO); Steve Hyde, York £3; Osmond James, OAP £1; R. Sheppher £15 for help with moving; Brian Norbury, Charlton Ward Labour Party £5.

By Ruth Campbell

### Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£		£
Eastern	4251	Scotland West	2840
East Midlands	4315	Southern	5726
London NE	4986	South West	1257
London NW	5187	Wales East	2436
London SE	2814	Wales West	1927
London SW	2237	West Midlands	3089
Lancashire	1028	Yorkshire	3400
Manchester	3076	Humberside	2890
Merseyside	5789	National	1302
Northern	4546		
Scotland East	2455	Total	65550

*Daily Militant* to counter the 'Daily Lies' of the Tory press.

Contributions this week show the money for a daily paper is still pouring in: A special meeting in Cambridge raised £100; *Militant* supporters sent in £97 from Aire Valley; in the Midlands, Black Country supporters gave us £25, Birmingham gave £25 and Stoke £25. An excellent response from Bradford: £32 to the special "£10 for Liverpool" appeal, and £81.25 from two Bradford supporters as part of the "Weeks income" to the

Building Fund.

Special thanks also to Dick Keeble of Braintree who sent £75 in response to our Liverpool appeal. Also £10 from Basildon, £10 from Mat Teale and £5 from George Smiles—both of Sunderland. Thanks to our supporters in Gwent who sent in £47.

Make sure that when you invite your mates to the Rally at the Albert Hall, you also ask them for a special donation to give our Daily Paper fund a boost!

By Ken Hanning

## Help us boost sales!

**THIS HAS been one of the most eventful years in *Militant's* 21 year history. More people have bought our paper for the first time than ever before.**

If you are reading *Militant* for the first time, come to the rally and become a *Militant* seller. Forms encouraging people to sell *Militant* or to pledge higher sales will be distributed at the Albert Hall.

Sellers have been telling us of the sales you can achieve

on housing estates. You should make these regular events in all areas, not only to push up sales but to answer all the press lies about Liverpool, the miners and so on.

In Grimsby 34 papers were sold in an hour and a half on the Grange estate. 33 were sold in Melton Mowbray on an estate and in the town centre. A regular street sale in Telford has now reached 11 sales.

This week's big events saw good sales too. On the CND

rally Jason Tetley with 28 papers and Andy Dinkenor with 22 were amongst the best sellers we've heard of yet. Any advance on 28? Let us know.

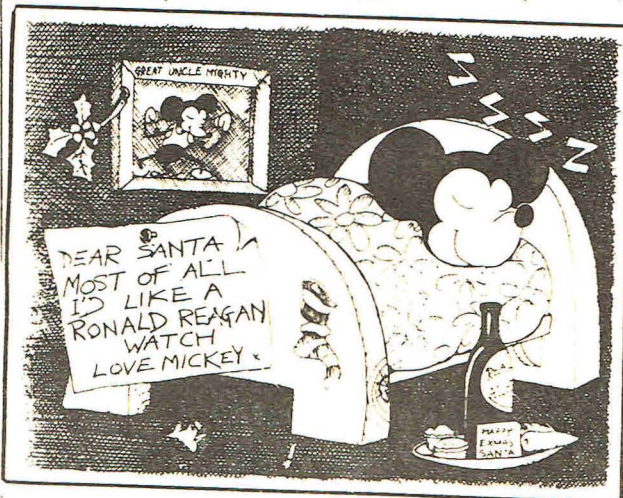
Around 200 papers were sold on the TUC demonstration and many more on coaches down to London. Anyone with the stamina can help us improve on these figures at this Saturday's Anti-Apartheid march.

By Alan Beacham

### ads

CLASSIFIED: 15p per word, minimum 10 words.  
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per column centimetre. Three weeks

for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free.  
All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.



**XMAS CARDS** now available. Pack of four cards 75p/pack. Bulk orders of 10 packs £6.50 please enclose 25p P&P. Orders through Fighting Fund Department.

### Chile Day School

Organised by:

Peckham LPYS and Chile Socialist Defence Campaign  
Saturday 9 November, 10.30am - 5pm,  
Peckham Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5.  
10.30 Lessons of the Popular Unity government '70-73  
2.00 Perspectives for Chile.  
Followed by film and social in the evening.  
Sponsored by Southwark Labour Party Trade Union Committee.

**Marxist Study Tapes.** Listen at your leisure to leading Marxists on theoretical and historical subjects.

C60, £1: Rise of Hitler—Jeremy Birch. Post War Boom—Bob McKee.

C90, £1.25: Spanish Revolution 1931-37—Alan Woods. The Early History of Bolshevism up to 1902 (question and answer)—Alan Woods. Permanent Revolution (Historical)—John Bulaitis. Chinese Revolution 1925-7—Peter Taaffe. Chinese Revolution 1944-49—Peter Taaffe. Trotsky Commemoration Rally (20 August 1985) Ted Grant and Dave Hemson.

Also, sessions from the Marxist Weekend School, (C90-£1.25).

Dialectical Materialism—John Pickard. Historical Materialism—Tony Cross. Is Marxism Relevant Today?—Ted Grant. The Origin of the State—Roger Silverman. Is Britain a Police State—Bob Edwards. Lessons of the Miners' Strikes 1972 and 1985—Chris Herriot. Slavery—Phil Frampton. Black Nationalism—Bob Lee. South Africa: Closing Rally—Martin Legassick.

Add 10p per tape for postage. 10 for £12 post free. All cheques and PO's payable to World Socialist Books. Send to 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

**EEPTU BROAD** Left/BLOC national conference "EETPU—fight for a democratic union" Saturday 30 November, 11.30 am to 4.30 Liverpool Maryland Street annexe, near Philharmonic Hall.

Speakers: Tony Benn MP (invited) Derek Hatton, (deputy leader Liverpool Council), Pat Weathers (Liverpool city council lighting convenor), Phil Holt (National Communications Union national executive, personal capacity and BLOC secretary), Jim Greer (Edinburgh Lodge EETPU).

All EETPU members welcome. Delegates and visitors £1; cheques payable BLOC c/o 197 Hinckley Road, St Helens, Merseyside.

### Militant Winter Draw

Registered Promoter: D. Smith, 14 Station Road, Brightingsea, Essex. £1,000 worth of prizes to be won.

1st prize Video Equipment worth £500.  
2nd prize Stacking Hi-Fi worth £300.  
3rd prize Portable TV worth £100.  
4th prize—5 prizes of £20 worth of socialist books.  
The draw takes place on Saturday 4 January, 1986. Price of tickets: 10p (ten pence).

All counterfoils, cash and unsold tickets to be returned to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscoth Road, Hackney, London E9 by first post Saturday 4 January, 1986.

### Militant Meetings

**ABERYSTWYTH:** Weekly *Militant* discussion groups. Details, phone Alan Huyton on 615911.

**MILITANT** Marxist Discussion Group meetings held monthly in Swindon. Phone Martin on 24796 for details.

**MAIDSTONE** "Militant's socialist programme". Thursday 14 November, 8pm at the Wheeler's Arms, Perry Street, Maidstone.

**VAUXHALL** *Militant* supporters pre-rally disco. Saturday 2 November: 7.30pm to 12 midnight. Florence Nightingale pub, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 (near Waterloo Station). £1.50 workers, 75p unwaged. All money to fighting fund.

**MILITANT** 21st Birthday Party. Saturday 2 November. "The Gardeners", 187 Rotherhithe New Road, SE16 (near Southwark Park). 8pm onwards. Disco and bar. £1.50 or £1 unwaged. Proceeds to fighting fund. Organised by Southwark and Lewisham *Militant* supporters.

**WANDSWORTH** Joint Shop Stewards Committee and LPYS "Support Liverpool council" Speakers: Tony Mulhearn (Liverpool councillor) and Ted Knight (leader Lambeth council) Mick French (secretary Wandsworth JSSC) Battersea Town Hall (Lower Hall) Wednesday 6 November 7.30pm.

**MILITANT** Liverpool Broad-sheet "Defend our City" 25p (including P&P). Orders of 10 or more 10p each. To Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscoth Rd. London E9 5HB.

**A3 POSTERS** for sale. "Stop the racist attacks". 50 for £3 + £1 P&P; 100 for £5 + £1.50 P&P. Post free on orders of 200 or over. Send orders to: Bow and Poplar LPYS, c/o 172 East India Dock Road, London E14, or phone 01-515 1718, or 01-515 6222.

**Further Education Labour Students Conference.**

Saturday 16, Sunday 17 November. Starts noon at: Joint Students Union, Park Place, Cardiff.

Speakers: Derek Hatton (Deputy Leader, Liverpool Council), Ian Lowes (Liverpool JSSC), Terry Fields MP.

Also speakers from: Justice for the Pryces Campaign, Groce Family Support Group, YTURC.

Send to: L. James, Organising Secretary, FELS, c/o 24 Higgins House, Whitmore Road, Shoreditch, London N1.

This week:  
£1,394

**THE FAMILIAR** "here we go, here we go!" battle-cry of the miners was taken up by the pensioners who led off last Sunday's TUC demonstration in London against Fowler's Social Services 'Review'.

The demonstration made it clear that workers want to keep their National Health Service, to defend their hard-won benefits, and to kick the Tories out for good. That mood is as strong as ever.

*Militant* sellers on the march reported a high demand for the paper, and magnificent amounts were donated in the Fighting Fund tins. But as workers unite in their battles to stop the Tories scrapping the Welfare State, they need, more than ever, a daily socialist paper. Liverpool council's fight has shown that the pace of events is moving faster than ever. Workers must have a

# When the lights went out at the Albert Hall

AS SOCIALISTS from all over the country gather at the Albert Hall on Sunday for *Militant's* 21st anniversary rally, they should spare a thought for the past struggles that secured the right of the labour movement to hold such events.

The Tories today talk about freedom of speech and democracy as though they go hand in hand with the capitalist system. But the right to meet en masse in free debate—like the right to vote—was only won after painstaking struggles by the working class.

The right of socialists to meet in the grandiose surroundings of the Albert Hall is no exception. Back in 1918 the labour movement, led by the electricians' union, fought and won for even this basic democratic measure.

On Saturday 30 November 1918 a mass rally was scheduled at the hall for the labour movement paper, the *Herald*, run by George Lansbury. The paper had been reduced to a weekly during the First World War, a victim of the patriotic hysteria whipped up by the ruling class. But in the run up to the general election at the end of four years of mass slaughter, the *Herald* was campaigning to re-launch as a daily.

## Cancelled

However, the capitalist establishment had other ideas. They cast a wary eye on the British socialist movement, as the revolutionary waves from Russia spread like wildfire across Europe. They certainly did not intend to let them agitate and propagandise in their splendid hall, the *Royal Albert Hall*.

Just four days before the rally was due to take place—with the *Herald* receiving 19,000 applications for tickets—the Albert Hall manager, Mr Hilton Carter, cancelled the meeting.

He announced: "In view of the demonstrations of a revolutionary character that took place on 3 and 14 November, on the part of Mr Lansbury's supporters, I do not think that my council (of the Albert Hall) will be justified, in their own interests, in allowing the meeting... to take place."

Carter, and whoever was behind him, had a pretty flimsy excuse. The meeting on 3 November had been organised by the National Union of Railwaymen and the one on 14 November by the official National Labour Party. Lansbury promoted neither meeting, except in urging *Herald* readers to attend.

The *Herald* protested: "At neither of these meetings was a single chair broken, not even a programme torn! These desperate revolutionaries, these barricade rebels, these 'supporters' of George Lansbury even kept the non-smoking rule. There was but one sinister episode. One thing sent the blood of shame into Carter's cheeks. *Common people sat in the Royal Box*—there being no room anywhere else—and the King (through an unfortunate mixture of dates in his diary) being absent.

"This, comrades, is a coldly-taken decision on the part of our masters to tie our tongues. A tame Labour Party, a 'coalition' Labour Party, Carter and his council could tolerate, but a Labour Party in earnest? A Labour Party determined to win through, politically or industrially? Ah! that's a different story!"

Lansbury wrote to the Prime Minister Lloyd George and was told the government "has no power to intervene." But Lloyd George was soon to sing a different tune...

A local official of the Electrical Trades Union applied for 50 tickets, but was told the meeting

By Andy Beadle

was off. Within hours a Mr Webb, Secretary of the London District Committee of the ETU, was onto Mr Carter:

"If you don't allow the *Herald* to hold their meeting, we'll cut off your light, Mr Carter."

"Is that a threat?"

"No, it's a fact."

On the Saturday morning, Mr Carter still being unrepentant, the electricians took action. The Albert Hall fuses were removed. The situation was explained to the manager of the local power station: "We don't want to put pickets on this place", said Mr Webb, "and if you'll give us your word not to reconnect, we won't trouble you with them."

So it was arranged. Any trouble would have meant the withdrawal of electric light from all of Kensington (one of the wealthiest areas of London).

The Albert Hall appealed to the government and the government (with 'no power to intervene') appealed to Lansbury who asked for the meeting to be restored. The government asked the Albert Hall to think again.

Not only were the electricians ready for a fight. According to the *Herald*: "If they had not come to their senses no train would have stopped at South Kensington or High Street—the two stations serving the hall. No bus would have carried passengers to the Hall. No taxi would have put down or taken up from the Hall". The working class flexed its muscles and reaffirmed its claim on the democratic right to free speech.

Thus, according to the *Daily Mail*: "On the recommendation of the government, the council of the Albert Hall have reconsidered their decision."

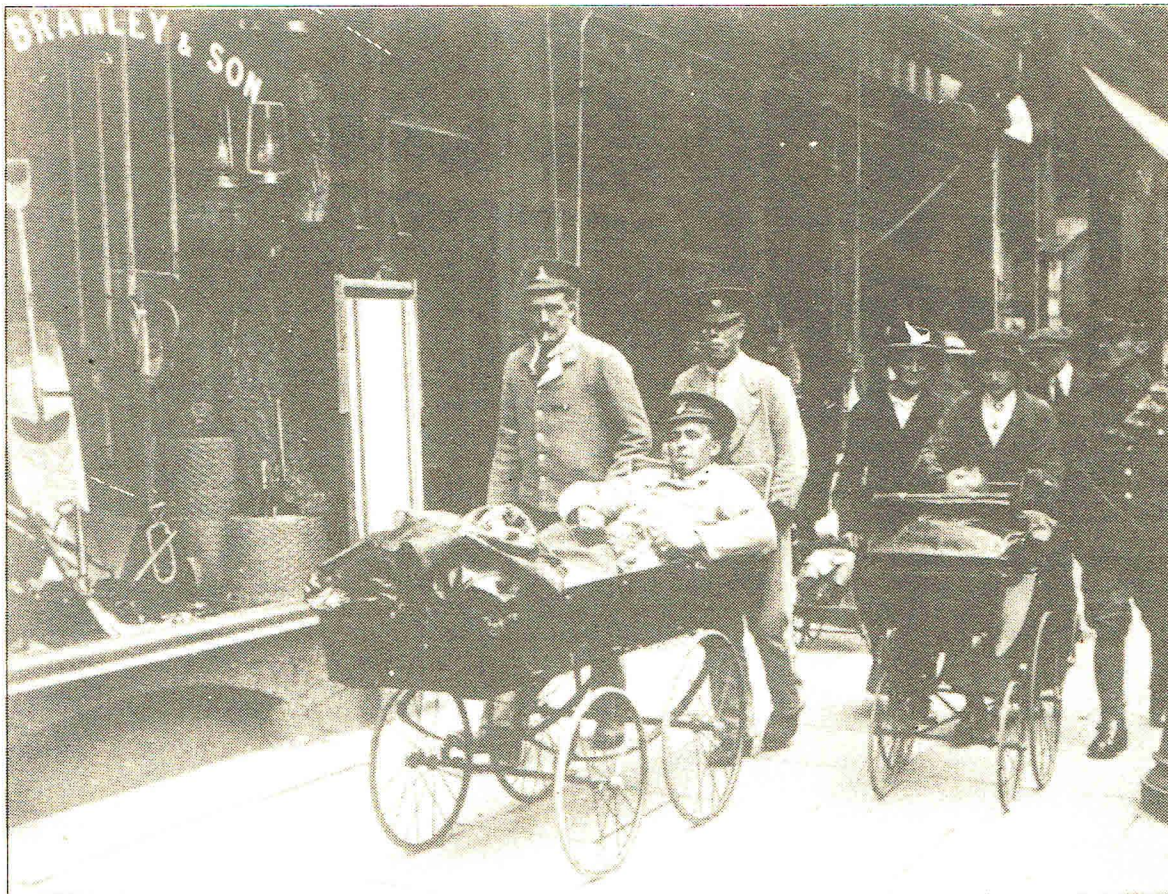
The ETU turned a success into a triumph. The intended meeting had already been over-subscribed. Now two meetings took place on subsequent nights to packed crowds of 10,000 at each. At least another 20,000 were turned away.

The event was a magnificent inspiring rally for Labour in the general election campaign. Speakers included Ethel Snowden, Ramsay MacDonald and GDH Cole. There was an overwhelming opposition to the use of British and other foreign troops in revolutionary Russia.

The collection raised £900. George Lansbury was able to announce that the *Herald* had raised its target of £100,000 from the pennies and shillings of workers, and would be able to relaunch as a daily election edition.



George Lansbury, driving force behind the *Herald* canvassing in Bromley-by-Bow.



Above: British troops return home from the trenches—to unemployment, slum housing and low wages. The return to the capitalist 'norm' after four years of sacrifice stoked up enormous working class anger, initially exploding in the form of the massive strike wave of 1919. The *Herald*, relaunched as a daily, hoped to direct this angry mood towards support for socialism and the Labour Party.

Below: Women workers in Reading in the 1920s show their support for the *Herald*.



## We need a daily!

"THINK OF it, the Labour Party is the second largest party in the house. It is the official opposition, it is the alternative government and it has not got a daily paper of its own.

"The labour movement of Germany and France, indeed all the labour parties of the world have their own voice in the daily press but the Labour Party is dumb. Meanwhile we are governed by the press and the loss is enormous.

"The wonder is that with such a handicap the Labour Party polls as many votes as it does."

When was this originally written? 1985, 1945? No 1919. It was part of the agitation of the *Daily Herald* in its campaign to grow from a weekly into a daily.

The paper had started as a strike newspaper for the

London composers in 1911 but was rapidly transformed into a fighting workers' paper.

Its circulation soared to a quarter of a million a day. Although its price was only one penny it covered all the news from international to sporting news, and also had comprehensive coverage of the labour movement.

### Appeal

The First World War forced the *Herald* back to a weekly, but soon after the war the paper was relaunched as a daily. So successful was the relaunch that a further appeal was made to expand and include an evening and Sunday editions. This appeal raised £320,000—a phenomenal amount for the time.

The paper's decline was a slow one. It was taken over by the TUC in 1922 and lost

its original militancy as the dead-hand of the right-wing leadership was placed on it, making it their mouthpiece. Despite making a profit, the majority shares were sold to Odhams press as a purely commercial venture. It was finally closed with the agreement of the Labour leadership in 1964, despite still having an accredited readership of four million.

The *Herald's* agitation for a daily (above) is equally relevant today. Yet the Labour and TUC leadership despite enquiries and reports, seem incapable of producing an independent Labour daily.

*Militant* however will continue its steps forward from a successful weekly to a workers' daily. Let's make the Albert Hall rally a decisive step along that road, equally as historic as the *Herald's* rally of 1918.



Photos left to right: Dave Sinclair, *Militant*, Mick Carroll, L A Barrett, Dave Sinclair. Left to right, page 8: *Militant*'s biggest ever readers' meeting at Labour Party conference this year being addressed by Ted Grant, *Militant*'s political editor. *Militant Miner* produced during the strike gave guidance to miners and convinced many miners to support *Militant*. BLOC rally at the TUC last year called for a 24-hour general strike to back the miners. Speaker at this year's LPYS conference in Blackpool.

## Youth's debt to Marxism

SINCE 1970 when Marxists first won a majority on the National Committee of the Labour Party Young Socialists a transformation of Labour's youth section has taken place.

The LPYS has changed from a small organisation, into a 15,000-strong, campaigning body of working class youth. In 1970, 126 delegates and 60 visitors attended the conference—in 1984 there were 371 delegates and 1,650 visitors, including 120 miners.

The most spectacular growth has been since the general election of 1983. Last year for instance, over 70 new branches were set up, including 20 in mining areas.

During the strike over 4,000 people attended joint NUM/LPYS public meetings in Yorkshire alone. Bulletins written by young miners were produced and the first march in support of the miners was organised by the LPYS in Mansfield at the beginning of the strike. During the course of the strike over 500 young miners joined the young socialists.

For a long time the LPYS has had the reputation for being the most active section of the labour movement. This is no idle boast. It was the young socialists who set up the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) which began the campaign to unionise trainees on government 'training schemes'. The campaign culminated in the defeat of the government's plans to stop youth claiming supplementary benefit and force them onto YTS by organising the 250,000 strong school students' strike in April this year. On 29 June, 25,000 youth marched on the LPYS/YTURC demo for "Real jobs for youth".

Out of the school students' strike a new organisation was born—the School Students' Union led by young Marxists, all members of Labour's youth section.

The LPYS has never been just concerned with events in Britain, we have a proud international tradition. In the 1970s we organised the Spanish Young Socialist Defence Campaign which raised money and resources for the Spanish youth working under Franco's dictatorship. Today the international priorities are Chile

and South Africa. The LPYS sponsored the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign (CSDC) has provided much-needed finance for rebuilding the workers' organisations in Chile.

Our success has brought attacks, shamefully from within the party. The vice-chairman of the Welsh LPYS has been expelled. The CSDC has been proscribed and YTURC was made to leave its office at Labour Party headquarters.

These are political attacks on the ideas of the young socialists. The Labour leaders are terrified of Marxist ideas gaining mass support amongst youth—but the LPYS marches on undaunted, and the campaigns it supports continue to grow.

The present LPYS owes a great debt to the ideas of *Militant*. Without them we would not be the most active socialist youth movement in Europe.

By John Hird  
(National Chairman LPYS)

## International solidarity

WORKERS OF the world are finding out in action the need for international solidarity to fight the plans of the multinationals. They are increasingly turning to Marxism to solve their problems.

During the British miners' strike a striking Staffordshire miner and *Militant* supporter, Roy Jones, was invited to visit leaders and rank and file of the South African Minerworkers union.

Roy was made the first white member of the SANUM, and got a donation to British strike funds from this very poor union. These links were used to repay this debt when the South African NUM took action this year.

★ When 14 trade unionists and socialists were arrested in Zimbabwe on 1 March protests flooded in from all over the world after the publicity in *Militant* and other Marxist papers. This solidarity secured the release of the prisoners who were fighting to build a socialist programme for the engineering union GEMWU.

★ In Greece, Marxists led the battle to stop Constantinos Karamanlis, former leader of the right wing New Democracy government, returning as President.

Supporters of *Xekinima* also played a prominent part in getting the socialist party, PASOK, re-elected. Despite being expelled from the party some years ago, they were invited to take part in the socialists' election campaign. Both the journal and the leaflets written by *Xekinima* were printed by PASOK.

But the socialist party leaders' latest stringency moves against the working class show that *Xekinima* supporters' work is not over yet!

Increasingly the ideas of Marxism are being heard, and getting concrete support in every continent of the world.

SUNDAY 3 November will be a proud day for the thousands of *Militant* supporters packed into the Royal Albert Hall celebrating 21 years of *Militant*. In those years, our paper has grown in influence and importance in the British labour movement and throughout the world.

For many of its early years, *Militant* was a four-page monthly, hardly noticed by the commentators of the press and TV. Today it is in the news virtually every day and has made a major impact on the British political scene.

From the very first issue *Militant* opposed the view of 'experts' in the universities and the leadership of the Labour Party who said that the capitalist system had found a means of solving its problems and that the old ideas of Marxism could be consigned to the museums.

We predicted the inevitable crises which would force working people to revive the traditions of fighting for their class. Then the capitalist spokesmen patronised us for having such old-fashioned ideas. Now that we have been proved

## Militant inspires t

THE PAST year has seen a phenomenal growth in the influence and ideas of Marxism amongst rank and file miners.

Miners, their wives and families learned many lessons in the course of the historic miners' strike. The state was opposed for all to see in its most brutal form. The press and the media, by their vicious campaign of abuse and vilification of ordinary miners and of Arthur Scargill as an individual,

shattered any illusions that may have existed as to their supposed 'impartiality'.

The TUC and Labour leadership laid bare their own inadequacies and political shortcomings by the abysmal role they played in the dispute. Yet the clear programme of Marxism and the bold leadership it provides hit home amongst rank and file miners.

Since the strike Marxism has continued to gain ground in the union. Whilst the

**Militant**  
The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth  
25p

**SCHOOL STRIKE**

20,000 school students in YTS protest

**Militant**  
The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth  
25p

South Wales NUM officials sacked—

**Thatcher's Britain 1985 —**

**Miners fight on**  
NACODS must call national strike



# growth of Marxism



right, they fear us, and their papers and political representatives in the Tory and Liberal parties heap abuse on us.

Their fears are justified. *Militant* has given unflinching support for workers in struggle, from the seamen in the sixties to the dockers in the seventies and the miners in the eighties, *Militant* has always defended and encouraged those thrown into battle to save their jobs or raise their living standards. Now the bosses know that workers will turn to Marxism and *Militant* when forced to look for an alternative to the present bankrupt economic system.

What the workers' movement now needs is precisely what *Militant* offers—a clear socialist programme to unite those workers in struggle into a force capable of bringing an end the horrors and misery of the capitalist system. The Albert Hall rally must be the launching pad for the daily *Militant* and 21 more years of successful struggle for a socialist Britain and a socialist world.

## the miners

By Chris Herriot  
(Sacked miner)

But the NUM leadership at area level have used the 'guerrilla action' policy and left pits isolated. No co-ordinated campaign is to be developed in the coal fields.

Consequently, pits such as Cortonwood and Yorkshire Main have buckled under pressure from the Board and the press.

Where the ideas of Marxism have been heard such as at St John's Colliery in South Wales and Darfield Main in Yorkshire a determined fight has been put up. But no matter how determined and well-led the miners at such pits may be, success cannot be guaranteed on the basis of isolated fights by isolated pits. The union leadership at area and national level must now face up to its own responsibilities. They owe it to the membership.

## Building union broad lefts

SUPPORT FOR *Militant*'s ideas in the unions has grown rapidly since the Tories came to power. A huge vacuum has opened up in the trade union movement for genuine socialist ideas. New broad left organisations have started to fill his hole, and *Militant* supporters have been involved in setting them up, particularly in the railway unions, NUPE, the

fire brigades' union, the NCU, USDAW and ASTMS.

The Broad Left Organising Committee held its second conference in March and now has twenty union broad lefts affiliated to it. BLOC aims to create the basis of a mass broad left movement throughout the trade unions.

LPYS conference, left, one of the biggest and most successful yet. Above, school students support *Militant* during their strike earlier this year.

## Marxist traditions of the Mersey

THE HISTORY of Marxist ideas in the Liverpool Labour Party goes back decades.

Beginning with a tiny minority, Marxists and the supporters of the *Militant* have consistently argued for the adoption of a fighting socialist programme. By patient explanation and hard work, a position has been achieved where the policies of *Militant* are supported by the majority in the labour and trade union movement.

From 1974 onwards a campaign took place in which *Militant* played a significant role to rebuild the Labour Party in all the areas which had been traditionally been dominated by the right wing—where the party membership had declined to a shell of an organisation.

As a result of the campaigning policies the party was gradually rebuilt, until 1981 when the Labour Party won control of the council. The campaign

continued at district level. In 1983 the Liberals carried out a vicious campaign of smears and filth attacking the Marxists, who were charged with threatening to close churches and so on.

The 1983 city council election campaign took place in the middle of the witch-hunt being conducted by the right wing within the Labour Party. In spite of that the Labour Party won control of the city council with an overall majority for the first time in a decade.

The victory was won on the policies of building houses, job creation and the defence of services. These were the policies of the Labour Party in Liverpool, advocated consistently by *Militant*.

In the '60s Liverpool Trades Council and the Labour Party were a joint body and had always been controlled by the left, but the council Labour Group was controlled by the right.

There was continual conflict between the Trades Council/Labour Party and the Labour Group. Now there is a situation unique in the British labour movement—the District Labour Party is the policy making body and the Labour Group implements that policy. The district party elect the leader, deputy leader, and the chairman and key positions in the council Labour Group.

Contrary to smears that *Militant* is undemocratic, Liverpool Labour Party, where *Militant*'s ideas are firmly rooted amongst the rank and file, must be one of the most democratic in the country.

The fact that the ranks of the party are involved in decision making where policy is implemented is a great strength. It is this which will help Liverpool to a victory against the Tories in the battle for jobs and services. Support for *Militant* in the Liverpool labour movement is now so widespread that the first regional supplement, the *Mersey Militant* has been launched.

*Militant* is strongly represented in the council's workforce, particularly amongst the manual workers. Ian Lowes, himself a *Militant* supporter and chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, commented in the *Mersey Militant* on the campaign for an all-out strike to support the council:

"*Militant* supporters have not been alone in building up the campaign. We can be proud that where the issues have been explained in union branches where *Militant* supporters are prominent, the strike call was backed".

By Tony Mulhearn  
(President, Liverpool District Labour Party)

Terry Fields, Marxist MP for Liverpool Broadgreen addressing a school students' rally during their strike.

## £¼ million raised for funds

IN THE first year in its new premises, *Militant* has broken all the previous records for fund raising, with a total of almost a quarter of a million pounds.

Last year's total was no small achievement, which included £11,970 raised for the fighting fund at the 20th anniversary rally. But this year we have raised £174,759 in fighting fund alone. On top of that a further £66,265 was raised for the Marxist Daily Building Fund. This adds up to a total of £241,022—and our enemies try to tell us we are on the decline.

All of this money has come from our supporters amongst the ranks of the labour movement and the working class. We have no big business backers to lavish us with cash—only the hard-earned pounds and pennies of those who have a stake in a future socialist society.

This is the reason behind *Militant*'s success at fund-raising.

*Militant* consistently supports workers in struggle—that support has been returned in cash for our funds. This year's rally target for the fighting fund has been set at £21,000. This would take us over £¼ million total for the year.

By Nick Wrack

## United Nations 1945 – 1985

# Uniting the nations?

**THE UNITED Nations is celebrating 40 years of existence. In a world of continual wars, many workers in the labour movement have the illusion that the United Nations is a force for global peace.**

Since 1945, the development of world trade and the monopolisation of capitalism has made the world far more economically interdependent than ever before. But there has been no uniting of the nations. Forty years of the UN has brought no solution to the problems of world poverty, hunger and above all, of peace.

Why has the United Nations failed so badly to keep the peace? Why has it now got a worse record than the pre-war League of Nations?

The delegates to the

By Roger Shrives

the battle is fought out even more ferociously for markets, spheres of influence, areas for capital investment and new victims to plunder for resources.

This is reflected in the horrifying growth of armaments spending. Hitler's rearmament programme half a century ago appears minute compared to today's crippling arms bill.

Rationally, the world powers would not spend on average a billion billion

"restimulate" sections of US manufacturing industry after the recession of 1979-82 through increased arms spending. Recession has made "normal" markets very limited; country after country finds its productive capacity hugely under-used. Many are turning to the production of arms, soon to be scrap metal.

Global war has been avoided for 40 years, but this is not due to the UN. The reason has been the very precarious and dangerous balance of power between Stalinism and the capitalist powers, particularly the USA. Russian troops and Chinese troops could march through Europe and Asia respectively within days in a conventional war, so any major conflict would rapidly develop into a nuclear war. This would destroy all life on earth. There would be no machinery, no labour power to exploit, no markets, no "spheres" of influence and no profit.

The "super powers" are like performing seals balancing the world on their noses. Workers cannot rely on this lasting forever. The balance depends on the class struggle. Already, despite the dangers, the superpowers are committing thousands of billions of dollars to building a first-strike capacity.

At the same time, the sickness of world capitalism is increasing the desperation of the capitalist powers. The struggle for markets between Japan, the USA and Europe could itself grow into a cause of war were it not for the more important general contradiction between the USSR and the West.

If the working class do not

pounds in less than two years on weapons of death. This money could transform the globe in a few years, making the deserts bloom and feeding and clothing the hungry and poor, if it was put to productive use.

Some of Japan's trade rivals must have looked with envy at the increase in productivity Japanese capitalism has achieved post-war by only spending one per cent of its GNP on arms and investing much of the rest in manufacturing capacity.

But today the arms race has become an end in itself. Reagan has been trying to

United Nations are not high-minded peace-loving individuals; they are representatives of their own national capitalisms and national Stalinist bureaucracies. And just as in the class struggle on a national scale, this can not produce permanent peace.

Capitalist crisis is making the struggle fiercer nationally and internationally. The miners in Britain won three great victories in 1972, 1974 and 1981 but the ruling class were forced to come back again to grab back any gains and try to smash the NUM. On the international arena,

## Turning a blind eye

**THE UNITED Nations ignores all violations of legality when the big five of the Security Council are involved.**

Reagan can ignore human rights and the right of nations to self determination in trying to destabilise Nicaragua. He can commit acts of state terrorism, support the bombing of PLO bases in Tunisia and acts of outright war in hijacking an Egyptian airliner and violating Egyptian and Italian air space.

### Trench warfare

The Iran-Iraq war has killed hundreds of thousands. Thatcher's claim that the UN is a "forum for nations of all sizes" is nonsense. The great powers can look on complacently at bloody trench warfare in small weak poor countries, selling arms, often to both participants.

Reagan, Thatcher and monopoly capitalism back the crime of apartheid in South Africa because of their huge resources tied up in minerals, especially gold.

Their reaction to the slaughter of blacks is to "reason" with the regime and hit them hard—with a feather.

The UN produces huge screeds weekly condemning apartheid and the South African occupation of Namibia—but no action. Any government sanctions against South Africa will be as ineffective as those against Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) under Smith.

On the other hand workers' independent sanctions, by dockers, seamen, transport workers, etc would have an immediate effect.

Reagan and Thatcher, representing their own imperialist interests hypocritically speak of "defending democracy" as Reagan did at the UN. They criticise the totalitarianism in Russia and Eastern Europe, quite correctly. But they back the military-police dictatorship in Chile, the bloody rule of Mobuto in Zaire (instituted by UN intervention in the '60s and later propped up by French imperialism).

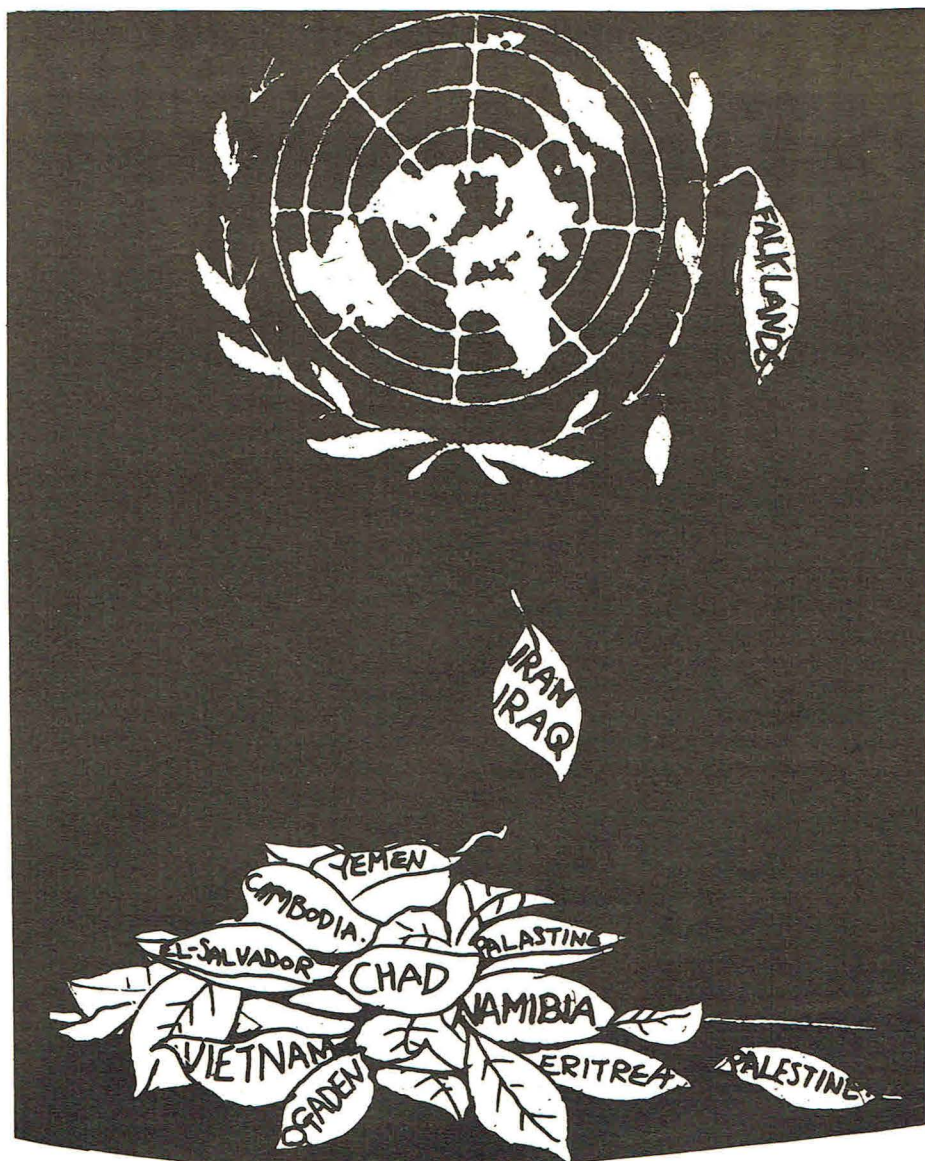
Reagan's nerve in referr-

ing to Russian interference in Nicaragua is breathtaking—from a government whose CIA agency has bombed Nicaraguan ports and gives arms and supplies to ex-dictator Somoza's backers. These cut-throats murder and rape in their attempt to restore the old dictatorship overthrown by the people.

### Workers' power

All this is done without any declaration of war. When Nicaragua appealed to the World Court the US government announced that they couldn't accept the decision. They decide! When fundamental interests are at stake, the imperialist powers turn to force.

The hope of the pacifists that the lion and the lamb can lie down together are in vain. The UN cannot come up with a solution in any of the major trouble spots. The working class nationally and internationally can only rely on their own strength, solidarity and socialist consciousness to solve their own problems and those facing the world.



Cartoon reprinted from Militant May 1982.

stop them, the possibility of uncontrollable military dictatorships taking power to settle accounts with the workers will increase.

### Colonial expeditions

The United Nations can sometimes settle small disputes where the major powers' interests are not seriously at risk. But the major problems are left totally unresolved.

The United Nations' only major actions have been in colonial expeditions such as the Korean war where US and other imperialist powers' interests were hidden under a UN flag and in the Congo in the early '60s. Otherwise the veto of the five Security Council members makes the UN impotent. The four great

powers of 1945, USA, USSR, Britain and France and the new great power China can veto any UN action.

What chance do international "rules" have against these major vested interests? Reagan in the last few months alone in Nicaragua and the Middle East has violated all the precepts the UN discuss at enormous length every session.

Capitalism and Stalinism can bring no peace, only an endless round of small wars, mainly in the ex-colonial world. And it will not stop there. The attacks by Thatcher and Reagan on the British NUM and the American union PATCO show a distinct heightening of the class war. The present juggling act, the forty-year relationship of forces which has stopped major wars erupting

in the richer countries can not last forever.

The possibility of military-police dictatorships in countries like the USA and the horrendous threat that would bring of a devastating final war puts a huge responsibility on the shoulders of the working class of the world to build a socialist alternative.

### Constructive plan

As Leon Trotsky pointed out, the only road to peace is through a socialist federation of the world, using the massive resources which science puts in humanity's hands to constructive rather than destructive use. Workers who want to see peace and real unity of the nations can not rely on the UN. The fight for peace is a fight for socialism.



The Gulf War between Iran and Iraq has left hundreds of thousands dead.

## Marxist Study Pamphlet No 3

**OUT NOW! *Rise and Fall of the Communist International*, an historic article by Ted Grant, republished for the first time in ten years with a new introduction by Alan Woods, also includes the rarely published article *Evolution of the Comintern* probably written by Leon Trotsky. On sale at the rally for 60p, or order from World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB (add 20p for postage).**

## Collapse of British manufacturing industry

# Economic catastrophe looms

**THE PERFORMANCE of the British economy over the next five years is likely to be so poor that it poses "a grave threat to the standard of living and to the economic and political stability of the nation".**

This was the bleak and drastic conclusion reached by the House of Lords Select Committee in its recent report on the future of the British economy. Produced by leading bankers and industrialists, it dramatically exposes the failure of the capitalist system of production and the monetarist policies of the Tory government.

The committee found that there had been a massive decline in Britain's former economic mainstay—manufacturing. While all major capitalist nations have experienced a decline in the relative share of manufacturing in Gross National Product compared to services, only Britain has suffered an absolute decline. Between 1980 and 1983 the assets and capacity of British manufacturing fell by 24 per cent. And manufacturing remains a key source of production and trade for the UK—constituting 25 per cent of national production, and even more importantly, 40 per cent of trade revenue.

The Lords cited long-term reasons for Britain's manufacturing failure: the concentration until the 1970s on the declining markets of the old British empire; the lack of investment in new technology and capital equipment; and poor productivity.

But they concentrated on the short-term drop in the competitiveness of British industry brought about by high dollar oil prices and interest rates driving up the value of the pound sterling and so pricing British goods out of world markets. As the chart (right) shows, British share of manufacturing exports fell sharply after 1979 along with price competitiveness.

### Disguised

The collapse of manufacturing exports from a £5.5 billion surplus in 1980 to a £4 billion deficit in 1984 has been disguised by a substantial increase in surplus on oil exports to £7 billion in 1984 and a steady growth in the export of services reaching £5 billion. When the traditional deficit on food and basic materials of £7 billion is taken into account, the balance of payments in 1984 was just in surplus.

But the Lords Committee predicts that the oil revenue surplus will start to decline by next year and by 1990 will have completely disappeared, as production falls and oil prices continue to slump.

Can the services sector compensate for the decline in manufacturing and oil exports and so preserve Britain's already weakened place in the world's capitalist markets?

Most services are dependent on the sale of manufactured goods—only 20 per cent of all service sales can be exported directly without being tied to the sale of some manufactures. And so a decline in manufactures must affect service sales as well.

The report discovered that manufacturing adds about three times as much value to its raw components when sold as a finished product than do service processes. That means that for every 1 per cent loss in manufacturing exports, service exports must rise by 3 per cent.

Far from the services sector being ready to take the place of manufacturing as Britain's income



Scottish workers demonstrate in Glasgow in March against the wrecking of manufacturing industry.



Thatcher's vision of the economy of the future? McDonald's hamburger production!

earner, its share of the world market for invisible exports (as they are called) has fallen from 12 per cent in 1978 to 8.5 per cent in 1983—according to the British Invisible Exports Council which also reported recently. That drop in world share is as large as Britain's fall in the share of manufacturing trade!

This council also found that while the number of jobs in manufacturing fell by 2.3 million to just 5.4 million in the last ten years, the corresponding rise in private services (ie excluding employment in public services) has only been 1.4 million. Not surprisingly they concluded: "We are not convinced that either in jobs or foreign income can we actually fill the gap that has been opened up by the decline already seen in manufacturing and the growing trade deficit in manufactures".

The major conclusion that the Lords reach on this evidence is that before the decade is out, the UK will face a serious balance of payments deficit. In fact, the Cambridge Econometrics Group forecast a deficit on current ac-

count of £4 billion by 1988—just at the time of the next election.

A new Labour government will be faced with trying to correct this deficit. If it starts from the premise of preserving the capitalist system, it has two alternatives: either to devalue the pound to try and restore the competitiveness of manufacturing and so stoke the fuels of inflation; or adopt further spending cuts and higher interest rates in order to reduce imports and therefore increase unemployment. The result is likely to be a rise in prices and unemployment—or what is called stagflation.

### Disastrous results

The present Tory government has been following the latter course, as the Lords Committee shows, with increasingly disastrous results. Leon Brittan, the Trade Minister, and the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, are complacently convinced that by driving wages down and relying on a growth in service industries everything will be 'all right on the night'. For these Tory finance capitalists, manufacturing

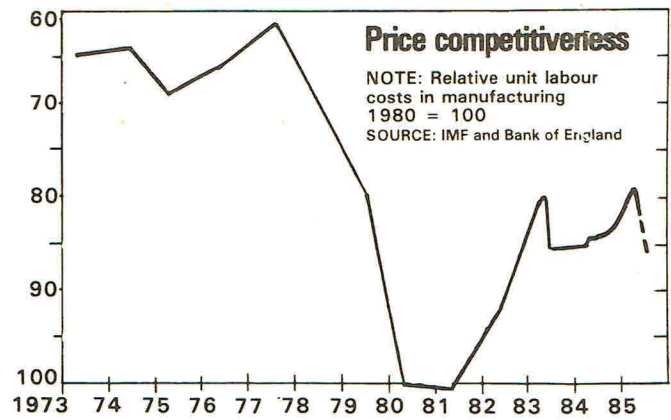
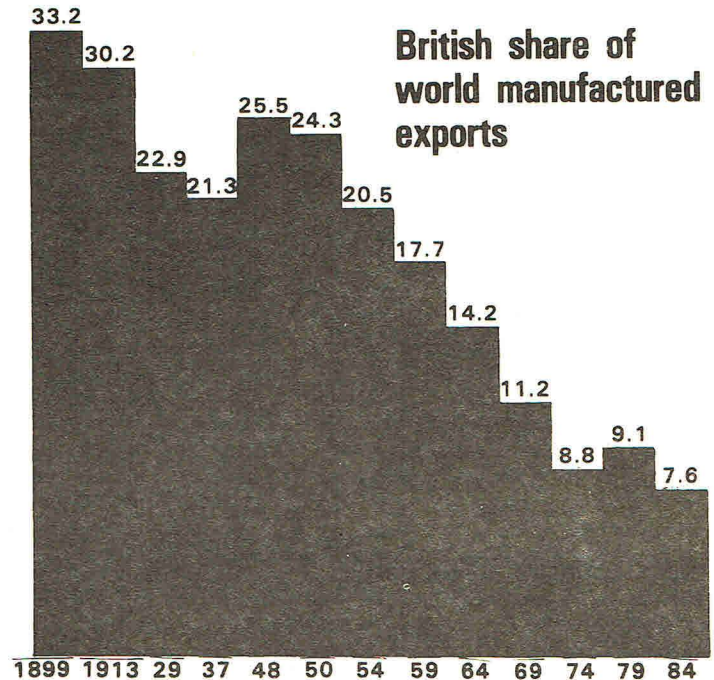


Photo: Rick Matthews (FL) II



The ruins of Lancashire's industry—mills being dismantled in Blackburn and (inset) in Rochdale.

is no more productive than services.

And yet as Lord Weinstock of GEC pointed out in the Lords' report: "What will the service industry be servicing when there is no hardware, when no wealth is actually being produced? We will presumably be servicing the production of wealth by others. We will supply the changing of the guard. We will supply the beefeaters around the Tower of London".

And Weinstock's imagery is no joke. For as we have seen the service sector depends on the productive manufacturing sector for growth—as Marx argued in *Capital* over 120 years ago. As it is, Britain's service sector is growing absolutely, but not fast enough to compensate for the collapse of industrial and oil revenues in the next five years.

In fact the UK's share in financial services has declined from 14 per cent to 8 per cent in the last decade and shipping service sales have collapsed. It is only in tourism that there has been an increased

share of world markets—the Horse Guards and Beefeeders will soon have to hold the whole economy up!

### No answer

Of course the Lords had no real answers to the crisis that they predict for the future—except to urge more government intervention to aid industry through handouts. As the Tory ministers retorted, all their solutions have been tried before and failed.

What the report demonstrates is that the time is fast running out for British capitalism. What is required is a complete transformation of the economic system from one based on profit for a few multinationals and finance houses to one based on planning available resources through common ownership and workers' management of industry and services. Only that can offer a way of avoiding a grim future for Britain's people.

By Bob McKee

Photos: Militant

# Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB

## The Trotsky museum

DURING A recent visit to Mexico, I went to Leon Trotsky's house in Coyocan, on 20 August, the 45th anniversary of his death. The house, now turned into a museum, is a monument to the last years of the great revolutionary.

Together with Lenin, Trotsky was leader of the Russian Revolution in 1917. As Commissar for War he organised the Red Army and oversaw the defeat of the revolution's opponents and the intervention of the world's imperialist nations. Following Lenin's death, Trotsky headed the fight against the rising grip of bureaucracy and Stalinism over the fledgling workers' state.

Expelled from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1927 he was hounded and persecuted by the agents of Stalin, while the capitalist nations shut the

door on this revolutionary. While no other country would give him a visa, Mexico granted him political exile in 1937. From this house, Calle Viena, Trotsky penned damning indictments of Stalinism, and of the reformist leaders of the social democratic movements. He organised a nucleus of cadres to fight for the real traditions of the Bolsheviks, founding the Fourth International in 1938.

He paid for his opposition to Stalin with his life. After a series of attempted assassinations Trotsky was finally murdered by the Stalinist agent Ramon Mercader, who clubbed him to death in 1940.

Reports and photos  
by Vivien Seal



The Trotsky museum. From this house Trotsky organised international opposition to Stalinism, founding the Fourth international in 1938.

Fortifications at the house built after attempts on Trotsky's life. Bullet holes still mark the walls from the assassination attempt by Stalinist agent David Siqueiros, who opened fire on Trotsky with a machine gun. While Trotsky escaped his secretary Robert Sheldon Harte was injured then kidnapped and later found murdered.



Trotsky's study, left as it was the day he was murdered. On the desk are books on fascism, British government statistics, Left Book Club editions and his notes. The room is characteristically spartan. Trotsky scornfully criticised Stalin's high living, contrasting it with Lenin's simple life-style.

The garden monument, where the ashes of Trotsky and his wife Natalia lie. At his funeral, 300,000 workers filed past his coffin.

### Intimidation

Dear Comrades,

At approximately 1.30 pm on Friday 18 October I was in Southampton High Street selling the *Militant*, as we have done for the past ten years.

I was approached by a police officer who informed me I was not allowed to sell and if I continued to do so would be arrested.

I have deliberately obtained written permission, which in my opinion the police are

aware of, which allows for the sale of newspapers. So as I was doing nothing wrong I continued to sell and was consequently arrested.

I was detained for three and a half hours in the police cells and later released after questioning. No charges were brought against me.

I am extremely bitter and can only conclude the action was one of deliberate and premeditated intimidation.

Yours fraternally  
Mike King  
Southampton

### Right to reply

Dear Comrades,

It seems that access to television is here at last. This can be the only conclusion following last Sunday's "Charles and Di show" on "Independent" television.

To counter the terrible (?) press they have been receiving, Charles and Di asked for, and received, a programme to allow them to put

their side of the story. After all it's only fair.

Can we now expect to see Bernie Grant, Derek Hatton and Arthur Scargill receiving the same favourable treatment?

I think not.

Yours fraternally  
Colin Brown  
Motherwell North LPYS

### Never a truer word

Dear Comrades,

I came across the following in a book *3,000 Questions and Answers*. I don't think any word in the English language has a truer meaning:

Q. Why are conservatives called 'Tories' in Britain?

A. Tory comes from the Irish word for robber. The name was first used in the reign of Charles II for the

party which opposed the exclusion of James, Duke of York, as his heir on the grounds that he was a Roman Catholic. It then came to mean the party that stood for the Squire, the high church vicar, the reactionary landowner and the nobility.

Yours fraternally  
Paul Kelly  
Stoke Central LPYS



### A Burke's solution

THE RULING class have come up with two spiffing ideas to help black workers. To give them a greater say in society, the *Burke's Peerage* periodical suggests more blacks being made Lords. Burke's publisher Harold Brooks-Baker goes on to suggest that inner city unemployment could be cut if more families took black servants. At least 20,000 families could afford it he says. "If paying their wages is a problem why not make that tax-deductable? It would cost the Treasury no more than paying them the dole and society as a whole, not just their employers, would benefit enormously with a happier Britain when Charles the Third is King."

### You pay them how much?

THE TORIES are fond of telling us that we're 'pricing ourselves out of jobs'. Yet recently a West German industrialist who negotiates Labour contracts spent a few days talking to some English counterparts and looking at their figures. When he saw the average wage of an unskilled factory worker he asked how such a man could ever afford to take his family to a good restaurant. When told that he couldn't the German remarked that neither he, nor his employees would ever tolerate such a situation. (*Sunday Times*, 20 October).

### Back to the good old days

KEEN ON seeing a return to 'Victorian values' a Halifax firm, AJ Barron was recently found guilty of employing a young girl at night and making her work more than a nine-hour day. The 17 year old worked from 6.30am to 3.45am the next day—a 21-hour day.

## Without comment...

FROM THE *Financial Times* 17 October 1985...

Ken Gill, general secretary of the white collar engineering union AUEW TASS, this year's TUC chairman, and a long-time member of the Communist Party (he was recently expelled for being too hard-line) clearly appeals to capitalists more than to communists.

Last week Gill was the honoured guest at the Works Management dinner in Birmingham, where he made a speech and handed out

awards.

One was to Associated Biscuits, a subsidiary of Nabisco, which had achieved higher productivity with a "reduced and much happier workforce."

Curious; for Gill is not supposed to approve of happiness under capitalism especially after workforce reductions.

But more serious deviations were to emerge. His speech slamming the government for presiding over a manufacturing trade deficit,

and calling for more attention to the manufacturing base, and to engineering training, won praise from management hirelings present.

### Encouraged

Bland Polaine Langley, the PR company for Works Management reports that the audience "used to a confrontational attitude from union speakers" was vastly encouraged by Gill's speech. Ploughing as they do the

hard furrow of promoting efficiency and productivity in manufacturing plants, many of them said later that "they wished more trade union leaders would speak up as he had done."

Does this show that works managers are sliding to the left? Or that Gill is sliding to the right? Or that the Communist Party in Britain is now so far to the right that it throws out for being too left-wing people whom the right-wingers regard as moderate? ■

## Concluding article on the problems facing NUPE

# Left tradition and democratic future worth fighting for

LAST WEEK'S article explained how the threat of privatisation has hit the wages of part-timers, mainly women, and put pressure on officials to accept local deals. This week's relates the employers' offensive to NUPE's political and organisational responses.

A SECRET document of the authority employers of July 1985 stated that: "Most of the sympathy among the employers for manual workers is restricted to full-time employees, and especially full-time men. The earnings of this group have been most eroded, comparative to other groups by, the last few settlements.

"It will not be easy to treat the full-time men more favourably than part-timers because of the various parts of equal pay legislation, but this is an area which we will have take up more vigorously this year."

And: "These authorities are looking for opportunities to relate pay more closely to local labour market conditions, and for example, to pay less than existing rates where possible."

Local authority employers have now formally offered a pay increase for 1985-86. This is being portrayed as being as high as 12 per cent on the bottom grades. However the pay offer is tied to a national job evaluation exercise and to trade union agreement on greater flexibility.

### Bitter experience

Low-paid part-time workers on the lowest grades know from bitter experience that every wage increase is accompanied with cuts in staff and hours. The result: more work and continuing low pay.

As the employers have continued their onslaught on public service workers certain NUPE members have sought to put the blame on the union's left wing.

In several parts of the country witch-hunts have been directed against individual members who support the Broad Left and *Militant*. For disturbing evidence of such activities, see *Militant* 770.

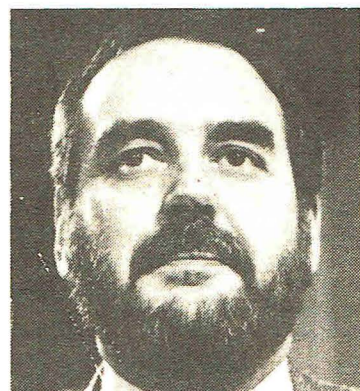
This is a travesty of NUPE's past, present and future. It must be exposed and stopped. First, let us look back at the union's history,

then at some current proposals for NUPE's future.

NUPE's first General Secretary, Albin Taylor, was an active member of the Marxist Social Democratic Federation. His successor Jack Wills was also a member of the SDF. Jack Wills was a strong supporter of independent working class education and helped found the Marxist-orientated Central Labour College.

And in 1920 Bryn Roberts, NUPE General Secretary 1934-62, then a young miner took up a scholarship to the Central Labour College. Bryn Roberts was known for his outspoken and uncompromising left-wing views.

In 1948 *Public Employees' Journal*—edited by Bryn Roberts—devoted an entire page to an article commemorating the 100th anniversary of the *Communist Manifesto*. Marxism has



Tom Sawyer.

always been a tendency within NUPE.

The NUPE Executive Council has produced a discussion document *Time for a Change* suggesting possible changes to the union structure. These revolve around reducing the number of delegates or resolutions at national conference. Divisional Councils would be used to filter resolutions and rule amendments.

These proposals must be decisively rejected. Any step which takes National Conference away from the branches and ordinary rank and file members would be a step backwards.

NUPE's structure was fundamentally changed in 1975 as a result of a project by academics from Warwick University. The



Anti-privatisation picket at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

subsequent rule changes were introduced supposedly to devolve power to the rank and file.

More committees have certainly been established. However many of them are remote from their base and don't correspond directly to employing authorities. There is a tendency for them to become talking shops because of their lack of real power.

Union full-time officials dominate the union's whole structure from top to bottom. At best only a minority of members on negotiating committees are lay members.

And there is a real danger that the EC proposals in *Time for a Change* would—if implemented—make the union more bureaucratic and remote from the members in the branches.

### Women's involvement

Whilst the union has supported 'token' women on the EC and elsewhere through positive discrimination there is a real fear of the involvement of women in the union. The majority of the union's members are women and yet their problems at work have been inadequately considered.

It is significant that all the strikes against private contractors currently are led by women workers. And the union leadership has utterly failed to organise real support for them, or link them together or widen the struggles.

NUPE has had a tradition of being an open and democratic union. The hysteria amongst some of the full-time and right wing lay members about the activities of the Broad Left demonstrates their fear of being challenged.

It has also to be said that the payment of commission to branch secretaries and stewards is a factor holding back the development of the union. Branch secretaries receive 12½ per cent commission on all the subs paid by their members in addition to being reimbursed for postage and telephone calls. The money leads some secretaries to hold on at all costs to their positions and to stifle any opposition.

A proportion of contributions (perhaps 25 per cent) should be retained by local branches to enable them to produce newsletters, organise campaigns, fund strikes and pay for the activities of a union fighting for its members. But no lay officers should be paid thousands



General Secretary Rodney Bickerstaffe, speaking at the TUC.



NUPE pickets at Prestwich Hospital, Manchester. Photo: John Smith (IFL)

of pounds simply by virtue of their union position.

There is however an urgent need for a number of rule changes, the most important of which would be the regular election of all full-time officers. This would help ensure that full-time officers reflected and adequately represented the members' views.

And the wages of full-time officers should not have been allowed to rise well above the average wages of skilled NUPE members.

Alien lifestyles breed alien views. Urgent steps should be taken to bring the wages of officers into line with NUPE members.

Is it any surprise that with determined employers and hesitant leaders union members have been uncertain about launching into bat-

tle. Confidence and leadership is a two-way process.

If NUPE's leaders displayed their confidence in the ability and determination of the members at large they would begin to turn the tide. NUPE could be at the forefront of the battles which must be fought to defend union members.

NUPE has a militant history. It has led and fought some major battles. It has stood out on the left of the movement. If our union is to retain its place as a fighting union its leaders must joint with the rank and file in saying: enough is enough. We will fight—to take on the employers and the ruthless government which stands behind them.

## Fighting programme for NUPE

SUPPORTERS OF *Militant* within NUPE are fighting for a programme of action:

- ★ A vigorous and concerted campaign to protect women part-time workers who have been particularly hard-hit by Tory employers.
- ★ A recruitment campaign amongst the non-unionists based on winning their confidence that the union will fight for them.
- ★ Total non-cooperation and opposition to in-house tenders involving cuts in

jobs, wages, hours and conditions.

- ★ Defence of all national agreements. No local deals.
- ★ Special national delegate conference of the groups now under direct attack to discuss and plan tactics and strategy in launching the national fightback.
- ★ Mass membership rallies in every Division.
- ★ A real campaign to win physical, moral and financial support for the NUPE

strikers in various parts of the country.

- ★ Workers cannot be left to fight battles alone and locally. To develop a NATIONAL response by linking together local issues and struggles.
- ★ To link the local fights to the broad political struggle against the Tory government.
- ★ Total opposition to witch-hunts in the labour movement. Unity is strength!

## INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

# Yorkshire campaign shows closures can be fought

RECENTLY THE press has been full of reports from mining communities, attempting to give the impression that the miners' strike was a waste of time and that no fight is left in the mining communities.

The reality is somewhat different. The Darfield Main and Community Action Group recently lobbied the local council for support in their attempt to keep their pit open.

This was followed by a public meeting attended by over 200 people—all determined to fight.

Even the biased media—in the form of last Friday's *Newsnight* report on Corton-

wood was forced to comment that the atmosphere generated was similar to that of meetings during the strike.

Around £200 was raised for the campaign at the meeting. In the run up to the meeting a local sympathetic film crew were drafted in to compile a video arguing the case for keeping the pit open.

## Video

The video crew visited many of nearby Wombwell's shop-keepers. All of them pledged their support for the campaign.

As the manager of the local travel agents

explained—he'd nearly gone bankrupt during the strike—if Darfield was to shut his business was finished.

In the meeting itself Ian Isaac (St Johns NUM, South Wales) explained the need to go out to the membership and explain exactly what was happening.

Perhaps most significantly two Notts miners from Welbeck colliery pledged their total support for Darfield's fight.

A conference is being called on 9 November, in Birmingham, of all the pits threatened with closure. Darfield Action Group lobbied the NUM special delegates conference for sup-

port. We appeal to all miners etc to support this event.

The miners are not defeated. The slogan when the NUM went back to work earlier this year was: "The battle goes on".

## Leadership

The very fact that at least three pits—Bold, St Johns and Darfield have resisted all the NCB's lies and intimidation shows that if a proper lead is given, despite the hardships of 12 months on strike, miners and the communities are still prepared to fight. As one young miner said, "if it was right to fight in Feb 84 it's still right to fight now."

Letters of support and donations to DMACAG, Marsha Marshall 17 Rimington Road, Wombwell Barnsley (Tel. Barnsley 757704).

By Andy Hodgkinson

# Kitchen sink to picket line

MARSHA MARSHALL, secretary of both the Barnsley Miners' Wives and the Darfield Main and Community Action Group, spoke to Simon Duerden for *Militant*.

How did you get involved in the women's movement during the strike?

I supported the strike 100 per cent. Both my husband and son were active pickets, but at the beginning I felt isolated. I didn't seem to have a role to play.

Luckily I got invited to a women's meeting in Barnsley. I was surprised at the numbers. After that I spoke at meetings asking other women to help us and it rapidly snowballed from there.

I appeared on TV debates, went around raising money. In fact working in the kitchens was only a very small part of what we all did.

What has happened to your Womens' Group since the strike finished?

Obviously the numbers involved have dropped away. Unfortunately some women have gone back to the kitchen sink. But we're still fighting.

We raise funds for the jailed and sacked miners. We are attempting to help the women at Greenham Common, they supported us during the strike. But we also help other workers who are

in struggle.

I don't think we should ignore the fact that many ordinary workers did support the miners, even though their trade union leaders did not. Just recently, for example, the Darfield Action Group received £13 raised by some steelworkers.

What impact did the miners' wives' movement have on the strike?

Firstly, without it, it wouldn't have lasted so long. But above all I think we all began to realise that women did have a voice.

## I don't live in a palace... but I don't intend to lose it

Women speakers were often more effective than men. We spoke from the heart. If you end up on the dole, it's the woman who has to pick up the pieces and hold the family together. So you think the strike changed men's and women's attitudes towards each other in the pit communities?

Before the strike many miners were male chauvinist pigs. But many women found that the strike opened their eyes. They found there was more to life than the kitchen sink. We became politically conscious.

I'll give you an example. Before the strike women

wouldn't have been included in the pub discussions. That's not the case now, I'm frequently asked my opinion by miners. I suppose in that sense the strike has given us a measure of equality.

The issue of pit closures continues to threaten the industry. What do you think can be done to stop the NCB?

A lot of people are taking redundancy to pay off the debts run up during the strike. Arthur Scargill has proved himself to have been 100 per cent correct over the

NCB having a hit list. The NCB don't even deny it.

It needs another strike to stop the pit closures programme. But for that we must have a united union. We've got to stand up and fight again—its the only way.

Can you tell us about the Darfield Main and Community Action Group?

It was set up to fight against the Coal Board's plans to close Darfield Main pit.

We've got the full support of the NUM. But we also have people from the local community involved.

So far we've produced a broadsheet called *Not the*

Coal News, which we've distributed around the pit and the local area.

We've raised hundreds of pounds through street collections and donations. We lobbied Barnsley Council for support.

On Saturday Darfield Main had by far the largest contingent on the NUM march against pit closures in Barnsley, which was partly due to our work.

We've organised a public meeting to protest against the NCB. We're hoping to have a video made and we're hoping to organise a demonstration in the Wombwell area.

Do you think you will succeed?

I hope from the bottom of my heart that we do. Not just for Darfield Main, but for every other pit that is or will be threatened with closure.

I'll work until the last breath in my body to save the pit. I've lived in this community all my life.

Every male member of my family has been a miner. My father lost his leg in the pit.

I don't live in a palace but we're happy enough. I don't want anymore out of life—but I want what I've got and I don't intend to lose it.

The Darfield Main and Community Action Group can be contacted at: 17 Rimington Rd, Wombwell, Barnsley. (Tel Barnsley 757704).



## DARFIELD MUST FIGHT!

AS WE have seen in the past few weeks some of the pits threatened with closure have decided not to oppose the Board's plans. This is for a number of reasons. The NCB tactic of playing one went round saying that the jobs saved for them would be taken by workers from Yorkshire Main

If an agreement was not reached immediately. Rumours like these, and many more, including the fact that the future at Cortonwood, even through the review procedure, looked very unstable, must have played a big part in the decisions of that branch.

This example does not, of course, apply to Darfield. We have one of the best. If not the best case as far as reserves on the face and producing coal within fifteen minutes of the surface. Even in the West seam, with two faces we can produce coal at a rate lower than that laid down by the Board recently. £20 million has been spent in developing the pit and it would be more than justified if the Board were allowed to throw that kind of money away and close a pit which could be producing well into the next century.

We have all been fortunate enough to benefit from the circumstances and mannae employed by the Board. Even as recently as last week, with a little help from the local men should go to their Branch and demand the withdrawal from the review procedure. This, they said, would secure a better future!

Ask yourself one simple question. How long have the Board been worried about our future? Rumours concerning the future of this face have also been conveniently brought to our attention. These rumours, all the hope we might have had in developing our men in Cortonwood and Yorkshire Main, by deciding to fight the closure, squandering all the Board's money and put both in the Branch offices to tell us the true facts when and only when they become known.

Over the past few months we have seen the closure of

We must attend Union meetings and help unite the Branch to fight for what we all deserve - A JOB A UNION AND A DECENT WAY OF LIFE.

## PUBLIC MEETING Save Darfield Main



Women's support groups lobby NUM conference over call for right to affiliate.

## Miners move left in North East

THE HUGE majority of Durham miners who have remained loyal to the National Union of Mineworkers have voted into office a new left wing general secretary, Dave Hopper.

Former secretary of Wearmouth Colliery, Dave Hopper topped the poll in every lodge in the Durham Area.

The press have been trumpeting the news of the Durham-based scab union, the Colliery Workers and Allied Trades, mainly mechanics and ancillary workers. They have ignored this victory.

## Agent

Dave Hopper was elected on a solid left ticket and strike stalwart Davy Guy was elected agent. This is the best answer to those who say that the miners are totally dispirited.

Hopper's victory will be welcomed by activists in the labour movement locally and nationally. A speaker on



Dave Hopper.

Many Labour Party Young Socialist platforms, he is an avowed opponent of witch-hunts in the Labour Party.

By Bob Stothard

## Northumberland

IN ANOTHER significant election result, *Militant* supporter Kevin "Maff" Maughan from Ellington Colliery, the largest pit in the area, has been elected to the Northumberland Area Executive.

## National bus strike—Leeds report

PAUL MATTHEWS, shop steward, Leeds bus workers, TGWU 9/12 branch (personal capacity) spoke to Mark Richardson about Leeds bus workers' vote for strike action.

IT ALL started with a meeting between the national trade union leadership in July and Nicholas Ridley, the Tory Transport Minister.

The trade unions were asking for guarantees on pensions. Ridley stated that the government would not under any circumstances, give a guarantee. The choice would be to accept one of

the insurance companies' proposed options or nothing at all.

This meant special circulars being put out by our National Passenger Transport Trade Group, then in accordance with union policy, the union would call for industrial action.

The Labour Group on Leeds City council have applied to the secretary of state for control of local bus services when de-regulation comes into effect.

## Council

If the city council succeeds in gaining control of local bus services then our pensions will be safeguarded. My brothers and sisters who work for the National Bus Company will not have this safeguard.

So the Leeds stoppage is partially solidarity action with other bus workers.

The Transport Bill will divide workers, there will be hundreds and maybe thousands of separate bus companies in direct competition with one another. This will have the effect of setting worker against worker.

Only through a united campaign of solidarity action throughout the bus industry can we defeat the Tory attacks.

## Profits and politics at Silentnight

**CONFIRMATION** that the four and a half month old strike at Silentnight Beds in Lancashire has devastated the company, has come with the publication of their half-yearly accounts.

Silentnight Holdings have just announced a loss of £820,000 between February and August this year. This compares with a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million in the corresponding period last year.

The Silentnight group's turnover plummeted by over 15 per cent from £37.75 million to £32.01 million, and there was a trading loss of £555,000. With an estimated tax bill of £160,000, the total loss after tax is expected to be £980,000!

When these figures were published on Tuesday, 22 October, Silentnight shares dropped 4p to 29p. In June, Tom Clarke had told shareholders that he anticipated that the company would break-even at the half-year point. Now the interim dividend will not be paid to those shareholders!

Managing director Arthur Beattie has admitted that the group's first-ever loss is mostly attributable to 'industrial unrest' at Silentnight Beds, the largest factory in the group. Workers can now see for themselves who it is that makes the profits for the company.

Although Silentnight are now desperately trying to replace a skilled, experienced workforce of 500 with unskilled scab labour—including, it is rumoured, YTS trainees—the company is now faced with intensive blacking by T&G drivers, dockworkers and other trade unionists. In addition, Silentnight products are now being blacked by the Cop—the largest retailer of Silentnight beds. As blacking intensifies, Tom Clarke must realise that his firm will soon be terminally ill if he refuses to capitulate to the strikers. And what answers is giving to angry shareholders?

Answers should also be sought from John Lee, Tory MP for Pendle, about correspondence between him and Ken Murray, former Joint Group Managing Director of Silentnight Holdings. As far back as 1979, Ken Murray wrote to

By Linden Stafford  
(Skipton Labour Party)

John Lee, commenting on 'the apparent lack of urgency in withdrawing payments to the families of strikers'.

He continued: "The Conservative government is bound to have some problems with the unions, if only out of bloody-mindedness, and the lack of finance available to the families of the moderates would help stiffen their resolve to get back to work and influence the militants... From a strategic point of view this particular move could very well be taken earlier rather than later".

John Lee replied: "You're absolutely right, we must get through our more controversial legislation in the early stages of this Parliament, and I trust that you will agree that we really 'bit the bullet' with the abolition of the Price Commission. My impression at the present time is that we are going very cautiously on the whole trades union front, but I take your point about withdrawing payments to the families of strikers".

As happened with the miners, plans were systematically made years in advance to sabotage the miners' strike of 1984-85. Similarly, the Silentnight bosses and their Tory friends were discussing, in 1979, plans to crush any resistance by their workers—the denying of social security payments to strikers' families. It is clear that Silentnight management were already prepared then for industrial action, since they intended to drive down wages and conditions, and were depending on the Tory government to help to crush an ensuing dispute.

Discovering the depths to which the bosses and Tories will sink will only strengthen the determination of Silentnight strikers to continue their fight until a victory is won.

# Teachers face Tory splitting tactics

**TORY EDUCATION Secretary of State Keith Joseph is trying to break the teachers' pay campaign by dividing the unions.**

He is taking unilateral action to reduce the 16 places on the Burnham negotiating committee held by the most militant union, the National Union of Teachers, to 13.

## 'Unholy alliance'

The Tories hope the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers will combine with the National Association of Head Teachers to do a deal over the head of the NUT.

It is believed that once the change goes through, the Assistant Masters and



NUT rally in Manchester last week calling for full claim.

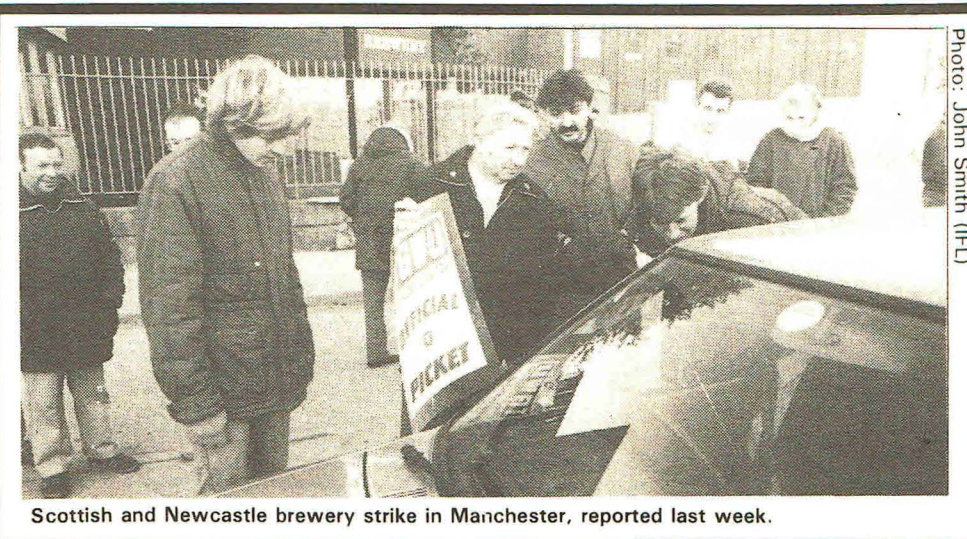
Mistresses Association will hold the balance with its four votes, and that the AMMA would not block such a deal.

Many teachers, including members of the second largest union, NAS/UWT, would be ex-

tremely bitter if a deal was made which fell far short of the claim for which they have waged a nine-months struggle.

Rank and file pressure must be exerted immediately throughout all the teachers' unions. Re-

ject this cynical Tory manoeuvre and organise now for a stepping up of industrial action, including an immediate one-day national strike, to win the full claim.



Scottish and Newcastle brewery strike in Manchester, reported last week.

## Firefighters' 'eyesight' dispute spreads

**FIRE BRIGADES Union members in the fire brigades covering the whole of the North West are now operating emergency calls only action.**

The dispute, which originated in Manchester, is about the unfair application of eyesight standards to FBU member Bernard Lees, leading to the local authority attempting to dismiss him on medical grounds. (see *Militant* 771).

Greater Manchester FBU members already taking action were joined last week by Lancashire and Cumbria. By Monday of this week

Merseyside and Cheshire had decided to take supportive action.

The speed of response by firemen in the North West in defence of a single union member is not only a sign of the injustice of the original dismissal, but also an indication of the intention of union members in the fire service to fight to defend all jobs and conditions.

This answer in action to the weary-willies of the Labour movement will no doubt be taken seriously by those in the Tory party keen to save money by decimating fire service jobs, following

abolition of the metropolitan authorities and the GLC early next year.

The sentiments of the FBU members in the area were summed up by a member from the Macclesfield branch in Cheshire who said after the branch had voted unanimously to take action: "We will have enough to fight about next year, we could do without taking on a Labour authority now".

By Mick Eaves  
(Cheshire FBU)

## East Kilbride recognition battle

**EAST KILBRIDE Fibrmat workers are on strike for union recognition.**

The company, a subsidiary of the US giant Hollinee, has sacked them all and brought in at least six production workers from its own factory in West Virginia USA.

The dispute began when the workers found major discrepancies in the calculation of National Insurance contributions and other elements of their pay so they felt they'd be better represented with union

recognition.

After seeking the assistance of ACAS and Scottish Development Authority who had made a £2 million grant to the company, and being rebuffed continuously the men had no alternative but to withdraw their labour. The management then immediately contacted the local job centre for 42 new replacements ad four days later sacked the men.

The company denied they had sacked the men on a number of occasions. The

employees had to hear it first from the local police. Letters informing the workers their contracts were terminated were received four days after the initial call to the job centre.

The strikers received the back up of the Transport and General Workers Union and has now been taken up by the officials and is likely to receive the support of East Kilbride District Council.

By Jim McGowan  
East Kilbride Labour Party  
Young Socialists

## Build APEX Broad Left

IN A by-election recently for a vacancy on the Scottish Area Executive Committee of APEX a Militant supporter, Bill Blackstock, polled just over a thousand votes to come in second. This is a remarkable achievement in spite of being unable to mount any effective campaign, as campaigning for office was prohibited under union rules.

The regulation covering this was rescinded at the union's 1985 annual conference and guidelines now have been agreed for future elections commencing with the area and national elections of early 1986 for which nominations are already underway.

### Rule change

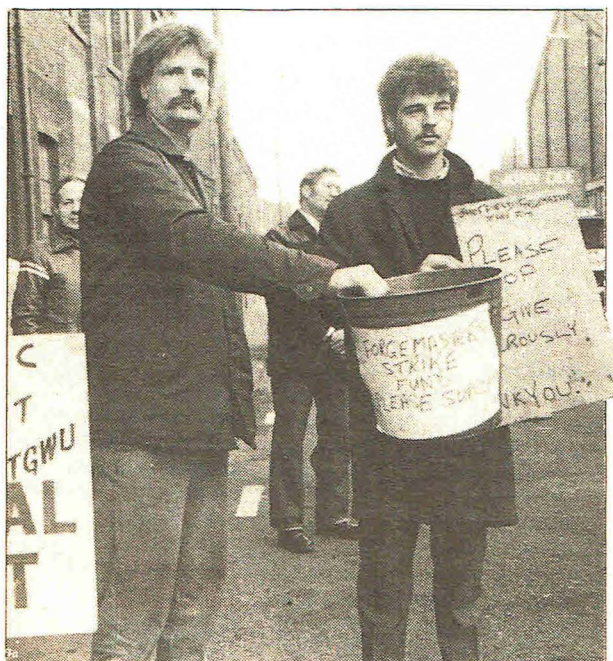
Under this rule change it is accepted that the existence of groups is a fact of life and thus paves the way for the first time for an open and democratic Broad Left.

This change is of major significance for APEX and could help produce a significant shift to the left, if an effective campaign is launched.

Voting for the main national positions (but not the general secretary who is appointed for life) has been changed from a branch vote to an individual ballot of members.

All APEX members active on the left should be looking to get involved in such a Broad Left to ensure such a shift is achieved.

By an APEX member



Sheffield Forgemaster steel strike against management attempts to break union. See report last week.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

# Action to crush apartheid

**THE BOTHA regime in South Africa has never been more under fire. They face the determined opposition of angry youth in the black, Asian and 'coloured' townships, and of the growing independent workers' movement.**

But Botha still has some friends in the world, noticeably in the boardrooms of the City of London and the Tory cabinet. They silently applaud as the apartheid regime moves to extend its state of emergency even further—into the Cape Town area.

The police hope to give a fig leaf of 'legality' to such actions as last week's ambush of young opponents of apartheid in the coloured township of Athlone near Cape Town, (see *Militant*, 25 October). British big business looks on complacently at the daily shootings by police. These are likely to become worse as the regime want to increase the police force by a quarter to 56,000.

## Tories protect profits

The Tories don't demand that the Pretoria government 'renounce all violence' before they talk to them as they do with the African National Congress or the PLO. After her 'victory' at the Commonwealth conference where the Tories insisted on only 'tiny' sanctions against apartheid, they now want Foreign Secretary Howe to lead the Commonwealth talks with South Africa so that things do not go 'too far'.

Why do the Tories back South Africa? Their racist ideas are well known in Britain through immigration laws and numerous other decisions. But the Tories back the apartheid regime (with occasional mild requests to tone down their policies) because of British capitalism's colossal fortunes tied up in the South African goldfields, which depend on apartheid measures for their profits. Money talks and gold screams loudest of all. The Tories

will never support effective sanctions and they will ensure that the United Nations does as little as possible too. Reagan and Thatcher's talk of reforms in South Africa did not last for long.

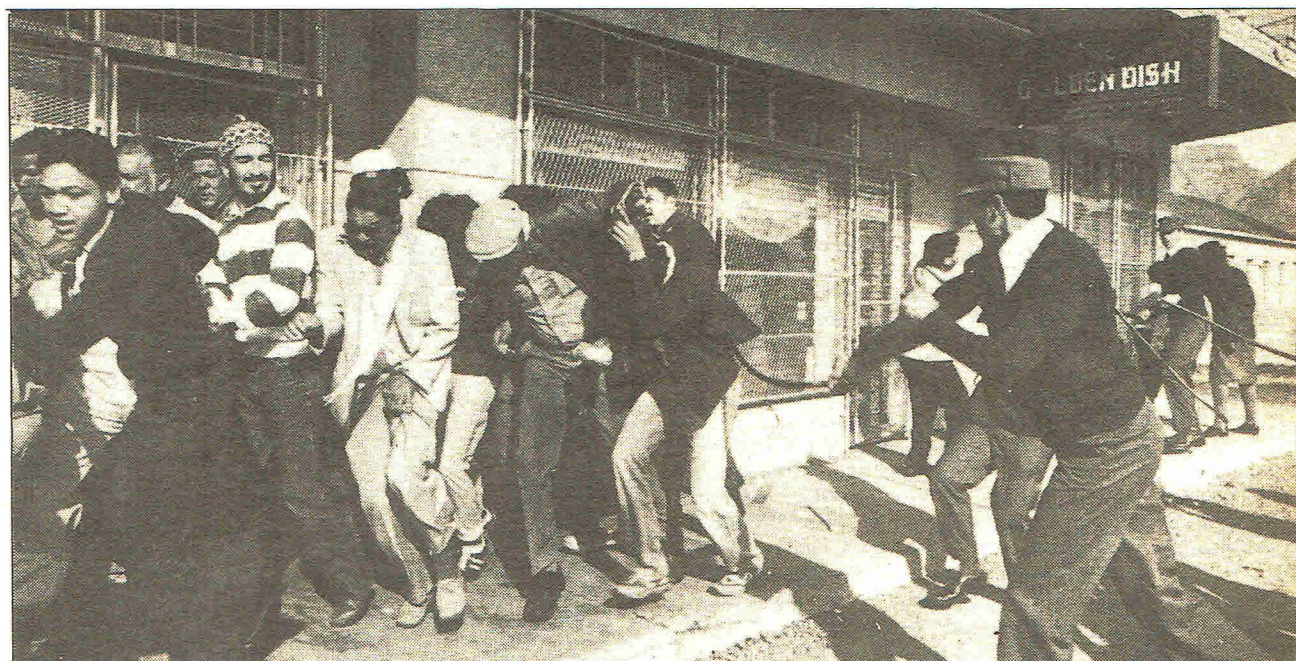
The labour movement must show the way in fighting apartheid, following for example the lead of Southampton dockers who this summer refused to handle production equipment needed by a South African arms company.

On 30 November half a million workers will come together in a new union federation in South Africa, uniting the South African NUM, unions in the FOSATU federation and a number of other unions. The growing unity of the workers' organisations is being forged in testing battles against the bosses and the state.

Nationwide campaigns against the injustices of the system, based around the strength of South Africa's black unions, could unite workers and youth in the townships, build confidence and form the basis for a socialist alternative to apartheid and capitalism.

Workers in Britain will back all struggles against apartheid, including effective sanctions which can isolate the regime. But they will also fight to build links with the unions in South Africa and give support to their battles. While Britain's bosses back Botha, British workers must use their strength and solidarity to help crush apartheid and capitalism.

March against apartheid Saturday 2 November. *Militant* sellers should pick up papers at Speakers' Corner at 11am.



Police attack in a South African township. The labour movement must support all initiatives such as international trade union action, to isolate the apartheid regime.

## Tory justice

**ON MONDAY** the most expensive secrets trial in British history ended when the last of the defendants was found, like the rest, not guilty.

It became clear during the 'Cyprus spy' trial that the RAF men accused had been forced to sign confessions under extreme duress, and even that some had been 'brainwashed'. Their Army and RAF interrogators have been accused by MPs of using Gestapo-style tactics.

This week also saw the release of damning new evidence suggesting that the six men jailed for the horrific Birmingham pub bombing 11 years ago were—as many in the labour movement have argued—innocent of any crime.

Besides now disputed scientific evidence, the men were sentenced to life imprisonment after 'confessing' to the crimes in police custody. During the trial all six described how the confessions had been beaten out of

them by police. An examination by doctors was ordered, but it came too late—the six, moved to Winson Green prison, had been beaten up by prison officers so it could not be proved if they had been attacked by police during interrogation.

## Democratic control

The *World in Action* investigators revealed that responsibility for the bombing had now been claimed by the Provisional IRA who say they knew that the six in jail had not been involved. At the time they denied responsibility. There could be no better example of how terrorist bombings provide the state with the opportunity to

exploit the rage of workers at the bloodshed caused and clamp down on innocent people.

These few events demonstrate that the law is not some perfect independent arbiter. The British legal system is part of the capitalist state machine designed to serve the interests of the ruling class. It is increasingly proving incapable of defending the rights of the individual.

The labour movement must fight for democratic control over the police and the legal machine to ensure real justice. Otherwise a lot more innocent people will end up behind prison bars, some of them for the rest of their lives.



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