Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

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**South Wales NUM officials sacked—**

See page 5

# Thatcher's Britain 1985—



The arrest of Joss Smith.

Photo: Keith Pattison.

"I'VE NEVER been so frightened in my life. I used to respect the police, but never again". said retired miner, Joss Smith, from Easington, Co Durham, after his first experience of 'law and order' in Thatcher's Britain.

Joss, who has plastic discs in his spine after a severe back injury was arrested and accused of harrassing the police. Joss' street edges onto the rear entrance of Easington pit which police have been using to escort the handful of scabs who walk or slither in and out of work (others from outlying areas are bussed in).

Last Wednesday a mass picket greeted these scabs as they left work, the noise brought Joss and his wife Dot from their back yard to see what was happening. After a few minutes they turned back but were confronted by a line of police blocking their way. Joss explained that he only wanted to go home which was less than ten yards away. Dot was allowed through but Joss was arrested and pinned to the wall by four policemen.

Two of the police then frog-marched him to the van, twisting his right arm up his back despite pleas from Dot. The majority of the pickets had already left, those remaining were at first stunned but the shock quickly turned to anger.

An inspector realising a clanger had been dropped and sensing the anger of the crowd had Joss released but with the proviso that if he shows his face outside his house whilst there is a picket on he will be arrested. He has in effect been placed under curfew from 12.30 to 1.30 each day for the crime of wanting to go home.

Joss because of his ordeal, is now having difficulty in sleeping. "Every time I close my eyes, I see myself being dragged down the street". His right shoulder is still extremely painful. Is it any wonder that in Easington along with many other mining communities the police are seen not as defenders of 'law and order' but as an occupying force. Joss intends to make an official complaint but is very doubtful about its outcome. As for the scab he has since rejoined the strike along with ten others in the last week, which meant by Friday there were only 52 scabs out of a workforce of over 2,400 at Easington.

**By Norman Hall and Brian Gregory**
(Easington Colliery)

# Miners fight on

## NACODS must call national strike

**FOR MANY Scottish and Yorkshire miners, the coal strike is now more than a year old. For the others it has lasted eleven and a half months.**

What an answer to those fainthearts who moan that no one is prepared to stand up to the Tories! The miners' struggle is an inspiration to every worker.

### Tories split

The dispute is still at a critical stage. The Tory attempt to whip up a stampede back to work has failed. In the strike's heartland it is still solid—87% out in Yorkshire and 98% in South Wales. Thatcher's bloodthirsty stubborness is backfiring in her face. In the MORI poll in the Sunday Times, the numbers considering her to be a capable leader are the lowest since June 1981. Labour are now neck and-neck, with a swing of 8% from the Tories since the general election.

There are deep splits within both the Tory party and the Coal Board over tactics. Thatcher and MacGregor are still determined to crush the miners; Walker and Hunt, the junior coal minister, want negotiations. Any weakness on the union side will play into Thatcher's hands. If the miners stand firm , however, these divisions will become more and more bitter.

The leaders of NACODS have a key role. It was a turning point in the dispute when NACODS turned away from strike action last year. To head off a strike, Thatcher and MacGregor went further than they had wanted when they agreed to the independent review procedure.

### Prepare for action now

It is clear now that this procedure was never intended to be more than a sideshow to the butchery of the coalfields in the centre of the stage. NACODS should announce immediately that they will take all—out strike action in defence of the pits. Their action could be decisive.

But miners are naturally drawing back from placing too much hope in the NACODS leaders, only to see these hopes dashed by their unwillingness to take the logical next step of fighting alongside their fellow mineworkers. The NUM itself must go on the offensive, with a call for a one-day general strike.

The Tories can be thrown into disarray if the NUM boldly seizes the initiative, turns to its millions of supporters and sympathisers in the labour and trade union movement and names the day for all out action. Prepare for action now. Take the message to every workplace, with local conferences of shop stewards, factory gate meetings and joint action with the left leaders of other trade unions! If the NUM gives the call, the working class will respond.

**By Brian Ingham**

## BLOC

**Broad Left Organising Committee**

**1985 BLOC Conference 23 March Manchester Free Trade Hall.**

**Apply for delegates' credentials—each National Broad Left/Trade Union organisation can send up to four delegates (please include names and addresses of delegates on separate pieces of paper).**

**£3 per delegates—cheques made payable to 'BLOC'. All cheques and forms to be sent to: BLOC, c/o George Williamson, 11 Sutton Place, London E9 6E8.** *See page 14.*

Militant

## Politics of crisis

FOR A full week, a stream of vitriol has been directed against Liverpool City Council and its Deputy Leader Derek Hatton, both in Parliament and the press. It is a serious warning to those in the labour movement who underestimate the lengths, and the depths, to which the ruling class will go to destroy opposition, particularly any section which shows itself capable of effective defence of working class interests.

During the past year the media campaign against the miners, and Arthur Scargill in particular, has reached new depths of viciousness and dishonesty. In the trial of Clive Ponting we had the incredible sight of a government demanding that a civil servant, paid by and theoretically answerable to the public, be imprisoned for refusing to lie to public representatives in parliament.

The descent to gutter politics was again displayed in Patrick Jenkin's personal attacks on the elected representatives of rate-capped councils seeking to preserve jobs, amenities and services for millions of people.

The junior servants of the ruling class have no qualms about joining in the jamboree of 'unparliamentary', not to mention 'undemocratic' behaviour in the new atmosphere of strife-torn Tory Britain. The hysteria of the Liverpool Liberals reached parliament last week with the cowardly use of Parliamentary privilege by Liberal MP David Alton in an attempt to assassinate the character of Derek Hatton. Alton demanded a police investigation into councillor Hatton's relations with a property company in Speke, Liverpool, knowing full well that he could not be sued. His refusal to substantiate his insinuations or to repeat them outside Parliament should be sufficient evidence of Derek Hatton's honesty in repudiating them.

Every day that followed saw further shots in the campaign of vilification, in the local press and the House of Commons. The real object of the exercise emerged at the end of the week when Tory Minister Jenkin made a statement on the property development and another threatening to block Liverpool's house-building programme. It was an attempt to launch a pre-emptive strike at the council he fears most.

The descent into the gutter that we have seen during the miners' strike is not the product of accident or whim. The rabid hysteria of the Thatcherites and their small-time equivalents in the SDP and Liberal Party is rooted in their growing terror of the chasm which is opening up before them with the decline of the economy and resulting polarisation of the classes. As *Militant* has outlined in past months, whatever the outcome of the miners' strike—Britain will never be the same again. A class consciousness and solidarity, a hatred of Toryism and capitalism unknown since the 1930s is being forged once again.

Given the failure of the leadership of the Labour Party and TUC to reflect, even dimly, that new reality, it has been in the local councils, where left wing leaderships have emerged in many parts of the country, that resistance to Tory policies has focussed.

The breaking of government spending targets by left-led local authorities is a double affront to the Tories. They dearly wish to destroy the influence of the left in order to guarantee a tame right wing labour movement incapable of resisting them. Thatcher and others also seriously believe their butchery of public expenditure will bring final victory over the problems of the British economy (personified in the working class's enjoyment of small welfare and social security provisions). The illogic and continuing failure of their monetarist beliefs is detailed on our centre pages this week. Nevertheless, these two issues are the roots of their determination to destroy the remnants of local democracy.

The Tory strategy in their rate-capping campaign is to break the resistance of local authorities by intimidation, breaking down the unity that has been achieved and picking them off one by one. They know the rock upon which that resistance stands nationally is Liverpool City Council.

The emergence of a powerful, representative District Labour Party, rooted in class politics and exercising democratic control over the Labour Group on the council has become a model for many other Labour Parties. The socialist policies and the strong influence of Marxism, which inspires leading figures like Tony Mulhearn and Derek Hatton, represent a challenge to the Tories and, it has to be said, to some leaders of the Labour Party. Liverpool exemplifies, a little in advance of other parts of the country, the processes taking place in Britain today. Thus it has become a special bogey for the Tories, already feeling the ground trembling beneath their feet.

But if they believe their gutter tactics will weaken Liverpool's fight, they are badly mistaken. They will not succeed because a large section of the Liverpool working class, as a result of Labour's socialist policies and campaigning work, understand the stark choice before them—to fight for jobs, homes and services or to stand by and let the Tory blitz go on unchallenged.

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# Gutter camp not stop Liv

**THE SCURRILOUS and underhand methods of the Liverpool Liberals reached new depths last week when David Alton MP attempted, from the immunity of the House of Commons, to link Labour's Derek Hatton with corruption scandals. It is part of a concerted assault by all Labour's opponents on the fighting socialist council. This feature deals with the concentrated campaign which has been waged to try to destroy one of the Tories most effective opponents in the local authority battle, and Liverpool Labour's determined response.**

**TONY MULHEARN, President of Liverpool District Labour Party, and a City Councillor, spoke to *Militant* about the smears, the attempted character assasination of Councillor Hatton, and how it will affect the campaign to defend the city's jobs and services.**

The District Labour Party particularly condemned the shameful attack by Liberal MP David Alton, who used Parliamentary privilege to hurl mud at the Labour Party and Derek Hatton in particular. The campaign by the Tories and Liberals is compounded by the *Liverpool Echo* mounting the most rabid anti-Labour campaign I've ever seen.

In any struggle, as in war, the first casualty is truth, and a lie is half way around the world before the truth has had time to put its boots on. Sadly any campaign of character assassination leaves mud sticking where Labour does not have the resources to spell out the truth. But one of the advantages of the Liverpool Labour Party and labour movement is that we've developed the campaign to such a high level that we are in a position to go to the local authority workforce and the wider working class of Liverpool to explain the truth.



Tony Mulhearn—President of Liverpool District Labour Party.



Derek Hatton—the target of character assasination.

One of the features of the *Echo* campaign is that I believe it's gone so far over the top that it's now becoming counter productive.

The local press has always been anti-Labour, castigating the so-called extreme leadership of the Labour Party in the city. But in the last three months there has been a far more concerted and escalating attack on Labour.

A delegation went down to see the editors of the paper on Friday to protest in the strongest possible way at the conduct of this campaign.

The power of the press is an extra obstacle to overcome, but I believe our campaign will succeed. Workers are conscious of what is taking place. The press campaign has hardened their resolve. It is in the wider population that the job of counteracting these press lies has to be done.

We will continue our house building programme despite Jenkin's directives. I think he's preparing the way for a pre-emptive strike against Liverpool. Jenkin has an almost paranoic obsession with every action Liverpool council takes, but we will continue to create jobs and build houses.

I believe the Labour Group will be overwhelmingly in favour of supporting the tactic of setting no rate on 7 March.

The campaign will continue after 7 March at an even higher level. If other councils fall into line with the Tories it will make absolutely no difference to the position of Liverpool City Council.

What is at stake here is a national Tory policy which would mean a minimum of 64,000 local authority workers being made redundant. Even if other Labour councils implement cuts, we would appeal directly to the workforce. We're forging links with other local authorities nationally, and the shop stewards movement in Liverpool is developing links with other local authority shop stewards. It is entirely possible that the way stewards have organised in Liverpool can be developed nationally. They can then put pressure on their own leaders to ensure that councillors don't vote for redundancies.

I believe other local authority workers will be saying to their leaders: "Liverpool proved it can be done, we'll do the same". I am absolutely confident of that.

## Jenkin blocks housebuilding

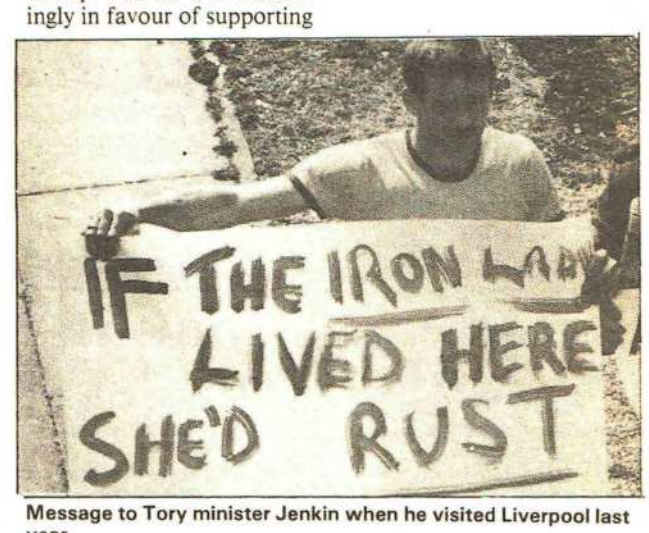
"I HAVE never seen housing conditions the likes of these I have seen here today", gasped Patrick Jenkin in Liverpool last year. This year the Tory Environment Secretary is doing his best to make sure conditions stay like that.

He has threatened to invoke a clause in the 1980 Local Government Planning and Land Act, never used before, to force the city council to stop building new council houses. Under the act he can compel the council to get his consent for any new contract or direct labour project over a certain value.

Liverpool's record since Labour took power is second to none. 1,057 houses were build in 1983/84 and in 1984/85, 1211 are either built or under construction. Yet thousands still live in deplorable conditions and 15,000 building workers are unemployed.

Jenkin gave the council 14 days to assure him that they will not exceed the "legal limit" for capital spending. He claimed that they were heading for a level £25-£27 million above the limit for 1985/86. To chop that amount off the budget would mean a drastic cut in the number of new houses.

Jenkin is reneging on the pledges given last year. "There is no doubt at all," says the council's Finance Chairman, Tony Byrne, "that he gave a verbal promise of £130 million for the capital programme." Jenkin now calls this agreement "mythical".

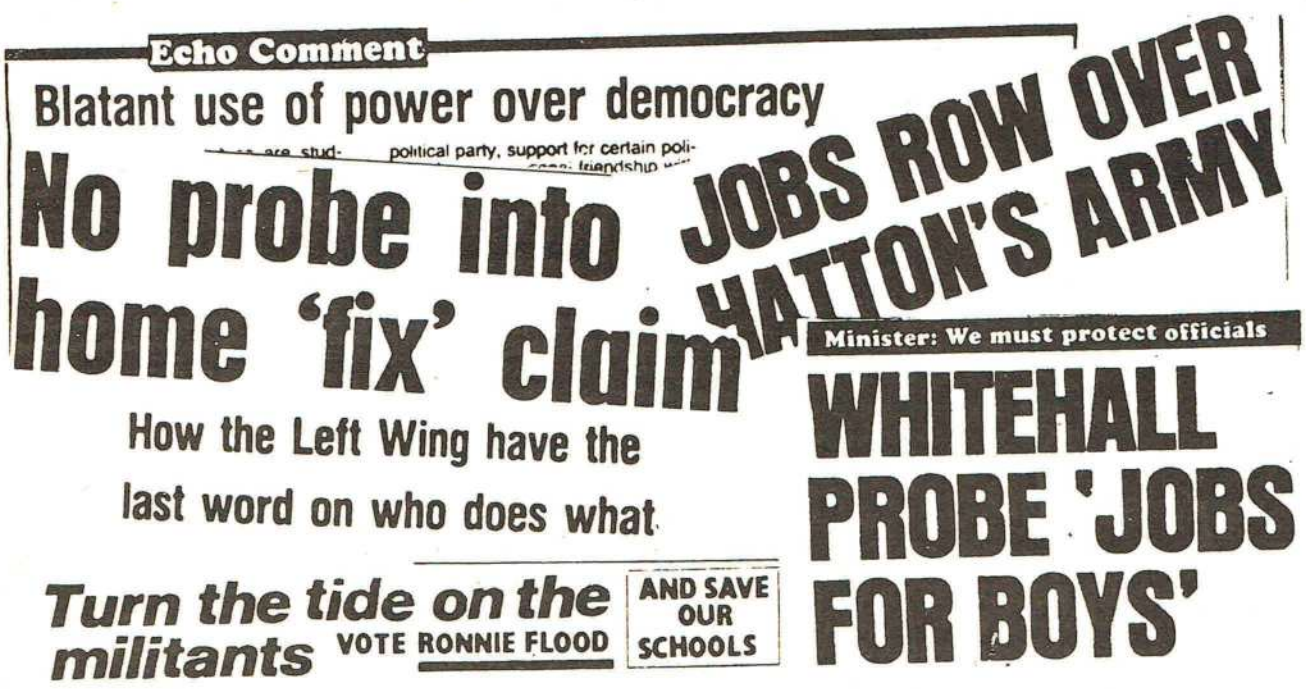



Message to Tory minister Jenkin when he visited Liverpool last year.

Despite Jenkin's assurances that he is not "in any sense picking on Liverpool", Tony Byrne says: "The government is seeking vengeance for the humiliation they received at the hands of the people of Liverpool last year."

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# Tories and Liberals hatch Smear Alliance


Echo Comment

Blatant use of power over democracy

No probe into home 'fix' claim

JOBS ROW OVER HATTON'S ARMY

How the Left Wing have the last word on who does what

Minister: We must protect officials

WHITEHALL PROBE 'JOBS FOR BOYS'

Turn the tide on the militants VOTE RONNIE FLOOD AND SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

## Background to smear story

**THE DIFFERENCES within Liverpool District Labour Party and Labour Group over the proposed ASDA development in the Speke Enterprise Zone, which the Liberals have tried to portray as a corruption scandal, is in fact a serious debate; firstly over socialist tactics towards such imposed Tory schemes and secondly a difficult technical debate over the likely effects on trade and employment in surrounding areas in this specific case.**

**We print here an edited extract from Derek Hatton's contribution to the DLP debate, a debate which, to emphasise the extent of democratic control in Liverpool Labour Party, resulted in the Executive's support for the scheme being overturned and some comments on the issues from District Labour Party Secretary and Speke Councillor, Felicity Dowling.**

**I WILL firstly outline for the benefit of the District Party, because of some of the lies in the press, exactly what happened in the discussions over this development.**

I was approached approximately nine months ago by the firm concerned (Merseypride—ed) and also by UCATT, a joint approach, about the possibility of going for a Superstore in the enterprise zone. At that stage no name was mentioned of the superstore and at that stage my initial reaction was to be opposed to it.

At every single discussion that happened after the initial representation, Tony Hood and John Nelson, Chairman and deputy chairman of planning, were involved. From then on in, USDAW and the trade unions which had any sort of interest whatsoever were invited along to every meeting.

That should cut across the lies and distortions, that somehow secret meetings were happening behind closed doors. Those meetings were open and within the best traditions of the labour and trade union movement, where all sections who had an interest were involved.

It wasn't until after the first three meetings that the name of ASDA even came up. From the moment that ASDA became involved as an option the G&M were involved, because except for the Widnes store every other ASDA store in the country has complete and total G&M membership. The final meeting we had was chaired by Tony Hood, in the presence of officers, where ASDA came along and made their presentation. That's very briefly the chronological order in which things happened.

**EVERY COMRADE in this room has a principled opposition to Enterprise Zones. But as three different comrades have mentioned, it is analogous to the Manpower Services Commission schemes we have debated in the past.**

I can remember a whole number of us even prior to '79 when the Labour Government was here, making impassioned pleas against MSC projects. And again in '81 and again in '83, every time a new MSC project comes about. But once they are there, what we have said in this party is, let's make the best of it, let's get the best trade union organisation and let's get the best conditions.

The reasons why UCATT, the T&G, the G&M and the EETPU have come in and given their support to the Speke development is very simple. It's because a thousand jobs can't be ignored, that a £1 million rate can't be ignored and that a £20 million development with all the ensuing implications cannot be ignored.

Could you imagine, if last week the EC (of the DLP-ed) had gone against it, could you just imagine if leaks were to get out that we were going to speak against it, what the headlines in the *Echo* would be? 'Labour Party rejects a thousand jobs!'

The Liberals and the *Echo* are so opportunist they'd come in on anything we were doing and go the other way, so let's not kid outselves that there's any sense or consistency in their argument.

Also, as has been said there is no evidence to support the idea that jobs would be lost as a result of this development. To take a thousand jobs now is an absolute certainty. To say we are going to lose jobs is a possibility. It's a gamble justified by the terrible plight of Speke.

The second point is the trade union commitments we've got. The G&M have had an assurance from ASDA, in black and white under a national agreement, that they will have a closed shop and nomination rights, (to jobs-ed) which is something they have got in no other store in the country.

The T&G and UCATT have been given assurances as far as the building work is concerned. If we rejected planning permission and it went to appeal (to the government-ed) and we lost it, as every bit of evidence suggests we would, ASDA would have no worries at all about flying in the face of all the assurances they've given to us and to the unions.

There is no way that this party can now turn round and ignore the Tory onslaught that started over this. We are in a position where we have got to say that yes, we still oppose enterprise zones, but we also fight for the best deal for the working class just as we do in the MSC schemes, indeed capitalism itself, whilst continuing the political struggle to end them.

### Felicity Dowling:

THE DEBATE at the District Labour Party produced a very close decision against the development. There is hefty trade union support and as a Speke councillor the prospect of a thousand jobs and new hypermarket is obviously very attractive for an area with massive unemployment and a run down shopping centre with a very poor range of goods.

On the other hand there is clearly genuine concern about the effect it could have on other shopping areas along with a rather mechanical interpretation of our general policy position of opposition to Enterprise Zones and all the other Tory gimmicks. Though I must say it was a bit hard to swallow when two of last year's council renegades who voted with the Liberals and Tories started lecturing us about sticking to principles.

What's most annoying is that the Liberal and press campaign produces so much noise about one proposed develpment when the miracles that have already been achieved in Liverpool are ignored.

Our Urban Regeneration Strategy has already made great improvements in Speke and elsewhere. Old blocks of flats have been knocked down and houses and bungalows built.

LOCAL PAPERS the ***Liverpool Echo*** and ***Daily Post*** have run a non-stop campaign against the city council over the past three months, closely echoing every smear of the Liberals and Tories. Any opportunity to raise doubts about the honesty and efficiency of the council have been seized.

Allegations of favouritism in employment practices have been levelled at leading councillors and trade unionists when they are in fact carrying out part of Labour's public policy of involving the trade unions more closely in avoiding discriminatory employment policies. Unsubstantiated and unproven allegations of interference with a housing application were blazoned against an individual councillor.

The council's right to employ the candidate it considered best qualified for the post of Race Relations Officer was ignored and the protests of a vocal minority, cynically used by Labour's opponents, given the full press treatment. Even the cost of keeping a 16 year-old in council care was turned into a scandal. Liberal demands for enquiries into Labour's alleged abandonment of proper procedures, even Derek Hatton's attendance allowances, have been Liverpool's daily news diet for months.

## Union backing

**LIVERPOOL Council's workforce has been giving its answer to the Liberal/Tory smear alliance over the past week or two with resounding votes for a 24-hour strike in support of Labour's refusal to implement Tory cuts.**

- ★ **The Housing Department EETPU/AUEW Direct Labour Organisation voted by 298 to 2.**
- ★ **GMBATU branch 218, the flaggers and paviors voted by 350 votes to 2.**
- ★ **TGWU drivers, voted 150 to 0.**
- ★ **GMBATU branch 24, 200 to 0.**
- ★ **GMBATU branch 200, the road sweepers and bin men, voted 750 to 3.**
- ★ **TGWU and UCATT in the DLO voted 1,000 to 0.**

## District Party and MPs back Hatton

**"This DLP condemns the campaign being conducted against the Council and Party and particularly the McCarthyite campaign of character assassination against Derek Hatton, instigated by Alton and other Liberals and Tories, aided and abetted by the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo and the national press...**

**"The real objectives of which are to discredit the Party and undermine support in the forthcoming campaign to defend jobs and services from the attacks of the Tories."—Passed unanimously by Liverpool District Labour Party.**

**Motion put to the House of Commons by six Merseyside MP's: "This House deplores the use of parliamentary privilege instanced in the Motion on Speke Enterprise Zone, Liverpool, Asda Hypermarket development, standing in the name of the Member for Liverpool Mossley Hill (David Alton-Ed); further deplores the use of innuendo and smear tactics in making unsubstantiated allegations against Liverpool's Deputy Leader and others, which typifies the political bankruptcy of Liverpool Liberals; considers the linking of councillor Hatton, and the suggestion that his actions are compatible with proven criminals, under parliamentary privilege, to be contemptible and utterly inconsistent with normal standards of conduct of honourable Members; and therefore demands, in supporting councillor Hatton, a man of proven impeccable character, that these allegations be made outside the House."**

Signed: *Bob Wareing MP (West Derby); Bob Parry MP (Riverside); Terry Fields MP (Broadgreen); Eddie Loyden MP (Garston); Eric Heffer MP (Walton); Allan Roberts MP (Bootle).*



## Gordon Bennet writes—

**WHEN IS an election not an election? When it's in Nicaragua of course—or at least that's what Mrs Thatcher seems to believe. Last Friday she took an hour off from wrecking the British economy to lecture Sergio Ramirez on democracy. Mr Ramirez was recently elected as vice-president of Nicaragua and is a very popular politician in his own country (which is more than can be said for Mrs Thatcher).**

**In a nutshell, the bargain basement Boadicea explained to Ramirez that she was concerned about the arms build-up in Nicaragua and criticised the Sandinistas for 'giving support to suppression'. What's more, Her Regal Superfluousness went on, future relations with Her Kingdom depended on those naughty Nicaraguans cutting back on the amount of arms that they receive from foreign governments and jolly well making some progress towards establishing 'genuine democracy.**

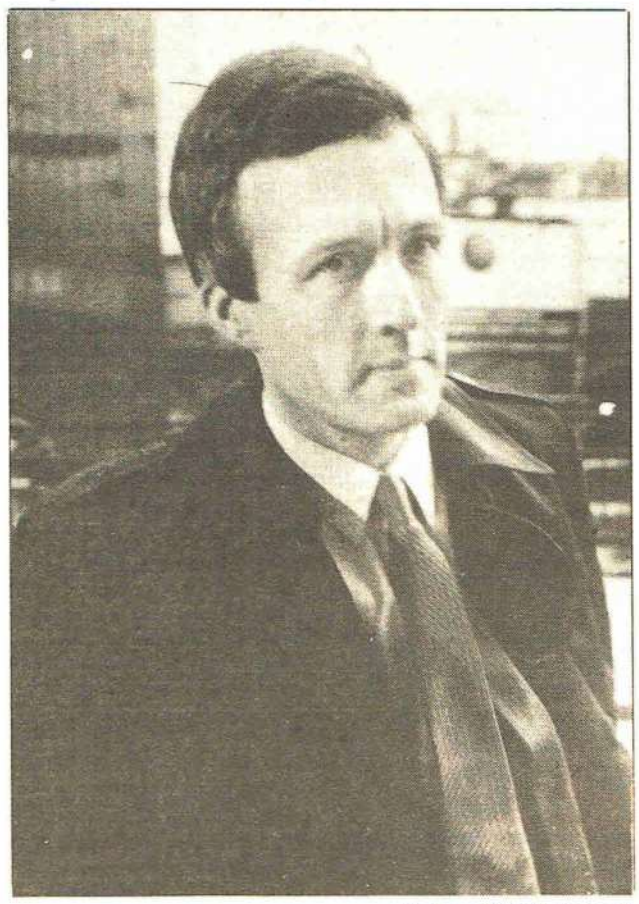
**Thatcher has conveniently forgotten that before the Sandinistas overthrew the Somoza dictatorship, Nicaraguans had never had a free election, or in fact any kind of election at all. I'm all in favour of 'genuine democracy', but I can't remember her ever directing lectures on the subject to the generals who rule the mosaic of military-police dictatorships that plague Latin America. She only discovered the 'fascism' of the Argentine junta after they'd blotted their copybook over the Falklands.**

**Her attacks on the Managua government for 'giving support to suppression' become a sick joke when you count up all the arms contracts signed by her government and the butcher Pinochet. It seems that Mrs T holds to our view that countries like Chile may be dictatorships but at least they're *'our* dictatorships'.**

**The Tory leader has the bare faced cheek to command the Sandinistas to stop buying arms from abroad. Of course, she doesn't mention that one of the countries selling arms to Nicaragua is our ally and neighbour—Mitterand's France! More importantly, does she really expect Nicaragua (or any other country come to that) to stand idly by while they are subject to raids from groups of CIA-financed mercenaries intent on mass murder and sabotage?**

**Thatcher and the septuagenarian halfwit Reagan are rapidly becoming a sort of Bonnie and Clyde double act—running international protection rackets. 'Listen Sergio, you need our help—otherwise things could get broken, ports could get mined, know what I mean?'**

# Ponting trial rebounds on Tories



Clive Ponting - found not guilty

Andrew Wiard (Report)

**THE PROSECUTION of Clive Ponting was blatantly political and has blown up in the government's face.**

Last summer it was ministers, notably Heseltine, who demanded prosecution instead of just allowing Ponting to resign. Ponting only confessed to leaking the documents after he had got a promise he would not be prosecuted.

It was Thatcher's press secretary, Bernard Ingham, who stated that the government hoped the case would be taken by a severe judge. This was only a jest, he said, but nevertheless he got his wish; Justice McCowan presided at the trial.

Before the trial began, the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, implied in a radio interview that Ponting was guilty. At one time last Wednesday, Mc Cowan wanted to stop the trial and direct the jury to convict. He was pursuaded not to, but his summing up left little doubt of his views.

The jury was the one rogue card, but everything possible was done to try and get them to bring in a guilty verdict. Although Ponting was not charged with handing over documents of national security, an atmosphere close to a treason trial was created. The jury were vetted. Parts of the trial were held in secret, and sensitive documents about the *Belgrano* sinking were introduced and the jury sworn to secrecy.

## Guilty verdict

The judge told them that they should bring in a guilty verdict if they found that Ponting's actions were detrimental to the interests of the government, as the interests of the state and the government were the same. The jury disagreed. As Ponting stated afterwards: the jury's verdict "means that the way defence ministers conducted themselves in the early part of 1984 was against the national interest."

He had pointed out that ministers, notably John Stanley, had tried to mislead Parliament by ordering two draft replies for Parliamentary questions—one truthful, one not—so that ministers could pick and choose which answer to give. None of this was on "national security" grounds or to save lives, just the political necks of ministers who since the *Belgrano* sunk had been misleading Parliament.

The response from the Tory right-wing to Ponting's acquittal has been predictable. Tory MP John Stokes thinks: "the result must put into question the selection of juries in London".

The labour movement should demand the immediate sacking of John Stanley and Michael Heseltine for their role in the Ponting case. It must demand the repeal of the Official Secrets Act and it must actively campaign for public documents to be made fully available to the public. It must call for a full public enquiry into the sinking of the *Belgrano* and the subsequent cover-up. As long as this government remains in office, no-one's rights are safe.

**By Colin Barber**

# Sam Bond assaulted

**LAST FRIDAY, 8 February, Sam Bond, Head of Liverpool City Cocucil's Race Relations Unit was physically attacked by two men who entered the municipal offices.**

Sam Bond has stated that he and a colleague were punched and kicked by two men who forced their way into the office of the council leader. Two secretaries who were in the room at the time say they were terrified when the two men began beating Sam Bond and smashing furniture.

Since then the shop stewards responsible for the department where the attack took place have come out and condemned the violence and have demanded greater security from the council. They have also passed a resolution condemning the tactics that are being used against Sam Bond and have called on NALGO, to withdraw their support for the sporadic picketing that has been organised by the council's opponents.

## Blatant lies

The council's opponents are mainly organised through a body styling itself the "Black Caucus". The members of this group held a virtual monopoly on the City's "Race Relations" jobs and their opposition to the council is largely based on the fact that they wanted one of their own members to be appointed to the post. They have attempted to justify their opposition to the appointment with a scurrilous campaign of blatant lies and distortions about Sam Bond himself and the policies of the City Council. Every one of their allegations has been completely refuted.

Their campaign against Sam Bond has failed to attract any support from black workers and youth who are looking to the council to take decisive action to tackle their problems, rather than follow the example of other councils who have based their so-called anti-racist strategy on simply handing out a few "token" jobs to middle-class blacks.

Already scores of blacks from all sections of the community have come out in support of the City Council. Sam Bond himself has been inundated with phone-calls and letters of support from blacks who have called on him to "stand firm" and carry out his job. The overwhelming balance of feeling among blacks in Liverpool is that Sam Bond should be given a chance to put his programme and policies into action.

The City Council is determined to implement its anti-racist programme and will not be deterred from doing so by this latest outrage.

**By Delroy Williams**

# Tory minister's racist past

PREDICTABLY, the Tory press tried to present the contemptuous statements of Junior Employment minister Alan Clark—who described blacks as coming from "Bongo-Bongo land"—as a 'slip' and a 'gaffe'.

They seemed more concerned that the comments of this minister, incredibly in charge of race relations (!), had been leaked to the press.

But his remarks weren't a one-off slip of the tongue. They are in keeping with his reationary, racist views. The January issue of *Searchlight*, the anti-fascist magazine, chronicled some of his other statements:

★ In 1972 shortly after his selection to stand for Plymouth Sutton he said immigrants should be told: "You cannot come into this country because you are not white."

## Bans 'unfair'

★ In 1981 he complained to the Home Secretary that it was not fair that National Front marches are banned while "young blacks damaged shops, terrorised the white population, shout objectionable slogans to the monarchy and try to provoke the police."

★ In 1982 he called for increased recruitment to the police to deal with the "gangs of 50 young blacks looting shops in broad daylight."

During the last election the Tories attempted to woo black voters (remember 'Labour say he's black, we say he's British?). The fact that this character with his weird fantasies about race can rise to a ministerial post, show the Tories' real bigoted attitudes towards black and Asian workers.



Photo: Barrie Spice

**OVER 40 people lobbied the Mansfield Labour Party Executive last Thursday to protest against the possible expulsion of *Militant* supporter Paul Shawcroft and Notts striking miner Graham Naylor. Striking miners from four pits were represented on the lobby together with one Womens Action Group, and members of NALGO, USDAW, T&GWU, CPSA, and GMBATU.**

**The executive decided to report to the General Committee that they were not satisfied with Paul Shawcroft's 'explanations'. This was because he admited organising a *Militant* public meeting in support of the miners, and refused to give an undertaking not to sell *Militant* in public. From the comments at the executive meeting, it was clear that this was a poiitical attack on the ideas of Marxism.**

**Letters of protest to: JT Pearson, Mansfield CLP Secretary, 9 Hammerwater Drive, Warson, Mansfield, Notts.**

**Copies to Paul Shawcroft, 36 Hollington Way, Mansfield, Notts.**

# Crews won't move coal

THE GOVERNMENT and the Coal Board claim they are having no difficulty in moving coal stocks to power stations. Two incidents from the North East show they are wrong.

The crew of the collier M.V. Wilmington, believed to be TGWU members, refused to handle coal bound for a power station in the South East. In Blyth dock workers have refused to load a CEGB charter vessel with coal.

**By Bob Stothard**

# Welsh pit officials sacked

**THE REPRISALS by the National Coal Board against striking miners have taken a sinister new turn. Four officials of the St Johns Lodge, in Maesteg, South Wales have been sacked for alleged "intimidation" of a strike breaker.**

They are Ian Isaac branch secretary, Phillip White compensation secretary, Ron Roberts vice-chairman and Vic Sedgebeer former COSA secretary.

This attack is clearly connected to the recent court case outlawing mass picketing at five collieries in South Wales, the most solid area in the strike. Every effort is now being made by colliery managers, scab working miners and the judiciary to intimidate lodge officials and frighten them away from defending and developing the strike, and particularly from approaching strike breakers.

The St Johns officials have been singled out because of their militant reputation. The NCB also hope to cut away a key part of the lodge leadership in preparation for the early closure of St Johns.

## Appeal

The St Johns lodge had particular success in bringing the number of strike breakers from an initial 17 down to six. Their method has been to appeal in a fraternal fashion to those who have crossed picket lines urging them to return to the strike. These allegations of "intimidation" stem from a strike breaker called Roy Callender. The four officials went to a meeting with a local taxi firm with which Roy Callender was associated.

They went at **his** request to reassure the firm that the lodge was in no way organising any campaign against them. After this meeting the officials spoke to Roy Callender and appealed to him in the normal way to rejoin the strike. He agreed. Three days later, the local manager wrote to the officials stating that he was in receipt of information alleging that these officials had intimidated a miner who had returned to work.

In the subsequent disciplinary hearing at the colliery on 6 February, the lodge officials emphatically denied a statement by Roy Callender that they had said they would take pressure off the firm if he stayed away from work. That statement was sheer fabrication.

## Accused by manager

Subsequently, the manager acted as prosecuting attorney, judge and jury and decided to dismiss these four officials, one of whom had 33 years service in the NCB behind him. The manager chose to ignore the fact that Ian Isaac, lodge secretary, had been the subject of threatening phone calls from Roy Callender. On one occasion he had phoned the local strike centre saying he would smash him (Ian Isaac) in the face, because of damage done to his car. The local lodge denied any knowledge of any damage done to his car.

At one stage in the hearing Vic Sedgebeer asked the manager if he really believed that he, Vic Sedgebeer, could have been involved in intimidation. The manager merely laughed. Ian Isaac interrupted to say this was no laughing matter—men's jobs were at stake.

Unless massive immediate pressure is brought to bear the NCB could feel free to sack any lodge official who approached strike breakers with a request that they join the strike. These four St Johns Lodge officials have refused to accept their notices. They have received messages and phone calls from throughout the South Wales coalfield all repeating the same idea: there must be no return to work until these four officials have been reinstated.

The St Johns lodge is launching a campaign on behalf of its victimised leaders. Their message is this: these four men must have their jobs back before any reutrn to work deal is signed. All those sacked by the Coal Board for activities associated with the strike must have their jobs back. No victimisations!

**By Brian Ingham**




Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)

Despite freezing weather, hundreds turned out to picket Neasden power station as part of the South East TUC day of action.

# Days of action lift spirits

## Sheffield

TRADE UNIONISTS in the Sheffield area have shown their solidarity with the miners. On Saturday up to a 1,000 marched in support of the miners, while on the 'Day of Action' on Monday many joined NUM picket lines.

Called by Sheffield Trades Council and No. 28 District of the Confed unions, workers from the Shardlows, Davy Mckees and Sheffield Forgemaster engineering workers, NALGO, Women Against Pit Closures and Sheffield Centre Against Unemployment joined over 20 NUM picket lines.

Outside the Coal Board's Pension office, trade unionists joined the handful of white collar COSA workers who have been on strike for 11 months.

While this action is applauded many felt the call for action was half hearted. If there had been a clear call for a 24-hour strike many more groups of workers would have taken action. For example rail workers would have responded to such a strike call, as they did in January, but there was a reluctance to support a token gesture.

At a rally on Saturday a call for strike action was made by Vice President of Yorkshire NUM Sammy Thompson and striking COSA member Barbara Drabble said:

"We never wanted you to hold our coats while we got into the ring and fought for you—we wanted you in the ring beside us, fighting together."

## Yorkshire

TRADE UNIONISTS and Labour Party members joined miners' picket lines in Yorkshire on Monday.

At **Denby Grange** the pickets were joined by LPYS members and regional representatives of COHSE. At **Sharlston** NUPE and COHSE banners joined Wakefield Trades Council. As they waited for the scabs to arrive, one picket was bemused when a police sergeant told him: "While ever you're stood there we won't bring them in." When it eventually filtered through to the police that this was the pickets' general idea, pickets were then pushed out of the way.

At **Prince of Wales**—where miners' spirits were already lifted when they learned that five strike breakers had come back out on strike—refuse workers with their branch banner joined the line. During the pushing against the scabs they showed they knew how to deal with rubbish.

Several Labour MPs joined the line at **Cortonwood**, while the best attended pickets were at **Weldale**, **Fryston** and **Glassloughton** collieries, where members of Leeds and Hull Trades Councils took part. A march from Fryston Miners club attracted over 2,000.

## London

PICKET LINES were swelled in London on Monday when workers took industrial action in response to the call by the South East Region TUC.

One of the best results was at **Fawley** power station in Hampshire. 150 joined the picket and a third of the station's manual workers refused to cross. Contract workers at the nearby Esso refinery also took action.

Despite the severe cold hundreds joined pickets of London power stations: 600 at **Tilbury**, hundreds at **Neasden** power station, and a thousand marched through the Park Royal industrial estate and then picketed the **Taylors Lane** station. Mass pickets were also held outside the DHSS headquarters, Price Waterhouse and NCB headquarters in central London.

However, the action would have been spread wider had there been a clearer and more publicised lead from SERTUC.

**● The Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions has called a national demonstration in solidarity with the miners on Sunday 24 February, assembling at 11.30am at Hyde Park to march to Trafalgar Square.**

# Ollerton woman jailed

**THE WIFE of a striking Notts miner, Brenda Greenwood, is the first woman to have been sent to prison in connection with the miners' dispute. She was sent down for a week at Risley for not complying to the bail conditions imposed on her—not to demonstrate at Ollerton pit during the dispute. On Tuesday 27 November she was arrested for obstructing a police officer. During the prosecution evidence the lawyer said that the right to picket is a privilege, although she is not breaking the law, she has no legal right to picket!**

**She was standing on the picket line at Ollerton on her own with two official pickets across the lane next to two policemen. She was shouting to the scabs: "You're earning blood money, men have died to protect your jobs, men have lost lives to protect your jobs". These three statements, according to the police, were liable to cause a breach of the peace, Brenda was asked to move away from the spot but she stood her ground—she was then arrested.**

**Brenda still faces charges of threatening behaviour. The case is adjourned until 22 March.**

**By Martin Benn**
(Ollerton)

# Still missing?

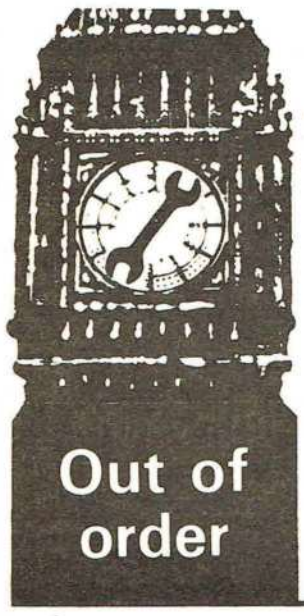
Dear Sir,

Referring to your appeal last week about a 'missing person' I recently had some information as to his whereabouts. If you are referring to Mr Ian MacGregor, head of the National Coal Board, he was due to visit the three Markham pits in the Derbyshire area on Thursday. However, working miners there threatened to walk out if he came and his visit has been cancelled due to other pressing business. I expect he's now gone underground again.

Yours Sincerely,
M. Eton

# Support walk

ON THURSDAY 14 February 30 people from different countries will start a walk in support of the miners, from County Hall in London to Snowdown colliery in Kent. Many of the walkers are refugees from oppressive regimes. The four-day, 75 mile walk will raise money for miners and their families. Two Kent miners will be on the walk, which is supported by the NUM and the South East Region TUC. The walk will leave County Hall at 12.30 pm, 14 Feb and go through Greenwich Rochester, Canterbury, ending at Snowdown and then Aylesham.



# Out of order

IF THE Coal Board succeeds in its plan to reduce coal capacity by 4 million tonnes a year, British coal production will be the lowest since 1864! 121 years of history and sacrifice by miners and their families are threatened with being wiped away.

No wonder we've had the bitterest and longest national dispute there has been in this country this century in defence of 70,000 jobs in the mining industry and 85,000 jobs which were due to be affected outside the industry by the proposed closure programme.

The government aim to save £275 million by reducing so-called uneconomic capacity. In the last eleven months the government have spent 20 times that, £5.5 billion, trying to defeat the strike.

£5.5 billion would have paid for a £25 a week increase in the dole packets of every registered person or for a £4 decrease in every taxpayer's contribution to the revenue. To put it another way, £100 million – one week's government spending – is enough to build a hospital, six large comprehensive schools and 100 council houses in a town the size of Coventry. The cost of this strike could have provided these much needed public services for 55 towns the size of Coventry.

The real lesson of the past six years is this. If one thing has been utterly uneconomic for the working people of this country it is the capitalist system over which the Tory government presides. The system itself is uneconomic because it cannot afford jobs, homes, schools or hospitals,

(Extract from speach by Dave Nellist MP in House of Commons.)

I'VE RECENTLY visited the four leading Coventry colliery miners in Birmingham's Winson Green prison who were jailed for 'affray' (see last weeks *Militant*).

They were in good spirits and particularly grateful for the scores of letters they have received in support.

It shouldn't be underestimated how important those letters are. It lifts their spirits up to have seven or eight letters arrive every day. I think every trade union, Labour Party and LPYS branch should adopt a jailed striker and organise demonstrations outside the jail and welcome home parties when they are released.

**By Dave Nellist MP**

**BECAUSE OF industrial action by the print union, the NGA, readers of the *Daily Mail* in the south of England have not been receiving copies of their paper. As such they missed the victory celebrations in the Tory press last week, when Heseltine triumphed over the forces of darkness at Molesworth.**

**So, albeit a poor substitute, Bob Wade has produced a *Daily Wail* to record the event, in case Tories in the south start getting withdrawal symptoms.**

## Workers will not be intimidated

THE OVERKILL proportions of the joint military-police operation against the Molesworth peace camp was a blatant attempt to intimidate the peace movement.

The labour movement must be warned. The Molesworth operation, alongside the widespread use of riot police in the mining areas, illustrates the growing militarisation of the police. They have been beefed up with far reaching legal powers, all the equipment of 'counter insurgency', and are now clearly being directed on a national scale. The Tories are out to crush any opposition to their policies.

But their aggressive tactics will fail. They have failed to intimidate the miners back to work, nor will the Molesworth episode break the spirit of the peace movement. Indeed, new protests at Molesworth have already begun.

Workers will not stand by and let the Tories drive down their wages and living conditions or squander millions on weapons of destruction—norwill they tolerate the increasing erosion of democratic rights.

**Daily Wail**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1985 — 20p

YOU CAN WIN £50,000 PLAY 'Sue the NUM!' Page 24

2am news: Thousands dance in streets as Task Force liberates Cambridgeshire

# VICTORY OVER MOLESWORTH

By NORMA SLIES, Conservative Central Office Correspondent

**IN a daring raid under cover of darkness, Britain's best—3,000 troops and police—kicked out loony left 'peace' protesters, many of then members of the extremist Quaker tendency, from RAF Molesworth.**

There was special praise for the daredevil Royal Engineer drivers who bulldozed the so-called 'Rainbow Village'—an eyesore of two power generating windmills, a school, a church and five acres of wheat.

The derelict airfield has now been restored to its former beauty with 101 miles of barbed wire, searchlights, watch towers and acres of churned up mud.

### Alms dump

There is some concern over what is to be done with the protesters'so-called "church' at the site. But official sources said today that Mrs Thatcher has been on the phone to God to see if a 'York Minster'job can be done on it.

Claims by these lazy layabout protestors that during their stay they had managed to produce 20 tons of grain to help relieve the famine in Ethiopia were dismissed. One Ethiopian peasant told me: "They didn't even pay VAT on it."

Tory MPs wildly cheered Defence Minister Rudolph Heseltine in Parliament today, when he announced this 'defeat over jackbooted Quakerism'.

Plans are now underway for a celebratory parade and marchpast (preferably just before the next election) and a special campaign medal has been struck.

In the interests of balanced reporting the *Wail* contacted a representative of the labour movement to give their views: see Lord Chapple's comments on page six.

## Peace in our time

MOLESWORTH residents danced in the streets today and pubs hung out Union Jacks to celebrate 'VM' Day. Mrs Jean Beaumont of the Ratepayers Against Molesworth Settlements group told the *Telegraph* (7 February):

"This was a very peaceful place up to three years ago and we now hope it will return to peace and quiet."

### Dead quiet

Yes, tranquility has returned to this quiet Cambridgeshire village. Until 1988 that is. Then 64 Cruise missiles will arrive. Cruise carrying convoys will be thundering in and out of the base. USAAF Galaxy Starlifters will scream overhead, and the still of night will be shattered by hundreds of soldiers on regular midnight excercises.

And if the balloon goes up the village will evaporate in a big ball of flame as the first-strike Russian missiles search out American bases—a small sacrifice in the crusade against world communism.

Still, better than a few nutty Christians growing wheat, eh?

## 'I go in with frontline troops'

**WAIL man Hugh Jebeergut joined the frontline troops which spearheaded the raid on Fortress Molesworth:**

**We thundered through the darkened Cambridgeshire countryside towards the battle zone. The odds were against us. On our side: 1,500 soldiers, 600 civilian police, 100 Ministry of Defence police, a convoy of 760 vehicles, and two back-up companies of infantry in case there was any 'trouble'.**

***They* were 150 strong, heavily armed with babies and goats. Worse still they were Quakers, followers of a foreign fanatic called Jesus Christ. It was going to be tough.**

**As usual amongst fighting men preparing to go into action, old hands calmed battle-green young troopers with assuring tales of how they'd pulled through the battles of the past—Mount Tumbledown, Goose Green. In fact we had more troops tonight than they had at Goose Green.**

**But even the old sweats fell silent when one police sergeant spoke in hushed tones of his battle-scarred record—Shirebrook, Houghton Main and even three tours of Orgreave. He confided in me later that he was hoping to get a 'blighty one' tonight—he was due in South Wales next week.**

**As zero hour approached a nervous silence descended on our squad. We cheered up a bit when an officer explained Quakers were in fact non-violent pacifists, but some veterans complained that we ought to bring up the mortars, just in case.**

**Zero hour struck. In we roared. For ten minutes it was a whirlwind of flashing lights, shouts and roaring trucks. Trouble flared just 600 yards away from me, when five of the fanatic extremists violently lay motionless in front of a truck.**



Michael Heseltine VC—last in, first out.

**Then it was over. Here and there the sharp, staccato sound of a prayer could be heard, but soon all resistance was extinguished. We'd completely surprised the Quakers. Bewildered and dazed, they were herded off the site. It's funny, close up the 'enemy within' look no different from us really (*That's enough of that nonsense*—ed).**

**Hours later when it was all over, and flown in by helicopter just to be on the safe side, our leader, 'Mad Mike' Heseltine addressed the troops. "I was concerned for the children" he said, as we rounded up the mothers with babies and dumped them on Social Services.**

**All in all it was an exhilarating experience. I shall never forget the night I went over the top with the Molesworth Task Force. Completely over the top.**

INSIDE: Thatcher Interview 3, Is Scargill Sane? 5, Oswald Mosley Looks Back 14, Yet More Thatcher Interviews 22, Lady Di Photos 2, 8, 11, 15, 16, 23, 28, 42, etc

# Theatre reviews

**Stuart Dykes (Hallam LPYS) reviews *The Garden of England* by Peter Cox, performed by 7:84 Theatre Company**

**SHEFFIELD CITY Hall was full last week for the premiere of the 7:84 Threatre Group's play "The Garden of England". It is set in the Kent coalfield during the current miners' strike. 1500 striking miners and their families were bussed in by members of the TGWU in order to see it.**

**The play itself, set in a miners club after a talent contest had taken place, was excellent, combining scathing dialogue aimed at scabs and the police (not forgetting the Tories) with witty songs which the audience clearly enjoyed. Peter Cox, the writer of the play, did his research in the Kent coalfield, and actually used the words of striking miners and wives which gave it added realism.**

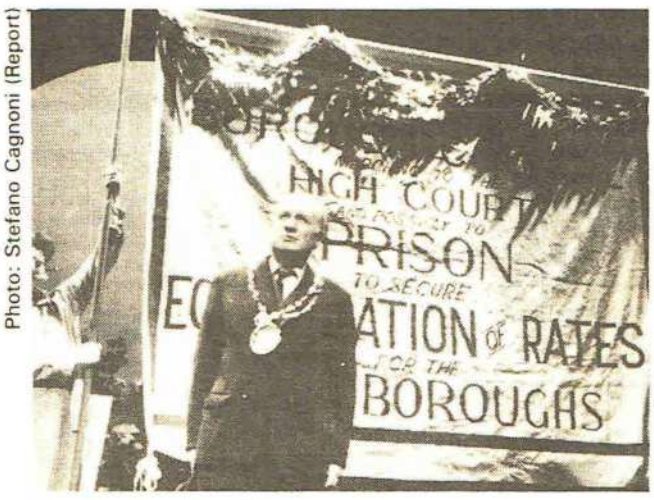
### Cheers

**One of the highlights was a sketch where the bloke who ran the soup kitchen was cutting sprouts, and as he cut them he gave them names—"Tebbit!", "MacGregor", etc and then "Thatcher!" as, to great cheers from the audience he crushed it with his boot.**

**It is significant that the 7:84 Threatre group has had its subsidy from the government funded Arts Council withdrawn. Not only is the government fighting the miners with the police, courts, DHSS etc but also with the Arts Establishment.**

**Originally, Neil Kinnock was to attend this premiere, but at the last minute, decided that he had more important work to do at the House tabling a 'slap on the wrist' motion against Thatcher. To cries of " tell him to get of his knees" and "scab" Norman Buchan MP read out his apology. Mr Kinnock obviously realised that attending a play celebrating this heroic struggle, was not really his scene.**

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)




A scene from *Better Times*

**Jim Chrystie reviews *Better Times* by Barry Keefe at Theatre Royal, Stratford, East London until 2 March.**

**I went to this play full of expectation. The story of Poplar Council's fight in the 1920's is dramatic, with Councillors going to jail rather than impose massive cuts in living standards.**

They got great support from local people and it was that presure that got them out and won some of their demands. The parallels with to-day's fight by local authorities over rate-capping are obvious.

Unfortunately this play is too ambitious and fails as theatre. The author goes off at tangents, right,left and centre.

Obviously fascinated by the Christian Socialism of Lansbury, the leader of the council, he explores it then drops it. He picks up the reformism of Morrison and contrasts it with Lansbury but it is unclear whether he is saying that the two complement each other, contradict or dynamically interlink. At the end he tries to make a philosophic debate about the Labour Party, but it does not work, and the effect is far too contrived.

The play is best when dealing with the personal lives of the people in Poplar. It is unfortunate that the play does not work, for there are many lessons of Poplar for to-day; the willingness to break unjust laws if necessary andthe ability to mount a mass campaign. Although these are present in the play and good political points are made, the play comes across as a tract.

Socialists do not object to propaganda, but it should be well done. Unfortunately this isn't.

# YTS-we need unions'

**ON READING about the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign in the *New Musical Express*, one YTS scheme, Camden Vultures, invited speakers from YTURC.**

The trainees pledged full support for the campaign and are organising transport to the lobby.

Afterwards LPYS members Jess Beishon and Marie Blake spoke to Sarah Busby, the trainee's shop steward and Sharon Campbell, health and safety rep.

**Why did you recently form a union?**

**Sarah:** Without a union you are nothing. Supposing you are unfairly dismissed, if you are part of a union you can fight back. On your own you've had it. Most of us are now members. All YTS schemes should be unionised, and all YTS trainees should know their rights.

**Why did you think it important to have a Health and Safety rep?**

## Conditions

**Sharon:** I used to work in a shoe shop and spent most of my time on my hands and knees in disgusting conditions. It was only when my boss knew the Area Manager was coming that he made me stock up the First Aid box and check the fire extinguishers. No shop, office or workplace should be allowed to open without regular Health and Safety checks.

**What do you think of the YTS scheme?**

**Sharon:** If you get good training like this one, they're good. But I don't think I'll find a job when I leave. I never wanted to go on a scheme but when I left the shoe shop I was on the dole for 5 months, so I thought I would try it.

**What do you think of Thatcher?**

**Sharon** I hate her. How can anyone think anything of her?

**Sarah**: She is trying to do away with the sort of schemes we are on, Mode B, the better schemes that actually give you training and lets the scheme keep any money that's made.

There used to be 80 places here, now there's only 40. She's bringing in more of the Mode A types – the slave labour ones. As one trainee said " small groups like us can fight and it's up to us to do it" We'll be on the lobby.

## London YS Conference

● Young workers in London—join the LPYS. Come to the London YS conference on 23/24 February at Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road. Join the LPYS demonstration in support of miners: assemble 10 am at Elephant and Castle, Saturday February 23.







Students campaign for better grants in Thatcher's Finchley constituency last month—a new direction for the NUS campaign is needed. Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

# Build public sector alliance

**SCOTTISH STUDENTS again showed their anger at the Tories' attacks on education, by demonstrating in Ayr on 30 January.**

**The march and rally attracted almost 1,000 students and some striking teachers and miners. This despite what could best be described as poor advance publicity.**

**After the rally some 200 students blocked a main road in Ayr town centre. 14 students were arrested.**

**The speakers at the rally outlined the fight against the Tory cuts in the public sector. But NUS refuses to adopt a strategy for a public sector fightback. Students demonstrating on their own will not defeat the Tory government. The miners, with all their economic weight, have been out for 11 months and victory has not yet been secured.**

**The NUS leadership should learn from the miners experience, that only the full support of the trade union movement will bring about a victory. If the miners had recieved the backing promised at TUC conference they would have won months ago.**

## Trade unions

**NUS should campaign for every college and university to have Joint Trade Union Committees with student representation. They must link with the Broad Lefts in the public sector unions to build a public sector alliance. Such an alliance would organise the fightback necessary to not only stop but reverse the Tory cuts.**

**Demonstrations and rallies are important parts of a campaign. But the energy of students must be directed to an achievable goal—we must campaign, organise and and link up with the full might of the trade union and labour movement, to defend education, and the public sector in general.**

**By Douglas Blackstock**
(Glasgow College of Technology Labour Club)

# School students-fightback

## Derbyshire

ON A wet Thursday evening recently in Glossop, Derbyshire, High Peak LPYS had its best ever youth rally. Over 100 young people came to listen to the ideas of the LPYS. Two local bands also played. 'Class' (the working variety!) and 'Cold Flame'.

After joining the LPYS themselves, the bands told other young people to do the same. 26 at the rally did so.

The mood at the rally was fiercely anti-Tory.

In the build up to the rally, we knew it would be a success. When we went flyposting around local schools we found loads of home made posters advertising our rally already up! Then we had a complaint from a local headmaster that his school was plastered in posters made out of schoolpaper after school students had seen our posters around town.

Such is the increase in our membership that we now hope to split into two branches.

**By Andy Rivall**
(High Peak LPYS)

## Scotland

AS INDUSTRIAL action by teachers in Scotland steps up, another battle in the schools is about to take place. That of school student's trade union rights.

In the past education authorities have denied school students' their right to join a union. However we have had enough; no longer will we be refused the right to determine issues which affect us. The days of dictatorial rules handed down from headmasters must go, to be replaced with schools run jointly between staff and pupils.

Key schools in the Strathclyde region have been chosen to explore this new avenue of trade unionism. A campaign by the LPYS will be set up in each of these areas to organise the school students to fight back.

Together jointly we can demand the right of a £30 a week living grant for all 16 and 17 year old students, a guaranteed job for all school leavers, and recognition of school student unions.

**By Colin Baird**
(Pollok YS & Crookston Castle Secondary)



School students wave red flags outside Tory party HQ after a YS march through London in 1982. Photo: Militant

## Liverpool

**By Julian Howells**
(Birkenhead LPYS)

**AS A student in a secondary school I was affected by recent action taken by NUPE. To show my support for their action, I duplicated a small leaflet telling students why people were outside the school gates picketing.**

**After distributing a small number of these leaflets, I was summoned to the Headmaster. After a lengthy talk I was handed a letter to give to my parents. So as a supporter of socialism I now face indefinite suspension. We need a union to fight such dictatorial attacks.**

# LETTER FROM IRELAND

**THEY EVENTUALLY broke Joanne Hayes after days of questioning at the Kerry babies tribunal. She was in tears much of the time but eventually could take it no longer.**

A doctor said she was hyperventilating and needed sedation.

But the Kerry Babies tribunal is doing more than inquiring into how the police extracted an impossible confesion of murder from Joannne and her entire family. It is lifting a veil on a side of life for Irish women that the conservative establishment, particulary the Church, wish not to discuss. Better to hush it all up than to admit that the archaic laws of this state and attitudes of its reactionary politicians no longer correspond to the brutal realities of life for many, many working class and poor women.

## Baby death

When they found the body of a brutally stabbed new-born baby in the Kerry town of Cahirciveen last year, police were quick to think of Joanne Hayes. Joanne, already an unmarried mother, was thought to be pregnant again. Joanne lived in Abbeydorney, some distance away.

Joanne was no longer pregnant but after questioning she admitted that she had borne a child. She said that, having concealed the pregancy from the family, when the labour pains started she had given birth unaided. She left the body of the baby which she believed to be dead in a bag and returned home extremely distressed.

But the police were not interested in the baby; they had a body in Cahireiveen. Clearly being the sort of girl she was, they said, she must have murdered it. Perhaps, they said, she had twins and her family colluded with her, dumping one body miles away, brutally stabbed in Caherciveen, and leaving the other in the field next to the house.

And sure enough, after hours of questioning and threats, the whole family confessed. Her brother was hit. Joanne was threatened, she was told that her child would be taken away from her, that the family farm would be sold. But they confessed and were charged.

## Evidence

There was a snag, however. A routine forensic test showed that the Cahirciveen baby had a blood group that made it impossible for Joanne to have been its mother. The entire police case collapsed and in the public uproar that followed the Government set up an inquiry. So Joanne had to go through all the questioning again, this time with every word, every agonising moment of her ordeal recorded minutely in the pages of the national press.

But then Joanne is an unmarried mother in a state that does not take kindly to unmarried mothers. Last year in a churchyard in Granard 15-year-old Anne Lovett died giving birth to a child she thought society would not accept. Last year Eileen Flynn a Wexford school teacher, was sacked by the nuns who ran her school because she was living with a married man. Her appeal was dismissed by the Employment Appeals Tribunal.

Last year about 5,000 Irish women took the boat to England for abortions while a Church-sponsored amendment to the constitution ruled out abortion for all time. Contraception is still only available to married couples and then only on prescription. Divorce is still banned and a proposal to introduce sex education in schools has been strongly attacked by the new Archbishop of Dublin.

Women are crying out for change but Labour, the only party to have policies that challenge the system, is tied to a right wing coalition government and its leaders will do nothing. In the meanwhile women like Joanne Hayes, Eileen Flynn and Ann Lovett continue to pay the price.

**By Pat Smyth**
(Dublin Labour Party and Trades Council)

# Tory economic nightmare

**Financial feature by Mick Brooks**

## More cuts on the way

**THE RECENT White Paper on Government Spending makes the Tories' attitude to public expenditure quite clear: they are against it.**

Why? Surely, if the state builds roads or maintains a railway system that benefits a modern industrial system? That might seem logical but capitalism is not a logical system. Capitalists are not interested in the absolute amount of wealth that is created but in the proportion of wealth that goes to line their pockets—the rate of profit.

State spending is seen as a deduction from resources that could otherwise go to swell the accumulation of capital. For instance the White Paper boasts that the number of civil servants in this country has been cut by 16% since the Tories came to power in 1979.

### Concensus broken

But 20,000 of these are Royal Ordinance factory workers who continue to produce the same goods in the same factories. Now that labour profits a private capitalist rather than contributes to the funds of society generally.

During the post war boom the proportion of public spending went up in every capitalist country. The state intervened to build up an industrial infrastructure and, under the pressure of the labour movement, to provide a safety net of welfare benefits to reduce the insecurity which is the perpetual lot of workers under capitalism.

Thatcherism represents a decisive break with the post war consensus. Despite the fact that large sections of the capitalist class have become completely dependent on the cushy contracts offered by state spending, the Tories have decided to ignore the lobbying of the construction industry and others to increase state spending on 'infrastructure' and the pleas of the CBI and the Tory wets for moderate reflation.

The government have introduced spending cuts and accompanying tax cuts for the rich and virtually done away with taxes on big business. They have already presided over the biggest shift in wealth towards the rich and powerful since the Second World War.

Actually the Tories have not been consistent in their endeavour to cut public spending. The current White Paper shows that over the past five years 'defence' spending has increased in real terms by 23% and 'law and order' by 27%. Also social security spending has gone up by 30% to become the biggest term in the budget.

Money that goes on repression and defence of ruling class interests is money well spent from their class standpoint. The huge additional cost of social security represents not an increase in the level of benefits, but the huge burden of maintaining an army of unemployed. On the other hand overseas aid has been cut by 17.3%, industry, energy trade and employment by 26% and housing subsidies by 68%.

So the Tories are not really just being dogmatic about the 'evil' of public spending. They have quite clearly set themselves the task of restoring the rate of profit at any cost to the working class.

In fact a recent OECD report pointed out that the rate of return in non-financial corporations (manufacturing, farming, etc) remains lower in the UK than in any other major capitalist country despite the bonus of North Sea oil. The Tories have a long way to go. There is worse in store for us all.

By attacking the welfare benefits gained by workers in the course of the past thirty years the government hopes to do two things.

In the first place by cutting the social wage they intend to raise the effective rate of profit left for manufacturing capital. The Chancellor is currently thinking of abolishing employers' National Insurance contributions. Alternatively as part of his budget 'handout' he may raise tax thresholds. Both of these moves will have the effect of cutting the cost of hiring labour.

The Tories also argue that by cutting taxes they will leave people with more jingling in their pockets and thus stimulate the economy. This argument is entirely bogus. Taxes transfered to pensioners or the unemployed as benefits is spent all right—spent on food, clothes, rent and heating. If taxation on the wealthy is cut instead it is quite likely that a portion of it will be salted away abroad or simply sat on.

### Using unemployment

Secondly; the cuts create a pool of unemployed public sector workers whom the Tories hope to use as a whip against the employed to keep wage demands down. In addition, by abolishing earnings-related unemployment benefits and keeping social security provision down generally, they aim to widen the gap in income between employed and unemployed, or in plain language starve the unemployed into looking for a job.

Of course there are no jobs to be found. But Thatchersim aims to use mass unemployment as a basic plank of their real strategy to cut wages.

Privatisation has become a basic means for the government to subsidise its programme of tax cuts. Obviously you can pay for a night on the beer by selling your trousers off cheap, but what happens when you run out of clothes?

The Tories promise us that if only wages can be driven down low enough and public spending cut to the bone, then we shall see the light at the end of a very dark tunnel. British industry will be leaner and fitter. This is like cutting off an arm or a leg to save weight!

But an obvious objection remains. If and when the capitalists finally get around to produce goods more profitably where are they going to sell them? 'Abroad' comes the reply.

Firstly, *Militant* has pointed out over and over again that the real reason for the failure of British capitalists on the world market is nothing to do with 'greedy workers' (in fact we are among the lowest paid in Western Europe). It is because of the long-term failure to invest. British capitalism is now so far behind its competitors that even if they have us all living on beans they still couldn't catch up.

Secondly, where is this 'abroad'? Workers abroad are also being told to tighten their belts to restore profits so perhaps their capitalists will be able to sell abroad—in Britain, for instance.

### Back to 1979

Workers throughout the world must not become embroiled in this game of "beggar-my-neighbour". If one job is advertised for £100 a week and you offer to do it for £50 then that solves **your** unemployment problem—except that you're not much better off than on the dole. But to think that this creates employment is a total illusion, and one that must be resisted in all our interests.

A White Paper was written to curb public spending in 1979 when it represented 39% of the national income. Five years later state expenditure stands at 42% of national income and after all their cuts the Tories hope to trim it back to 39% by 1987-88! As we point out (opposite, top right) this perspective is in fact totally unrealistic.

Clearly something is the matter with Thatcherite monetarism even in its own terms. Cuts cost money. The *Guardian* estimated two years ago that it takes £4m in cuts to save £1m. This is because teachers or hospital porters who are sacked still have to eat. They are not paid nearly enough, but they do get redundancy payments and social security.

Instead of providing a service for society they have to be kept by society, through no fault of their own. That is why social security payments have become the biggest item of government spending. Thousands of millions have been shelled out to pay people to produce exactly nothing. There can be no greater indictment of the Tory strategy.



Since 1979 there has been a massive redistribution of wealth from the poor to the rich.

## Next three years

**ACCORDING TO a Gallup poll taken for the *Daily Telegraph* recently 64% of the population believe the Tories look after the interests of the rich and don't care what hardships their policies cause. 64% of the population are right.**

**Last month's Public Spending White Paper serves notice that: –**

**★ Health spending will remain at a standstill. The Tories say they'll be paying out more, but there's a higher proportion of old people around who need more medical treatment. Prescription charges are likely to go up to £2 and it will still be £14.50 for a routine checkup at the dentist.**

**★ Unemployment is here to stay. Yes, it's official. The Tories know that unemployment will not go below 3 million while they're in office. That's what they're budgeting to spend on social secruity. All the commentators think that estimate is wildly optmistic.**

**★ Nationalised industries are due for the chop. They were subsidised by £3.2 billion this year. Government projections are that it will go down to £1.3 billion next year, £178 million 1986-87 and a surplus of £11 million in 1986-87 and a surplus of £110 million in five years time. To achieve their target they'll have to crucify the industries and the jobs that go with them.**

**★ Attacks on public sector workers' wages. All the estimates are based on a 3% rise in civil servants' wages while even the government don't expect the inflation rate to fall below 5%.**

**What's not spelled out:**

**★ No reflation. Capital spending is due to fall by a further 25% over the next three years. More pot-holed roads and smelly sewers. (You have to be a trained accountant to get these figures from the White Paper.)**

**★ Interest repayments on the national debt. Due to be £10 billion in 87-88 up from £8½ billion now. This is the fastest rising item of public spending. Incidentally; repayments were only £2.2 billion five years ago—that's a 116% real increase. The White Paper estimates have been knocked sideways by the two last interest rate hikes. That means we'll all have to pay much more—maybe £18 billion in five years time. These payments to parasites are not mentioned at all in the body of the government figures.**

**★ Review of social security. The failure of Thatcherism means unemployment benefits are running wild at £38 billion for this year. The Tories must at a certain stage move to decisively cut the level of benefit.**




# Monetarism: the failed experiment

## Its origin

**MONETARISM IS the creed of Margaret Thatcher and her cronies. Until ten years ago few people had heard of it, but over the past five years it's done a lot of people a lot of harm.**

Briefly monetarism is the theory that inflation is mainly caused by an increase in the money supply—the quantity of money in circulation. Monetarists believe that the money supply has been pumped up in the past to pay for increased government spending.

Thatcher came to power in 1979 committed to a "counter-inflation strategy" of cutting government spending and reining in the growth in the money supply. The 1979 White Paper on Government Spending began "Public expenditure is at the heart of Britain's economic difficulities."

Five years later inflation is down but public spending is up from 39½% to 42½% of the national income! The 1979 dogma and programme lie in ruins but still the Tories want cuts in public spending.

### Boom collapses

Monetarism then is just a screen for the real policy of the Tories. They are not motivated by dogma but by the interests of their class—Thatcherism recognises that the good days of the post war boom have gone for good. The only way to save the bosses' bacon is to cut wages and the social wage of public spending. Monetarism is just another stick to beat the workers with.

During the post war boom production had gone up enormously, state spending had risen by leaps and bounds and relatively full employment had given workers unprecedented improvements in their living standards. The illusion spread that increased state intervention had caused the boom and that by spending money, if necessary by running up debts instead of balancing the budget, the government could 'fine-tune' the economy.

This theory was associated with the name of the economist Keynes. It was particulary congenial to right wing Labour leaders who longed to make their peace with the ruling class. All but the Marxists forgot the simple fact that **what goes up must come down.**

### Keynesian failure

The prolonged crisis beginning in the 1970s shook the economic establishment to its roots. The Heath government in Britain for instance came to power in 1970 committed to a policy of confrontation with the unions. In 1972 they were decisively defeated by the miners and changed back to traditional Keynesian policies of pumping money into the economy to restore the fortunes of British capitalism.

An explosion of easy credit however did not lead to renewed investment in industry. By 1974 half the bank credits were pouring into the purchase of commodities, office properties which bumped up the rate of inflation not that of production.

The reason was not far to seek. The rate of profit in manufaturing was at a record low point. Capitalists could make more money in speculations than production. For the first time mass unemployment and increasing inflation existed side by side.

Thatcherism emerged in response to the failure of the Tory government of 1970 to 1974. The central problem was identified as restoring the rate of profit, pumping more unpaid labour out of the working class. Wets, Heathites and Keynesians of all persuasions were derided as "yesterday's men". This is quite true as long as we remember that the monetarists are the day before yesterday's men.

## Its record

**THE WORLD economy was moving into recession in 1979. But its effect was far more bruising in Britain because of the economics of Thatcherism.**

**Between 1979 and 1982 one fifth of British manufacturing industry was destroyed. Production actually fell by more in those years than it did in the great depression of 1929-32.**

**Leaner and fitter industry really meant leaner and weaker. When the world upturn finally came in 1982 British manufacturing was not geared up to respond to the challenge. Large chunks of it just didn't exist any more.**

**Investment fell by 10%. As for the improvement in productivity the Tories boast about, that was only achieved by a shop floor offensive on conditions and protective practices in a climate of fear engendered by fear of the sack. That is why as the upturn in the world economy does start to touch some sectors of production, workers fight back.**

### Worse in Britain

**Productivity over the past year has been more or less stagnant. British capitalism is underinvested and uncompetitive as ever.**

**No more easy money! The Tories jacked up interest rates to restrain credit. As a result money flowed into sterling, which stood four years ago at $2.45 to the pound.**

**It was impossible for British manufacturing capitalists to sell abroad at this rate of exchange. Britain slid into the position of being a net importer of manufactured goods for the first time since the industrial revolution.**

**The world upturn from 1982 offered some respite. If British interest rates were high, American rates were higher. So sterling slid against the dollar, till the slide became a panic.**

**Is there no truth in the tenets of monetarism? It certainly is the case that the policies of the Heath government in pumping money into the economy added inflation to the problem of recession and made these worse. But the main reason for the recent fall in inflation rates is not monetarist policies but because the world economic crisis has caused a collapse of commodity prices to their lowest level since the 1930s.**

**It is also true that government spending has increased both absolutely and as a proportion of national income since the Second World War. But this is rooted in the decline of the capitalist system, despite its superficially ruddy glow until recent years.**

**Governments, both Tory and Labour, have been increasingly forced to step in to provide all kinds of handouts, subsidies and tied markets for decaying monopolised capitalist class. If money policy runs away under the strain, that is only the reflection of deeper and more fundamental problems for the system.**

# Targets a pipedream

**THE TORIES don't stand a dogs chance of sticking to their self inflicted spending targets. A few months ago they had £2.7 billion in the contingency fund, now it's £500 million overdrawn.**

**One of the main reasons is of course the miners' strike. This has cost the government £1,400 million in lost revenue so far, with another £500 million down the drain if it carries on till the end of March. The strike makes the projections for cutting subsidies to the NCB, Steel, BR and the Electricity Board disappear into the middle distance.**

**Trade, industry, energy and employment are all 29% overspent. Housing is 24% over the top. Councils have spent £2 billion more than they should.**

**The government says it will force local authority spending down to target but they have never been able to achieve that so far. If they fail again they will be another £2.5 billion adrift.**

**There is no way that public sector workers will allow their wage levels to be pinned at 3% for the next 5 years, as the White Paper assumes while inflation starts at 5% and goes up. Social Security benefits will go over target for the simple reason that unemployment is bound to go over the unrealistic target level of 3 million for the next five years.**

**This month's grim dole figures show they've already started to do so. Every extra 100,000 jobless means another £200 million on budget costs.**

**There are two ways the Tories can cut down subsidies to the nationalised industries. One is to allow monster rises in gas and electricity prices – which will feed inflation. It will also force workers to fight to defend living standards, and so wipe out the government's estimates on their wages costs for the next five years.**

**The other way is to bump up the sales of public sector assets. The Tories hope to raise £2.5 billion next year and £2.25 billion in each of the two years after that. This will mean an unprecedented looting of public assets.**

### Bargains vanishing

**In the first place to raise that amount of money in a set time is like selling your stereo to buy a packet of crisps. Secondly all the really juicy bargains have already been sold and some of the industry left is essential but basically unsaleable.**

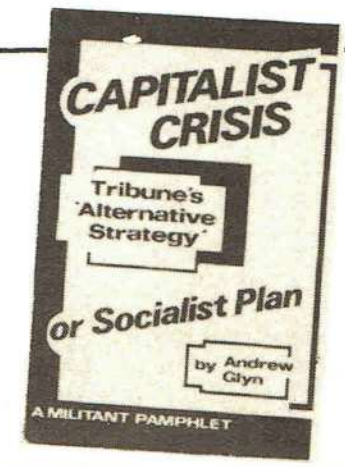
**Nevertheless Thatcher and Co are hooked on asset sales. They need the short term cash to balance the books. But what are they going to do when the saleable assets run out? A combination of departmental clashes and the inherent failure of monetarist policies means the White Paper will remain forever a dream of what might have been, not a working control on government spending.**




The cutbacks in public spending have not produced a fitter, leaner economy, just a weaker, leaner economy with great social suffering.

Andrew Glyn's pamphlet gives the Marxist alternative to the failure of monetarism and Keynesianism. It is an excellent introduction to socialist economics.

Price £1.20 (inc p&p) from World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscott Rd, London E9 5HB.



# YTS-we need unions'

**ON READING about the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign in the *New Musical Express*, one YTS scheme, Camden Vultures, invited speakers from YTURC.**

The trainees pledged full support for the campaign and are organising transport to the lobby.

Afterwards LPYS members Jess Beishon and Marie Blake spoke to Sarah Busby, the trainee's shop steward and Sharon Campbell, health and safety rep.

**Why did you recently form a union?**

**Sarah:** Without a union you are nothing. Supposing you are unfairly dismissed, if you are part of a union you can fight back. On your own you've had it. Most of us are now members. All YTS schemes should be unionised, and all YTS trainees should know their rights.

**Why did you think it important to have a Health and Safety rep?**

## Conditions

**Sharon:**I used to work in a shoe shop and spent most of my time on my hands and knees in disgusting conditions. It was only when my boss knew the Area Manager was coming that he made me stock up the First Aid box and check the fire extinguishers. No shop, office or workplace should be allowed to open without regular Health and Safety checks.

**What do you think of the YTS scheme?**

**Sharon:**If you get good training like this one, they're good. But I don't think I'll find a job when I leave. I never wanted to go on a scheme but when I left the shoe shop I was on the dole for 5 months, so I thought I would try it.

**What do you think of Thatcher?**

**Sharon** I hate her. How can anyone think anything of her?

**Sarah**: She is trying to do away with the sort of schemes we are on, Mode B, the better schemes that actually give you training and lets the scheme keep any money that's made.

There used to be 80 places here, now there's only 40. She's bringing in more of the Mode A types – the slave labour ones. As one trainee said " small groups like us can fight and it's up to us to do it" We'll be on the lobby.

## London YS Conference

● Young workers in London—join the LPYS. Come to the London YS conference on 23/24 February at Peckham Civic Centre, Old Kent Road. Join the LPYS demonstration in support of miners: assemble 10 am at Elephant and Castle, Saturday February 23.







Students campaign for better grants in Thatcher's Finchley constituency last month—a new direction for the NUS campaign is needed. Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

# Build public sector alliance

**SCOTTISH STUDENTS again showed their anger at the Tories' attacks on education, by demonstrating in Ayr on 30 January.**

**The march and rally attracted almost 1,000 students and some striking teachers and miners. This despite what could best be described as poor advance publicity.**

**After the rally some 200 students blocked a main road in Ayr town centre. 14 students were arrested.**

**The speakers at the rally outlined the fight against the Tory cuts in the public sector. But NUS refuses to adopt a strategy for a public sector fightback. Students demonstrating on their own will not defeat the Tory government. The miners, with all their economic weight, have been out for 11 months and victory has not yet been secured.**

**The NUS leadership should learn from the miners experience, that only the full support of the trade union movement will bring about a victory. If the miners had recieved the backing promised at TUC conference they would have won months ago.**

## Trade unions

**NUS should campaign for every college and university to have Joint Trade Union Committees with student representation. They must link with the Broad Lefts in the public sector unions to build a public sector alliance. Such an alliance would organise the fightback necessary to not only stop but reverse the Tory cuts.**

**Demonstrations and rallies are important parts of a campaign. But the energy of students must be directed to an achievable goal—we must campaign, organise and and link up with the full might of the trade union and labour movement, to defend education, and the public sector in general.**

**By Douglas Blackstock**
(Glasgow College of Technology Labour Club)

# School students-fightback

## Derbyshire

ON A wet Thursday evening recently in Glossop, Derbyshire, High Peak LPYS had its best ever youth rally. Over 100 young people came to listen to the ideas of the LPYS. Two local bands also played. 'Class' (the working variety!) and 'Cold Flame'.

After joining the LPYS themselves, the bands told other young people to do the same. 26 at the rally did so.

The mood at the rally was fiercely anti-Tory.

In the build up to the rally, we knew it would be a success. When we went flyposting around local schools we found loads of home made posters advertising our rally already up! Then we had a complaint from a local headmaster that his school was plastered in posters made out of schoolpaper after school students had seen our posters around town.

Such is the increase in our membership that we now hope to split into two branches.

**By Andy Rivall**
(High Peak LPYS)

## Scotland

AS INDUSTRIAL action by teachers in Scotland steps up, another battle in the schools is about to take place. That of school student's trade union rights.

In the past education authorities have denied school students' their right to join a union. However we have had enough; no longer will we be refused the right to determine issues which affect us. The days of dictatorial rules handed down from headmasters must go, to be replaced with schools run jointly between staff and pupils.

Key schools in the Strathclyde region have been chosen to explore this new avenue of trade unionism. A campaign by the LPYS will be set up in each of these areas to organise the school students to fight back.

Together jointly we can demand the right of a £30 a week living grant for all 16 and 17 year old students, a guaranteed job for all school leavers, and recognition of school student unions.

**By Colin Baird**
(Pollok YS & Crookston Castle Secondary)



School students wave red flags outside Tory party HQ after a YS march through London in 1982. Photo: Militant

## Liverpool

**By Julian Howells**
(Birkenhead LPYS)

**AS A student in a secondary school I was affected by recent action taken by NUPE. To show my support for their action, I duplicated a small leaflet telling students why people were outside the school gates picketing.**

**After distributing a small number of these leaflets, I was summoned to the Headmaster. After a lengthy talk I was handed a letter to give to my parents. So as a supporter of socialism I now face indefinite suspension. We need a union to fight such dictatorial attacks.**

# LETTER FROM IRELAND

**THEY EVENTUALLY broke Joanne Hayes after days of questioning at the Kerry babies tribunal. She was in tears much of the time but eventually could take it no longer.**

A doctor said she was hyperventilating and needed sedation.

But the Kerry Babies tribunal is doing more than inquiring into how the police extracted an impossible confesion of murder from Joannne and her entire family. It is lifting a veil on a side of life for Irish women that the conservative establishment, particulary the Church, wish not to discuss. Better to hush it all up than to admit that the archaic laws of this state and attitudes of its reactionary politicians no longer correspond to the brutal realities of life for many, many working class and poor women.

## Baby death

When they found the body of a brutally stabbed new-born baby in the Kerry town of Cahirciveen last year, police were quick to think of Joanne Hayes. Joanne, already an unmarried mother, was thought to be pregnant again. Joanne lived in Abbeydorney, some distance away.

Joanne was no longer pregnant but after questioning she admitted that she had borne a child. She said that, having concealed the pregancy from the family, when the labour pains started she had given birth unaided. She left the body of the baby which she believed to be dead in a bag and returned home extremely distressed.

But the police were not interested in the baby; they had a body in Cahireiveen. Clearly being the sort of girl she was, they said, she must have murdered it. Perhaps, they said, she had twins and her family colluded with her, dumping one body miles away, brutally stabbed in Caherciveen, and leaving the other in the field next to the house.

And sure enough, after hours of questioning and threats, the whole family confessed. Her brother was hit. Joanne was threatened, she was told that her child would be taken away from her, that the family farm would be sold. But they confessed and were charged.

## Evidence

There was a snag, however. A routine forensic test showed that the Cahirciveen baby had a blood group that made it impossible for Joanne to have been its mother. The entire police case collapsed and in the public uproar that followed the Government set up an inquiry. So Joanne had to go through all the questioning again, this time with every word, every agonising moment of her ordeal recorded minutely in the pages of the national press.

But then Joanne is an unmarried mother in a state that does not take kindly to unmarried mothers. Last year in a churchyard in Granard 15-year-old Anne Lovett died giving birth to a child she thought society would not accept. Last year Eileen Flynn a Wexford school teacher, was sacked by the nuns who ran her school because she was living with a married man. Her appeal was dismissed by the Employment Appeals Tribunal.

Last year about 5,000 Irish women took the boat to England for abortions while a Church-sponsored amendment to the constitution ruled out abortion for all time. Contraception is still only available to married couples and then only on prescription. Divorce is still banned and a proposal to introduce sex education in schools has been strongly attacked by the new Archbishop of Dublin.

Women are crying out for change but Labour, the only party to have policies that challenge the system, is tied to a right wing coalition government and its leaders will do nothing. In the meanwhile women like Joanne Hayes, Eileen Flynn and Ann Lovett continue to pay the price.

**By Pat Smyth**
(Dublin Labour Party and Trades Council)

# Policemen in the dock: Stalinism on trial



Popieluszko (right) with Leck Walesa

**THE PRISON sentences of up to 25 years passed on four secret policemen in Poland shows the bureaucracy's fear of the mood of the working class.**

The murderers of pro – *Solidarity* priest Jerzy Popieluszko recieved heavy jail terms but this does not show any "democratisation" of the military Stalinist state, appararus.

Father Popieluszko was kidnapped and murdered last October. The secret policemen bundled him into the boot of a car, beat him about the head, slowly strangled him and dumped his body in a reservoir. The kidnapping was partly designed to allow "questioning" about the whereabouts of *Solidarity* activists in hiding but also to "neutralise" an outspoken opponent of the regime.

The trial made it clear that charges would not go beyond the four officers in the dock, even though there was considerable evidence that a senior minister in the Interior Ministry had been involved in the plan to "neutralise" Popieluszko. The tops were not going to be accountable even if the more humble operatives had to be sacrificed.

## Military's fears

Although more came out in the trial about secret police methods than ever before, even this case might not have come to public attention if the priest had not been an internationally known figure whose disappearance would have been noticed. If he had for instance just been a rank and file *Solidarity* supporter charges would probably never have been brought.

When the priest's driver escaped from the secret police, making a cover up more difficult, the trial was probably the only way the regime's relationships with the Catholic Church could be maintained. But most of all Poland's ruling élite feared an explosion of anger from the working class if they did not give some form of guided trial.



The four secret policemen on trial in Thorn

*Solidarity* activists are still being harrassed and, probably, murdered as they have been since Jaruzelski imposed military rule in December 1981. *Solidarity* grew rapidly in 1980 – 81 and some activists were beginning to realise that their demands could not be met while the bureaucracy were still in power in society. Any independent union actively challenges and frightens the Stalinist leaders; a working class thinking of workers' democracy and political revolution terrifies them.

## Workers opposition

At some stage further battles over economic and political demands are inevitable. Food prices have gone up and Poland still has huge debts and enormous economic problems. The military authorities hoped to stamp out all vestiges of independent trade unionism. The trial shows how difficult this is proving to be. They are now zigzagging from repression to concessions. A conscious political workers' opposition in Poland would quickly gain support.

**A FULLER analysis of the Jaruzelski regime and the opposition can be found in the new *Militant International Review*. Out now. Price 90p including post & package from *Militant* 3/13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB**

# Famine puts new pressure on dictator



The African famine may be spreading, endangering millions more.

**THERE ARE now great fears that many parts of Africa could be heading for the worst famine in recent history. The appalling scenes of mass starvation on TV which have moved millions of people to donate to Ethiopia can already be seen in other countries such as Sudan.**

The famine, which condemns the grasping hand of imperialist and capitalist exploitation which have ruined whole areas of the "Third World" also shows up the fragility of many of the governments in the area. It has brought to attention the failure of the Stalinist regime in Ethiopia to solve the national question in areas like Eritrea and Tigré preferring instead to spend vital resources on fighting the minorities.

A steady stream of refugees have gone over the border from Ethiopia and from Chad into Sudan. They are throwing President Numeiry's reactionary regime in Sudan into even deeper crisis. Unlike in Ethiopia, though, this has spurred the US government to rush aid into the country. Bankrupt and famine-stricken itself, extra mouths put a colossal burden on a regime pliant to US wishes.

## US afraid of overthrow

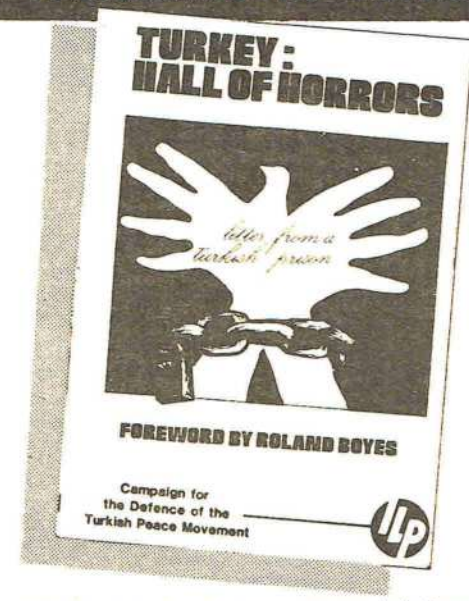
Numeiri is already losing a war. There is considerable tension between the northern Muslim-based government and southern non-Muslim blacks who demand more autonomy and a greater share of the wealth. In the south the Sudanese People's Liberation Army is making gains. The leaders say they are fighting not just for the south but for the overthrow of President Numeiri's regime with its "Islamic law" (public hangings, floggings and amputations) and ruthless repression of opposition.

The government is so insecure that US aid is probably all that stops the regime collapsing immediately. Reagan fears a new government sympathetic to Libya or to Ethiopia in Sudan.

New conflicts seem likely, none of which will make the feeding of millions of Sudanese and millions of refugees any easier. If the resources of the world were planned, hunger and the disease it engenders could be eradicated. As it is, the leaders of the richest capitalist country in the world will be more concerned over the political alignment of Sudan than avoiding starvation.

The future of Africa depends as much on struggles for socialism in the advanced capitalist countries as it does on local political developments.

# Repression and resistance in Turkey




THIS PAMPHLET describes prison conditions of members of the Turkish Peace Association (roughly equivalent to CND). The pamphlet claims there are 25,000 political prisoners in Turkey which if anything is an understatement.

As the writers say the conditions TPA members endure are mild compared to those of thousands of trade union and labour movement activists who have been incarcerated.

Since the army took over in 1980 political parties have been banned and it is a crime even to belong to an organisation that "supports one class against another".

The conditions in Metris jail are horrifying. The prison has sleeping quarters for eight double bunks that measured in total four metres by five metres. The windows are broken and prisoners may be allowed to buy glass as a privilege! Only 200 special prisoners have chairs, the other 1,000 have to sit on the floor. Sanitary conditions are horrendous, water comes from a pipe for only seven minutes a day, this is for every function and is icy cold.

No communication is allowed between prisoners. Only extreme right wing papers are available and only the most privileged are allowed radios.

Exercise is only allowed if you are willing to endure a full body search. Even lawyers and prisoners' relatives are searched. In protest none of the political prisoners do exercise.

Every visit is taped and as the prisoner and visitor are connected by telephones in booths the guard can disconnect at any time. Prisoners are not allowed to speak about prison conditions. From time to time cells are changed and all the prisoners' belongings are destroyed or damaged, mainly to prevent relationships forming between prisoners.

## Barbarism

Health is gravely imperilled, it is estimated that there are over 50 cases of insanity and 100 of tuberculosis, and 150 of gastritis and ulcers, the latter worsened by hunger strikes. Food is overspiced and salted to get the prisoners to drink more water and so look fatter!

There is even psychological torture; every hour on the hour the guards chant "How happy 'tis to be born a Turk" and 'Every Turk's a born soldier' this includes the night hours! Prisoners are regularly beaten and kept in solitary for the most minor offences to prison discipline.

"Even on being transferred to other prisons or on the way to release the prisoners are chained so tight that their wrists swell and cut. Any complaints and the ratchet is tightened."

The amazing thing is the youth of the inmates. The average age is 22 and as most have been in for 3 years most of them must have been 19 at the time of arrest, in fact some were only 17.

Turkey, a member of NATO is just one more example of the barbarism of the capitalists when their system's interests are threatened. The pamphlet, one of many regularly produced by Turkish opposition groups in exile is available from ILP, 49 Top Moor Side, Leeds LS11 9LW.

**By Dave Farrar**

**AN UNPRECEDENTED 'pirate' broadcast by opponents of Turkey's military regime interrupted the peak time evening news on the country's one TV channel on 31 January. Two million viewers in the Istanbul region saw their screens go blank followed by an 8-10 minute broadcast by 'Workers' Voice'.**

**Snatches of the *Internationale* were interspersed with calls for "bread freedom and a just peace", for the overthrow of the regime by a working class revolution. The announcers told listeners that "rights are not given, they are taken", and called on people to accelerate the struggle for democracy.**

**Troops were rushed to the TV station, as the authorities thought it had been "seized by the communists". Nobody was found. The security forces have begun house-to-house searches in the poorer districts of Istanbul. The Martial Law authorities in Istanbul have placed a complete ban on all mention of the 'incident' in the media.**

# LETTERS

Militant welcomes letters from readers. Send us your views, comments or criticism. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscott Road, London. E9 5HB

## Support the miners

Dear Sir,

May I express my wholehearted agreement with brother John Tocher (issue 734) on the issue of ballot money which is to be provided by this government. They seek the outright destruction of the trade union movement.

You only have to look at the miners' strike to see what is in store for working people in this country. For 11 months they have robbed miners' families of DHSS payments to inflict maximum suffering on women and children, depriving them of money for food, electric and gas bills, forcing decent people to sell everything they have.

The miners have endured beatings on picket lines, some resulting in horrific injuries. They face police dressed in full riot gear, sticks and shields designed to frighten and intimidate them.

The miners face the lies and distortions of the massive Tory press propaganda machine. Over 10,000 miners have faced Tory courts, the majority on trumped – up charges, and yet after being starved, beaten, lied to by the NCB and paraded in front of 'Kangeroo' courts they still endure.

Those magnificent trades unionists and their families deserve the £1 million from every union, and £1 a week from everyone in the Labour and trade union movement.

To sustain their heroic battle to preserve the right to work, solidarity action from every person who fears for their own job, and from the 3.5 million unemployed that they may have a job.

Yours fraternally
R Palmer
AUEW Construction Section,
Secretary Blyth Branch
personal capacity




Photo: Militant

The People's march for jobs—the unemployed must support the miners to help secure the right to work. (see letter left).

## "Workers and dons unite"?

Dear Comrades,

Margaret Thatcher is now managing to stir up not just huge sections of the working class, but bastions of the establishment as well. The decision of the Oxford University Dons to refuse Thatcher an honorary degree was a small but welcome morale booster for workers everywhere.

Yet surely these fossilised relics aren't in the vanguard of the fight for socialism? Not really. What the decision represented was indignation against the cuts in education grants—showing that the crisis has deepened to the extent that the Tories have to attack their own bases of support, like Oxford University.



Thatcher—attacks on education.

So a poke in the eye for Thatcher—but it'll be a long time before the slogan 'workers and Dons unite' appears on the front page of the *Militant*.

Yours Comradely
Greg Wilkinson
and Paul Brunker
Oxford East LPYS

## Dogged Determination

Dear Comrades,

The mood of dogged determination that still prevails amongst the vast majority of miners was summed up to me by a letter I received from a striking miner in Garw, part of the South Wales coalfield:

"Down here it is more desperate than ever" he writes, "It's a terrible shame to see the children going without the things they should be having. It's got so bad that the single boys on strike now go to the schools five days a week and have dinner with the children.

"We are still one hundred percent solid in our fight in Garw and before we go back we will eat grass because there's no way will we go back and let the NCB make us eat coal dust."

After 11 months of hardship the miners are as determined as ever that they will not be dictated to. Thatcher may think that she can sit back and do nothing, but the mood of the miners and of the working class in general is hardening every day. Behind their facade of self – confidence the NCB and their Tory backers are quaking in their boots because despite their disgusting propaganda they will never sap the will of the miners.

Yours Fraternally
Chas Berry
Finchley CLP

## Militant Maggie

Dear Comrades,

While reading the *Sunday Post* I noticed an interesting article concerning a firm which the Prime Minister once worked for: "Factory closures are a fact of life nowadays. So it may have escaped your notice that a well-known plastics firm is to shut it's Birmingham operation, with the loss of 350 jobs.

"But I wonder if the news struck a cord in the heart of the Prime Minister?

"It's the same firm (though not the same factory) where a youthful Margaret Hilda Roberts worked after leaving Cambridge with a science degree. This was before she switched to law and subsequently politics.

"Nor was she content to be a quiet little research chemist. Within months she was negotiating wages and conditions.

"Hard to visualise our Maggie as a militant shop steward!"

This is another example of how Maggie uses people and then stabs them in the back!

Yours fraternally
Alan Hodierne

## Questions on FENC report

**IN LINE WITH Alan Smart's request for more infomation, *Militant* invited Lesleigh Woodburn to reply:**

**In reply to Alan Smart's letter I feel it is necessary for me to correct the impression given of the events at the FENC meeting and in particular his role. He deliberately avoids the political issues which are central to what happened, both at the meeting and in subsequent events.**

**Alan Smart is one of the leaders of the so-called 'Democratic Left' group, which has soft-left policies in the Neil Kinnock mould.**

**There can be no doubt that the leadership of the 'Democratic Left' is preparing a witch-hunt against me. This is because of the growth of support for the ideas upon which I was elected. Recently I recieved a copy of a model resolution circulating selected student unions, calling for a recall sectoral conference. This motion included a clause which said conference resolves to "remove Lesleigh Woodburn from the FE National Committee immediately." This after just one meeting of the FENC.**

**The only crime I am guilty of is politicising the FENC, which in the past has not properly functioned. Last year four out of the FENC's five members dropped out of activity—despite the collapse of this committee, there were no calls for a re-call conference then.**

**At the FENC meeting I attempted on a number of occassions to move resolutions outlining the mandates on which I was elected. The proposal to remove me was made after I asked Lesley Smith (one of the Student Union reps on the FENC) when she thought the NUS would achieve the £30 grant for FE students.**

**Alan Smart's claim that he has never experienced such 'disruptive and insulting behaviour' will appear amusing to members of the LPYS in Scotland. Has Alan forgotten his own behaviour last year at the 1984 Regional LPYS Conference when he stormed onto the stage, grabbed the microphone and held up conference for 20 minutes.**

**Similarly Alan's pretentions to oppose witch-hunts will appear ludicrous to those who noted that he refused to sign a petition at NUS conference opposing the expulsion of Brychan Davies.**

**Ironically Alan also supports the idea of positive discrimination to encourage blacks to participate in the labour and student movement. He also supported a Democratic Left motion at NUS conference which stated "Everyone has the right to an education even if they are holders of racist and fascist views." Alan it appears, is prepared to tolerate fascists spreading their filth in our colleges but not the right of a black female Marxist to argue for socialist ideas on the FENC.**

**Indeed so 'reluctant' was Alan to ask me to leave that he had to be restrained by Lesley Smith who was chairing the meeting. His reluctance took the form of continual shouts of 'throw her out'.**

**Despite these pathetic attempts to unnerve me from raising political questions, I am confident that the ideas on which I was elected will continue to attract support from FE students**

***MILITANT* HAS received the following letter from Alan Smart, President of NUS in Scotland, regarding the recent report in the paper of the National Union of Students Further Education National Committee, at which Lesleigh Woodburn was expelled from the meeting.**

*Dear Editor,*

*It was with a mixture of anger and amusement that I read the article "Student leaders attack* Militant*" in the January 11 edition of your paper. Anger that a newspaper could print such a biased and totally misleading article, and amusement that a 'marxist' newspaper could descend to journalism more reminiscent of* The Sun *than a genuinely socialist newspaper.*

*Had you bothered to ask any one of the nine people present other than Lesleigh Woodburn they would have told you that Lesleigh was unaminously asked to leave the meeting since her behaviour made it impossible to continue without her departure.*

*Over the period of three hours she had consistently and deliberately ignored the chair, interupted other committee members and moved or attempted to move resolutions at points of the agenda quite unrelated to the subject of her resolutions.*

*The request to ask her to leave was taken very reluctantly and following her refusal to leave Convenor Lesley Smith closed the meeting since there was little point in continuing given Lesleigh Woodburn's previous behaviour.*

*I have been active in the Labour Party for over nine years and have had many political disagreements with* Militant *supporters at many conferences and on many committees. I have honestly never experienced disruptive and insulting behaviour in any way comparable to Lesleigh Woodburn's in this entire period. To present the reluctant actions of the victims of this behaviour as a witch – hunt is an insult to the five expelled members of your own editorial board as well as the individuals at the meeting.*

*One point which I must insist upon more information is the sentence: "Lesleigh Woodburn was even threatened by Alan Smart, NOLS chair of NUS Scotland". This is simply not true and can be verified by eight out of nine people present during the course of the meeting.*

*I would demand a retraction of this statement and/or the source of your information. I look forward to hearing from you.*

## LEFT and RIGHT

### Servants of God

**A Staffordshire clergyman has come up with a solution to the country's unemployed. The Rev. Ian Gregory (reports the Staffs *Evening Sentinal*, 31 January) has called for increased tax allowances for the rich so they can take on more servants. He says this will give work to the thousands who lost jobs in manufacturing industries. After all who needs skilled engineers when they could be better occupied bowing and scraping to the rich? Rev Gregory has written to the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, with his scheme. Let's hope Lawson tells this churchman to keep out of politics.**

### Vicious attack on police

**Yet more violent attacks against our boys in blue on the miners' picket lines. A front page headline in the Durham *Evening Chronicle* (25 January) screamed out: "Snowballs hit police". Yes, Geordie miners really laid into the police with lumps of fluffy snowflakes. The report went on: "Police said the snowball attacks were mainly concentrated at Vane Tempest and Dawdon. A spokesman added: 'We were strong-willed and didn't retaliate'." Well done the thin blue line!**

### Ya hoo, you rotters!

**The country's gilded youth let the side down last month. It was meant to be a prestigious affair—undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge Unions were to meet in debate among the ivory towers of Cambridge University. Instead the 'debate' rapidly degenerated, as the rivals grappled on the floor, paper darts showered the chamber, there was shouting and jeering and jugs of water were splashed about. The Cambridge speaker, a Mr Simon Sebag-Montefiore, stormed out, describing his Oxford counterparts as "ugly, drunken, spotty twerps". Oh well, its all good training for their Parliamentary careers.**

# FIGHTING FUND

**This week £1,836**

| Area | Received | % of target achieved | Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 96 | | 2900 |
| East Midlands | 135 | | 2800 |
| Humberside | 171 | | 1850 |
| London East | 46 | | 3250 |
| London West | 48 | | 2150 |
| London South East | 20 | | 2000 |
| London South West | 30 | | 1600 |
| Lancashire | 50 | | 1100 |
| Manchester | 101 | | 2750 |
| Merseyside | 91 | | 6000 |
| Northern | 98 | | 4900 |
| Scotland East | 0 | | 3000 |
| Scotland West | 136 | | 3800 |
| Southern | 193 | | 5000 |
| South West | 64 | | 2000 |
| Wales East | 0 | | 2450 |
| Wales West | 0 | | 2150 |
| West Midlands | 172 | | 4400 |
| Yorkshire | 233 | | 5900 |
| Others | 153 | | 10000 |
| Total received | 1836 | | 70000 |

**AFTER last quarter's magnificent achievement, we start a new quarter and a new year with a good start, £1,836 in five days.**

Already some areas have promised to try and reach, at least, half their target by the beginning of March. If you organise now, then every area could do the same. That would leave two full months to reach the second half of the target. So start your plans now to organise socials, sponsored anything, jumble sales etc.

Take the campaign into Labour Party wards, Y.S. branches, Women's sections and Trade Union branches. All our supporters should be asked to collect donations. Many comrades who aimed to raise £50 at the end of the last quarter are still sending in that money. Don't be left out – have you raise your fifty yet?

## Spring into action

We appeal to all readers, start Spring off with a bounce! (No bounced cheques, of course!) Send in your money and help *Militant* prosper and grow.

**Thanks to J.Halford ASTMS £1; B.Shepperson NALGO £1; R. Palin NUPE £1; R.Fishwick retired 75p; Pork Farms Labour Party, Nottingham £10; NUR Nottingham £5.22; Ian Brown Chesterfield NGA £5; J.Eaves, NUPE menber from Macclesfield Hospotal who sold xmas gifts and cards £31.67; Worsley YS £25; Sam Owen £2; P Black, Hayes £5; Maggie Answell, Strathclyde £2; Jim Mullen retired £2.25; Steve Bird CPSA £1;**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern | 195 | Northern | 107 |
| East Midlands | 389 | Scotland West | 90 |
| Humberside | 0 | Scotland East | 0 |
| London NE | 337 | Southern | 96 |
| London NW | 541 | South West | 173 |
| London SE | 390 | Wales East | 15 |
| London SW | 0 | Wales West | 50 |
| Lancs | 110 | West Midlands | 75 |
| Manchester | 0 | | |
| Merseyside | 0 | Total | 3068 |

# Marxist Daily Building Fund 1985

# Give a week for a daily paper

**LAST YEAR, passengers on the five Cunard ships got through 3½ tonnes of caviar, 500,000lbs of best beef, 30,000lbs of smoked salmon and 225,000 bottles of fine wine.**

**Just like the '20s, eh, what? Mind you these people do need relaxation from the worries of life. Wouldn't you? After all, Britain is supposed to be the workshop of the world.**

Unfortunately, unlike caviar-crunching, industry is becoming a thing of the past. An OECD report on the top 18 industrial countries has placed Britain 13th (behind Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal) in the National Income League, and investment per head was lower than in any other country except Portugal. It is the workers who are expected to pay for the bosses' luxurious indolent life. We have only two choices; we either go down or fight.

## Indispensable

A daily Marxist paper will be an indispensable weapon in our fight to change society. *Militant* can not ignore the struggles taking place at the moment in Liverpool, in the mines, in Chile, South Africa and throughout the world. We must, and will find the means to ensure these workers win. Money given to build *Militant* is an "investment" you can afford—and one that will give you the dividend of socialism.

As predicted last week, a number of supporters have sent in their week's income to help cancel our debts.. Unemployed comrades on £22.50 a week and workers on £150 a week have donated so far. See the chart for your area! They know that unless we build support now, it will be all the harder later.

Already, as part of moving into the new premises, over £75,000 has had to be spent on urgent repairs and essential improvements. Unless we can pay these costs off quickly, massive amounts of interest (even tens of thousands of pounds) will have to be paid to the banks.

If every reader sent in a week's income to us (which after all, would probably only pay for a bottle of champers on a Cunard ship) we could wipe out our debts and move towards a more regular *Militant*. If you have **already** given a week's income this year, why should you be the only one allowed to do it? Go and **ask somebody else** to match your contribution.

We know our supporters will do it—after all, we have everything to gain.

# Selling in Toryland

**DESPITE ITS reputation North Surrey is fast becoming a breeding ground of support for socialist ideas and *Militant* in particular. In the whole area between Guildford and Sevenoaks the sales of *Militant* and the activities of our supporters are growing.**

Since the start of the miners' strike £3,000 has been collected by East Surrey CLP with the LPYS prominent in the activities. The YS held its own miners' rally in Caterham and despite the reaction from local gentry, £60 was raised. Debates have been held in Godalming and North East Surrey College of Technology and YTURC events are planned in Redhill and Sutton.

A group of *Militant* supporters came down to Covent Garden a week before Christmas and raised £10,000 for the miners from a stall there. One of the favourite sales for the comrades is on trains and tubes to and from London, one comrade sold six papers, raised 75p fighting fund and got two names for the LPYS at 10.30pm at night with only 11 people on the tube.

All sellers are planning sales on the estates in the evenings, one seller already has a weekly sale of 20 – 25.

# Ten years on

**TEN YEARS ago this week was not good news week for workers in Britain. On 11 February 1975 the headlines told us that Margaret Thatcher had been elected leader of the Tory Party (not that her Tory opponents were any better).**

The day before, 10 February, the building which housed *Militant*'s press was gutted by fire, destroying valuable machinery. It didn't make the newspapers, but for our readers and supporters it was a grave blow.

*Militant* then was an eight page weekly paper with nowhere near the influence or the sales we have today. Our fighting fund target in 1975 was £26,000 for the whole year. To make sure we kept *Militant* going and improved it we made a special appeal to supporters, readers and the labour movement as a whole.

We raised £7,000 in just seven weeks. If you work out how much prices have gone up since 1975 you can see what this would mean. With our present support and allowing for inflation, we should be able to raise at least ten times that sum.

Ten years after, we are asking for your contributions again, now we have the premises to produce a Marxist daily, give us the cash to make it a reality.

# ads

**Militant**

CLASSIFIED: 10p per word, minimum 10 words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

CASSETTE TAPES with two issues of *Militant* (one each side). Available fortnightly. £3.50 per quarter, £13 for year.

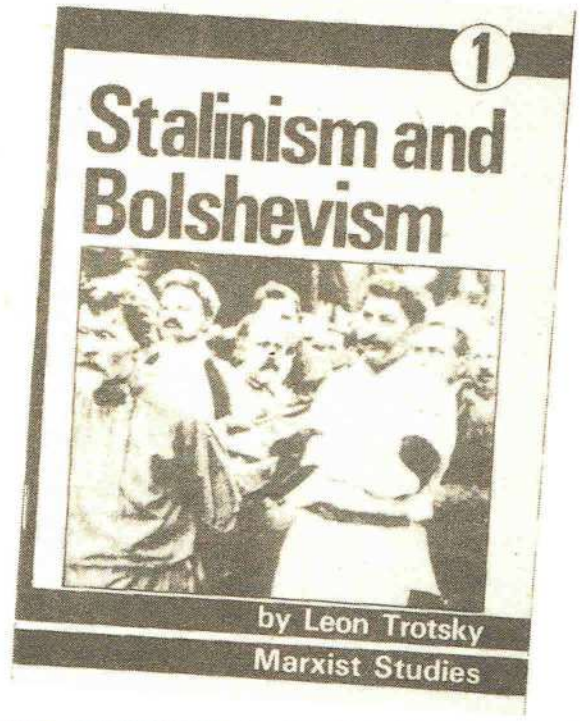
Now available on cassette: all centre page articles from issue 693 – 721. Send either seven blank C-90 cassettes or £6.30 payable to *Militant* Tapes, 18 Blandford Grove, Woodhouse, Leeds 2. Phone: (0532) 455936.

ADDRESS BOOKS 60p, plastic paper sleeves 20p, bookmarks 40p, sew on badges 50p. 10 plus half price for resale. FF cheques to M King, 10 Rodney Ct, Anson Drive, Sholing, Soton SO2 8RU

Train bookings for BLOC Conference, 23 March. Train seats from London Euston. £16 return (£2 cheaper than inter city) This is a limited booking on two trains. Book now, though. First leaves London 6.50am. Manchester 18.15. 2nd leaves 8.15am London, Manchester 19.15. Cheques payable to Broad Left Organising Committee. Send to G.Robertson, c/o 33, Langdon House, Ida Street, London E14

BADGES – 1" button badges with 20th anniversary slogan 20p each (10p each for orders over 20) – 1" button badge – 'Militant' on coloured background (white/yellow/green/blue) 20p each. Enamel stud badges – "Militant for Labour and Youth" 75p each. All orders for badges must be accompanied with minimum 25p for p&p.

Cash with order. Cheques made payable to 'Militant' send to 3-13 Hepscott Road, London, E9 5HB.




**THIS PAMPHLET is the first in the "Marxist Studies" series, where we will be republishing classics of Marxism which have been out of print, together with pamphlets dealing with the issues confronting Marxism today.**

All the pamphlets will be printed within the reach of young workers, unemployed readers etc. Our aim is to produce about one title every 6 weeks, building up into a pocket library, but the exact regularity will partly depend on sales income covering production costs.

The first six titles planned are:

**Stalinism and Bolshevism By Trotsky (out now)**
**The Spanish Revolution 1931 – 7 By Taaffe and Grant**
**In Defence of October By Trotsky**
**The Chinese Revolution By Taaffe**
**Menace of Fascism By Grant**
**Will there be a slump By Grant**

To ensure rapid development of the series we appeal to readers to take out a special 'foundation subscription' of £4 for the first 6 pamphlets, and we will send you the pamphlet as soon as it is printed.

PLEASE send the first six 'Marxist Studies' pamphlets as they are printed.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Please make cheques payable to World Socialist Books and return to 3/13 Hepscott Rd, London E9

## Meetings

SOUTHAMPTON: Marxist Discussion Group meets every Friday 7.45, 206 Honeysuckle Road, Bassett, Southampton. Tel: 551420 for details of subjects or any further information.

UPPER RHONDDA Marxist Discussion Group. Meeting every Sunday at 7.00 pm in the Red Cow, High Street, Treorchy. Phone Steve Brown on Treorchy 773455 for more details.

LEICESTER Militant Readers Meeting
"Fight Tory Ratecapping" Speakers: Ian Lowes (GMBATU Liverpool) Andy Pink (Liverpool Councillor) Edward Hasman (Sec. Leicester JSSC) Monday 25 February, 7:30 pm. The Secular Hall, Hunberstone Gate, Leicester

**CIVIL SERVICE *Militant* Public Meeting. Speakers: Lynn Walsh (*Militant* Editorial Board), Doreen Purvis (CPSA Newcastle C.O. DHSS, Branch Secretary, personal capacity). Venue: Cock Tavern, Phoenix Road, Euston, London NW1. Time: 6.15 pm, Wednesday 20 February. All civil servants welcome!**

CO – OP stamps wanted for F/F. Send to Circulation Dept, 3 – 13 Hepscott Rd, London E9 5HB.

New *Militant International Review*
Out now
Price 90p (inc p + p) from World Socialist Books, 3 – 13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.

NORTHERN IRELAND – a Marxist analysis. A 32 page analysis published by Militant Irish Monthly. 75p (plus 15p postage) 5 or more post free. Order from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscott Rd, London E9.

"DIRTY 30" Leicestershire Striking Miners. New posters, T-shirts, materials, badges, etc now available. From: 346 Municipal Buildings, Charles Street, Leicester. Tel: (0533) 532201.

SHOW YOUR solidarity with a socialist newspaper. Get your trade union, Labour Party, LPYS, Women's Council, Shop Stewards' Committee or Trades Council organisation to send greetings to *Militant* on the traditional workers' day, May Day.

All copy to reach: Circulation Department, *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB by Wednesday 24 April.

Rates: 3 col cms £6; 6 col cms £10; 1/16 page £15; 1/8 page £25; 1/4 page £50.

HOLIDAYS: Large three-bedroomed house in Paris available during the month of August. Normal rent (£75/week) to be shared amongst number of occupants.

Comrades interested write to: Chez Mathey, 67 Boulevard Voltaire, 75011 Paris, France.

## Broad Left Organising Committee - conference '85

# Organise now for BLOC

THE SECOND national conference of the Broad Left Organising Committee promises to be even bigger than last year's conference. *Militant* interviewed George Williamson (Organising Secretary, BLOC, about the 1985 conference and the issues around it.

***Q. Why is the Broad Left Organising Committee calling this conference?***

George: Because it feels that the trade union movement is at a crossroads, and has to discuss how it can go forward. There will be two sessions—on the Tories' trade union laws and on the question of rate-capping and the government attacks on local authority services and jobs.

***Q. Do you envisage the same kind of conference as last year?***

George: This year, like last year, we anticipate a huge demand for credentials, so we have reduced the total number of delegates an organisation can send to four. We have booked the Manchester Free Trade Hall which accommodates 2,500. But organisations will have to apply soon to be sure of attending. National Broad Lefts will be able to send delegates for the first time this year, and their input into the debates will be important.

Two documents will be discussed on the two main issues so that conference can decide a concrete strategy for the left over the next year.

There will be fewer speakers than last year to maximise contributions from the delegates. They are: Ken Livingstone (Leader, GLC), Derek Hatton (Deputy Leader, Liverpool City Council), John Tocher (AUEW Broad Left Presidential Candidate), and Bill Connor (USDAW Broad Left General Secretary Candidate).

***Q. Are you satisified with the BLOC's development over the past year?***

George: Yes, there has been much progress in 1984. When you consider that in September 1984, over 6,000 trade unionists marched through Brighton at the TUC in support of the miners, you can see what considerable impact the BLOC has made. A number of new Broad Lefts have emerged, and most of the established ones have strengthened their position.

***Q. What can activists do after the conference, in concrete terms, to build the trade union left?***

George: Immediately after the conference the delegates must redouble their efforts in their unions to assist the miners, with solidarity action and finance.

Also, there are two crucial elections for the trade union left coming up over the next six months. Bill Connor an USDAW National Officer and Broad Left candidate for general secretary is standing against two right wing candidates who will split the right wing vote, and could well allow Bill Connor to become the first socialist general secretary in USDAW.

In the AUEW, John Tocher will be fighting to become President of the union, bringing the seven years of right wing domination to an end in that union.

***Q. How do you see the role of the left in the unions after the miners' strike?***

George: The left in the trade unions can be optimistic about the future. A social chasm gas opened between the classes—millions of workers are alienated by the capitalist system and the state. In this increasingly bitter atmosphere, workers will look to their organisations, the trade unions, to fight on their behalf. Pressure for change in the unions will be irresistable as members will move to replace the bankrupt right wing leaderships with new leaders who are prepared to fight. In this situation, if the Broad Lefts work correctly, and approach their union members with a socialist alternative, they can only gain. Any union activist who is not a member of a Broad Left should join one.

**Application forms for delegate credentials should be sent in as quickly as possible. Broad Left activists will be arranging transport in their areas.**



**Delegates at the BLOC conference in March last year. The interest was shown by over 3,000 applications for credentials.** Photo: John Woulfe

## Delegations coming in

THE NUMBER of delegations to the second BLOC conference is steadily growing. Amongst the first to be notified was one from the Coalville branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, which has solidly backed the miners by refusing to move coal. Liverpool No5 branch of the NUR is also to be represented.

Inspired by the presence of John Tocher, Broad Left candidate for President of the AUEW, on the conference platform, there has been a good response from that union. Delegations from Blackburn No3, Mansfield No2, Colne No2, Skipton and Derby No1 will be attending.

One of the discussions at the conference will be on the campaign to defend local government jobs, services and democracy. With this in mind, applications have come from Kent and West Yorkshire areas of NALGO.

Delegations are also coming from the TGWU 1/1354 and 6/58, GMBATU, ASTMS, POEU, and UCATT, Luton.

As well as the historic miners' strike, there have been numerous other disputes, big and small, reported each week in *Militant*. Workers are learning that they are forced to fight for their jobs and conditions. All those who have been in dispute in each area should be followed up and invited to send delegations to the BLOC conference.

Forward to a fighting trade union leadership!

**By Mark Bygrave**



**BLOC**

**BROAD LEFT ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

## Appeal to Miners

### COME TO OUR CONFERENCE

**2nd NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**SATURDAY 23 MARCH 1985, 11am**

**Manchester Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester 1**

**Dear Brother/Sister,**

**Our first conference took place at the outset of your heroic struggle against the NCB and the Tory government and was attended by over 2,500 delegates including 500 miners.**

**The Broad Lefts and BLOC supporters have worked flat-out to build effective solidarity for the miners' victory, including the successful lobby of the Trade Union Congress in September and a national campaign, with the production of 50,000 leaflets directed at the power workers.**

**The aim of the conferance is to bring together those trade unionists who want to fight the Tories' attacks against our movement and build a leadership, in every union and in the TUC, capable of using the power of our class to defeat the Tories.**

**The conference will discuss the lessons of the miners' strike and the strategy needed to defeat the Tories' anti-trade union laws. Make sure your lodge, branch, strike committee and support group is represented. Each organisation can send up to four delegates (*free for miners and miners' wives*). We ask you to bring the experiences of your struggle to the rank and file workers who will be attending this conference from every industry and every region of the country.**

**Yours fraternally,**

**George Williamson Organising Secretary, BLOC**

**The Broad Left Organising Committee, formed over three years ago, now involves over twenty national and regional trade union Broad Lefts. Its aim is to transform the unions into fighting organisations. Rank and file trade unionists from all unions gather at this conference in order to discuss the programme necesary to begin the fight back against the Tories.**

# Reaching the ranks

INTEREST AND support for the BLOC conference is growing in some areas of the country, as Ian Parker, supporter of BLOC and TGWU member in Grimsby explains.

"The response has been a lot better than last year. I think it's because last year we were laying the basis for support. Now we're building on last year and we've contacted all those who went to last year's conference.

I also believe that we've had a good response because of the miners'strike. Many people are looking for a more fighting leadership,from the TUC. All are agreed that something like BLOC is needed to put pressure on the TUC.

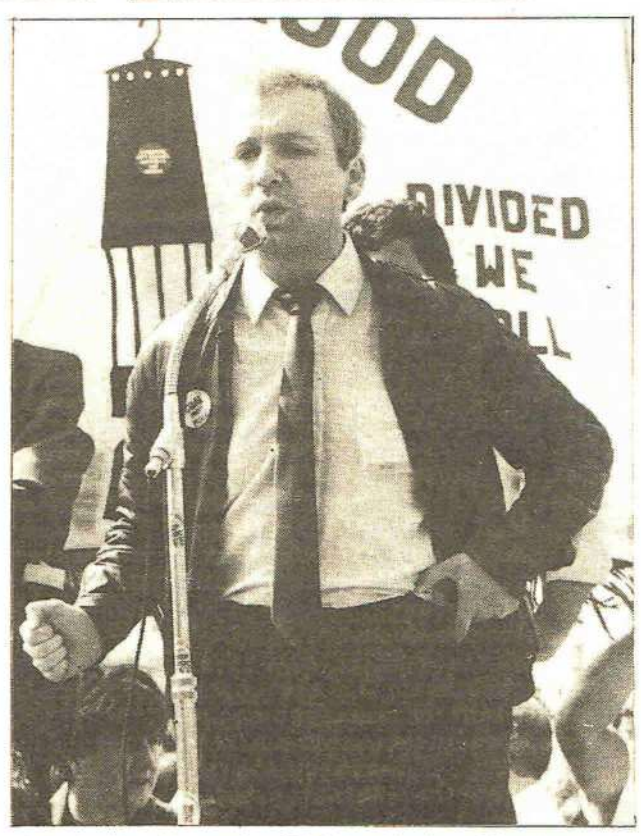
Six delegates are coming from United Biscuits, where it has been discussed by the shop stewards' committee.

The GMBATU composite which covers Wold Farms and Ross Foods, two big factories in the area, met last Sunday and we are hopeful thet they will agree to send delegates.

Circulars are being sent to branches but sometimes BLOC doesn't get raised. When we have known BLOC supporters in the factories that those branches cover, they raise it in the actual workplace and the shop stewards' committees. That way we overcome the problem that sometimes exists when branch secretaries think they are the conscience of the branch.

We've had a friendly response from the busmen who in the past haven't been interested. When we went to see them we raised it in relation to their present fight against future privatisation.

We are plannning trips to several large chemical factories amd a couple of oil refineries. The TGWU branches meet there in the next week or so."




**Kevin Roddy, who stood as CPSA Broad Left candidate for president, speaking at the BLOC lobby of the Trades Union Congress last year.**

# Striking miners' response

**MICK BARWOOD asked three striking miners why they would be coming to the BLOC conference:**

*Joe North from Tilmanstone, Kent:*

Well I think the BLOC conference is very important, in the sense that we need a fighting leadership within the trade unions and I believe that the establishment of a strong Broad Left Organising Committee and strong Broad Lefts throughout the country the country will facilitate that end.

*Joe Owens from Polkemet, Scotland:*

If the trade union leadership we have now had rallied round the workers who supported the miners then the miners' strike should have been won in the very early stages. The kind of fighting leadership we have had during the strike needs to spread right through the movement. At this conference the Broad Left Organising Committee can ensure that it's going to happen.

*Alex Shanks, from Monktonhall, Scotland.*

The TUC leadership have been unwilling to lead the strike and have acted as a negotiating team between the NUM and the National Coal Board. I think the Broad Left is very important because there is a gap in the trade union movement that needs to be filled especially in Scotland where the Broad Left Organising Committee is still not very well known. A rank and file conference attended by 250 workplace delegates was held recently and I think the BLOC conference will be a lot bigger than that.

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

# Glasgow rail workshops under threat

**THE NEXT step in the plan for the complete destruction of British Rail Engineering Limited took place on Thursday 31 January at Glasgow works (Springburn).**

At a meeting of the Railway Shopmans' Joint National Council (RSJNC), management put forward plans for the loss of 1,200 jobs at the Glasgow works, plus the scrapping of a sizable part of the plant and machinery.

"It would mean the reduction of these great works to a mere garage" said the Works Convenor, George Dyce.

The area of Springburn where the works are situated is a classic example of a community destroyed by capitalism, with no thought for the people it leaves in its wake. Even before the announcement on 31 January Springburn had one of the highest unemployment rates in Scotland. At one time this area produced 71% of all railway stock made in the whole world, with tens of thousands of men employed.

Since the Tories came to power we have already seen the closure of four main workshops at Templemills, Horwich, Shildon and Ashford.

The reasons these closures went through so easily is that the union leaders within BREL have never put up a united front in their struggle against management. Each works in the past has been picked off individually.

The shop stewards' committee will be recommending that the workforce fight the closure plan. To this end we will be attempting to build up support within BREL by sending speakers to other main workshops to show them that if they do not unite and organise against the Tory government and the BREL management, they will be next to come under attack.

We shall also be seeking support from all railworkers of Scotland, as well as the broader trade union movement as a whole.

Over the last year or so the shop stewards' committee have been keeping all the local community groups fully informed and getting them actively involved. This started with a mass rally on 10 June 1984 and has been followed up with a mass petition.

We must pursue and expand this course of action if we are to be successful in retaining the jobs and protecting the community of Springburn from further social and economic decline.

**By Paul Murphy, (TGWU Shop Steward)**




Photo: Rick Mathews (IFL)II

Demonstration against closure of BR Engineering Works in Glasgow last June.

# Health Service strike call

A NATIONAL strike over cuts and privatisation in the Health Service has been called for by the AGM of NW Thames and Oxford region of COHSE.

The majority of delegates present recognised that the present strategy adopted by the health unions' leadership had failed to reach its aim of defeating cuts and privatisation.

The stark reality is that thousands more patients will die as a direct result of cuts unless the unions organise a campaign capable of defeating them.

With support from the wider trade union movement, a national campaign of industrial action could force the government to back down.

## Strike day

As a first step, the resolution called on the NEC of COHSE to name the day for a one-day strike as a preliminary to an all-out national strike (with emergency cover determined by the trade unions).

During the meeting a collection for the miners raised over £190. Collections have been made at regional meetings since the strike began. Health workers do not forget the solidarity action by miners in the 1982 health service dispute.



Broad Left supporters were elected as chairperson, vice-chairperson and delegates to the NEC and Regional Executive.

A resolution opposing the witch-hunt against *Militant* supporters in the Labour Party and censuring Cyril Ambler, COHSE president and a member of Labour's NEC, was narrowly defeated after many of the delegates had left.

Overall the meeting marked a significant step forward for the union, showing that many of the grass roots membership are way ahead of the national leadership.

**By Peter Howarth**
(National Secretary, COHSE Broad Left, Oxford)

# Workers crippled by sonic guns

"WE ARE sitting on a time bomb. Health and safety is now a bigger issue than redundancies," claimed Phil Neal, a Midlands TGWU shop steward. Phil explained to me the particular hazards in his own workplace.

'Vibratory white finger' is an industrial injury peculiar to those working with rapidly vibrating air powered cutting tools known as 'sonic guns'. What happens is that the blood capilleries under the skin of the fingers eventually break down and no blood can circulate, leading to a form of gangrene. It is recognised that excessive and prolonged use of these tools will bring on permanent damage, leading to amputation of the fingers affected.

The health and safety executive recommends a maximum use of one hour per day per worker.

Since the start of the recession, the bosses have pushed the workers in Phil's place to use the 'Sonic Guns' for longer and longer periods. He told me that it is now common practise to use these guns for up to eight hours per day.

Anybody walking into Phil's workplace at the end of a shift will be greeted with the scene of workers walking about with their hands in the air to relieve the pain from newly destroyed blood capilleries. " Up to a quarter of the blokes have lost fingers. The firm settles out of court rather that let the union expose their callousness".

In the last 5 years, the Black Country has lost 60% of its foundry and dropforging industry. (The area contained over 50% of Britain's foundry industry). Yet in 1983, 14 people were killed in this Black Country industry alone, compared to 7 in 1980.

**By Bill Mullins**
TGWU (West Bromwich District Committee)




Photo: John Sturrock (Report II)

Tunnel miners' protest calling for better safety measures.

# Telecom piracy

**SIR GEORGE Jefferson, Chairman of the newly privatised British Telecom recently got a 70% pay rise. His salary rises from £94,000 to £160,000 per year.**

**British Telecom's excuse for this massive pay rise was that it is in line with increases given to chairmen of other large public companies, like the Chairman of British Oxygen who earns over £500,000 a year.**

**Given the fact that clerical workers in British Telecom are better paid than in most industries can BT workers expect that as part of this pay comparability exercise that their wages will be driven down to the level of less well organised workers in the private sector, such as British Oxygen?**

**It was also revealed that a substantial number of shareholders had aready sold their shares since the floatation on the American stock market, reducing their holdings to a third of its original size. So, despite the clever advertising and propaganda campaign claiming that thousands of British people would have a stake in the company's future, the privatisation of BT has ended up the same way as every other act of piracy by this government.**

**By Clive Walder**
(CPSA, British Telecom, Brighton)

# Unions join against privatisation

THE Northumberland Campaign against Privatisation (NORCAP) was formed towards the end of last year. *Militant* supporters in local ward Labour Party branches had been pushing the local Constituency Labour Party to establish a body to coordinate the campaign against privatisation, involving all unions under threat.

It found an immediate echo from the local Health Service and Bus unions who had already been looking in this direction. It was also decided at the inaugural meeting to involve the local NUM, a major union in the area, plus delegates from the CLP and the local LPYS branches.

NORCAP's strength lay in its ability to direct the strengths of the combined unions behind individual unions as they come under attack. It is also overwhelmingly made up of rank-and-file union activists and so can respond quickly if need be.

For any workers involved in the fight against privatisation who would like to help in this campaign or would like further information on NORCAP contact: Ray Dunbar—Chairman, NORCAP, 13 Myrtle Street, Ashington

**By Pete Marsden**

# Civil servants fight poverty pay

THE VARIOUS wage claims submitted by the seperate civil service unions seek to halt the drastic decline in living standards (20% in five years of Tory rule) and abolish low pay.

The Treasury announced a 3% cash limit on wages in November, so civil servants know that their response to the claim will do nothing to solve the increasing poverty amongst the low-paid grades.

Already pay rallies have taken place and more are planned. The pay campaign has begun in earnest. Overtime bans, work to rules and non-cooperation with the employer must begin now.

The Tories won't concede the claims simply by the unions asking for them. Regional TUC councils and public sector shop stewards' committees must be approached to secure their support and organise public sector demonstrations.

Speakers from the public sector unions, particularly those involved in struggle, such as miners, teachers and local authority workers, should share the platform. Labour MP's and councillors should also be invited.

Whilst leadership from the top is important, the 1985 pay campaign will be fought and won on the basis of building rank – and – file confidence, support and action. Civil Servants have enormous power—we must use it.

**By Chris Baugh**
(CPSA National Committee, in personal capacity)

# Teachers' correction

OWING TO an error in transmission there was an inacuracy in last weeks' article on the teachers' pay claim. The relevant line should have read: "Teachers will support the demand for a £1,200 across the board increase *and* the introduction of a unified salary scale," not *through* as originally printed.

This formulation is important in order to counter any attempt by a section of the Executive to make the £1,200 claim contingent on progress towards restructuring, a position which 'Militant Teacher' has argued against for the last six months.

**By Bob Sulatycki**
(West London Teachers Association)

Militant

**Liverpool rejects Liberal smears**

Pages 2-3

# Save council jobs

## The threat of ratecapping




**AT LEAST 75,000 job losses, house building programmes in tatters, and services decimated with the old, the sick and disabled being hit hardest of all.**

**This is the bleak prospect facing local government and local authority workers if government-imposed cuts and rate-capping plans are allowed to go through unopposed.**

Whatever else happens, whatever decisions are taken by even Labour controlled authorities, local authority workers have no choice—they either fight or go under. So Liverpool Joint Shop Stewards and the London Bridge Committee which represents Joint Shop Stewards Committees (JSSCs) from the inner London boroughs, have called a planning conference in Liverpool on 23 February. They will discuss the strategy needed to organise a fightback.

### Union fight

Invitations have been sent to the eighteen rate-capped authorities JSSCs together with those from the nine authorities hardest hit by the cuts.

This meeting in particular will discuss the launching of a further conference of local authority shop stewards from across the country in March or early April to establish a national local authority workers Joint Shop Stewards Combine.

One of the principal lessons of the miners' strike is that an effective struggle in defence of jobs cannot rely on the existing leadership of the trade unions and the TUC to organise. It will be largely up to the shop stewards committees to co-ordinate and lead the fight.

In the words of a spokesman for Liverpool JSSC:

"Local authority workers face a crisis. In Liverpool alone, if the government cuts were carried through, it would mean either 6,000 job losses or a 240% rate increase. At Liverpool's successful 'Fightback' conference last June a good number of local authority shop stewards came to observe the campaign we were then waging in Liverpool. Now, this year, they have found themselves in the same boat.

"The building of a national local authorities combine is a significant prospect in the fight against the Tory government imposing cuts on local government."

For more information please contact J. Hollinshead c/o Grove Mount, Penny Lane, Liverpool 8.

## Metro counties under attack

**IN INTRODUCING its Bill to abolish the GLC and the Metropolitan Authorities the Tory government showed its contempt for local democracy.**

As it has gone through its Parliamentary stages the government has shown disdain for the 150,000 people who work for these authorities. In the Committee stage of the Bill Labour MPs, including myself, have repeatedly asked government Ministers for figures on job losses and money "saved" on each service as it was discussed.

The Tories plucked a figure of £100m out of the air and said 7,100 jobs would be lost without ever explaining where this would occur. Their figures never added up, but questioners were always told that all would be made clear when the later clauses were discussed. but this week the government moved a guillotine motion to cut discussion on these later clauses, to about 50 minutes a clause.

As most of the jobs under threat are dealt with in seven clauses that means that the government will allow about six hours to discuss the future of 150,000 jobs. That's 400 jobs a minute.

As I said in Parliament: "In the circumstances of mass unemployment there will be no jobs for the thousands made redundant by this Bill. Yet the government dismiss these people at a few minutes a clause. The Bill is not about saving money and improving services. It is about abolishing Labour Councils because the Tories cannot defeat us at the ballot box.

"That needs to be exposed in full debate in committee. The jobs of 7,100 workers deserve more than execution by the guillotine".

**By Dave Nellist**

## 28th February: Join the lobby




**THE TV and press last week-end were full of reports of Thatcher's speech at the Young Conservatives' conference and how they chanted, "10 more years".**

**Meanwhile, in the real world ignored by the media, the Labour Party Young Socialists, the real voice of youth, are receiving an enthusiastic response for the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) lobby of parliament on 28 February against Tory plans to withdraw supplementary benefit from 16 and 17 year olds.**

**After the campaign's launching press conference with Paul Weller of Style Council appearing, articles appeared in leading youth magazines—*New Musical Express, Melody Maker, Record Mirror,* and *No 1*. As a result dozens of phone calls and letters have been received from YTS trainees, student unions etc interested in supporting the campaign.**

**A letter from Halesowen, West Midlands says, "I don't know much about the LPYS but I do know Maggie must go, that woman is systematically creating social unrest and divisions especially as she is heel-bent on destroying the miners. I feel its time I took an active role in kicking her out of Number 10".**

***PAUL WELLER of the Style Council and Billy Bragg will both be singing at the lobby of Parliament on 28 February. Make sure you're there too!***

**Every LPYS branch must tap this interest by building for a mass lobby. It's up to us to mobilise the anger of young people. Get on to the streets now, youth are looking for the YTURC petition following *No 1* Magazine reporting "You can sign a petition even if you aren't a pop star—there should be one at a school, pop concert, football match near you."**

**Follow Southampton LPYS lead. They have got local FE Students' Union to book a coach. In Sussex the Area Council of the NUS has passed a resolution calling on every affiliated college to book a coach. Oxford East LPYS has even written to Robert Maxwell for a donation and asked for a full page advert for YTURC in Oxford United's programme!**

**Make your voice heard. Fight back with the Labour Party Young Socialists. Support the YTURC lobby.**

**Rush YTURC petitions and donations to YTURC, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17**

**By Martin Smith**
LPYS National vice-chair




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