

BACK NHS WORKERS

FOR FULL CLAIM

"I've worked 120 hours in a week and I took home £113. That's three times what is considered a normal working week, and still I got less than the average wage!"

Most weeks, Mick works 7 days. As he says "Not through choice, through necessity." Now he has been in the health service com-

ing up for two years, superannuation is deducted from his pay packet.

So even after the 4% increase, if he worked the Continued on back page



WELSH MINERS CALL FOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT

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Arms sharks profit from Falklands war

Whatever the cost of the Falklands conflict in the lives of ordinary soldiers and sailors, the future looks rosy for the heads of the Armed Forces, Civil service and the arms profiteers.

Whilst thousands of lives were at risk in the South Atlantic, the Tories showed the kind of Britain they want working people to die for.

Last week the salaries of the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Admiral of the Fleet went up by £120 to £800 a week. The salary of the Lord Chief Justice went up to £1000 a week.

Thatcher's class bias is clear. For the top 700 Civil Servants there was a rise of



Thatcher opens GEC-Marconi armaments factory

up to 21% whilst the majority of the already poorly paid civil servants are given in effect a wage cut.

The arms manufacturers

have already profited from the war. Look how their share prices have risen since the Argentine invasion. GEC-Marconi, up from 829

per share on 1 April to 892 on 18 May. Racal up from 380 to 418 over the same period. Ferranti up from 665 to 718, Plessey from 383 to 425 and British Aerospace, which the Tories partially handed back to private profiteers, up from 194 to 211 in the last six weeks.

By Jim Chrystie

Plessey and British Aerospace are two of the firms, which make up the 17% worth of British components used in the production of the Exocet missile, which sunk the Sheffield. They are still producing the components (extra orders now expected) and sending

them to France for assembly, with a request for them not to be dispatched to Argentina for the time being.

The gamblers on the Stock Exchange can spot a good bet for the future. They know that the Thatcher government has pledged to raise defence expenditure by 21% in real terms during its period of office and the Falklands crisis may push this higher. Since 1975/6, while total public spending has fallen by £2 billion, military expenditure has risen by over £5 billion.

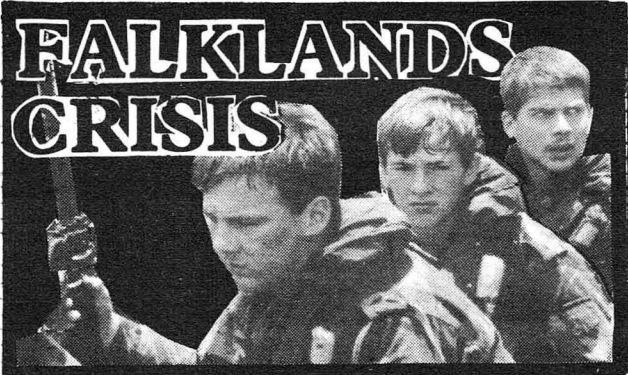
Most of this has been in equipment. While equipment was only officially 34% of total defence spending in 1975/6, last year it rose to 44%; this year the planned expenditure on equipment will be greater than that paid out in wages

etc.

And as warfare becomes ever more sophisticated, the cost of new equipment escalates. One Tigerfish torpedo costs £500,000. Since 1977 arms manufacturers have been guaranteed profits of 20% on contracts; most are much higher, one contractor achieving a 176% profit margin.

The government also in effect pays for much of private industry's research costs. One stockbroker described GEC-Marconi to the *Sunday Times*, 13 September 1981, as "Europe's most powerful defence electronics manufacturer and the jewel in GEC's crown... spending each year £50m of its own money and another £100 or

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Many of the lefts in the Labour Party have put forward the demand for withdrawing the fleet and stopping the war. But the question that immediately arises in relation to these demands is how are these demands to be achieved?

Marxists in all countries must have a consistent position. In Britain we demand a general election and the coming to power of a Labour government on a socialist programme as a means of appealing to Argentine workers. This is the only way in which an appeal will have an effect on the Argentine workers and soldiers—an appeal for class solidarity.

In Argentina Marxists would say, 'expropriate British big business, expropriate American big business and foreign big business' and then having done this, the Argentine workers should also expropriate Argentine big business and then appeal to the British workers and soldiers on a similar class basis.

This could only be done by the workers of Argentina overthrowing the Junta and establishing a socialist democracy. A socialist, democratic Argentina could then offer full autonomy with language and cultural rights to the Falkland islanders, in a socialist federation with Argentina, linked to a socialist Britain.

The economies of Argentina and Britain are complementary, and a genuine socialist federation of the two countries could bring undreamed of prosperity to the workers of Argentina and to workers of Britain as well as those of the Falkland Islands.

Instead of putting the position in class terms, some lefts and the pacifist wing of the Labour Party put forward the demand: "bring back the fleet." Such a demand is completely unrealistic and futile.

It is only necessary to ask the question, "How can the fleet be brought back? By asking Thatcher?" Only a general strike—which the Labour left are not calling for, because there would be no response to such a demand—could stop Thatcher by bringing her government down.

Neither the Labour lefts nor the pacifists have seriously called for a general strike, because that would expose the unrealistic nature of the demand that the fleet should be withdrawn from the Falklands.

Trotsky explained that such calls were futile and counter-productive, making the Labour left ridiculous in the eyes of the mass of workers. The Task Force were not sent to 'roll Easter eggs' on the Falklands but to prepare a show of might which would either force the Junta to withdraw, or to invade and fight if necessary.

The ruling class wouldn't 'just for fun' spend £1,000 million which will be the minimum cost of the Falklands expedition. They

By Ted Grant

do not conduct propaganda campaigns on TV, radio and the press arousing mass support and hostility to the Junta without preparing to use the forces they have sent.

The negotiations in the United Nations are only manoeuvres for the purpose of propaganda, with each side trying to put the responsibility on the other for the hostilities.

No appeal to Thatcher in the most heartfelt terms about loss of life or the horrors of war would have any effect on the ruling class. Nor has it ever had any effect on the ruling class in the whole of the history of capitalism. To achieve their aims, workers can rely only on their own consciousness, power and strength, through the organisations of the labour movement.

According to the polls, which, although 'loaded' and inaccurate, can nevertheless show trends of opinion in the working class, more and more support is growing for the war as it develops, especially after the sinking of the Belgrano and HMS Sheffield.

Workers want consistency, but unfortunately the leaders of the Labour Party are inconsistent. They get the worst of all worlds, by supporting the sending of the Task Force, and then asking that it should not be used. The dithering of the Parliamentary Labour Party leaders has done a lot of damage, as the results of the local elections show.

If they had mobilised the workers against the ruling class policy on the war, the situation would be different. Once the Task Force has been sent, the die is cast.

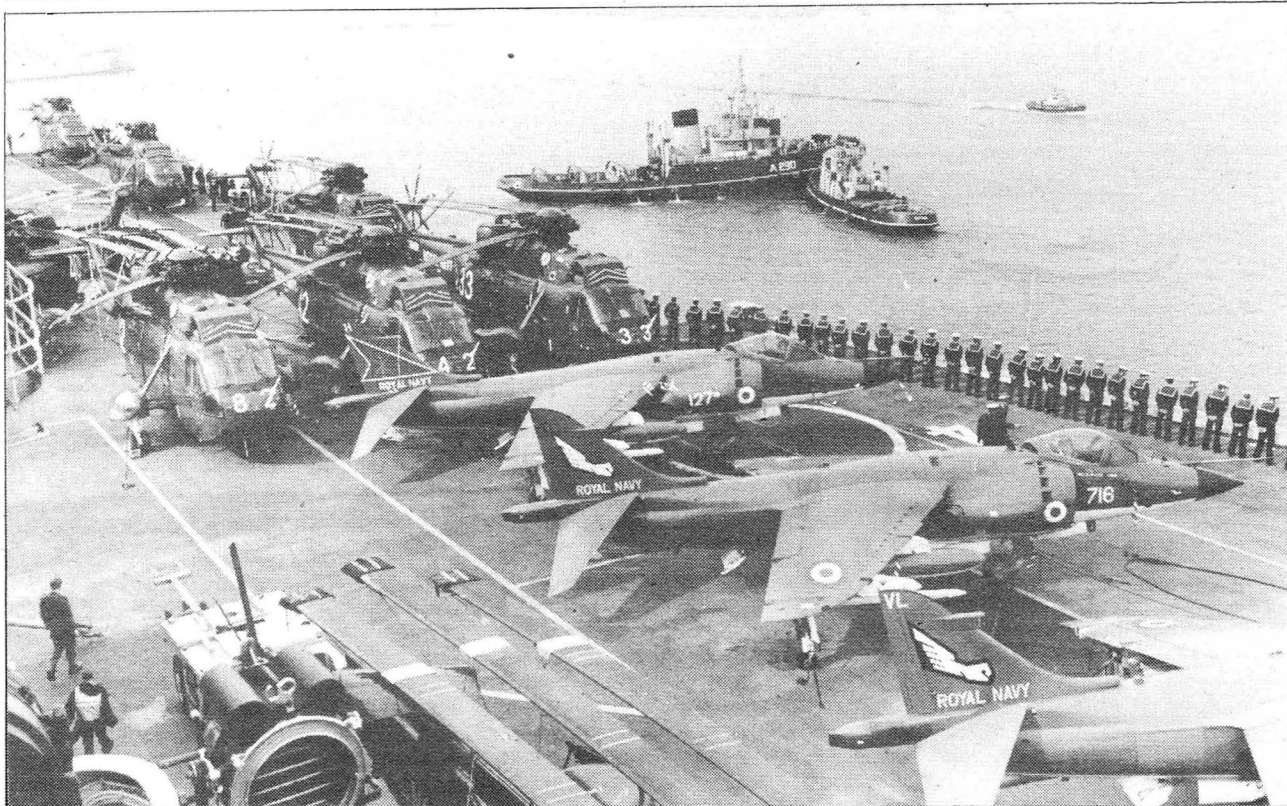
The lefts, by putting forward a negative pacifist position, cannot gain the support of the mass of the working class.

Trotsky explained the futility of pacifism in wartime and also in peacetime. In a discussion with American socialists, he explained that, without in any way wavering from the programme of socialism, it was necessary to "speak to the masses in the language they understand."

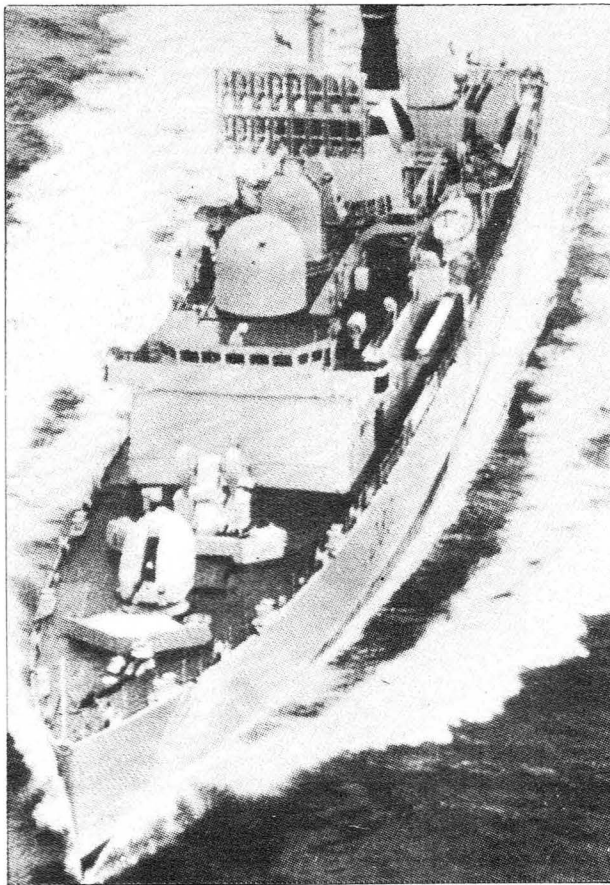
Addressing the American workers, the Marxists would explain that, "We also want to defend democracy, but not the kind that is run by 60 uncrowned kings (the capitalist monopolies—ed). First let's sweep our democracy clean of capitalist magnates, then we will defend it to the last drop of blood."

Demand 'to withdraw' is no answer

Photo: PA



The assembly and despatch of the fleet (above) is one thing—but once it comes to a serious shooting war, the mood of British workers will shift in solidarity with the ordinary sailors and soldiers as happened after the sinking of the Belgrano and Sheffield (below)



This is a relatively minor war for the British capitalists but all the laws of the development of mass opinion in war are still valid. The demand for the recall of the fleet merely shows the impotence of its proponents.

The call for withdrawal is meaningless—like King Canute's call on the tide to withdraw—once the government and the ruling class are set on war in their own interests, that is for the fish, oil and minerals, and last but not least, their important prestige.

There is no instant way of stopping them in their use of armed forces for their own ends. To think otherwise is to play into the hands of the Tories and big business.

Once the war becomes a reality as was the case

after the first casualties, or when there is an invasion of the Islands, probably the big majority of workers will support the war and the sending of the fleet. The demand for withdrawal will have even less meaning. The reaction of workers will not be to support Thatcher, but that "our boys are in danger from the actions of that dictator Galtieri."

While opposing the war as a war of Tory big business and a military Junta, Marxists must understand, as Trotsky explained, the feelings of the workers, and not take a haughty, superior attitude to them. The job of Marxists is not to be like the ultra-left sects on the fringes of the movement, beating their breasts and strutting around with lunatic slogans like "sink the fleet", imagining they

are being r-r-r-revolutionary.

The task of Marxists is to basically and realistically explain to the working class the real issues in the war. The slogans of the sects seem more designed to repel workers than convince them.

We have to explain that only a Labour government committed to a democratic socialist transformation of society could appeal to Argentine workers and sailors to overthrow the Galtieri regime.

If they can succeed in gaining control of the Falklands, the Tory government would move in every way possible to save Galtieri and his bloody regime. After all, they get along famously with Pinochet of Chile.

The mass of workers only slowly understand the real aims of the ruling class in war and in peace. The Labour lefts are calling for a stop to the war, because of the bloodshed and horrors of war, but they never consider how this can be accomplished.

Only by showing how the capitalists will get rich profits from the war, while the workers sacrifice their blood, sweat and living standards, will workers come to understand the real aims of the ruling class in war and peace.

Sincere Labour lefts have become more and more isolated on this question. Many will become silent and change their position. Once hostilities take on a more intense character there will be a feeling among a big majority of the Labour Party and trade unions that there is no other course but to support the war, out of solidarity with the British workers in uniform, not for chauvinist reasons.

Marxists, by explaining carefully their position, will gain greater and greater

support for their ideas. Only the mass labour and trade union movement has the power to change events by changing society. There is no other way to change the situation of war.

Marxists are not pacifists. They hate war and bloodshed just as the mass of the working class, especially the working women, hate war and bloodshed.

But Marxists have to explain that the wringing of hands and pious declamations of "bring back the fleet" cannot change anything. Marxists in the labour movement try to raise the level of understanding of the advanced workers and the working class as a whole.

The argument is put forward that 'it is all very well to talk about a general election and the election of a Labour government, committed to socialist policies, but we must do something practical and immediate now.' But what is practical about deceiving workers into believing that there is any quick way out of 'stopping the war' or 'bringing back the fleet'? Ask how it can be done and there is only silence.

It is necessary to explain that on fundamental issues like war, there is no easy path. Sloganising and simple appeals to the 'better nature' of imperialist representatives like Thatcher and Nott are ludicrous in the eyes of history and the experience of the working class with war.

The demands for a general election and the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies at home and abroad are the only way to secure a genuine peace in the interests of all workers.

Everybody wants peace and not war. But the road to peace lies in the struggle for socialist policies.

The Junta's other war

The war against Britain is not the first the Argentine military have waged. When they came to power in 1976 Videla, the then leader of the junta, announced a full-scale attack upon "anyone who spreads ideas that are contrary to Western or Christian civilisation."

The junta's death squads sought out and killed over 20,000 trade unionists, Peronists and political opponents. Videla declared: "This is really war. In a war there are survivors, wounded, dead and sometimes people who disappear." The leader of one of the death squads was even franker: "While Videla rules, I kill."

Amnesty International detailed what happened to one prisoner, Gustavo

Westercamp: "He was tortured for two days while handcuffed and blindfolded. He was given electric shocks and beaten on the genitals with chains. His blindfold was sprayed with teargas which caused burns about his eyes."

"He was left lying on the floor, and those who passed kicked him and spat and urinated on him. He was forced to sign a statement saying that the marks left on him were the result of an accident. At Sierra Chica where in winter the temperature falls to minus 10°C, he was kept in an unheated cell with no glass in the window."

There are many other cases less well publicised. The Swedish government is hoping that the interrogation of Captain Astiz, Argentina's captured commander on South Georgia,

might tell them what happened to Dagmar Hagelin, 17-year-old daughter of a Swedish businessman.

In their 1980 report, Amnesty International describe how a former prisoner had seen her taken, wounded, to ESMA, the principal naval training college in Buenos Aires, where many prisoners were tortured and killed. The French government have also asked to be able to interview Astiz over the disappearance of two French nuns in Argentina.

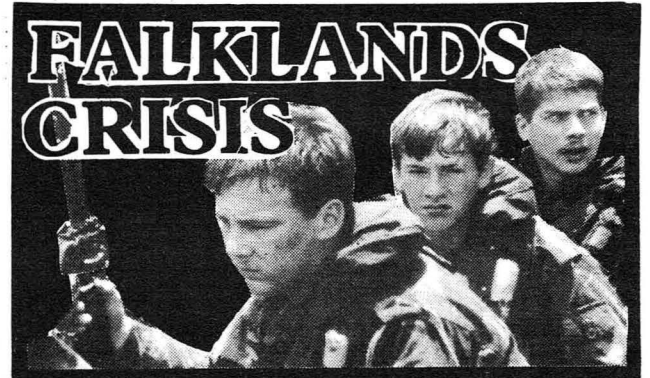
In October 1979 three female ex-prisoners further revealed that ESMA had another function. It was used as the 'maternity unit' of the capital's detention camps.

Pregnant women who survived torture were taken to have their babies in a special wing. Once born,

the baby was taken from the mother and 'transferred' to a childless couple in the armed forces. Amnesty International has asked about the fate of 64 children born in such circumstances.

These horrors were well known to successive British governments. But that did not stop them selling armaments, developing trade etc. It has only been socialists who have consistently called for assistance to be given to Argentine workers to overthrow this monstrous regime. The Tories new-found opposition to the military dictatorship is hypocrisy; their hands are stained with blood, and they are the last ones to champion a "fight for democracy".

By Colin Barber



Who armed the Junta?

Since 1967, successive governments in Argentina, military and civilian, have purchased arms from the Western capitalist countries in an attempt to modernise their forces.

The Tories' sudden discovery that the regime was "repressive", which socialists and trade unionists have been spelling out since 1976, throws into relief the meaning of the civilian and military deals British and other Western businessmen and governments have contracted. Civil projects including oil, gas, mining, communications satellites etc. have been set up with money from the USA, West Germany, France and other countries including Britain.

On top of these links, capitalist governments have favoured Argentina as a bulwark of capitalism against "subversion". Reagan swore to the US congress that human rights were improving in Argentina and Chile as he plied the regime for support in El Salvador.

The Argentine newspaper *La Prensa* ironically suggested that the Beagle Channel Islands, which Argentina and Chile dispute, should become a US military base! British intelligence were so certain of the reliability of the Argentine military defenders of the multinationals that they disregarded numerous reports in *La Prensa* as early as January of imminent invasion of the Falklands.

There was even talk of supply industries for the Argentine military going to international private enterprise as an added bait. British workers in uniform are being shot at by Argentinian forces using the following Western equipment: from Britain, two destroyers, nine Canberra bombers, two transport jets, two Lynx helicopters and Sea Cat and Sea Dart missiles.

The USA has supplied two cruisers (one of which, the General Belgrano, has now been sunk), six destroyers, two subs, over a hundred bombers, transport planes etc., and Sidewinder and Bull pup missiles. French governments and capitalists have supplied Argentina not only with the Exocet which sank the Sheffield but with three frigates, 32 bombers and 42 helicopters. West Germany, Israel and Italy too have supplied the regime with weapons and the Netherlands have sold an aircraft carrier, the '25th of May,' which was British built.

British sailors' lives are now being lost as a result of sales for profit or strategic reasons to a vicious regime which Western capitalism presumed would be safe defenders of the status quo. Only the working class can be entrusted with the task of putting an end to these reactionary regimes and their arms and defenders in the stock exchanges of the world.

By Roger Shriver



Repression in Buenos Aires. Workers lined up against the wall by armed uniformed and plain clothes police

The hypocrisy of the Tories

Militant has pointed out that for all their pious pleas about 'democracy', in reality the last thing the Tories want is the downfall of the military Junta in Argentina.

This has been backed up by the Daily Express (May 14) which reported a speech by former Tory foreign secretary Lord Carrington:

"Carrington feels we have to accommodate Galtieri. His opinion is that we have to let Galtieri survive. Otherwise we might get a far worse regime who will go blubbing to Russia for assistance."

But it is not only the Tories who hold these views. Unfortunately, Denis Healey, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, in a Parliamentary debate "warned that the government should not try and bring Gen. Galtieri down, as he could be succeeded in power by a 'Peronist dictator which would seek co-operation with the Soviet Union and Cuba', which would be worse." (*Morning Star* May 14).

It would seem from this that the policy of Labour's right wing has more in common with the Tories' Argentine policy than with the aspirations of the labour movement. Labour Party members will disassociate themselves from this posi-

tion which throws up the red herring of 'Soviet intervention' as an excuse for the continuation of capitalism and its horrific consequences in Argentina.

But there is no greater hypocrisy than the Tories' sudden (and, no doubt, temporary) discovery of the 'fascist' repressive nature of the Argentine Junta. Previously they were happy to sell arms to the junta despite its appalling human rights record, and today, while attacking Argentina, they remain silent over the similar dictatorships of El Salvador, Chile etc.

The hypocrisy is only heightened when the spotlight is turned on the company kept by some of those Tories on the extreme right of the party. One example is the flirtation by some Tory MPs with the World Anti-Communist League (WACL).

The WACL is an international alliance, not only of ultra-conservatives but also fascists. It is funded by the Saudi Arabian, Taiwan and South Korean governments (which can hardly be described as democracies) and has affiliates in many countries, especially in Latin America.

As for the British section, a former chairman of the chapter was former Tory MP for Belper, Geoffrey

Stewart Smith. He resigned in 1974 after 'discovering' Nazis were involved in this group, although it took him long enough to find out. As far back as 1968, the Mexican section of WACL were known to have participated in the massacre of hundreds of students in Mexico City just before the World Cup.

Tory involvement did not end in 1974 though. The current MP for Hexham, and former cabinet minister, Geoffrey Rippon, was a special guest at the

WACL headquarters in Formosa in 1977.

The Latin American section of WACL is currently leaping to the defence of its Cuban exile chapter in the USA, which has been implicated in a series of bombings there. It will be interesting to see whether Tories such as Smith and Rippon extend their sudden condemnation of fascism in Argentina to the groups within WACL.

By Bob Wade

£90 rise for brass hats!

When we went to press last week we were able to contrast only the difference in wage increases as between the ordinary soldiers (4%) and those officers up to the rank of brigadier (9%).

That difference in treatment is bad enough considering that the risk of death or injury would apply equally (or perhaps even greater for the lower ranks), but now the Tories have announced that the very top officers will get even heftier rises. Generals and Admirals will get rises of £4,580 a year (£90 a week!), taking their salaries up to £37,750, a rise of about

14%.

Thatcher justified this by saying "This country must be able to secure the best judges, generals and civil servants, properly and reasonably well paid." Presumably, the Tories believe that the wages of the lower ranks, who with extra food and accommodation charges will be worse off, are subject, like the civil servants and YOPsters, to 'market forces'. In other words with the four million unemployed pushing youth into the armed services the ordinary "squaddies" do not need to be 'properly and reasonably well paid.'

Argentine recession

The Argentine bosses' organisation the UIA, has shelved its plans to publish its criticisms of the government's disastrous economic policies because of the 'Malvinas' crisis. But there is no disguising the depth of the economic recession now faced by Argentine capitalism.

Figures published by the Central Bank last week show that the gross domestic product fell by 4.3% in the first quarter of this year, immediately prior to the invasion—the biggest first quarter fall in ten years. Whereas the economy declined by over 6% last year, the fall is expected to be much greater throughout 1982.

Particular key industries have been hard hit. In nine key industrial sectors, only 54% of installed capacity is actually being used and output here has declined by 8% from last year. Cars show a 9% decline on last year and in that industry only 26% of installed capacity is being

utilised.

The horrible dilemma of the Argentine ruling class has been reflected in splits even in the ruling military circles: whether to move towards greater repression and risk a revolutionary explosion from below, or whether to edge carefully towards restoration of civilian rule, in the hope of taking the pressure off the military.

The dilemma has now been made worse because of the war. The Argentine workers, already suffering unbearably, will have to carry the extra burdens of the economic costs of the war, as well as the casualties. The military are clearly worried about the growing opposition demands for expropriation of foreign and domestic businesses. In a recent document on the economy, the generals were warned that there may eventually be pressure to implement a 'populist and statist' programme, especially in the aftermath of war.

CPSA SWEEPING SUCCESS FOR BROAD LEFT

To describe the 1982 conference of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) as a historic gathering would be an understatement of the facts.

This conference marked the turning point in the development of the union in its 79 years existence, as radical policies were adopted and a fighting leadership was elected to carry them out.

Kevin Roddy, a well-known *Militant* supporter, was elected President.

This is a victory not just for CPSA but for the whole of the labour movement, marking a significant stride forward in the campaign for a union leadership representing the views and aspirations of ordinary union members.

The CPSA Broad Left swept the National Executive with a majority of 24 to 4, among whom are numbered 7 *Militant* supporters.

That this victory was secured under an individual balloting system, which heavily favours the right was remarkable. It reflected members' anger and frustration after 2 years of failure under right wing "Moderate" leadership.

This was especially so in the civil service where a vacillating, hesitant leadership had dragged a 21 week long strike to an inglorious conclusion.

By Brian Ingham

This could have led to demoralisation amongst the members, but the Broad Left, through nationwide campaigning, were able to offer themselves as a viable alternative and channel the widespread anger to a constructive end.

In the conference there was almost disbelief at the scale of the Left victory. Kevin Roddy's election, in particular—the first left President for over 30 years—produced a wave of spontaneous enthusiasm. The 2,500 delegates and observers present in the hall were conscious that a new era was now possible.

It was fitting that a policy long advocated by Kevin Roddy—Labour Party affiliation—was carried for the first time, and by a clear majority, only hours before the Presidential declaration. The motion passed instructed the NEC "to campaign in favour of a positive vote in that ballot."

The conference went on to pass a linked motion on Northern Ireland, despite opposition, not only from the right wing, but also from the Communist Party! "This conference recognises the need for a class-based party of labour in Northern Ireland in order to give a clear political lead on the social and economic issues which unite Catholic and Protestant workers.

"The formation of such a party, however, must be rooted in the trade unions

A Victory for all trade unionists



CPSA members celebrate the victory of Kevin Roddy (centre) in the Presidential elections

in Northern Ireland. We therefore call on the CPSA to urge the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, through its Northern Ireland Committee to call a conference of all interested trade unions, councils, shops stewards committees and other labour movement organisations in Northern Ireland to discuss whether it is possible to form such a Labour Party."

These were just two of a string of policy decisions to show the growing support for socialist ideas in the rank and file.

"Job loss charter" rejected

Conference began with censure motions against the Executive over last years pay campaign and this years non-campaign. Delegates supported a motion moved by Kevin Roddy, committing the Executive to holding a special pay conference in the Autumn.

The executive also suffered defeat over the new technology agreement which was described as nothing less than a "job loss charter". Militant was singled out by the incoming General Secretary during this debate for opposing the agreement in a leaflet. Delegates ignored these attacks and threw these

agreements out.

Militant supporters were to the fore on debates for a shorter working week, six weeks leave, better sick and maternity leave arrangements, the closed shop etc. Interestingly the tone of most delegates speeches were anti-Tory.

Only a few years ago the word "socialism" would send a shudder through the hall. Even the terms "Brothers and sisters", produced jeers and cat-calls up until the 1978 conference. But this form of address, common in other unions is now normal in CPSA.

Also significant was that a number of delegates, linking battles on pay, facility time, job losses etc to the need for a Labour government committed to socialist policies, were greeted with murmurs of approval.

The bleeding CPSA has faced in recent years has started to transform the outlook, in particular of active layers represented at the conference.

To the right-wing's horror, conference followed last years decision to elect senior officers of the union, by overwhelmingly voting to extend the principle of election to all national officials.

Likewise on another subject dear to the hearts of the right, the new super £10 million HQ, delegates threw that out, despite an obviously imbalanced debate

in favour of the bureaucracy, and an intervention by the APEX representative from CPSA Head Quarters, to try and sway the debate.

Another important motion championed by Militant supporters in the CPSA for the last 6 or 7 years was passed, changing the union magazine into a campaigning newspaper.

On relations with other civil service unions, it was decided to set up permanent local co-ordinating committees as a step toward amalgamation. Furthermore a motion moved by Militant supporter Dave San (Customs and Excise Liverpool) committed CPSA to a concrete public sector alliance on pay issues.

Fighting socialist leadership

Facing the wider issues conference unanimously supported the TUC stand against the Tebbit Bill. Our support for CND was reaffirmed by a large majority despite legal threats, and a motion on Poland putting Militant's position was carried overwhelmingly. Several excellent motions on the unemployed and cuts in the social security

benefits were carried.

A motion attacking sexual harassment of our female members by higher grades, was unanimously backed committing the new NEC to investigate and take action on this issue.

During conference a Militant Readers Meeting was held with over 200 attending, and a record collection of over £2,000 made. A pamphlet was produced for Conference which sold 520 copies, again breaking all previous records.

CPSA conference 1982 was the culmination of a series of struggles over the last decade. The year ahead will be hard for CPSA members as the government singles out its own employees for particular attack.

Conference delegates in every department showed how the government attempted to brush the unions to one side and trample on union rights and conditions. New technology threatens, and there could well be a battle over the Megaw report on civil service pay.

In the climate created by the Tories, life will not be easy, but now the CPSA is armed with a fighting socialist leadership, which will attempt to harness the energy and potential power of the union members.

If the Tories provoke another battle with CPSA next year the result could well be very different from that in 1981.

UCW

Needed—policies to save jobs

A fight to save jobs and improve our wages and conditions, that's what members of the Union of Communication Workers expect from their union conference.

Last year's annual conference saw postal officers/assistant grades reject by a huge majority the EC-recommended productivity deal, learning from the bitter experience of postmen/higher grade members whose "Improved Working Methods" Deal sold jobs for a pittance.

Conference must again recognise this year that no matter how it is dished up, these deals can kill jobs. We must reject productivity deals and call for an across the board payment to benefit all workers.

We must also demand a special conference on new technology. The choices are clear for our members.

New technology could be managed by the working class to reap benefits for workers in an immediate 35 hour week (with later further reductions in hours) plus 5 weeks leave a year, all with no loss of pay.

Alternatively, it can, as telephonists and those affected by use of word processors, mechanised sorting office etc can vouch, lead to the dole queue.

The report sent out weeks before conference offers nothing for workers at a time when British Telecoms chairman Jefferson threatens new BT "economies" ie lost jobs.

Postal workers have accepted a 7% pay rise that cuts real living standards because of a mood of no confidence in the leadership's readiness to fight for a justified pay deal.

The growth of the Broad Left offers a real alternative. A campaign must start at this conference to build support for a new rule at the Rules Revision conference in August for election of full time officers every three years.

This would be a step to building a union which can fight to defend its members and campaign for a lasting socialist solution to the problems facing post office and telecomms workers.

By Eddie Thorpe

(Delegate Oldham Indoor Branch UCW and Broad Left Steering Committee)

UCW Conference Militant Readers' Meeting

Speakers:
Bryan Beckingham (Militant)
Phil Waker (East London Counter Branch personal capacity)
Eddie Thorpe (Oldham Branch personal capacity)
7.30 pm, Monday 25 May, Bournemouth Town Hall, Committee Room 1

DEFEAT THE WITCH HUNT

The focal point of this weekend's annual conference of the Labour Party Wales will be two resolutions calling for a full-scale witch-hunt and expulsions of "Trotskysts and other activists".

The resolutions, from the Mid Glamorgan County Association of Trades Councils and the G&MWU try to throw as much fabricated dirt as possible upon Marxists in the Labour Party, in the vain hope that some of it may stick. Although the G&MWU resolution calls, on the one hand, for "an atmosphere of tolerance and goodwill and mutual respect for dissent", in the same sentence it claims that "organised infiltration and manipulation...is undoubtedly taking place in a number of Constituency Labour Parties."

Mid Glamorgan Trades Councils calls more explicitly for "proscribing the Militant Tendency and the expulsion of Trotskyites and other similar activists." "Thus restoring the Labour Party to its traditional image and the confidence of the electorate."

This shows the real purpose of the right wing. An enquiry into Militant is only a first step to expelling left-wing activists and effectively crippling the Labour Party. The right wing are intent

By Ken Smith
(Regional Executive, personal capacity)

on stifling internal debate and discussion within the Labour Party, because they have lost the political arguments.

This intolerant move must be stopped by Labour Party members in Wales and nationally. The labour movement in Wales has had a long and proud tradition of radicalism, non-conformism and revolutionaries.

Aneurin Bevan, MP for Ebbw Vale (now Michael Foot's constituency) often spoke of his debt to Marxism. Ironically many on the right now try to claim Aneurin Bevan as some kind of folk hero of the "legitimate left". Yet in the 1950s the right-wing Labour leader Gaitskell and his supporters tried on many occasions to expel Bevan from the party.

In 1919 South Wales miners affiliated to the 3rd International, then led by Lenin and Trotsky. Marxists have played an impor-

Labour Party Wales Conference Militant Readers Meeting Friday 21 May, 12.30 pm, George Hall, Guild Hall, Swansea. Speaker: Ted Grant (Militant Political Editor). Delegates and visitors welcome.

tant role in the building of the labour movement in Wales and will continue to do so. Ben Tillett a member of the Social Democratic Federation (an early Marxist organisation) stood as Labour candidate for Swansea in 1910.

Cardiff North CLP and Llanelli Women's Council, which call for no witch-hunts, no proscriptions and demand that political disagreements be argued through debate and not organisational measures, should be supported.

Over the past few years the Labour Party in Wales has moved to the left particularly in policy and membership of the regional executive. However, 19 out of 21 Labour MPs in Wales voted for Denis Healey in the Deputy Leadership election last September and two have since defected to the SDP.

This shows the need for a further consolidation of the recent shift to the left. Militant supporter Muriel Browning is the only left-wing candidate standing in the elections for the South Wales women's section of the regional executive against three right-wing candidates.

We call upon all delegates who support the need for socialist policies to be implemented to vote for Muriel Browning. Also Linda Ropke and Ken Smith are Militant supporters standing in the LPYS section for the Executive.



Why I am standing for the Labour Party NEC

Pat Wall

I am standing for the NEC in the Constituency Labour Party section, in support of socialist policies; to reaffirm the right of CLPs to select the candidate of their choice; and in total opposition to a witch-hunt in the Labour Party.

The need for a mass socialist Labour Party has never been greater. The lives of millions of workers and their families have been blighted by mass unemployment and a calamitous fall in living standards. Now the Tories are sharpening their knives for an assault on the trade unions.

I stand for a concerted campaign around socialist policies to force an election and drive the Tories from office. Unfortunately, many right wing leaders in the party, echoing the red-baiting of Fleet Street, have concentrated their fire on

those arguing for more socialist ideas within the Labour Party.

Rather than conduct such a campaign against our enemies, they seem intent on a witch-hunt against the Left, particularly the supporters of *Militant*. This would have disastrous consequences for Labour. It would split the party wide apart, wrecking any hopes for a united struggle around socialist policies—the only way to defeat the Tories and their Liberal/SDP shadows.

I believe that the resolutions passed at Annual Conference must be translated into reality.

My right to stand as a parliamentary candidate has been questioned. Some right-wingers, like Terry Duffy have even called for my expulsion from a party I joined more than thirty years ago.

I firmly believe that the attack launched against myself and the supporters of *Militant* is just the first strike in a campaign against the whole left. It won't stop

at that. Many on the right want to undo all the gains of recent years allowing greater democracy within the Labour Party. They would like to jettison the radical policies adopted by Annual Conference.

To defend these gains and fight any attempted witch-hunt, it is essential that NEC members who stand for building a fighting socialist Labour Party are elected.

It is with this view that I appeal for the support of all Constituency Labour Parties in the elections to the NEC.

★ For a mass, democratic, socialist Labour Party to defeat the Tories!

★ For rank and file representation on the NEC!

★ For the right of CLPs to select the candidate of their choice!

★ Defeat the witch-hunt!

By Pat Wall
(Shipley CLP)

Black youth conference

The upheavals last summer were an expression of the terrible despair of Britain's youth, especially young blacks who continue to bear the brunt of harassment from the police and mass unemployment.

But today, a growing number of Asian and West Indian youth, seeing the futility of riots, are turning to politics to solve their problems.

The high turn-out of blacks at the recent LPYS annual conference shows how the labour movement can draw black youth into its ranks by campaigning against racism in all its forms on the basis of building workers' unity in the fight for socialism.

The LPYS has a proud record of struggling against racism and fascism, but a crucial part of that fight is winning young blacks to the

movement and to the fight for socialism.

That is why the LPYS are convening the Black Youth Conference on 3-4 July in Birmingham, to draw together hundreds of young Asians and West Indians, as well as older black workers to exchange ideas, pool their experience and thrash out a programme that can

smash racism and fascism, end mass unemployment and eliminate bad housing and terrible social conditions.

All over the country, LPYS branches are visiting factories, youth clubs, YOP schemes and colleges in the build-up for this crucial conference.

By Bob Lee

Labour Party Young Socialists
Black Youth Conference
3-4 July, Birmingham
Information leaflets now available
Contact: Black Youth Campaign
A Bevan, 150 Walworth Road
London S.E.17.

CND march June 6

Last October up to a quarter of a million people, overwhelmingly youth, demonstrated in London against the nightmare of arms spending.

Since then the development of the Falklands crisis and the visit of Reagan to Britain in early June have served to pose the issues such as war, peace and disarmament more sharply in the minds of many working class youth.

The next CND demonstration on Sunday 6 June in London promises to be another massive event, with many young people looking towards socialist answers to issues such as the Falklands crisis.

Undoubtedly LPYS branches in many areas, and local Labour Parties have been making plans for transport to the event. Local CND areas are often organising trains and fleets of coaches and should be contacted to co-ordinate arrangements.

On the march it is vital that clear socialist demands ring out from megaphones, and on the thousands of placards and banners that



LPYS branches will be preparing for the march. A massive march in London will raise the interest in the minds of many youth of 'how can the struggle be taken forward?' Local LPYS public meetings on 'Socialism, War and Peace' or 'The Falklands Crisis' could attract many new members to LPYS branches.

Make sure you, your

local LPYS branch with its banner and placards are there, also equipped with copies of 'Socialist Youth' and LPYS membership application cards.

There will be three main marches:

—Hampstead Road NW1. Assemble from 11 am: Scotland, Midlands, Yorkshire North and North West. Look for Hackney Central LPYS banner and North East London LPYS branches.

—Belvedere Road SE1 (by County Hall) from 11 am: Women, South London, East London, Eastern, Youth CND, Student CND. Look for Dulwich LPYS banner.

—Ladbroke Grove W11 from 11 am: West and North West London, Southern, South West, and Wales. Look for Paddington LPYS banner.

Rally at Hyde Park.

By Kevin Ramage
(LPYS National Chairman)



Return of the pawn-shops

Standing proudly among the ruins of Britain's factories, steel mills, docks, etc, one traditional industry is beginning to boom again. Unfortunately, under the Tories, every silver lining has a cloud. For the 'industry' making its come-back is pawnbroking. For the first time for 100 years a new pawn shop has opened in Leeds and another in Wakefield. The managing director of Hubert Brown and Co. who once had 26 pawnshops said "in the old days, pawnbroking was a dirty word. Now it has lost that image and the business is coming back to life because of the recession."

So now thanks to Thatcher and her class, people like Mr Brown, who lives in the stockbroker belt, can make large sums of money out of the misery of those in the pawnbroker belt, forced into parting with their personal possessions for a pittance. Mrs Thatcher, speaking about the Falklands, has quoted Queen Victoria. Her government also seem to be trying to reproduce the horrific conditions of the Victorian era.

Royal health hazard

The arrogance of the Royal Family is it seems, boundless. When Princess Margaret opened a £11 million medical equipment factory earlier this month, she refused to comply with health regulations. She ignored management's request to wear a sterile hat, because she thought it might mess up her hair style.

Because she walked through the sterile area with nothing on her hair and in outdoor shoes, the company had to spend half a day checking its 2,000 blood collection tubes because of possible contamination. If a worker had refused, they would have probably been given the sack, because of "irresponsible behaviour," but the Royal parasites go on getting paid for opening already open institutions.

Why 'Lou Grant' got the sack

Reality has finally caught up with 'Lou Grant' the excellent TV fictional series about a daily newspaper. Although unlike most American shows it tried to deal with social issues in a serious manner, it had an Achilles heel. It always showed how its courageous investigative reporters, Billie and Rossi, were backed to the full by the management and owner, Mrs Pritchard, whatever the commercial cost. Capitalists had principles, was the implicit assumption.

Unfortunately in the real world the principles emerging were somewhat different. The show has now been axed from the screens, because of the political and economic pressure. Actor Ed Asner, who played Lou Grant, announced earlier this year that he was going to try to raise medical aid for people in guerrilla-controlled areas in El Salvador. Advertisers, Kimberly-Clark, manufacturers of Kleenex, withdrew sponsorship and CBS has now closed down the show.

50 YEARS AGO

The bosses' response to the continuing recession was predictable enough—cut wages. In May 1932 nine unions were resisting the cotton mill owners' attempt to reduce their workforce wages of £1 15p for a forty-eight hour week.

Even in the 'prosperous' South-East wages were not exactly high. At Vint's battery works in Poplar, workers only got £1.50p for an eighty-hour week. But there were a few extra opportunities for workers in the south to lash out with such a fortune. The Dogs Baths and Requisites Ltd of Beauchamp Place offered, for the modest price of only 90p, the chance to have your dog shampooed, fleas removed, nails cut and teeth cleaned. But there aren't many reports of workers taking advantage of this unique offer—perhaps they were too busy trying to keep body and soul together.

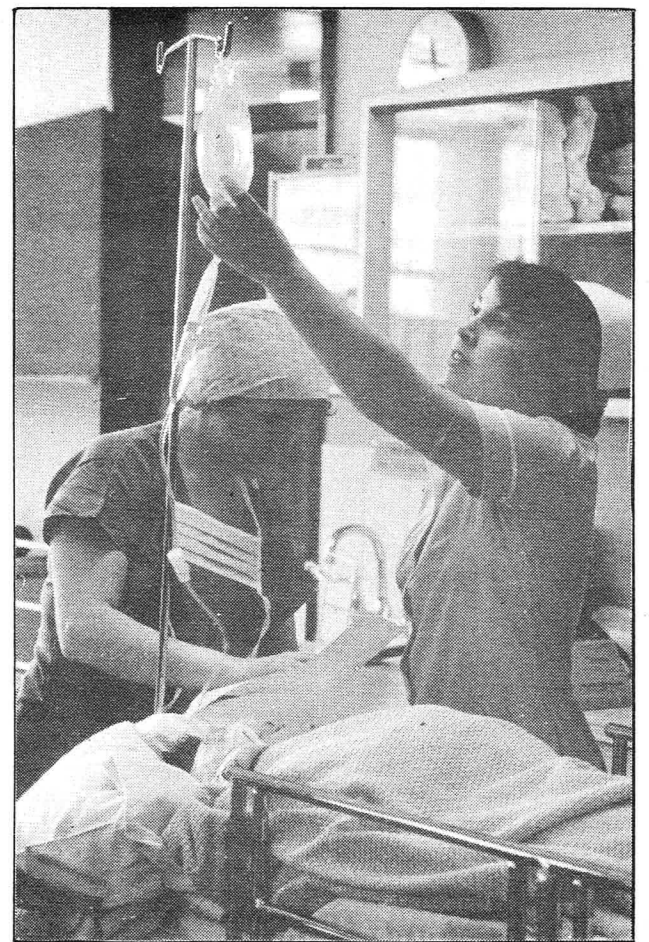
Health cuts cause 5 deaths

Amidst all the vicious attacks on health workers for taking industrial action, and 'putting lives at risk,' you will not find one word about how government cutbacks led to the deaths of five patients in a hospital in the North-East.

Undermanning in a long-stay geriatric ward meant that when a virus broke out the only extra help available

was an unqualified nurse from another understaffed ward. Unfortunately this nurse took the infection back to her ward. Staff and patients became affected, and five patients died.

In our training we are taught the principle of "barrier nursing", a skill which requires meticulous nursing in order to contain infection. But because wards are undermanned, through cutbacks, we are unable to always put this into practice, with tragic consequences.



No money for the NHS or nurses but hundreds of millions can suddenly be found for the Falklands armada

No union, no rights

As a pregnant student nurse working in a general hospital I've seen the need for an active fighting union for health workers.

Recently I have been working on a surgical ward where I have been expected to lift heavy patients, work 10 day shifts, deal with patients who have infectious illnesses. All I get is scolded for sitting down when I have felt exhausted. On one occasion due to staff shortages, my colleague and I (both pregnant, and unqualified), were left

to man the ward ourselves on a busy theatre day.

Legally maternity rights say, if the work load is too heavy a suitable alternative must be found, offering the same wages and hours. I know, however, that when you demand your rights in the NHS you will be victimised.

I have had to keep quiet for fear of not being allowed to continue my training after I have had my baby. These days management have a very effective plan of ridding themselves of nurses they do not find 'desirable'; there are plenty who would apply for the job if I lost it.

Failure in ward-based

By a NUPE nurse, Newcastle

assessments and written examinations throughout your three year training is all that is required for the disciplinary procedure to be used against you. Failure in your final examination the second time, results in being landed on the dole queue.

A colleague has just had incredible difficulties over an assessment due to bad examining and now has to negotiate with senior management to 'put her case forward'. She has been advised to seek union representation but is too afraid to involve the union as her future as a nurse may be in

jeopardy if she did so. In this instance it is probable that she will be blamed for the examiners mistakes and be given a warning for insubordination.

Conditions like this are common in many hospitals and the Health Unions have to tackle it in a firm way and not let management clubs like the Royal College of Nursing, 'organise' nurses. Many nurses want to play an active part in the labour movement and get rid of the Victorian conditions which still prevail. But if they do it in ones and twos they get victimised.

Film Review-

By Clive Walder
(Hove LPYS)

'Gregory's Girl'

When this film was first released last summer the big cinema chains wouldn't touch it with a bargepole.

But the bosses miscalculated, the film was well supported through the independent cinema circuit, widely acclaimed and won a couple of national awards. After that, the Odeon chain thought it was safe (and undoubtedly profitable) to screen it. So much for the enterprising role of privately owned monopolised industry!

As for "Gregory's Girl" itself, I think it is the best film I've seen for years. Unlike the multi-million dollar garbage churned out of Hollywood, it is about real people telling a believable story in a real neighbourhood—a council estate on the outskirts of Glasgow. Certainly far more believable than the pompous arrogant plastic herd of people living in \$500,000 mansions beloved of Hollywood.

While the story may not have been the most

original—boy fancies girl but is too shy to ask her out,—it is certainly acted with feeling and conviction, and doubtless many people in the audience could easily identify with it. As the cast was completely amateur and it only cost £20,000 to make, it proves that you don't have to spend millions of dollars and use top actors to make a watchable film.

Brilliant and believable

Currently the highly monopolised entertainment industry means that many potentially talented actors and actresses go unnoticed because the giant cinema and distribution companies won't take a chance on an unknown quantity in case they lose money. Private ownership of the entertainment industry also restricts the kind of films that actually reach the screens. The bulk of films released are set around middle and upper class communities with stories that most workers



Winner of a number of British film awards, the naturalistic acting of the two stars (above) make it an excellent and enjoyable film to see.

can't identify with.

Only when the entertainment industry is taken into public ownership will aspiring young actors and actresses be given the chance to use their talents to the

full. The overriding priority would then be the film itself rather than how much money it may make and a greater variety of films and plays would thus be possible.

Working Women in the Front Line

The position of working class women under Thatcher's government is a nightmare.

Women like Karen (see article below) who have part-time jobs are "lucky". Thousands of part-time jobs have gone.

40% of all women working are part-timers—mainly those aged 25-54—i.e. mainly working mothers.

These women are not protected by such Acts as the "Employment Protection Act"; that is restricted to those working 16 hours per week or more and then only after 2 years continuous employment—very

By Heather Rawling

difficult when you have children of school age.

Female unemployment has increased 207% since 1975 compared with an increase in male unemployment of 61%. Most of the jobs were lost in part-time work.

It is up to the trade union and labour movement to actively encourage women workers to become involved

in their trade union. Whenever the question of redundancy arises, all jobs should be fought for.

In that way, the unity of the labour movement is kept. Women's wages keep a sixth of all families from falling below the poverty line.

In 1913, Lenin wrote, "modern capitalist society is the hiding place of numerous cases of poverty and oppression...millions and millions of women in such families live (or rather drag out an existence) as household slaves, striving with a desperate daily effort to feed and clothe their families on a few coppers, economising in everything except their own labour".

Thatcher's Britain 1982 is

not that much different! Despite "mod cons" like automatic washing machines etc, it is estimated that women still do as many hours housework as they did at the turn of the century. Only the nature of the work has changed.

Socialism with a planned economy, modern technology, communal restaurants, good, clean communal laundries and well supervised, free child care facilities for all who require them, is the only answer for women in Karen's situation.

Many people, particularly men active in the labour movement, blamed women for voting in Thatcher's Tory government. It may be that many women believed

that Thatcher, as a woman, would understand the problems they faced, and she would look after the family.

A bitter lesson has now been learnt. This Tory government has been hell bent on destroying family life. And then, when the youth who can't get jobs, turn to the streets and riot, it's not the Tories who get blamed but women who go out to work and are "bad mothers"!

Many women who voted Tory will never do so again but they need to be given very good reasons to vote Labour. After all, women suffered under the Labour government of 1974-79.

Family incomes declined by about £10 in real terms. Thousands of women

workers, cleaners, nurses, dinner ladies etc, were involved in the "winter of discontent". A bold socialist programme is needed to draw such women towards the Labour Party.

The process has already begun. One-third of Britain's trade unionists are women. If the trade unions and Labour Party seriously campaigned for a £90 minimum wage and a 35 hour week and free child care facilities, properly supervised, many women could be won to the struggle to kick out the Tories and elect a Labour government pledged to implement a socialist programme.



Women occupying the Plessey plant, Bathgate, won a partial victory in the fight to save jobs. Photo: Militant

Militant Pamphlet

Women are losing their jobs at an alarming rate.

Between 1979 and 1981 400,000 jobs were lost by women in manufacturing. Government spending cuts in public sector have destroyed thousands more. Nursery closures, cuts in health care and hospital beds, public transport fare increases—all these attacks have mainly affected the lives of working class women, pushing them back into the home—looking after the sick, old and young.

But these attacks have been met with resistance. Management have had a rude awakening if they saw women as the easiest option when it came to redundancies and closures.

Lee Jeans for instance inspired the entire labour

movement by their struggle. They showed by their fight that there is an alternative to redundancy and long term unemployment if a lead and support is given.

A new pamphlet—"Women fight for socialism" has been produced by Militant with articles on part-time work, housing, homeworkers and NHS—all major issues facing working class women.

The need for the labour movement to campaign on these issues is vital. A lead has to be given to show working class women that the labour movement is their ally. This pamphlet will be the basis for a campaign to build the Labour Party women's sections and to take up the issues in the trade unions.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL FESTIVAL

LONDON, SATURDAY 5 JUNE

**Demonstration to Festival leaves County Hall, 10.30 am
Festival (organised by Labour Party) at Battersea Park**

Womens' Festival

In preparation for the Labour Party National Women's Rally, Liverpool Women's Council and sections of Merseyside have begun a campaign amongst the trade unions. 3,000 leaflets have been distributed to shop stewards, Labour Party and trade union branches.

Factory visits are taking place to ask people to book places on the coaches. Appeal sheets are being distributed to help send housewives, unemployed and YOPsters, along to the

rally. A public meeting has been organised on Friday May the 28th at 7.00pm at the Transport and General Workers Union headquarters in Islington, Liverpool. Speakers include Alan Roberts, MP, [hopefully] a women NEC speaker, a local county councillor, Sylvia Renilson, Shareen Blackall [LPYS] plus a T&G speaker.

By Leslie Holt (Kirkdale delegate to Liverpool Women's Council)

Coping with the strain

I feel guilty having to rush my child James in the morning, but it has to be done. My husband, Steve's wages pay the bills and mine buy the food.

It costs me £8.50 for James to attend the play school part-time from Mondays to Fridays mornings only. But the rate is very reasonable compared with other places. Even part-time child minders charge more.

I tried five different playschools before this one. Three wouldn't accept James because we are not a one-parent family and two play schools refused because he has asthma.

It costs more than £8.50 to keep him at playschool, because I feel I have to dress him better than I would if he stayed at home. I'm lucky though, because my family give me clothes for him and I go to a lot of rummage sales.

Some nights I sit up till 12 o'clock altering clothes. The other night I turned up

Don't you feel sorry for that poor mum to be, Di, the Princess of Wales? After all,—only 20, just got married, and a baby on the way already.

But her baby will be born into a privileged and pampered background. Di will understand nothing of the thousands of working

class mothers who wage a daily battle to feed and clothe their families.

One such mother is KAREN WAGG aged 21 who has a toddler 20 months old. Her husband is a low paid council worker. Karen is forced to work part-time to keep the wolves from the door.

8 pairs of trousers.

I work as a cleaner at De Montfort Hall (where all the big concerts are held in Leicester). There are 4 women cleaners including me and 5 men. I'm the youngest, 2 are in their 40s and the other lady is about 60.

Recently, some of the men have been off sick and last week, they were all away. With me being the youngest, I had to do the men's work which is really heavy.

When I first started this job, I had to have time off because of James' asthma. Recently, there has been talk of redundancy and the

other women were told that I'd be the first to go because of having time off. But we reckon that the management would rather sack the older ones and employ younger women to do the heavy work.

The boss said that if I heard any talk about the union, not to take any notice, but no-one from the union has been to ask me to join yet.

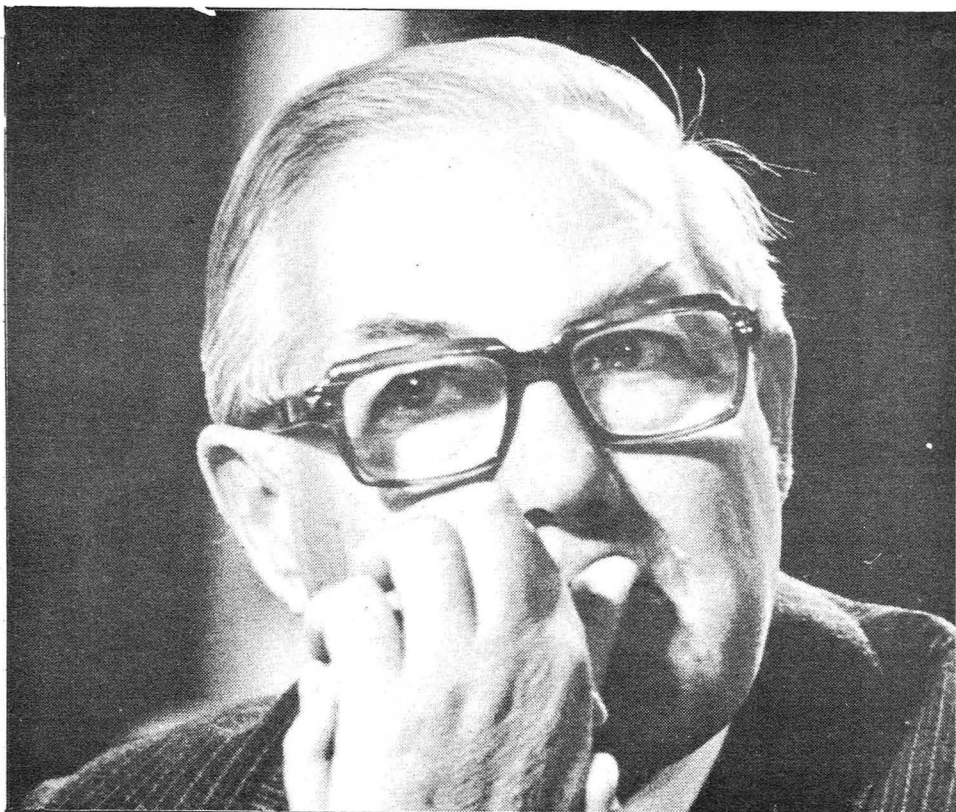
The job is very dirty. As you sweep, the dust chokes you. When I walk home, I can feel lumps of dirt in my throat. If I start work at 9 I finish at 1pm but sometimes I am asked to do overtime, like when the Jam played

here recently. I have been told I'm not entitled to any holidays at Easter and will be expected to work the bank holiday.

According to my contract, I do 20 hours per week but I often work overtime and I'm glad of the money. That means I often do a 7 day week—yet I'm supposed to be part-time!

Although I'm a cleaner, the boss often asks me to make him cups of tea and he never addresses you politely—always an insulting name. The other day he said "get out of the way fat arse!" I don't allow that kind of talk from my husband so why should I have to put up with it from him?

When I've had a heavy day, I'm shattered and I take it out on James. What annoys me is I have to leave my own home in a mess to go and clean somewhere else. I had a better job cleaning at the hospital in the evenings, but it meant that I hardly saw Steve and the strain was beginning to tell on our marriage so I gave that job up. ♪



After the bitter experiences of the 1978-79 "winter of discontent" and the defeat of Labour in the 1979 General Election, almost every major trade union rejected the idea of incomes policy.

ABOVE AND RIGHT: James Callaghan has every reason to look worried as Labour Party Conference delegates, like the TUC a month earlier, vote down 5% wage limits.

Probably the great majority of trade union activists absorbed the lessons of the past decade and are also against any restriction on the bargaining power of the trade unions.

But an idea thrown firmly out of the front door has a habit of coming back in through the window. Already, some leaders of the labour and trade union movement are canvassing for a return to an incomes policy—a "New Social Contract"—as part of the economy strategy of the next Labour government.

At the Scottish TUC conference last month Sid Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, argued that the trade unions "should urgently reach a firm agreement on further wage bargaining as part of the joint Labour Party-TUC alternative economic strategy."

David Basnett, chairman of the influential economic committee of the TUC, similarly argued, "that it was essential to achieve flexible understanding on wages with a prospective Labour government to meet the requirements of different groups of workers within the framework of a nationally negotiated economic policy."

Moreover, what is increasingly advocated by the right wing of the Party is also, unfortunately, being echoed even by its left wing. The advance towards a new version of the 1975-79 Social Contract is a dangerous move and will inevitably end, if it is successful, in another Labour government cutting workers' living standards.

We should not be surprised, of course, that the Social Democratic Party has already moved extremely fast in the direction of incomes controls, as advocated by their recent 'policy' paper.

The SDP, which set about to 'break the mould' of British politics is in the process of adopting a policy that has singularly failed over the last twenty years to arrest Britain's economic decline, but which has, in

By Dave Cotterill

the process, arrested workers' purchasing power.

The SDP leadership are feeding off the policies of the last Labour government, of which they were a part. In that sense, their electoral support is partly based on the disillusionment with Labour which they themselves helped to create. The SDP policy is not 'new' in any way, it is like all those incomes policies in the past, except in one respect—for them, wages control will be permanent.

Wage control has become a common feature of post-war capitalist society. Under different guises some form of wage control has been introduced by every government since Selwyn Lloyd's 'pay pause' in 1960.

Under the Tory government of 1970 to 1974 we had phases 1, 2, and 3 of incomes policy, which eventually led to confrontation with the miners and the bringing down of the Heath government. More importantly for Labour Party members, however, were the actions of the Labour government which followed on from this.

"One man's wage rise..."

The February 1974 election manifesto promised "A fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people." The then leader of the Labour Party, Harold Wilson, was cheered in election meetings when he thundered against the Tories, that "One man's price rise is that same man's wage cut!"

But under pressure from big business and in the wake of the 1975 sterling crisis, Healey and Wilson secured an agreement with the TUC for a voluntary income restraint, limiting all set-

tlements to a £6 maximum. This voluntary agreement formed part of the 'Social Contract,' which initially received broad rank and file support.

Many workers were taken in by Wilson's new speech, which announced that "one man's wage rise is another man's price rise," in other words that wages were responsible to some degree for inflation, which at that time was running at 26%. In the Budget of April 1976, Healey secured a further agreement with the TUC, restricting wages to a 5% 'norm', with a lower limit of £2.50 and an upper limit of £4.

By the end of this 'Phase II' earnings were at least 10% lower than they had been at the close of 1974. Real wages according to the right wing 'Economist' had not fallen as steeply over a similar time period since the mid-nineteenth century. For the average man with two children the loss in wages was equal to £10 per week.

The effect of this was to create a mighty groundswell of opposition within the Trade Union movement. At the 1977 TUC conference a majority voted for an immediate return to free collective bargaining.

Between July 1977 and July 1978 a less rigid informal restraint existed and real take home pay rose by 7%. But in August 1978 Callaghan who replaced Wilson as Prime Minister, proposed a phase IV with a 5% ceiling. This policy, rigidly applied to some of the lowest-paid workers, led to the confrontation with the Trade Unions in the so-called 'winter of discontent.'

As well as holding back wages, the government was

responsible for the introduction of a form of monetarist policy which led to a total cut of £8,000 million in public expenditure. The result of this was that unemployment which had stood at 600,000 in 1974 rose to 1½ million in 1978.

The idea of the Social Contract was that in return for 'temporary sacrifices' the Labour government would look after the low paid and underprivileged, and would guarantee the social wage; on this basis, prices would be curbed, investment encouraged, jobs created and there would be a return to stable economic conditions.

Inherent in all these ideas was the theme that wages contributed to inflation. But what are the real facts behind the last 15 years of incomes policies?

Between 1961 and 1966 the average rate at which retail prices rose per year was 3.6%. After the price and wage freeze of 1966/67, it fell to 2.5%. But after the devaluation of the pound in November 1967 the rate of inflation increased; in 1968 prices were 4.7% above their level of a year ago, and in 1969 there was a further rise of 5.4%. Prices continued to rise in this way reaching 10.1% in 1971.

The cause of this rise in inflation was not wages. Even the 'Times' of 7th January 1971 stated "There was general agreement that wages and salaries had not originally begun the pay and price explosions. Devaluation was seen on all sides as the trigger mechanism."

The Tory election manifesto in May 1970 repeated the same point: "Britain now faces the worst inflation for twenty years. This is mainly the

result of tax increases and devaluation."

It was the measures of the 1964-70 Labour government, attempting to manage the capitalist system better than the capitalists, that gave the initial impetus to inflation. Devaluation of the pound in November 1967, followed by a heavy increase in personal taxation introduced in the budget of 1968, were the principal measures in raising prices and cutting living standards.

Therefore, the wages "explosion" which followed in the 1970's was no more than a legitimate attempt on the part of workers to catch up on what had been lost in the previous 3 years.

Wage rises followed on from price rises—not the other way round.

In the early period of the 1970's prices began to spiral. But as the table shows (Table 1) there is no direct link between wage increases and price increases. In some years such as 1978 and 1979 wage increases were higher than the cost of living increase, but

inflation actually declined.

International comparisons (see Table 2) show over the period 1963-1973 that Britain has the highest price increases but the lowest wage increases. At the time of the Social Contract, many in the labour movement argued that pay policy in the period 1975 to 1978 had brought down inflation from 24% to 8%. But all the major industrial countries suffered a price explosion in the early '70s followed by reduced inflation.

Countries such as Britain and Canada had pay controls, the United States and Germany did not; and in these two latter countries the rate of inflation was reduced to a lower level.

Nevertheless, because it was a Labour government many workers were prepared to put their trust in its declared intention to help the low paid and protect the social wage. At Labour Party conference delegates were told that 'free collective bargaining' had nothing to do with socialism. A 'planned approach' would help the low paid and those with little Trade Union muscle, and

LABOUR'S ECONOMIC INC

No new Inc

Table 1: Wages, Prices and Real Pay UK 1974-79

	Cost of Living % increase	Earnings
July 1974	17.1	18.1
July 1975	26.3	27.7
July 1976	12.9	13.9
July 1977	17.6	8.9
July 1978	7.8	14.2
March 1979	9.8	14.9

Table 2: Average Annual Changes 1963-73

	Wages	Productivity	Prices
Britain	7.5	4.4	4.4
W Germany	7.7	6.6	3.3
France	8.5	4.5	4.1
Italy	10.3	6.0	4.0



ECONOMIC STRATEGY Becomes Policy!

after all, isn't socialism all about 'planning'?

Grand words and intentions, but the reality was very different. In 1979 Labour was thrown from office after a Tory campaign based on unemployment and living standards. After five years in government what was the actual result of the Social Contract?

When Labour came to power in 1974 1% of the population owned 22.5% of the wealth, by 1976 this had increased to 24.9%. On the other hand the number of people living around the poverty line went from 11.8 million to 14.9 million in the period 1974 to 1976.

The Royal Commission on Wealth further underlined this by pointing out that the poorest 25% of families received the same share of UK income throughout the 1968 to 1976 period. In fact according to the Policy Studies Institute the proportion of people living in poverty has not changed since the start of the welfare state.

Nor was the distribution of real wealth changed; the richest 1% of the population owned more than the bottom 80% (Financial Times 10/1/80).

In an even worse position were the low paid, who were supposedly the ones who would be protected under the Social Contract. The idea that 'if the better-paid showed restraint, the low paid would benefit,' proved to be completely false.

The Low Pay Unit has pointed out that in the period 1974 to 1976 the numbers working for poverty wages, that is less than the supplementary benefit entitlement level, increased from 130,000 to 290,000. With their dependents this

meant an increase from 360,000 to 890,000.

It was this policy, that brought the Labour government into conflict with the Trade Unions and lost them the general election. The interests of working people were sacrificed at the altar of profit.

Since then we have had the Tories operating on the basis of 'free' collective bargaining. Thatcher and Co. have shown in stark relief that the idea of wage rises causing price rises is utter nonsense, like the argument that one man's wage rise is another man's job loss.

In 1981, the real take home pay of workers was cut by 4½%. Yet inflation in the official figures continue to hover around 10%. According to the Tax and Price Index, which the Tories introduced and then conveniently forgot, living costs rose by 15.6% in 1981. And this is only half of the picture, the inflation rate for the low paid is one-sixth higher than that registered in the retail price index, because of the higher proportion spent on food, fuel and housing (FT 20/4/82).

Despite the bewildering array of statistics given by the government, it is clear that wages have not been contributing to price rises. The Tories have fought inflation by putting up prices and by cutting wages to boost profits.

The same applies with the idea of wage rises causing unemployment. Wage rates in Britain are the lowest in Western Europe, according to the boast of Sir Keith Joseph. Real wages are falling, but unemployment continues to mount.

Take the position of youth—the Tories peddle the myth that youth are

pricing themselves out of jobs. Yet their own government statistics show the opposite. Youth earnings between 1975 and 1980, as a proportion of average adult male earnings fell from 41% to 39% (Department of Employment survey).

The Tories have operated a wage policy in everything but name. By use of mass unemployment, cash limits and methods of taxation they have held wages down. This, from the party that brandishes the philosophy of free collective bargaining.

Under the last Labour government a married man with two children who earned the national average wage was paying 25.2% in tax and national insurance contributions. Under the Tories this has risen to 27.6%. **This from the government that claimed it would put people back to work and lift the tax burden.**

In a brutal fashion they have attempted to boost profits at the expense of wages and workers' living standards. The minister responsible for the Civil Service let the "cat out of the bag" when he explained that young civil servants should get no rise because there were at least ten people queuing up for every job. Not for 50 years has such "class" language been openly stated by the Tory leaders.

Incomes policies, Labour or Tory, however dressed up, have the same effect—they are simply and purely a mechanism for reducing living standards.

The forlorn government hope is that by increasing their profits the capitalists will invest and therefore boost industry and create jobs. But the experience of

the past under the various phases of incomes policy has been a completely different one. Investment in the last decade has continued to decline and is at a lower rate than any of Britain's major international competitors.

Even if a future Labour government secured an agreement on incomes and 'planning', it would make no difference to the continued economic decline of Britain, as long as the economy was based on the rotten foundations of capitalism.

Capitalists will demand greater profitability

If there is a greater possibility of making a quick profit from speculation in money, land, antiques or by investment abroad, why should Britain's capitalist class invest in industry? They are not concerned with creating jobs, only in creating profits.

The TUC in their 1981 Economic Review point to the need for "a framework for broad agreement on the direction of the economy—included in this would be an assessment which would cover the share of national income going to profits, to earnings from employment, to rents, to social benefits and to other incomes...such an assessment could thus be a vital part of an agreed policy on inflation, another essential basis of which would be a firm commitment to controlling prices."

But the major contradiction which stands in the way of this is the drive for pro-

fits. If profits are to be returned to the levels demanded by big business, then there will have to be a drop in the share going to wages and social benefits. The circle cannot be squared.

Real profitability of companies (excluding the North Sea companies) fell from 5% in 1979 to barely 2% last year. This compares with real profitability of about 10% in the 1960s and early 1970s. Restoring profits can only be done at the expense of workers' living standards—at least that is the case on the basis of capitalism.

A broad agreement will never be able to satisfy the partners equally. How, for instance will it be possible to control prices?

The majority of the economy is in the hands of less than 200 monopolies. Many of these companies have a greater turnover than many small national states.

In what way will it be possible to enforce price controls? Even if it was done effectively, then such companies would threaten sanctions; such as refusing to invest in Britain.

If the Tories were prepared to reduce industry to a 3-day week in 1974 to stop the miners, big business would close down the entire private sector, they would push unemployment up to 8 or 10 million, rather than submit meekly to a 'plan' against their interests.

It is impossible to regulate the laws of the capitalist market. What control can the government have on investment, dividends, prices and employment, when these are in private hands?

The old maxim still applies:—"What you don't

own, you can't control, and what you don't control you can't plan." The organisations of Labour should be resolutely opposed to wage control, because, as most workers clearly see, prices cannot be effectively controlled, in a free market economy.

What is necessary is for the Labour leaders to show the same determination and to offer, in a campaigning way, a real alternative to the present anarchy. As a basic precondition the Labour movement must represent the interests of the most oppressed and downtrodden in our society. This was the basis for the formation of the Labour Party.

Those who currently are pushed into the debt trap and grinding poverty have to see that the TUC and the Labour Party represents their interests. To the forefront should be the demand for a minimum wage of at least £90 for all workers, and a 35-hour week.

In order that wages are protected from inflation they should be linked to the increases in the cost of living—in effect a sliding scale of wages. Not that his means subscribing to the phoney figures of the Retail Price Index. On the contrary, the Trade Unions should encourage the setting up of committees; made of housewives, Trade Unionists, pensioners and tenants who would monitor on a local basis the rise in prices.

In this way we could establish the real rate of inflation. The bosses and their representatives will scream that the country cannot afford this. But the reality is that we cannot afford their system.

The working class of Britain can no longer afford to be the cheapest labour in Europe; it cannot afford to lose any more industries, jobs, educational, health and social service facilities.

The only way forward is to campaign for such demands, and in this way the mass of workers will see a glimmer of hope. A Labour government committed to Socialist Policies proposing widespread reforms on wages, prices and jobs would have no problems in explaining that the present system is completely diseased and rotten, and that the only real alternative is the socialist transformation of society.

The only way to organise wages and prices and bring them into harmony is to establish a genuine plan of production based on public ownership of the economy. In modern day terms this simply means the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, banks and insurance companies.

Compensation could be paid on the basis of proven need—not the lavish compensation paid out in the past. Democratic workers' control and management would avoid the bureaucracy and red-tape that we see in the present nationalised industries.

Instead of asking workers to sacrifice their living standards—for an elusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow—we could be constructing a society which would eliminate low pay, poverty, unemployment and all its attendant miseries and lay the basis for undreamed of plenty for all.

USA

Anti-Reagan movement grows

It's been only a year and a half since Reagan scored his "landslide" victory with promises to "re-arm" America, to "hang tough against the Russians."

During that time the media issued one proclamation after another about the "conservative mood" sweeping the country; about how Americans were just itching to let the world know they were ready to take a stand against the "Soviet threat."

Alexander Haig, at his confirmation hearings, even suggested it was better to die in a nuclear war than let "communism" continue to make inroads all over the world.

It's a year and a half later now, and what do we have? Reagan desperately trying to convince the world, (with not too much success), that he is not a warmonger; the powerful and conservative archbishop of Philadelphia

talking peace to 15,000 demonstrators; Billy Graham, the evangelist, attending a disarmament conference in the Soviet Union; that long-time warhawk and arms industry lackey, Senator Henry Jackson, giving lip-service to arms reductions and urging the President to negotiate with the Soviet Union; about 160 members of Congress endorsing the nuclear freeze; four architects of the Cold War—George Kernan, Robert McNamara, McGeorge Bundy, and Gerard Smith—calling for the US government to renounce the first strike with nuclear weapons.

How come these prominent individuals suddenly turned into peace doves? Especially during a period when the President was trying to drag us back into another Cold War?

The answer is organised

pressure from below. Until recently, peace sentiment, according to the polls, was extensive among the population. But it was unorganised, and therefore could be ignored by the politicians and powerful organisations.

Trade unions involved

The nuclear freeze campaign changed all of this. In state after state, local freeze campaigns have become rallying points for people who want the arms race to end.

In Reagan's home state, California, over 700,000 signatures to put the nuclear freeze question on the ballot this November; eight state legislatures, 23 city councils and 257 town meetings and municipal

elections have approved freeze resolutions; powerful trade unions like the United Steelworkers of America and the International Association of Machinists have responded positively to the freeze campaigns.

Union branches across the country have been involved in their community freeze campaigns, as in the state of Vermont. There, Tom Bellville, director of Vermont's AFL-CIO COPE committee, says that he and thousands of other Vermont trade unionists were involved in 130 town meetings in support of the nuclear freeze. "No state is remote from a nuclear war," he said.

The President's military and foreign policies are creating immeasurable misery among millions here in the name of national defence. People are increasingly recognising that their

everyday problems of work, fall-off in their standard of living, lack of decent housing are to a great extent the result of military spending.

And so the fight against nuclear annihilation and for peace has become an integral part of the struggle against Reagonomics.

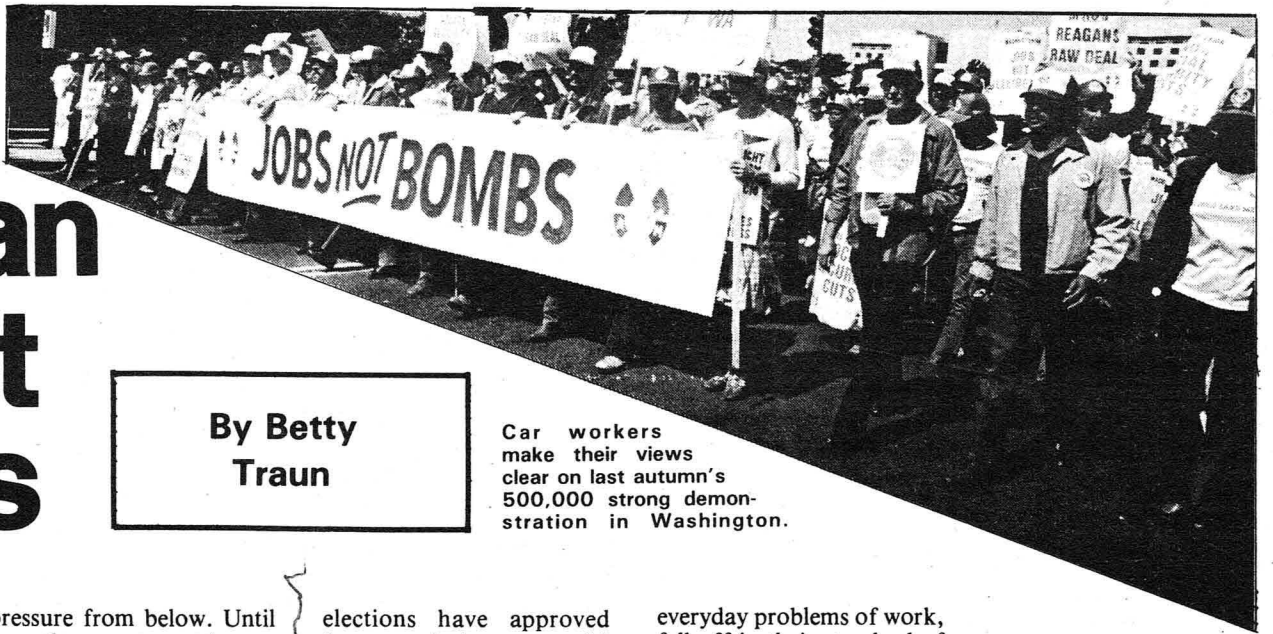
Politicians who for years stood quietly by as one President after another wasted taxpayers' money on nuclear weapons are getting nervous. The national headquarters of the nuclear freeze campaign in St. Louis, Missouri, is already preparing for the coming Congressional elections in November. Several national peace organisations have established political action committees to raise money to support peace candidates or to oppose warhawks.

When a long-time warmonger like Senator Jackson tells the President

to start serious negotiations with the Soviet Union, it means the hawks are running scared and something big is brewing. Jackson knows he could lose his Senate seat if he retains his image as hawk. The same holds true for many other members of Congress.

Just a year and a half and what a change! There is still a tough road ahead, but you can feel the spirit of hope in the people here as they sense the power they hold collectively.

12 June will be the big day when hundreds of thousands from across the country and abroad will assemble at the UN Headquarters and in Central Park, New York, to speak up against Reagan's policies.



By Betty Traun

Car workers make their views clear on last autumn's 500,000 strong demonstration in Washington.

USSR

The feminist movement in the past, although critical of the Russian regime, paraded women's rights in the USSR.

In Russia, it was said, there are nurseries for all, women can do what jobs they like, there are good facilities for working women with laundries, restaurants etc.

It is true that women in the USSR have made many gains since the revolution. There are more women doctors than men, for example—but doctors' pay has over a period of twenty years declined and is now on a par with a clerical supervisor's pay.

In rural areas in the east, important gains have been made. Moslem peasant women have greater freedom than, for example, their sisters in Iran. Girls and women are educated up to the same standard as boys and men, peasant women and those who have not worked can receive old-age pensions in their own right, they are not dependent on their husbands qualifying.

Women can and do drive trains, lorries, and work down mines and participate in all areas of work that men are involved in—but under an undemocratic system they are still treated as second-class citizens.

A typical family in the USSR lives in a small two-roomed flat. He works as a technician at a computer centre, she works in the

By Dawn Adams

equivalent to the public works department in the local city council. They have one child aged three who goes to nursery every day except Sunday.

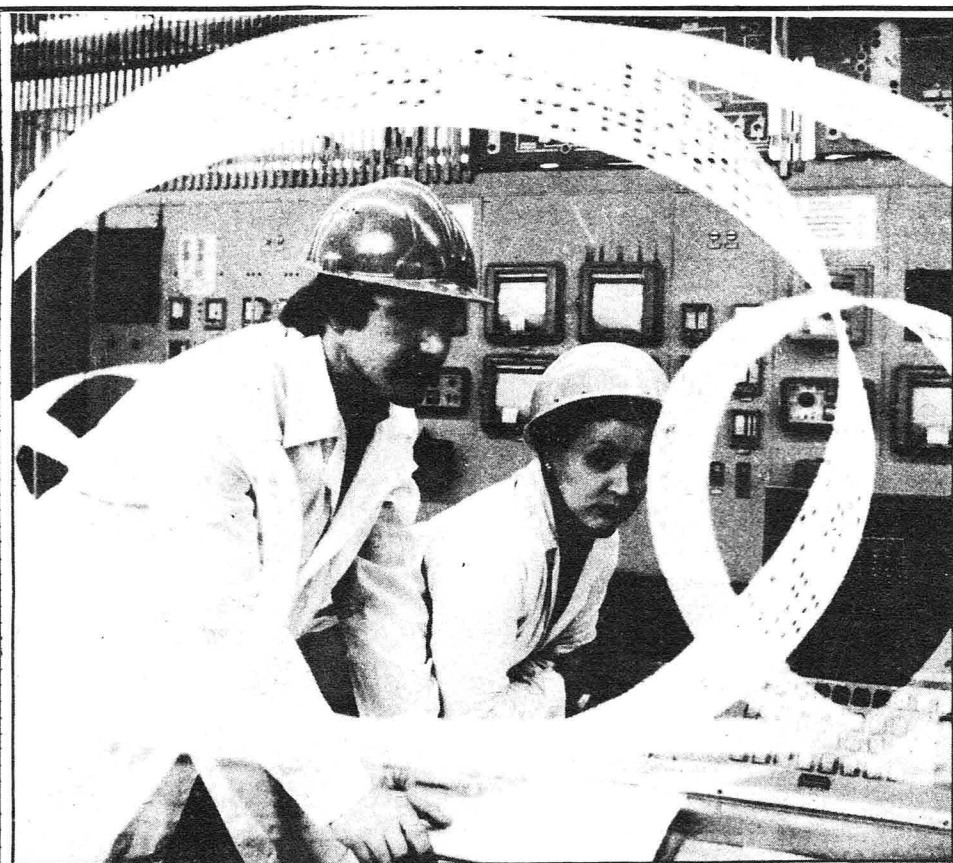
Their shifts never coincide so that they see little of each other. Their money has to be carefully spent and they have to queue for some items such as meat, bread, etc.

The laundries are old and it takes hours to do your washing. Clothing is difficult to purchase and for children near impossible, unless you can get hold of things on the black market—or if you have a good job in the Communist Party.

The Soviet Union has a scandalous record as far as its treatment of women is concerned on the issue of birth control.

In the early period of Stalinist rule, when the five year plans were started, the bureaucracy realised that to carry out its programme it would need more workers. Millions had been killed by starvation or in the bloody battles during the First World War and the civil war.

So Stalin and the bureaucrats tried to raise the birth rate by introducing a points system for the men—if you sired one child you got one



Women do many of the same jobs as men in Russia but in an undemocratic system they are still treated as second-class citizens.

No paradise for women

point and so on. The highest award was given for siring 13 children, and the point was that the mother did not have to be your wife—it could be a mistress, passing acquaintance or whatever.

The points were used for financial gain or material gain, i.e. you could save them to purchase consumer items. The larger the fami-

ly, the better ration deal and more family allowance.

Families with one or two children were berated as being anti-Soviet and failing in their duty.

By the late '30s this policy had been partly relaxed, although the points system was still in operation. During this period if they wanted women could go out to work, but the official

media pressured society into thinking it was best for mother and the children if she looked after them at home.

Russia introduced birth control clinics during the Second World War. But with the slaughter of 20 million Russian people as a result of the Nazi invasion, the points system was reintroduced to build up the

worker stock.

Women who had been actively employed during the war and had been involved in heroic battles were once again reduced to breeding stock.

By the middle of the '60s the bureaucracy realised that they needed more babies to be able to support the projected workforce needed in the future. So a new bonus scheme was introduced and a massive media campaign was waged in support.

Until this time, abortion had been freely available. Now it became impossible to obtain abortion except for the most dire medical reasons. Birth control devices became increasingly difficult to obtain except on the black market at exorbitant prices.

Today people are allowed to have one or two children and it is considered anti-state to have more. Abortion, sterilisation are once more freely available.

Throughout all these twists and turns in policy, there is no evidence that women have actually been forced either to have children or not. But with constant campaigning through the state controlled radio, television, newspapers etc., people can be pressurised into thinking on certain issues what the state wants them to think.

Frustration and discontent among women in the USSR will continue. This will add to the general discontent in the working class as a whole. This will guarantee in the future that workers will move to democratic socialism.

A planned economy on the basis of workers' democracy lays the basis for a truly socialist society for the future where women will play a full role alongside men.

UN CANNOT SOLVE FALKLANDS CRISIS

Sections of the labour movement have raised the idea of the Falklands dispute being referred to the United Nations.

The Labour Party leadership have been continually pressing the Tories to first of all try to go to the United Nations before launching any military attack. And in order to prevent the Labour leaders later opposing the Tories' actions, Thatcher has gone through the motions of appearing to negotiate (the 'presentational' aspect as *The Times* called it), as have the Argentine Junta.

Despite passing a resolution through the Security Council, the United Nations has been unable to prevent military action. This weakness only confirms what *The Times* wrote earlier this year, that the "United Nations is often paralysed by indecision at a

By Bob Labi

time of crisis" (4/1/82).

Certainly its track record to date has shown a consistent inability to prevent wars. In the six months prior to March alone there were four major battles involving a total of over 300,000 soldiers in Chad, on the Thai-Kampuchean border, in Eritrea and in the Western Sahara. At the same time new offensives have been launched in the Iran-Iraq war. In fact the *Sunday Times* recently estimated that a population of 701,600,000 people were currently involved in war.

Throughout its history the United Nations has only been able to act when the super powers have let it. Their influence is formalis-

ed in the set up of the Security Council where the United States, Britain and France, the leading imperialist powers in 1945 when the UN was set up, and the Stalinist bureaucracies of Russia and China each have a veto over all decisions. Unless the super powers can agree to a course of action none of the motions passed at the UN can be implemented.

Thus the many UN Assembly resolutions calling for sanctions against South Africa are ignored left, right and centre. The UN has proved incapable of enforcing its decisions that it, and not South Africa, has the legal responsibility for Namibia.

Even where the UN has agreed to send its "peacekeeping" troops they have either acted on behalf of imperialism, as in the Korea war and the Congo, or they have proved ineffective as in Cyprus, Lebanon and the Middle East generally.

Any United Nations intervention in the Falklands crisis would be sponsored by the United States and

other Western governments in an attempt to prevent all-out war between Britain and Argentina, and at the same time try to save the Junta and Thatcher.

It would have nothing to do with the rights either of the Falklanders or the Argentine workers, who the United Nations have done nothing to defend since the 1976 military coup. The US aims only to overcome this clash between two erstwhile allies.

A war may result in the decisive military defeat of one side or the other, deciding the issue in the interests of Argentine or British capitalism. But the only force that can stop the war and solve the crisis from the standpoint of the working class is the working class itself. But to do this it first of all requires the workers movements in both Britain and Argentina to stand completely separate from and opposed to their respective governments.

In Britain that means the Labour Party must also repudiate the policies of the



last Labour government, guided by David Owen, the then Foreign Secretary, in arming the Argentine Junta. It means a policy based upon the organisations of the working class campaigning for their own interests

and on their own terms, trusting only in their own power and strength. A campaign of action to bring down both Thatcher and the Argentine Junta offers the only working class solution to the crisis.

Ford's wage-slavery in Spain

'El Pais,' a Spanish daily paper, recently published an article on the working conditions in the large Ford motor company plant in Valencia, which employs 10,000 workers.

Based on interviews with the workers, it revealed some of the tactics used by this company to increase profitability, which should be of interest to Ford workers in the UK.

Indeed it should remind British workers in general that any benefits they do enjoy have been won by trade union struggle, not through the kindness of company bosses. The Ford multinational provides a clear example of the inner processes of capitalist society.

The story started in 1976 when the workers and farmers of the area 'appealed' to the Ford company to create jobs; even selling their land at ridiculously low prices to gain the 'privilege' of creating more profits for Ford.

Then came the mechanisation process, quickly destroying some of the newly-created jobs, and provoking an understandable 'Luddite' reaction from the workforce. The first machine had to be protected by barriers to ensure its survival!

However, advanced technology only meant more misery for the worker, who now had to become part of the machine:

By Hazel Sutherland

"You have to finish six cars every five minutes...you come out completely screwed up and can't even co-ordinate your hands."

"...So much part of the machine that even natural needs are regulated:

"You can't leave the line to go to the toilet...if nobody can replace you, you have to do it in a glass. Breaking this rule costs you ten days' work and pay."

"They don't leave you in peace, even when you're off sick. At 6.30 in the morning a company representative might show up, supposedly to see how you are, but really to check that you're in the house. The next day a telegram will arrive, advising you to return to work."

So efficient is the company's pressure on the workers they've reduced absenteeism from 14% to 6% in just over a year. The figures are so incredible they even began to worry the external management of the company.

Along with the intolerable pressures created by the shift system, it is not surprising that, according to trade union figures (the company releases no infor-



Explosive tensions have been created among Spanish Ford workers by the company's pig-headed attitude

mation), 250 workers (or 4%) suffer from some disability or other (deafness, spinal problems, stomach ulcers etc.). When workers complained of 87 cases of serious hearing disorders, the company's answer was: 'They already had hearing problems.'

Such tactics, however,

have not created a docile workforce; from the start the workers fought back, with regular mass meetings and reaching a high degree of unity. But in the first confrontation Ford's strike-breaking experience had the advantage the new workforce.

The company wasn't sat-

isfied with this one victory, however, and pressed on with its attacks on jobs and working conditions. The laws of the system demand that Ford grind the workers into the ground in order to squeeze every last cent of profit out of them.

And these are the kind of people who continually de-

fend 'liberty' and 'freedom of choice'! What kind of 'freedom of choice' do Ford car workers have?

But the story has by no means finished. The workers may have experienced a period of lull and disillusionment, but explosive tensions have been created by the company's pig-headed attitude—tensions which could come to the surface at any time.

It is significant that the workers are conscious of the contradictions of this system:

"We all know that if the company doesn't mechanise it will lose international markets...but we have to remember that if nobody has a job the company won't be selling cars to anyone."

The problem is crystal clear—the workers know what is wrong with their lives, but have not yet found a way to resolve it:

"They don't want to return to the land; but neither do they want the assembly line."

No conscious worker wants society to go backwards. They want to go forward, using the enormous possibilities of new technology for all the benefit of all. But Ford's policy is only helping to bring nearer the day when the workers are pushed too far.

Ford is a multinational: let its workers also be so! Even Ford couldn't beat the international workforce, united around a socialist plan of production. Unite and fight—for an end to wage slavery!

Letters

**VIEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:**

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

The truth slips out

Dear Comrades

Just occasionally the capitalists let the veil slip a little and the truth slips out. So it was with former Tory Prime Minister, Edward Heath, speaking in the Falklands Islands debate in the House of Commons on 13 May.

Using the Second World War as an example, he demonstrated in crystal clear terms how war arises within the capitalist system. He said that Britain did not declare war in 1939 out of opposition to fascism or opposition to the internal policies or actions of fascists in Germany or Italy. He explained that war began because Germany posed a direct threat to British interests, by which he meant that they were expanding their markets and agricultural base by invading Poland, which posed a direct threat to the markets dominated by British (and French for that matter) capitalism.

Of course, war had nearly started over Czechoslovakia and was only averted by the Munich agreement. Many people see that as an appeasement of fascism. It was nothing of the kind. It was simply that the correlation between the threat to the interests of British capitalism and the balance of military force was insufficient to provoke Chamberlain to resort to war on that occasion.

So, when people say they fought fascism in 1939-45,

we should remember that they might have done, but the ruling class did not, no matter how much it opposed fascism in its own interests.

When people say that Munich was an appeasement of fascism, we should remember that it was no such thing. It was calculated in the interests of British capitalism in opposition to German capitalism.

More particularly, we should remember that the Tories are prepared to fight for their interests in the South Atlantic, but they could not give a jot for the interests of the oppressed working class in Argentina.

On this occasion, thank you Mr Heath. We note your remarks with great interest.

Yours comradely
Angela Anderson
Southend West CLP

An example of the capitalist press at work

Dear Comrades

Congratulations on the best issue yet (601, 14 May). I refer especially to the articles on press coverage of the Falklands and the *Daily Mirror* attacks. We all accept the bias of our so-called 'free' press, nationally, they're not there to put over the truth but to reflect the ideas of either the owners or the corporation that runs individual newspapers.

Three years ago I got 'the treatment' from the *Sunday People*. Headlines like

"Loses election in May, loses husband in July"! I can laugh at it now, but at the time it was the effects on my son, my family and of course the labour movement locally that nearly drove me to despair. I remember clearly the antics of the journalists, their complete ignorance and the contempt they expressed for my wanting to protect those dear to me.

But more importantly, I asked them why all this fuss—questioning friends, LP members, wanting photographs, forcing me to send my son to friends on the mainland—and yet not one word about my politics or activity of IOW Labour Party in one of the most hard fought election campaigns since 1945.

"That's not our job," they claimed, "you are a public figure, the people have a right to know." Noble sentiments indeed!

To bring this right up to date, our local press recently carried a letter headlined, "Democracy—but for how long?" attacking the *Militant* and myself for calling the Tories' new Young Workers Schemes "Slavery and industrial conscription." I replied, but for the last three weeks the editor has simply returned my letters requesting that they be cut short. So this particular paper, a weekly, which goes into every household on the island, hasn't carried anything from the LP not because they are deliberately keeping us out, but simply by not returning my letter until it's too late for my reply (suitably shortened) to be printed!

The *Militant* doesn't need

a "dirty tricks" department, it's our ideas they fear and no matter how hard they try, the ideas will reach the "parts the gutter press can't reach"! Keep up the good work.

Fraternally
Cathy Wilson
IOW CLP Prospective
Parliamentary Candidate

Rail industry under Tory attack

Dear Comrades

Since the introduction of the additional rest day every 8 weeks in the 39 hour week agreement, more rest days were worked by NUR guards in March 1982 than any other month—just to make up for the loss in earnings because of flexible rostering!

We now have Lord Mc-

Carthy's decision that ASLEF train drivers should accept flexible rostering and therefore a worsening of their conditions of service and further loss in wages. ASLEF train drivers will be demanding no turning of the clock back and no breaking the 1919 guaranteed 8 hour day.

Despite NUR union leadership stating flexible rostering will be the saviour of the railway system. Many rank and file members can now see the hypocrisy of the issue. Many jobs are at stake.

British Rail Engineering Ltd state that they will close Shildon works in Durham and Horwich works in Lancashire and partly close other workshops meaning further massive redundancies for the workers. The railways are to Shildon what BSC was to Corby—a town that has become one

massive unemployment centre.

We also see the Tories anti-trade union Tebbit Bill pushed through Parliament which could seriously damage the aspirations of any trade union campaign against such actions to save jobs and services.

The rank and file railway workers will demand that the union leadership takes up the fight which will mobilise the whole trade union movement to fight not only the hated Tebbit Bill but also for a general election and the return of a Labour government committed on a bold socialist programme, aimed at solving the crisis that the capitalists have created for the workers.

Yours fraternally
Dave Hardy
Nottingham & District
NUR (personal capacity)

Road safety

Dear Comrades

As I was selling the paper in Hanley on Saturday morning, a demonstration organised by the Motorcycle Action Group against the compulsory wearing of crash helmets passed through the centre. As a bike rider myself I got to thinking about how safety could be improved.

The latest law change to reduce the engine size of learner bikes will do nothing to improve safety as no extra real tuition is involved. On the contrary, the Tory expenditure cuts have meant less training and worse road conditions.

However, the worst aspect to motorcycle safety is the

cost of parts and safety gear. I have a relatively new 250cc bike—until the law change the largest bike a learner could ride. Tyres wear out approximately every 10,000 miles. A new set of good tyres cost me £38. It is possible to buy cheaper but they are not as good or as long lasting.

A new silencer cost me £80. Again it is possible to buy cheaper but the noise levels are invariably illegal. A good crash helmet costs anything from £25. These should be changed every 18 months or so.

A new chain and sprocket, which again is essential for safety, is necessary again after about 10,000 miles with very careful riding. My local dealer has just told me they cost £25—and they are not even

genuine maker's parts. Finally, brake pads are £9 a pair.

I am fortunate in that I have a full-time job. I cannot imagine how someone on a YOP scheme or unemployed can possibly keep his bike in a good condition. As in all aspects of life at the moment, the capitalists' profit always takes precedence over our health and safety.

Any government seriously concerned at motorcycle safety would have to nationalise the component supplies and reduce the cost of parts to a level that people can reasonably be expected to pay.

Yours fraternally
Dave Campbell

World cup boycott

Dear Militant

With the Falklands conflict deepening day by day, a number of people have raised the idea of a boycott of the World Cup.

These people only months ago were saying that politics should not enter sport. This is not just plain hypocrisy but very much shows the class nature of even this small issue.

As far as workers suffering under the horrific apartheid system in South Africa is concerned, the bosses see no reason why sport and politics should not mix. However, when it comes to defending the "national interest", i.e. that of the ruling class, there is no limit to the methods they will use.

For workers on the Falklands whether Britain or Argentina boycott the world cup will make no difference. As long as capitalism exists in the Falklands (or anywhere else) whether the jackboot of the Junta or in the guise of Thatcher and Co. workers will continue to suffer.

For the Falklanders changing one ruling class (or type of ruling class) for another will solve nothing. The only answer for working people is to wage an international class war to totally rid the planet of capitalism.

Yours fraternally
Bryan Clare
EETPU Hertford Branch,
Ware and Hertford LPYS

Marxist Weekend School

BOOK NOW!

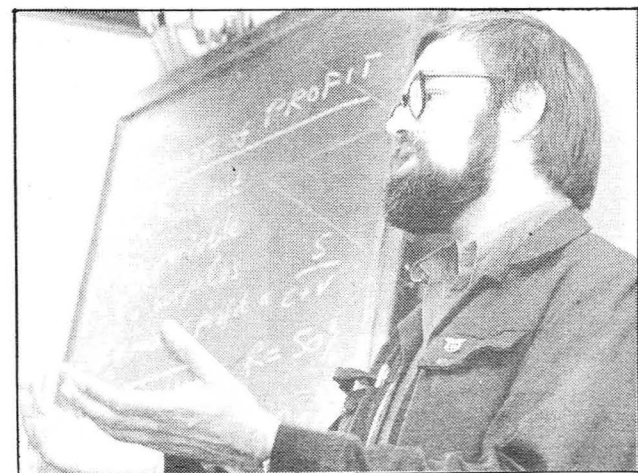
Militant's Weekend School is now successfully established as an important annual event for Marxist education.

This year there will be courses both on basic Marxist theory and on important contemporary issues such as the revolutionary developments in Central America; women and the struggle for socialism; and nuclear weapons and the question of war.

The speakers on Latin America will be Peter Taafe and Bob Labi. The course on women will include 'The Origin of the Family' and the position of women in Russia (speakers: Margaret Crear, Glensy Ingham and Jen Pickard). The sessions on the 'Cold War', nuclear weapons and perspectives on war and peace will be introduced by Lynn Walsh.

John Pickard and Mick Brooks will lead off at sessions on 'Introduction to Marxism', and Dave Cotterill will speak on Marxism and the development of the British labour movement.

At the end of the course (Sunday afternoon) the whole school will come together for 'Marxism and the Labour Movement,'



Bryan Beckingham discusses Marxist economics at a previous weekend school.

with Peter Taafe and Pat Wall (Shipleigh Labour Party and President of Bradford Trades Council) speaking.

The School, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 June will be held at Queen Mary College, Mile End, London E.1. Book now to ensure a place (there is limited room). Booking forms, which include full details of the course and other details, are available from 'Militant' or local sellers.

Accommodation (camp bed or with local comrades) will be arranged for com-

rades outside London, but places must be booked as most places in the Crèche.

On Saturday evening there will be a Disco and social, and earlier in the evening a showing of the film, 'The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter'. (This year there is nothing arranged for Friday evening).

For all this the cost is only £4.50 (or £3.25 for Saturday only and £2.25 for Sunday only), with reduced rates (£2.50, £1.75 and £1.25) for the unemployed, school students, and other unwaged.

Fight capitalism!

Dear Comrade

The Falkland Island issue prevails, with British and Argentinian soldiers deaths, as the result of a Tory cock-up. Yet, at home, the official unemployment figure leaps to over 3 million, virtually unnoticed. And still, school leaving figures unaccounted for.

This is a capitalist war, we must have no support for it, no confidence in the Tories and the hypocritical system. It is the British capitalists who sell arms to dictatorships such as Argentina; the American capitalists who pump money into the same economy—and yet denounce it as a fascist regime. It is the working class soldiers who fight the capitalists' war, the pawns in the game of international politics.

How can people support such a system, a system that exploits us in every way possible?

The other night I watched a programme on the "war" where one Falklander argued that Argentina has no democracy. Does he honestly believe that we live in democracy, a free country? A democracy where police intimidate left wing paper sellers, where armed forces are forbidden to buy such propaganda, where the majority of the country have to fight for a decent



British soldiers are forbidden to organise. (Photo: PA).

living, struggle to find employment at any cost while the idle rich reap the profits of workers' exploitations?

I am a socialist because I strongly believe that we can change this rotten system. I am confident in Marxist ideology, and support the Militant Tendency, and I will fight for the emancipation of the working class, for a true democracy.

Fraternally
From one of
Thatcher's 4 million
Sarah Howard
Devonport LPYS

£3,300 NEEDED EVERY WEEK

£1,856 in cash and £400 in IOUs has so far been received from this year's CPSA conference. We call on all Militant supporters who were not at Brighton, especially those in the civil service unions to celebrate the historic election of Kevin Roddy as President of the CPSA with a bumper donation.

Already we've been told of well over £60 from delegates and visitors to the IRSF Conference that's on its way!

Meetings held to mark the 600th Militant gave some of our readers the opportunity to 'say it with cash.' Over £140 was raised in Nottingham, and £90 in E London. Thanks also to comrades who contributed in meetings in Brighton, Chesterfield, Burnley and Reading.

Labour Parties such as Woodhouse Close LP (Durham), Tunbridge Wells Women's Section, and Ringwood & Fordingbridge LP, either made donations

Mitcham LPYS mass canvass

June 3 is polling day in Mitcham and Morden. The by-election has been called because the ex-Labour MP, Bruce Douglas-Mann, has resigned his seat to stand as an SDP candidate.

The Labour Party's candidate, David Nicholas, who is vice-chairman of the London Labour Party, is appealing to the labour movement in the London area to help in the fight to defeat the SDP and the Tories. Already the LPYS London Regional Committee has organised a mass canvass and produced a youth leaflet.

LPYS mass canvass details: Sunday 23 May, meet 10.30 am (if you have your own transport) at Pollards Hill Community Centre, South Lodge Avenue, Pollards Hill, Mitcham; or 10.00 am if you come by public transport at Central Committee Rooms, 34 London Road, Morden (2 mins walk from Morden Tube) (Transport will be laid on to take you to the community centre). Youth for Socialism rally: 2.00 pm at Pollards Hill Community Centre. Speakers: David Nicholas (candidate) and Theresa Wrack (LPYS National Committee). The rally will end at about 3.30 pm, followed by a leaflet drop by those who can stay for a short while.

By Anne Beales
(London LPYS
Chairman)

to our funds, heard speakers putting our view, or held collections for us. Labour Party Young Socialists branches in Hackney, Neath, Newcastle, Sunderland and Reading, and Youth Campaign Against Unemployment in Peterborough also supported our finds, as have students in Cardiff and Swansea.

Individual contributions included £35 from R Sevin (Wolverhampton), £20 from J Farmer (EETPU, Edinburgh), tenners from L More (Drambeg LPYS) and R Phillips (Poole), £8s from T Keelen (Poole) and J Bleaken (GMWU, Bristol), £6.50 from Chester student S Jacques, and fivers from S Holt (Andover), A Crampton (Nuneaton & Bosworth LPYS), M Milne (Sunderland), P Westmore (Ryde), and J Fedjuk (Cardiff SE LPYS).

Between £1 and £4 have come from L Baratt (Macclesfield), L Hockey (Wembley), P Sinclair (Boiler makers, Sunderland), J Baily (Bristol), T Bates and S Johnson (Stafford), T Sams Sittingbourne (two donations), J Ennis (Newquay, Cornwall), M Hey (Strathclyde NALGO), M Ball (Rochdale), M Waldram (NUAAW/TGWU, Leicester), and R Martin (Brentford & Isleworth LPYS).

We can't print the names of all those who have given us donations of £1 or under this week, or who give us similar sums regularly. However, many of them are unemployed, school students, single parents, and so on: and their 50ps or £1s are worth more to them than £10 or £20 to workers on above average wages.

Thanks to P Synder (Hillhead), M Perry (Maidstone), D Bardsley (Poole), R Stocks (Leicester), A Wilson (Halifax), J Fitzmaurice (Liverpool), A Erdal-Smith (Rochford), H Fawbert (Nuneaton), S Culley (Gosport), Cllr D McNab (Derby), F Flavers and W Rosam (both London), and R Bailes (Tailors & Garmentworkers) and R O'Byrne (both Tyneside).

A number of comrades in Coventry South East Labour Party have raised nearly £14, mainly by extras on sales of Militant, and coffee jars etc. This shows how it's possible to obtain small sums which mount up very quickly! Socials in Barking and Medway raised £80, and a bookstall on Tyneside over £20!

We've now collected nearly £8,600 towards our target of £35,000. This means we've got at time of writing just two months to raise £26,400 or £3,300 every week. The pace of events and the discussion and interest in our ideas in the movement should make this quite possible, to say the least! We appeal to all readers, especially new ones, to consider making a donation preferably a regular one to our Fighting Fund. You are contributing to the re-birth of socialism!

BUILD MILITANT!

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	369		2115
East Midlands	400		1765
Hants & Dorset	377		1250
Humberside	201		1075
London East	590		1960
London West	171		1060
London South	285		1415
Manchester & Lancs	174		2020
Merseyside	377		2290
Northern	479		2760
Scotland East	199		1345
Scotland West	372		2375
Southern	781		1760
South West	270		885
Wales East	131		945
Wales West	439		1355
West Midlands	394		2120
Yorkshire	317		2505
Others	2,272		4000
Total received	8,598		35000

This week:
£3,630

MILITANT SUMMER RAFFLE

Over £700 worth of prizes to be won
Tickets (10p) available from local
'Militant' seller over next week.

CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum ten words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

ads

MILITANT MEETINGS

NORTHUMBERLAND:
Wed 26 May, 7.30 pm, 'The Communist Manifesto and its relevance to today's struggle', at Blyth YMCA.
Wed 30 June, 7.30 pm, 'Southern Ireland today', at Blyth YMCA.
For further information contact P D Marsden, 94 Disraeli Street, Blyth.

SWANSEA. Monday May 24th, 7.30pm Dynevor School 'The Falkland Islands—Junta Out! Tories Out! The Socialist alternative'. Speaker: Ted Grant. All Welcome!

LEYLAND: 'What Militant Stands For'. At 8pm, Thursday 27 May at Civic Hall, Towngate, Leyland.

MACCLESFIELD. 'Falklands War—What Policy for Labour'. Hear: Tony Saunois (Labour Party NEC 1978-81). 7.30pm, 30 May at Nags Head, Waters Green (opp. Station).

BROMLEY. 'Falklands—a socialist answer'. Speaker: Ted Grant (Political Editor Militant). Thursday 27 May, 7.30pm HG Wells Centre, off Masons Hill (near Bromley South BR station).

CLASSIFIED

NHS unions unite. Fight for 12%. March and Rally HASTINGS 11.45am 22 May. Assemble Alexander Park Gates.

Accommodation available in Gosport for comrade wanting to move to sunny Hampshire. Phone Gosport 25174 for further details.

BRIXTON. Wednesday 2nd June 7.30pm. Youth fight back against racism and unemployment. Speakers: Sam Brown (LPYS London Regional Committee), Rod Fitch (PPC Brighton Kemp Town). At Brixton Town Hall.

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL 1982. Saturday 26th June/Sunday 27 June. This year's School will be held at Queen Mary's College, Mile End, London E1. Courses will include: Introduction to Marxism, Latin America,

Tapes of Mick Brooks speaking on:

Economics (I & II) (C60 & C90) 2 tapes—£2.60.

World Economic Perspectives (C90) 1 tape—£1.40.

The Bloody Rise of Capitalism (C60) 1 tape—£1.20.

State Capitalism (C90) 1 tape—£1.40.

Postage 20p for one tape, 10p subsequent tapes or £6.80 for all 5 inc. p&p.

All orders to I Wells, Little 6-G-4, Owens Park, 293, Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 6HD. Organised by Manchester University Militant Supporters Association (allow 28 days for despatch).

History of British labour movement, Women and the struggle for socialism, Permanent Revolution and colonial liberation. Full details will be announced next week. Book the date now!

KENT'S 3rd MILITANT WEEKEND SCHOOL

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 5 and 6 JUNE

'Excellent accommodation meant I could concentrate fully on the discussions—great value' was how one visitor summed up last year's event.

The combination of a first-class hotel plus lively debates makes this weekend by the sea an ideal chance for those who want a pleasant break. (This is especially true for families.) This year with three varied subjects we believe that with £7.50 (same as last year) covering all costs we are giving tremendous value.

Programme:

Saturday 2.00-4.00 speaker from South African Labour Education Project and discussion on South Africa

Saturday evening: beach party

Sunday, 10.00 am-12.30 pm: Margaret Crear 'The role of women in the labour & TU movement' 2.00-4.30 pm: Poplarism—Eric Segal (Folkestone CLP) (George Lansbury and the Councilors' Revolt)

Cost:

Bed, breakfast and evening meal + 3 sessions only £7.50 (unwaged £6.50, nominal charge for young children).

Creche organised, please specify age, numbers etc.

Cheques/POs made payable to:

B Lewis, at conference address: Selby Hotel, 7 Union Crescent, Margate. 0843-24309

MILITANT TEACHER WEEKEND SCHOOL

At: Newtown Community Centre, Newtown Row, Birmingham On Saturday 22 May, Sunday 23 May. There will be 4 sessions:

1. The lessons of the Barking dispute and the way forward for the NUT. Speakers: Colin Ramage (Vice President, Barking NUT) and Felicity Dowling (Liverpool NUT)

2. Who controls education? Speaker: Roy Davies

3. Local Authority workers fight the cuts

4. Trade unions and the Tory government. Speaker: Wayne Jones (Militant Industrial Correspondent)

There will be a crèche and sandwiches available at the Community Centre and accommodation can be arranged with local supporters. Cost £4 plus pooled fare. Write: Louise Birch, 109 Northfield Road, Birmingham 30. Phone: 021 459 7903.

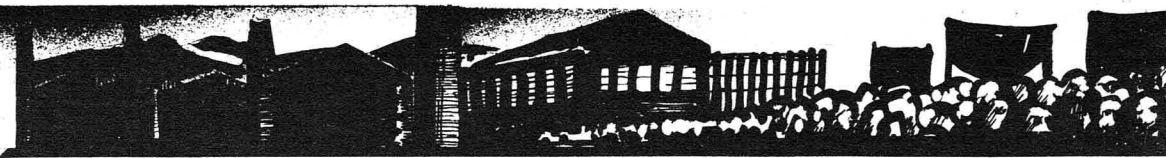
7th South Wales Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday, Friday 27th August—Monday 30th August. For the 7th time we are organising our highly successful camp in the beautiful surroundings of Horton on the Gower Coast (10 minutes walk from Port Eynon and Horton beaches).

It will provide not only an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism, but also a superb holiday for the family.

This year will be the best ever with increased facilities but still at a very low cost of £10.00. Meals and snacks will be provided at the camp, but campers will have to bring their own tents etc.

Industrial Reports



BREL- not one shop, not one job!

The NUR Shopmen's conference last weekend reaffirmed support for industrial action to fight the proposed main workshop closures.

Bitter opposition to closure came from delegates from many works not immediately threatened and from the smaller regional shops.

As Bro. Turnbull of Yorks pointed out, BREL had talked of a 57% reduction in workload by 1986, which means every engineering worker on the railway is threatened. The ASLEF dispute proved that only the maximum disruption could defeat these closures.

Most delegates clearly felt that the old methods of a 'joint approach' with the BRB to seek more investment off the Tory govern-

ment are now useless, and that all-out strike action is now necessary.

But the bitter memory of previous closures is still fresh in many minds: conference opened with a review of last year's resolutions, including one that promised the same defence for Ashford works. We were told that the union had prevented closure; but a mere 120 jobs out of a thousand had been saved!

The Board could still

dredge out a 'compromise' deal with higher redundancy payments and a token workforce being retained, and trade union leaders would no doubt tell us again that they had honoured their promises.

Indeed neither Swindon (which has already been cut from 12,000 to 2,500) nor Horwich are proposed for complete closure. At the latter works the modern foundry and spring shop are being kept open as a bribe

to private buyers—Arnold Weinstock of GEC has already been sniffing around several works, and we may be assured he is not admiring the scenery.

We must reject such possible 'compromises' in advance. Only an all-out fight against the Board and the government can offer any hope for the future of the railway workshops, the workforce and their families.

By Bill Esmonds
(NUR Derby works)

Shildon

On 13 May, Shildon football ground had a massive crowd, at a meeting to hear Sid Weighell, NUR leader give his backing to the "Save Shildon" campaign.

He offered to negotiate with British Rail if they withdrew the closure plans, but if BR refused, "I will urge the union to exert full industrial power..."

To loud applause he went on "I will not hesitate to evoke the Triple Alliance. Once we start, we won't stop until we have won."

The meeting fully endorsed the "no closure" call and the determination to fight. The campaign has already got support of the local Labour Party, MP and councils, and workers in York and Crewe have blacked machines originally intended for Shildon. Teeside ISTC have stated their opposition to closures.

The Northern Region Labour Party conference unanimously added its support when it promised "full and active support to the campaign." The Labour Party Young Socialists organised a collection at Conference raising over £140 for the campaign.

The campaign now must build on this support. The next step is a rally on 29 May. The workers at Shildon have to be involved in winning support, visiting factories and industries in the area, to explain the issues.

NUR GUARDS GRADES

The NUR grades conference of shunters, guards and chageman shunters takes place against the background of a serious decline in living standards and working conditions.

Two vital issues are flexible rostering for guards, already signed by the NUR though rejected by ASLEF (see back page) and the implementation of one man operation, driver-only, for passenger and freight trains.

The BRB are insisting that the new electrified St Pancras to Bedford passenger service should be driver only, which for the time being has been rejected by the NUR NEC.

Flexible rostering's im-

By Dave Hardy
(Nottingham District Rail, NUR)

position on guards has meant a reduction in wages, and longer hours, and also goes against last year's conference resolution calling on the NEC to reject any increase in guards' programmes above 8 hours; the present maximum under flexible rostering is 9 hours.

Some guards depots have stood firm against the NUR leaders' position, and rejected implementation of flexible rostering, others have called one day unofficial strikes, to register their disgust at the worsen-

ing of conditions.

The NUR NEC members have visited depots and a massive amount of literature has gone out from union head office to convince the guards that flexible rostering is "the only way forward for the railway industry." Remember it is the NUR, not BR that is saying this! Many guards depots would also like to know the cost of selling this agreement to the membership.

In the one man operation of passenger and freight trains, resolutions call on the NEC to defend past Annual General meeting and grades conference decisions and refuse to negotiate with

the BRB on this issue.

Unfortunately, no one told the NUR NEC that the new electric trains to be used on the London St. Pancras to Bedford had no guards compartments built into them. Surely not an oversight because they were built at York BR workshops!

Delegates to conference will see their role as crucial to the survival of the grades represented; they will demand that the NEC reject all productivity agreements which attack the grades, and only benefit BR management.



Metal Box

Workers at Metal Box Shipley are staging a 24-hour-a-day sit in at the firm in opposition to compulsory redundancies—including those of long standing shop stewards and leading members of the combine committee.

Meetings with management were called off when the management insisted that normal working meant acceptance of short time working without government subsidy. Workers rejected this and both sides are now digging in for what could be a long drawn out dispute.

Plans are now being drawn up for picketing other Metal Box plants, as factories at Leicester and Westhoughton DWI in Lancashire are being faced with closure.

International support is also vital as Metal Box, like many multinationals, are running down their UK operations to transfer jobs abroad, especially to countries with little or no trade union activity such as South Africa, USA, on non-union sites, and a 'free development zone' in India.

Thatcher's allies in Chile have also benefitted from Metal Box's search for cheap labour and greater profits. In fact 67% of their returns are now from abroad.

Workers are also being asked to pick up the tab for management's blunder in diversifying into central heating, the collapse of the

market meaning more redundancies.

The cartel arrangement with the US firm continental can has collapsed, leaving MB open to American penetration of UK markets, shattering Metal Box's long held monopoly of the British open top market.

Meanwhile Metal Box have invested large amounts in high technology plant in America using non-union labour to reap big profits at the expense of the UK workforce.

The need for solidarity is essential as Shipley is seen as the centre of the combine activity, but also international links must be forged with Metal Box companies in Spain, South Africa, India and Holland and the USA, if this major multinational is to be beaten and finally controlled by the workforce. Cheques etc payable to Metal Box JSSC Fund, and sent to A Mackin, 14 Westcliffe Road, Shipley, BD 18 3EE.

Keith Narey
(Vice-President,
Bradford Trades
Council)

GMWU CONFERENCE
MILITANT FORUM
'Britain's Crisis and
the Socialist Alternative'

Hear: Peter Taaffe
(Editor, Militant)

Thursday 25 May 7.30pm
Norbeck Hotel, Wilmington
Sq.
Eastbourne
(2mins from conference hall)

—Conference previews—

GMWU

The last 18 months has been devastating for the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU).

As the General Secretary explains in this year's Congress report, 100,000 members have been lost, the workforce in many "GMWU strongholds" has been slashed and the wages of those still in work have not kept pace with inflation.

Recruitment has been put on the top of the agenda for every full-time official and the GMWU's welcome involvement in YOP schemes should be followed up (as demanded by motions 55 and 145) by a campaign for minimum TU wages and rights.

The GMWU must come up with a clear programme and strategy for the fight to save jobs and create new ones. Motions of protest against unemployment, redundancies and closures, cuts in public spending and privatisation make up nearly a third of the resolutions on the Preliminary Agenda.

Only by agreeing to use the full industrial muscle of the union to back up the members' struggles on these issues, to establish the 35 hour week for all and a massive programme of public works, will Congress show a way forward.

On low pay, the Executive's special motion recognises that "earlier

TUC campaigns, earlier incomes policies (and legal intervention via Wages Councils) have all failed to produce an effective solution to the problem of low pay." Their answer, however, is—"a thorough examination of policy options"!

The GMWU has agreed in the past to fight for a minimum wage for all. Clyde Lower Reaches call for a campaign to achieve one of at least two-thirds average earnings. If the Tories won't allow it because the bosses say they can't afford it then there is only one option—get rid of the Tories and the bosses through a massive campaign for a Labour Government pledged to introduce a planned socialist economy!

That's what Congress agreed last year and it is written into the constitution of both the Union and the Labour Party.

In David Basnett's view, the Labour Party has in the recent past faced 'imminent disintegration'; hence the need for the Bishop's Stortford agreement and the need to "establish a new unity without hit lists or witch-hunts" as the Executive document puts it.

The fight against the Tories is of paramount importance, "Civil War" inside the Party would be disastrous. But, as Motion 237 from Brook Green points out, "Unity can only be achieved if democracy within the party is respected and its basis must be the policies passed by its annual conference."

Next year's Conference is

Rules Revision and gives a further opportunity for forging a fully democratic, fighting organisation. But, if Tebbit gets his way, there will be no organisation at all!

The GMWU has concluded that even unlawful action will be necessary to defend

AUEW (TASS)

There has never been a more vital time for unity amongst engineering unions than during Thatcher's war on jobs and conditions. Resolution 2 at AUEW Tass conference calls for amalgamation while resolution No 6 tries to cut across a major obstacle to unity by implementing the election of full time officials. Boyd and Duffy in Engineering section have used the issue as a chance to brand the left wing as "undemocratic".

Delegates should fight for a democratic union with accountable officials if members interests are to be defended.

The call for a national wage claim would find an echo with many workers in this time of recession, and should get full support.

"Guerrilla" tactics previously favoured by many TASS activists can only lead to isolation of weaker workplaces in the present economic climate.

Political resolutions are well represented. A call for "widening of democracy" to elect Labour's leader and deputy leader implies that

basic trade union rights but a campaign along the lines of Cambridge resolution 219 must be taken up NOW!

By Clare Doyle
(Central London
MATSA)

conference is not democratic enough. If that is so, how can any decision be taken? Conference should demand a return to a democratic conference based on branch delegates.

Resolution 52, supporting the right of Constituency Labour Parties to select the parliamentary candidate of their own choosing and opposing any witch-hunt in the Labour Party, is now on the agenda of the AUEW national conference.

As the Engineering Section passed by three votes at their Sectional Conference, a decision to seek expulsion of the Militant Tendency from the Labour Party, this issue should be discussed at the TASS conference and resolution 52 given unanimous support as part of the fight for a socialist Labour Party.

By Jane Hartley
(AUEW TASS Hull)



Industrial Reports

NHS Action to win claim

DULWICH

Eight hundred health workers at Dulwich Hospital in South London were amongst the very first to take industrial action against the Tories 4% insult.

Domestics, porters and catering staff were on strike from 10th to 12th May and picket lines were organised. Two hundred nurses and ambulancemen were allowed by their union, NUPE, to work but were fully supporting the action.

Nurses were refusing to do any non-nursing duties and ambulances were only crossing the picket line in emergency cases. An emergency service was provided and essential items were allowed to pass through the picket.

These workers were so angry, they had originally decided to strike for 5 days but opted for 3 days after consultation with their area committee.

Claud Ramsey, NUPE branch secretary said "this is only the beginning of the

struggle against the 4%—there has to be further action but we don't like bits and pieces like two-hour stops, we would like something more militant.

"I hope our action will be an inspiration to others. What we need now is to join shop stewards' committees of all the unions involved with Labour Parties and Trades Councils to coordinate any escalation of the dispute." Many workers pointed out how 4% was a pitiful sum. Recent fare increases in London had particularly hit them.

Harry Webster, a porter, explained, "on a basic 40 hours we only clear £60—£65. We are compelled to work longer hours. Sometimes we work 70 hours—two weeks work in one—just to pick up a living wage."

Morale amongst the pickets is high. "The public is generally supporting us," said one picket. "They know we deserve more money."

By Nick Wrack
(Dulwich LPYS)

WEST LOTHIAN

Jim Devine, COHSE branch secretary at Bangour Hospital, West Lothian, and spokesman for the Lothian area COHSE shop stewards, spoke to Pat Craven:-

"The present offer would mean a 6-8 per cent cut in living standards. One of my members who has been in the Health Service for 26 years takes home £44. After deducting bus fares, some domestic staff take home £28!

"Nurses in training, living in a home, face a 30%

increase in accommodation costs and 18% in meal charges; if they only get a 6% rise, at the end of the month they will be worse off in money terms as well as in real terms. This is totally unacceptable.

"Since the Clegg Report in January 1980, living standards have fallen by 20-25 per cent. In 1973/4, when the Health Service last had a substantial wage increase, a nurse in training was on the same basic wage as a police constable. Now you have to be a nursing sister with four years training to be on the same level as a 21 year old PC!"

Support from S Wales NUM

In a tremendous display of solidarity, the South Wales conference of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) showed the kind of action needed to help health workers win their just claim.

They reaffirmed the NUM tradition of defending the interests of the entire labour and trade union

movement by passing an emergency motion to support the health workers with industrial action.

Delegates will call pit-head meetings seeking support for a one day strike for miners to participate in a demonstration in Cardiff. Judging by the mood of Conference, this first one-day strike will probably

WANDSWORTH

Health workers in Wandsworth are demonstrating on 22 May in support of the 12% claim. Workers from the two largest hospitals, St Georges and St James plan to march from Clapham Common to St Georges Hospital backed by local authority workers already fighting the Tory council over privatisation.

Four to six per cent is no offer, it is a sorry joke. A first year student nurse at St James is to get less than £1 a week, while fares have risen, thanks to the Tory Law Lords and accommodation and canteen prices are going up.

A domestic on a 5 day week takes home £48 while a grade 3 theatre porter (a vital job) earns only £1.66 an hour. What's 4% of

that? Compare that to the judges 18% rise to £40,000 a year. Top management in the NHS are getting very big increases, (£2,400 in one case). Six hospitals in this area have been closed in recent years.

But these are the only people to get decent rises while those of us who keep the NHS going get nothing.

We are fighting. At St James last week a mass meeting agreed to support the 19 May strike with emergency cover only, and to go on the demo on 22 May. The meeting united all the unions and showed we can win with joint union action.

By Arthur Hautot
(COHSE, St James Hospital)

take place within the next two weeks.

Due to the hazardous conditions in mining and the work-related diseases suffered by many NUM members, there is a particularly close affinity between miners and health workers. One miner gave the example that in a ward of 10 in the hospital in the

Rhondda 8 of those were miners.

Because health workers cannot use their muscle in the same way as other unions, solidarity action is vital from the TUC. This lead should be taken up nationally throughout the NUM and also by other affiliated unions.



Striking school meals workers protest outside Kent County Council offices in Maidstone Photo: Militant

NUPE Conference

The NHS pay dispute is likely to be the central issue at this year's conference of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE).

The main demand will be for a strategy of industrial action to win the claim.

This must include selective all out strikes by key groups of workers, supported both physically and financially by all other health service workers, linked to an appeal to other trade unions for wider support, including if needed a one day general strike to win the claim and defeat the government.

There is a strong feeling amongst NHS workers,

echoed in resolutions to conference in favour of a common public service settlement date and the involvement of the whole membership before any group makes a settlement. This would cut across Tory plans to divide and impoverish low paid public sector workers.

The courageous strike by Wandsworth council workers is the background to resolutions from Wandsworth District and Camden for action to defeat these Tory plans. In the NHS too, Glasgow Northern Hospital resolution for nationally co-ordinated campaign action against private medicine and pay beds should be supported.

Hull Hospitals Central resolution calls for a fight against Tory cutbacks on a policy of "no redundancies,

no cuts, no rent and rate rises."

Repeated calls to turf out the Tories are taken further in Bexley and Brighton resolutions which call on the next Labour government to "act as determinedly and consistently for working class people as Thatcher's Tory government do for the bosses and the ruling class."

Conference should also come out firmly in support of Glasgow Eastern Hospital resolution for a nationally co-ordinated campaign of action against private medicine and pay beds should be supported.

From this conference the union will be under new leadership which while representing a further step to the left must be kept on its toes by pressure from below. So support is vital

for rule changes for election of national positions and full time officials.

NUPE has taken the lead with the Labour Party Young Socialists in organising YOPs workers, and is committed to many good policies such as 35 hour week, national minimum wage of 2/3 of average wages, and 6 weeks holiday a year.

Resolutions show members wish to take these campaigns to the members and build a real fighting lead against the threat of the Tories.

By Alistair Tice
(Hull Hospitals Central Branch, personal capacity)

Kent school meals

"I don't believe in unions, I'm not a member, but I'm here supporting you because I have got nowhere else to go", said one school meals worker at a mass meeting at Maidstone.

Kent school meal workers began strike action in protest at the council's action in breaking their national pay agreement. Kent County Council have issued dismissal notices to their 6,800 staff and offered new contracts with overall pay cuts by 11%.

The strike began on 10 May in North Kent schools. Dozens of schools kitchens have been closed as a result of the action, and pickets have received tremendous sympathy. Teachers and parents have given their support to pickets. Delivery lorries have been turned away at the gate, and women workers who have never taken action before have surprised themselves with what they can achieve.

As the strike develops more schools have joined in. The Action Committee made up of representatives from each area meet every day and have enthusiastically put its energies into consolidating the strike.

Flying pickets are being organised to visit schools where the members have not yet supported the strike, every day we discover school kitchens that are closed that no-one had any knowledge of.

We urgently need moral, physical and financial support. Resolutions should be sent to NUPE Action Committee c/o Rochester and Chatham CLP, 32a New Road, Chatham, Telephone Medway 42079. NUPE Executive Council have given official support to the strike.

Eric Segal spoke to a NUPE member

Wandsworth council

Wandsworth dustmen's strike against privatisation has escalated. The council's Central Depot workers have refused to cross picket lines and are now on strike, as are Parks staff, making over 300 plus dustmen now striking. There is a mass picket each morning at Central Depot supported on Monday by Lambeth dustmen.

Unfortunately the local NALGO branch voted to end industrial action and talk with the council. But

Wandsworth workers can win this crucial battle if the action is escalated further with full material backing from GMWU and NUPE.

Nothing can be gained from halting the action to talk to the Tory Chope. The only language this Thatcherite council will listen to is the muscle of the trade union movement.

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Picket line Bethnal Green Hospital, during 19 May one-day strike

Photo: D Doran

LOCOMEN STRIKE TO KEEP SERVICES

Locomen at Waterloo were on 24 hour strike on 17 May, as a result of months of provocation by British Rail's Southern Region management.

Management had announced a decision to cut back services on the Waterloo and City line.

In response the ASLEF branch voted to stop the job during the morning and evening rush hours last Monday (10 May). Management, however, provocatively announced their intention to send home anyone not working "nor-

mally". Faced with that threat we voted to withdraw our labour on 17 May. The strike was absolutely solid with the few NUR drivers at the depot joining those in ASLEF. So as a result of management provocation, over three hundred trains were cancelled and services from Waterloo severely disrupted.

The cuts on Southern Region are part of a general attack on services and jobs throughout BR. What is

more, management are increasingly forcing through such measures, trying to ride roughshod over established consultation and negotiation.

Three months ago, management withdrew the pilot loco on the night shift at Waterloo station with a considerable loss of work.

Staff voted then not to do any shunting in the station at night until the pilot was reinstated.

By Ivan Littlebury
 (Waterloo ASLEF)

With an increasingly desperate management carrying out Tory policy, rail workers will be forced to

use their industrial muscle to defend themselves.

Such tactics by management show the enormous dangers within the McCarthy report from the Railway Staff National Tribunal (RSNT) recommending flexi-rostering, to be agreed at local LDC (branch) level.

This would isolate workers at each depot and leave them open for management to pick off one at a time. However, already, we at ASLEF Waterloo branch have mandated our LDC not to accept any move away from the eight hour day.

We are eagerly awaiting the decision of this year's ASLEF conference to reject the latest flexi-rostering proposals, and we are preparing for action to prevent it if necessary.



LEFT WIN CPSA LEADERSHIP

Kevin Roddy (above) won the Presidency and the left a 24-4 majority on the Executive at last week's Conference. Full report page 4.

ARMS PROFITS

Continued from page 1

so from customers (i.e. Ministry of Defence) on research and development."

The Tories have now delayed their White Paper on defence expenditure until after the Falklands conflict is over. But the prospects for the giant arms manufacturers looks rosy, as long as capitalism continues. The government gives them contracts, guarantees the profits, pays for most of the research and uses the weapons to defend capitalist interests nationally and internationally.

And it's not only private arms manufacturers who will profit from the war. At least £20 million has already been spent on chartering the fifty merchant ships. The estimated cost of the armada so far is £500 million, but if there is an invasion and the garrisoning of the Falklands, that figure will rise to thousands of millions.

Shipping companies such as Cunards will receive a handsome £50 million insurance, plus funds from the government as

recompense for the requisitioning of the QE2.

But Cunards owner Lord Matthews did not extend his enthusiasm for the war to putting his own life at risk. "Half of me wishes I was going with them" he told his *Daily Express* as he watched the 3,000 troops depart on the luxury liner. "And the other half tells me not to be such a bloody fool."

So whilst the soldiers and sailors risk, and in some cases lose, their lives, big profits are made in the boardrooms. It is only the capitalist class who stand to profit from Thatcher's war.

The Labour Party must give no support to Nott and Thatcher. Instead it must mount a campaign against the Tories and for a General Election.

Labour must demand that no profits be made from this war! The arms industries and shipping companies must be nationalised with minimum compensation to shareholders, except in cases of proven need, and under democratic workers control and management.

Big business reaps enormous profits from the sacrifices of workers in peace time. That is bad enough. But there must be no profiteering from the workers' sacrifices in war.

NHS

Continued from page 1

basic 40 hours, he would take home just £49.50.

Four per cent to these workers means an extra 79p a week, for a job vital to everyone. In a hospital every job is essential. The hospital porters not only have the unpleasant tasks—like moving dead bodies to the mortuary, they are first on call for fires and for dealing with violent patients.

Just imagine, in a general hospital the size of Selly Oak, there are only four porters on at night. A couple of violent patients, perhaps drunks come in to casualty, it would take three porters to restrain them, then the call goes out that someone in the hospital has suffered a cardiac arrest.

Mick explained that then "2 porters have to run like the clappers to get a heart machine there, when every second is vital." There are only two machines for seven wards anyway, but they have to be there within four minutes.

"We've asked for more cover," said Mick, "but they said no."

Everyone I talked to was agreed that health workers were used as cheap labour, and that the government of the day played on their consciences, to avoid industrial action. But the NHS is not just guilty of poverty line wages, it is chronically understaffed.

For the porters again, the agreed morning level means that over a twelve month period 12 hours overtime is expected of each man. What can it be doing for the health of the workers in the health service? "We've got people working with us who

are 62 or 63," said Nick. "I'm a reasonably young bloke but I cannot work five 8am-10's a week."

The women who work as domestics are under the same pressure. They get only one weekend in three off, and for this they earn £53 for two of the weeks, and £43 for the third. They too are forced into overtime for a living wage, sometimes working up to 80 hours in one week.

But if the pressure of work can lead to ill health, the final indignity must be that with the prescription charges shooting up, according to Rose "A lot of people who work here and phone in sick cannot afford to go and get medication."

Four per cent is just an insult to these workers, and though they dislike it, they are prepared to take what action they can, to get more.

What alternative is there for a worker like Mick? "My wages have gone up in the last twelve months by £1.10. My council flat rent and rate increase is £6.30 in twelve months. I'm not a magician, I can't pull the extra money out of a hat."

The last comment must go to Rose, who with her parting words showed the exasperation of the health worker, "I'd like Maggie Thatcher or Norman Fowler to come and work here for a month and see what the score is". The truth is they would never last the month out.

Jeremy Birch spoke to Rose Leach (Secretary NUPE Selly Oak Hospital branch), Jan Waterhouse (Branch Chairman), Mick Brown (Portering Shop Steward)

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