

**"LAW AND ORDER"  
WHAT THE BOSSES  
MEAN!**  
editorial, page 2

# TORY GOVERNMENT

**City financiers, big businessmen, landowners, landlords, the press barons, and all the other wealthy backers of the Tory Party are today gloating at a clear victory for a Thatcher government.**

By  
**Lynn Walsh**

Polling day saw over £1,000 million added to share prices, and the Stock Exchange closed with the share index at a record high. This orgy of profiteering leaves no doubt at all as to who it is that stands to gain from a right-wing Thatcher government. The working class will now face a period under the most reactionary Tory government since the 1930s. Thatcher has made it clear that she and her Tory crew intend to repeat all the anti-working class and anti-trade union attacks of the 1970-74 Heath government—and worse.

Labour. In Cathcart and other Scottish seats where Labour has gained, the Labour Party Young Socialists, fighting an energetic campaign with socialist policies, have played an important part in Labour's advances.

Results so far:		
Labour	253	(- 39)
Tory	274	(+49)
Liberal	8	(- 2)
SNP	2	(- 7)
Others	2	(- 1)
On these results [12 noon Friday] the Tories are expected to have an overall majority of 39.		

## Class polarisation

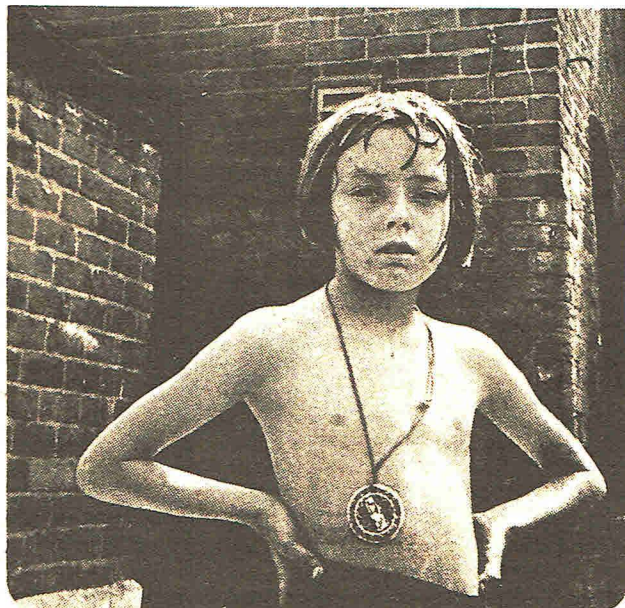
With a high turn-out, the results indicate a sharp class polarisation of the voting. In Scotland, with its overwhelmingly working-class population and strong Labour traditions, Labour has made big gains—against the national trend. The Scottish National Party—responsible with the Tory Unionists and the Liberals for bringing down the Labour government—has lost Labour important and will probably end up with only two seats. Even more significant is the devastating defeat for the Tories in Glasgow, Cathcart, where Teddy Taylor, the Tories' Scottish spokesman, has been decisively ousted by

In the North and North West, Labour has held most of its seats, with the swing against Labour being much less than in the South. But workers' disillusionment with the Labour government, particularly in areas hit by massive unemployment, has lost Labour important marginals. Liverpool, Garston, for example, has fallen to the Tories, despite the stand against redundancies taken by Eddie Loyden in that constituency. Even in the South, the Labour vote has not plunged dramatically. Trade unionists and traditional Labour supporters have remained loyal. But there has not been the enthusiastic support necessary for a Labour majority. Cuts in workers' living standards and the swinge-

## RICH WIN



## WORKERS LOSE



ing cuts in public spending 'Militant' has consistently implemented by the Labour government have—as our government have—mined Labour's support.

As in the 1970 election, the Labour leaders pushed aside the policies adopted by successive Labour Party Conferences and made a futile attempt to out-tory the Tories. The right wing's argument for "more of the same" had no attraction for the unemployed, the low-paid, the middle class, and all the others who have suffered in the last period. The Tories, on the other hand, hammering out their tax-cut demagoguery, have appealed overwhelmingly to the middle-class voters and politically backward layers who do not normally vote in elections.

This is clearly revealed in the big swing to the Tories and by the Labour marginals they have taken in the outer-London suburbs and the South-East commuter belt.

## The labour movement must now steel itself to resist savage attacks by the Tories and big business

The result in Croydon Central, for instance, was consistent with this general swing to the Tories in the South East, despite the magnificent campaign fought by David White and energetically backed by the Labour Party Young Socialists. The red-scare campaign directed against David completely failed to undermine Labour support in the way the Tories hoped. A significant feature of this campaign overall has been the blatant bias of the Tory press and the television against Labour. Never in the post-war period has the right-wing press reached such depths in trying to smear and discredit Labour and to panic the middle-class voters with crude, red-scare tactics. The labour movement must now steel itself and

prepare to resist a programme of savage attacks from the Tory government and big business. As 'Militant' has spelt out in recent weeks, Thatcher and company are all set to cut real wages, let prices rip, slash public spending even more, and foster a massive increase in unemployment—with the aim of boosting big business profits.

This has already been understood by the more politically aware sections of the working class. The defeat of Teddy Taylor in Glasgow is one indication of this.

In the last days of the campaign, Taylor—like the Tories in the North West and the North East—was forced to say that the government subsidies so vehemently denounced by Thatcher and Joseph would still be maintained in these areas to avoid catastrophic levels of unemployment.

Quite rightly, the workers there were not taken in by these empty last-minute concessions on the hustings.

## Draw lessons

Thatcher's policies, however, as we have explained before, will in the next period lead to a head-on collision with the organised working class.

Thatcher and her big business backers have the illusion that she can succeed where Heath failed. This time, they think, the labour movement can be subdued to clear the way for an orgy of profiteering at the workers' expense.

But the ruling class will rue the day it backed Thatcher for the Tory leadership. Her viciously reactionary programme will when the time comes be met with even greater resistance than Heath faced before.

All the anger and bitterness of the last four years will surface in the next period. The last winter of industrial discontent will come to seem like a tea party compared to the battles that will be provoked by this new Tory government.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



# Militant

## BOSSSES REVEAL THEIR IDEA OF LAW AND ORDER

The General Election campaign was marked by the unscrupulous and hysterical Tory attack on the labour movement under the guise of a concern for "law and order".

In their broadcasts they have shamelessly linked the much-exaggerated 'crime wave' to the labour movement's alleged 'Lawlessness'. They have attacked trade unionists for standing by the Clay Cross councillors, for protesting against the frame-up under conspiracy laws of the Shrewsbury pickets and for the solidarity shown on the Grunwick picket lines.

Even right-wing Labour leaders such as Ted Short and Shirley Williams were not spared the Tories' indiscriminate slanders.

When lorry drivers, hospital workers, gravediggers, roadsweepers, dustmen and other low-paid workers dared to rise to their feet this winter and attempted to break through the 5% wage barrier, the Tories screamed that

Britain was being 'run by Soviets'.

Businessmen's representatives in radio interviews openly incited violence against pickets.

In the first three months of 1979, they point out, more than five million days were lost through strikes. But during the same period of 1974 when Heath challenged the miners, over six million days were lost.

That was when the Industrial Relation Act was still in force and the Tories had subordinated the trade unions to the 'rule of law'. But Heath has recently been complaining that the Labour leaders "egged on" the miners "in defiance of Parliament".

The Tories have enlisted the help of such spokesmen for 'law and order' as Sir

Robert Mark, former Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, and Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls.

They have screeched that "the power of the great trade unions is perhaps the greatest challenge to the rule of law in Britain" [Denning].

Sir Robert Mark cried that the repeal of Heath's disastrous Industrial Relations Act and other reforms in labour law "is not unlike the way in which the National Socialist German Workers' Party achieved unrestricted control of the German state between 1930 and 1938."

Hitler served the German bosses in their crisis. Denning, Sir Robert Mark and other functionaries of a like stamp represent the capitalist class of Britain today.

The trade unions represent the oppressed working class, the great majority of the population in Germany in the 1930s as in Britain nowadays.

Lord Denning has a long history of rather surprising and idiosyncratic interpretations of industrial law many of which have later even been overturned by the House of Lords. The Grunwick workers and their fellow-workers on the picket lines, the bakers, and the local journalists are among the many trade unionists who have first-hand and bitter experience of the uninhibited intervention of the law into their disputes.

These gentlemen go further even than the Thatcher crew.

Sir Robert, a known sympathiser with the notorious Freedom Association [formerly the NAFF] had some

sharp words for Tory Employment spokesman Prior too. Recalling Churchill's reference to Hitler as a "Nazi guttersnipe", Mark comments:—

"It may not have been diplomatic or gentlemanly, but it was what we all felt. Neville Chamberlain's references to Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini caused as much dismay then as the Shadow Employment Minister's respectful touching of his forelock to the trade unions on television causes now."

He conveniently forgets that Churchill, the spokesman of Tory capitalism, supported Hitler when he came to power as a bulwark against socialism.

Only later when the Nazis, representing German capitalism, conflicted with British capitalist interests did Churchill turn against the Nazis.

Sir Robert does not enlighten us as to the "ungentlemanly" language he would like to use to address the trade union members today.

But we have seen in action what the most brutalised sections of the police, the SPG, are like, once they are let off the leash, in Southall and Leicester last week.

In Leicester the police turned dogs loose onto anti-fascist demonstrators.

In Southall the Special Patrol Group behaved just like the vicious CRS riot police in France. Some right-wing police are now openly calling for a para-military CRS force with more special equipment to be created.

Last week in Southall even

the capitalist press reported how the SPG went on a rampage.

Snarling racist abuse, they ferociously attacked demonstrators and even bystanders with truncheons. According to the 'Daily Mirror' they even broke into a first-aid centre and beat everybody in sight, patients, doctor and all! The surprising fact is that only one person was killed on this occasion.

The 'elite corps' of the police, the SPG have been systematically brainwashed by the likes of Sir Robert Mark, in hatred of the trade unions, the blacks, and the youth.

Undoubtedly one factor in their especially brutal behaviour at Southall was that they sniffed in the air the scent of a Tory victory on a tub-thumping programme of 'discipline', 'short sharp punishments', the possible restoration of capital punishment, bashing the trade unions, further harassment of blacks and an end to all future black immigration, etc.

The labour movement has already once had to teach the ruling class a lesson in the realities of modern society as opposed to the fantasies of paper decrees and statute-books. What is written by trade union organisation and power cannot be destroyed by Parliamentary decrees and laws.

If Heath is nowadays considered a 'moderate' in Tory terms, then that is because the miners along with other trade unionists had to 'moderate' him in the period 1970-74. The labour move-

ment is ready to educate anybody else who needs it.

It is not prepared to see the working people, black or white, intimidated, harassed, insulted, beaten up or murdered either by NF Nazis or the police.

We are opposed to a whitewashing 'inquiry' conducted by top-brass police officers, to which there is not even any guarantee of public access. We say that labour movement must institute its own public inquiry to ascertain who was responsible among the police for the murder of Blair Peach.

But in the last analysis the responsibility rests on the Tory leaders and their henchmen, and their poison press, who have whipped up vile prejudices in the interests of the age-old formula practiced as effectively in the days of the Empire—'divide and rule'.

The legacy of Britain's 'civilising' mission remains today in the communal divisions in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Middle East, and India. The British labour movement will not tolerate a reversion to racist barbarism or to the whittling away of democratic rights such as freedom of assembly and the right to strike.

That is what lies at the end of the road opened up by Thatcher, Mark and Denning. But the trade union and labour movement will draw all the oppressed and the victimised behind it in the redoubled fight for socialism.

## SAM MADDOX

### FIGHTER FOR SOCIALISM

A tribute by  
**Joe Marino**  
(Bakers' Union Executive  
member)  
personal capacity



The whole labour movement will be shocked and immensely saddened to hear of the tragic death this week, from a heart attack, of Sam Maddox.

Sam had been General Secretary of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union since 1975.

He was a tireless fighter in the interests of his members, a dedicated socialist activist in the working-class movement.

When he took over as General Secretary the union was in part divided. He played a major role in working to transform the union into a fighting organisation, under the control of its members.

In the past the union had been almost at times a 'company union', with officials doing backdoor deals with management. That was not Sam

Maddox's way. He fought long and hard against the bread monopolists during the recent strike.

But his contribution to the labour movement was not restricted to union activity. He saw the need to link economic and political struggles on a national and regional level.

He was the first union General Secretary to send out messages to union branches, encouraging them to send delegates to the Labour Parties.

He appeared many times as a platform speaker at 'Militant' meetings and proudly identified himself as a 'Militant' supporter. It was whilst he was on

his way to a 'Militant' pre-election rally in London that he suffered his heart attack.

He will be sorely missed by all of us in the Bakers' Union and Labour Party. Our condolences go especially to his wife and two sons.

The Bakers will miss him badly. Other dedicated fighters will find inspiration in his fight for decent wages and conditions for the bakers.

Our task now is to continue the fight for a socialist society, a fight to which Sam Maddox dedicated his life.

The funeral will take place at Garston Crematorium [no date fixed]. At the family's request no flowers should be sent and any donations should be made payable to the Labour Party.

## Militant Readers Meetings - GREAT SUCCESS

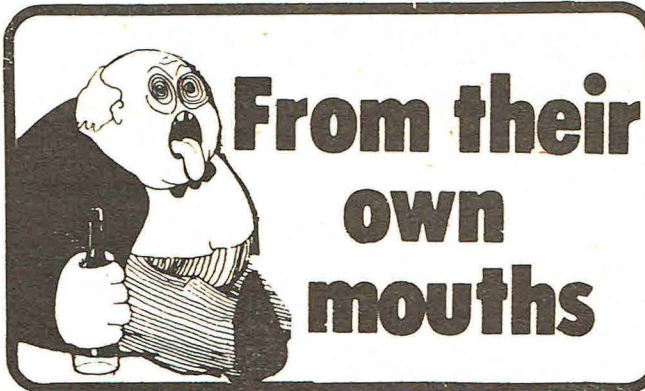
Up and down the country, 'Militant' pre-election meetings and rallies have attracted large number of workers who are eager to hear a Marxist analysis of the election campaign.

In Liverpool, nearly 200 heard "Militant's" editor Peter Taaffe speak with Eddie Loyden, Labour candidate for Garston, and Terry Harrison, Labour candidate in the European elections in Liverpool. This developed into one of the best 'Militant' meetings

ever in Merseyside.

Meetings in Glasgow of over 140 and in London of over 170 also showed tremendous enthusiasm from the audience. The fighting fund also benefitted from this mood of élan, with £258 coming in from Liverpool, £273 at least from London and £210 from Glasgow.

Fuller reports from these and other meetings will appear in future issues of 'Militant'.



"There should be a large mobile squad of police equipped and prepared to uphold the law against violent picketing. Good non-union drivers should be recruited to cross picket lines with police protection."

Special Document on trade unions prepared for the Tory leadership by Nicholas Ridley MP, 1978.

"We must invite the electorate to demand a fundamental change in the objectives and role of Britain's trade unions, so that it is much less easy for so many of its leaders to continue the pursuit of socialism."

Sir Geoffrey Howe, 'The Times', 7th January 1978.

## Correction

In Ted Grant's article in the issue of April 27th, on 'Capitalist Crisis', a few lines were inadvertently omitted, which distorted the meaning of the article.

This should have read: "But now Britain is regarded as a poor country by her rivals: she is 22nd in living standards in the league of industrialised nations. Britain is now only 8th in industrial power. After the Second World War, Britain was fifth in living standards and third in industrial power."

## Birmingham

**BIRMINGHAM Militant Public Meeting** 'After the election—Which way for Labour?' Speaker: Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board). Thursday May 10th, 7.30 pm, Assembly Hall, Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham.

"Education: Insist on basic reading, writing and arithmetic" (our emphasis).

Manifesto of Dan Harrison. Tory candidate in West Bromwich, West.

Ronald Butt Tory MP, who last week suggested that immigrants should be paid £2,000 to go away, has had two answers.

Firstly the local National Front have asked him to join so that they could combine forces.

The second response was not so friendly. 150 people marched on the Tory office in Beaconsfield.

One of their leaders, Ash Chaudri, offered the Tories a cheque for £4,000 if Bell would "do the country a favour" and go away himself.



# WHAT HAPPENED AT SOUTHALL?

National Front leaders have declared their aim to "blast their way into the headlines".

Last week in Southall they set out to do just that.

Shielded by a massive onslaught of police violence, they were allowed to push their racist poison into the heart of London's most concentrated Asian community.

The Front have been looking on this election with trepidation because of their decline in popularity since 1977. Their decision to hold a meeting in Southall, the centre of London's biggest immigrant population, was a deliberate attempt to create violence to get themselves cheap publicity.

Not surprisingly the bosses' press has also allowed the only people who were not in Southall that day, the Tories, to use the issue to try and make mileage out of the "law and order" question.

**But what were the real facts of the day which culminated in the vicious murder of Blair Peach and the injury of hundreds of others?**

At 1 pm there was a total stoppage of work in the area in response to the IWA's general strike call, indicating the tremendous mood of opposition which existed to any fascist presence in the area. From early in the afternoon groups of Asian youth began to collect outside the town hall where the NF meeting was scheduled to take place that evening.

The police began by

"moving people on" as they congregated on the pavements, but seeking an excuse to clear the streets, they deliberately started using heavy handed tactics.

In scenes reminiscent of Belfast 1969 the youth fought back hurling stones and bravely attempting to block the streets and hold their ground. By mid-afternoon this had escalated so much that the whole of Southall had become a battlefield.

Everywhere there were running fracas, police charges and Asian youth gathering to try and fight their way back to the town hall.

Skirmishes escalated into battles. As evening fell the police became more and more violent.

At one point a firework was thrown into the police ranks, possibly by an agent provocateur. The crowds panicked, thinking that the police had started using teargas, and, far from paving the way to an



Law and order, Southall, April 23rd

Photo: MILITANT

assault on the town hall, it created the conditions for more aggressive police charges and the use of riot shields and mounted police.

**Now the police and their elite troop of thugs, the Special Patrol Group, ran**

**amok. It was in the violence that followed that the awful murder of Blair Peach occurred.**

Police smashed their way into Asian homes as injured people fled into them looking for shelter. The ruling class

had learnt their tactics of terror from Northern Ireland. Now they systematically terrorised a community in London.

Merlyn Rees has announced there will be no inquiry into the events at Southall, just a police investigation into the death of Blair Peach.

**The labour movement must hold its own inquiry into the murder of this noted anti-Fascist and 'the police riot' of the afternoon and evening.**

Meanwhile in South Road, far away from the violence, a motorcade of fascists approached a line of police.

A man wearing an NF rosette got out of the front car and showed some sort of card, probably an NF membership card, to the officer in charge. The police lines divided and the column of fascists was allowed to drive through to the town hall.

**This incident completely exposes any pretence at neutrality on the part of the police, and any mythical claim that the meeting was genuinely "public".**

The LPYS and 'Militant' supporters attempted to hold a contingent together throughout the day's events. We remained in the thick of the fray and at the same time attempted to steer the action at all stages towards its real aim: to confront the fascists en masse.

**But the tragedy of the day's events was that the tremendous determination of the Asian workers was not organised and channelled along correct tactical lines. Despite their bravery there was confusion, despite their revolutionary energy there was no worked out political strategy.**

The IWA leadership could

have averted this situation had they put out a call for a properly organised and stewarded protest rather than simply calling a stoppage and leaving everyone on the streets without any plans.

**A full mobilisation of all workers of the area with careful stewarding could have resisted police provocations and held the streets until the scheduled time for the NF meeting. Had this been done it probably would have been impossible for the meeting to occur.**

The real lessons of the day's events are firstly that to crush fascism the force of the masses must be planned and organised. Flowing from this is the important lesson that such planning and organisation must be based on political slogans and political perspectives.

The entire labour movement must respond in future situations like this one so that their strength and numbers ensure that the National Front cannot organise meetings. Clear socialist solutions to the horrors of capitalism would, in such a situation, weld together the force of black and white workers. On this basis there could have been a greater mobilisation of all trade unionists whose interests are equally threatened by the National Front.

It is vital for this, that the labour movement organises with the Asian community to defend the workers' areas and drive the fascists off the streets.

**On the Saturday after the police riot, over 15,000 people marched through Southall in protest against the National Front, police violence and the murder of Blair Peach.**

## ORGANISED OCCUPATION STOPS FASCISTS IN PLYMOUTH

At attempt by the NF to hold a rally in Plymouth was defeated last Tuesday by 1,000 anti-fascists.

Opposition was organised by the local Anti-Nazi League and was supported by students, Labour Party members, trade unionists, and even Liberal Party supporters.

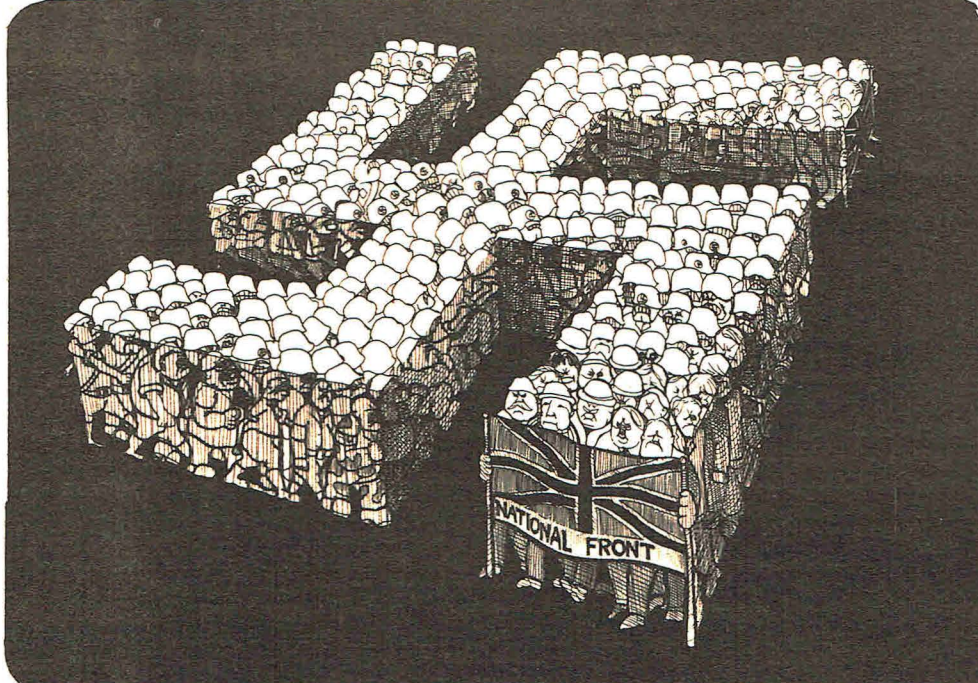
By 7.00 pm, over 200 had crowded into the hall, and discussions took place on how to best organise the meeting, during which many copies of 'Militant' were sold.

At 7.30 pm the police informed the meeting that the NF were not prepared to start until the hall was emptied so that the "public" could be allowed in. Quickly a unanimous decision was made to stay in the hall.

By now shouting could be heard from the fascists outside, but they were surrounded by 800 opponents. At one point the local NF organiser came into the hall, pushing people around, but quickly made an exit. Remaining fascists soon followed him out.

It was then decided to hold a meeting for those present, while the intended speaker, the Fascists' leader John Tyndall, wandered around outside, unable to get in.

A speaker from the Devon and Cornwall Association for Racial Equality spoke, congratulating those present, but



not mentioning that the previous day his organisation had implored people not to come along, but to 'ignore' the meeting.

He was followed by a local student leader, and Mike Sheaff of Plymouth Trades Council, who spoke of the need for links with the trade union movement to be strengthened.

It was the aim of the NF to divide workers on the basis of colour. Mike explained that force of numbers had defeated the fascists, and that this

pointed the way to mobilising the unconquerable strength of the labour movement.

This had to be linked with providing an alternative socialist solution to the problems, such as unemployment and bad housing, which provide a breeding ground for racist ideas.

The NF meanwhile crept away to hold their own "private" meeting elsewhere, but they had been unable to gain a public platform.

Three arrests occurred, including one ANL member

charged under the Public Order Act (to be used supposedly against fascists), and the next day given a harsh three-month suspended prison sentence.

But the lesson of Tuesday evening was clear—no platform for fascists!

By Bob Reed

(Secretary, Plymouth Devonport LPYS)

## SANDELSON-MARXISM AND PARTY DEMOCRACY

Neville Sandelson MP looked round the meeting room, with eight people in it, then he looked back to his copy of 'Militant' and read out the headline: "Labour Right-Wingers Fail to Attract". "They're not kidding", he added.

This was how a Labour Party meeting in the local secondary school in Hayes began last Friday.

In his contribution Neville Sandelson thanked the LPYS for all the hard work they were doing to get Labour elected in Hayes. "The fact that my political views may seem bourgeois or fuddy-duddy must not stop you. The most important thing is to get a Labour victory", he said.

He went on to deal with the question of Marxism within the Labour Party.

"We have to make up our minds on fundamentals in this Party, we can't go on papering over the cracks.

"On the one hand there is a large body of activists within the Party, people committed to socialist objectives, clause 4 and all that sort of thing, which are not really accepted by others within this Party.

"We will have to ask do we believe in public ownership,

nationalisation of the banks, and insurance companies.

"Once we have this election out of the way and victory for Labour in the country, we must have a proper Party debate. Win or lose we must have a thorough discussion and see what do we agree on.

"If that is sufficient then let's carry on with the job, but if it is decided after a lengthy debate that there are massive differences, I'm not suggesting a break-up of the Party, but we will have to ask ourselves where do we go from here?"

The other platform speaker was Tony Sauniois, Labour Party National Executive. Tony pointed out that a Labour government faced the choice between continuing with capitalism or breaking with it in favour of a programme of fundamental socialist change.

Tony also stressed the need for democracy and accountability within the Labour Party, a theme which was mainly concentrated on during the questions and discussion from the floor.

By 'Militant' reporters



ELECTION ROUND-UP... ELECTION ROUND-UP... ELECTION ROUND-UP...

South Wales miners organise

MINERS FOR A LABOUR VICTORY

Trade union activists realise the vital importance of the general election campaign. Thatcher's diatribes against workers in struggle have shown this, and the Tories' policies put countless jobs at stake.

At the top level, union leaders have set up the 'trade unions for a Labour victory' campaign. Journal after journal of the trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party has devoted space to the election, with calls to vote Labour and get involved in canvassing.

Amongst other unions the

NUR gave £40,000 to the election funds to counter the millions spent by Tory big business backers.

But it is at rank and file level that the most important fight takes place. The initiative taken by shop stewards at Rover Solihull, of producing an election leaflet on 'Why you should vote Labour' has been followed by miners in South Wales. Below are extracts from a leaflet produced by 'Miners for a Labour Victory'.

CALLING ALL TRADE UNIONISTS. Keep the Tories out. A victory for the Tories would be a blow against every

miner and their families. Tory policies would lead to a doubling of unemployment and the cost of living.

Social services would be slashed to the bone! They would attempt, as Heath did, to turn the clock back to the 30s.

Alternative

Our Mining communities would come in for special treatment as the Tories take their revenge for the 1974 defeat. They would attempt an orgy of pit closures...18 pits could go.

Every Miner should recog-

nise this fact. The Tories have always represented business and privilege—in this country.

The only real alternative is Labour. The Labour Party was created by the trade unions to represent us in Parliament. In 1918 socialism became the aim of the Party as the only solution to unemployment, cuts, low pay and dead-end jobs.

We must fight for a Labour government committed to real socialist policies. Labour must solve the crisis in the interest of working people by taking over the banks, finance houses and the monopolies

that dominate our lives.

Then the economy could be run under democratic workers' control and management and all the promises of the Manifesto be fully carried out, together with:

- ★ 35-hour week
- ★ £70 minimum wage
- ★ More houses, hospitals and schools
- ★ No redundancies—work sharing without loss in pay
- ★ A socialist plan of production

For more information contact Ian Isaacs, 10 Bridge Street, Maestag, Mid Glamorgan.

Join us and fight for change

The North End of Birkenhead has some of the highest density housing in Europe and mass unemployment.

The Tory council has done nothing in the area: tenants wait for up to four years for repairs, modernised houses lie empty for ages until unemployed, bored youths vandalise them.

We came across houses where dampness forced the tenants to hold up the wallpaper with drawing-pins! It would hardly have surprised us if bitterness set in, and workers refused to vote Labour because of disappointment at the Labour government's failure to answer the terrible problems they faced.

But we only met three Tory voters all night, and the vast majority said they'd go out to vote for Labour. The outstanding thing was the loyalty of working class people to Labour—often amongst the most impoverished, down-trodden workers at that.

One old woman said, "We don't want that thing in!" and "That cow will only get in if I drop dead." Juicy comments were made about the cheek Thatcher had on TV to pretend she was an 'ordinary' housewife searching for bargains in the shops. "It's alright her going round spending £20 in one go, with a bunch of reporters chasing after her. Maybe they'd like to try keeping a family on £20 for a week."

We convinced scores of people to vote who were previously unsure. To those who said "They're all the same. What have they done for the like of us?" we replied "Don't just vote, but join the Labour Party and change it, make sure the leaders do what's needed."

By Debbie Venton (Chairman, Birkenhead LPYS)

Folkestone

When Andy Bevan came to Folkestone he proved that even in such a backwater for socialist ideas, a demonstration of the bankrupting of UK industry by capitalism could not go unheeded.

This was the first public meeting of Folkestone LPYS and if numbers are anything to go by (at least 40), a great success.

The failure of private enterprise is very evident in Folkestone as the huge empty office blocks, running down of the holiday trade, bad housing and negligible industry prove. This all adds up to unemployment and very low wages. Anti-union activity in large stores and hotels is rife, some in the tradition of Grunwick.

The formation of a LPYS in Folkestone has been very much an uphill battle but is now carried forward by the enthusiasm and dedication of the founder members, some little more than the minimum age required to join the Labour Party.

By an LPYS member

ENTHUSIASM GAINS RESULTS



Labour Party Young Socialists go into action in the Croydon Central campaign

Photo: MILITANT

Since the announcement of the General Election the LPYS in East Kilbride have worked miracles to return our Tribune Labour MP Maurice Miller, and capture East Kilbride's youth for Labour.

Our results show that there is no answer from any other Party to the bold socialist enthusiasm of Labour's youth.

Not for us the soothing tones of 'moderation'—we have called on workers to keep the Tories out, vote Labour and join us in the fight for socialism.

In the first fortnight of the campaign we have visited about 600 houses in the new town to put the case for Labour.

The results are astonishing and show what the LPYS have said time and time again—that you will get support if you go armed with the facts and figures, and determined to argue the socialist case.

Mind you, this means you

have to take time on the doorstep to explain the horrors of the Tories and the need to fight for the socialist alternative through joining the campaign of the LPYS.

58% of first time voters we spoke to said they would vote Labour. A minority 24% said they would vote against us, whilst 18% were undecided. What a reservoir of support for us to tap in the future to build a big LPYS in East Kilbride!

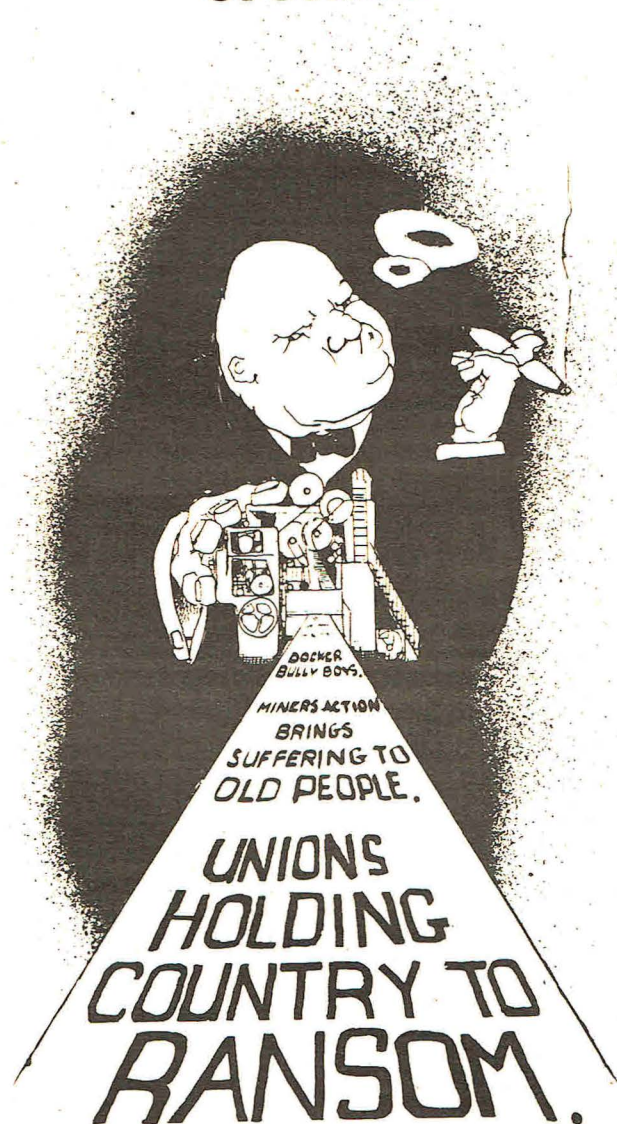
After our canvass we revisited all those houses, to deliver our youth leaflet which stated the LPYS's attitude to the Tories and the SNP and advertised a public meeting for young voters.

This work, combined with 'guerrilla-type' raids all over the town with a loudspeaker, and flyposting, ensured a magnificent turn-out for our public meeting. More than forty people turned out to hear Maurice Miller and Frank White of the LPYS state the socialist case.

We are sure that the work of the LPYS has won the great majority of the youth in East Kilbride to vote Labour and we hope that we will be able to convert this base into greater numbers working for Labour in the last week of the election and new members of the LPYS.

By Dougie Miller (East Kilbride LPYS)

"A free press? Of course"



Corby

'Youth Fight Steel Closures' was the subject of the first public meeting of Corby LPYS. John Cowling [ISTC Executive member] graphically outlined the plight of the steel industry in this country.

Steel is still a basic commodity. "You can't tell me we don't need schools, hospitals etc yet the capitalists are cutting back on steel production" he said. He called for the whole labour movement to stop this nationwide vandalism of killing off basic industries.

Tony Saunois, in a rousing speech, spoke about the inequalities in society where people like Sir Keith Joseph have investments worth £52 million, while others are condemned to the dole queue with little money to get by on.

The meeting called for a youth committee of ROSAC [Retention of Steel-making at Corby—the body fighting the threatened redundancies], to involve youth in the battle to save jobs.

Youth must be at the forefront of the struggle. It is their future that is at stake. The meeting was well attended and some of the audience applied to join the Labour Party Young Socialists after the meeting.

The new LPYS members now have the task of mobilising the youth in Corby to stop the whole town from being destroyed.

The planned demonstration against the steel closures on the 31st May in London could be used to involve the people of Corby, young and old alike, to show whatever government is elected that workers are not prepared to stand by while basic industries are dismantled.

Heather Rawling

CANVASSING - NO FORMALITY

Spennymoor is the heartland of a Labour stronghold where votes are traditionally weighed, not counted. The LPYS canvassing turned out to be far less than a formality.

We began in Bessemer Park, the biggest planning blight in the area. Completed only about ten years ago, it is such an embarrassment to Sedgfield District Council that demolition has been discussed. High heating bills, condensation and mould—all for rents of up to £12 p.w.

Many Labour voters expressed their intention not to vote this time, such is their frustration of the last few years; but as the LPYS pointed out, the alternative of Thatcher was worse and thus they should fight to return a Labour government and join

By Kevin Gent (North-West Durham Labour Party)

the Party to commit it to a socialist programme.

On the Saturday, 21st April, the YS and Spennymoor Labour Party leafletted the town centre, and held a public meeting in the shadows of Bessemer Park in the afternoon. By lunchtime we had sold 35 "Militant's" and collected enough names to found a new YS branch.

The speakers at the public meeting were the Labour Party candidate, Ernest Arm-

strong, and the secretary of NW Durham LPYS, Kath Hardisty. Mr Armstrong spoke of Labour's reforms in the field of housing and social service benefits and the need to support employment levels in areas like Spennymoor with regional development grants.

In Spennymoor this is a poor argument. 1,700 jobs have been axed with the closure of Courtaulds—a major recipient of such aid in recent years.

Kath Hardisty attacked the Tory policy on sales of council houses as a sham—how many residents would wish to buy a house in Bessemer Park, even if they could afford it?

As for financial assistance to 'private enterprise' like Courtaulds—where had this assistance got us? Courtaulds had grabbed taxpayers' money and now were running away with the loot—where

was the accountability for these funds? Courtaulds' chairman Sir Arthur Knight 'earns £750 p.w.—for destroying jobs—while many workers in this country cannot even achieve £60 p.w., even by working overtime.

What was needed, Kath said, was the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy, together with the banks and insurance companies; a minimum wage of £70 for 35 hours and sharing out of the jobs to end the scourge of unemployment.

But above all it was vital to secure the election of a Labour government in order that we may have the opportunity to carry out socialist policies, which undoubtedly would be demanded by the labour and trade union movement in the coming period.



# BEING POLLED: "JUST TICK THE BOX"

**The other day I was polled by the man from NOP. His visit was a revelation.**

I seized the opportunity to record my opinion about the Tories and about the Labour government's policies, and invited him in.

Unfortunately, although the questionnaire he used was very long, I did not get much chance to put down what I thought. The interviewer got a pretty good idea of my views, of course, but not much of it went down on the piece of paper.

To begin with, he asked me an enormous number of questions that were obviously designed to find out my class

background. Or rather, my husband's class background, as the survey did not appear to allow for women to belong to any class unless they fulfilled his definition of "head of the household."

Questions like: Were we tenants or owners? Did we own a car? How many rooms did we have? How many people lived here? What was my husband's occupation (or my father's, if I didn't have a husband)? Did we go abroad for our holidays? etc.

Then he asked: was I satisfied with Mr Callaghan as Prime Minister? After five or ten minutes he interrupted me to say that he only wanted me to answer 'yes' or 'no'.

He managed to work out that I had said 'no'.

The next question was

whether I was satisfied with Mrs Thatcher as leader of the Opposition. Again, I explained at some length: how could I decide whether to say 'yes' (she is a good example of what the Tories really represent) or 'no' (I'm not satisfied with anything about Mrs Thatcher or the Tories)?

I certainly wasn't going to answer 'I don't know' to a question about Mrs Thatcher!

The third question was: "If there is a general election tomorrow, how will you vote?" Fairly straightforward, but even that was not entirely satisfactory, for out of all the boxes labelled 'Labour', 'Conservative', 'Communist', 'NF', etc., there obviously was none to tick marked 'Labour to power on a socialist programme'.

Then he went on to ask me about the car I would like to drive and the wine I would like to drink!

I thought we had got back to more questions to establish my class. But no, he had gone on to another survey about consumer attitudes, no doubt sponsored by the companies who sell cars and wine.

The sum total of the questions on politics was three! A few days later I read that the opinion polls had recorded a "massive swing against Labour".

## Biased

No doubt the opinion poll organisations like to present themselves as 'independent'

and 'objective' when they set themselves up to be the experts on "the nation's" attitudes.

Quite apart from the way in which the questions are drawn up, however, the individuals who do the interviewing could hardly be called objective either politically or in terms of their statistical sampling techniques.

The man who called on me told me he was a retired army man, and the governor of a local school. He certainly was not a Labour-nominated governor!

He called in the middle of the afternoon when only pensioners, unemployed and shift workers and women who don't work outside the home are to be found in.

What happens to the an-

swers from the working men and women who are not at home then? When he knocked on my door he asked for someone who had moved years before. "Oh dear," said he, when I told him: "Never mind, you'll do."

If that happens all the time, the sample must be biased against workers and younger people who are more likely to be left wing.

**By Vivien Seal**

(Lambeth Labour Party)

## OPINION POLLS: The samplers and the sampled

### THEY PAY THE PIPER...

**"Top firms have handed over contributions of up to £10,000 to finance an amazing scheme to help fight the trade unions."**

"The money will be used by a leading public opinion poll to focus attention on 'the union problem' during the Election campaign, and on the need to curb union power afterwards."

This is the amazing story told by the 'Daily Mirror' on 11 April—completely exploding the supposedly "independent" and "objective" front of at least one polling organisation.

The pollsters—Opinion Research and Communication—provide research and opinion polls for Tory Party headquarters and are run by Mr TF 'Tommy' Thompson, former political editor of the 'Daily Mail' and one time staff man at Tory Central Office.

"On the face of it, the research is being conducted as a piece of genuine inquiry to find the public view on trade union power."

"But the underlying theme is clearly designed to stoke up public fears about the unions."

The 'Mirror'—which to retain credibility with its working-class, mainly Labour readership has to support Labour—gave details of a letter sent by Mr Thompson to big companies, seeking their backing for ORC's research.

"The survey findings", says Mr Thompson's letter, "will be released in time to play a part in the General Election debate."

Mr Thompson, however, is proposing more than a simple opinion survey: the letter also puts forward the idea of a national referendum on the trade unions to strengthen a Tory government's resolve to deal with the 'union problem.'

**By Steve Amor**

(Stevenage LPYS)

Thompson is clearly cagey about the firms approached, but in relation to previous research carried out by ORC the letter mentions Lord Plowden (president of Tube Investments), Lord Armstrong (chairman of the Midland Bank and former chief Whitehall advisor to the Heath government), and Sir Terence Beckett (chairman of Ford).

The letter also suggests setting up a centre for institutional reform, backed by big business funds, to push for trade union and parliamentary reform.

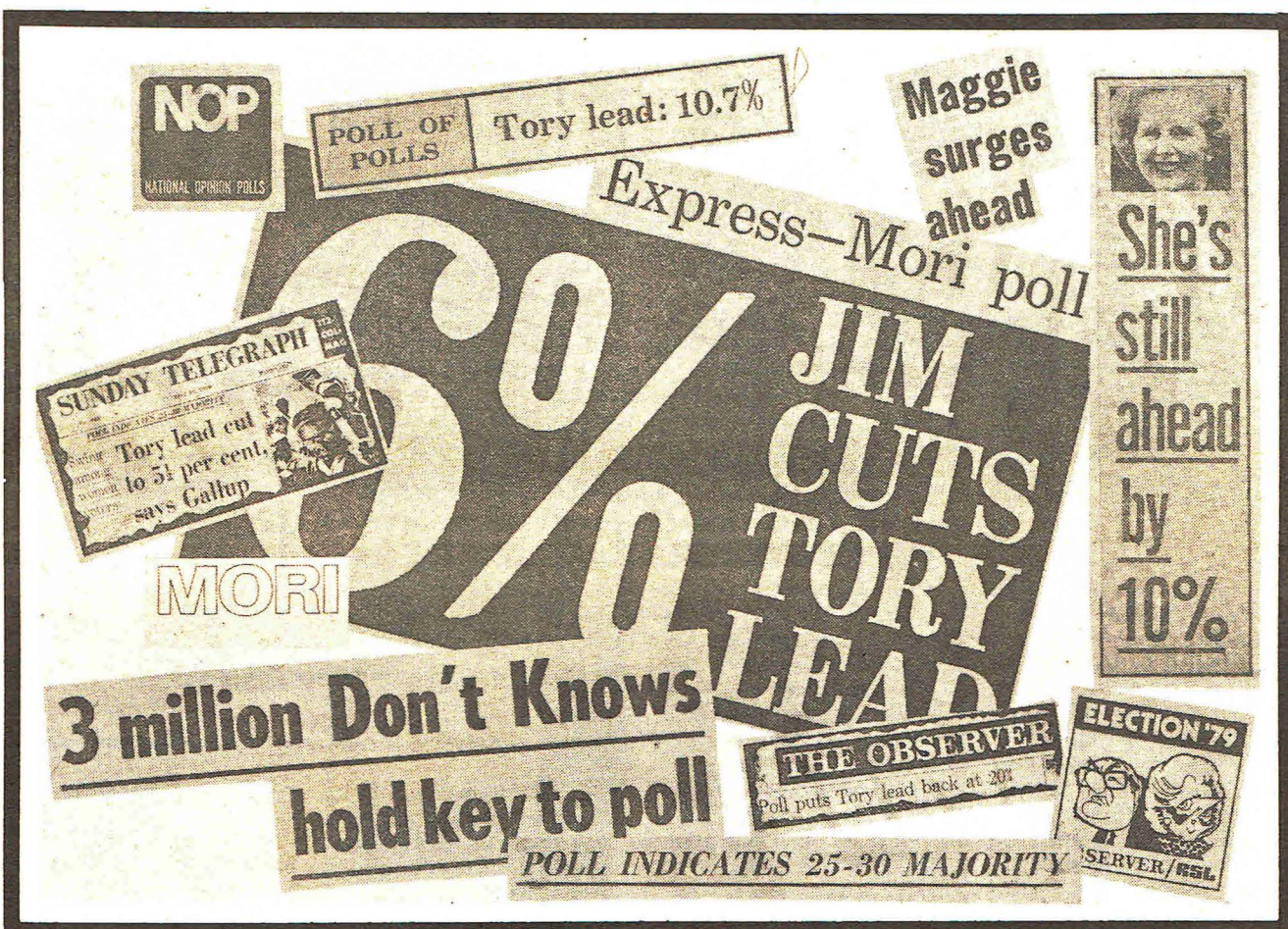
Mindful of Heath's unhappy experience in trying to bash the unions, however, the letter argues that even a Thatcher-led Tory government might fail to bring the unions under control.

"The reading of data accumulated by ORC over 10 years", Mr Thompson states, "leads me to believe that we could within five years (unless Mrs Thatcher is more successful than her predecessors) be ripe for some kind of extremist solution."

What kind of extremist solution? A military coup? A totalitarian state?

In exposing this little incident (which may or may not be seriously backed by big business at this stage) the 'Mirror' has revealed the crass hypocrisy of the business elite and their Tory spokesmen.

Quite cynically, they are prepared to finance so-called 'opinion research' to try to discredit the 'extremism' of the trade unions—but are privately contemplating extremist methods of hanging on to their wealth and power.



How the big-business backed press uses the poll 'findings'—all these headlines appeared within a fortnight of each other; some on the same day!

## Prediction - or propaganda?

Although the press, the main sponsor of opinion polls, pretend they are offering scientific predictions, any attempt to forecast the actual voting (or abstention) of over 40 million voters by questioning a sample of about 1,000 is inevitably subject to serious limitations (as we pointed out, 'Militant' 20 April).

But on top of the purely statistical limitations come the deficiencies of the methods actually used by most polling organisations.

Most of them use the 'quota' system of sampling. The pollsters construct a sample of 1,000, 2,000, or whatever, designed accurately to reflect the age, sex and class structure of the electorate.

Even if their ideal sample would yield a good prediction, however, in order to save time

and money, the pollsters leave the selection of the required individuals to their interviewers.

In practice, their interviewers' selection is far from objective.

First, whatever the instructions given to them, the interviewers' own attitudes and prejudices cannot but colour their assessment of the people's class status.

Second, as they have to find their quota quickly, availability inevitably gives a further bias to their selection (industrial workers on shifts or doing a lot of overtime are much less likely to be interviewed).

Then, there is the question of the way people respond to being interviewed.

There is considerable evidence suggesting that the artificial situation created by the polling interview elicits an artificial response from some people.

Some respondents are undoubtedly affected by the interviewer, who will probably be middle-class (and quite likely conservative as well).

Some people also imagine that there is a 'right' response—conditioned, of course, by the very media which will later use the poll results to reinforce the 'right' attitudes—and will affirm opinions which they would not normally uphold with their friends or workmates.

On top of these factors there is also clearly a growing hostility to opinion polls in general, and an increasing number of people refuse to answer questions at all—which gives a further bias to the pollsters' findings.

At best, the polls indicate static 'opinions'. For much of the post-war period, when the outcome of elections could largely be determined by the capitalist media, the polls were able, within certain

limits, to predict the outcome.

But politics are again being sharply polarised on class lines. The influence of the media is being undermined, and the policies and the campaigning of the labour movement are once again becoming a decisive factor.

Increasingly, the polls are being recognised for what they are: crude propaganda to reinforce reactionary ideas and prejudices, a blatant attempt to get more people to vote Tory because 'most people will be voting Tory'.

Anyway, by the time you read this, the actual election results will have provided the means of testing the polls' recent predictions.

**By Lynn Walsh**



# NAMIBIA: POWER OF WORKERS IN GUARD AGAINST IMPERIALIST PLOTS

Throughout Southern Africa the storm-clouds are gathering for Western imperialism.

In Rhodesia the recent elections have only led to a polarisation of the class forces. [*'Militant'* 27th April].

Now in neighbouring Namibia a similar process is occurring.

And the manoeuvres of Western capitalism are beginning to blow up in its face.

Over the last few years five Western countries (USA, Britain, France, W Germany and Canada) have been trying to negotiate with South Africa and the SWAPO liberation movement.

This was because SWAPO had gained in strength and begun to seriously challenge South African rule (Namibia, theoretically under UN control, is run by South Africa as its own colony).

Western imperialism was worried that if the armed struggle continued SWAPO would become radicalised, South Africa would have difficulty in retaining control, and capitalist interests in Namibia and South Africa would be threatened.

To try and prevent this the five Western countries intervened. Their aim was clearly spelt out by the *'Financial Times'* on April 20th 1979:

"What they have been trying to do is to secure United Nations-supervised elections in Namibia in such a way that a genuinely independent state could come into being that would not be a direct threat to South Africa itself."

'Independence' it seems was to be strictly limited.

But now the imperialists' plans have run into trouble. The South Africans are threatening to ignore the Western powers, and allow their puppet regime to declare its own UDI.

This could be disastrous for international capitalism's tactics. It would result in an intensification of the liberation struggle.

Previously the SWAPO leadership, sometimes reluctantly, had gone along with the Western plans. They had been pressurised by African states, notably Angola, who were following their own narrow "national interests".

## Secret deal fails

Angola had secretly struck a deal with Western imperialism.

If there were UN elections in Namibia they would allow UN forces to supervise the border between Angola and Namibia, 50 miles deep, and prevent SWAPO forces moving into Namibia.

This in return would help cut off South African aid to the pro-imperialist UNITA African movement, who are still operating in Eastern and Central Angola. SWAPO would subsequently contest the elections and be drawn into the government.

Now that deal has fallen

By  
**Glenys  
Ingham**

through.

The South African regime is scared of having any SWAPO involvement. Instead Pretoria has chosen a position of all-out confrontation.

The new South African Premier rests even more than his predecessor upon the armed forces. The *'Financial Times'* lamented last week that: "In these post-Muldergate days the bunker mentality seems increasingly to prevail."

The military will apparently give increased support to UNITA in Angola, to the Muzorewa-Smith regime in Rhodesia and to the puppet Dirk Mudge regime in Namibia.

This, if carried through and continued, would intensify the polarisation of class forces throughout Southern Africa.

In Namibia this will be reflected in SWAPO, who have the support of the vast majority of the African population, especially the black workers.

## Oppression of Namibian workers

A recent pamphlet on "The Workers of Namibia" shows the close link between the struggles for socialist and national liberation.

Black workers in Namibia are double repressed, by both colour and class. The pamphlet shows that the African workers have been an essential part of the liberation struggle. The oppression of workers in Namibia is enormous. Rules and regulations affect every aspect of their lives.

Job allocation for black workers is under the contract system and is handled by employment labour bureaux. A would-be migrant worker has to go through these bureaux, and has to take the job offered—refusal can

result in being sent to a Bantustan.

Secret lists are kept by the bureaux of 'agitators'—therefore these workers once branded have great difficulty in getting employment. "Once the workseeker has

registered at the labour bureau, he faces the fact that, like all other migrant workers, he has been classified for life by the authorities into one of eight economic sectors—agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, trading, state and local authority employment, domestic service and 'other'.

A worker's request to be changed to a better paying or more congenial occupation can be refused by the labour officer.

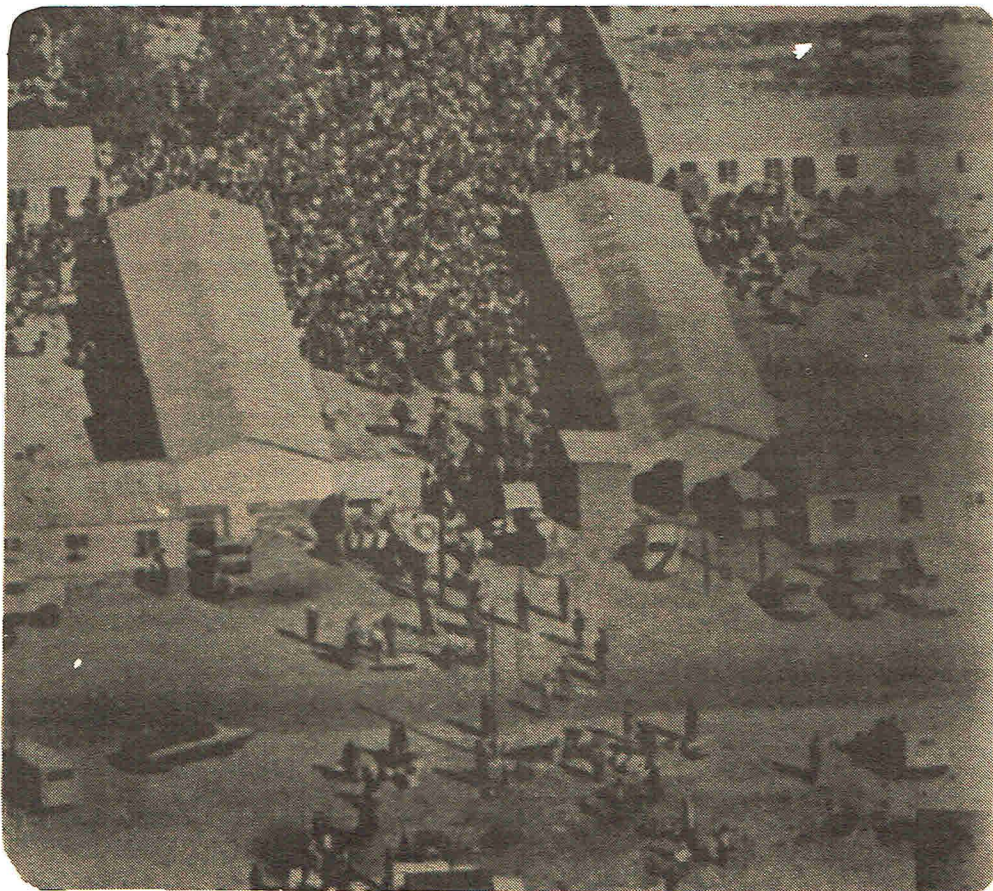
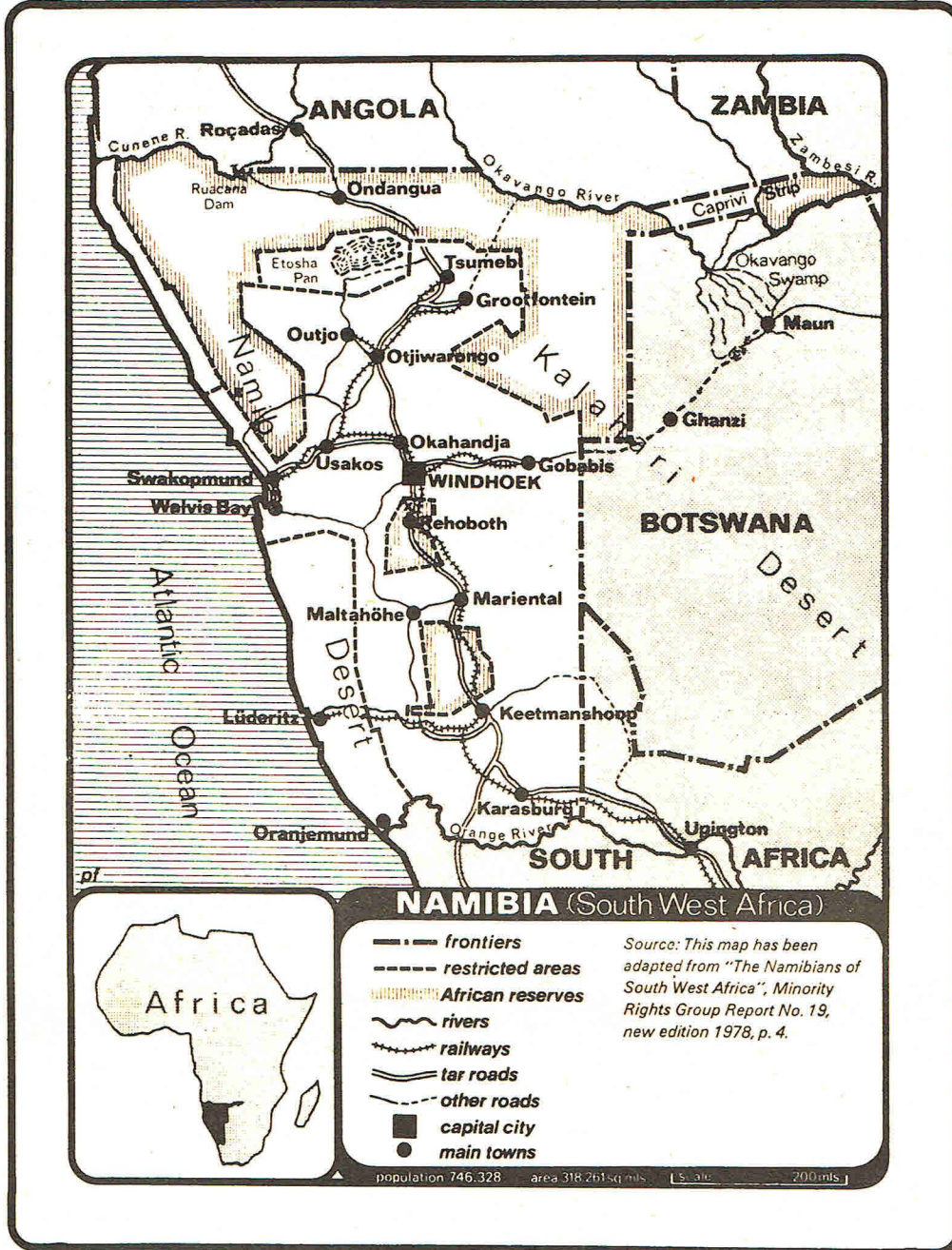
"The worker is not able to choose his employer or to negotiate the wage for what he is prepared to work" (*'The Workers of Namibia'*, by Gillian and Suzanne Gronje).

Namibian workers have long fought this iniquitous apartheid system, despite the obvious risks it brings to individuals or their families and the fact that trade unions are not allowed.

## Historical struggle

As early as December 1893, workers went on strike at a mine operated by the South West Africa Company at Gross Otavi.

Different ethnic groups joined together in the demand for higher wages. The strike was eventually broken by cutting off all food rations



Black workers on strike in the Katutura compound, December 1971

and by sending away the 'leaders of the agitators'.

Since then (as the accompanying table shows) workers have fought for their rights. Since 1970 there have been the most massive miners' strikes in Namibia's history.

The movement of the workers, the intransigence of the South African regime and the growing revolution throughout Southern Africa has led to a radicalisation within SWAPO.

In the past international big business had secret meetings with members of the SWAPO leadership to ensure that there would be 'partnership' between the two after independence.

Since then SWAPO has come out with a tougher approach to the capitalists who are fleecing their country's wealth.

But SWAPO has still not adopted a fully socialist programme, of nationalising the mines and major industries under the effective control and management of the Namibian working class.

The leadership has also seen the main fields of struggle as being a rural guerrilla war allied to international diplomatic pressure.

It is vital for the success of the Namibian revolution, that the workers play the key role in liberation.

There must be no trust placed in deals at the United Nations, or relying on either Western imperialism or deformed workers' states such as Angola.

## A new society

The main strength of the revolution lies in the workers and peasants of Namibia, allied to the revolutionary movements elsewhere in Southern Africa.

The fight of the Namibian workers coupled with a rural guerrilla war is the way to defeat the South African puppet regime.

Throughout Southern Africa the winds of revolution have gathered force. Western imperialism's time is coming to a close.

With a socialist programme and a reliance on the Namibian workers, this defeat of Western capitalism could lead to the creation of a new society, free from poverty, exploitation and all forms of repression.

## 'THE WORKERS OF NAMIBIA'

By Gillian and Suzanne Gronje

[Published by International Defence and Aid. Price £1.50]



# AIN SAFE- RIALISM'S

# LEFT ADVANCE AT IRISH LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

## WORKERS' STRIKES IN NAMIBIA 1915-72

Year	Place	Details
1916		Migrant workers strike for issue of working clothes
1916	Kahn mines	Manager attempts to get police to intimidate workers
1918	Farms	Workers down tools in protest over conditions
1923	Lüderitz mines	Workers retaliate when one of them assaulted by foreman. 17 workers fired
1925	Conception Bay	Strike threatened: 13 'ringleaders' arrested
1937	Oranjemund mine	Miners strike in protest over start of X-ray examination for 'pilfered diamonds' of departing migrant workers
1939	Tsumeb-mine	Strike by workers who are cheated of pay
1939	Nageib mine	2,000 strike in protest when 13-year-old white shoots dead one African worker
Sept 1948	Tsumeb mine	Cannery workers. Large strike
1953	Lüderitz	Fish cannery strikes; three workers shot dead by police
1953	Walvis Bay	Fish cannery strikes
1953	Tsumeb	Copper smelting workers strike over furnace working conditions
1954	A copper mine	
1956	Brandenberg mine	
1956	Otjisondu mine	
1956	Windhoek	Laundry washerwomen
1959	Walvis Bay	Ocean Fish Cannery. Go-slow over: [a] foreman's assaults and attempts to force workers to clean dangerous machinery while in motion; [b] wage; [c] 12 and 18 hour working day; [d] other working conditions
June 1962	Walvis Bay	Large strike; 55 arrested; fined £30 or three months' jail [£30 was then between 3-9 months wages]
1968	Walvis Bay	Fish cannery workers strike, over 1,000, for over three weeks. Want night shift paid at overtime rate
Apr 1971	Walvis Bay and Lüderitz	Cannery strikes
13 Dec 1971- Jan 1972	General strike	Over 13,500 mostly migrant workers strike against whole system of pass laws, migrant labour under criminal indenture
Feb 1972	Walvis Bay	Cannery workers against 'pig food', concrete beds, and migrant labour system
Feb 1972	Otjiwarongo	Municipal workers strike for wage rise

When the Irish Labour Party met in annual conference in Killarney on the weekend of 20-22 April it pledged to fight the coming elections on its own "independent election manifesto."

The issue of electoral strategy was the main debate of the weekend for the 900 delegates in attendance. This decision reflects the shift that has taken place in the Party since the June election of 1977.

That election saw the defeat of the Fine Gael dominated coalition in which Labour was a minority partner. The 1973 and 1977 general elections were both fought on an agreed manifesto with Fine Gael.

Fine Gael is the smaller of the country's two main capitalist parties. The decision to fight on independent policies is a big step forward from this position.

However, the Conference in supporting the Administrative Council's resolution setting out this position, also gave support to the idea that if no party had an overall majority in the Dail after the next election then the Party leader in consultation with the Parliamentary Party and Administrative Council could enter into negotiations with the other Parties.

After such negotiations a special Conference would have to be held to decide whether to enter into government, support a minority government or go into opposition.

Whilst recognising that the decision to fight on independent policies is a big step forward, this decision to leave the door open to a possible coalition is a retrograde step.

If the resolutions coming from Galway West, Crumlin and six other branches had been passed the task of building the party into a real mass workers' party and winning support for a majority Labour government would have been made easier.

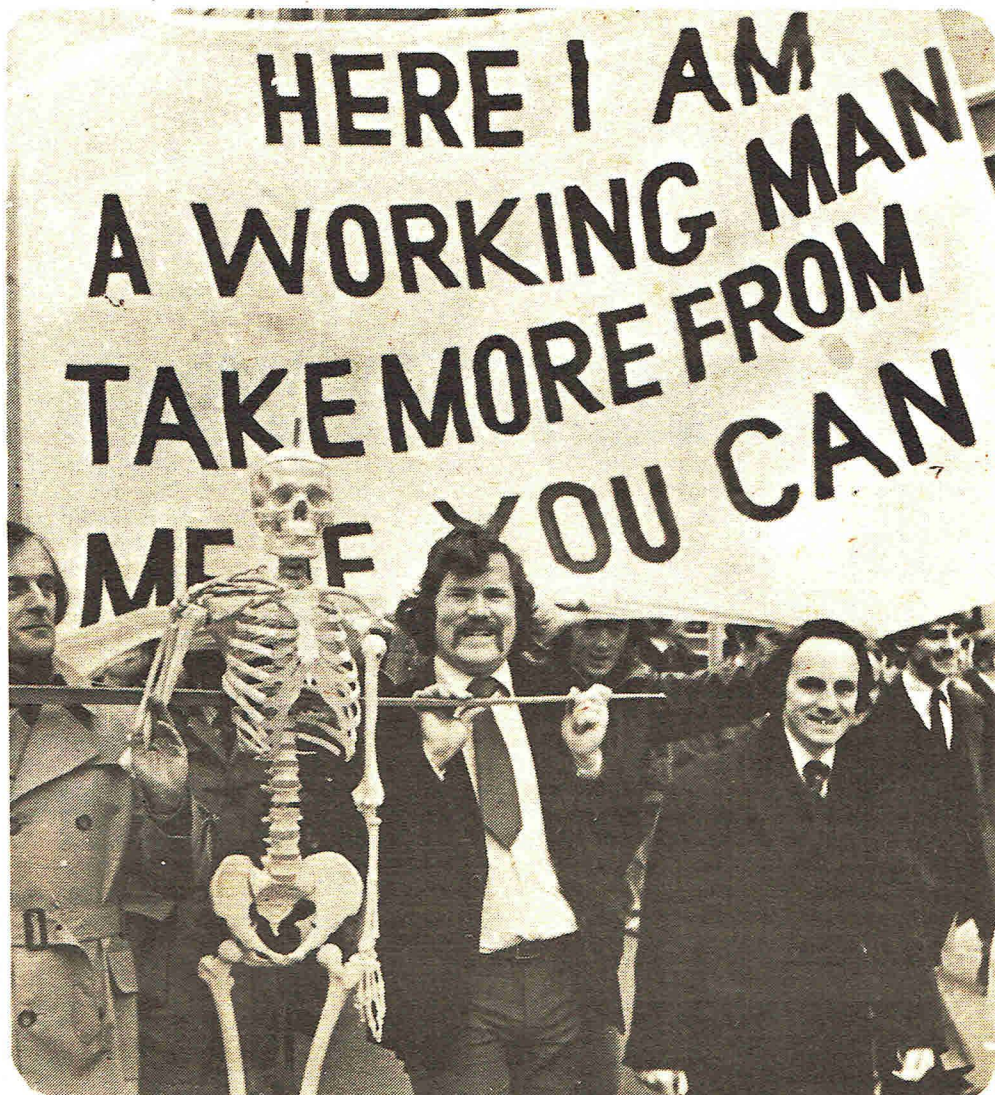
These resolutions ruled out any coalition and stated that if no party had a majority at the next election, Labour would go into opposition and thereby force the other two parties to co-operate.

The area general strikes and demonstrations of March 20th were referred to time and time again at the conference.

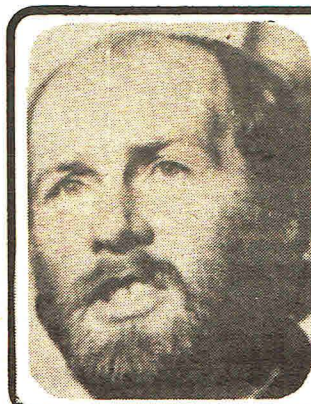
These events which saw 300,000 workers, up to one third of the workforce, taking to the streets are an indication of the crisis at is opening up in Irish society.

Inflation is rising again. It stands at 11%. Unemployment is rising. It now stands at over 9% and as the new world recession develops, the economy will enter into catastrophic decline.

The working class have shown clearly that they will



Part of the massive 200,000 workers demonstration in Dublin in February Photo: Derek Spiers (IFL)



By  
**John Throne**

[Administrative  
Council, Irish  
Labour Party]  
(in personal capacity)

Ireland."

In spite of the lack of a call for a mass Labour Party to be formed in the North and the illusions expressed in the SDLP and NILP, and also the exclusion of the Labour and Trade Union Group from the suggested Council, this resolution is a step forward.

It attempts to point in the direction of the need for the labour movement to find a solution to the problems.

Overall the Killarney Conference showed a continuation of the gradual recovery of the Party from the disaster of coalition.

The mood of Conference was better, the political level was better, and the increase in the number of young members reflects the influence of the building of the Labour Party's youth section.

This conference also showed an increase in support for the ideas of Marxism as put forward by the supporters of the 'Militant Irish Monthly'.

The most clearly expressed alternative policies were put forward by 'Militant' supporters. Their contribution was marked by clear argument, backed up by facts.

In the election to Administrative Council (i.e. Labour's Executive Committee), 'Militant' supporter John Throne received the tenth highest vote out of 31 candidates running for office.

The support for Marxism was also shown by the attendance at the Militant Readers' Meeting. Seventy people attended and £177 was taken in the collection. Over 300 copies of 'Militant Irish Monthly' were also sold at the conference.

not tolerate further cuts in living standards.

The Fianna Fail government is besieged on every front.

### Socialist alternative

Large numbers of working people and youth will be looking for an alternative in the coming election.

Labour's support will undoubtedly grow now that it is fighting on its own policies.

However, if it had ruled out coalition entirely it would have immediately attracted many young workers and trade union activists into its ranks. And the Party would have been much better equipped to give the leadership necessary in the years ahead.

Given the events that will unfold in Ireland, North and South, Britain and internationally, if such a fighting lead had been spelt out then a majority Labour government would have been the most likely result.

The Conference also discussed taxation, the economy,

local government and in all these issues the call was made to defeat the bosses' government of Fianna Fail.

On the economy, the Conference came out for the extension of the public sector. It also passed resolutions 50 and 51.

These called for the "nationalisation of banks, finance houses and major industries" (51) and "full control and ownership of the commanding heights of the economy and our natural resources (oil, gas, mining)" (50).

These resolutions must form the basis for Labour's policies in the period of crisis which is opening up.

On Northern Ireland, Conference called for a Council of Labour, bringing together the Irish Labour Party, the SDLP and NILP and representatives from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

And this Council should "identify the principles which should guide the whole Island in the quest for peace and reconciliation between all sections of the people of



# LETTERS

Send your views and comments to  
'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Any advice  
for  
exploited  
youth?

## Readers who don't pay

Dear Comrades

I'm a supporter of 'Offensiv', the Swedish Marxist paper.

I travelled to Britain two weeks ago to help in the election. But I was stopped in the customs by an official who asked me why I had come to England.

I told him I was supposed to go to the LPYS conference, but since the conference was cancelled, I decided to help in the election, and fight for the ideas of 'Militant'. Then the customs official said "I've heard of that paper, we want to ask you some questions".

He took me to a policeman, who led me into an interview room. The policeman started

asking a lot of questions, about what the LPYS is, what 'Militant' is, what 'Offensiv' is, why I was in Britain and so on. This interview lasted for half an hour.

Then the customs official and the policeman examined my luggage. They confiscated half of the 'Offensiv' copies, worth £3, and gave me no receipt! Would they do that to a business man?

Of course not, because the police are always ready to defend the bosses against socialist ideas.

Fraternally  
Mats Emilsson  
SSU Gamlestaden  
Sweden

## POSTMEN SAY 'GIVE US A DECENT WAGE—AND KEEP THE OVERTIME'

Dear 'Militant'

The article on the UPW pay deal accurately reflected the feelings of the rank and file postmen.

At the same time as the Post Office offered a stingy 8% on the basic pay, they announced a projected profit for the year of £350 million!

Maurice Styles, of the UPW Executive, reluctantly appeared before our local members to justify the negotiated offer, part of which allows for a mushrooming of part-time labour at the expense of overtime.

It was all very well for

Maurice to condemn high overtime working at a time of mass unemployment, but it is not our fault that we need to work long hours to earn enough to live on. Without the overtime which three out of four postmen work, they would be taking home only about £42 a week. You can understand the ironic laughter when Maurice called overtime 'voluntary'.

The biggest applause came when a worker from the floor said "Give us a decent wage and the Post Office can keep their overtime".

This is the point! Part time

working would perpetuate low pay, since the Post Office wouldn't need to pay a living wage to solve the chronic shortage of labour within the industry.

If management can't find takers for jobs when 10,000 are unemployed in Wolverhampton it is due to 6-day working, a 5 a.m. start, and coolie wages. I predict Wolverhampton will reject the offer.

A UPW member  
Wolverhampton

Dear Comrades

We work for a used car sales firm, every Saturday from 9 till 5. The two of us have a 'lazy time' cleaning about 35 cars, getting the three bosses their lunch, and making pots of tea ad nauseum. Meanwhile, the three bosses sweat away at the gruelling task of playing scrabble and darts.

We earn £4 a day. "Not bad for child labour" you might say, but we work just as hard, if not harder, than an adult employed at the same firm who does the same job.

Besides which, the bosses are not exactly hard up. Last week, they increased the price of a clapped-out Ford Cortina by £320, and other cars' prices were increased as well. We wouldn't like to divulge what they do to the mileage clocks of many old cars.

When we asked for a rise of £1, just to cover our travelling expenses and the cost of our midday meal, it was refused on the grounds that: "We aren't gonna pay more than £4. We could get loads of kids your age for that much. You're just gonna have to decide whether you want to work here or not."

This is clearly Hobson's choice in any language. Has anyone any advice they could give to help us? Have any other kids got similar problems? Or else might Winnie Venton [Issue 451] like to have our job instead of hers?

Yours fraternally [and hopefully]  
Tony Marks and Matt Miller  
Southend LPYS

## TORIES DON'T CARE ABOUT OUR KIDS

Dear Comrades

What is in store for council tenants if Margaret Thatcher wins the general election? Higher council rents, selling of council houses, less council houses built. The Tory-controlled council in Birmingham have drastically cut back on council repairs in the last three years and put up council rents when there was no need for it. They say it is to keep up with better repairs! I have been waiting since January for electrical repairs to be done—my plug and light switches give electrical shocks when

you touch them and the light bulbs keep going or falling out. With two young children this is very worrying. But when did the Tories think about young working class children? Don't forget, it was Margaret Thatcher, when she was Minister of Education in the Heath government, who abolished free school milk for children over seven.

Fraternally  
Malcolm Hyde  
T&GWU 5/109 branch and Aston  
Labour Party

## THATCHER'S HOPES IN THE AIR

Dear Comrades

Quite obviously the trade union movement has not (yet) been assigned a counterpart amongst the heavenly bodies of the celestial spheres.

Mr Russell Grant, president of the British Astrological Psychic Society has recently interpreted Mrs Thatcher's horoscope, and with a Libran sun, Saturn in the ascendent falling in the sign of Scorpio, she will be in

power for nine years.

Fortunately, for the working class, the earthly perspectives of Marxism point to a more optimistic future than the starry eyed perspectives of our astrologist comrades.

It will be interesting to see who is proved right!

Fraternally  
Wayne Coombes  
Bristol South East CLP

## We've paid for more than a plaque on the wall!

Dear Comrades

I am a new employee in Alcoa, and wandering through the plant which Jim Callaghan opened, I noticed a plaque to commemorate his visit.

I enquired as to why the plaque was covered with glass. The answer was that the workforce were defacing it every time Jim did something which affected them, either directly or indirectly, like the last increase in mortgage rates.

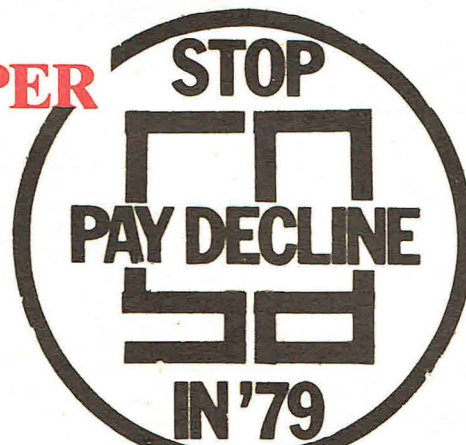
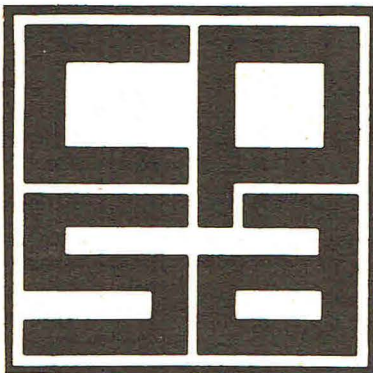
We have now come to the point where redundancies are in the wind. Probably Alcoa

will build a fortress around the plaque, because they will always have a good word for someone who gives them massive subsidies in taxes and a huge sum every time they develop the plant—the idea being that they increase the workforce. But do they give us some share in their profits?

The time has come to do away with plaques and massive handouts and nationalise these profitmongers who dominate the economy.

Fraternally  
Alcoa worker.  
Swansea

**MAY DAY GREETINGS TO ALL READERS  
AND STAFF OF 'MILITANT'  
IN APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT  
COVERAGE DURING OUR  
1979 PAY DISPUTE  
A TRUE WORKERS' PAPER**



From the following CPSA DHSS Section Executive Committee Broad Left members:

Pat Byrne  
Derrick McClelland  
May Trodd  
Dave Spagnol  
Steve Richardson  
Barry Fuge  
Kevin Roddy

Kevin McHugh  
Ricky Holman  
George Lobo  
John Brooks  
Chris Wheeldon  
Jim Norris  
Rhoda Hide

Colin Davidson  
Derek Naden  
Roger Castle  
Cyril Brooks  
Gill Tromans  
Chris Kirk  
Mary Burgess

### Swansea LPYS

sends all sections of  
the labour movement  
May Day greetings

International  
greetings on May Day  
from VORAN  
(German Marxist  
paper)

Hammesberger Str. 75,  
5630 Remscheid, W Germany

### Wokingham LPYS

sends May Day greetings  
to all Labour Party  
members, sympathisers,  
and trade unionists

### Mansfield LPYS

thanks 'Militant' for  
their support  
Greetings to  
workers everywhere



OFFENSIV—Sweden's  
Marxist paper  
sends socialist greetings  
to all readers of 'Militant'  
Rörstrandsgatan 17  
11340 Stockholm,  
Sweden



**KEEP UP  
THE FIGHT—**

# GIVE US THE CASH

With the election over everyone can take a breather and assess the gains and losses.

During the election campaign more and more people have come across our paper for the first time, and responded enthusiastically to our arguments and campaigning socialist programme. Workers young and old, discussing political ideas at work, at home and on the doorstep, have looked to the 'Militant'.

Our paper has never watered down its policies; we have always put forward socialist ideas in a clear and concise way. This has only been possible with the political and financial support of all our readers.

To maintain that progress in the fight for socialism, we must have the means!

This week's total of £818.09 shows how it can be done. It is all made up of individual donations and collections from readers and supporters.

Every reader who gives financial support is helping to build the paper, however small the contribution. 'Extras' for the fighting fund from paper buyers this week amounted to £36 (excluding money sent in as 'miscellaneous donations').

£10 donations were received from R Burke (Arundel LP) R&J Ford (Gillingham LP), B Allen (SOGAT S London) and D Mitton (Taunton). £7.50 was donated by B Gilmore (Oldham), £5 from A Beales (NALGO NE London),

## Build **Militant**

Area	Target 52 wks	Target 26 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	2,350		934
Hants & IOW	3,100	1,550		592
Humberside	2,000	1,000		314
London North	9,500	4,750		1,583
London South	3,900	1,950		999
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	2,250		825
Merseyside	5,000	2,500		775
Midlands East	3,300	1,650		1,208
Midlands West	9,000	4,500		1,918
Northern	5,500	2,750		1,029
Scotland East	2,900	1,450		378
Scotland West	4,500	2,250		637
South East	4,500	2,250		1,239
South West	3,100	1,550		751
Wales East	2,600	1,300		566
Wales West	3,400	1,700		534
Yorkshire	6,800	3,500		1,374
Others	6,700	3,250		487
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>42,500</b>		<b>16,144</b>

Progress towards year's target  Progress towards July 7th target 

**TARGET FOR THE YEAR £85,000 - TARGET FOR JULY 7th £42,500**

£4 from M Starr (Bristol LPYS), B Narey (Bradford), M Tamaski (Oxford) and M Prendiville (Stretford LP).

£3 donations came from A Davis (Southend LPYS) and E Goodby (Birmingham), £2 from P Lavill (BFAWU Rotherham), B Eastop (Bermundsey), R Burler (Bradford).

£1 donations were received from the following: Mr Viswanadha (Stevenage), J Kni-

ght (Stockport), M Wildgust (Nottingham), D Stem and G Gordon (Birmingham T&G-WU 5/826 branch), I Bowie (Edinburgh Pentlands CLP), K Watmough (Bradford), J Sammon (Manchester), F Perkins (Nottingham), T Clutton (Bristol student) and two Hartlepool readers (£1 each).

N John, a student in Bracknell, sent £40 from

vacation work; Leeds union expenses £12; union honorarium (Clwyd) £10, and 'collected by Christchurch supporters' £6.

The collection at a 'Militant' public meeting in Leicester raised £97; 'the first installment' from one in Luton £8.50. An election meeting collection in Manchester raised £11.35 and a collection at Exeter GMC £4. Sunderland LPYS donated £20 and Sheffield Hillsborough LPYS £10. Collections at Folkestone LPYS raised £3.95 and one in Leeds University raised £7.50.

Donations from money returned or saved due to the cancellation of LPYS National Conference included £32 from S Yorks, £20 from Slough and £5 from Hackney.

Money from more varied sources received this week included accommodating foreign guests (NE London) £18, pontoon tickets (Birmingham) £40.86, waltz (E London) £5, bingo and beer (Birmingham) £16, 'pint for the 'Militant' £1.27 (Nottingham) and £1.10 (Hackney), sale of badges (Stafford) £5.06, and after canvass get togethers in Dagenham (£2.05) and Handsworth (£9.06)

We are now £10,000 behind target; to keep up the fight for socialist policies to end unemployment and low pay we need to make up this shortfall by 7th July, our half-year target date.

Every reader is urged to send donations without delay. Every contribution will be gratefully received—to help build the fighting voice of the labour movement.

By Alison Rudd

## MAY DAY GREETINGS

LIVERPOOL BRANCH  
NATIONAL GRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION  
FRATERNAL GREETINGS ON MAY DAY  
NO TO TORY ATTACKS ON TRADE UNIONS!

## YOUTH FOR LABOUR!

Stockton  
Sunderland  
Chester-le-Street  
NW Durham  
Jarrow  
Gateshead East  
Gateshead West  
Newcastle North

Newcastle West  
Wallsend  
Blyth  
Sedgefield  
Blaydon  
Seaham  
Hartlepool

North-East Labour Party Young Socialists' branches send fraternal greetings to the labour movement

May Day greetings to the world labour movement FROM 'MILITANT' SUPPORTERS IN BRISTOL N.E. LABOUR PARTY

## UNITY IS STRENGTH

St Helens Trades Council sends May Day greetings

# THIS WEEK ONLY £818

# ads

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

May Day greetings to all our comrades in struggle from the **BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL**

## MILITANT MEETINGS

**EAST OF SCOTLAND Militant Public Meetings.** 'After the election—what faces the labour movement?' Speakers: Ted Grant ('Militant' Editorial Board) plus local speakers. **Stirling:** Monday 14th May, 7.30 pm, Cowane Centre, Stirling.

**Dundee:** Tuesday 15th May, 7.30 pm, Shepherd's Hall, Seagate, Dundee  
**Edinburgh:** Wednesday 16th May, 7.30 pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place, Edinburgh

**NEWCASTLE Militant Rally.** 'After the election...which way now for Labour?' Speakers to be announced Thursday 10th May 1979 at 7.30 pm in the Curtis Auditorium Lecture Theatre 2—just behind the Haymarket Cinema, Newcastle.

**SOUTHEND Militant Meeting** 'After the election—Which way for Labour?' Speakers: Nick Toms (LPYS NC); Orville Foulkes (EETPU steward, Ford's, Dagenham); Wednesday May 9th, 8.00 pm, Labour Hall, Cambridge Rd, Southend

**MILITANT Meeting—Northern Region Labour Party Conference.** 'Which Way now for Labour?' Saturday 12th May 7.30pm in the Collingwood Room, Park Hotel. Speakers: Gordon Bell (delegate from Chester-le-Street), Dave Cotterill (Gateshead LP, 'Militant' supporter). All delegates and visitors welcome.

**MANSFIELD Militant Public Meeting.** 'After the election— which way forward for Labour?' Speakers: Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board), John Dale ('Mansfield LPYS'), Wednesday 9th May, 7.30 pm, William IV pub, Sutton Road, Mansfield.

**STAFFORD Militant Public Meeting.** Rose and Crown, Market Street, 7.30 pm., 4 May, 'After the Election— what next?'

**BASILDON Militant Readers' Meeting:** 'After the election— Which way for Labour?' Speakers: Nick Toms (LPYS NC); Bill Hodge (Basildon LP and TGWU), Wednesday May 16th, 8.00 pm, 'Plough and Tractor', Great Knightly, off Laindon Link.

**ROCHESTER Militant Readers' Meeting.** Venue: Hare and Hounds Public House, Rochester High Street, Thursday May 10th, 7.30 pm.

**NOTTINGHAM Militant Meeting.** 'After the Election—what now?' Speaker: Ted Grant. Tuesday 8th May, 7.30 pm, Portland Hotel, Carrington St, Nottingham.

**NEW MILITANT BADGES available:** 'Tories Out—Socialist Policies for Labour'. Red and black, white background. Essential wearing for the election. Cost: 20p each, order of 5-20: 17p each; over 20: 15p; plus postage. Contact N Brooks, 77 Atherley Road, Southampton, phone 736375.

**Button badges made to order.** Discounts to Labour and union groups. SAE for details from Martin Pearce, Maprographics, 32 Worpole Road Mews, London SW 19.



## Nottingham Evening Post

All unions involved in the 'Nottingham Evening Post' dispute are calling on their members to support a mass picket on May 5th.

United action by trade unionists is the key to breaking this viciously anti-union firm.

NEP workers loyal to their unions have had a taste of the 'fairness' of management: printing staff have been cut by about three quarters by the introduction of new technology, and the 28 journalists who obeyed their union's national strike call have been sacked.

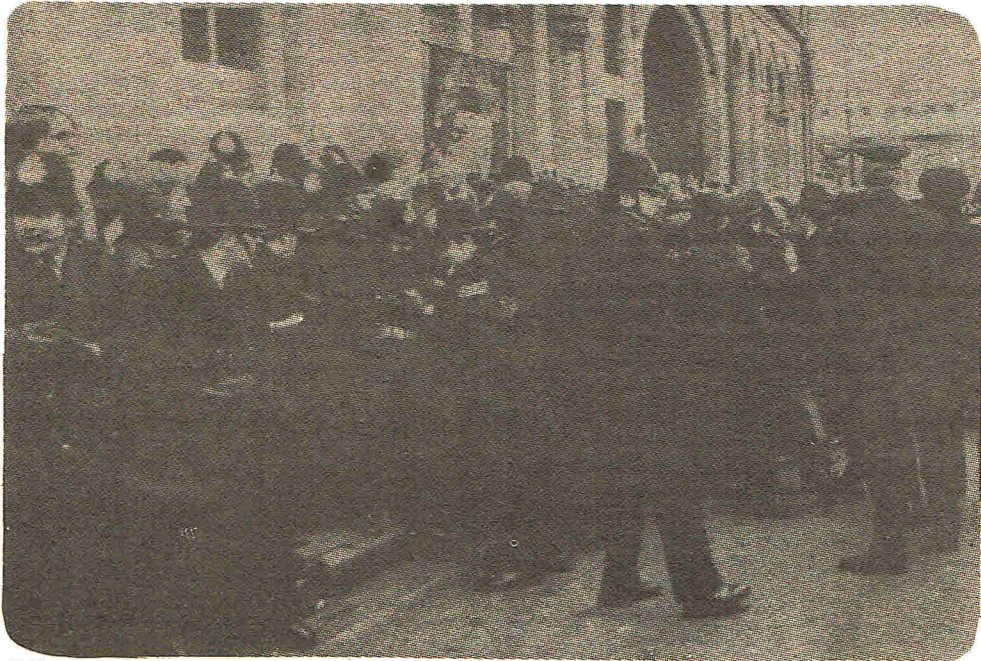
They've seen the 'impartiality' of the law: regular arrests and swingeing fines on pickets; a High Court order to stop NGA blacking of NEP advertisers.

Dennis MacShane, NUJ president, has said that arrested pickets have less chance before a Nottingham court than "a Jewish shop steward before one of Hitler's courts for burning down a Nazi party HQ".

The Hardy Forman family who own the Post [and an estate, a brewery, a Canadian forest bought to stop unions "interfering" with their paper supplies, among other things] employ at least one JP, their editor. Their managing director is Nottinghamshire's new High Sheriff, the now infamous Pole-Carew.

But pickets appealing to have their case heard outside Nottingham have been turned

# UNITED ACTION TO BEAT ANTI-UNION BOSSES



Police clear the way for scabs at the NEP during picketing on 3rd March. A mass turn-out is needed to stop all supplies.

Not that this unified attack on the trade unions stops at the City boundaries. Lord Denning was one of the judges who ordered the NGA to stop "destroying press freedom" and lift their blacking, before he went off to tell his Canadian audience that the British trade unions are above the law.

This is a concerted attempt to break the unions. The trade union leaders must stand up to it and restore the blacking. They must approach other unions to cut off all NEP's supplies, calling a

conference of Notts. trade unionists to explain the issues involved and win their assistance.

If the law is again invoked the power of the labour movement must be used to protect workers' interests, as it was against the Industrial Relations' Act.

NEP management have been called "steam age management with space age technology". But every printing employer would do what they have done if they could get away with it.

In nearby Beeston, Pole-Carew's fellow freemasons at

Herbert Jones have locked out NGA members and declared 'open shop'.

The Tories' Manifesto reveals the bosses' plans to do an Evening Post, nationally, in their battle to reduce living standards of the working class.

Disputes like this must be taken up by the whole labour movement to show the bosses that they can't trample over the rights won by the strength of organised workers.

**Tony Cross**

(East Nottingham LPYS)

# LIVERPOOL NGA OCCUPATION

Negotiations at plant and branch level for a new house agreement having failed, the NGA chapel at Koter's decided to withdraw their co-operation and ban overtime.

This infuriated the management, part of the huge British Foods Associates, and they locked out the 70 plus members.

When the chapel tried to return to work to allow further negotiations to take place, they were confronted by a list of 15 demands which management were insisting on before they would allow them to return. These 15 demands were totally rejected by the chapel, who then picketed the factory.

After a few days, with management refusing to budge, the chapel decided to occupy the plant and lock out

management. This was carried out perfectly. The chapel committee led by Ritchie Gregory, the FOC, were magnificent.

The occupation lasted all day and the chapel handed the factory back on advice from the regional secretary of the NGA. Management's 15 demands were dropped, and after talks between the chapel, branch secretary and management, an agreement was reached and accepted by the chapel.

This occupation once again proves that even in the face of the most bloody-minded management, determined trade union action can win.

**Eddie Donovan**

(Liverpool NGA)

'Times' workers beat scab plans see back page

**'Militant' trade union pamphlet 'A FIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR PRINT WORKERS'**

Price 15p

Essential reading for every worker in the printing industry

# CIVIL SERVICE PAY CAMPAIGN: A Step forward

Now CPSA members consider the lessons

At a special meeting on 27th April the Civil Service Executive Committee of the CPSA, the largest civil service trade union, was told that members at meetings up and down the country had voted by 103,506 to 29,543 to accept the pay offer of 9% plus £1 and a further two 'stages' of payments on 1st August and 1st January 1980.

This was the deal recommended by the union's senior full-time officials and the right-wing majority on the CSEC.

This effectively signals the end of the 1979 pay campaign. Now, however, we must draw out the lessons it holds for us on strategy, tactics and leadership.

The acceptance of this offer does not signify any lack of commitment or determination on the part of the members. Unfortunately the same cannot be said of our national

leadership.

The repeatedly reaffirmed decision of the NEC to exclude the 80,000 members in DHSS and DE from playing a part in the dispute, gravely undermined the union's strength in dealing with our intransigent employer.

When the decision was taken to recommend this offer to the membership, 'Militant' supporters on the CSEC pointed out that for many of our members, particularly those in the Data Processing grades, the formula of 9% plus £1, with 5% on 1st August, is significantly worse than the 9% + half of the balance on 1 August which the CSEC overwhelmingly rejected a few weeks ago.

The membership were still at that stage ready and willing to carry on the fight. We were in a strong position; the threat of escalating the action among Civil Aviation and Customs and Excise members over Easter was a powerful weapon.

Faced with this clear choice: to fight on or attempt to withdraw, the leadership moved for a settlement.

The vote to accept the offer is not an endorsement of the

strategy and tactics of the campaign nor of the final settlement. It reflects the members' view that the leadership do not have the will to fight on and that therefore they must accept a compromise.

The failure of the right-wing majority, under the tutelage of the senior full-time officials, to lead a determined campaign, demonstrates the need for a strong left majority to protect the interests of the members.

At the CPSA conference in a week's time we must ensure the election of a leadership who will build on the awakened consciousness and determination of the membership as a result of this dispute.

We must ensure that our elected representatives will fight to implement the policies determined by the members through conference.

**By Frank Bonner and Kevin Roddy**

(CPSA NEC, in personal capacity)

## Teachers' pay fight begins

NUT members in Oldham schools began action in support of their pay claim in the first week after the Easter holidays.

Twenty schools are now involved, including six of the nine secondary schools. More will be joining in, particularly after the moves made by Shirley Williams to have the pay talks postponed until after the general election.

The action involves ending dinner-time supervision and any work done out of school hours, and no use of teachers' cars on school business. At my own school, a split-site comprehensive, this has forced the Education Authority to provide a taxi service to ferry teachers between the buildings.

At a meeting of secondary school reps, it was decided to send a letter to the unions' executive, stating that the current sanctions were not strong enough, and that they should be strengthened to include no cover for absent teachers after the first day.

**Alan Crear**

(NUT rep, Oldham)



Dunlop workers on national lobby at the company's HQ in protest at Speke closure, 7th March 1979

Photo: Militant

## BLACK DUNLOP!

TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION DUNLOP-SPEKE

The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the General Executive Council met on the 29th March 1979, when plenary powers were given to the Dunlop Speke membership.

I have now received a request from the above members that sanctions should be imposed on all movement of Dunlop products at export, import and internal levels.

I am therefore calling upon all sections to support the decision by the General Executive Council, and comply with this request.

R J Palmer

Divisional Organiser

## Speke must be saved

To beat flying pickets you use given notice of lay-off. In addition, two weeks ago the Speke workers addressed the Birmingham Automotive District Committee of the T&GWU, and were given unanimous support for the blacking of Dunlop products.

But there is no question of the Speke workers' action being unofficial. The highest bodies of the T&GWU have given them "plenary powers", to take whatever action they think necessary to save their jobs (see above).

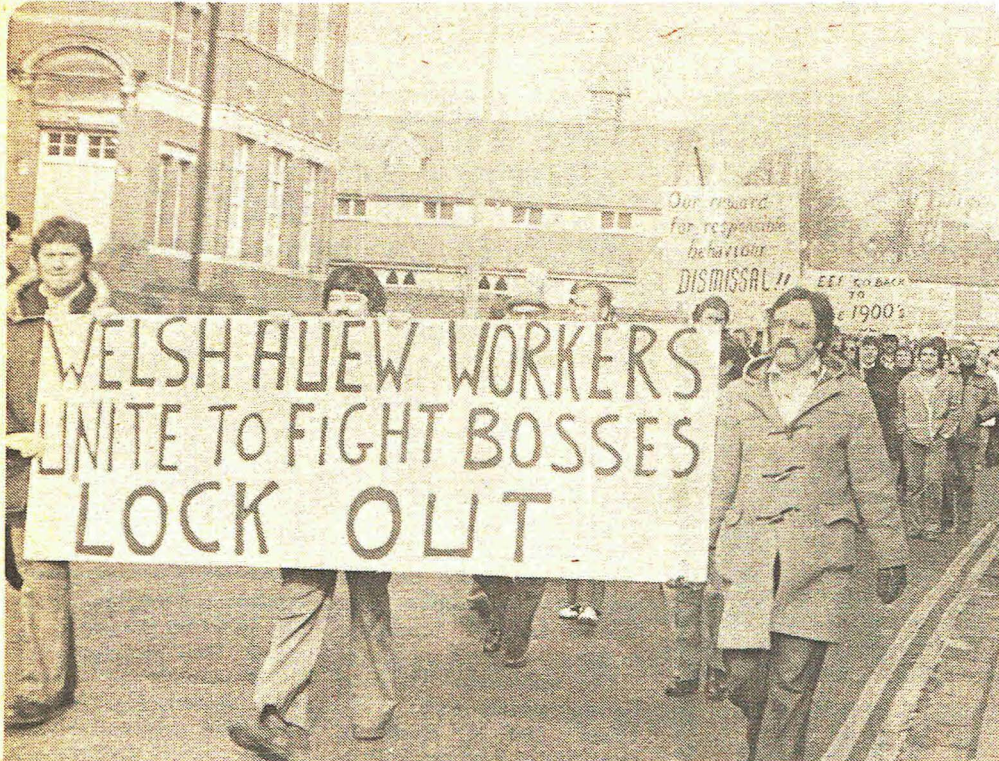
They are picketing Fort Dunlop and the Coventry plant round the clock. Speke must be kept open.

Already 2,500 of the Fort Dunlop workforce have been

**By Jeremy Birch**



# UNION CONFERENCES: WALES TUC, SCPS, APEX



Welsh engineering workers fight lockout at Hymac and Henley Forklift

## WALES TUC: SOCIALIST ACTION TO END UNEMPLOYMENT

The Wales TUC will be the first conference of the labour movement after the election. The issues being debated this weekend will go beyond those appearing on the agenda.

At the time of writing, great uncertainty hangs over the future of the Labour government. The reactionary Thatcherites, backed by the press and media, are sniffing for victory.

A Labour victory would be welcomed with relief by every trade unionist. But it will not be greeted by passive acceptance of another round of disastrous neo-Tory policies.

The coming to power of a Tory government, pledged to attack the trade unions would, on the other hand, force every serious delegate to ask why, after five years of Labour rule, with a manifesto pledging popular reforms, such a defeat was possible.

The agenda lays heavy stress on the terrible consequences of unemployment in Wales. Many resolutions call

for the 35-hour week and earlier retirement. Yet the demand for 'reflation' of the economy raised by some unions, fails to provide the real answer to unemployment.

Big business has the ownership and control of the economy tightly in its hands. The resolution from AUEW-TASS points to a much clearer and more realistic answer. It demands large measures of nationalisation to combat the power of the giant monopolies.

Only by taking over the top 200 companies, the banks and insurance firms, can the economy be planned and unemployment ended. As long as the major capitalist firms dominate the economy, the aspirations of our movement will be thwarted.

Modern technology and its

effect on jobs is taken up in many resolutions. The EET PU correctly points out the advantages of new technology, but totally ignores its effects under capitalism—the creation of mass unemployment.

Once again, only with a planned, nationalised economy, democratically run under workers' control and management, can science and technology be used to the benefit of the whole of society.

Hours of work drastically reduced, living standards increased enormously—these are the possibilities. Under capitalism, technology destroys jobs, creating devastating misery.

Socialism is fast becoming a bread-and-butter issue for millions of workers in Wales and Britain. It is time our leaders took up boldly the socialist traditions of our movement.

**By May Trodd**  
(Wales TUC—CPSA  
delegate, personal  
capacity)

## APEX CONFERENCE: ADVANCE FOR UNION DEMOCRACY

Delegates to the APEX [Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff] conference met in Blackpool at the end of March. This was also the five-yearly rules' revision conference.

Important steps were taken to democratise the running of the union. All APEX staff reps must now be elected annually rather than appointed. Although this is already the practice in most workplaces, now it is a rule.

A motion was also passed stressing that "annual conference...must not be the target of any economies"; next year's conference, it was agreed, will last for 4 and not 3 days.

An amendment to allow candidates for union positions the right to campaign on their policies was defeated. This means that as before, the only information we have of nominees is their name, industry and factual history in the union. An encouraging debate on setting up an APEX youth section was only lost by 68,320 to 51,150 on a card vote.

Denis Howell MP, in his presidential address, said that the "strikes, boycotts and disruptions" of the winter was "madness...called free collective bargaining—or Thatcherism"! He went on to say that this is "a policy which sets worker against worker."

The response to this was

cool, to say the least. Later at the first ever 'Militant' public meeting, delegates pointed out that this kind of policy would lose the election.

The debate on technology in the office vividly illustrated that if capitalism has control over word processing machines and VDUs, then it will mean longer dole queues.

Only the strength of the unions can stop this and in the last analysis, only socialism can ensure that technology is used for the benefit of workers and not simply the bosses' profits.

**By Jane James**  
(Conference delegate,  
BAC Stevenage)

## SCPS POST OFFICE CLAIM JOINT ACTION ESSENTIAL

On 6 April the Post Office Group General Executive Committee of the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) called a one-day strike in pursuance of their claim for grade restructuring and for restoration of the 1975 external pay comparison position from 1 April 1979.

No response at all had been made by PO management to the claim. The SCPS had no choice but to start industrial action, with a total one-day strike and then selective strike action at key computer centres.

The Telecommunications

and Central Headquarter branch took part in the one-day strike.

In the past CHQ staff (the support staff for Sir William Barlow, the PO Chairman) have not been particularly militant. This time, though, they gave magnificent support with only a few members going into work.

The determined action of our Civil Service colleagues is an example which is being taken up!

In spite of instructions to "work normally" from the leaders of the Civil and Public Services Association, many CPSA members refused to cross the picket lines. Some

joined the picket, making it that much stronger.

The picket turned away mail deliveries, the Camden dustcart and various other services.

The most important lesson is that joint action between the SCPS and CPSA is essential if we are to win our claims. With joint action we can picket all buildings and with proper co-ordination, shut them down completely.

**By Pete Brown**  
(PO CHQ CPSA)

Photo: Militant



SCPS and CPSA members united in protest at suspension of Scottish members

## BUILDING A FIGHTING UNION

By an SCPS member

As the Society of Civil and Public Servants' conference meets this weekend, the pay campaign and its outcome will be to the fore of delegates' minds.

The resolutions for conference were passed before the NEC presented the latest offer to the membership. Many delegates will nevertheless want to voice their dissatisfaction with the offer that was finally accepted.

The failure to achieve full PRU, the question-mark still hanging over the payment of the later stages, and whether they will be affected by the pay policy or cash limits of the next government; have all raised doubts in the mind of many members as to whether we can continue to rely on PRU as a means of pay negotiation. Our own bargaining power is increasingly being recognised as the only reliable way to achieve reasonable pay settlements.

Many members are also concerned with the NEC's failure to mobilise DHSS and DE members in the pay campaign. These are the best organised and most militant sections, as their action over the Scottish suspensions proved. Involving them in strike action could have brought the dispute to a speedy and victorious conclusion.

The same applies to the suspensions. The NEC negotiated a deal which still leaves members out on a limb. They are now preparing to go to court to try to get full reinstatement, rather than using our proven industrial

strength on their behalf.

This goes to press before the results of the General Election are known. But the blatant political intervention in our pay negotiations and the Tories' threats to limit our right to strike, as well as the gleeful statements of various Labour ministers as they crossed our picket lines, mean that civil servants can no longer stand aside from politics.

This is reflected in the conference agenda. Resolutions defend the trade unions' right to strike and oppose any further attempts to hold down our living standards, in the guise of pay agreements between trade union leaders and the government.

It is now urgent that we remove the bars to political activity that still apply to many members of the Society, and both individually join and press for the union's affiliation to the Labour Party, to influence it in its dealings with our members.

We have learnt harsh lessons in the past few years, particularly during the pay campaign.

Many members are still incensed at those who failed to take part in the pay campaign and yet are content to sit back and reap the rewards of the sacrifices the rest of us made. A number of resolutions deal with the issue of the closed shop and benefits for members only.

The other major lesson of the past months is the need for co-ordination between the civil service trade unions. The magnificent united action of SCPS and CPSA members, in

particular, during the pay campaign, must now be translated into working unity at office level.

Many conference delegates' mandating meetings have taken the principled position of not voting in the NEC elections for those NEC members who supported recommending the pay offer.

It is true that the majority of the members voted to accept the pay offer. Many thought that, with the NEC backing down, it was futile to carry on.

It is vital that the actions of NEC members are kept under constant scrutiny. By this means we can try to ensure that our NEC represents fully the wishes of the membership.

Resolutions on the agenda call for the election of full-time negotiators, and the right of recall over them.

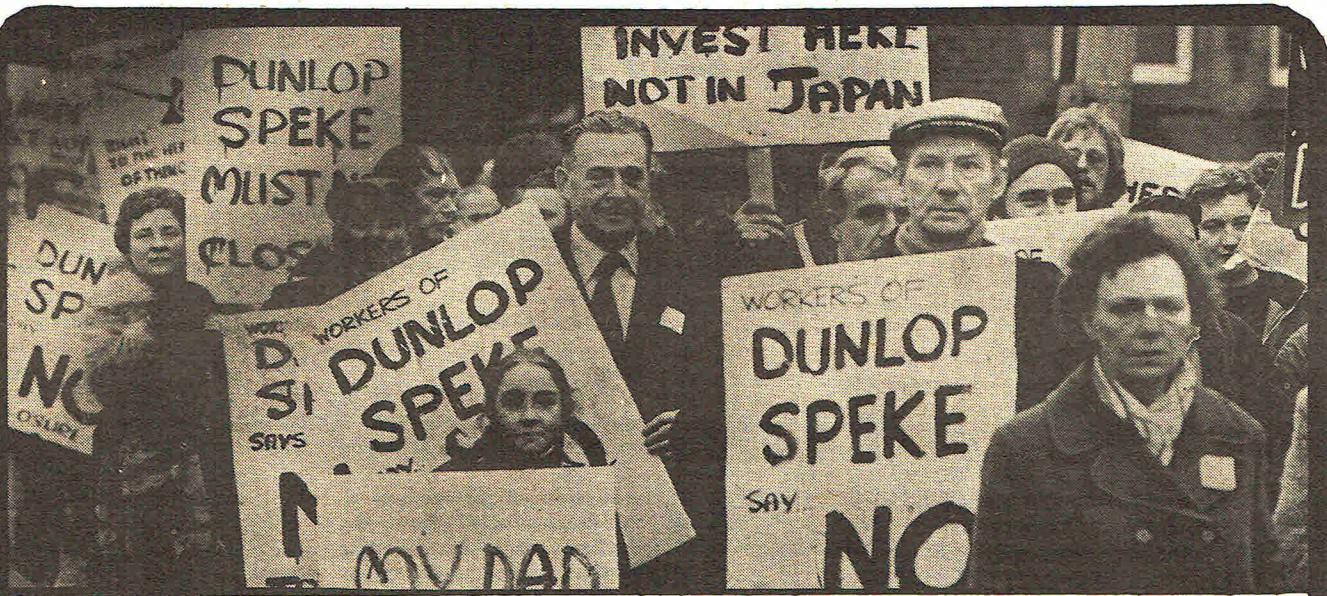
The last year has been one of the most important in the history of the SCPS. Members who a few years ago would never have considered taking strike action have shown determination in strikes, demonstrations, strike levies. They have been forced to take a critical attitude towards the strategy and decisions of the union leaders, and to take a fresh view on political questions in the light of their trade union experiences.

The SCPS is on the road to rapid and far-reaching changes. Civil servants are no longer willing to accept isolation from the labour movement; we are determined that under any government we will play our part as trade unionists in determining our wages and conditions.



# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH  
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## SPEKE: SOCIALIST FUTURE OR NO FUTURE AT ALL

"You name it, we got it". This is the usual reaction of people in Speke when asked about the estates' problems.

Everything from closures of giant factories (such as Dunlops and Standards) to a chronic lack of decent facilities.

The bosses' crisis affects every aspect of your life; wherever you turn, you see some evidence of public sector cuts or redundancies.

Underspending by a savage Liberal/Tory Council in the Direct Works department means that tenants have to wait longer and longer for essential repairs. One woman with eight children had to wait ten months to have her windows replaced.

During this winter her whole family caught bronchitis, and her son contracted osteomyelitis, a disease [related to polio] aggravated by cold and damp. He spent six months in hospital.

In desperation the mother asked a housing official what would happen if a child died as a result—he replied "I suppose we would have to do something then."

Such is the concern of our council—carrying out policies of the bosses and the Tories; that someone has to die before they act.

Cuts also in education, where the Council wants to do away with a 6th Form in a local comprehensive as part of 'reorganisation'.

'Revision' of bus timetables to give waits of up to an hour! It now costs nearly a pound to the city centre. We're expected to pay more and more for declining services.

But the future looks bleakest for the youth on the estate. Redundancies at

What future is there for workers in areas like Speke? The callousness of the capitalist system, throwing workers on to the already swollen dole queues of Liverpool has already tragically led to the suicide of one worker at Dunlop's. Add to this the cuts in services imposed by the Liberal-Tory council, and the area looks grim. No wonder, as Mick Hogan of Garston Labour Party explains, the ideas of socialism are becoming increasingly relevant.

Standards and Dunlop's are two amongst many.

Speke has lost 6,500 jobs in one year (an estimated 2,500 live in Speke—total population only 22,000). Speke is becoming an industrial desert.

Every single problem can be laid at the door of the bosses—they are the ones destroying jobs in the area.

They are the ones milking Liverpool's council tenants of £28 million in interest charges; money needed for improving services. It is their parties in the City Council presiding over the massive cuts.

Some people call socialists extremists, but then they don't have to live in Speke. Here the socialist policies of nationalising the massive monopolies and putting them into workers' hands could clearly save jobs.

Cancelling the interest

"UNEMPLOYMENT IS A THING WE MUST ALL LEARN TO LIVE WITH"



charges we could use the money to improve services. The 35-hour week could cut the dole queues and the £70 minimum wage eradicate poverty.

All the policies 'Militant' advocates, and Eddie Loy-

den, Garston's Labour candidate fought for in the election are not pipe dreams but necessities if more people are not going to suffer misery due to the bosses insane, callous drive for profits.

### TORY GOVERNMENT CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Within the labour movement, and the Labour Party in particular, there will now be a demand for a balance-sheet of the last five years. The right-wing

policies which—as 'Militant' warned they would—have led to this disastrous defeat will be completely rejected by the Labour ranks.

Active trade unionists will be coming into the Party to make sure that

Labour defends working class interests.

The crucial issue of the re-selection of MPs, pushed into the background in the pre-election period, will once again come to the fore.

There will now be an

overwhelming demand within the ranks of the labour and trade union movement for socialist policies that will ensure an early defeat for the Tories and guarantee a decisive Labour victory in the next general election.

## THE TIMES -WORKERS UNITY BEATS SCAB PLAN

The international solidarity of German printers and workers [and Turkish workers in Germany] has foiled the plans of 'The Times' management to produce a weekly international edition.

By Ted Grant

Only a few thousand copies were printed at an 'undisclosed location'. This arises from the dispute and lock-out at 'The Times' London headquarters.

The millionaire Thomson Group which owns 'The Times' and a string of provincial newspapers in Britain wanted to use 'The Times' to break the resistance of workers to the introduction of "new technology" at the expense of rights, conditions and standards of print-workers.

They want—over a period—to eliminate most typesetters' jobs.

Thus, as always under capitalism, technological progress does not lead to longer hours and higher wages but to massive redundancies.

When the print unions and especially the National Graphical Association [NGA] refused to accept their terms, management stopped publication and dismissed the workforce—i.e. locked out the workers.

But in defence of jobs, rights and living standards 'The Times' printers and unions have stood firm for five months.

This attempt to print the international weekly abroad was intended as a wedge to break their resistance.

They used a small typesetting firm in Darmstadt where only half the 20

employees were union members to set up the paper.

For their printers 'The Times' management chose a small Turkish firm in Germany which prints an extreme "right wing" i.e. fascist Turkish paper.

Hundreds of Turkish and German printworkers and other workers mobilised by the German print unions picketed the plant. They demonstrated against scabbing on their British trade union brothers.


So strong was the pressure that 'The Times' management abandoned the attempt to print this first edition.

The NGA has been in touch with the print unions in 35 countries to ask for the 'blacking' of 'Times' work.

All have agreed to be vigilant in case 'The Times' makes further attempts.

Coupled with the decision of NUJ members in 'The Times' chapel to reverse their previous decision, and not to work on the overseas weekly, this is a crushing answer to 'The Times' management tactics.

This is an inspiring example of workers' international unity and class solidarity in action. Such action nationally and internationally is the key to success for the struggle of the printworkers.



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