

**Socialist
ACTION**

**Vote
Labour
5th
May**



**May
Day**



CND EVENTS

CND Diary is a regular column in Socialist Action, giving a round up of useful facts, news and dates of forthcoming events in the Anti-Nuclear movement.

The listing of events is free and the details should reach us by the Wednesday, one week before publication. Send to CND Diary, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP.

★ **Fri 29 April** Two anti-nuclear films, 'America — From Hitler to MX' and 'No Place to Hide', 7.30pm at Studio 1 Cinema, 74 Victoria Crescent Road, Glasgow. Tickets £2 (£1.50 unwaged). Organised by Glasgow West CND.
★ **Fri 29 April** Public meeting on 'Labour's Non-Nuclear Defence Policy' with speakers John Silkin MP, George Foulkes MP, Keith Macdonald (PPC for Ayr). 7.30pm, Ayr Town Hall.

★ **Sat 30 April** East Fife CND march from St. Andrews to Leuchars airbase. Meet 10am in Queens Terrace, St. Andrews.

★ **Sat 30 April** Scottish CND/Anti-Trident Campaign joint fundraising booksale, Renfield St. Stephen Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow. Offers of books to Scottish CND, Third Floor, 420 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 (tel. 041-331 2878).

★ **Sat 30 April** East London Labour Movement Conference Against Cruise and Trident, to be held in Queen Mary College. Details/credentials from Phil Waterhouse 01-359 8288 or Ken Cull Hornchurch 53518.

★ **Sat 30 April** Fringe meeting at Wales TUC. Speakers: Hilary Wainwright, Chris Parke (AUEW/TASS). 7.30 Central Hotel, Penarth Road, Cardiff. Organised by Cardiff TU CND.

★ **May March** from Truro to Exeter via Plymouth, Barnstaple and Somerset (only for the fit!). Details from Stephen Hugget. Tel: Plymouth 268724.

★ **Sun 1 May** GLC May Day festival for Peace, Victoria Park, London. Starts 11.00am.

★ **Sat 7 May** Youth CND Festival for Peace. Starts at 11am with a demonstration from Embankment marching to Brockwell Park. Bands, speakers and a festival village.

★ **10-12 May** Demonstration outside Defence Components Expo '83, in Brighton. Contact (01)-278 1976 for details.

★ **Thur 12 May** Day of Action against Arms production at Thorn-Brymar's Brimsdown site in Enfield. Organised by London Region CND's Trade Union sub-committee. Details from LRCND, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. Speakers at this lunchtime, factory gate, meeting will include Ken Livingstone (GLC), Jonathon Hammond (NUJ President), Paul Lefley (Sec. Haringey Trades Council), Lou Lewis (UCATT London Organiser), Ron Blanchard (Haringey Councillor) and Jeremy Corbyn (Haringey Councillor and PPC for Islington North).

★ **Sat 14 May** Conference 'Nuclear Disarmament, a Trades Union Strategy. Starts 10.30am at Riddles Court, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh. Speakers will include Gavin Strang MP.

★ **Sat 14 May** Festival for Peace. Organised by Rhondda CND. Speakers: Ken Livingstone, Ann Clwyd MEP, Alan Rogers MEP, Allan Roberts MP, Women for Life on Earth. Starts 2.00pm at Penrhys Community Centre.

★ **14-21 May** Ealing Labour Party Disarmament Week. Contact David Bays (01)-992 0287.

★ **Sat 14 May** Street theatre, Acton Precinct, Children's Peace Party, Ruskin Hall, 2.30-5.00.

★ **Wed 18 May** Meeting, Ealing North Labour Club, The Lucas Plan, open to LP members & their guests.

★ **Thurs 19 May** Public meeting, Acton Town Hall, 7.30: Nuclear-free London — Nuclear-free World with Ken Livingstone, GLC; Mary Kaldor, END; Greenham Peace Camp Woman; Norman Atkinson MP, PLP; Gareth Daniel and Hilary Benn.

★ **Thur 19 May** Meeting 'Disarmament: The Present State' Organised by S.E. Birmingham CND. At Friends Meeting House, Hall Green, Birmingham, starts 7.30.

★ **Thur 19 May** Meeting. Speaker Bruce Kent. Starts at 7.30 in the New Village Hall, High Street, Orpington.

★ **Sat 21 May** Women's Peace Action. Southall bunker. Children's Peace Party, Dorset Hall, 2.30-5.00. YS Peace Gig, 7.30 Ruskin Hall W3. (All part of Ealing Peace week.)

★ **Sat 21 May** South London CND Labour Movement Conference. Speakers include: Jo Richardson MP, Alastair Macrae (NUPE Nat Officer), Pat Arrowsmith. Workshops: NVDA and industrial action, Alternative products, TUs and the Labour Party. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11. £2/£1 admission.

★ **Tue 24 May** Glasgow Women for Peace. Day of Action for International Women's Day for Disarmament, George Square, Glasgow. Rally 12-2pm with speakers from Greenham, Faslane, STUC. Women's Festival 2pm-7pm. For more information contact 'Women for Peace', c/o the Women's Centre, 57 Miller Street, Glasgow G2. Tel. 041 221 1177 Sats. after 1pm.

★ **Tue 24 May** Women's day of action of peace. Details from Carmel McConnel, Tel: (0273)-604265.

★ **Thur 26 May** Meeting organised by Bristol TUCND. Speakers: Reg Race MP and Greenham Common woman. Also two films. Starts at 7.30pm at Transport House, Victoria St., Bristol.

★ **Sat 28 May** Greater Manchester CND trade union conference. Speakers: Ron Todd (T&G), Les Huckfield MP, Greenham Common women. Afternoon workshops. Further details, 061-682 9334.

★ **Mon 30 May** Tonness Festival of Re-Creation, 2pm till late at Barns Ness, near Dunbar. Details from SCRAM, 031-557 4283/4.

★ **Wed 1 June** Meeting — speaker Ken Livingstone. At West Hampstead Community Centre, Broomsleigh Street, London NW6. Organised by West Hampstead and Cricklewood CND.

★ **Sat 4 June** Anti-Trident Convention, Kelvin Hall Arena, Glasgow, 11am to 4.30pm. Details from: ATC, 420 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (tel. 041-332 3141).



Womens TUC and Scots TUC support 24th May

PLANS for a women's day of action against the missiles — an International Women's Day for Disarmament — took a decisive step forward last week with The Women's and Scots TUC support.

The Women's Advisory Committee of the TUC met on 19 April and voted to recommend support for the action to the TUC General Council.

By Anne Kane
(Glasgow Women for Peace)

In Scotland, following the STUC's general council's vote of support for actions being organised in Scotland for 24 May, delegates at last week STUC conference at Rothesay gave a positive response to Greenham women lobbying for support.

At a packed meeting on Wednesday delegates listened to Helen John and other women, responding with a large financial contribution and pledges to build for the day.

Following an opening speech by STUC president Andrew Barr of the NUR, a delegate from Rolls Royce agreed to organise a workplace rally on the day. Other delegates including from the Fire Brigades Union also gave strong support.

The success at the STUC conference was followed up by a tour of workplaces by Greenham women.

A meeting at the militant Plessey factory secured pledges of support. A telegram sent to the Timex occupation from the Greenham women expressed the unity in action between the two struggles:

'Solidarity, Jobs not Bombs. Your struggle is our struggle. Greenham Women.'

Following up the telegram Greenham women visited the occupation on Friday to gain backing for the 24 May.

Positive

Among the unions NALGO are showing the way by encouraging positive action to be

organised by women members and industrial action for the day.

The labour movement must build on these statements of support. The lead being given for the 24 May by the Greenham women can be a stepping stone for mass action against the missiles later in the year.

Women all out for Peace May 24th

● This model resolution is suggested for your trade union branch:

'This branch expresses full support for the Greenham Common/Women's Peace Campaign, and in particular offers union support to all members who take action on the 24th May as part of the 'Women All Out For Peace' Day (International Women's Day for Disarmament).'

Contact: May 24th 16 Arundel Rd. Brighton, E. Sussex. Tel: 0273-6064265 until 16 April then 0273-553466, until end of May.

For Scotland contact: Women for Peace, c/o the Women's Centre, 57 Miller Street, Glasgow 2. Tel 041 221 1177 (Sats)

CND National Council debates strategy

CND's national council meeting on 16/17 April rejected a series of attempts to water down the campaign's policy.

The national council gave full support to the 24 May International Women's Day of Action

It went on to discuss two resolutions on the demand for a nuclear freeze. One called for support for a 'bilateral' freeze between the United States and the Soviet Union, the other called for a unilateral nuclear freeze by Britain. Both were passed.

By Andy Miller

The basic argument put forward in favour of the 'freeze' demand was that while 60 per cent were opposed to cruise and Trident, only a minority supported unilateral nuclear disarmament.

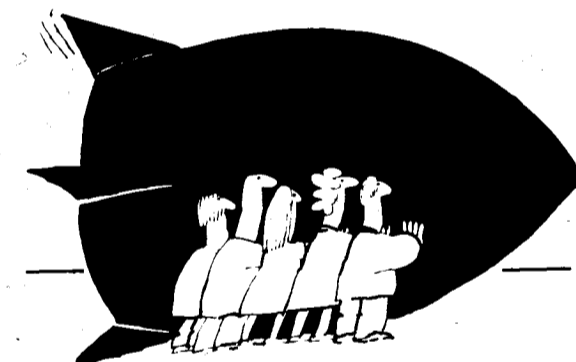
Therefore prioritising the freeze demand was 'realistic' and a 'bridge' to unilateral nuclear disarmament. Prioritising the freeze demand was a

mistake — it offers neither real gains for the movement nor real solutions.

A nuclear freeze would not stop the arms race. Even a nuclear freeze by Britain would not stop air-launched cruise missiles being deployed at American air bases in Britain, with or without the connivance of the United States.

The demands for no cruise and no Trident should not be separated from the fight for unilateral nuclear disarmament. If they are separated then CND's cutting edge will be blunted, especially if a Labour government were elected.

The debate on CND's tactics in the general election reflected two different



views of what CND should be doing. The first view was that CND should intervene in the election primarily to get anti-cruise anti-Trident candidates elected; the other was to use the elections to take on the Tories on unilateral disarmament.

This difference was reflected by the executive's proposal to change the slogan from 'Vote Nuclear

Free in '83' to 'Stop Cruise, Stop Trident: Don't Vote for World War Three'. Eventually it was agreed that 'an essentially unilateralist slogan' should accompany those against cruise and Trident.

On NATO, the national council decided to organise an educational campaign on the need to withdraw and to give more

priority to the issue in the anti-cruise and Trident campaigns.

Although the educational campaign will be primarily aimed towards CND members, it is at least a small positive step towards implementing last year's conference decision to prioritise the issue.

Mixed

The council rejected a proposal that future actions at Greenham Common should be mixed and thereby showed its support for the independent role of the women at Greenham Common.

On non-violent direct action it was agreed to prioritise 'secondary' action against firms supplying nuclear bases.

Overall the national council marked a new stage of the discussion within CND.

CND belongs in the factories

THE BIGGEST challenge facing the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to root its campaign against nuclear weapons in the factories. Last year's annual conference of the campaign voted in favour of directing CND's activities towards the labour movement. Yet even though more trade unionists are affiliated to CND than to the Labour Party — over six million — precious little has been done to mobilise this potentially vast reservoir of support.

The major reason for this failure lies with the national leadership of CND.

By Mick Gosling,
TGWU 1/1107 Branch
(personal capacity)

Winning support for CND in the workplace is placed on a par with churches and community groups because the CND leadership does not have a strategy of mobilising the only social force with the

power to stop the bomb, but one of putting pressure on existing political parties to change their ways.

Nevertheless, many activists in CND are committed to a different perspective. At a local level a number of labour movement conferences against cruise and Trident have been organised, the latest taking place in East London on Saturday 30 April.

My own union branch, representing over 6000

Ford workers along with the TGWU 1/667 and South East Essex AUEW shop stewards are all sending large delegations to this.

At this conference the connection between the Tories missile madness and mass unemployment and public spending cuts will be made. Workshops will concentrate on building CND in the workplace.

At Ford Dagenham we've had some small but useful experience of this. There has been a CND group in the body plant for some time and prior to CND's Easter activities members of both 1/667 and 1/1107 TGWU branches in the assembly plant won the unanimous back-

ing of their branch meetings for a TGWU leaflet on the shopfloor to mobilise support. Because this was a union leaflet it was widely distributed by shop stewards as well as CND activists.

Difficult

At a wider level the trade union committee of London region CND is taking up the most difficult task of all — starting to argue 'jobs not bombs' amongst armaments workers themselves. The committee has called a midday action on Thursday 12 May at Thorn-Brimar, Mollison Avenue, Enfield.

Thorn-Brimar (Brimdown site) is one of

London's major arms producers, producing amongst other things special cathode ray tubes for missile guidance systems and multi-pin connectors for all types of military wiring.

It is this hard, grassroots work in the factories that needs to go on behind CND's spectacular national demonstrations if we are to build a movement which goes beyond protest and has the power to win unilateral nuclear disarmament.

● **East London Labour Movement Conference against Cruise and Trident. Sat. 30 April. Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1. Further details/credentials phone Ken Cull, Hornchurch 53518.**

Photo: MORNING STAR



Peoples March can be an inspiration for the labour movement

LAST WEEKEND unemployed workers strode out of Glasgow to begin the 500 miles Peoples March to London.

The TUC and the Labour Party have officially backed the march but neither organisation had one of its general

council or executive members marching.

As Britain's dole queues grow day by day, the right to have a job and a living wage becomes a burning issue for millions of people the official leaders are mistrustful and unhappy about 'unofficial' and 'extra-parliamentary' actions like

taking to the streets for jobs.

Such an attitude ill-behoves a parliamentary and trade union leadership that has mounted no serious fight to save jobs.

The local unions and local labour parties must make the response their national leaders have failed to do.

In every city, town and village through which the labour movement must turn out in force to show that there is a working class alternative to depression and dole queues. It must also be used to build up a hatred of Tory policies which condemn people to the misery of the poverty line of social security.

It must show that the Timex occupation points the way to save jobs and that the Tories must be kicked out of office and replaced by a Labour government pledged to defend jobs and living standards.

Let the Peoples March act as an inspiration for a fight back.

A Marcher's journal

'MY KNEES are knocking' said the young man from Nielson. That's not so good with 500 miles to walk I thought. Beside him were two young women from Aberdeen, holding bright red carnations: 'We're not staying in London' they said scornfully 'we'll be coming straight back.'

Behind the yellow jackets the pipes started up and the bright banners of 40 different unions surged forward.

They had to battle against the torrential rain the heavens had unleashed on the 5000 assembled in George Square, Glasgow to see off the 1983 People's March.

Police, camera crews, paper sellers and latecomers splashed through the streets to take up their appointed positions. Nobody noticed Michael Foot as he stepped on the sodden platform to wave us all goodbye.

At 12 noon there was silence. Then the drum beats started. 'Go on! Go on!' shouted anxious stewards and a young unemployed woman from Maryhill and her friend holding the Peoples March banner took their first steps on Britains long march.

The bagpipes burst the air behind them



and a great cheer went up. The rain meant no speech from Foot.

The march was half a mile long — '2000 if that' said a police sergeant. 'It would be lost in those wide London streets' he confided to me. 'Step in in case some capitalist car hits your backside.'

The coppers are nervously friendly, everybody knows why.

At the front someone is giving out more red carnations. Foot disappeared. He used to be good at marching.

As we crossed the Clyde warm sunshine breaks up the cloud. 499 miles to go.

Peoples march for jobs



Timex — a fight against sackings

Dundee workers are giving full support to the Timex occupation.

The shop stewards say this is not just a fight for the jobs of the Timex workers but is about the right of every worker to have a job.

By refusing to accept redundancies the workforce is saying jobs must come before profit. Five hundred and sixty out of a workforce of 640 are occupying their factory.

The trade union movement in alliance with the Labour Party must have an answer to Timex and all other firms threatening redundancies.

They must tell the company either guarantee jobs or we will nationalise you without compensation.

That must be the message at Timex and it must also be the message right along the route of the People's March.



Photo: MORNING STAR

Photo: MORNING STAR

IRELAND UNFREE

North to be strike-free zone?

By Martin Collins

TOP LEVEL plans to ban the right to strike in the North of Ireland were revealed last week. The revelations were made by NUPE regional officer Inez McCormick as she spoke in a debate at the Northern Congress of the Irish TUC in opposition to a resolution against the Tebbit proposals.

There was, she said, a sting in the tale of the conference resolution which allowed the ICTU's Northern Committee to discuss 'special circumstances' that would make the Tebbit legislation unnecessary in the North.

She illustrated what these 'special circumstances' might be, by quoting from a confidential letter sent by the Labour Relations Agency (similar to ACAS) to Northern Committee secretary, Terry Carlin. The letter explained that James Prior has responded positively to the Agency's ideas, which involve making the North a 'strike free zone' in exchange for parity agreements with equivalent workers on the mainland.

Such plans were first discussed at a high level and a very private conference held in Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire last year. Present at the meeting were Southern premier Garret FitzGerald, Lord Gowrie from Thatchers' Northern Ireland Office, US government representatives, and people from both sides of industry in Northern Ireland. 'Representing' the workers side was Terry Carlin.

The report from the Ditchley Park conference indicated a 'high level of consensus between those representing traditionally opposed sectors of capital and labour'. The strike free zone they said would be an attractive selling point for investment in the North.



Workers on the march in Dublin

Militancy rises North and South

LAST WEEK saw another example of the strike-breaking role of the British trade union bureaucracy in the North with General and Municipal officials scabbing on the pay strike of Belfast bus workers.

Bus drivers, like so many other sections of workers in the North, are divided into two separate unions, the militant Dublin-based ATGWU and the right-wing led London-based GMBATU.

The Citybus workers set the pace with a week-long strike in support of their 10 per cent wage claim. But their hopes of a united response from all bus workers in the city were crushed when GMBATU officials refused to call a general membership meeting and vetoed proposals to join the strike. Frustrated ATGWU members then voted to accept management's six per cent offer.

Meanwhile three more factories in the South have gone into struggle to prevent their bosses demanding yet more wage increases. A mass of workers in Southern Ireland are now engaged in action against their employers' austerity policies. With such a level of militancy North and South it is criminal that sections of the British left still pander to the notion that it is religion not partition that causes the main division of the Irish working class.

Reply to Ken Livingstone

By Vladimir Derer

In Socialist Action (1 April) there were no less than three hostile comments on the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy: one by Ken Livingstone, one by Walter Wolfgang and one — for good measure — by Wolfgang's interviewer. All these comments have one thing in common. They make no attempt to criticise CLPD's actual position.

Ken Livingstone limits himself to making an unfounded allegation that the recent CLPD/Labour Coordinating Committee joint statement, urging Party unity, amounts to 'cosying up to the right wing' and to implying that the two organisations are abandoning the fight for socialist policies and against expulsions.

Ken rightly draws attention to the danger of the coalition plans contemplated by some members of the Parliamentary Labour Party and trade union leaders. Yet he seems to believe that the left can frustrate these plans by adopting a tactic of confrontation with the right wing, a tactic which would divide the Party even further.

Because of this he denounces the CLPD/LCC initiative as an attempt at 'accommodation with the witch-hunters' which can only facilitate further purges and aid plans for a coalition with the Social Democratic Party.

Belief

Ken's basic misconception derives from his belief that whatever the outcome of the next general election, the Labour left is bound to gain in influence and strength. He said as much in a recent interview with *New Musical Express* (9 April).

CLPD takes the opposite view. Quite apart from the fact that we would regard a Tory Alliance victory as an unmitigated disaster which we should do everything to avert, we also believe that another victory of reaction at the polls would find an inevitable reflection in a further reactionary advance within the Party.

In the climate of dependency and demoralisation which would follow another lost election the charge that those who fought for democratic reforms and socialist policies were responsible for the defeat (because they split the Par-

ty and failed to take account of the conservatism of the electorate) would find a sympathetic echo among the Party and trade union membership.

The Party's right wing would be strengthened and in the event of a 'hung' parliament it would push through its coalition contingency plans as well as retain the support of the majority of members should the Party split. Far from gaining ground the left would find itself increasingly isolated.

Victory

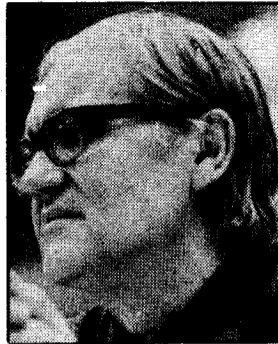
This is why we believe that the left must do everything to ensure a Labour electoral victory, and that it must be seen to be doing so. Bermondsey has shown that even traditional working class electors will not support a divided Labour Party.

Since the Party is a broad coalition, unity is not possible without some kind of compromise. The joint statement outlines its suggested terms.

But these things are nothing like what Ken claims. They propose give and take on both sides. The statement asks for the acceptance of 'existing policies, the existing leadership, the existing membership, the existing parliamentary candidates and the existing selection procedures for Leader, Deputy Leader and parliamentary candidates.'

This does imply that there should not be a public campaign against policies as outlined in the campaign document and later the manifesto, nor against a leadership determined by normal constitutional procedures even though this may mean the possible acceptance of Denis Healey.

But it also implies the acceptance of all existing parliamentary candidates and the existing membership; this leaves the CLPs the right to determine who is accepted into the Party and who is to represent them in parliament.



Vladimir Derer

Acceptance of existing selection procedures for Leader, Deputy Leader and parliamentary candidates — a further condition — would ensure that the electoral college as at present constituted and mandatory reselection, and procedures that presently go with them, are here to stay.

Finally the last condition in the statement, namely that 'Annual Conference, acting in line with impartial conditions, clearly laid down in the constitution, should be the only body entitled to curtail the activities of pressure groups within the Party ...' means that the NEC would agree not to use its present powers under Clause II (3)(4) and the Register, until the rules which would govern the activities of pressure groups of Labour Party members, and which conference alone would be entitled to administer, are written into the Labour Party Constitution.

Right

Ken is right in thinking that such conditions despite the concessions they involve, will not be acceptable to witch-hunters. He must be naive, however, if he believes that we think that they are.

Our appeal is not addressed to the witch-hunting right but to the broad Party and trade union membership. It is being promoted in the form of a model resolution to the annual conference.

Even though our conditions are unacceptable to the witch-hunters, they are, we believe, acceptable to the Party as a whole. Widespread support for them would ensure that the 'moderate' extremists would be forced to accept them.

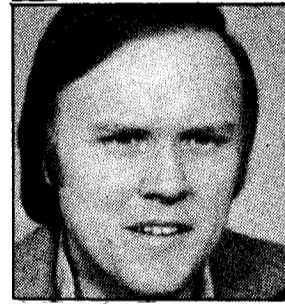
LABOUR BRIEFING

Let Brent East select

COLIN ADAMS is the chairperson of Brent East General Management Committee. He is leading the struggle for reselection in Brent East.

The party wants to change its MP for one such as Ken Livingstone who would represent its views more directly. But its right to reselection is threatened through bureaucratic delay, as Colin explains below.

'In June 1981 we agreed a time-table for the reselection process with Reg Freeson, our MP. However the regional party official refused to come to an executive committee meeting to start up reselection.'



Colin Adams

What has irritated the party is that despite its attempts to follow the constitution an original disagreement about reselection for the local elections in a couple of wards has been blown up into a national affair.

'We feel this party has been run as well as most other parties and we're very dissatisfied about the scrutiny we've been put under.'

The right complain greatly about a left caucus held in Brent on the subject of the reselection. They claim the meeting contravened the constitu-

tion. But Colin says: 'On this issue the NEC shouldn't consider itself to have any jurisdiction: the matter was totally unofficial. The party can't be held responsible for it.'

When asked about the role of the sitting Labour MP, Colin is diplomatic: 'He was quite helpful in agreeing the proposed procedure in June 1981. But by March this year the GMC condemned him for calling for a further enquiry.'

Colin's diplomacy is justified. Freeson is fighting his own redundancy harder than he's fought any other. He now claims Ken Livingstone is a member of Gerry Healy's Workers Revolutionary Party.

If Brent East is to select it's going to require not merely the acquiescence but the active support of the National Executive. The process normally takes three months and a June election will make it difficult anyway.

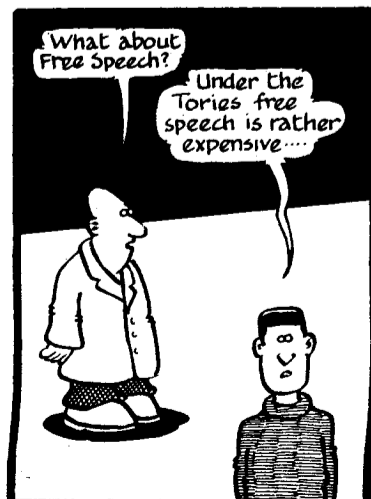
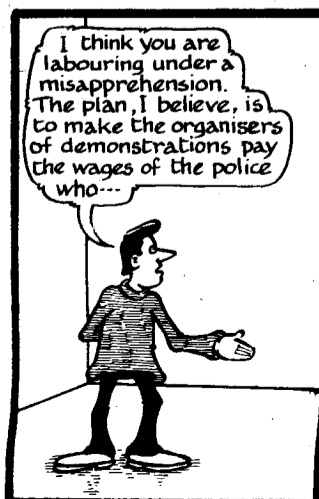
Colin is optimistic. 'We expect the NEC, given the evidence, to give us the go-ahead immediately.' But he does add that the GMC 'would feel cheated' if it weren't to be allowed to reselect.

● You can help Brent East in your Labour Party by passing the following resolution:

'This CLP notes the conclusion of the assistant National Agent's report on Brent East CLP and calls on the NEC to allow the reselection procedure in Brent East to proceed immediately.'

Support the lobby of the National Executive meeting at 9.30 am Wednesday 27 April outside Labour HQ at Walworth Road. (Elephant and Castle Tube).

A PIECE OF THE ACTION



Asian workers fight sweatshop conditions

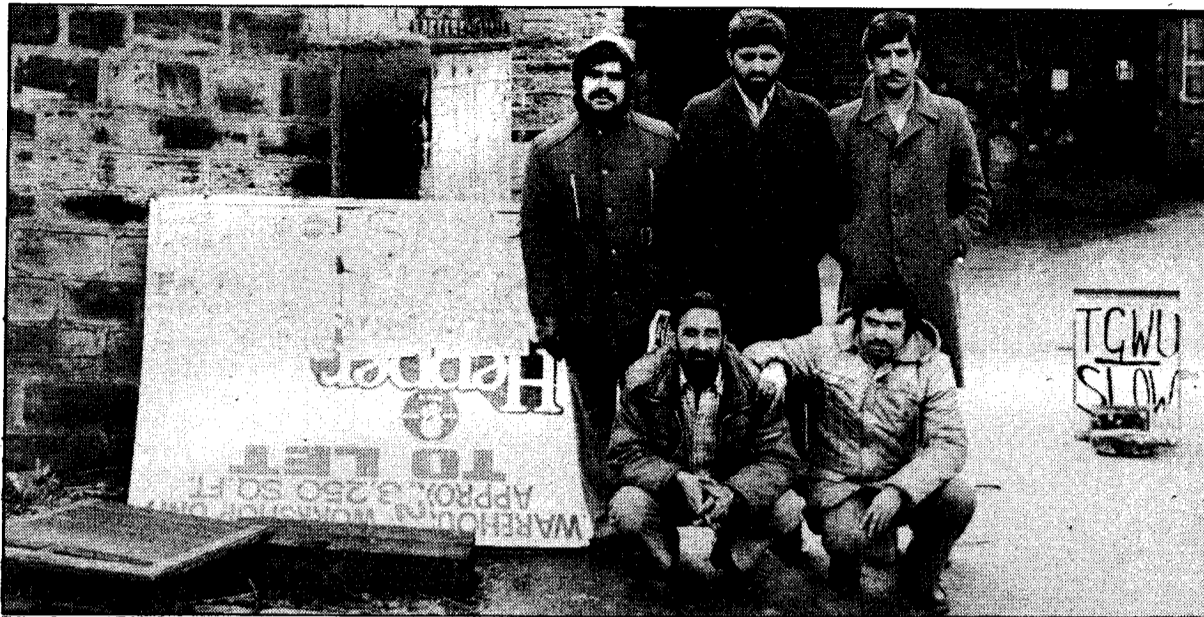


Photo: LEEDS OTHER PAPER

Aire Valley Yarns strikers

conditions

IT USED to be women who did all the lowest-paid jobs in the textile industry in Bradford. Then it was Ukrainians and other East European refugees after the Second World War. Now it is Asian workers.

In an industry with only 50 percent unionisation, and with high unemployment, those still with jobs have been under tremendous pressure from speed-up and increasing workloads.

The end result of this process can be seen at Aire Valley Yarns Ltd, a small mill employing just over 30 people and situated in Coal Hill Lane, Farsley, about half way between Bradford and Leeds.

The strikers say that the company pay £1.02 an hour for a 60 hour week worked in 12 hour shifts. The day shift starts at 7.15am and ends at 7.45pm with a half-hour break for lunch. Weekend working, still at basic rates, is compulsory.

There is no first-aid kit in the mill and injured workers have been told to make their own way to hospital.

Carding machines, which cause a quarter of the accidents in the textile industry, are not adequately guarded. Spinning machines have no footbrakes and operators have blistered their hands stopping the spindle. Heavy wool dust causes eye problems and chest ailments are rife.

Earlier this year a

group of shop-floor workers decided to join the Textile Group of the Transport and General Workers Union as a first step to improving their working conditions and the shop steward, Liaquat Ali, handed out the union cards. The following day he was summoned by director Derek Bedford and told to take back the cards from the members. Bedford also offered to refund their dues.

Dismissed

After Liaquat Ali had consulted his members, the offer was declined and on 14 March he was summarily dismissed. The day shift stopped work immediately and were later joined by the night shift. On 16 March they were all sacked and are now in official dispute.

The police have ensured that scab labour gets through the picket line safely every morning and

evening and although one of the strikers was injured by a car, no action has been taken against the driver.

Liaquat Ali has received threatening phone calls and his car has been vandalised since the strike began.

Tebbit's law is being invoked in an attempt to prevent successful solidarity action. An associated company of Aire Valley, Atlantic Yarns, have taken legal action against the union, alleging interference in their contract with Charles Busfield & Co, where workers were refusing to touch wool intended for Atlantic Yarns.

The 21 strikers are calling for support from the labour and trade union movement and the black community. Proposals for a mass picket are under consideration.

According to Peter Booth, national organiser of the TGWU Textile Group, the issue is as fundamental as Grunwicks and is a fight for the rights of every worker in the country.

● Messages of solidarity and donations to the strike fund should be sent to Mr L. Ali, 34 Dirkhill St, Bradford 7, West Yorks.

Police harassment of Colin Roach campaigners

SINCE Colin Roach died in Stoke Newington Police Station in January, a staggering 96 known arrests have taken place.

The campaign around the death of Colin Roach has been one of the clearest recent examples of growing police repression.

East and North London courts have been processing black youths at a rate comparable to a car production line.

But while the courts have had their fill of defendants, it's another matter when it comes to public access to the coroner's inquest into Colin's death.

St Pancras Coroner's Court will only allow 30 members of the public to attend because of space.

The past week has seen blatant manoeuvres by Dr Chambers, the coroner, but most notably by the police, to stop the inquest moving to a bigger place.

Perhaps they've had some problems finding a local venue, especially as the magistrates courts

are jammed full of black youth? Not so! Both the GLC and Hackney Borough Council were ready to assist. They offered a large room at Hackney Town Hall for the inquest.

What's behind all this? The Home Secretary — Willie Whitelaw — has refused

By Jeff Charlton

to hold a public inquiry, but proposed a coroner's inquest on the grounds that this was the same thing. This just isn't true.

Dr Chambers has publicly and correctly stated that the Home Secretary has been 'badly advised'. A coroner's court can only establish the who, what, where and when aspect of the death.

The inhuman and degrading treatment afforded the bereaved Roach family, and the wider aspects of policing in Hackney and Stoke Newington are outside the coroner's scope.

The Police Bill that the Tories are now trying

to introduce will reinforce and legalise the current brutal policing practices. Asian and black youth feel the heavy weight of these day in and day out.

The Roach campaign illustrates the importance for the labour movement of defending democratic rights and civil liberties.

A number of activities are being planned which Socialist Action readers are urged to win support for. Messages of support, donations and requests for speakers should be sent to the Roach Family Support Committee, c/o 50 Rectory Rd, London N16 (01-254 7480).

● Support the black youth arrested by joining pickets of Highbury Magistrates Court: 4 May, 10am; 10 May, 2pm. Old Street Magistrates Court: 10 May, 10am & 2pm; 11 May. For further details contact RFSC (address above) or the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, c/o Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2.

● March and Rally for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach. Sat 14 May, 12.30pm, Bethnal Green Gardens, (Bethnal Green tube), E2. Called by RFSC.

Stop the Police Bill!

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Sun 15 May

● Organised by the National Campaign Against the Police Bill, c/o Room 50, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, London E8 (01-986 3123 ext 280). No limits on numbers of delegates.



Photo: ANDREW POTHECARY

Old Bill plus new Police Bill?



try it doesn't cater for working and unemployed women.

Women are discriminated against in a number of ways.

They are banned from playing snooker; from the bar on Sunday lunch-times; from becoming full members and going to the club unaccompanied by a man; and from voting on the club's committee.

The newly formed Clevedon Women's Group approached the secretary of the club, but he just laughed, so we resorted to direct action to make our feelings known.

On Saturday 26 March eighteen of us went into the club and distributed leaflets explaining our anger. We chatted to several members who all gave us their full support.

The club's committee have now agreed to discuss with us.

But if the discriminating rules persist, we'll continue to campaign until women are able to participate in the club on an equal basis. (Alice Walsh, Clevedon Women's Group)

● We would like to hear from other women on their experiences of fighting sexism in clubs or elsewhere ... so drop us a line to the address below.

Compiled by HILARY DRIVER. Send contributions to 'Male Order' Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday a week prior to publication.

Mirror Comment

Witch hunt

IN almost every society in the world, women have been discriminated against ever since human life began.

Napoleon said they were only machines for bearing children. Even today, the women who reach the top of their professions are exceptions.

That's why the last 20 years has seen a women's revolt against men who would consign them to an inferior rank.

That revolt has been natural and right. But like all revolutions, it has its excesses which cannot be defended.

Fools

Those who spell "wimmin" to eliminate "men" from their description are fools. Those who run women-only restaurants and hold women-only demonstrations are as silly as the men who maintain men-only clubs.

Nor does equality for women mean inequality for men. That would just substitute one privileged class for another.

Two London lesbians have just been sacked from their jobs as child care workers for discriminating against boy pupils.

Victims

One is said to have told a girl of four she was stupid to be a bridesmaid and would be stupid ever to get married.

She was also accused of telling children there was no Father Christmas—and then introduced a Mother Christmas to give presents.

Their defence was that they were victims of a witch-hunt. It never seemed to occur to them that they were behaving like witches.

Mirror on Wednesday 20 April.

Letters of protest should be sent to the Editor, Daily Mirror, Holborn Circus, London EC1P 1DQ.

Peace prize

LABOUR Euro MPs have called on the European Parliament to nominate women from the Greenham Common peace camp for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Alf Lomas, (MEP), who submitted the motion, said that 'the women of Greenham have been one of the most significant forces in the world this year in opposing the lurch towards nuclear confrontation'.

Clevedon campaign

CLEVEDON'S Triangle Club is the only private club in our local area where the working class community can get together for a chat, a drink or a game of snooker. If they are male, that is.

In common with many other working men's clubs in the coun-

THIS pernicious editorial appeared in the

WORLD IN ACTION

Cayetano Carpio — hero of the Salvador revolution



MNR leader shot

FORMER big game hunter Orlando Cristina has been shot dead.

He was the general secretary of the counter-revolutionary Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR).

The MNR is backed by the South African government, and has been responsible for a series of cross-border raids aimed at sabotaging key Mozambican installations.

Cristina was found shot dead at a farm outside Pretoria. He was generally regarded as the military as well as political leader of the MNR, and a former member of the PIDE — the hated Portuguese secret police, dissolved after the 1972 revolution.

Afghanistan offensive

A BIG Soviet offensive is underway against rebel guerrillas in Afghanistan. Over the past month the area around Herat has come under heavy air bombardment from Soviet planes.

The offensive is one more sign of a big escalation of the fighting in Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting has also been reported around the cities of Kandahar, Ghanzi and Mazar-I-Sharif near the Soviet border.

On 3 April Soviet soldiers shot one man during a demonstration in the capital Kabul in which hundreds of peo-

ple shouted anti-Russian slogans.

Workers control

BOLIVIAN tin miners, who have a long history of revolutionary struggle, have been on strike for over three weeks in support of demands for bonus payments.

All 18 of the state-run Comibol mines are affected by the strike.

Now the miners' union has decided to resume production under workers control.

Long-time union leader Juan Lechin announced that the union would appoint responsible officials to supervise the running of the mines.

Electrical resistance

AMERICA's death row sage goes on.

The latest judicial killing was that of John Evans in Atmore, Alabama.

It took three 30-second shocks of 1900 volts before Evans was pronounced dead.

Alabama department of correction spokesperson Ron Tate said that the electric chair in question was probably not faulty — it had been successfully used to electrocute 154 people previously.

Evans 'probably had some special resistance to electricity'.

During the execution a puff of flame erupted from Evans' temple and leg.

Another person is due to be electrocuted on 13 May.

SALVADOR CAYETANO CARPIO ('Marcial'), the best known leader of the Salvadorean revolution is dead. His death was apparently linked to the murder in Managua of 'Ana Maria', another of the top FMLN commanders. The circumstances surrounding her murder, and Carpio's death, are obscure. Whatever the truth, the only people to rejoice will be the thugs who run the Salvadorean government and their friends in the Pentagon and the White House.

Carpio was the originator of the political strategy which has brought dictatorship and reaction in El Salvador to its knees. The formation of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the development of a political strategy coordinating mass work and armed struggle, are in many respects the result of Carpio's genius.

By Phil Hearse

Sixty-four years old at the time of his death, Carpio was for many years a leading militant of the Salvadorean Communist Party. Under the impact of the Cuban revolution, in the 1960s, an explosive debate broke out inside the Party on armed struggle.

In 1969 Carpio, by then the party's general secretary, agreed with his supporters the necessity to organise a split.

In 1970 they announced the formation of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Forces (FPL), to this day the most influential organisation of the resistance.

In embarking on armed struggle, Carpio rejected the 'foco' strategy advocated by Regis Debray, which stressed the role of the small guerrilla nucleus in the countryside. The foco theory, said Carpio, 'was the result of the experience of some guerrilla groups in

South America and in other countries that were removed from the people, that failed to reach out to them, to organise them, and that succumbed to militaristic designs.'

Instead, Carpio put forward the idea that the FPL would initiate military actions, carrying out bombings, ambushes and assassinating the hated killers of the fascist ORDEN — and that these military actions would act as the starting off point for mass organisation.

'That conception took us away from the idea that a guerrilla force on its own can make a revolution, that a guerrilla force isolated from the people can replace the people in their task of carrying out their own transformation,' said Carpio.

His strategy worked. In 1974 the FPL launched the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), a mass front which organised in the towns and countryside.

Fronts

While the FPL itself took on the structure of a party, the BPR organised mass fronts of workers, students, shanty town dwellers and peasants.

The strategy of armed struggle combined with mass work was soon followed by the other main organisations of the Salvadorean left. Sectarian detractors contend

that the FMLN is 'guerrillaist' and 'ignores the workers in the cities'.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The originality and brilliance of Carpio's strategic conception was his grasp of how to combine and link the mass struggle with the armed struggle; how to complement military and political organisation; and his insight that the weakness of the Salvadorean ruling class and state made it possible to engage in military action at an early stage.

The FPL soon developed theses on the character of the revolutionary process which corresponded to the main ideas of permanent revolution.

Stressing the important role that democratic demands and tasks play in an 'under-developed' country, and the necessity of mobilising the peasantry and non-proletarian sectors of the population, they concluded that only a 'Peoples Revolutionary Government' which they identified with the dictatorship of the proletariat could accomplish these tasks. Carpio himself played a crucial role in formulating these theses.

For most of the period of the war Carpio remained in El Salvador. But by 1980 the danger was too great, and he spent most of his time abroad, living in Cuba.

Enemies

His imperialist enemies pictured him as a hardened killer. But he always stressed that revolutionary violence was only the necessary response to the violence of the oppressors.

He said in an interview in 1981:

'The result of this inhuman war is the depopulation of entire areas. Even someone who is hardened to seeing people suffer so much is struck by how many com-

paneros are lost, how many children murdered.

'One of my strongest recollections from my visits to the war zones are the enormous stretches where villages are completely overgrown with weeds. Beautiful little houses left behind. You can see the care that the peasants put into their houses. All of this, all of it, covered with weeds. All the furniture, whatever these humble peasants had, burned. Dozens and dozens of villages like this over a huge area.'

When the murderous thugs responsible for this carnage fall, as they soon will, and are forgotten, Salvador Cayetano Carpio will be remembered as a crucial inspirer and organiser of victory.



Vietnam blow to invaders

DURING THE PAST month Vietnamese forces have launched a series of attacks on the bases of Kampuchean dissidents on the Thai-Kampuchea border.

Predictably, this has been presented in the Western press as Vietnamese 'expansionism' and aggression. The Vietnamese attacks have been on encampments of forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk and former prime minister Song Sann.

These two forces are in a de facto alliance with Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces. Vietnamese troops are building a 32-kilometre barrier along the border to keep out the dissident forces.

Without doubt the attacks on the rebel bases are to defend the construction of the barrier.

The anti-Vietnamese forces along the border have the unqualified support of the United States and most of the other imperialist powers.

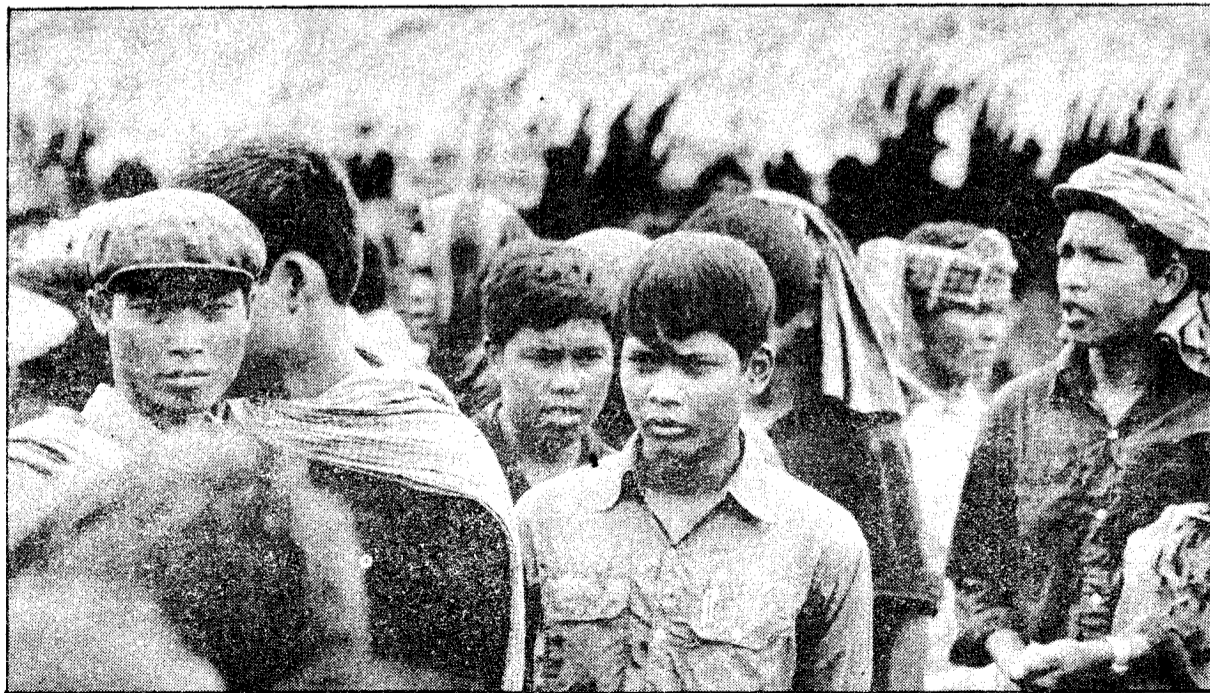
Those who in the past denounced the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea as the final 'proof' of the

barbarity of 'communism', now rally to the aid of the Pol Pot forces. CIA operatives have trained his soldiers and aid comes in from China and the United States, via the Thai government and the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UN-BRO).

Invaded

Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in 1978 and overthrew Pol Pot.

This action was motivated by the need to first defend Vietnamese territory from attack, and doubtless horror at the



murderous policies of the Pol Pot regime.

Whether or not invasion was the correct policy for the Vietnamese to adopt, there can be no dispute that the rule of the Khmer Rouge was degenerate and anti-socialist.

On taking power Pol Pot adopted a policy of destroying not only

capitalist social relations, but most of the country's industrial infrastructure. The cities were forcibly emptied and a policy of extreme self-sufficiency, based on forced labour in the countryside, was introduced.

A wholesale extermination of sectors of the population was carried out. The country was

reduced to economic primitiveness based on agriculture. Millions died in Pol Pot's purges.

Tyranny

Since the overthrow of his tyranny by the Vietnamese, Pol Pot has openly allied himself with imperialism. The United

States has been to the fore in arguing in the United Nations and other international forums against the recognition of the pro-Vietnamese Heng Samrin government, and in favour of continued recognition of Pol Pot.

China has played an atrocious role in this whole episode. Because of the alliance of the Vietnamese with the Soviet

Union, the Chinese have sponsored the right wing Kampuchean rebels, and in particular courted Prince Sihanouk.

Maintaining 'Chinese influence' in the region apparently means backing the most reactionary and barbaric forces.

Most critical of all, in order to put the Vietnamese under pressure the Chinese army began a series of attacks on Vietnamese border positions.

Defeat

The United States has never reconciled itself to its humiliating defeat in Vietnam. Its support for the Khmer Rouge is part of its ongoing campaign against the social and economic successes of the Vietnamese revolution.

In the present conflict the issues are clear. While the Vietnamese cannot forever substitute themselves for an independent and sovereign Kampuchea, the present fighting has clearly been provoked by imperialist and pro-imperialist aggression.

Socialists will defend the Vietnamese and Kampuchean forces against the Khmer Rouge, the Thai army and any aggression against Vietnam by China.

“THE ACTION INTERVIEW

THE SUCCESS of the Green and Alternative lists in West Germany and Austria and the distrust of the Labour leadership's commitment to unilateral disarmament has led to a discussion as to whether the peace movement should stand candidates in the general election. The question will receive further attention as the result of a 'Green Rally' to be held in London on 27 April. Below we publish two alternative views.

REBECCA JOHNSON has been part of the Greenham Common peace camp since 9 August last year and has been speaking around the country raising support for Greenham. She recently debated Lady Olga Maitland of the pro-nuclear Women for Defence on television. She is standing against Michael Heseltine in his Henley constituency.

PAT ARROWSMITH has been active in CND from the first wave up to today. She has joined the Labour Party and is a member of the CND national council and Labour CND's executive.

'We have to get Labour in power committed to unilateralism'

Pat Arrowsmith



Photo: ED BARBER (Leeds Postcards)

'The Labour Party has to be pushed kicking and screaming into the twentieth century'

Rebecca Johnson



Rebecca Johnson

What do you think about women from Greenham standing against the Labour Party?

Heseltine is doing a suave PR job. He's going round the country justifying and expounding Tory policies on defence and I felt he must be forced to face us on his own territory in Henley a safe Tory seat by the river.

I see it as another way of getting information out to people about the issues, increasing the possibility of people discussing them and coming to the realisation of the need to change things. By standing in the election the press is forced to give issues more space than they might otherwise do. I don't see myself as heading for a 'parliamentary career'.

You're one of the Greenham women who've decided to stand as a candidate in the forthcoming general election against Heseltine. Why have you made that decision?

In Henley there is a unilateralist Labour candidate and of course there will be Labour candidates in every constituency. So if we use this tactic we'll always be standing against Labour. While I think in the context of today's politics the Labour Party is the best hope for unilateral disarmament there are people in the Labour party, like Denis Healey, who'll do their best once elected to ignore the conference mandate.

I see the dangers of standing against the Labour Party, but after what the Labour Party did in 1966 and 1974, reneging on conference decisions, I think we have to challenge the people in the Labour Party who might be tempted to do the same today.

Who is standing and where?

Simone Wilkinson is standing in Finchley for the Ecology Party against Thatcher. Jean Hutchinson, I think is still going to stand in Leeds against Denis Healey. Helen John has decided to stand down in Cardiff because the constituency she was standing in James Callaghan's, was adjacent to Jane Hutt's, who is a Labour Party candidate, a unilateralist, a feminist and a member of Women for Life on Earth. She thought she might damage Jane's case.

But you feel quite happy in Henley standing against the Labour Party?

Yes, I feel quite comfortable about it. I'm going to speak on Labour Party platforms and I do think the Labour Party is the best hope but I do not trust them fully. They must be prodded kicking and screaming into the twentieth century through peace and disarmament. If you're standing, as I am, in a safe Tory seat you can raise issues that the Labour Party may not be able to make such a noise about.

After the injunction on the Greenham women I got the front page in the local paper. That enabled me to get to people on disarmament and the peace issue that the Labour Party candidate wouldn't have been able to.

This helps the process of politicisation which I strongly believe in. I said to Lady Olga Maitland in my debate with her on T.V. that I was glad she'd realised there was a threat and I'd hope she'd become politicised about it.

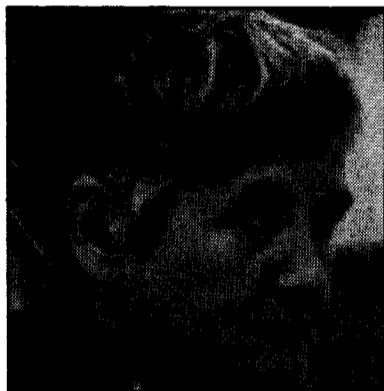


Photo: CHRIS GREGORY

Pat Arrowsmith

A number of people associated with the Greenham Common camps have indicated that they intend to stand in the general election as 'Women for Life on Earth' candidates. What's your view on that?

One of the problems of people standing as independents is that they tend to get a derisory vote. This can misleadingly suggest that the campaign is not as strong as it really is. On the credit side you get the advantages of the election address and the canvassing of people on the doorstep.

But the most central point is that while in the past there was no major party that had a unilateralist position, now it's a completely different ball game when the Labour Party has a unilateralist policy — albeit slightly fudged. This makes the whole situation very different to in the past.

How did this question come up in the 'first wave' of CND?

This used to come up all the time 25 years ago. Standing candidates was always a hot issue, because people didn't want to lose votes for Labour even though it wasn't unilateralist. Some people like the Direct Action Committee against nuclear war got around this by advocating a refusal to vote — the spoiling of ballot papers if there was not a unilateralist can-

didate. But this again was always hotly debated, for similar reasons.

The one campaign for independent candidates was INDEC — the Independent Nuclear Disarmament Election Committee. Michael Craft stood in Twickenham for this group. People like Richard Gott, John Gittings and Stuart Hall supported him.

Some of the same people formed a group in 1964 called the Radical Alliance, which fought some seats on a wider basis including the war in Vietnam, and on the white paper on Race Relations.

I stood against the Labour Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart in Fulham. Meanwhile Richard Gott stood against Kevin MacNamara in Hull and fought the election on the issue of Vietnam. It was quite an important election, because the Alliance could have deprived Labour of its small majority. In the event he got less than 200 votes.

In Fulham there was a Communist candidate and we had the same fundamental platform — we were saying the same things about nuclear disarmament, Vietnam and race relations, so it was a bit silly. I got a rather poor

vote.

These campaigns had some value in that they were waged against Labour candidates who were totally opposed to what we were saying. And this was before Labour had a unilateralist policy. I think it is now a very different situation. After the 1970 general election I joined the Labour Party because of the nuclear disarmament policies adopted.

I'm now on the Labour CND executive, and we're concerned about independent candidates partly in case this is used against CND by the Labour right wing. I can see that there is perhaps a case for standing a nuclear disarmament candidate against people like Callaghan, who is so remote from being unilateralist, especially if there is no possibility of losing him his seat.

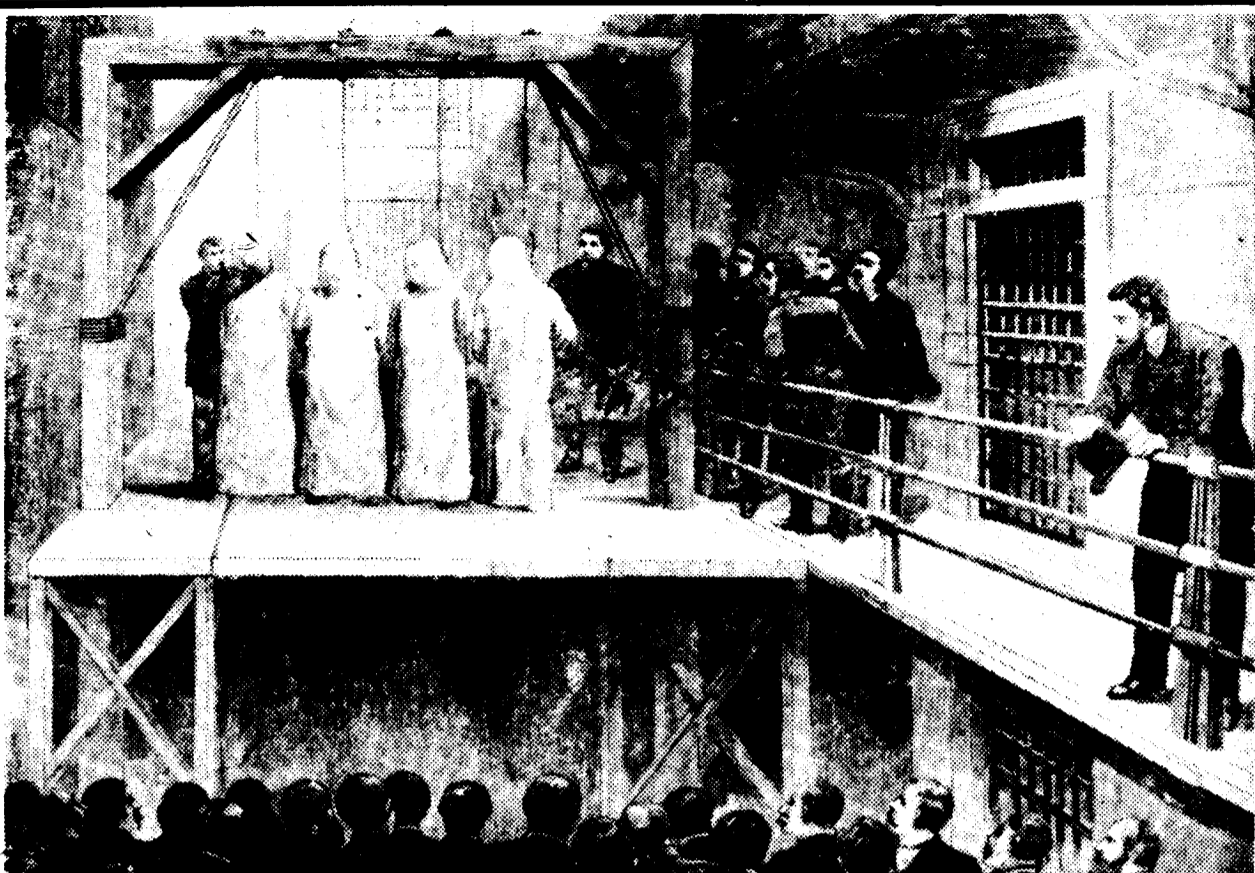
Some of the women who want to stand would say that Labour promises are one thing, what they will do in power is something else. In that case they are not really standing against a party which is thoroughly and unequivocally unilateralist, and which

will produce a government which is unilateralist without question.

I think everybody in Labour CND's executive is extremely conscious of this, but this seems an argument for being in the Labour Party to make unilateralism stick. We think that Labour CND's pressure has led to the campaign document being not as bad as it might have been.

After a great deal of thought I joined the Labour Party because I recalled back in 1960 when Labour went unilateralist for a short while, we in CND let things go by default, so that Gaitskell was able to swing the party back again, away from unilateralism.

Consequently it seemed to me important to be in the party and make sure it retained its unilateralist policy. And it seems to me that's an argument for getting Labour in power committed to unilateralism, which has not happened before, and therefore not standing candidates against Labour even where the candidate is not unequivocally unilateralist.



The origins of May Day

MAY DAY, the day of the international workers' movement has its origins in Chicago.

In the mid eighties America was swept by the demand for an eight-hour day. And right out in front of this movement of skilled and unskilled, men and women, black and white, native and immigrant, were the workers of Chicago.

So in 1866 when the American Federation of Labour adopted its historic resolution that 'eight hours shall constitute a legal day from and after 1 May 1866...' it was the workers of Chicago who led the way.

A Labour journal *John Swinton's Paper* reported that by the middle of April in 1866, 'there is an eight-hour agitation everywhere'.

Soon one quarter of a million workers were taking part in the struggle for this demand. In Chicago alone 400,000 workers were on strike.

A newspaper reporting on the dispute wrote 'no smoke curled up from the tall chimneys of the factories and mills and things had assumed a Sabbath-like appearance'. The employers, determined not to give in, used their press and their control of the city administration to spread stories of violence and anarchy.

For two days the strikes and lock outs were peaceful. Then the police opened fire on strikers at the McCormick Harvester Machine Company. At least one striker was killed, five or six others were seriously wounded.

On the night of 4 May a protest meeting was called in Haymarket Square and later transferred to Cranes Alley because the numbers were smaller than expected. Near ten o'clock as the meeting was ending a

police column of 180 men led by Captains Bonfield and War arrived. A bomb was thrown at the police. One policeman was killed, six others died later. Then the police opened fire indiscriminately.

To this day no one knows how many demonstrators were killed or wounded.

In an atmosphere of hysteria encouraged by press and pulpit eight of the workers' leaders fac-

By Bob Pennington

ed trial charged with inciting the bombings.

Closing the trial Grinnel, the state's attorney, said 'Law is on trial. Anarchy is on trial. These men have been selected, picked out by the grand jury and indicted because they were leaders; convict these men, make examples of them, hang them and you save our institutions and our society.' Hang them they did.

August Spies, Albert Parsons, George Engel and Adolph Fischer went to the scaffold on 11 November 1887. Louis Lingg cheated the hangman by committing suicide. It is estimated that 500,000 mourners lined their funeral route.

Three others were sentenced to prison and on 26 June 1893 they were pardoned by the governor of Illinois who said he believed they were innocent.

This judicial butchery had provoked a storm of reaction in the world labour movement. The call for the eight-hour day and the use of a general strike to win it gained ever-widening support.

It inspired the first action of the newly formed Second International. Meeting in Paris in 1889 it carried a resolution calling for 1 May to be a day of international labour demonstrations for the eight-hour day.

May Day had been born out of the bloody class struggles between the workers and the employers' state. But despite their fine words the leaders of the Second International did not have the stomach to lead general

strikes. They knew that if general strikes were used as political weapons to win an eight-hour day they could be used for other purposes like overthrowing governments.

To the reformist leaders, May Day is a time for speechifying and reminiscing. They even throw in the odd word about socialism. Then for the next 364 days of the year they can go about their normal business of class collaboration and sell out.

Attention Workingmen!

MASS-MEETING

TO-NIGHT, at 7.30 o'clock,

HAYMARKET, Randolph St., bet. Desplaines and Halsted.

Good Speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious act of the police, the shooting of our fellow-workmen yesterday afternoon.

Workingmen Arm Yourselves and Appear in Full Force!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Achtung, Arbeiter!

Große Massen-Versammlung

Heute Abend, 8 Uhr, auf dem

Haymarket, Randolph-Strasse, zwischen

Desplaines- u. Halsted-Str.

Die Arbeiter werden bei dieser Gelegenheit bei Gelegen-

heit zu einer Resolution über die Arbeiterbewegung

über die Arbeiterbewegung und die Arbeiterbewegung!

Das Organisations-Komitee

Bureaucrats and reformist leaders misuse May Day. The Haymarket martyrs would have treated them with contempt. Those who died on the bosses' scaffold in Chicago and those workers who fought alongside them wanted to sweep aside their class enemies.

They had a vision of building a better world and in their struggles, their heroism, and their hopes, they inspired the idea of May Day being international workers day.

It is the guerrilla fighters in Central America and the workers of Solidarnosc and all those forces who defy capitalist reaction and Stalinist bureaucracy who have inherited the traditions of the martyrs of Chicago.

May Day does not belong to Len Murray and the Stalinist bureaucrats. It belongs to those who want to overthrow exploitation and oppression.

MAY DAY

historic struggles

LENIN characterised the present epoch as the 'epoch of imperialism' — that of the 'transition to socialism' and of 'wars and revolutions'. Since the victory of the Russian revolution there has hardly been a day without war or without revolutionary struggle.

In 1983, the year in which we celebrate the centenary of Marx's death, the liberal and social democratic detractors of Marxism are repeating the old hackneyed phrases about the 'failure' of Marxism and revolution. But two crucial struggles are living proof of the world-wide fight for workers power and socialism — Poland and Central America.

Both these struggles, at a crucial stage, symbolise central aspects of the proletariat's fight for human liberation. World socialism, the 'free association of the producers' of which Marx spoke, is impossible without the twin tasks of destroying world imperialism and its principal prop — world Stalinism. More than ever it is impossible to be a genuine partisan of the world working class without fighting for the interests of the workers East and West, without fighting for the destruction of the Stalinist and imperialist bastions of world tyranny.

The struggle of the Polish workers to establish their own organisation, Solidarnosc, and to re-mould Polish

society, is the most politically advanced working class struggle anywhere since the Spanish revolution of 1936. The Polish workers have built a mass movement around the theme of *self-managed socialism*. Ten million members of Solidarnosc conducted an heroic 18-month struggle to make socialism under the control of workers, socialism with workers power, a reality.

Despite the brutal repression which followed the December 1981 *coup*, Solidarnosc has not died. Its provisional co-ordinating committee, after meeting with Lech Walesa, has called for massive demonstrations this May Day.

Discussion

It has continued the work of political discussion and elaboration. The 'programmatic statement' of the provisional co-ordinating committee outlines the programme of a 'republic based on self-management'.

'The objective of our struggle remains the achievement of the programme of the First National Congress of Delegates of Solidarnosc ... that is the building of a republic based on self-management.

● In such a republic the government would be under the control of society. The factories would be run by self-management bodies. The municipalities and provinces would be run by territorial self-management bodies. The country as a whole would have a democratically elected parliament.

● There would be independent courts to maintain justice.



Nicaraguan Militia on parade

MAY 1983: at a crucial stage

● The means of production would genuinely belong to the society and would assure those who work in them a real share in the income that they bring in ... The perspective of a republic based on self-management does not run counter to socialism.'

If Poland shows the reality of a struggle for self-managed socialism, it also shows the reality of bureaucratic rule and Stalinism. New show trials are beginning of leaders of Solidarnosc and the KOR (Workers Self-Defence Committee). May Day 1983 must be an occasion for socialists the world over the pledge themselves to build support for the Polish workers.

The stakes in the struggle in Central America, despite the smallness of the countries involved, involve the future of the whole of Latin America — and hence the fate of workers struggle world-wide.

The recently leaked document of the US National Security Council shows a fear that if El Salvador is 'lost' to communism, then the whole of Central America from Mexico to Columbia would become a single socialist federation. That perspective is a realistic one.

Central America is in reality a single country divided by imperialism. Its economic and social problems cannot be overcome within the existing national boundaries. A socialist El Salvador would link up with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada. Guatemala, the richest and most populous country in the region would be the next to fall.

The United States is indeed on the verge of suffering a spectacular defeat in El Salvador. Mangana's regime is in

a state of military and political decomposition.

Inside the government there is a bitter struggle between Magnana and the leader of the Assembly, death-squads supremo Roberto D'Abuissou. The recent resignation of the defence minister Jose Garcia reflects the series of military defeats suffered by the Salvadorean army since the beginning of the year. More and more of the territory of the country is under the effective control of the left wing guerrillas of the FMLN.

Terror

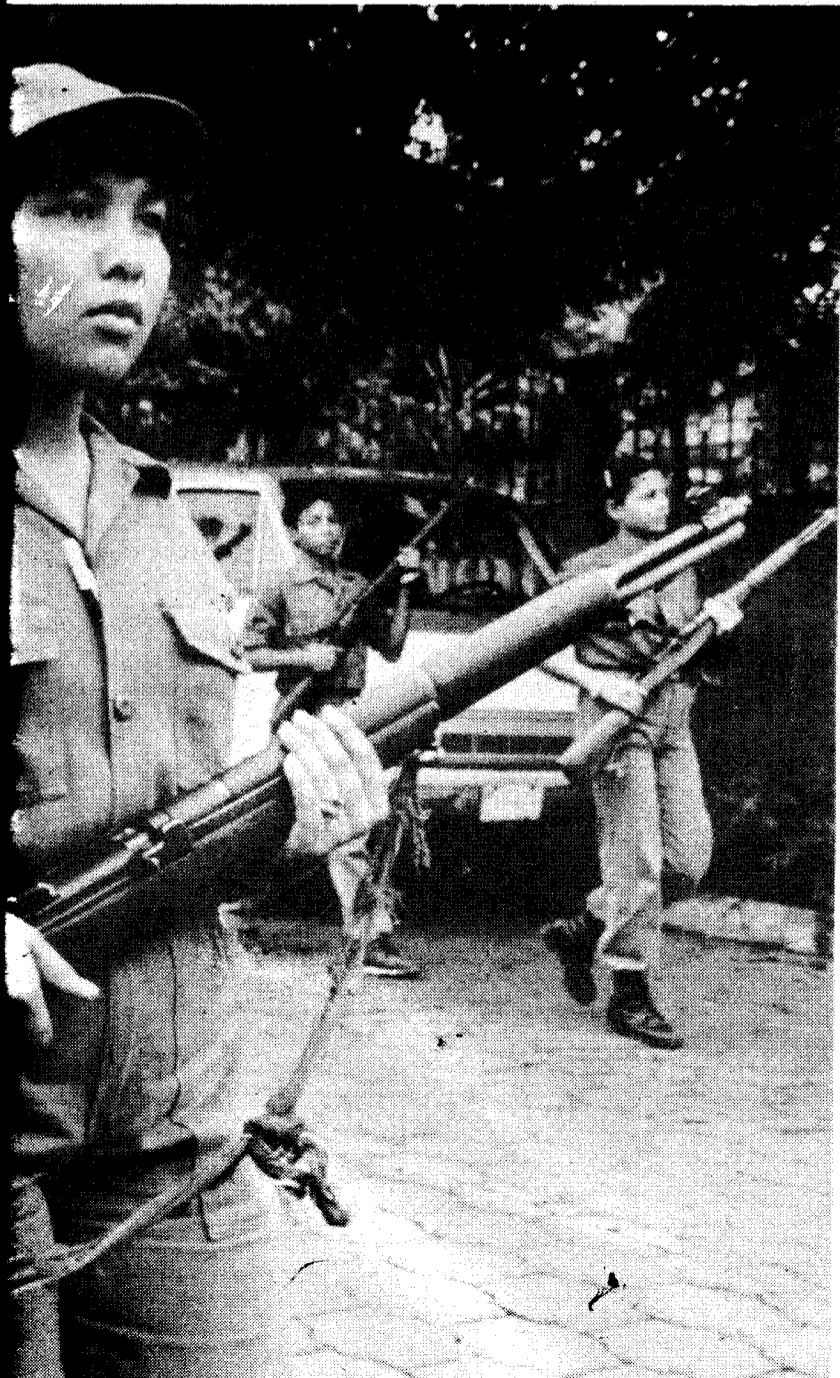
The only method of preventing defeat has for the military dictatorship and the US been systematic terror — from the indescribable horrors of the death squads in El Salvador to the indiscriminate murders carried out by the insurgents during the recent invasion of Nicaragua.

The morality of Reagan and world imperialism is precisely the 'morality' of the death squads. They stand in defence of their economic and political empires against every basic human right and freedom.

On May Day 1983 the cause of socialism and workers' power is far from dead. It lives on in the struggles of the Polish and Central American workers. These historic struggles show once again that the fate of humanity, the fate of human freedom, lies in the hands of the working class — the only social force capable of remaking the world 'from the realm of necessity to the realm of freedom'.



Freedom fighters of the FMLN



Leading members of Solidarnosc

Socialist ACTION

Coalitionism comes out

DAVID STEEL is the first ruling class politician to address himself publicly to the realities of the forthcoming general election.

Speaking on last Sunday's *Weekend World* programme he admitted that the SDP/Liberal Alliance was not likely to win an outright majority, but thought it probable that they would command the balance of power in a hung parliament.

Conditions

Accordingly he laid out his conditions for assisting either the Labour Party or the Tories to form a government.

Steel was not whistling in the dark. According to him the question of coalition has been broached to him in 'vague conversations, hints and jokes' by Michael Foot and Denis Healey. Tories too have approached him on the basis that a link-up with the Alliance would be a means of changing the Tories' economic policies.

In our opinion this confirms the incorrectness of the advice offered to our readers last week by Tony Benn when he asserted that discussion on organising against coalitionist moves within the leadership of the Labour Party and trade unions was defeatist talk.

Active

The topic is under active discussion within right wing labour movement circles and even among the left including certain leading members of the Communist Party. The rank and file must be forewarned!

Coalitionism would spell the end of any commitment by Labour leaders, however vague, to Labour conference policy. As David Steel confirmed the first casualty would be withdrawal from the EEC.

Suppress

The second result of coalition would be stepping up of the witch hunt as the right tried to suppress left opposition to such a move. Finally, using any pact the Labour leaders would become even more intransigently opposed to supporting working people in battles against the bosses, such as that sold out at Cowley.

Opposition to coalition, support for the present struggles against the Tories, organising against the witch hunt and commitment to those conference policies which meet the most burning and immediate needs of the working class are the policies of the Socialist for a Labour Victory campaign due to be launched nationally next week.

Cease

The Labour left should cease head-in-the-sand attitudes to coalitionist manoeuvres and organise against the coalitionist plots and coalitionist policies of the Labour right. Support for SLV is the first step on that road.

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Tribune and CND

YOUR editorial headed 'Tribune's call to arms' (SA 15 April) is grossly misleading.

You suggest that I advised the strengthening of the armed forces by the re-introduction of national service. I did not.

I merely pointed out that CND demonstrations — however impressive — will not by themselves convince the doubtful that there is a realistic alternative to nuclear weapons.

I then challenged CND and the Labour Party to produce for public consumption a credible defence policy that did not involve the use of nuclear weapons.

Conscription I mentioned as one possible alternative.

I went on: 'Alternatively, if there is some other way of mounting a credible defence policy that does not depend

The argument that CND has still to win

THE demonstrations mounted by CND over the Easter weekend were impressive. Demonstrations however, are not enough to answer the question whether what about the Russians? When Michael Foot stands on the Berlin Wall and says that nuclear weapons are all that stand between us and all that stand between us and Soviet tanks, he has to be answered squarely. No number of people lying down in the centre of Glasgow with paper bags over their heads will convince the doubtful that whether the Soviet threat is real or imagined, nuclear weapons do not protect us from it. The presence of nuclear weapons on British soil simply makes us a target. Secondly, and there is ample evidence for this, the American Government for the third world war do not provide for the survival of Europe. In the event of a nuclear war we will be annihilated, whether or not our side wins.

Thirdly, the British Government does not control our nuclear weapons — Control of our destiny and therefore of our moral is in the hands of the United States. The American President and his advisers are deciding a system of values quite different from our own and their idea of what might justify the use of nuclear weapons is very different from ours.

On at least half a dozen occasions since the second world war the American Government has threatened to use nuclear weapons against countries that do not possess them and which posed no threat to its security (see John Street's Diary for examples). But these arguments alone are not enough. Those who want to dispose of nuclear weapons have to show that there is an alternative which does not simply consist of summing the benign intentions of the Soviet Union.

In the unlikely event that Soviet troops were to invade Britain or more to the point, West Germany, supporters of unilateral nuclear disarmament have to show that the invaders could be defeated without resort to nuclear weapons.

This is not difficult. Recent history abounds with examples of vastly superior invading forces being defeated or tied down by determined resistance. The possession of nuclear weapons to hold Vietnam. And in Afghanistan the Soviet nuclear power, the Soviet Union, is well on the way to being defeated by poorly armed peasant guerrillas.

Aid during the last world war the partisans in Yugoslavia held down many divisions of the German army, which was unable to suppress them via air counts against them. Conventional of course, but it implies being twice the what at least a large in turn, international young adults.

CND and should face reality. If some service is to be paid in defence policy. Alter some of the nuclear weapons have been shamelessly massaged, does the wondrously of modern science have virtually rendered obsolete the tank and the fighter-bomber. The Falkland conflict and the last Arab-Israeli war show that the number of precision-guided anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons — and in the West is far ahead. More, precision missiles have the ability to be paid in defence policy.

by CHRIS MULLIN

either on nuclear weapons or conscription, that too must be explained'.

During the course of the next few weeks I shall be inviting contributions

from people with constructive ideas on the subject.

CHRIS MULLIN, Editor, Tribune

CP and Labour

IF I might hasten a Marxist view in regards to Gerry Cohen's articles on the vote for the Communist Party in the Bermondsey by-election (SA15 April).

It is worth recalling that it was in London that a CP branch in the recent past marched in support of Solidarity in Poland. And the hostility of the British CP to events in recent years in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Afghanistan.

The opportunism of the CP in the events followed the denunciation of Stalin at the twentieth Congress of the CP of the Soviet Union in 1956. Everything in the Soviet Union from then on was wrong.

This has led to many working class communists being disillusioned.

The rise of the New Communist Party is a case in point. I remember comrade Gerry Cohen when he was area secretary of the CP in Liverpool when I was elected as the first Communist councillor in Birkenhead in 1968.

I am now a member of the Labour Party to add my weight to the struggle of the left.

In taking the headline in the same article 'Influence of the Communist Party is there for all to see' it seems to me that the CP has ceased to exist in regards to the mass media in this country. Ask any member of the public about *Militant* and they all know.

Politics is not about hiding your light under a bushel. The CP used the argument that we must not attack the right wing for the sake of unity in the Labour movement.

They say this is because it assists the capitalist class if any splits occur.

But the right wing in the Labour Party believes in capitalism. So this is a phony unity which leads to class collaboration.

There is only one real unity, based on the class struggle for the working class to take power and build a socialist system of society.

COLIN LEE, Birkenhead CLP.



El Salvador

THANK YOU so much for printing the letters of Marianella (SA 22 April). It brought home to me more than anything else I have read the horrors of American interference in Central America.

PAM SAUNDERS, Birmingham.

Horwich action

I WAS rather worried by your report (SA 15 April) that the Horwich Workers Bulletin argues that the closure of British rail workshops can be halted by 'new imaginative tactics' which involve pulling out key workers.

There is nothing new or imaginative about this. It is one of the oldest ploys in the book.

Unfortunately it rarely leads to success. There are tremendous pitfalls — particularly in fighting redundancy. The bosses can simply escalate by sacking those involved (see your POEU report, same issue).

Those striking can become isolated and demoralised and you may not get a momentum developing among the rest who are working normally.

With a group like those at Horwich suffering from the general impact of the downturn, the recent defeats on the railways and a limited tradition of industrial action it is tempting for the leadership to look for painless, cut-price ways out. Just now you get the results you pay for.

The Horwich Action Committee have done an excellent propaganda job. The only way that they can crystallise their efforts is to take their members forward and provide a chance of halting the closures by movement towards an all-out stoppage.

Disgrace

I'M ALL in favour of Socialist Action being a paper which encourages debate on what kind of socialist policies the labour movement needs and how to fight for them.

However, to print one a half pages of incomprehensible waffle by Stuart Holland (SA 15 April) was a disgrace.

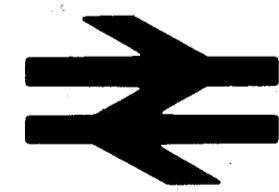
This article proposed a 'European' road out of the present world economic crisis.

But nowhere did it state the simple fact that we are in the middle of a capitalist crisis and that the only way out is the socialist transformation of society.

By socialist I mean working people taking the economy out of the hands of the capitalist class and instituting a planned economy geared to human need.

What Holland means by his gibberish of 'transforming the crisis' (into what? by whom?) I don't know.

Incredibly, while it made references to the labour movement — in Holland's meaning a self-appointed clique of European social democratic political and trade union bureaucrats — the article didn't even mention the working class, yet alone stress that it is the only force that can bring about socialism.



Guerilla action, selective sit-downs or even a one day strike may be useful if they are tactics integrated into a strategy of all-out strike action and are clearly perceived and fought for as part of preparing the membership for this eventuality.

To rely on these methods as able to do the job themselves would be to fatally transform tactics into strategy. Remember the NHS or even more clearly the Civil Service strikes.

The Horwich trade unionists should work

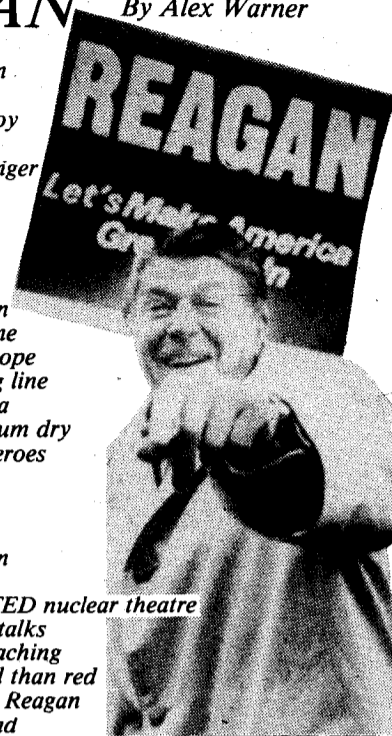
ROCK AGAINST REAGAN

By Alex Warner

Rock against Reagan I think it's time he's a nuclear cowboy got moonshine triggerhappy itchyfinger fascist gunslinger headline rightwinger ham actor

Rock against Reagan while we still got time wants to put all Europe on the nuclear firing line for a nebulous sauna baked hard or medium dry wants us all to be heroes we all gonna die

Rock against Reagan he ain't no hawk only wants a LIMITED nuclear theatre to bargain while he talks Big Bad Bear approaching they said better dead than red we need a Cruise on Reagan like a hole in the dead



GREETINGS

Tony Wheeler

(Chairperson, Leamington and Warwick Trades Union Council)

'GREETINGS to Socialist Action. The objectives you have set reflect the urgent needs of working people.

'To achieve a Labour government committed to socialist policies will require a campaign involving many on the left in the Labour Party and the trade union movement.

'The opposition comes not only from the Tories and their supporters but from many of the leaders of the trade unions and Labour Party.

'The tasks you have set the new paper deserve wide support from those seeking a fundamental change in our society.'

Wayne David

(Secretary of Wales LCC — in a personal capacity)

'IF Socialist Action can help to strengthen the labour movement's opposition to Thatcherism and contribute to the fight for a socialist alternative it's appearance is welcome.'

Instead we were asked to believe that the French turn-coat Mitterrand will present a 'manifesto of demands for the transformation of the economic crisis' to some summit in May on behalf of the assorted scoundrels who are Prime Ministers of Finland, Sweden, Austria, Greece and Spain (not forgetting poor old Michael Foot).

You wouldn't know from Holland's article that all these people have ditched any radical policies in the manifestos they were elected on and are busily attacking the living standards of their own workers.

No doubt the editor's defence will be that there will be a reply putting the 'correct' Marxist position — no doubt equally long and incomprehensible. That misses the point.

By printing Holland's rubbish we have helped mis-educate any reader who could understand it. But, more fundamentally, socialist policies and programmes develop out of the actual experiences, past and present, of working people — and not out of the heads of intellectuals.

Let's debate and discuss with people who are actually engaged in struggle and let the likes of Holland get his rubbish published somewhere else.

MICK GOSLING, London.

towards an all-out strike by campaigning for an all-out strike of all the workshops to commence with a one day strike of all rail workers.

Arguments and links with other workers are vital. But the biggest contribution they could make towards this would be by stopping Horwich now.

MARK STARR, Oldham.

Write to us!

This is your page. Send us your comments, criticisms or even congratulations. But please be brief — letters over 300 words will be cut. Write to: Letters, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP. (Tel: 01-359 8180)



Ken Jones and Patricia Routledge as Joe and Hilda

When the Wind Blows

THIS IS the stage version of Raymond Briggs' anti-nuclear cartoon book. The play faithfully follows the book.

It tells the story of Joe and Hilda Bloggs, two working class Tories who have utter faith, bordering on the reverential, towards authority and the powers that be.

That means they think if they follow the instructions dished out in lying publications like *Protect and Survive* a nuclear bomb will not harm them.

When the Wind Blows, Whitehall Theatre, London. Reviewed by Bob Pennington

Joe is the more 'knowledgeable' one who reads newspapers and talks knowingly about Tactical Nuclear Superiority to Hilda. She can't get it into her head that the war this time is against the 'Russkies' not the Germans.

Ken Jones and Patricia Routledge really capture Briggs' cartoon. As they construct their 'Inner Core Refuge' they reminisce about the last war. Looked back on it appears rather good fun. There was Vera Lynn singing away, cups of tea in the shelters, Churchill puffing his cigars, a benign-looking Joe Stalin who Hilda liked, and of course they survived which always makes things better.

In their innocent way they assume a nuclear war will be more or less a re-run of World War Two. The naive stupidity of Joe and Hilda is made to measure the cynical

stupidity of the government's precautions.

As they pack their survival equipment such as tin-openers, candles, games and disinfectants they meet the crisis of there being no peanut butter, which incidentally none of them like anyhow, but the instructions do recommend it. They try on the paper bags they are supposed to wrap themselves in which even they think makes them look rather silly.

Radio

Then the voice from the radio tells them that a bomb is on its way. This is done in a realistically horrific manner. There is a blinding flash, the wind rumbles in an ominous manner and you are given a glimpse of distant fires. It's all begun, or more correctly for the majority of people it is all ending!

Despite reassuring

myself that I was in a West End theatre, that part sent shivers down my spine and made me feel really queasy. Joe and Hilda do survive but as you see what happens to them you realise instantaneous death would have been better.

There is no water, no electricity and no gas. Outside the road has melted. All is dominated by an eerie silence.

They are alone to suffer the ravages of radiation. They develop cancerous sores, they lose blood when they go to the toilet.

They start to lose their hair and the vomiting starts. Wearily they get in their paper bags and crawl into the refuge.

To the end Joe pathetically believes the emergency services will come. Nobody has told them that what emergency services might be available will be used for different things than saving working

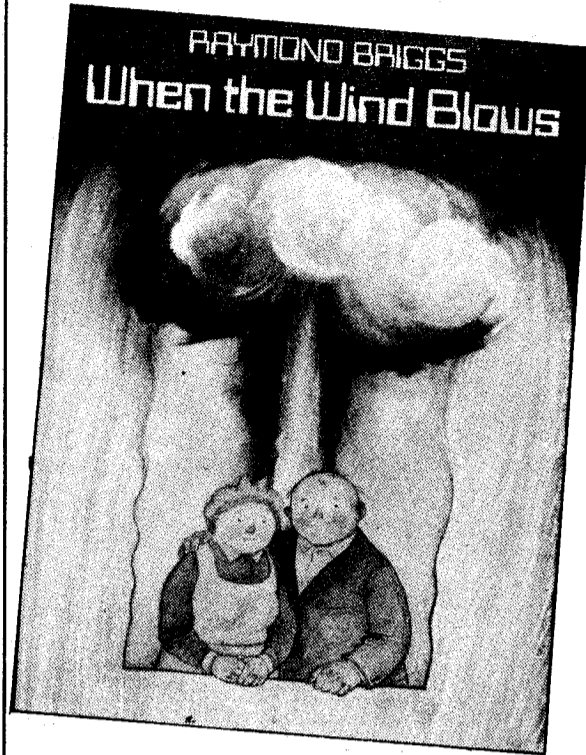
class people, even if they are Tories. In the end they try prayers but if there is a God it is certain that he is a paid up member of the establishment so help from that source did not seem too likely.

Laughed

I read the book before I saw the play and I must admit I laughed a lot at Joe and Hilda. Somehow the play made me laugh less and when I did it was more often than not an uneasy chuckle. In the book Joe and Hilda are drawings. On stage Ken Jones and Patricia Routledge invest them with the dimension of life and watching two people slowly and painfully disintegrate can never be amusing.

This is good theatre. The characterisations are excellent and it has a lot to say about a subject that really matters — our survival.

GOOD BOOK REVIEW



When the Wind Blows

By Raymond Briggs
Published by Hamish Hamilton £4.25.

IF YOU are not able to see the play reviewed on this page, then do get the book. Combining humor with anti-nuclear propaganda is no mean feat, but Briggs manages to do just that. Ideal for your own reading and an excellent present for someone who thinks that there is something to be said for civil defence precautions. It also makes the point that putting your faith in pro-nuclear governments is the road to certain destruction.

The Autobiographies of the HAYMARKET MARTYRS

Philip S. Foner, ed.



The autobiographies of the Haymarket Martyrs

Edited by P.S. Foner
Published by Monad Press (£2.75)

IN OUR centre-spread we carry an article on the origins of May Day and the death of the Chicago anarcho-syndicalists who were framed by the employers and their state. For those of our readers who want to know more about this tragic but at the same time inspiring story they should read this book. It has a short but informative introduction which explains the background to the Chicago strikes and then goes on to explain what happened between the police and strikers and how the trial was a sinister frame-up. In the book the autobiographies of the eight arrested men are republished from the *Knights of Labour* which was a labour weekly. Through these autobiographies we learn not only about these workers' leaders who suffered and five of whom died for their cause. But through their lives we learn about the international labour movement. Of the eight, four were born in Germany, one in France, two in the USA and one in Yorkshire England. What a contrast they offer to the narrow-minded national and barely reformist approach of America's trade union leaders today.

These books are both available from The Other Bookshops, 328 Upper Street, London N1 and 137 Digbeth, Birmingham 4.

TV CHOICE

Space Woman

Friday 29 April, 7.30, ITV

NEXT MONTH a woman will be blasted into space for the first time aboard the shuttle, boldly going where no ...

Wait a minute, didn't a Russian woman do it years ago? Yes, but you wouldn't know from the publicity hand-outs. This film is about NASA's new female astronauts who are apparently causing 'infectious excitement' at Houston.

Queimada!

Friday, 29 April, 11.00, BBC1
GOOD Gillo Pontecorvo movie from 1968.

Marlon Brando put up a lot of his own money for this film about permanent revolution on a Caribbean island. A must.

The File on Jill Hatch

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, BBC2

AN INTERESTING three-part drama that manages to cram in the Second World War, the black civil rights movements in the sixties and the Brixton riots.

It follows the story of a black serviceman who marries an English woman in war-time Britain. They return to the US and come up against Alabama laws against mixed marriages.

Now with a daughter, Jill, they are active with the civil rights movement. In the third part Jill moves to London and becomes involved with unemployed kids in Brixton just prior to the riots.

An unusual mix that might work.

Charles and Diana

Down Under

Sunday, 1 May, BBC1

JUST IN CASE you haven't had enough, here's another 50 minutes worth. We're promised previously unseen footage. Prince William choking on his rattle? Throwing up his

lunch all over Charles's dinner suit?



Alexei Sayle

The Young Ones

Thursday 5 May, BBC2

REPEAT of the best comedy series of recent

times with Rik Mayall, Alexei Sayle and Co. Certainly better than all the tired, worn-out sitcoms that pass for comedy.

Honourable members

Thursday, 5 May, BBC2

A SERIES about MPs! Unfortunately it seems to consist largely of the subject talking about themselves. The first programme is called 'White, Male and Middle-class' and looks at the make up of the elite club.

Sue Slipman and the SDP are shown as blazing the way for women candidates. This series will be tedious.

Photo: DAVID CORIO

DIARY

Assemble at Spark Hill at 1.30pm.

● **'Plastic Bullets'** public meeting (exhibition and slideshow) with Alistair Renwick (ex-British soldier) and Andy Harris (GLC Councillor). Wed 27 April, 7.30pm, 1 Thorpe Close, Ladbroke Grove tube. Organised by West London Troops Out.

● **'Ireland and Labour'** public meeting with Ken Livingstone (GLC leader) and Clive Soley (LP deputy spokesperson on N. Ireland). Called by Islington South Labour Party. Tues 7 June, 7.30pm, Islington Central Library, Holloway Road.

● **Socialist Republic** — newspaper of People's Democracy in Ireland. Latest issue out now — includes report from PDs conference articles on the Labour Party & unions and on the Anti-Amendment Campaign and more. Price 25p (plus 15p p&p) from The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London N1 (226 0571) or 137 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 (021-643 5904).

● **Troops out now!** Public meeting Wed 27 April, Lambeth Town Hall, 7.30pm. Speakers from: Roach Family Support Committee; Irish Republican Socialist Party; Sinn Fein; GLC; TOM.

● **South London Troops Out Movement** benefit Sat 30 April, 8 'til late. With African Dawn, The Morons and Chris Ransome. The Loughborough Hotel, Loughborough Rd, SW9. £1.50/75p unwaged.

● **El Salvador** — Bristol public meeting. Speakers: Meagan Martin (El Soc); Perry Lees (T&GWU)

MAY 7th DEMONSTRATION

Initiated by the Troops Out Movement and organised with the Armagh Co-ordinating Committee, Cumann na Poblachta, the Irish in Britain Representation Group, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Labour Committee on Ireland, London Students' Organisation, Sinn Fein and the National League of Young Liberals this event commemorates the second anniversary of the deaths of the ten Hunger strikers by calling for

BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND and SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

Speakers: Mario Cappana (Italian MEP), Ken Livingstone, Suzanne Bunting, Dave Douglas NUM, Janice Turner (Chairperson National League of Young Liberals), Irish Republican Socialist Party and Sinn Fein.

ASSEMBLE 1.00 p.m. SPEAKERS' CORNER, HYDE PARK, LONDON.

Donations and enquiries to May 7th Committee, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

regional officer, personal capacity); and Solidarity with Latin America representative. Film: *Ballots and Bullets*. Sponsored by SLAM and Bristol T&GWU. Wed 27 April, 7.30pm, Transport Hse, Victoria St. Contact Rose Cooper, 5 Albermarle Row, Hotwells, Bristol for details.

● **'British Socialists and Irish Republicans'**. Red Action public meeting, Fri 6 May, 7.30pm, The New Inn, Tottenham Court Rd (Warren St or Tottenham Ct Rd tubes).

Socialist Action Forums

EALING 'Getting rid of the bomb'. Speaker Alan Lenton (London Region CND Exec., personal capacity). Thurs 28 April, 7.30pm, Three Horseshoes pub, Southall High St (opp Town Hall).

MANCHESTER 'Labour and Greenham Common'. Speaker Linda Balfe (Manchester Greenham Support Group). Wed 27 April, 7.30pm, Millstone Hotel, Thomas St, Manchester 4 (off Oldham St).

'Coalition and Proportional Representation' — a debate. Thur 19 May, 7.30pm, address as above.

● **'The Fight against the Police Bill'** Day Conference to launch a national campaign and establish a broad, nationally representative committee. Speakers from LP, trade unions and ethnic organisations. Sun 15 May, 10.30-5, Hackney Town Hall. Further details from National Campaign against the Police Bill, c/o Room 50, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, E8 (01-986 3123 ext 280).

● **'Turkey — a people in chains'** Hounslow Socialist Forum discussion led by a member of the Turkey Solidarity Campaign. Sun 22 May, George IV pub, 185 Chiswick High Rd, W4, 7pm.

● **People's March for Jobs** Scotland events: Thurs 28 April assemble 3.30pm, Newton Rd, Lochside for march into Dumfries and rally at Mill Green. Sat 30 April assemble 10am on western outskirts of Gretna village to see the march across the border.

● **Nottingham Campaign against Racism and Fascism** public meeting with speaker from the Roach Family Support Cttee. Sun 8 May, 3pm, International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road.

● **Women Against Rape** public meeting with John Tilley MP and other speakers, followed by a women only discussion. 4 May, 7.30pm, Camden Centre, Camden Town Hall, London WC1. Meeting to discuss John Tilley's Bill to make rape in marriage a crime. Further info: 01-837 7509/387-3244.

● **Colin Roach** — a London-wide demonstration has been called for 14 May calling for a public inquiry into his death. Assemble 12.30, Bethnal Green Gardens, E2. Further details from RFSC, c/o 50 Rectory Road, London N16 (01-254 7480).

● **Popular Planning for Social Need conference**. 21 May, County Hall, London SE1, 11-5. £2.50/£1 unwaged, creche available. To develop a democratic Alternative Economic Strategy. Organised by CAITS, Poly of Nth London, Holloway Rd, N7.

● **GLC May Day Festival** Victoria Park, 1 May with Bad Manners, Scarlet Party, Black Slate, Roddy Radiation and the Tearjerkers and People's Unlimited.

THE OTHER BOOKSHOP

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137 Digbeth Birmingham B5 021-643 5904

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YOUTH CND ROCK THE BOMB

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LONDON MAY 7th
Assemble Victoria Embankment 11am
March to Brockwell Park Brixton

Clint Eastwood & General Saint
The Damned • Gallery Macabre
Hazel O'Connor • John Peel
Madness • Style Council

A FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR

MAY 24



● **International Women's Day for Disarmament** — 24 May. For more information please contact 'May 24th', 16 Arundel Rd, Brighton, E. Sussex.

● **24 May — Glasgow Women for Peace** are calling a Scottish Day of Action. Rally in George Square and Festival. For details contact Glasgow Women's Centre, 57 Miller Street or ring 061-221 1177 Saturdays after 1pm.

● **Hunger Strikers Commemoration Rally**, 1 May in Birmingham.

Socialist Action

Join the fight for socialism

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Age Union/CLP (if any)

If you want to find out more about Socialist Action's policies and activities fill in this form and send to Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1

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Buses 73, 30, 38, 22 or 141.
(All proceeds to Socialist Action)

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● Please put me in touch with local readers

● I enclose a standing order/donation of £

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Signature

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The Business Manager, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP.

Please do not send the Bankers Order direct to your bank. Thank you.

A paper like ours needs money like yours!

LAST weekend, Socialist Action organised its first event for supporters.

The Trade Union school held in London attracted over one hundred activists who discussed the political problems of building a left wing in the unions.

Speakers included ex-Rover militant Pat Hickey, John Ross from the International editorial board and Patrick and Ann, both railworkers.

Looking at the history of the left in the

fight onto a political level.

That is just the kind of thing that Socialist Action is trying to do. Over the next few weeks, there will be lots of opportunities.

Both the People's March for Jobs and the 24 May Women's Day for Disarmament can be planned for and built by the left in the unions and in the Party linking the two into one powerful force. For our part, we are planning a huge promotion of Socialist Action with special introductory subscription offers around these events.

In the run up to the general election, millions of peoples' attention will be focussed on the political options at stake. Our message is that the only way Labour will win is if we base ourselves on the gains we have made in recent conferences.

Our policies for jobs, for disarmament, for women's rights and

against racism, for a united Ireland to end the war are the stuff that election victories are made of, not the right wing clap-trap of Foot and Healey who have sold out at every opportunity.

Fighting to build Socialists for a Labour Victory you need a newspaper like ours. And a newspaper like ours needs money like yours.

Look at the target for the Spring Appeal. We've only got until the end of June to cover the map with CND marchers. Every pound sent in from our sellers and readers goes straight on to the chart.

Empty your bank accounts and help us make the target!

Thanks this week to:

Hackney	£501.00
Oxford	238.00
Ian Parker	5.00
Anon	1.20
Birmingham	240.00
Total this week	985.20
Total so far	£2331.24

Help us to stop the missiles!

Back from the brink

— 'Supermike' and his labour friends

By Pat Hickey (former deputy convenor, Rovers Solihull)

MICHAEL EDWARDES' account of his five years at British Leyland is based on the 'Great Man' theory of history. It tells a story of how Edwardes, alone and unaided, took on the unions, defeated the 'disruptive minority', established management's right to manage, and saved BL for the nation.

The catalogue of his 'success' is indeed striking. When he left the company, 90,000 jobs had been axed, five production plants (Speke, Canley, Rover Solihull, Abingdon and AEC Southall) had been closed, plus a number of ancillary plants and BL had all but stopped producing engines and gear-boxes.

In addition, Derek Robinson had been sacked, the shop stewards organisations reduced to a shell of their former selves, wages had been slashed and sweat shop conditions introduced on the shop floor.

To mark this achievement, Micheal Edwardes was given a knighthood in James Callaghan's — resignation — birthday honours list.

Basking in honours awarded by a Labour prime minister his complacency is understandable when he says:

'And so I leave the hot seat with more to be done but with a feeling that the foundations are well and truly laid; and that the continuing persistence of the Board... will complete the job.'

The Cowley strike against management's right to introduce speed-up by dictat shows that such complacency is inappropriate. *Back From the Brink* is not the end of the story. It closes a chapter.

When Edwardes came to BL, courtesy of the Labour government, the company had the strongest and most extensive shop stewards organisations in the country. He soon recognised this as the central obstacle to his rationalisation plans.

Stewards

In Rover Solihull we had about two shop stewards for every 70 members. Most plants had a full-time plant committee, consisting of convenor, deputy and six to seven senior stewards.

The basis of the shop stewards power were the 'mutuality agreements' which made it necessary for the management to reach an agreement with shop stewards and sections before changing labour levels and track speeds. The result was a constant running battle with management.

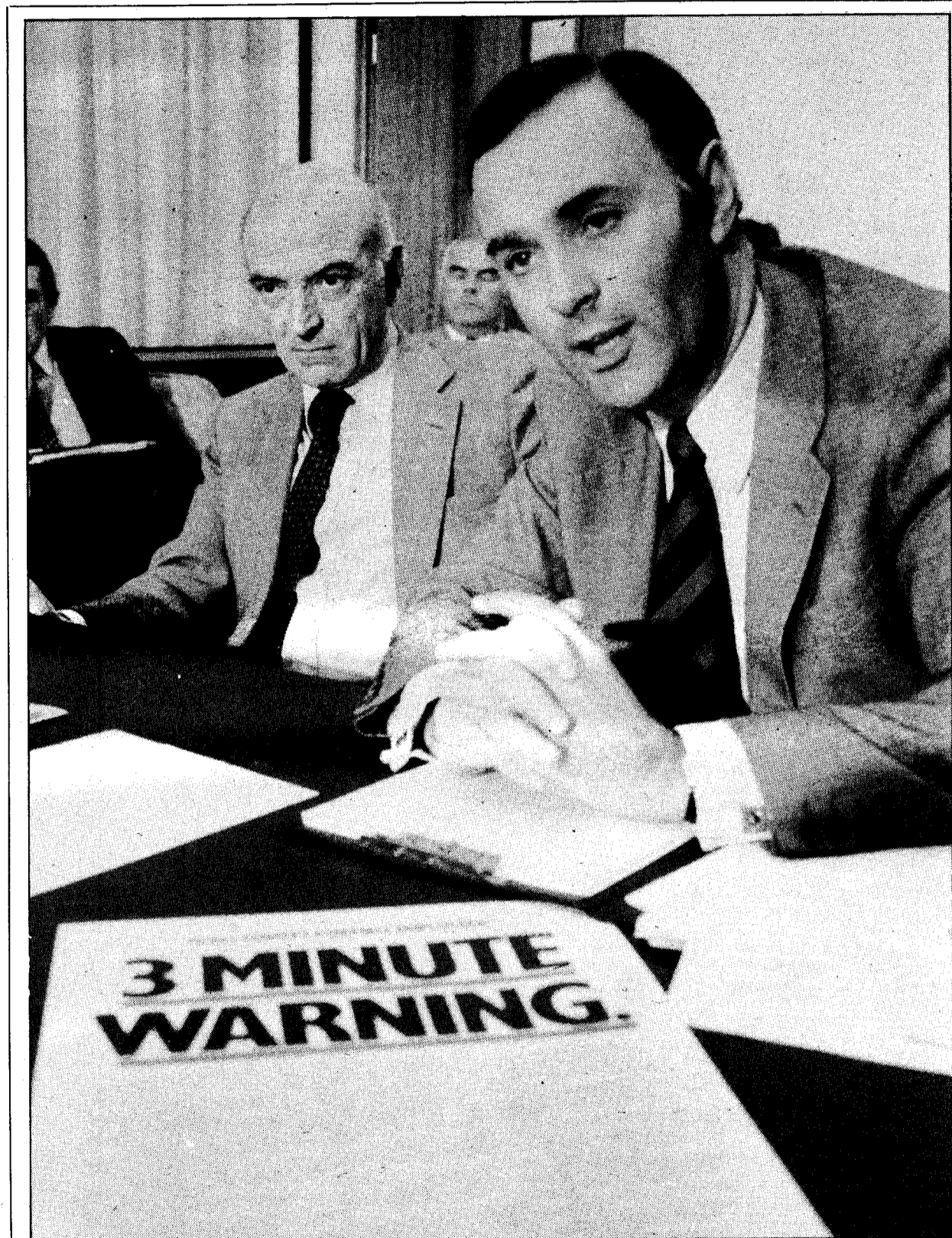
'On one particular day, August 30, with Bathgate on strike, I analysed the figures and found that out of 13 major interruptions to production, 12 involved a total of only 160 people out of a total workforce of only 190,000. Fewer than 1 per cent of employees were causing widespread disruption and damage to the business, flying in the face not just of management, but of their own unions.'

From this he developed his tactics for dealing with the unions:

'There was no doubt in my mind that responsible union leaders would welcome a positive strategy from BL management, provided it emerged in the form of action rather than an explicit statement of what we intended.'

In other words, management was going to deal with the strength of the rank and file by using the union bureaucracy against the members. It was to prove an effective strategy:

'There was a large and effective group of shop stewards — and the



Harold Musgrove (Chairman and Chief Executive) and Geoff Armstrong (Personnel) — Edwardes' heirs.

management had let them get the real power. What happened in BL over the five years is that management regained initiative and the employees as a whole followed management. That is how it should be... We have to have stronger and better managers.'

He got off to a flying start. On 1 February 1978, three months after he arrived at BL, a meeting of 720 full-time officials and senior stewards gave him a standing ovation when he unveiled the first corporate plan: 12,500 jobs to be axed. The company even held a vote on its proposals — 751 voted for, 5 voted against. Significantly, Derek Robinson was one of those who supported the plan at that meeting. The first fruit of that meeting was the closure of Speke No 2.

By any standards it was an extraordinary meeting. 720 senior representatives of the best organised workforce in the country voting in favour of an attack on jobs, pay and conditions. It showed a crucial

weakness at the level of the shop stewards.

In the previous three years since BL had been taken into public ownership, the senior stewards had been drawn into the participation structures set up after the recommendations of the Ryder Report to 'Save BL'. This had meant the stewards been involved in cutbacks and changes in working practises to make BL competitive.

Strategy

Robinson and the CP had been the foremost advocates of this strategy, which had meant workers representatives been 'given more information about their company so that they can better appreciate managements problems and co-operate more constructively in solving these problems.' (Ryder Report)

When Edwardes arrived participation had begun to eat into the shop stewards organisations. One result

was that the combine committee all but disappeared.

With plant bargaining replaced by company-wide bargaining, and Edwardes dealing with the company as a whole in his corporate plans the initiative passed on to national officials. The rank and file had no effective company wide leadership which could put a credible alternative to Edwardes.

For Edwardes the next problem was the Labour leadership. He was pushing at an open door. The Labour government gave him a blank cheque to attack the workforce. In a discussion with Prime Minister Jim Callaghan on the closure of Speke and the transfer of the TR7, Callaghan said: 'You have said that your new Board will always act in a businesslike way ... Surely on that basis the TR7 should be scrapped and not transferred elsewhere?'

The trade union leaders were on a similar line. Under the Labour government they were the main

defenders of incomes policy, encouraging workers to scab on strikers and threatening to expel the BL tool room workers when they struck in the summer of 1978.

By the time Edwardes came to the decisive confrontation the workforce was softened up. The company had established the practise of taking its major plans to ballots of the shop floor over the heads of the stewards, and with the support of union officials.

In September 1979 the third Edwardes plan was announced — 25,000 jobs and 13 plants to go. The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions put to a ballot of the workforce. Of the 80 percent who voted, 87 percent supported the company. The ground was prepared for a decisive confrontation with the stewards.

The BL combine committee produced a pamphlet attacking the plan. Weak and ineffective though it was (it started from 'our vested interest to ensure that Britain remains a competitive producer of manufactured goods') Robinson was dismissed for signing it.

The pamphlet was a pretext for attacking the shop stewards. It had hardly been seen on the shop floor. On the day Robbo was sacked I found 500 of them in the stewards room at Solihull which the convenor had not bothered to distribute. A handful of us gave them out free.

The AUEW headed off the growing walk-outs by establishing a committee of enquiry into the sacking. Robinson stayed sacked.

Voted

Despite a vigorous defence campaign a Longbridge mass meeting voted overwhelmingly not to strike in his defence. It was a symbol of the degree to which the shop stewards base on the shop floor had been undermined. Although it was the middle of the 'Winter of Discontent', with Fords, the lorry drivers, and public sector workers all taking action, the response to the sacking was confined to a militant minority.

In the face of mass redundancies, and the repeated refusals of the national leadership to lead, the members refused to follow their traditional leaders. Instead, as Edwardes put it, 'the employees as a whole followed the management'.

BL was not alone. As the effects of the world recession combined with a Labour government imposing austerity the militancy which had fuelled the growth of the shop stewards organisations for nearly 20 years, proved inadequate for the new problems.

As has been demonstrated time and again since, sectoral militancy is not enough. The rank and file leaders of the class need to be able to put forward solutions which appear credible to the workers and can defeat the right wing leaders. This means building cross-sectoral organisation which puts the key national questions around which the battle in the Labour Party is being fought to the fore of its concerns.

After the Robinson sackings Edwardes had a cake walk. The BL workers had been defeated less by Edwardes than the sell-outs of the trade union leaders and the political weakness of the stewards. When the chips were down, we were unable to confront the leadership's betrayals.

'Supermike's' reputation rests on the labour leaders. He got a knighthood. In fairness, so should Terry Duffy and Moss Evans. No doubt they will in due course. As the Cowley strike has shown, they are trying hard.

But as the militancy of the Cowley strikers has also shown, it is far too early for either BL management or the Labour traitors to rest on their laurels. Provided that militants learn that defeating the labour traitors is not a task that can be accomplished by any plant or section on its own, Edwardes and his successors in BL and elsewhere can be defeated.

● Back from the Brink. Sir Michael Edwardes. Collins. £9.95.

Photo: John Harris

Scottish TUC cop-out on pay restraint



Scottish youth march for jobs

THE SCOTTISH TUC met in Rothesay against the background of doubled unemployment figures in the four years since Thatcher came into office.

Delegates were further stunned by a report of Chris Finnerty, national officer for shipbuilding of the Engineers and Managers Association. To the dole heap of 350,000 Scottish workers may be added 11,000 shipbuilding jobs in the next 18 months.

This would wipe out virtually the whole of shipbuilding in Scotland.

Conference pledges to fight the jobs butchery with the presence of occupying workers from the Timex factory in Dundee, who received an emotional standing ovation.

Tributes came too for the women of Greenham Common as the conference stressed its commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament and backing for work place CND groups.

The significant debate of conference was around pay restraint. A resolution was passed declaring 'Congress is opposed to any incomes policy, imposed or informal, or

guidelines which have as their aim wage regulations and restrictions on free collective bargaining.

'Congress re-affirms its support for free collective bargaining, opposes all forms of restraint and supports the decision of the 1982 TUC which opposes any discussions on wage restraint'.

But along with this the Scottish TUC backed Labour's *Partners in Rebuilding Britain*, and with it the national economic assessment. The movers of the resolution, the Miners and Civil Service unions, had originally spelt out a rejection of the wage restraint contained in the new economic assessment.

When unions like the

Transport union threatened to withdraw support if this clause remained, a compromise was made. This leaves the danger of incomes policy being slipped in through the back door.

When moving the resolution Campbell Christie for the CPSA stressed 'We seek trade union opposition to wage restraint, however it is achieved and that includes a national economic assessment.'

But the fact remains that water tight commitments were dropped against a pay deal through the new partnership of union officials and a Labour government.

By Celia Pugh

This fudging on a rerun social contract weakens the labour movement in the face of arguments put up by Michael Foot at the conference.

He motivated that workers may have to make

sacrifices explaining 'People lucky enough to hold jobs under a Conservative government will have to assist us in coming to the aid of the poor first'.

In the incomes policy debate, George Bolton turned on these arguments. 'Who should bear the burden of capitalism's crises — the boss class or the working class?'

'A Labour government has a choice. Either to challenge the wealth and power of the multinationals, monopolies and banks with the support of the trade union movement, mobilised through free collective bargaining to fight for better wages and conditions. Or to bow to the pressures of the enemies of labour'.

Despite these firm speeches, the back room deals at the Scottish TUC show that the ranks of the labour movement need to remain vigilant if the Scottish challenge to wage restraint is to mean anything.

Engineering union — where there's smoke there's fire

THE SUPREME BODY of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the national committee, continues its meeting this week. It will record membership figures now under the one million mark and only 670,000 of these are paying members. Unemployment has taken its toll.

The back page of the April issue of the union journal describes the AUEW as 'the union that cares'. But only months ago the journal claimed the union was not only caring, but 'leading and fighting' as well.

The change in slogan is appropriate. When the Duffy leadership has fought, it has mostly been against its own members.

The Laurence Scott strikers fighting closure had to deal with their employer and the sabotage of Duffy and general secretary John Boyd.

Other engineering workers have had the same problem. The leadership's do-nothing policy allowed Michael Edwards to get away with sacking Derek Robinson and all that followed in BL.

By a Manchester AUEW branch secretary

Engineering workers got a 'massive' 4.8 per cent pay rise in the recent wage negotiations and the nationally agreed rate — the Minimum Time Rate — stands today at £87 per week for a skilled worker

and £62.60 for unskilled.

But the 'moderation' of Duffy and company only affects how they 'defend' their members interests. When it comes to supporting the right wing of the Labour Party they are far from moderate.

Duffy is secretary of the Labour and Trade Union Press Service, a self-confessed NATO front organisation. He vigorously fights against unilateral nuclear disarmament being taken up by the union or the Labour Party.

At last years Labour Party conference Duffy was even prepared to question withdrawing from the EEC, in complete defiance of union policy. Duffy and his friends fully backed the witch hunt of the

Militant.

But they are not having it all their own way. The membership is refusing to lie down. Three factories are presently involved in sit-ins against job closures — at Timex in Dundee, Greenings in Warrington and Firth Derihon in Sheffield. AUEW members are involved in the fight for steel jobs in Rotherham and in the BL dispute at Cowley.

There was tremendous support for the Laurence Scott strikers from engineering workers countrywide. Hundreds of AUEW branches gave financial and other support and Duffy was shaken by the growing number of resolutions passed censuring the executive and demanding new elections.

Tens of thousands have demonstrated against unemployment and there is a groundswell of support in the union for nuclear disarmament. For the second year running the National Committee received an avalanche of resolutions against cruise and Trident.

This will to fight Tory missile madness was shown at the union's women's conference last month. Although two motions in favour of disarmament were defeated, the conference unanimously backed the Greenham Common women, describing their struggle as 'an historic contribution to the peace movement'.

In last years election for John Boyd's successor as general secretary, Broad Left candidate Ken Brett came within a whisker of beating Boyd's chosen heir Gavin Laird.

Now broad lefter Jimmy Airlie, the number 4 assistant divisional organiser and former leader of the UCS work-in looks set to win the vacant executive seat for division one, so becoming the only 'left' on the seven person executive.

Duffy knows that the National Committee

Wales TUC: Problems for right wing

THE ANNUAL conference of the Wales TUC meets in Cardiff on 30 April. Several debates may create problems for the largely right wing leadership.

They face a big obstacle in any attempt to repeat the compromise achieved at the Scottish TUC over incomes policy leaving the door open to disguised wage controls in a national economic assessment between the trade unions and a future Labour government.

But the Wales TUC conference has rejected wage controls two years running. This was most explicit last year in a motion from the public employees union NUPE, which stated firmly 'there must be no wage restraint or interference with wage negotiation'.

Unemployment in Wales now stands at around 18 per cent officially and in reality is much higher. If further attacks on basic industries succeed nearly on in four workers could be jobless.

By Barry Wilkins

A resolution from Newport trades council calls for trade union leaders in steel, coal and rail to organise the triple alliance in Wales to fight Thatcher's butchery. But the kind of militant struggle, which could be organised through the triple alliance, is far from the thoughts of George Wright the Wales TUC general secretary.

Instead the Wales TUC leaders see the development of workers cooperatives as an important part of tackling unemployment. It has sponsored a workers cooperatives advice centre and an investment fund which it hopes will create

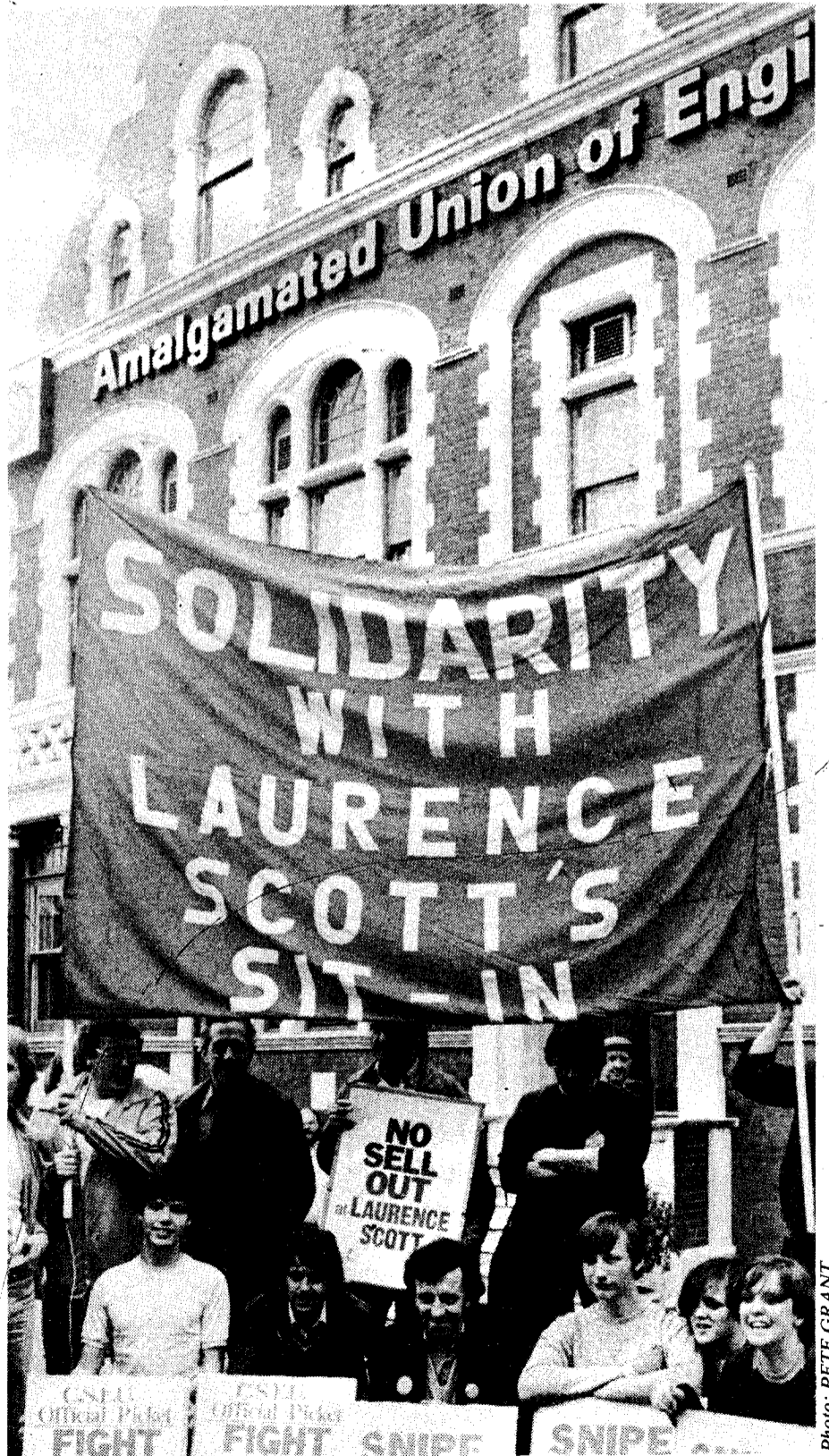
one thousand jobs in the next three years.

But at that rate it would take 54 years to replace the 18,000 jobs which Wales lost in one single month in 1980 when the steel industry was massacred by Thatcher!

A resolution from the Transport union repeats the Wales TUC commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament and the closure of all nuclear bases in Britain, but without indicating how trade unions should campaign for these aims.

Ebbw Vale trades councils resolution shows one way by calling for Wales TUC support to set up workplace CND branches.

A call for trade unions to campaign for a Labour government committed to policies based on socialist principles is made by the technical section of the engineers union. With a general election looming this will provide an opportunity for delegates to discuss the kind of labour government workers need.



Laurence Scott workers had to deal with Duffy

meeting will go pretty much his way. But the AUEW leaders are constrained by the feeling of the ranks. Even when they try to consolidate their position by pushing through rule changes — as

they did at the recent rules revision conference in February — they haven't been able to achieve all their objectives.

Their own supporters broke ranks at this conference and voted down

some of the more draconian proposals.

So if there's any trace of smoke at the National Committee meeting, there are certainly smouldering fires and hot embers down below.

Photo: PETE GRANT



Photo: MORNING STAR

Striking British Telecom workers

'We want to stop the bill'

THE TORIES have introduced a bill to privatise part of British Telecom. In response, the National Executive Council of the Post Office Engineering Union is running a campaign against government institutions, now in its fourth week.

So far this has been confined to the Westminster branch, but at the request of the London City branch, other engineers have pulled out of the Bank of England.

Socialist Action talked to JOCK CAMPBELL, secretary of the London City branch of the POEU about the action.

What is the purpose of the selective action?

To stop the Tory bill. Privatisation would result in a loss of jobs for our members and the destruction of the public service supplied by a nationalised industry.

But the NEC's present action cannot achieve this end. The action must be stepped up. The present NEC strategy of attacking government institutions is welcome but it is not a strategy to win.

This government cannot be embarrassed by publicity. Nor will it give in because the civil service and government departments, even defence departments, are inconvenienced.

The Tories worship only profit — they have demonstrated this with their attitude to unemployment.

Our power lies in attacking the only section of society that the Tories listen to. That means going for the centre of

finance capital and the multi-nationals. Our action has to hit the City of London, not just Westminster.

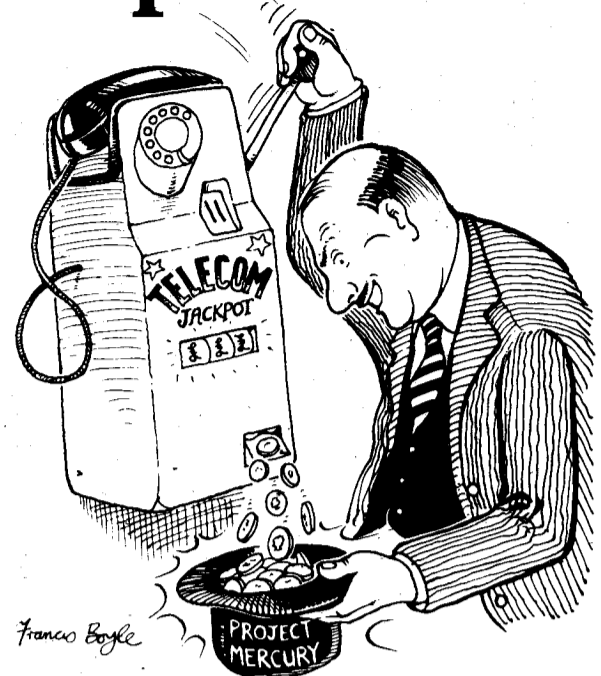
Do you think the NEC's strategy is due to their right wing policies?

Yes. The unions permanent officers, led by general secretary Bryan Stanley, are frightened that we could win.

They have no wish to defeat the government through our action. They look to their own political judgement instead of to the membership. They only want to hit a few government institutions to get publicity.

But we want to totally defeat the bill. To do this we need to hit the Tory bosses at the very heart of British finance and business.

The membership have been very patient. In the London City area they welcomed the action and fell over themselves to pay the national levy, which



Francis Boyle

the NEC has failed as yet to implement. But many members think the levy is too low at £1 a week and are demanding an escalation of the action.

The membership are disappointed with the leadership and they won't wait for ever. If the NEC is not prepared to step up the action it will become ineffective.

Will an early general election affect the action?

General secretary Bryan Stanley and our sponsored MP John Golding would want the action called off immediately.

They would use the pretext of the election and

the possible return of a Labour government. That would be wrong and I would oppose it. We need to take action, whatever the government.

Our fight is an industrial dispute and we should keep up the fight until we win. Of course it is also a political dispute and we would fight for a Labour victory, but our action won't cut across that.

On the contrary it will help. The permanent officers, through the right wing are scared of our power. They do not want to defeat the Tory government through our action. That is why they have no strategy to win.

Strike beats Bury privatisation bid

By Mark Hackett (Bury NALGO Joint Shop Stewards Committee and GMC delegate, Blackley CLP)

IN BURY, Lancashire, we've just won the first fight against privatisation in local government through mass campaigning and strike action.

On 12 April Bury council public services committee voted not to sell the refuse collection services to private contractors.

The Tory privatisation plans were reversed by the threat of indefinite strike action and a public campaign which won over the majority of local people. Tory wets decided not to risk losing seats and control of the council in the May local elections.

Bury shows that a united campaign that takes on the Tories' main political threat can win. Our strike on 2 March was a real turning point.

We learnt important lessons. The branch leaders and the shop stewards committee made sure we had official support right up to national

level, as well as full involvement of the rank and file.

Meetings were organised to bring together staff and manual workers. These countered attempts to divide us. We never compromised ourselves by offering to tender our own jobs and although a new bin system may be introduced, there will be no compulsory redundancies.

We hope to spread the lessons of our victory to others in the labour movement who face privatisation.

In particular we hope to take this into NALGO. One of the strike leaders is

a candidate in the NALGO national executive elections which are under way. Her election with other left candidates could start the move for NALGO to fight for the many good policies it has adopted in the last few years.

We hope that the lessons can be taken into the Labour Party too so that the Party campaigns vigorously against privatisation. This could be a big vote winner in the local and national elections.

Leaders of the local Labour Party have been slow to realise that it's not canvassing that wins elec-

tions but mass struggle and political campaigning that relate to people's everyday lives and concerns.

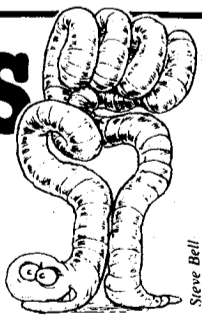
● Labour movement organisations wanting a speaker about our experiences should contact Ian Stephenson, NALGO branch secretary, Branch Office Town Hall, Knowsley St. Bury.

The cartoons are taken from the Labour Research Department pamphlet, Public or Private. Available from LRD Blackfriars Rd, London SE1.



Francis Boyle

WORM'S EYE VIEW



Steve Bell

Tea for the workers

It's nice to know you are appreciated. It's also nice to know that not everybody slags off the carworkers. And it's even nicer to learn that the car bosses are really appreciative of their workers' efforts to boost production.

Down at Fords Dagenham, lines run and schedules are being met.

Everyone is sweating. Last week over 1000 cars were produced in a day. This was for the first time in five years.

The response of the management was simply magnificent. They gave every worker a free cup of tea — dope tests are pending.

The workforce was knocked over by this

generosity as they say it's much nicer getting a gift than money!

Sid's Lubianka?

The NUR new headquarters in Euston Road will be opened in early May by Michael Foot. The dear departed Sid Weighell had been expecting to perform this ceremony, but that little 'indiscretion' of his stopped all that.

But the operation of the new building shows that Sid has not been forgotten. NUR members wanting to do business there must have an appointment, after all you can't have the union members going into their own building just when they think it's important.

If given entry they then get a special badge,



Sid Weighell

otherwise they might get mistaken for an official, and that would never do.

To make sure they don't get lost or go sticking their nose in the union's business they must always be escorted by an officer or an EC member.

Somebody says that the thin walls which all the rooms seem to have was to make sure that nobody got up to plotting against the old 'gaffer'. Sid as you know was

very sensitive about plots, especially the ones he was not hatching.

A lot of union activists are not too keen on these arrangements which might be OK for the Lubianka and Sid Weighell, but are hardly the best way to run a democratic union. They are dead keen that the NUR's new leadership open the doors to the membership and lets them use the headquarters in the way such a place should be run.

Anderton is not Oliver Cromwell

Mr James Anderton, chief constable of Manchester, is a devoutly religious man who thinks that a suspect should not

APPARENTLY, HE KEEPS INSISTING THAT HE'S THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF MANCHESTER...



have the right to silence. He does not do this because he wants to interfere with our democratic rights.

Mr Anderton explains that 'we owe God an explanation' and surely when God is not around due to pressing engagements elsewhere the police are his stand-ins.

Mr Anderton is also a believer in reincarnation as he once told the Sun-

day Times. He thinks that in one of his previous existences he was Oliver Cromwell. Now if you or I go around claiming that we are someone else we either get nicked for deception or committed for being potty.

Strangely enough Anderton has not been charged or committed, yet everyone knows he has never been Oliver Cromwell. It is a well known fact on the left that a former general secretary of a far-left group known for his lectures on dialectics and the English civil war was and still is Oliver Cromwell.

Compiled by BOB PENNINGTON. Send contributions to Worm's Eye, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday a week prior to publication.

Socialist ACTION

SELL-OUT AT COWLEY

SOLD AGAIN! This will be the reaction of most BL workers to the ending of the Cowley strike.

The overwhelming vote to return to work at the Cowley mass meeting came as no surprise.

Only three days after voting by more than 2 to 1 to carry on striking and to resist management's threat of the sack, the workers felt that they had little choice but to accept the deal put forward by the trade union leaders.

The deal gives them nothing in return for the five week strike. They are committed to giving BL the productivity measures needed to introduce Audited Plant Status (APS).

By Pat Hickey

This is the final turn of the productivity screw, which means that not another drop of sweat can be wrung from the workforce. This will include 'bell to bell' running, ie., ending the three minute washing-up period. The measures will be introduced by the end of May, when there will be a national meeting between union and management, to 'resolve any outstan-



ding problems'.

This meeting will also take the results of a joint union/management inquiry into industrial relations at Cowley. Apparently, the leaders of the T&GWU and the AUEW (3.5 million members between them) need this to understand why the strike happened.

At the Holiday Inn where the deal was cooked up a waitress commented that she was unable to tell the difference between the bosses and the union men — the suits looked the same. Unfortunately it's not only the suits.

Throughout BL the Cowley strike was seen as

the big test for the unions. This was the first fight back against productivity in BL for two years. It was the longest strike at Cowley since the early 70s.

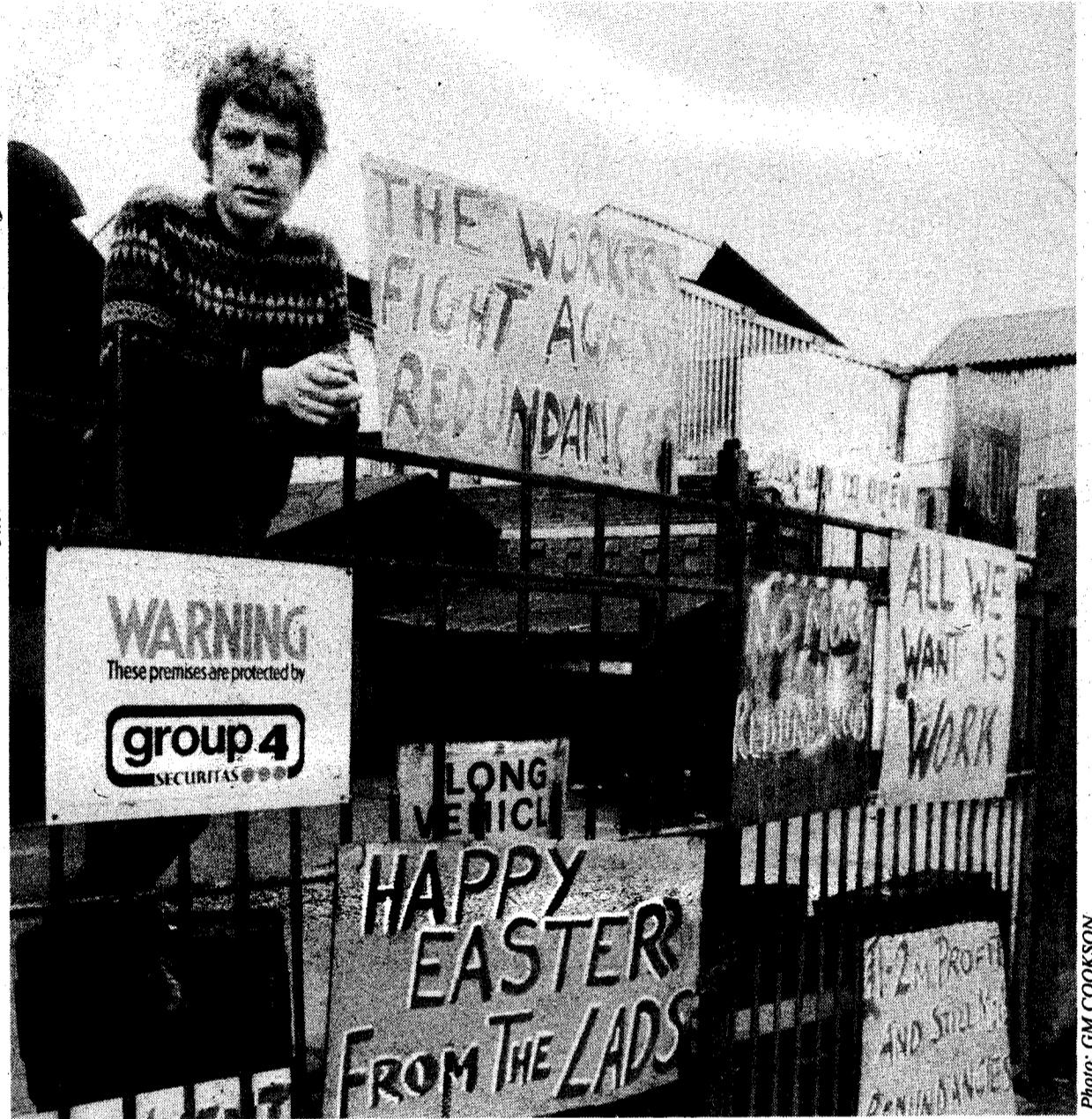
Reports from other BL plants showed that had management carried out the sackings there would have been widespread support for the workers.

This is a bad defeat for BL workers. But Cowley has proved that the unions are not broken in BL. The burning question remains that of forging a leadership capable of dealing with the labour traitors.

Michael Edwardes reviewed — see page 13.

Sheffield workers say:

'Thatcher you're not welcome'



Firth Derihon workers in Sheffield are occupying their factory to fight redundancy. They join the chant on 28 April 'Thatcher you're not welcome'.

THE PAST three years of recession and Tory rule have hit South Yorkshire hard. Unemployment in inner city areas of Sheffield runs at one in five. There's hardly a steel or engineering plant which hasn't seen redundancies.

Public services are being squeezed and the 'cheap fares' bus policy of the Labour South Yorkshire council is threatened by government legislation.

Now Thatcher is rubbing salt in the wounds by visiting Sheffield on Thursday 28 April to dine with the City's bosses.

She may be toasted by the bosses but from the

working people of Sheffield she'll get a different type of welcome — what has been called by the labour movement an 'un-welcoming'.

She will be met by craft workers from the Rotherham steel industry who have proved that jobs can be defended by industrial action. With them will be workers occupying the

Firth Derihon plant against redundancies.

By Rich Palser

They will be joined by thousands of trade unionists mobilised to demonstrate by the Sheffield District Labour Party, trades council and the 'un-welcoming committee'. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament will also be there in force, endorsing the demonstration slogan for jobs and services, not bombs and missiles.

Thatcher's visit to Sheffield — just one week before the local elections is part of her assault against the very heartland of the labour movement. South Yorkshire can never be the socialist republic of which it boasts with Thatcher and the parties of the bosses in national government.

That's why working people in the area will be voting, striking, occupying and demonstrating against Thatcher and for a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

ROTHERHAM

'We've won!'

AFTER four weeks on strike Rotherham craft workers have won against British Steel redundancies and new enforced work patterns. Rotherham BSC crafts convenor, **BERNARD CONNOLLY** explains.

We've won. The attempt by BSC to introduce Edwardes style management by 'decree' has been defeated.

There will be no compulsory redundancies and all apprentices coming out of their time this year will be guaranteed jobs. There will be no new shift patterns.

Work

We're resuming work on the same basis as before. Management has conceded that the so-called Survival Plan will be subject to established negotiating procedures, with no time factors or deadlines imposed.

After ensuring that no-one who has backed

our fight was being subjected to disciplinary action, we recommended a return to work, our objectives having been achieved.

This is a victory for the whole trade union movement. We've successfully defended our right to negotiate over jobs and conditions, as opposed to accepting management by dictatorship. This is what is at stake at Cowley and at Fords, not just at BSC.

Success

The lesson of our success is that unity is strength. The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation national officials held secret talks with management on their own, and then instructed their members to return to work, without any consultation with the rest of us involved.

The ISTC's agreement accepted the Survival Plan, the new shift system as decreed by management, no guarantee on jobs, and even that wasn't signed by BSC.

Rotherham Crafts decided to reject this surrender to management and to stay out on strike. At first we were on our own after the ISTC went back to work, but we went out to win support.

Our local full time officers backed us 100 percent. If we'd got the same backing nationally we could defeat Thatcher in a fortnight let alone BSC. Once we were joined by the Crafts at Tinsley Park and Shepcote Lane, management caved in.

The mass meeting on Monday 25 April, where we voted to return to work, brought together the 1400 craftsmen from all three works. We're going to build on the experience of the unity in this dispute so that we continue to develop a common policy and if necessary common action.

As I explained at the meeting, we've won a battle but the war continues. We ended the meeting with an appeal for the biggest possible turnout on 28 April against Thatcher's visit to Sheffield.

MODERN TIMES



God bless mummy and daddy and gran, and please stop Mr Duffy from selling out any more strikes ...

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