

SOCIALIST

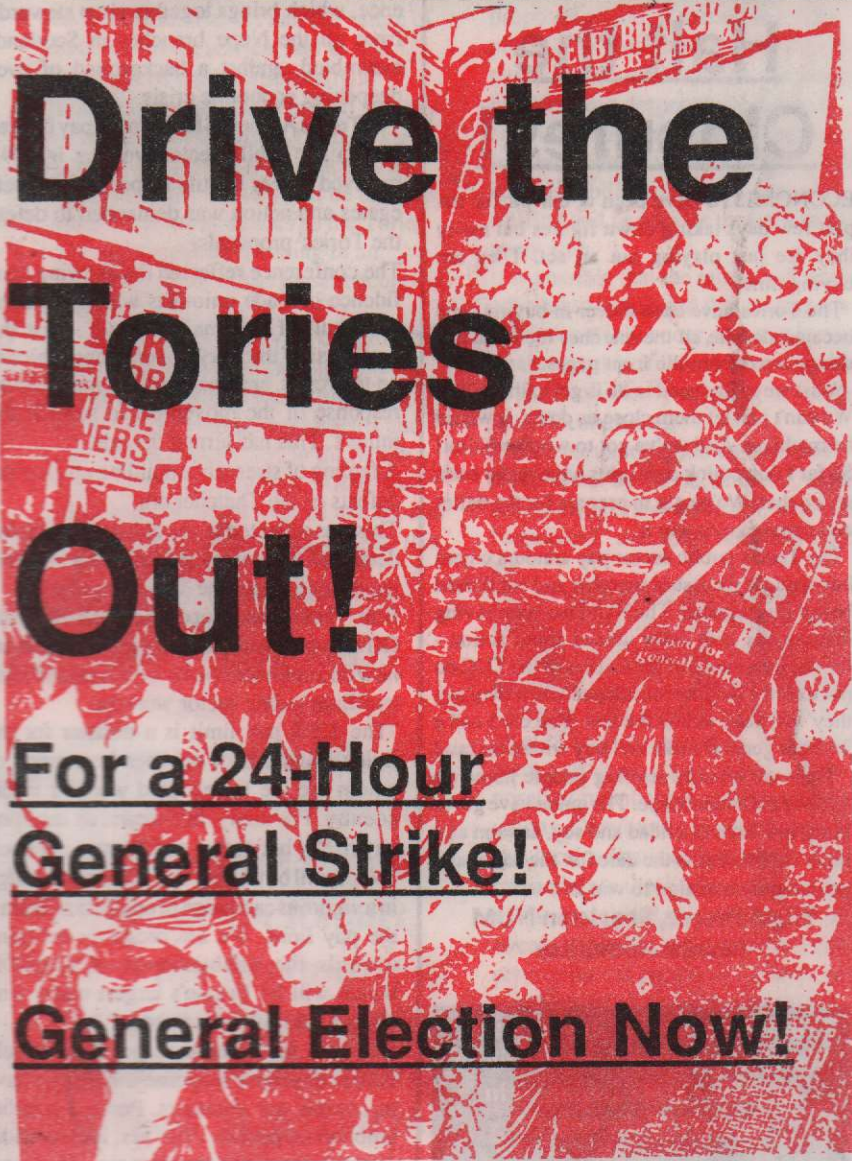
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The Marxist voice of the labour movement

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the
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See back page

BR... Mines... Public Sector... Tubes... NHS



Drive the Tories Out!

**For a 24-Hour
General Strike!**

General Election Now!

OVER 100,000 jobs are to go with the closure of 31 pits, 20,000 health jobs will be lost with the London hospital closures and 5,000 rail workers face the sack.

Thousands of car workers are on short time, tube workers have been forced to take action to defend their jobs and conditions and public sector workers are facing pay cuts.

On top of this 82 businesses are collapsing every day and tens of thousands are being thrown onto the dole every week.

For two years Major and Lamont have been promising recovery - their promises have amounted to nothing.

What a Tory-Inspired mess!

Just over six months ago the Tories were celebrating their fourth consecutive election victory. Now they are on the ropes.

The Tories had planned another term of cuts and redundancies - but the magnificent response of workers to the threatened pit closures has opened the way for the Tories to be defeated.

In hundreds of cities, towns and villages the length and breadth of the country workers have marched against the Tories' plans. Demonstrations, rallies and public meetings have been organised to stop the closures and launch the fight for jobs.

Now it is time to step up the action.

Socialist Appeal supports the call made by ASLEF General Secretary Derek Fullick for a one-day general strike. This should be combined with demonstrations, mass meetings and rallies from Lands End to John O'Groats.

Such a day of action would give the working class an idea of the enormous power in its hands. The movement to bring down the Tories would become unstoppable.

Jobs and conditions cannot be defended by relying on the Tories or Liberals. While this vicious Tory government remains in office it is workers who will be made to pay for the crisis.

A campaign must be waged in every union branch, shop stewards committee, miners lodge, trades council and Labour Party to put pressure on the TUC to name the day for a 24-hour general strike, to force the calling of a general election and to fight for the election of a Labour government pledged to carry out genuine socialist policies.

Plus • London NHS Crisis - p.3 • Miners Speak Out - p.2 • How Can We Get Rid Of the Tories? - p.4-6 • Press Fund Appeal - p.7

The battle against pit closures: *TUC Must Step Up the Fight!*

AT THE November meeting of Birmingham Trades Union Council, Bob Anderson, NUM Secretary at Trentham, one of the pits threatened with closure, spoke about the miners' struggle. We reprint an extract from his speech:

"We can sell everything we produce, but the Tories are more interested in open cast mining. The markets have been rigged against us. British Gas, the CEGB, they're all working to distort reality - nuclear power is grossly inefficient.

"They are importing South African subsidised coal, produced by workers on one fifth of the white's wages. They are using Columbian coal some of which is produced by young children.

"Our pit here was the first to produce 2 million tons and six months ago they guaranteed our pit a future. Now they have decided that the power station we supply at Rugeley has also suddenly become inefficient! The Tories are not only decimating our area, but they seem intent on destroying British industry as a whole.

"What we need to see in this fight is working class solidarity. I'm not ashamed to ask people to break the law. If the Tories were really that interested in the law they would take on the cartels and companies opening on Sundays.

"I want to see a wider fight back. For the last 13 years they have been forcing through laws that have taken away our most basic human rights. They have been humiliated at the Court of Human Rights. Why should workers respect their non-sensical laws that are formed blatantly to destroy our jobs and cut our living standards?

"At Trentham 1400 jobs are to go. In one of the nearby towns, there are only two job vacancies - for a petrol pump attendant and one for Santa Claus!

"We can't allow the pits to die. We can't wait for our pit to bleed to death. The whole review procedure is a con. The pits are already being closed by stealth. All the forces of the state are being lined up against us again. Now we need our forces to line up with us and take them on.

"We can't rely on the Winston Churchill's, Tory MPs or Tory judges. We need our forces, the ones we have always relied on, the working class. Together we can stop the crooks and gangsters that are destroying our NHS, our services and our children's future. We have got a real chance to topple these crooks and save our industry and our kids' futures. They only just scraped through last night's vote (on Maastricht).

"We want to see action. We are pressuring the TUC for a one-day general strike, which is branch policy at Trentham. But action needs to be co-ordinated. When it comes down to it, we will take whatever action is necessary to save our pit."

Ballot for Action to Halt the Closures!

ECONOMISTS have been at our pit for the past few days taking down figures but really they are just playing out an act. They are buying time.

The Tories have been clever in buying time because despite all the marches the issue has disappeared from the front pages.

What we really need to do is get to the ballot. We can't just let them close us down, it would be madness. And we've got to win the ballot! So far I don't think our sights have really been set on that. We've got to prepare for the ballot and campaign to win it.

The Tories public sector pay announcement has brought the issues together and we should be fighting together. The NUM has been having discussions with other unions about action - but the statements of the leaders of the TUC do not exactly inspire confidence when they say they will keep within the law. You can't call a 24-hour general strike and stay within the law!

They are already sending people home on full pay at Grimethorpe. The union have got to bring the issue to a head and say, as soon as a pit is closed, this is the date for the ballot and go out and campaign to win it.

**Nigel Pearce, Sharlston NUM
branch committee**

**What is happening in your area?
Write or phone us with details of
activities and campaigns in
support of the miners:**

**Socialist Appeal, PO Box 2626,
London N1 6DU
or phone us on 021-455-9112**

PUBLIC SECTOR

Reject Wage Cuts

Scottish Nupe's Annual Divisional Conference, which brings together shop stewards from all the Nupe branches in Scotland, assembled against a background of ever deepening economic crisis.

The Tories Autumn Statement on pay freezes (cuts!) for public sector workers in 1993 received a very hostile response from delegates and action was demanded to defeat the Tories' proposals.

The conference reflected the growing confidence of trade unionists which has been the result of two major factors - first the weakness of the Tory government, which is on the ropes, and secondly the magnificent response of the movement to support the miners. This has turned the tide!

A feeling of strength is building up after the defeats of the Thatcher era.

This was reflected in the debates, as graphic details of the misery public sector workers have faced under the Tories came out.

Bob Thompson, Nupe's Scottish National Officer commented: "The government are now on a collision course with Scotland's half a million public sector workers.

"The 1.5% pay limit is a disaster for the living standards of our members many of whom are the lowest paid workers in the country. For many, this means an insulting pay rise of between 4 and 5 pence per hour. "Nupe will be uniting with Cohse and Nalgo in a vigorous campaign of opposition against the pay limit. We are presently balloting towards the establishment of UNISON which will be Britain's largest union with almost 1.5 million members."

Bob also remarked that the union should take a considered response and that we have to consult our members. Perhaps a rather ambivalent posture - but yes, let's consider our response. Let's consider our only proper response and consult our members on industrial action to defeat the Tory pay cuts.

**Graham Wilson, Edinburgh Nupe No.1
Personal capacity**

END HEALTH SERVICE CRISIS: NO CUTS, NO CLOSURES

The Tomlinson Report into the future of London's health service, bad as it is, should not be considered totally in isolation from the Tories overall strategy towards the public sector. Civil servants, local government officers, teachers and now health care workers will be the ones facing the brunt of attacks as the Tories try to reduce public spending in an attempt to get out of the present economic crisis.

Already the trend is moving towards the breakdown of national pay agreements and the imposition of local bargaining coupled with personal assessments and performance related pay. In the health service, this trend has been exacerbated by the creation of the internal market and of autonomous self governing trusts, that

allow managements to set their own pay and conditions.

The feeling is that as competition for patients becomes more fierce, Trusts will be seeking to completely revamp their workforces' pay and grading structures to become more efficient and reduce the overall wages bill.

Tomlinson, therefore, can be seen as a device, not just to reduce the number of hospitals and beds in London in order to save resources, but to aid this reorganisation.

The number of closures and mergers

proposed would, if carried out even partially, provide health managers in the city with tens of thousands of trained, qualified and desperate workers all entering into a scramble for the new jobs available. At a stroke they would have the ability to impose whatever staffing and pay levels they could get away with.

It is possible that the report will not be adhered to in full and that a cosmetic climbdown will occur, but it is just as likely that this will be done on the basis of staff voluntarily agreeing to changes in their conditions.

Such a partial climbdown has been made easier by David Blunkett, opposition spokesperson on health, who has "conceded" that some hospitals must go.

Health workers are not necessarily against reorganisation, mergers or even in some cases closures. What we are against is this being done on the basis of cutbacks and a general reduction in the level of services provided. We would want a strategic regional body, composed of members of staff groups, unions, Community Health Councils and local authorities to conduct detailed research into the city's needs and to devise a regional plan to ensure a more evenly available and expanded health service for the people of London, and not the kind of vague document produced by Tomlinson.

Health workers are, I think, waking up to the fact that the "good old days" of

HARD TIMES

Unfit to Govern?

After former defence minister Alan Clarke let slip the truth about ministers' involvement in arms deals with Iraq, more Tories are queuing up to show the true face of the Tory Party.

Welwyn Hatfield MP David Evans believes the Tories should stop the "deceptions perpetrated by millions of people every day."

He says: "Throughout the country, thieves, cheats and criminals exploit the benefit system." Mr Evans goes on to identify the criminals he is referring to - 500,000 long term unemployed ("layabouts") who he accuses of not wanting to work and of not "having missed an Oval Test Match or a set at Wimbledon for years," and those, "and there are millions of them, who claim unemployment benefit while working."

His solutions - set up Dole Dossier Watch, to stop the "cheats" and "the mandatory sentence for those committing fraud should be a turn on the ducking stool in the local river, a good public flogging would be even better."

Just imagine if this man's party was ever in government! Hold on a minute.....

Don't Blame Us!

Lord McColl of Dulwich, director of surgery at Guy's Hospital and a life-long Tory supporter believes it is unfair to criticise the government for Britain's economic ills. Maybe he's right - let's hear his argument.

"It seems to me," he says, "the world is in recession. There are riots by unemployed workers in Japan, so it seems across the board. It seems to have something to do with the fact that the Russian empire has collapsed, and the unified Germany taking on this huge debt and I'm not surprised the whole thing's in turmoil. If we were still on a war footing, industry turning out tanks and so on, we wouldn't be in this mess."

So there you have it. The Tories' new economic strategy?

The recent mass protests over the government's employment record can, together with the Tomlinson Report, mark the beginning of a concerted campaign by all public sector workers to defend the country's vital services

**By a Royal Marsden
Hospital Worker**

regular pay rises, pay review bodies, national bargaining and job security are now at an end, and that it is only with strong organisation on our part that we can protect our jobs and conditions, as well as our service as a whole.

The recent mass protests over the government's employment record can, together with the Tomlinson report, mark the beginning of a concerted campaign by all public sector workers to defend the country's vital services.

THE TORY government is hanging by a thread. Battered by events, it has been thrown from one crisis to another, creating unprecedented splits and divisions throughout its ranks.

By
Rob Sewell

It was only rescued from humiliating defeat over Maastricht by the spineless Paddy Ashdown and his Liberal Democrats, who dressed up their capitulation before Major as "principles." When the chips are down, these "radical" ladies and gentlemen rush to prop up the crisis-ridden Tory government.

After attempting to ride out the furore over the proposed pit closures and 30,000 redundancies, Major is now plunged into a further government crisis over Iraqgate - their cover-up of arms sales to Saddam Hussein.

Tory Hypocrisy

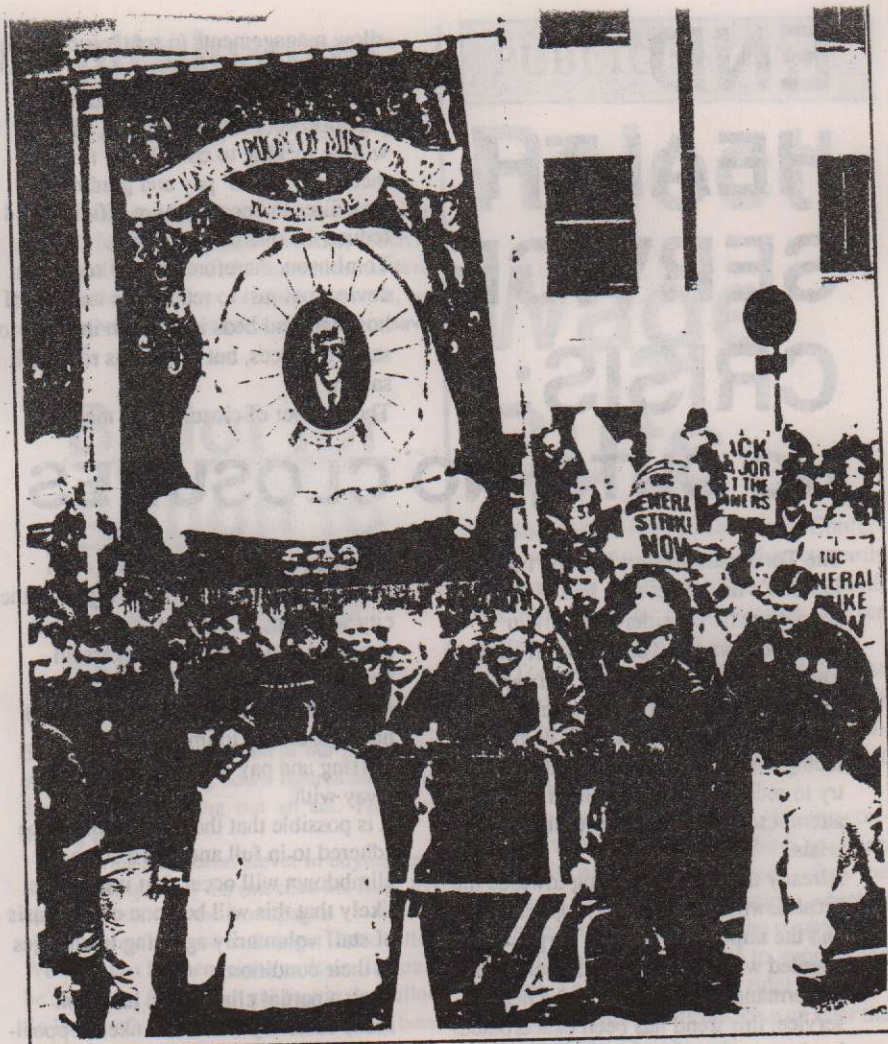
To the Tories dismay, evidence is emerging almost daily about government ministers scheming with companies like Matrix Churchill to sell military equipment to Iraq - then lying about it. These undercover deals were dictated by the western powers' policy to build up Saddam against the Iranians. This hypocrisy and secret diplomacy is governed not by the interests of the peoples of the region, but the class interests of the Tories and their counterparts abroad.

The whole situation appears wracked by crisis. The monarchy is in utter turmoil, and subject to daily exposure in the gutter press. The Church of England, the Tory party at prayer, faces an open split with its decision to ordain women priests - and the Tory party is in dire straits. This turmoil reflects a sea change that is taking place in Britain. It is preparing a big shift to the left.

Coming on top of repeated U-turns in policy, these government scandals have severely undermined the Major government. The April general election seems light years away. There has been a colossal change in the political situation.

A recent *Harris* poll gave Labour a 19-point lead over the Tories, with 51% of the popular vote. If an election was held today, Labour would triumph with a bigger landslide than 1945.

The problems of British capitalism, which were largely disguised by the boom, North



Tories on the Rocks Now Drive Them Out!

Sea Oil, and revenues from privatisation, have returned with a vengeance. Despite the government's desperate conversion to "go for growth," there is no end in sight for the longest recession since the Second World War.

Recession in the service industries - which is responsible for almost 60% of output - is now both the longest and deepest since the war. Manufacturing investment is nearly 20% down on its 1990 peak. This has resulted in an avalanche of redundancies in all sectors of the economy, with 1,000 workers losing their job every day. Since Major came to power unemployment has risen by an extra one million.

British Rail has now announced 5,000 job losses and warned of more to follow next year. The Tories are intent on butchering the industry before they sell it off. In preparation for privatisation, savage cuts in the government's funding of BR will lead to massive cuts in services and more fare rises on top of the fares increase of 9.5% from January. This will force more people onto the congested roads.

The government is also set to scrap all BR freight operations following privatisation - forcing more than 150 million tonnes of freight onto the roads. This will lead to passenger fares rising even more steeply because there will be no freight trains to

help meet track charges and 16,000 rail freight staff being thrown out of work.

Minutes of the Department of Transport quote a senior official saying that if "it was not possible to carry goods by rail profitably they would not be carried at all, i.e. they would go by road."

This shows clearly the insanity of the capitalist "market" and the Tory government. Everything must be based on private profit. When nearly all the railways abroad are subsidised to provide a public service, the Tories are hell bent on destroying Britain's public service in search of big profits for the private transport companies.

Anarchy of Market

For these spivs and speculators only the main "profitable" routes will be maintained and the rest will be shut down. The roads, which are already heavily congested and polluted will become impossible (although the Tories are now discussing reintroducing private toll roads!)

If ever there was a damning case for a socialist planned and co-ordinated public transport system, it is now. The anarchy of the "market" and the drive for greater profits is a disaster. A planned transport system, not run by bureaucratic boards, but under democratic workers' control and management, is the only solution.

The attack on the rail workers is part of a general attack on the working class. The Tories are demanding that the workers pay for the crisis. They are offering the public sector workers a measly 1.5% pay rise - a real wage cut. This will mean, for example, an extra £1.80 a week for a hospital domestic and £2.38 for a staff nurse.

Dividends Up

On the other hand, the dividends paid out to shareholders in the first half of this year amounted to £13 billion - 33% more than in the same period last year. Company directors have been awarding themselves slightly more than £1.80 a week. Henry Wendt of Smith Kline Beecham got £1,813,000; Tiny Rowlands of Lonrho, £1,600,000; Lord Hanson of Hanson's, £1,380,000; Sir David Scholey of SG Warburg, £1,198,000; Lord King of British Airways (who is attempting to sack 30% of his staff) a measly £699,350.

At the same time, under pressure from their big business friends, the Tories are introducing legislation to abolish wage councils covering 2.2 million of the lowest paid workers.

The TUC estimates that Lamont's Autumn Statement will mean that six million workers will face real wage cuts. The Tories reduction in public expenditure will mean

savage cuts in local authority jobs and services. Throughout private industry workers are being asked to shoulder the crisis by wage cuts and worsening working conditions.

Day of Recovery

These attacks add up to the biggest onslaught on workers' conditions since the 1930s.

This Tory government represents the government of big business. It is carrying through policies to drive down the living standards of the working class, and boost the profits of the major monopolies, banks and insurance companies.

The labour movement must make a stand: Enough is enough. No amount of cosy chats between the TUC and the Tory government will alter the class interests Major and co represent. It is time we drove the government out of office.

The TUC has called a *Day of Recovery* on December 9. But there will be no "recovery" as long as this government remains in power.

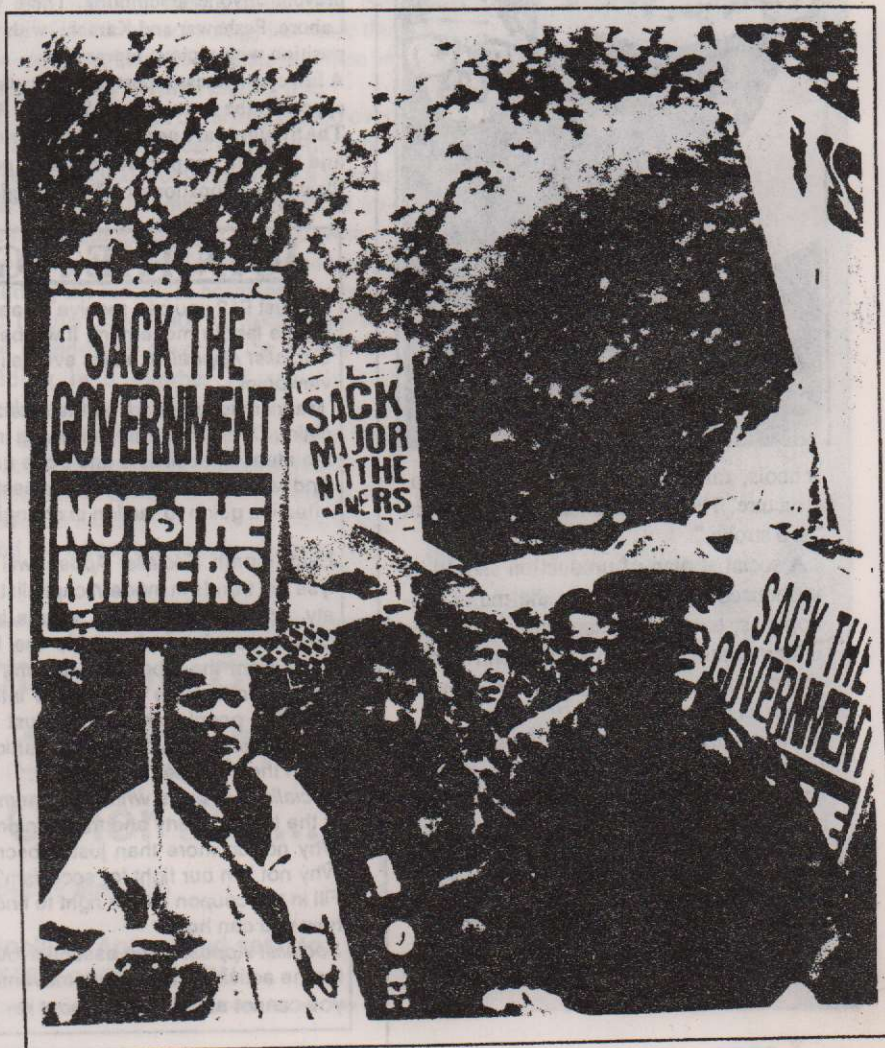
Derek Fullick, the general secretary of the train drivers' union ASLEF, in the face of the announcement of mass redundancies, has called on the TUC to organise a series of one-day general strikes to defeat the government.

The TUC should take up this call beginning with December 9, unifying all those who are fighting the Tory government: miners, rail workers, tube workers, public sector workers and others.

Such action, as part of a national campaign, could force the government to call a general election.

The Labour Party was formed by the trade unions to represent the working class in parliament. In 1918 it adopted a socialist programme into its constitution. Trade unionists should join the Labour Party to ensure these socialist policies become the programme of a Labour government.

A new Labour government must act in the interests of the working class in the same determined manner the Tories represent their class.



(Continued from previous page)

If the system cannot afford a decent wage, a guaranteed job and a roof over your head, then we cannot afford the system.

A labour government must not tinker around with the system and its "market" as was tried in the past, paving the way for a demoralisation of Labour supporters and a return to the Tories.

A crisis situation requires crisis measures. Only a bold socialist programme can answer the needs of the hour. A Labour government must return to the socialist basis of the movement as embodied in Clause Four of the Party's constitution.

Minimum Wage

They should introduce emergency legislation for a 35-hour week, a national minimum wage of £200 and a massive programme of public works to build hospitals,



schools, railways, roads and other infrastructure. This will abolish unemployment "at a stroke."

A socialist plan of production should be introduced by taking over the major monopolies, banks and insurance companies under democratic workers' control and management, with compensation only on the basis of proven need.

Such a programme would transform the lives of ordinary working people. A four hour day, and a four day week could rapidly be introduced given the technology that exists.

Instead of homelessness, poverty and unemployment, industry and science would be used for everyone's benefit, and not for the profits of a privileged few.

International

Brutal Clampdown by Pakistan Government

Two leading members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have been arrested and detained in Rawalpindi Jail, as part of the brutal clampdown on opposition protests by the Nawaz Sharif government.

Thousands of PPP activists have been rounded up. Demonstrators have been tear-gassed and attacked with lathis (long bamboo staves) and the capital, Islamabad, turned into a city under siege.

Shaida Jabeen (PPP Women's Wing General Secretary) and Rajida Meera (PPP Women's Wing, Lahore, General Secretary) were arrested on the mass demonstration in Rawalpindi on Wednesday 18th November. They are both supporters of the Marxist journal *The Struggle* (*The Voice of Socialism in the Pakistan People's Party and the labour movement*) and have played a key role in the anti-government protests. The government had banned the demonstration and rally.

Labour movement bodies should protest to Pakistan embassies, and call for their immediate release.

In a vain attempt to hold back the tide of protests, on the 18th, the government used heavily armed troops and police to break up gatherings. The Parliament Square was surrounded with barbed wire and troops with machine guns. The Liaquat Bagh, the park where a rally was due to be held was bulldozed and flooded by the police, and then the area surrounded to prevent anyone assembling. There were clashes between police and demonstrators in Lahore, Peshawar and Karachi, with many arrests, as the government tried to shore up its position with vicious repression.

A full eye-witness report of the events, and analysis of future developments in Pakistan will appear in the next issue of *Socialist Appeal*.

The Struggle are appealing for funds to help campaign for the release of its supporters and to build support for socialist policies.

Please send donations to: *The Struggle*, PO Box 8259, 1005 DG, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

For just £12 you can receive a year's supply of *Socialist Appeal*, the Marxist monthly for the labour movement. It will be delivered to your home every month post-free.

Socialist Appeal explains events in society and the labour movement from a Marxist viewpoint.

Marxism is not dead, as the establishment circles, both West and East would like to claim. On the contrary, it is living in the struggles of working people worldwide and in the ideas of socialists and trade unionists everywhere.

And Marxism still provides the best explanation of modern class society and the most effective guide to action in changing it.

Each month *Socialist Appeal* will analyse the trends in modern capitalist society, comment on recent events in the class struggle, and provide the latest news from the labour movement, from correspondents in Britain and internationally - people who are not just commentators but are personally participating in the struggle for socialism.

Socialist Appeal is written by members of the Labour Party and trade unionists. Why not do more than just subscribe? Why not join our fight for socialism? Fill in the coupon on the right to find out how you can help.

Socialist Appeal is the essential journal for the activist in the labour movement - you cannot afford to be without it.

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A Socialist Appeal to Workers

Help Us Build the Marxist Voice of the Labour Movement

£3,000 Press Fund Launched

SOCIALIST APPEAL supporters have launched an urgent £3,000 Press Fund campaign to help build the resources to enable us to produce the leaflets, pamphlets and publications demanded by recent events.

Editorial Board member Sue Norris explains why the campaign has been launched: "Just a few months ago the Tories were celebrating an election victory against all the odds. But as Socialist Appeal explained immediately following the election - the Tories' victory would be a hollow one.

"That election now seems light years away and the scenes on the two London miners' demonstrations, the battle of the tubeworkers, and the growing confidence within the ranks of the working class have all been matched by a growing search for a way forward in the trade unions, for a strategy to defeat the public sector pay ceilings and for explanations of the crisis affecting the Tories over Europe, the pit closure programme and "Iraqgate."

Since it was first published in April, Socialist Appeal has consistently taken up the issues affecting working class people in both Britain and internationally, explaining from a Marxist standpoint the way forward for the labour movement.

We have produced a number of special

issues taking up the key battles and questions facing workers.

It has been a necessary task - but not an easy one! Socialist Appeal has no rich backers or pot of gold we can dip into. We rely solely on the support, both political and financial, of ordinary workers - the workers who write, the workers who sell and the workers who make financial contributions.

Tremendous sacrifices were made by the pioneers of the labour movement to build the first working class publications. Although publishing technology has made the task easier the battle to fund the purchase of the technology is still a mighty one.

We have set a target of raising £3,000 over the Xmas and New Year period. This is not a figure plucked from the air but a serious assessment of the immediate needs of *Socialist Appeal* to continue the vital work of improving the monthly publication and of building the resources necessary to enable the regular production of special leaflets and broadsheets covering the battles unfolding in a number of sectors and workplaces.

We appeal to each and every reader to help us achieve our target by January 9th. Every £ and penny is vital in this campaign. No amount is too large or too small. Please help fund the labour movement's Marxist voice.

Our Achievements So Far

- April 1992 - First issue of Socialist Appeal produced - General Election special.
- April 1992 - *Scotland: Socialism or Nationalism?* pamphlet published
- Summer 1992 - Special leaflets and broadsheets produced for trade union conferences
- August 1992 - *What is Marxism?* pamphlet published
- October 1992 - Four-page special newspaper produced to support the struggle of the miners and the fight for jobs
- October 1992 - Special anti-racism supplement produced
- October 1992 - Two successful Marxist Schools run in Newcastle and London
- November 1992 - Special broadsheet for Nalگو day of action and miners demonstrations
- December 1992 - Special eight-page supplement produced. £3,000 Press Fund Appeal launched

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Socialist Appeal, PO Box 2626, London N1 6DU.

SOCIALIST

APPEAL

The Marxist voice of the labour movement

London Underground

All Out for Victory! Scrap the Company Plan!

The threat of a strike by London Underground workers is a direct response to the bosses' provocation and intimidation in trying to impose unacceptable conditions on our members.

The London Underground (LUL) management have been preparing these attacks on our conditions ever since they were forced to withdraw their previous reorganisation proposals in 1989. At that time 17 unofficial, and then official strikes made them back down, which was a big victory for the unions.

By a London Underground worker

However, over the last three years they have brought in American consultants (really, professional union-busters) to advise LUL management on how to tackle the situation. They came up with the so-called "Company Plan."

This Plan proposes a complete change in working practices on the London Underground, undermining all the gains and conditions of the past. It would enormously increase the power of management. The Plan proposals include the loss of 5,000 jobs, the eight-hour day to be replaced by a flexible hours system and the scrapping of two weeks annual leave (bank rest days.)

It also proposes:

- A half hour unpaid meal break
- Introduction of salaried status based on an 11 day fortnight
- Sundays to be considered part of the ordi-

nary working week, paid at a flat rate

- Redeployment of any workers, to any job and any location

- Suitability to replace seniority (leaving union activists open to victimisation.)

This Company Plan was due to be introduced on December 7, despite having been rejected by the unions. The management is determined to push it through this time. They have employed every threat in the book to intimidate the workers to accept the proposals. Their procedure has been to approach the workforce offering them the choice of new contracts for them to sign within five days or 12 weeks notice of dismissal.

Tube workers have overwhelmingly rejected these threats and we have told management what they can do with their Company Plan! In a consultation, 75% of ASLEF members rejected it. In TSSA, 88% rejected the Plan, with 78% prepared to take strike action. The RMT voted 75% for an all out strike.

It is essential that this unity is maintained, as in 1989, which paid off in a handsome victory. That experience shows the management threats can be defeated.

The best situation would be if all the unions struck together at the same time. It is vital we act as one. Management has thrown down the gauntlet - the fight is on. This struggle is about our very future, and we must act accordingly. The picket lines of our workmates must be recognised. If we stick together we will win. Unity is strength. Victory is ours.

TUBE WORKERS MUST WIN!

Even if management make some concessions they are not going to scrap their Company Plan. That is why we need to take action - and united action!

It is vital we are all balloted and take action at the same time and that if the situation arises where one union is forced to take action then the other unions must issue immediate instructions not to cross picket lines!

We must see no repeat of times in the past when one union or other has issued instructions to its members to cross picket

By a TSSA member, London

lines when management threatens legal action.

We must stand and fight together.

In the TSSA we should have balloted all our members and not just the operations staff. Our branch put forward a motion calling for all members to be balloted for strike action. All of us will be affected by the Company Plan sooner or later. There is already talk of us getting new contracts.

Management have been planning this assault since 1989 when we defeated their last attempts at so-called reorganisation. This time they are preparing to use every tactic to force through the changes. They have already threatened mass sackings and are considering trying to keep stations open and running trains, even if they have to run them for free.

Management are also asking for "volunteers" to come in and open up the stations in the event of any action.

But the people they are asking are not qualified to run Section 12 "risk" stations. They can open them but they can't run them!

Despite all their planning, with united action, we can once again force LUL management to abandon their Company Plan and ensure the future of our jobs and the Underground service.

- Respect all picket lines
- Scrap the Company Plan
- All Out for Victory