

Socialist Challenge

RALLY IN HYDE PARK

12 NOON SUNDAY 31 MAY

MARCH TO TRAFALGAR SQUARE

BRING YOUR BANNERS!

Jobs not bombs! 35-Hour week!

'Rock for Jobs' Festival

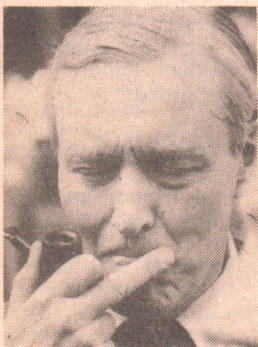
Brockwell Park
London SE24

Saturday 30 May
12 noon

INSIDE THIS WEEK

4-page 'Revolution' supplement on youth fighting back against the Tories

NEXT WEEK



Extended interview with Tony Benn on socialist strategy



Ernest Mandel on France after the left's election victory



KICK OUT THE TORIES

Just like the Jarrow Crusade in the 1930s, the People's March for Jobs has had a tremendous impact. Thousands of people have turned out to greet the march in major cities in the North and Midlands.

But there's a big difference between the People's March and the Jarrow Crusade. The thirties march was a march by workers who had already suffered heavy defeats — and they were ignored.

Today's marchers, despite 3 million unemployed, represent the anger of millions of workers who are not defeated.

The 200,000 workers who attended the Labour Party demonstrations against unemployment in Liverpool and Glasgow, the tens of thousands who've turned out to greet the People's March, and the occupations against redundancy at Laurence

Scott and Lee Jeans, show that we have the power to fight back and win.

But fighting to win means fighting to throw out this hated Tory government. TUC leader Len Murray (remember him?) begs the government to 'change course'. Labour leaders tell us we have to wait until the 1984 election. But the sweeping Labour gains in the county council elections show that the Tories have no mandate to continue to rule.

A real fight against unemployment means industrial action to throw the Tories out. It should start with massive trade union support for those plants in struggle against unemployment, and a call by the leaders of the movement for occupations to meet the threat of closure.

It means a fight by the whole trade union movement to impose a 35-hour week with no loss of pay — which would create hundreds of thousands of

jobs overnight.

And most of all it means continuing the fight to return a Labour government committed to socialist policies — a government committed to the nationalisation of the big monopolies, the banks and finance houses. Then we can reverse the priorities of this insane society and put resources where they're needed — into schools, hospitals, houses and jobs, not nuclear missiles.

That's why Socialist Challenge says the fight for democracy and socialist policies in the Labour Party is the *same* fight as that to throw out the government. We want no more Tory policies, whoever is in power.

The People's March is an important beginning; let's make sure that the militancy and enthusiasm of the march gets turned into action to throw the Tories out!

Photo: GM COOKSON

Photo: GM COOKSON

Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

Editorial

PO Box 50, London N1 2XP
Phone 01-359-8189/8180 (editorial and distribution)

Fighting for jobs after the March

Workers in Britain today are being deprived of one of the most fundamental human rights — the right to work.

But unemployment doesn't just affect those without jobs. For those in work it is a weapon used by the bosses to hold down wages, attack trade union rights and working conditions.

Some people in the movement say that the unions are severely weakened, that it is time to get back to basics and rebuild the shop stewards movement.

Others say that the defeats of the old Broad Lefts mean we must rebuild the alliances with the same TUC leaders who policed the last Labour government's social contract, with Liberals, the church and concerned sections of the CBI.

But just how strong are the Tories?

The government backed off from the threat of a miners strike because they feared that such a confrontation would involve the rest of the working class. The 'Iron Lady' has been unable to deal with the ten-week old pay campaign by her own government's half million employees.

The rank and file know what the solution should be. The 200,000 who turned up for the two Labour Party demonstrations against unemployment in Glasgow and Liverpool and the thousands who greeted the Peoples March for Jobs had just one slogan on their lips 'Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, Out, Out, Out!'

Kicking out the Tories means putting a Labour government in its place. Tens of thousands of militants are therefore involved in the fight to make sure there are no repeats of last time. That is why they defend the Wembley decisions and support Benn's campaign for deputy leadership.

They are right to seek national solutions to their problems at the level of government policy. The problem of unemployment can't be solved on a plant by plant basis. How many jobs would the miners have saved if they had dealt with the problem pit by pit? Probably as many as British Leyland have saved so far through dealing with Edwardes plant by plant. In other words NONE.

We reject the approach of all those in the labour movement who want to get the CBI to join in approaches to the government, and who, in order to win such support, have put forward proposals for import controls and incomes policy.

We say that the answer lies in building a national campaign which the next Labour government would be committed to implement — for the 35 hour week with no loss of pay. And by mobilising the massive strength of the 13 million trade unionists in Britain to kick out the Tories. One of the best ways of building support for this will be by continuing to do everything possible to make sure the Lee Jeans and Laurence Scott occupations win and by rushing messages of support to Rover Solihull to help build the fight there against the latest Edwardes job cuts.

Socialist Challenge

If you would like to be put in touch with Socialist Challenge supporters in your area or would like more information fill in the form below

Name.....

Address.....

Age.....

Union/CLP (if any).....

Send to: Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

THE FIGHTBACK

...AT BL Another week of resistance

BL intends to axe 6,000 jobs immediately and up to 10,000 more in the next 18 months. The latest 'survival' plan, masterminded by Michael Edwardes, will result in the closure of the Wellingborough foundry, the Cardiff parts division and the SD1 plant at Solihull.

It is the SD1 Rovers that is key to the fightback throughout BL. A mass meeting there has already decided to 'resist the closure by all means necessary'. The militants in the factory know they have a difficult job to do, after the defeats the shop floor workers have suffered at the hands of BL and Edwardes. Pat Hickey, deputy convenor at SD1 Rovers, Solihull, continues with his diary of resistance to the closures.

SUNDAY 17 May. We meet the Leyland Action Committee and supporters from Cowley and Longbridge.

The Cowley comrades have already raised opposition at their shop stewards committee to moving the SD1. The shop stewards have told management that they won't take the car if we resist. We'll make this the headline for the next bulletin.

At Longbridge and Cowley there is a widespread mood of resistance to Edwardes.

We discuss the combine committee meeting to be held on 6 June and arrange a public meeting in Oxford for 9 June. We agree a leaflet for Cowley and Longbridge, and a leaflet to be distributed on the People's March.

Monday. The Rover delegation to the People's March meets about 9.30am. We have nearly 100 people. The demo is well attended starting off with about 4,000 and growing as we reach the city centre.

The Rover delegation is in good spirits. Chants of 'Save Jobs, Sack Edwardes' and 'Jobs in, Edwardes out' are taken up. The delegation takes hundreds of leaflets to hand out to demonstrators and passers by. Ten thousand in all are distributed.

Regional secretary Brian Mathers leads the open-air church service. An Ansell's striker says he should pray for some back bone.

At the rally in Bingley Hall, Mathers is drowned out by angry Ansell's workers. Clive Wilkinson, leader of the city council, gets similar treatment for the council's redundancy programme.

Roy Hattersley gets a hostile reception over Ireland. An Ansell's striker is loudly cheered.



Pat Hickey

Our delegation is well pleased with the day's efforts and determined to go to London on the 31 May for the jobs demo.



Photos by GM Cookson and Pete Grant

As the People's March travelled from Liverpool to London it received trem

Tuesday. Committee meeting. The general assessment of the first week is 'So far so good', but there's a long way to go. The mood on the shop floor is beginning to shift and the shop stewards committee is functioning more effectively than for a long time.

We decide to go for a demonstration in Solihull on 4 June after the spring holiday. We would stop the plant at 11am and march through the town centre. Mick Clarke, the convenor, and I leave for New Street to meet the county council delegation for Westminster.

Travel first class reserve seats, lunch in the restaurant — all on the county council. We are

given a briefing on the economic situation of the West Midlands. Over 300,000 jobs lost since 1966 — some 50,000 in the last year. The decline in vehicle manufacturing is the major reason.

Dole

The metropolitan county unemployment rate is higher than any other county with the exception of Merseyside: Coventry 12.9 per cent, Wolverhampton 12.8 per cent, Birmingham 12 per cent in January 1981.

At Westminster we meet the West Midlands Labour MPs, Phil Haggis of the West Midlands TUC, two reps from the West Midlands chambers of commerce, and Gilroy-Bevan, Tory MP for Yardley, who condemns the Edwardes' plan and appears a little bemused.

The county council wants assisted area status for the West Midlands. Solihull is a special case. BL is a special case.

Import controls are mentioned.

We bring it back to the Edwardes' plan — there is no chance for BL if the present course is maintained. We want the meeting to attack the plan. It won't change the Tories but it will strengthen our members.

Closure

It's finally agreed to set up a committee to oppose the closure of Solihull and lobby Keith Joseph about the Edwardes' plan. A similar committee is to be set up in the West Midlands. A statement is issued condemning the closure and supporting resistance to it. The attack on Edwardes is considerably toned down.

Wednesday. Committee again. Agreed to press ahead with publicity for

the demo. Some 10,000 leaflets, 500 car stickers and placards. We will leaflet the Chelmsley Wood estate and other parts of Solihull outlining the effects of the closure on the area.

We will ask the public sector unions to send delegates. The local teachers' union has been told that 100 teachers jobs will go if Solihull closes. We contact other BL plants to send delegations. The shop stewards committee endorses these proposals. This meeting is also attended by reps from ASTMS and APEX.

In the afternoon there is an extended plant conference, which is the final stage of domestic procedure. Failure to agree is recorded.

Officials

We now go for the optional national stage. This is to involve the national officials, particularly Gren Hawley, national secretary of the TGWU automotive group, who is conspicuous by his absence.

I write the second bulletin, leading with the Cowley shop stewards decision. In the evening there is an automotive group district committee. Reports are a catalogue of closures and redundancies.

We pass resolutions supporting Tony Benn and condemning the regional officials' handling of the Ansell's strike, particularly the use of ballots by the regional secretary over the heads of strike leaders.

I submit a resolution condemning the Edwardes' plan and supporting Solihull resistance. It calls for a clear lead from the union leadership and we send a resolution to the general executive committee and the regional committee of the transport union.

Message of support from Laurence Scott to Rovers

'We would like to offer our moral support to you in your fight to keep your factory open. We are in the fourth week of our sit-in strike in protest against our factory closure and the movement of our order book to our Norwich factory.'

'We've been told that our action is a repudiation of our contract and that we are no longer employees and will lose all our rights to redundancy payments.'

'In spite of this threat all the unions on the site — AUEW, EETPU, TGWU, Boiler-makers, APEX, TASS and ASTMS — have voted to continue the sit-in.'

'We (like you) do not want redundancy payments — we want jobs. Redundancy is a form of industrial nerve gas. Any help we can offer you (although only £650 strong) we offer willingly.'

*Yours fraternally,
Bob Penchion, Convenor.*

DOCKERS UNDER WAY



...AT LEE JEANS Boycott Lee Jeans

By Anne Kane

FROM this week dockers at Britain's ports are refusing to handle Lee Jeans products. The occupation of mainly women workers is now in its fourth month as the struggle continues to prevent the Greenock plant closing.

As a multinational Lee's could afford to ignore the occupation by keeping up production and distribution in their factories in Europe.

Lee's have four factories in Ireland one in the south and three in the north. The ports are vital to ensure replacement for the Greenock products.

The firm are keen to maintain their share of the British market and have recently launched a £1m advertising campaign.

Workers at the factory feel that only now will the VF corporation really begin to feel the affects of the occupation.

As Caroline McDaid said, 'They might throw us out, but it's time we did something that will hurt them.'

Despite the militancy and optimism of the

workers, their union, National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers continues to act disgracefully.

It still hasn't given any support to the call for the boycott.

The occupation needs the support of a concerted union campaign to boycott Lee's products in the shops.

This will counter the affect of the Lee's advertising campaign and complement the action taken by the dockers.

No further progress has been made in negotiations with the company.

A delegation from Lee Jeans will be leading the People's March in London.

Messages of support and donations can be sent to the Treasurer, Lee Jeans workers' committee, 20 Broughan St, Greenock.

andous support everywhere

Appeal to 31 May demonstration from Laurence Scott workers

WE'LL be with the People's March because we endorse the fight for the right to work. We're currently in a five week occupation for precisely that, to save jobs and keep 650 workers off the scrap heap. We appeal to all those on the march to support our fight against closure by donating generously to our collectors on 31 May or by sending money to our appeal fund.

Bob Penchion, Convenor
Messages of support and donations to: G Fryer, Laurence Scott Workers' Appeal, 20 Roundcroft, Romiley, Cheshire.

...AT LSE

Laurence Scott Engineering Occupy for jobs

ARTHUR Snipe, managing director of Laurence Scott Electromotors, last week made first contact with his Manchester workforce. All 650 have been occupying their factory for five weeks to prevent its closure.

They've never seen or spoken to him since his Doncaster based company Mining Supply took over Laurence Scott last October.

Snipe's letter to the 'ex Manchester work force' says: 'Well you've got yourself into a right mess, you and your mates are sitting in at the Manchester factory which has put you in a position where you get no pay from anywhere.'

This financier of the Tory party, who sacked the workers three weeks earlier went on: 'there has been a lot of political twaddle written and talked about Laurence Scott.'

There were 'no winners at this game'.

The workers reacted with fury. Any doubts they had over taking the action were now removed.

'He's not even got the finesse of Michael Edwardes. Snipe may consider this to be a game, we don't. It's our future,' declared convenor Bob Penchion.

'He's treating the Laurence Scott group like a circus, his directors are the clowns and we're the animals. Well his animals at Manchester are turning on him. We've had enough.'

Not a traditionally

militant workforce, they feel they have no other resource but to fight.

As Senior Steward, Tom Clare, explains: 'We want to keep 650 people off the scrap heap. Right from the start we've said we want jobs, not money. Redundancy is just a form of industrial nerve gas.'

Laurence Scott workers have been influenced in their action by the successful Gardners occupation last November.

'Each dirty trick that Snipe pulls,' Tom Clarke says, 'we'll meet and deal with. So should he resort to legal action, we'll expect the TUC to back us.'

'If this man thinks he's going to get us out by force, then he'll have another Roberts Arundell on his hands.'

THERE'S more unity on the march now because of the response along the route. As the receptions get better so does the feeling of strength. The Black Country and Birmingham's been the best so far. You could get the building workers off the dole today by building council houses and increasing direct works but the Tories won't have it. The 35 hour week would help too; the building industry's been crying out for it for years. I'd like to see a Labour government but not one like the last lot. We need one that carries out socialist policies. I support the things Benn says but can he carry it out?



JOHN FAIRCLOUGH, an unemployed joiner and Furniture, Timber and Allied Trade member, worked at Schreibers in Manchester from the time he left school at 16 until he was made redundant in 1972. He is sponsored on the march by FTAT.

Thursday. Committee again. Write leaflets for the demo, agree slogans and see the police. Land Rover and Range Rover shop stewards are in and out of the union office taking bundles to distribute. The response to the demo on the shop floor is favourable.

Socialist Challenge sells well. One shop steward takes five copies to sell in the pub. He wants to attend the Socialist Challenge industrial workers' conference. I'm told my picture in the paper makes me look like an escaped convict.

Friday. Last day before the spring holiday. Management has started creating difficulties about releasing members of the ad hoc committee from their jobs. We carry on anyway.

At midday we meet Clive Wilkinson, leader of the city council. He does not want to attack the Edwardes' plan too vigorously; he thinks reason and logic should prevail. At dinner time the 5/909 branch committee agrees to give money to the campaign fund and submit an emergency resolution to the trades council.

sales round Rover pubs go well. We get a message of support from the Laurence Scott occupation. We'll put this in the next bulletin. In the evening to London for the Socialist Challenge rally.

Saturday. Back to Birmingham for a meeting of the affected plants. The turnout is a bit disappointing but the discussion is useful.

Neither the engineering union nor the TGWU nationally are giving any kind of lead. We need to overcome the isolation of the separate plants.

June will be a busy month, with meetings of the transport union's finance and general purposes committee, the automotive group national committee, automotive group national policy conference and the biennial delegate conference.

We will need to send lobbies to all of these.

We raise the possibility of a central Birmingham demonstration later in June, to involve the rest of the Birmingham labour movement.

Next week will provide a breathing space to organise the demo and do some leafletting. Holidays at last — you can tell by the rain.



Support

Roberts Arundell was a small anti-union employer in the area who was subjected to mass pickets of thousands of engineers until he gave way.

Laurence Scott workers are organising tours to win solidarity with their cause. Already Yorkshire and Lancashire miners union have promised support which is especially important because it is the mining industry which uses the LSE products.

They will be touring the London and Birmingham areas in the first week of June. For arranging a speaker or sending a donation contact the LSE Joint Stewards c/o G Fryer, 20 Roundcroft, Romiley, Cheshire. 061-223 3815. Unions involved: AUEW, AUEW/TASS, ASTMS, TGWU, APEX, Boilermakers and EETPU.

Halewood workers smash Ford disciplinary code

By Mick Drake, Ford Dagenham

TWO weeks of determined strike action by 10,000 Ford workers at Halewood has smashed the company's new disciplinary code.

Ford had threatened to shut down the whole of its British operation if the strike wasn't called off.

'It's a tremendous victory,' said Halewood assembly plant steward Jimmy Atkinson.

'But we're not quite jumping in the air. They've dropped the code, but we want time to see how the agreement works out.'

At a special national meeting last Thursday the company dropped the system introduced last November which meant that entire plants were suspended for two shifts without pay if any stoppage of work occurred.

In return the unions promised to talk to stewards and the shop-floor about following agreed dispute procedures, but this is largely a figleaf to cover the company's climbdown.

Threat

In reality the determination of the Halewood strikers and the straight threat from Ron Todd, on behalf of the Ford unions to escalate the strike if the code wasn't dropped, changed the company's mind.

However, it hasn't all been plain sailing. Senior stewards at Dagenham allowed parts of their plants to be laid off while others worked, instead of operating a one-out, all-out policy.

And at one time on Thursday, according to the report back given to Halewood stewards, Dagenham body plant convenor and Communist Party member Danny Connor, urged acceptance of an initial company offer

of a three month suspension of the disciplinary code.

Fortunately the Swansea plant convenor gave support to Halewood demanding an all-out strike if the code was not scrapped entirely.

Halewood shows that the bosses' offensive to

discipline the shop floor into accepting speed-up and massive redundancies can be defeated by a militant workforce united behind clear demands.

Halewood workers have struck a blow not just against Ford, but against a central part of the Tory government's strategy to get a docile workforce throughout British industry.

Stop press: Halewood workers now face a new

threat to their jobs. Ford will start building Escorts at the rate of up to 250 a day at its Valencia plant in Spain from next August.

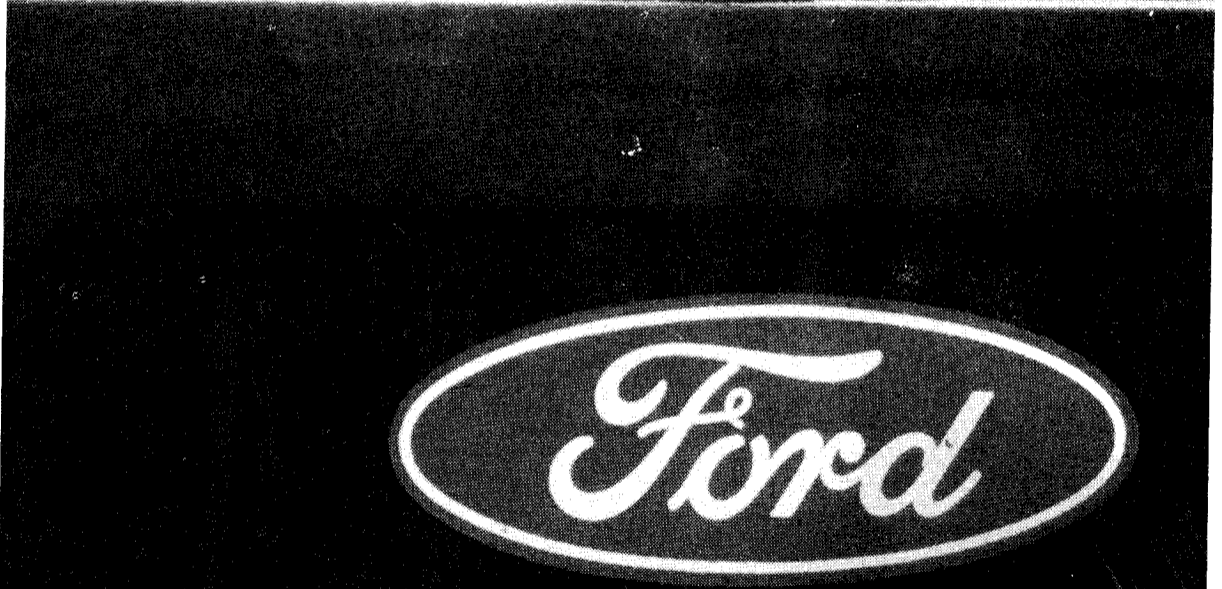
This decision which the British unions have not been informed about was, according to John Chowcat, divisional officer of the white collar union ASTMS, 'made long before the current dispute at Halewood.'

'It must add to doubts that Ford is giving Halewood and its workforce a

fair chance of survival.'

Cheap labour is no doubt at the heart of Ford's decision. Ford has already stated that it intends to make Escorts for the European market in Brazil from 1983.

That proposal came at the same time as the arrests of leaders of the metal workers union in Brazil, with the resultant break up of the unions. Recent events in Spain may be an important factor in Ford's thinking.



Ford's top three: Donald Petersen, Philip and Will Caldwell. It's in Detroit that the future of Ford workers in Britain is decided

The fight for socialist policies in industry 27-8 June, London

THE miners have been the only group in the country so far to stop Thatcher dead in her tracks.

The engineering and transport unions will be decisive in getting Benn as deputy leader of the Labour Party.

In this conference organised by Socialist Challenge and the youth paper Revolution, supporters will discuss how to fight for socialist policies in industry.

The main session on Saturday morning will be on 'Fighting for socialist policies in industry'. It will be introduced by a leading industrial supporter of Socialist Challenge and will attempt to map out the opportunities which exist for winning the battle for socialist ideas.

Speakers from the shop floor will draw on the experience of the fight against the Tories on all fronts. In the afternoon there will be a panel of leading militants in the various industries which will attempt to draw the lessons of the fight against redundancies.

We hope to have militants from BL, steel, mines, British Telecoms, Lee Jeans and the People's March among others.

The Sunday morning session will take up the theme 'building a party of worker revolutionaries'. It will discuss the

type of party that needs to be built and why it should be rooted in the industrial working class. Conference will then break into workshops to discuss the different aspects of this. Workshops will include:

- The role of the industrial working class in the socialist revolution. Building a proletarian women's movement and the fight for positive action.

- Constructing a class struggle left wing in the labour movement; the experience of the Minority Movement.

- Building a class struggle left wing: Trotskyists and the Teamsters union in the USA in the '30s.

- The role of black workers.

To end the conference Socialist Challenge supporters in the various industries will meet to discuss the next practical steps to be taken in building a party and the class struggle left wing in the labour movement.

Entry by ticket only from PO Box 50, London N1 2XP

Saturday evening rally celebrates the 1st anniversary of Revolution Youth with international youth speakers.



Women and black workers are usually in the most unskilled jobs. The conference will discuss how to take up the fight for positive action

Socialist Challenge

Keep the paper alive

By Pat Hickey, deputy convenor SD1 Rovers
IF you are one of the 100,000 people expected to join the march for jobs, and you've just bought Socialist Challenge for the first time, you'll notice a difference from the Mirror, Sun or Star.

Last Monday the Mirror led on a front page attack on Tony Benn, part of its five-year smear campaign.

Five weeks ago the Sun's coverage of the Deptford fire enquiry was so racist that the families of the thirteen black people lodged a complaint with the Press Council.

The Star has discovered unemployment. Not because Victor Matthews who owns both the Star and the right-wing Daily Express, loses sleep

about working people. But people are so angry about this Tory government he's found he can make more profit running a campaign against it.

Socialist Challenge doesn't make profits and it doesn't have millionaires backing it. But it does tell you what is going on at Rovers.

Not one of these Fleet Street papers has defended our fight at Rovers or taken a stand against the Edwardes' plan which is driving thousands of car

workers onto the dole. Socialist Challenge helped us get rid of BL's last boss, Richard Dobson and it's helping us now against Edwardes and the Tories.

It's a socialist newspaper that tells the truth about Reagan's and Thatcher's war preparations, Benn's campaign for deputy, what's going on in Ireland and the truth about our fight for jobs. Truth costs money.

Socialist Challenge relies on the contributions we can make. Every week it needs £500 from us. Buy the paper, read it, take a few copies into work to sell. Take out a subscription and help us keep the paper alive with your cash.

Our thanks this week to:

Hemel supporters	£30
Tower Hamlets supporters	350
Brent supporters	200
Standing orders	65
Martin Avery	5
Mandel/Livingstone rally	1004.76

**Total £1654.76
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'BELFAST, BRIXTON, COVENTRY'

By Anne Rogers

A 10,000-strong march was led in Coventry last Saturday by hundreds of Asian women chanting 'black and white, unite and fight, no more racist attacks'. Among the most vocal was the youth contingent organised by the Committee for Anti-racist Defence Squads who chanted slogans such as 'Belfast, Brixton, Coventry'.

The demonstration was organised by the Coventry Campaign Against Racism to protest the racist murder of Satnam Singh Gill.

As the march reached the city centre we were met by Robert Relf and Mick Cole, well known fascists, who mouthed off racist abuse and greeted the march with a fascist salute.

Further on abuse was hurled by gangs of racists chanting 'Sieg heil — wogs out'.

As we reached the rally point tempers flared when bricks were thrown into the CARDS' contingent and about 200 white racist youth saluted the march and threw fascist leaflets.

The police waded into the march, black youth responded and 74 arrests took place.

Most of the charges are pathetic — 'threatening words, that is 'Belfast, Brixton, Coventry', and 'threatening behaviour' — a V-sign to the police.

It is clear that the police and the fascists picked the CARDS' contingent out because they have been organising the defence of the community against racist attacks.

Police horses repeatedly charged into black youth and were beaten back. It was only when the police cleared the fascists

away that tempers cooled.

In the week before the march, Communist Party and Labour Party headquarters were attacked by white 'defence' squads and both the Indian club and the Haree Kreesna temple were fire bombed.

The Labour council denied the use of the Precinct to the marchers ostensibly because it could not fit so many people. However on Wednesday 8000 supporting the People's March did hold a rally there with police permission.

Chief Superintendent Dennis Cubbay, acting head of Coventry police, said: 'in view of the large number of people involved in the protest and the lack of control we shall have to consider very carefully whether to allow another march of this kind.'

It is nonsense to believe that racial harmony will be built in Coventry while the police, the council and the white community in general allow gangs of racist thugs to roam the city terrorising black people.

Black youth have shown that they will not submit any longer to racism or passively accept racist attacks. The labour movement must follow their example and join in a campaign to stamp out racism.



Photo: Flossie Flasher

Maurice Ludmer Memorial Fund

WE WERE deeply shocked and distressed to learn of the tragic death of Maurice Ludmer, a member of the Anti Nazi League steering committee.

Maurice devoted his whole life to the struggle against fascism. As the founder and editor of Searchlight, the monthly magazine, he made a unique contribution to the fight against Britain's Nazis. His painstaking research and detailed knowledge of fascist organisations earned him an international reputation as the leading authority on the extreme right.

Maurice had already suffered from serious illness and eventually he died from a heart attack. His condition was undoubtedly worsened by callous threats on his life from Column 88 and other fascists. Despite this he battled on bravely, tirelessly and with great modesty. His death is a terrible blow. Maurice was widely respected and will be greatly missed.

For those of us who are deeply disturbed by the recent growth of Nazi-inspired violence, there can be no more fitting tribute than to ensure the survival of Searchlight. We appeal to your readers to support the Maurice Ludmer Memorial Fund. Please make cheques payable to Searchlight, and forward them to: Anti Nazi League PO Box 51, London SW10.

Paul Holborow, Peter Hain, Ernie Roberts MP, Bill Dunn, Miriam Karlin



Maurice Ludmer founded Searchlight

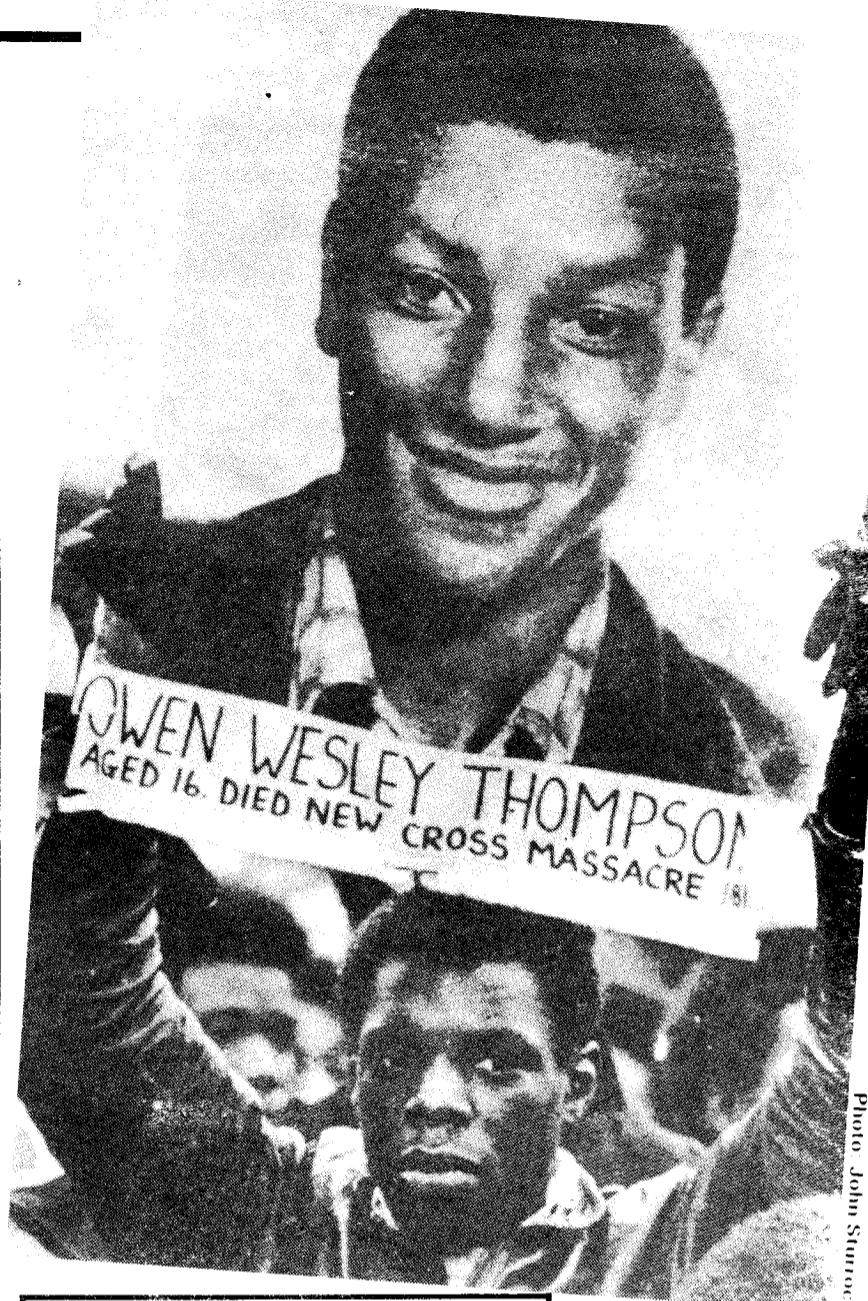


Photo: John Sturrock

Lowdown

Deptford coroner: a suitable case for an inquiry

THE coroner's inquest into the deaths of the Deptford fire victims lived up to the best traditions of British justice. The coroners at the inquests into the deaths of Jimmy Kelly, Blair Peach, 'Cartoon' Campbell and Liddle Towers can feel real proud of Deptford coroner Dr Davies.

Mr Justice Comyn, the High Court judge did say Dr Davies was guilty of a 'very serious irregularity' in not taking notes of evidence. But he didn't let a little thing like that make him order a new inquest.

Perhaps he realised that Dr Davies got all those statements from the police which meant he didn't need to bother his head with what anybody else had to say.

The evidence was straightforward enough. Four black people left the party just before the fire. They saw a young, slim, tallish man with short curly hair making a throwing motion towards the window of the house. They heard glass break before the man sped off in a white Austin Princess, with a black vinyl roof complete with roof rack.

The police say this man is Peter Daniels who warned the Deptford police station about the fire. Mr Daniels is in his forties. He is stocky, shortish and has straight brown hair. He drives a metallic gold Austin Princess that has a brown stripe on the roof with no roof rack.

Eye witness

Commander Stockwell told the court he had not reconstructed the scene with eye witnesses to see if they could identify Mr Daniels. Why should he? Commander Stockwell is a very experienced police officer who knows best, after all the witnesses only saw it with their own eyes!

Other witnesses made unfair challenges to the police theory that the

'fire was caused by an inside agency'. A police forensic scientist, Peter Pugh said there was no evidence of a hole in the window thus rebutting the evidence of Andy Hastings. He claimed that he rushed back into the room when the fire started and saw a hole the size of a football in the middle of the window.

Mr Pugh was so sure of his theory that he had seen no point in collecting glass to try and piece the window together — after all such a job is a bit hard on the back.

Incendiary

After the fire an 'incendiary device' was found in the garden. Mr Higgs, from the Royal Arsenal Explosive Laboratory, described it 'as the most common form of incendiary device'.

He also did tests which proved the inflammable liquid found in the front room could not have been ignited by the gas fire.

The coroner suggested that the tube was a 'red herring'; Mr Pugh thought it 'an awful coincidence'; and Major Henderson from Scotland Yard said it was an 'amateurish attempt at a firework'. So that dealt with the eye witnesses and the outside scientist.

The police have always insisted that there had been a fight at the party. After all they had statements from five black youths to prove this. Now the fact that all five were on bail at the time of the party and had broken their curfew by being there did not influence them at all.

Just because the police told 15-year-old Errol Williams he would 'not go home' unless he said he was in the front room or one witness was told by a kindly detective he would 'break his neck' and some of the youth were kept in custody for five days should not make us challenge police evidence.

After all it did not make Dr Davies challenge them, so why should we lesser citizens?



By Gerry Foley, Dublin, Monday

FOLLOWING the deaths of the third and fourth hunger strikers on 20 and 21 May, the H Block movement has reached a critical stage.

On Friday, Bernadette McAliskey spoke to a packed hall in Dublin's Mansion House, along with other leaders of the movement.

As she appeared on the platform the crowd cheered and rose to its feet. Although she was one of the last to speak, she was received with the most marvellous enthusiasm.

Bernadette, however, did not give an emotional or arousing speech. She spoke quietly and soberly, analysing where the H Block movement stands, and what it has now to do. It was an important speech.

'After the deaths of four prisoners,' she said, 'We have to ask ourselves, did we do it wrong? Was our strategy wrong? Were our tactics wrong?'

'After so many deaths, if feelings are high in Dublin, you can imagine what they are like in the north. It is understandable that some people will say, what we did, didn't work. We should do something else.'

'But first we have to ask ourselves: Was what we were doing wrong? I don't think it was. We tried to save the lives of the prisoners by building a single issue campaign.'

She asked the crowd: 'Was this the wrong thing to do?' She was answered with shouts of No.

Bias

Then she said, 'We have to ask ourselves why we failed to save the lives of the hunger strikers.' She described the bias of the Dublin media which opposed the struggle of the oppressed Catholic population under the pretext of a need to be 'fair' to the Protestants.

'You get daily doses of Harold McClusker (a Loyalist MP) and you'd think there's be nobody being killed in the north but in his constituency, and that Loyalists never killed anybody.'

Bernadette continued: 'Our problem is that we had to build a mass movement and give it political muscle and a cutting edge in the time it took men to die. Mrs Thatcher claims that the Provisionals ordered the men to die, but if that were so, they certainly would have given themselves more time.'

Bernadette stressed that the H Block movement had begun to show that the prisoners had broad support. 'Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey can't have their cake and eat it. Either the prisoners are supported by many people who are not Provisionals, or there are 30,000 Provisionals in Fermanagh County Tyrone.'

Strategy

The problem for the H Block movement was to extend the victory won in Fermanagh. 'Our strategy was right,' Bernadette insisted. 'We mobilised tens and tens of thousands of people but we did not mobilise enough.'

'By and large we mobilised the broad Republican families — those who believe in fighting for a united Ireland. But we did not reach deeply enough into those sectors of the population

that support Fianna Fail and the SDLP in the north.

'We did not cut deeply enough into the ranks of Fianna Fail to force the party to act.'

Wedge

Bernadette spoke of the need to 'Drive a wedge between Mrs Thatcher and the SDLP'. The rioting that had developed after the death of the hunger strikers, although it was an understandable reaction by an infuriated people, did not help widen this wedge.

It had the opposite effect, she argued, increasing the gap between the H Block movement and those sections of the population it was trying to reach. 'Those people don't understand. They don't know why you are throwing a rock through a window.'

'I don't think that any useful purpose is served by calling the rioters hooligans in disguise. I think that these people break windows because they are angry, because they see prisoners dying and can't think of any way of saving them.'

'They can't think of anything else to do, and then they think, well, they aren't our windows anyway. I know the feeling.'

'I felt the same before Francis Hughes' death. I was walking around and practically banging my head on the wall thinking a second prisoner is going to die and there is nothing we can do about it.'

'There is something we have to accept — and one of the hardest — that we have lost four prisoners and we can't bring them back.'

Anger

Therefore, Bernadette maintained: 'We cannot stop thinking now, out of anger bitterness and frustration. This is a crucial time in the history of this movement and country, because if we keep our nerve we can change the course of history.'

Once again, the north showed the way. In the local elections held two days earlier, the people of West Belfast threw out Gerry Fitt, demonstrating that his collaboration with British imperialism didn't represent them. There was a huge cheer at the Dublin meeting for the defeat of the politician most hated by the H Block activists, one of whose favourite chants is: 'Who's a Brit? Gerry Fitt!'

Bernadette said that Fitt's come-uppance was a great morale booster for the campaign, and for People's Democracy, the Irish Trotskyist organisation which had dumped him. Their candidate, for as

'WE CAN CHANGE COURSE OF



The funeral of Frankie Hughes, the second hunger strike to die

O'Hare, who is a leader of the H Block movement, won nearly four times as many first preference votes as Gerry Fitt, a Westminster MP and veteran machine politician.

Following the poll the Irish Sunday newspapers reported that Fitt is thinking of leaving Belfast 'in search of a quieter life'.

Running as an Irish Independence Party candidate, Oliver Hughes, brother of dead hunger striker Francis Hughes, topped the poll in his district.

Supporters

'Everywhere that clear H Block supporters stood, they won', Bernadette told the meeting. She mentioned two candidates of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the Republican group hardest hit by repression. They now have two representatives on the Belfast City Council, more than the so-called 'respectable'

Republican Clubs.

She mentioned Plunkett O'Donnell in Dungannon, a veteran Republican political campaigner, as well as Pat Fahy of the Irish Independence Party, who is a militant nationalist leader.

Now, she said, when Irish TV and the press say they have to talk to elected representatives, we'll send them some.

The petty-bourgeois, pro-imperialist left-wing organisation which calls itself the Workers Party — Republican Clubs — the northern branch of Sinn Fein, the Workers Party — was nearly wiped out in the elections. In recent years the major role of this grouping has been that of a pro-imperialist pressure group in the media, trade unions, and some local government bodies.

It was accorded major party status on Irish TV. It ran 26 candidates in the north. Yet it won only three seats, and its

Voting figures			
Total votes for main parties			
Party	%	Seats gained/lost	
Official Unionist	26.4	- 27	BELFAST, ARE
Democratic Unionist	26.5	+ 68	McAnulty (PD);
SDLP	17.6	- 10	G: Ashby (DUP);
Alliance	8.7	- 32	(SDLP) 642; Fitt
IIP	3.8	+ 21	(DUP) 1,913; Fly
DERRY (parties			
559; SDLP 353; IIP			
SDLP 788; IIP 59			
1,344; IIP 1,203;			
Key: PD — Peoples			
Socialist Party; RCW			
TC — Trades Council			

leader, Seamus Lynch, went down to ignominious defeat. The end of his 'distinguished' and 'promising' career on Belfast city council was greatly lamented by the capitalist press.

Nonetheless, despite the considerable victories of the H Block activists in the North, the opportunity that the vote

offered was largely lost. Although there was great enthusiasm for H Block candidates after Sands' victory, the confusion, frustration and impatience that set in after his and Hughes' death led many activists to forget elections or any other sustained mass campaign. In most areas the SDLP was

CHANGE THE HISTORY



A D: Hendron (SDLP) 4,791; 781; Devlin (Ind Soc) 143. AREA C: 2,076; O'Hare (PD) 1,953; Feeney (Ind Soc) 541. AREA F: Dixon (IRSP) 1,639; Allen (SDLP) 898. AREA G: SDLP 1,566; IIP 299; RCWP 143; TC 75. AREA D: SDLP 438; TC 88. AREA E: SDLP 984; TC 164.

Democracy: IRSP - Irish Republican Clubs, Workers Party; IIP - Irish Independence Party.

not challenged and it was allowed to gain the appearance of a mandate from the nationalist people. The successes of the H Block candidates show that if a whole slate had run, the campaign would have gained even greater victories.

That would have made it impossible for the treacherous compromiser SDLP to stand

in the name of the nationalist people.

The forthcoming general election in the 26 counties offers the H Block campaigners a new and greater opportunity. Bernadette proposed running H Block candidates in all 41 constituencies. Her call was enough to raise a furore in the capitalist press, which gave the proposal front page headlines the following day.

Such an operation would be difficult and a big challenge. But the H Block campaign in the north shows a new strength and determination. It has met the test of a period of disorientation and frustration by moving in a calm way against futile outbreaks of rage.

Campaign

The Mansion House meeting, moreover, launched a campaign to strengthen local action committees by urging all supporters of the movement to

join them.

This response of the audience of the Mansion House meeting shows that by their determination to sacrifice themselves for their principles and the dignity of their people, the prisoners had fought and won a great victory for humanity.

Freedom

They had shown that when human beings dedicate themselves to the freedom of their fellows, with the support of their community, they cannot be broken. By their victory they have opened the way to further advance.

The victory of the hunger strikers is the greatest of human victories, the fusing of will and consciousness among masses of people. That is a power which will defeat the most unyielding oppressor, and as Bernadette said 'change the course of history'.

North of Ireland elections What if Labour had stood?

By Tom Marlowe

LAST week's local elections in the north of Ireland were, in theory, about refuse collection and the upkeep of roads. In reality, they were much more important — a battle for the hearts and minds of the two communities in the north of Ireland.

The results of those elections were deplored by faint-hearted liberals, respectable bourgeois politicians and by some in the British Labour Party, even those who parade themselves as its 'left' conscience.

The results on the Loyalist side were bad enough news for such compromisers — there was a massive swing to the Paisley-led Democratic Unionist Party — but in some ways the results in Catholic areas would have been greeted by even louder groans.

The respectable, 'moderate' Social Democratic and Labour Party suffered losses to the more 'nationalistic' Irish Independence Party. The darling of British moderation, Gerry Fitt, was trounced by Trotskyist Fergus O'Hare, while Fitt's bosom pal, Paddy Devlin, another alleged 'non-sectarian' socialist, was similarly defeated by Trotskyist, John McNulty.

Impressive

The Irish Republican Socialist Party, said to have affinities with the Irish National Liberation Army, received a number of highly impressive votes.

There were embarrassments for the *Militant* supporters inside the Labour Party. For weeks that newspaper had been trumpeting the 'non-sectarian' candidates put up by the Derry Trades Council.

In its issue of 3 April *Militant* reported: 'History was made in the City of Derry when the Derry Trades Council decided to stand candidates in the forthcoming local government elections. This momentous decision is of importance not only to the working class of Derry but for workers throughout Northern Ireland and indeed within these Isles'.

What puffed-up exaggerated nonsense this is now shown to be. As the figures illustrated show the *Militant*-backed candidates received a joke vote. Other candidates standing on other 'non-sectarian' platforms suffered similar fates.

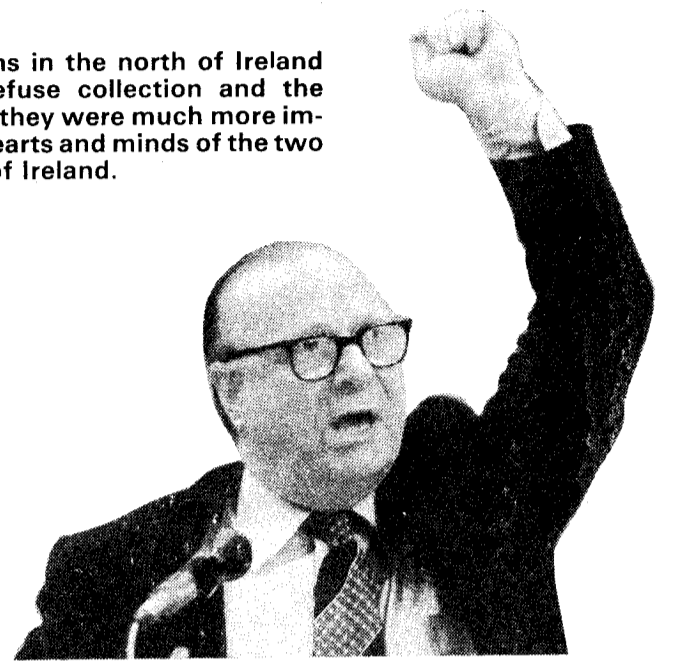
Ignorant

Perhaps, *Militant* and their co-thinkers will decry these results as sadly showing how ignorant and 'sectarian' the Catholic working class in the north of Ireland is. Middle-class equivalents of such preachers will weep similar tears over the humiliation of the 'non-sectarian' Alliance Party.

Their grieving will be contrasted by socialists celebrating both in Ireland and in Britain.



John McNulty and Fergus O'Hare



Gerry Fitt



Paddy Devlin

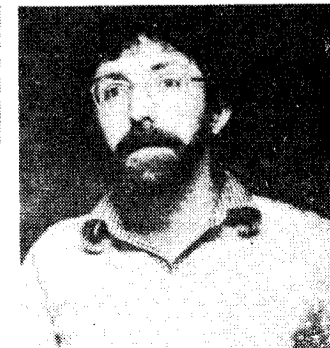
The victories of McNulty and O'Hare, of the IRSP candidates and of those who made the prisoners' struggle one of the main elements of their campaign is a vindication for the socialist perspective on Ireland.

This perspective insists that the Irish national question is the primary question in Irish politics.

Within that struggle socialists need to fight for their own policies, their own way forward, as People's Democracy have done, but such policies should be part of the campaign, not separate from or counterposed to it.

Humiliate

Those candidates, such as Fitt, Devlin and *Militant*'s heroes who attacked such a strategy have now received their humiliation. But is this, as *Militant* and others in the Labour Party like to say,



because of the 'sectarian' consciousness of the Catholic electorate in the north of Ireland?

Unity

On the contrary. The Irish national struggle is for the unity, not the division of the Irish people. Socialists concentrate on the national question, not with a wish to divide the northern working class but as a means of ultimately securing the unity of the Irish working class as a whole.

Only when the national question is solved will such unity become realisable.

The council election results are pertinent for another reason. There are some within the British Labour Party who suggest that all would be different in the north of Ireland if the British Labour Party organised there, or if there was a fully-fledged Northern Ireland Labour Party.

The spectacle of Labour's spokesperson on Ireland, Don Concannon, canvassing the Republican areas of Belfast for votes for the British Labour Party would have produced interesting consequences although hardly in the form the advocates of Labour organising in Ireland would have hoped.

Tested

However, the theory of organising on 'non-sectarian', bread and butter issues was tested out in the elections. It was tested by Fitt, Devlin and the *Militant*'s candidates. The results destroy the arguments of those within the Labour Party who continue to insist that if Labour organised in the North of Ireland, all would be sweetness and light.

One final point can be made. In the *Militant* of 17 April, the Derry Trades Council's candidates were compared to 'the first socialist activists who, at the turn of the century, fought for political representation in Britain... pioneers of the labour movement'.

Here was an example of British arrogance which even Margaret Thatcher would find hard to match — the poor, backward Irish workers are 80 years behind their noble British counterparts. It is no wonder when such attitudes were displayed that the *Militant*, Fitt, and Devlin were told to pack their bags and to take their moderate British socialism with them.

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FAREWELL: concert for People's Marchers organised by Tower Hamlets Council Unions against the Cuts. Mon 1 June, York Hall, Old Ford Rd, London E2 from 7pm to 11.30pm. Bar, disco, bands. Adm £1.50 (£1 unwaged).

MARXIST-HUMANISM: public meetings with Olga Domanski (managing editor 'News and Letters') 'Brixton, Belfast, Miami, Gdansk - Philosophy and Revolution' - TU Centre, Brabant Rd, Wood Green, London (nr tube), Tues 2 June at 8pm. 'Reagan's new Right versus the Other America' at the Roebuck, Tottenham Ct Rd, London W1 on 17 June at 8pm.

NATFHE: fraction meeting at National Centre, Sat 6 June, 1pm.

TRADE UNION: sub-committee, Sun 31 May, at Revolution Youth National Office, Tel 01-359 8371 for details.

International Marxist Group notices

ESH fraction jointly with Revolutionary Youth, Now on Sun 31 May at National Centre.

Revolution Youth notices

ESH sub-committee, Sat 30 May, at Revolution Youth National Office, Tel 01-359 8371 for details.

Welsh News

Footsore and angry

By Celia Pugh

FIFTY marchers in Aberdare on 21 May on the Welsh leg of the People's March for Jobs were reminded of their history. Trevor Roberts, who had trodden the same roads in the 1936 hunger march, sent them on their rain-soaked way with the message 'put the battle to the forefront and you'll never fail.'

The marchers took this

message to factory gates, pitheads and communities in their trek from the threatened Dupont steel workers in Llanelli in the west to the eastern town of Newport where over 5,000 Llanwern steel jobs have been savaged in the last year.

But as footsore marchers prepared to join the main Liverpool march at

Bedford, frustration built up over the inactivity of the Wales TUC.

George Wright, Wales TUC General Secretary at first refused to back the Welsh march. At the last moment under great pressure, he gave verbal backing, without mobilising official demonstrations or factory walk outs. Marchers were angry at

the stark contrast between this and the tens of thousands who greeted the main march.

South Wales National Union of Miners President, Emlyn Williams summed up the feelings of the marchers when he greeted them at Pontypridd: 'When we (the miners) took strike action

earlier this year, the government were terrified of a general strike so they caved in.

'You can march all you like and the TUC can issue all the guidelines it likes, but only this concerted action will do the job.'

Sadly officials like George Wright are determined to strangle precisely this sort of action.

The Wales March for Jobs was good, but the struggle to 'put the battle to the forefront' will have to continue.

Welsh miners want TUC to act

By Barry Wilkins, Cardiff North CLP

SOUTH WALES miners face an uncertain future as the Coal Board tries to close pits.

At the annual conference of the South Wales NUM, Emlyn Williams in his presidential address pointed to the new mood of confidence among miners. This followed the defeat of the government over pit closure in February.

But Williams also gave a warning: 'The strike was a success,' he said, 'but not an unmitigated one.'

'We ended the strike on the basis of promises made by a government anxious to avoid bankruptcy. This may have been a mistake. We have yet to see the problems which gave rise to the strike being resolved.'

Vigilance

Guest speaker Arthur Scargill, president of Yorkshire NUM, underlined that argument. Unless we maintain our vigilance, he said, 'the government and the Coal Board will attempt to close pits on an individual basis.'

In South Wales, the NUM has recently agreed to the closure of Morlais pit because it had become too hazardous to work. The Coal Board will try to repeat this by starving pits of much-needed investment and letting them deteriorate.

South Wales miners are proud of the leading role they took in the February strike. This was shown in Emlyn Williams' call for 'extra-parliamentary action' to fight the Thatcher government.

'Miners have an historical mission to lead in class struggles... We

have a responsibility to stop an oppressive government,' he said.

Williams firmly pinned the responsibility on the TUC to lead the battle against the Tories - but 'the TUC is bereft of ideas about how to tackle unemployment.'

Pits

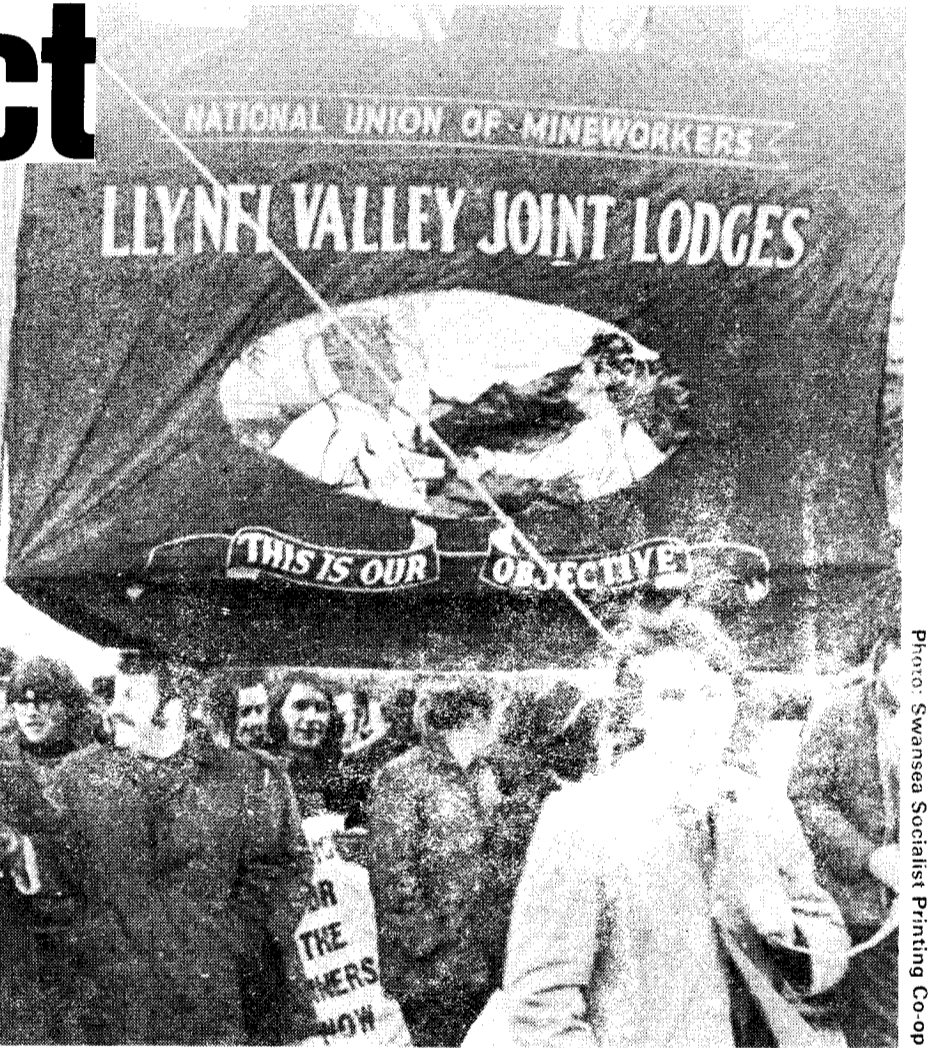
He added that it is this lack of leadership which results in the willingness of many workers to accept redundancy pay rather than fight for their jobs.

Worksharing with no loss of pay is an important part of the miners' strategy to keep the pits open. 'Our demand for a 4-day week means what it says, and we want action now,' said Williams, criticising the lack of progress made on this front by Joe Gormley, NUM national president.

Motions demanding improvements in the voluntary retirement scheme were carried, and the attempt by Gormley to confuse voluntary early retirement with voluntary redundancy was firmly rejected by Williams.

Action

The conference, held a fortnight ago, agreed not to co-operate with the Tories' Employment Act, and it called for industrial action to defeat it. The proposer Tyrone O'Sullivan, pointed out that these laws are brought in to shackle the working class, and tip the balance of power in favour of the class Thatcher represents - the ruling class.



Welsh miners march against pit closures

The NUM will soon elect a new national president to replace Gormley, who is due to retire. Emlyn Williams warned that the media would 'attempt a character assassination' on Arthur Scargill, the candidate of the left, and it would seek to divide the militant areas against each other.

He stressed the importance of 'this vital election' and called for a 100 per cent South Wales support for Scargill. Delegates agreed 'to carry out a massive campaign to see that Scargill is elected.'

In his address Scargill

promised to give firm and militant leadership if elected as president. 'We must fight the Coal Board, not collaborate with it,' he asserted.

This declaration will be tested many times over in the remaining period of the Thatcher government.

The Tories still aim to close pits and make thousands of miners redundant. But their new tactic is to use the Coal Board to outmanoeuvre the NUM rather than confront it directly.

Emlyn Williams made it clear that the £200m so far offered by the govern-

ment is not even enough for development in South Wales, let alone the industry as a whole. The problem now facing the miners, especially in South Wales after the closure of Morlais, is how to prevent pits being quietly run down.

The South Wales NUM has agreed to reopen discussions with the Coal Board after a ban lasting more than 12 months. But threatened pits cannot be saved by negotiations with management. It requires collective action.

Can the Wales Labour Party take on the Tories?

By Helen Slymowics, Cardiff North CLP, and Vincent Moss

UNEMPLOYMENT has doubled in Wales over the past two years. Miners and steel workers are struggling for their livelihoods. But the Wales Labour Party offers no way forward for the working class.

The manifesto that is to be presented to the Wales Labour Party conference this weekend does not suggest how the party will 'restore and maintain full employment.'

It is an attempt to patch over the emerging differences between the

left and the right in the party.

The manifesto waxes eloquently that 'our socialist policies seek nothing less than a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people

and their families.'

Yet it fails to demand massive investment in coal and steel development, nor does it present any fighting policies which can unite the labour movement in Wales.

Those policies are evident enough. Among them would be a programme of public works which could use the steel and coal resources of Wales to build more houses, schools and hospitals while providing free energy for pensioners.

Also needed is a vastly improved communications network between North and South Wales, and plans to fight the Tories now, not in 1984!

The conference should reject this document in the same way that Wales TUC's social plan was thrown out. We should commit the Wales Labour Party to unite with the trade union movement for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay, and to oppose all cuts.

Supporting Tony Benn

for deputy leader in line with the policy of the Wales Labour Coordinating Committee would be a step in the right direction. So would support for the motions calling for affiliation to CND and No to Cruise or Trident missiles.

The Wales Labour Party conference, coming so soon after the county council election victories, has to give a lead to the thousands of Welsh workers looking to the Labour Party for action and political solutions.

Photo: Swansea Socialist Printing Co-op

By Geoff Bell

THE *Sunday Telegraph* headlined its story 'Silkin joins the "stop Benn" fight'.

That was the interpretation placed on the decision of John Silkin to enter the contest for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party.

Silkin is indeed the latest weapon to be employed by the leadership of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and its right wing, in their campaign to stop Tony Benn becoming the deputy leader.

In that respect, although Silkin, as a long-time Tribuneite, is part of the 'old left' of the party, his campaign will be directed against Benn, the acknowledged leader of the left.

Silkin admitted as much when he announced his intention to run. 'I believe in a party where

Labour's deputy contest - enter the property speculator

men and women can cooperate and are not threatened by threats or dictation,' he said.

This is the language of Labour's right and its allies in Fleet Street whose elitist attitudes have attempted to portray the conference decisions on Labour's internal reform as tantamount to 'threats' and 'dictation' from constituency parties.

Betrayed

Silkin's own politics can be summed up by the fact that he is a long-time friend of Harold Wilson.

In 1954, when Wilson betrayed the parliamentary left by stepping into a

shadow cabinet place Aneurin Bevan had vacated on questions of policy, Silkin wrote him a formal letter of approval.

Wilson rewarded him in 1967 by giving him the job of Chief Whip in the Labour government — in other words keeping the left in line as Wilson moved progressively to the right.

This promotion confirmed the high opinion Silkin has always had of himself. He imagines the world has a great interest in everything he does. Two years ago, when he went on a diet, he called a special press conference to announce that he had lost two stone in weight.

He has however, been less willing to publicise his wheelings and dealings as a property speculator from which, said the *Observer* in October 1980, 'he has made a lot of money'.

Deceptive

Silkin's ego has persuaded him that he stands a good chance of winning the deputy leadership contest. But this ego has proved deceptive before. In the contest for the party leadership he was confidently predicting his success.

In the event, in the first round he received 36 votes, at least 20 below

what he said he had been promised by MPs.

Although Silkin likes to parade himself as a fully-fledged Tribuneite he did not join the majority of Tribune MPs who, on 20 May, voted against the government's defence policy.

Tony Benn defied the official Opposition line, which was to abstain, by taking part in the revolt.

No doubt John Silkin thought that to have acted in such a manner, and in accordance with Labour conference policy, might have done his electoral chances some damage. Accordingly, for John Silkin it was a case of bombs for all of us and a job for him.



Late contestant John Silkin: his main priority is himself

Post Office Engineering Union conference, 1-5 June

35 hours now, argues presidential candidate

TONY YOUNG, an executive member of the Post Office Engineering Union, is standing as union president. A supporter of the Broad Left in POEU, he told *Socialist Challenge* how the issues facing the union should be taken up.

The POEU was one of the first unions to take action on the 35-hour week. How did that come about?

It arose from the rank and file's determination to achieve a shorter working week.

The policy of 35 hours was set in the early '70s, but the executive took no action to further this policy. The left, which was much smaller then, realised that rank and file action was necessary, and that continued pressure on the executive would make the difference.

The London North Central Internal branch took unofficial action and it won overwhelming support from the membership, despite attempts by the leadership to discipline the branch.

It had caught the mood

of the moment because the new technology was beginning to be seen as a threat to jobs. The executive was dragged kicking into the fight.

I think the left made a mistake in characterising the 37½-hour 'nil-cost' settlement as a sell-out. The agreement was put to conference, admittedly with a recommendation from the executive, but although it was a compromise it was a pioneering struggle.

I think it would have been worth fighting on at that time. There was a feeling among the membership that we had only just begun to flex our muscles.

A recent management document estimated that 11,000 installation jobs are at risk. What is the feeling now in the union about pursuing a shorter working week?



Tony Young: 'the time is right to act on shorter hours'

The breaking of the monopoly in telecoms, with sections being hived off to private capital, will make our fight much harder. We have yet to see the full extent of that.

But this is not an excuse to abandon our campaign. We have to broaden the fight to other unions.

A proposal to this year's conference calls for the union to push ahead

on 35 hours, with industrial action to back up the claim. It's difficult to say how far the membership will swing behind it.

I think the executive is unlikely to want to take this on board, given the tactical problems of fighting to prevent the breaking up of the telecoms monopoly. It would be an ambitious task and we will see how

the membership feels about it at the conference.

Surely the attacks on British Telecoms workers brought on by increasing competition makes the fight for shorter hours even more important?

I do think the time is right. With 3m unemployed there is a moral justification for our claim. A socialist government would be fighting unemployment, by reducing both the working week and the state pension age.

There is a feeling of revulsion against the Tories' policy of increasing unemployment as a weapon to smash the unions. But there isn't a determination by union leaders to fight these policies.

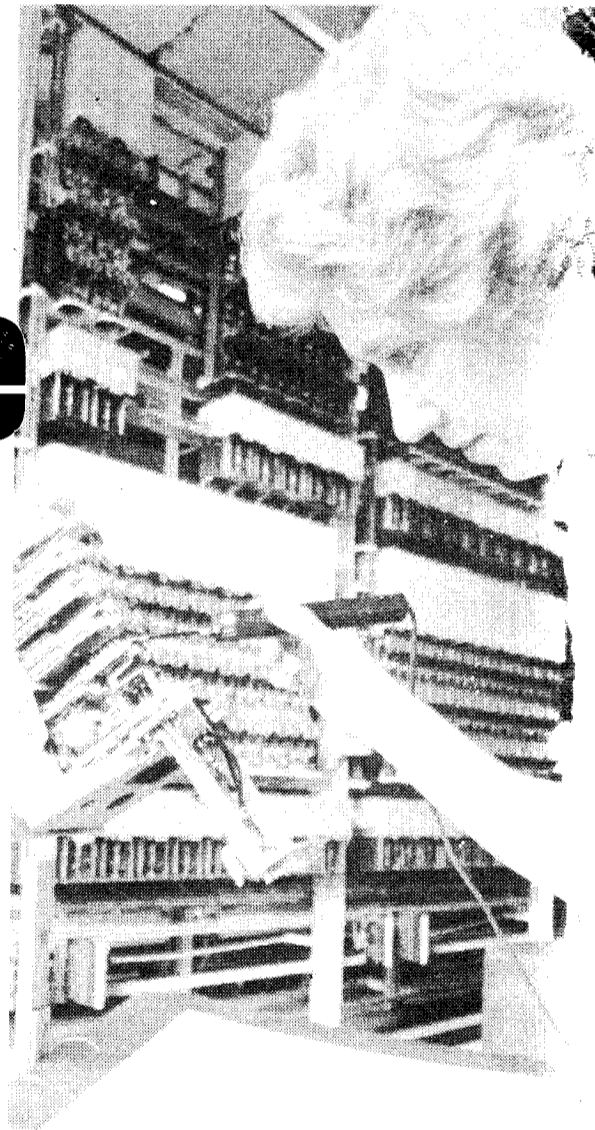
We will face attacks as competition increases, but that could be used as an argument for not fighting on any issue!

Since Mitterand won the French presidential election, he has announced his support for a legal limit of 35 hours on the working week. The British TUC has had this policy for years. So what should it do now?

Obviously it should be mounting a fight around the policy. Low the *Daily Herald* cartoonist, characterised the TUC as a tired old cart-horse. It hasn't changed much.

The People's March was not initiated from the TUC nationally. It came about because of rank and file pressure in the badly-hit North-west region.

It is easier for in-



Post Office engineer at work. The union conference will be considering positive action for women's rights

dividual employers or the government to pick off unions which are going it alone. The TUC should generalise the struggle. The TUC should be leading the fight for a reduction in hours and the retirement age.

We should set ourselves firmly against escalating overtime and redundancy programmes.

The People's March looks in danger of becoming a huge publicity stunt, giving no lead to workers who face redundancy now.

The march may well result

in a blare of publicity, but very little afterwards. It shows we won't meekly accept a return to the '30s. We have to ensure the campaign doesn't fade away after the march.

It is a sad reflection on the labour movement that the Lee Jeans occupation had to wait three months before it won official recognition. Like UCS, it shows there is a way to fight redundancies now. But it's a bloody hard one.

We should also remind ourselves that we were fighting a Labour government in our last dispute over 35 hours. So it's not enough simply to return a Labour government — it has to be committed to socialist policies.

Left-right contest approaches finale

'WARNING — it is takeover time at our most vital single union,' advised a *Daily Express* headline last week, in the run-up to the annual conference of the Post Office Engineering Union.

With the Broad Left in the union holding nine of the seats on the executive, and 14 in the hands of the right, the Tory press has due cause for anxiety.

The *Express* noted that the union 'is a keystone of the moderate alliance in the Labour Party'. On the eve of the conference the Broad Left is holding a public meeting with Tony

By Colin Talbot, Westminster POEU

Benn, while the right-wing Mainstream group is to be addressed by Denis Healey.

The left-right contest will finally be decided in the battles that lie ahead with the Tories and the Post Office bosses.

The Tories' Telecoms Bill will soon become law, handing over to Sir Keith Joseph the power to hive-off bits of the Post Office, especially the valuable telecoms side, to the Tories' big business backers.

The government's cash-limits policy has forced the PO

management to cut back on its £2bn a year investment programme. But it wants to recoup its losses through higher charges and lower wages for PO workers.

This year's pay offer is only 10 per cent, with 2 per cent productivity thrown in as a sweetener.

More and more engineers are turning to the left for a fighting lead. The conference will be discussing calls for industrial action to secure a 35-hour week and to defeat the Telecoms Bill.

Other motions call for support for Tony Benn in the deputy leadership election; backing for CND, and for positive action on women's rights.

Radiation on the streets in Japan

By Chris Pitts

ENORMOUS amounts' of Cobalt 60 and other radioactive materials were discovered in the seabed near the Tsuruga nuclear power plant, western Japan, last month.

Lesser amounts, but ten times the normal, were detected in seaweed collected nearby.

The Japan Atomic Power Company, the operators of the plant, later admitted that not only were they responsible for dumping over 40 tons of radioactive waste, and irradiating 56 workers in the process, but that they had failed to report the incident.

Even the so-called 'safe levels' of exposure are suspect, since they are set as a compromise between the need to protect from the harmful effects of radiation, and the need to expose them to it, in order to operate the plants.

Most evidence suggests that there is no ultimate safe level, and that any exposure to radiation is potentially harmful. Cancer and leukemia

deaths in some of the towns near nuclear plants are already several times higher than Japan's national average.

Private

Nuclear power in Japan is being developed by nine private companies each competing with the others and trying to get the best results from its reactors. The close links between private capital and the conservative government are another reason for the health hazards.

Commenting on this

incident, a government minister gave the game away. 'If other nuclear power plants had a similar accident, prospects for the nation's nuclear power development would be endangered,' said the head of MITI.

What he meant is that people might wake up to the fact that these 'accidents' are an unavoidable part of the nuclear industry, and that the price is too high to pay.

For that price means playing Russian Roulette with the welfare of the whole community, and the lives of future generations.

Attack on abortion defeated in Italy

By Sophia Silj

ATTEMPT to abolish the limited right of women to have an abortion in Italy was decisively defeated in a referendum on Sunday 17 May.

Approximately 70 per cent of the voters rejected a call from the Catholic 'Movement for Life' lobby which would have restricted abortion to those women who could prove their life was in danger if their pregnancy was not terminated.

At the same time a proposal to radicalise the law to allow women complete freedom of choice on abortion was also heavily defeated.

The present law in Italy gives women over 18 the right to ask for an abortion within the first 90 days of pregnancy if there is a threat to health.

An abortion may also be justified for social and economic reasons, in the

case of rape or if there is a danger that the child may be born deformed.

The size of the majority in favour of rejecting a repeal of these laws surprised many commentators. The Catholic Church, even the Pope himself, had intervened in the referendum campaign saying that the repeal movement was a 'holy cause'.

The political parties supporting repeal — the Christian Democrats and the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement — had tried to use the attempted assassination of the Pope to bolster their cause.

Just hours before the vote was held Gerardo Bianco, the chief whip for the Christian Democrats in

the Italian parliament, said that the defenders of the existing law had 'incited and brought about the climate of violence' which had led to the attempted assassination.

In the event such smears had no effect. Even districts in southern Italy, where the anti-abortion vote had been expected to be the biggest, showed comfortable majorities against repeal.

Enrico Berlinguer, secretary of the Italian Communist Party, welcomed the referendum results by saying that Italian women were 'the real winners'. This is only partially true, for the defeat of the women's right to choose amendment will be a bitter blow to the 600,000 Italian women forced to have illegal abortions.

Nevertheless, in the wake of the shooting of the Pope and the heightened emotions which followed it, the defeat of the 'Movement for Life' campaign must have brought huge sighs of relief from many Italian women.

Valve

On 8 March an open valve had gushed highly radioactive primary coolant for over three hours before being discovered.

According to the *Manichi Daily News*, one of Japan's English-language dailies, the liquid leaked out of the plant, over a one foot high hedge and onto the street. Instead of issuing an alert and carrying out a full-scale operation, management at the plant mounted a rush-up operation.

Ministry

It did not inform the ministry of international trade and industry MITI, as it was obliged to do by law. Perhaps the bosses were too embarrassed — this incident was the 32nd mishap at Tsuruga in ten years.

Worse was to come. Anxious to clean up the mess in the storage facility as quickly as possible, they sent in workers equipped only with buckets. Apparently, these workers dumped the contaminated water into the nearest drain.

Because it was inside the waste treatment and storage area, they expected to be part of the special, closed drainage system for radioactive materials. It wasn't.

Due to a design fault, it led directly to the main drainage system which discharges into the bay.

The workers involved in the clean-up were all exposed to higher levels of radiation than normal, and their 'permissible dose' is already ten times higher than that of the general public.

Scandal

Irradiation of workers is becoming a national scandal in Japan, where several years labourers have been travelling from the nuclear plant to the coast in search of the highly-paid repair and servicing work.

Unaware of the dangers, they collect several times their permitted yearly dosage in a few months. Thousands are estimated to be suffering some form of radiation-induced illness.



GLC leader Ken Livingstone (left), Tessa van Gelderen from Socialist Challenge, and Ernest Mandel

Celebrating our 200th issue

NEARLY 600 people packed into Camden town hall in Central London last Friday to celebrate the 200th issue of Socialist Challenge.

The celebrations were a little premature — issue 200 comes out next week — but the theme of the meeting, Socialist perspectives for Europe, was pertinent.

The range of speakers reflected the campaigns and issues which Socialist Challenge has supported and helped to build since it was founded nearly four years ago.

There were speakers from the threatened Rover plant at Solihull,

the occupied Laurence Scott plant in Manchester, and the Troops Out Movement.

Pyotr Egides, a left oppositionist from the Soviet Union who has been recently exiled, was another speaker, as were Ken Livingstone, the new leader of the Greater London Council, and Ernest Mandel, a leading member of the Fourth International.

Ken Livingstone reported that the GLC was giving all its employees the day off with pay this Friday, when the People's March for Jobs arrives in London. County Hall, Westminster, will be thrown open to the marchers for accommodation.

Livingstone also reiterated his

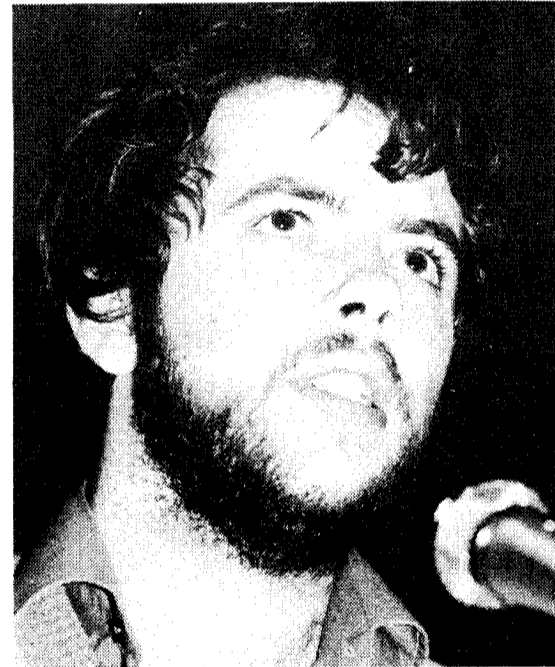
support for the national liberation struggle in Ireland. He said that the GLC would not co-operate with the Scarman inquiry into the Brixton events, and he appealed for mobilisations in the coming confrontation between the GLC and the Tory government.

Mandel estimated that in Europe the workers were fighting defensive battles but, in France and Britain in particular, they were preparing 'political counter-blows'.

He was particularly enthusiastic about the events in Poland which, he said, 'represented the most advanced form of workers' control which Europe had experienced since the Second World War'.

Over £1,000 was raised in a collection.

All photos: GM COOKSON (Socialist Challenge)



Phil Penning reported from the Laurence Scott occupation



Raghieb Ahsan, a worker from Rover Solihull, told the rally of the struggle of black workers



Soviet oppositionist, Pyotr Egides

Forgotten war resisters

By Stuart Paul

THE notorious 'wall of silence' which surrounds the media in Britain suffered sufficient shock on television earlier this month for the BBC's *Did You See* programme to line up a panel to knock down the offending documentary, *Heroes*.

John Pilger, whose documentaries on Kampuchea did so much to puncture the imperialist world's myths about that country after the overthrow of Pol Pot, looked at the region through different eyes in his latest feature.

Heroes took up the story of the American veterans of the Vietnam war, in particular of the wounded veterans and their fate. The panel of *Did You See* objected to the power of the facts Pilger assembled to demonstrate his case and that of the vets.

Horrors

Having been subjected to the horrors of the war in Indo-China, the vets now are given little or no compensation for their injuries. Like the Vietnamese, they are the isolated victims of the US defeat.

One leader of the vets said on the programme: 'As an infantry commander I could order strikes that cost \$100,000 an hour and now the government that paid that tells me it can't afford medical aid for the veterans wounded there.'

Interview after interview revealed government neglect and veteran anger. Comparisons were made with the treatment of veterans returning from the Second World War, who were paid to go to university and provided with business

'Heroes' on the US vets



Wall Street, New York: May 1970. Students demonstrating against the Vietnam war. The US government wants to erase memories of the anti-war movement

loans under the GI Bill. Benefits under that Bill are now lower in money terms than in the 1950s.

The official statistics of neglect in the documentary — rejected out of hand by *Did You See's* military historian, John Keagan —

came from a government report which was only released from official suppression by a Freedom of Information Act suit brought by the vets.

Far from overtelling their story, Pilger undertold it. He recalled the powerful US

anti-war movement and the vets' involvement in it. But he implied that the resulting unpopularity of the war and the reluctance of the government to march the returning soldiers through cheering street welcomes simply spilled over into the

present neglect.

The GI Bill was not the result of a government patting its boys on the back for doing a good job in winning a popular war. The demobilisation of 15m GIs in 1945 followed massive demonstrations by those soldiers, from Guam to Paris, demanding to be sent home and released from the army. The militant mood of the soldiers prevented the US from invading China after the Second World War.

Veterans

What's more, the veterans of the previous world war had given the government a sharp lesson in what to expect from neglected veterans. In 1932, as the depression struck, thousands of veterans marched on Washington DC. They were part of hundreds of 'Bonus Expeditionary Force' convoys who converged on the capital and set up a camp demanding their unpaid bonuses, promised at the end of the war.

After two months the army was sent in to destroy their camp and several veterans were killed. The episode cannot have been forgotten when the GI Bill was passed.

The veterans of the two World Wars were greeted as heroes, but it is not true that the left in the US regards all veterans as 'baby killers', as Pilger claimed. The veterans played a vital role in the anti-war movement, which greeted them warmly, and it's for this reason that the government now wants them out of sight.

Crossfire

The real target of the government's policy, cruelly catching the vets and the Vietnamese in the crossfire, is the 'Vietnam Syndrome'



How the vets were feted during the war

— the still persistent sentiment among the American people against any more wars. It kept the US out of Angola; it prevented an invasion of Iran last year, and it is spurring a new movement against the planned US invasion of El Salvador.

When the anti-war movement got into full swing over Vietnam, there were already 500,000 troops there. It is a different story today. Pilger powerfully concluded his documentary with comparisons between the rumblings in the US press that heralded the Vietnam war and those now heard over El Salvador.

Analysis

But he omitted the 'Vietnam Syndrome' from his analysis and almost accepts as a foregone conclusion a US war in El Salvador, even though that is already bogged down in the mud laid by the Vietnam war and the anti-war movement.

It is a foregone conclusion that the movement against involvement in El Salvador will start with a battery of articulate veterans.

Heroes is to be applauded. Its achievement can be marked by the haste with which *Did You See* assembled three right-wingers under the supervision of Ludovic Kennedy to knock it together with *Psy-Ops*, the effective TV drama on Britain's psychological torture operations in the north of Ireland.

Hardy's Tess trapped by double standards

WHILE agreeing with some of the points made by Judith Arkwright in her review of *Tess* (7 May), I think she oversimplified Hardy's attitude to the society in which he lived.

The review implied that only the new, mechanised agricultural livelihood was hard. In fact the old system seems to have been equally hard, if less alienating. This is one of the main themes of the novel, characterised by Tess's working life.

She is happy while she works as a dairymaid, but only because of her relationship with Angel. When he leaves her she is alone without any escape from a harsh reality.

The men in her life are symbols of the futility of trying to escape from a weary life into a personal relationship, and of the ruthless exploitation of the labourers, with moral back-up provided by the Church. These ideas are continued in *Jude the Obscure*, Hardy's next and final novel.

In my opinion he was neither a socialist nor a real friend to the cause of women's liberation. He placed the blame for social injustice in the hands of 'Fate'. All Hardy's great novels end on a note of profound tragic pessimism.

Although he was obviously aware of Victorian double-standards which saw women as whores or angels, Tess never tries to escape from that trap. As it happens, Hardy's treatment of both his wives was disgraceful.

As Judith Arkwright concluded, Hardy was an important social critic, and Polanski's film retains this criticism. But neither the book nor the film attack marriage as an institution from any premise other than Hardy's cynicism, based squarely on his personal sexual problems.

SARAH VEALE,
Deptford, South London

Letters letters LETTERS

What class are white-collar workers?

I READ Brian Grogan's article 'Why we're fighting for a party of industrial workers' (7 May) with some dismay.

It was written in such a way as to be almost unreadable and it is argued almost entirely on the basis of appeals to the authority of Lenin and Trotsky.

Worse still, the writer implies that there are historically fixed 'decisive sectors' of the working class and that white-collar workers — and presumably public sector workers as well — are not part of the working class.

The article stated: 'The organisations of the Fourth International... have always stood on the programme of workers' power, and in that sense have always been workers' parties, even when the majority of their members have been students and

white-collar workers' (my emphasis).

Do white-collar workers sell their labour power for a wage or not? Which class does the writer think they belong to?

CHRIS BERTRAM,
Oxford

WE REPLY: Chris's points are pedantic and nit-picking. If the article was 'unreadable', then that's not Brian's fault — it was substantially edited.

Second, our insistence on a priority orientation to industrial workers arises not because we have redefined the proletariat, à la Poulantzas, as only those who directly produce surplus value. We accept the traditional definition of the working class as all those who sell their labour power.

The point is: there are 'historically fixed' decisive



sectors of the working class, whose social weight is crucial for any revolutionary or socialist strategy — and these are the industrial sectors, the miners, the car workers, transport workers, engin-

— and these are the industrial sectors, the miners, the car workers, transport workers, engin-

eer workers and so forth.

Our turn to industry is designed to correct an imbalance in the growth of the Fourth International, after 1968, in which recruitment in these decisive layers was small.

Of course, we want to recruit white collar workers, students and so on. We shall continue to intervene in these layers and recruit. But if we allow a 'spontaneous' development of the sections of the Fourth International, then the natural tendency will be to recruit and put resources into those areas where we are already strong.

Recruiting industrial workers won't come about as a natural by-product of getting bigger or an automatic 'overflowing' from work in other sectors, but by a conscious choice of priorities, which must include having comrades in those decisive sectors of industry.

We do this not because the 'authority' of Lenin and Trotsky says we must, but because the historical experience which Lenin and Trotsky codified, shows that a party which makes a successful revolution must be deeply implanted among the industrial workers. — Editor

Socialist Challenge



No bunkers for Labour London

By Tessa van Gelderen

THE NEW Labour Greater London Council intends not only to boycott the royal wedding, but also London's nuclear bunkers.

The Labour group is refusing to fulfil statutory civil defence obligations and thus faces a serious confrontation with the Tories.

'The new GLC administration is committed to stopping the wasteful spending on so-called home defence,' said Illyd Harrington, deputy leader of the council. 'Such preparations can only serve to make nuclear war more thinkable and more likely.'

War

Instead the GLC will divert resources away from nuclear war preparations towards protecting London from natural disasters — in particular, flooding from the Thames.

The GLC's civil defence budget had been fixed at £706,000 for this year. The government is not likely to sit back and let the capital city's civil defence disappear.

This is not because it has any illusions that the plans would save any Londoners in the event of nuclear attack, but because it strikes straight at the heart of the Tories' missile madness.

It's not civil defence that will protect us from the nightmare of the bomb. The very existence of Trident and Cruise missiles in Britain will make this country the number one target in Europe.

Waste

The Labour manifesto for the elections in London committed itself to a unilateralist policy and the ending of nuclear waste being transported through London.

Any attempt on the part of the Tories to intervene to prevent the Labour GLC carrying out policy for which it was elected should be met with a huge response from the people of London.

The government intervened in a similar situation in 1956 against the St Pancras Metropolitan Borough. A commissioner was appointed for two years until a new council reversed the decision.

The decision the people of London want reversed is the Tories' decision to have Cruise and Trident. And hopefully they won't have to wait till 1984 for that.

BELFAST COUNCILLOR APPEALS 'COME TO OUR AID'

By JOHN McANULTY — who, last week was elected onto Belfast City council. He and Fergus O'Hare, another victorious Belfast candidate, stood as members of People's Democracy, the Irish revolutionary socialist organisation, sympathising section of the Fourth International.

The primary significance of the election victory is a message from the Irish people to Margaret Thatcher.

It says that the Bobo Sands' election victory was not a mistake; that the Irish people want the five demands of the prisoners; that every day she delays, every further death that occurs, will only increase resentment and revulsion to the point where the Irish masses will settle for nothing less than an immediate end to British domination.



John McAnulty

The election has an important long-term significance, for the humiliation of Paddy Devlin and the defeat of Gerry Fitt, has redefined what Irish socialism is all about.

It is not about reform or collaboration, and it is not about upholding imperialist rule in Ireland. We have shown that significant elements within the Irish population are willing to support a revolutionary socialism that stands in the internationalist and anti-imperialist tradition of Connolly.

The alternative of the reformist left has, on the contrary, acted as a prop for the shameful bipartisan policy of the British Labour Party.

As international socialists we make a direct appeal to British workers to come to our aid to end the horrendous murder of the hunger strikers, and the vicious attacks on Irish people, including very young children, by the British Army and the RUC.



Photo: REPUBLICAN NEWS

Support the Hunger Strikers

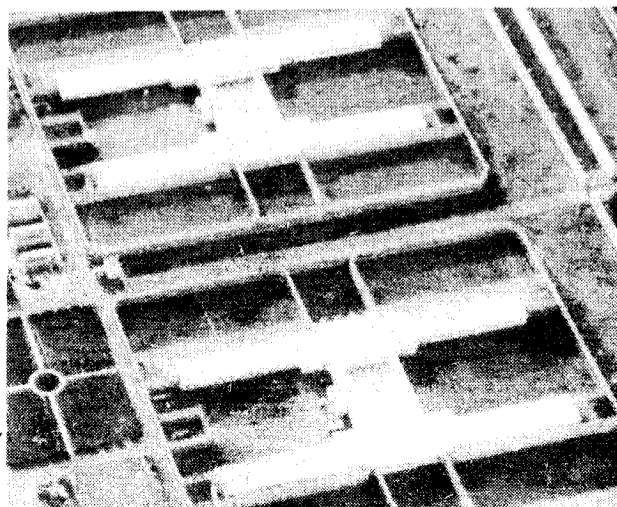
National Demonstration London, 13 June

Assemble, Finsbury Park, London N4 at 1.30pm

*Hold local meetings to build the demo!

*Get your union or Labour Party branch to support it!

*Book your coaches now!



The infamous H Blocks

National Demonstration 6-7 June

 **March for the future**

See overview for itinerary

- For a nuclear-free Europe
- Jobs not bombs
- Stop Trident
- No Cruise missiles

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REVOLUTION

SOCIALIST PAPER FOR YOUTH

Revolution May/June 1981

5p

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT

KICK OUT THE TORIES

**Peoples
march
for jobs**

LIVERPOOL-LONDON MAY 81



'WE ARE women workers fighting for our jobs. Women's jobs are as important as any other, and we aim to prove that women can fight for them.'

That's the message from the workers at the Lee Jeans factory in Greenock who have been in occupation for over four months.

They are fighting to save the jobs of 250 workers, mainly young women, against the company's closure plans. And they are showing that women and young people have a right to work.

The occupation has received massive support from the labour movement across the country. Dockers have pledged to boycott Lee Jeans products coming into the country.

And in the west of Scotland, where thousands are already on the dole the Clydeside shipyard workers have taken weekly collections for the Lee Jeans strikers.

But the occupation isn't just a struggle to save 250 jobs. It's about fighting unemployment and kicking out the Tories.

As one Lee Jeans worker explained: 'It's not just our jobs — there's the whole working class. Somebody has to make a stand otherwise Britain's just going to be one big scrapheap.'

The stand of the Lee Jeans workers and of the workers occupying Laurence Scott's in Manchester is a shining example to the whole labour movement on how to fight for jobs.

It was a militant occupation that saved the jobs of Gardner's workers in Manchester last year, and it will be militant action that will save the jobs of Leyland workers at Rover Solihull.

But these heroic struggles are not enough to end unemployment. We need a national campaign to do that.

The Peoples' March has shown that building such a movement is possible. Wherever it has passed, thousands of workers have demonstrated their disgust with the Tory government, and their sympathy with those fighting back.

The policies of this Tory government have brought nothing but misery to working people and youth.

Their anger has to be turned into a national movement of industrial action led by the unions and the Labour Party to kick the Tories out once and for all.

MARCH FOR JOBS - CARDIFF JULY 4

YOUTH FIGHT

WHERE TO FIND US

SCOTLAND
ABERDEEN — Graham 0224 694404
EDINBURGH — Raph 031 346 1257
GLASGOW — Andy/Des 041 649 7542

WALES
CARDIFF — Jane 0222 23182
SWANSEA — Graham 0792 299151
BANGOR — Nisha 0248 2697

ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM — Lucy 021 643 0669
BRISTOL — Piers 0272 426419
COVENTRY — June Anne 0203 76699
LEEDS — Paul 0532 39071 x61
LIVERPOOL — Mark 051 728 9982
MANCHESTER — Duncan/Rob 061 236 4905
NEWCASTLE — Pete 0632 737 507
OXFORD — Helen 0685 48081
SWINDON — Kim 0793 32048
LONDON — Ann/Alix/Richard 01 359 8371

For any other areas contact Revolution, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Or phone 01 359 8371.

Why I joined Revo

I officially left school today. I'm glad to leave of course, but I haven't got a job.

I knew it would be difficult to get a job when I left school. The state of the country just seemed to be getting worse. Some terrible statistics were mentioned, like the possibility of 5 million unemployed.

Meanwhile the government is going to spend £5 billion on Trident missiles. There are already enough weapons throughout the world to kill everyone, and more and more are being built.

The situation was obviously crazy. I decided that I'd moaned for long enough, and wanted to do something.

I joined Revolution Youth because I could see it was an active organisation which seemed determined to achieve its aims.

Being part of a campaigning organisation like Revolution Youth, you see that you don't have to accept what's going on. There is action you can take to build a better future.

Surely that's what we all want!

Rhona, Edinburgh Revolution Youth

THE DOLE queues lengthen by the minute. Even the official unemployment figures are expected to pass the 3 million mark by the end of the year. Youth, women and black people have been hardest hit.

Thousands of youth have never had a real job. Even those leaving Youth Opportunities (YOPS) courses often end up back on the dole. And the Tories are now discussing conscription for forced community work, in a desperate attempt to hide the effects of their policies on youth.

Increasingly youth are looking to the labour movement for a lead to fight back against the Tories. They are looking to the Labour Party and the trade unions for radical answers to problems like unemployment and the economic crisis. These are the issues at the heart of the battle in the Labour Party.

In the last year the Labour left has won important victories: the automatic right to reselect MPs, the election of the party leader and deputy opened up to the whole party not just the MPs, and radical policies like unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The Gang of Three split to form the Social Democratic Party over these issues. Most of the right wing MPs stayed behind. They are now organised in a group called Labour Solidarity which aims to stop the left advance in the party.

The biggest blow to the plans of the right wing was Tony Benn's decision to stand for deputy leader. We support Benn's stand against the right wing MPs and union leaders, and his fight to continue debate on party policy.

We believe Benn is absolutely right to stand against Healey, the candidate chosen by the MPs. Healey represents the policies of the last Labour government which cut public spending, allowed unemployment to rise to over a million, and which attempted to hold down wages. These policies resulted in the first ever decline in votes for Labour from those under 25.

Benn's election campaign is important because it takes the battle in the Labour Party into the trade unions which control the majority of votes at party conference. Now the fight is on for democratic control of the union bloc votes. The struggle in the Labour Party will be decided in the unions.

Revolution supports many of Benn's policies like an end to unemployment and the restoration of social services. But his programme doesn't represent the overall socialist solution that we support. In particular it has nothing to say about what the Labour Party

Labour Party Deputy Leader

Why we back Benn



Photo: MARK RUSHER (LFL)

should be doing *now* to fight against the Tories.

Youth on the dole with no prospect of a job cannot afford to wait another three years before a Labour government begins to tackle unemployment. Tony Benn and the whole Labour Party should be fighting now for action to defend jobs, supporting occupations against redundancies and campaigning for a 35 hour work week.

They should be fighting for positive action for youth, women and black people to have jobs. Most important of all they should be building a movement to kick out the Tories.

But despite these weaknesses Benn's campaign for deputy leader will swing the Labour Party further to the left, creating the best conditions for fighting for socialist policies.

That's why Revolution supporters will be working all out to build support for Benn's campaign and to get rid of Healey and the right

wing policies he stands for. We urge all youth to join us in this campaign.

What you can do

We give full support to the candidacy of Tony Benn for deputy leader of the Labour Party.

We believe that the campaign offers the best opportunity to discuss and organise to win policies which the labour movement needs in the face of the Tory attacks.

We call for every branch, committee, and conference of the trade unions and Labour Party to discuss the election for deputy leader of the Labour Party.

*Circulate this appeal in your union, LPYS or Labour Party branch

*Pass a resolution endorsing the appeal to go to the national and district union and Labour Party bodies

*Ask other union and Labour Party members to sign the appeal

ANDY, Oxford Revolution

UNEMPLOYMENT IS RISING. Millions are being spent on rearmament while social services are cut on the increase — but we won't get away with it.

Across the country, youth are fighting back for a better future. Join with Revolution Youth, on the streets of Brixton, on the People's March, in the unions and Labour Party.

Join with Revolution Youth in this fightback against the Tories for a socialist future.

Scottish youth take on the Tories

A WAVE of youth militancy is sweeping Scotland. From the magnificent occupation of the Lee Jeans factory by mainly young women to save their jobs, to the spontaneous strikes by YOPS workers for better pay and conditions, Scottish youth are fighting back against the most reactionary government since the thirties.

These actions are in sharp contrast to those of the present leadership of the working class in Scotland, who have sold tens of thousands of jobs since the election of the Tories.

The actions of the YOPS workers in particular stand out. Without any union to back them, they have mounted strikes all over Scotland: in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife and the Vale of Leven.

One of the strikes took place on a YOPS scheme run by the district council in Edinburgh. A YOPS worker on the scheme explained why they came out on strike:

'What can you do with £23.50 a week? Nothing much. Once you've paid for your digs and spent £3 a week on bus fares, you're left with about a fiver. The labourers we work with are doing the same work for three times the cash. That's

why we decided to come out on strike. We're not going to be used as cheap labour any more.'

The anger and militancy of the YOPS workers was clear to see at the Scottish Youth Rally Against Unemployment in Perth. It was organised by the Scottish TUC Youth Advisory

Scottish Youth CND V Edinburgh 27-28 June

March Against the Missiles Waverley Bridge; march followed by rally and open park.

Rock Against the Missiles local bands playing.

Plot Against the Missiles: CND in Scotland.

For more details write to: The Smiling Sun Bookshop Edinburgh, or phone Raph

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Photo: GM COOKSON (Socialist Challenge)

STOP THE MISSILES

WHEN TORY Defence Minister John Nott announced plans to cut defence spending the Tory press went wild. Tory 'gentlemen' choked on their gin and tonics on hearing horror stories of scrapping half the Royal Navy.

The reason for the fuss is Trident, Britain's new nuclear submarine. The latest estimated cost of this white elephant is about £7 billion. But the Tories haven't decided how to pay for it yet.

They can't cut public spending more than they've done already, and they can't borrow the money as it would fly in the face of their policies for the last two years. This leaves one option: take it out of defence spending, the one area of public spending not touched over the last two years.

decided upon by the recent Youth CND national conference in Birmingham. These should discuss important things like how we use Second Generation; how to stop the missiles; the role of Youth CND; and the activities we should organise in the run-up to the October national demonstration. They should also elect the two regional representatives onto the Youth CND national committee.

The recent demonstrations in Birmingham and Manchester have confirmed that it is youth who continue to pour onto the streets in their tens of thousands to fight against the missiles; this will no doubt be reaffirmed at the Scottish CND demonstration from Faslane to Glasgow at the beginning of June.

Scottish Youth CND are using the demo to organise a Weekend of Action to really put Youth CND in Scotland on the map. This will include a demonstration and conference. This is the type of thing we should organise in every region of the country.

The Militant leadership of the Labour Party Young Socialists were forced at the recent conference to recommend affiliation to CND despite their previous sectarian opposition. This is a great step forward in taking the fight to young workers. Youth CND groups should formally approach local LPYS branches with a plan of local, regional and national activities.

Many LPYS activists have needed no encouragement to recognise the importance of winning their local branches to campaign with Youth CND; now we have the chance to go out and win the rest.

Disarmament is being debated at most union conferences: the recent ASTMS conference voted in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament and withdrawal from NATO. We want the young workers leading the fight for disarmament in the unions in the ranks of Youth CND. The sooner we do this, the sooner we can get rid of the missiles for good.

Richard, Hackney Revolution Youth

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Committee as a substitute for Scotland's own People's March, called off after a ban on marches in Scotland.

The youth marching through the streets of Perth had a very different idea to those of the Scottish TUC about what working people should be doing about the Tories. Chants of 'Jobs Not Bombs' and 'Kick the Tories Out' echoed loudly along the march.

At the rally the biggest cheer was reserved for Scottish miners' leader Mick McGahey, no youth

Weekend of Action

missiles: Assemble 10.30am to secret bunker at Barnton, in air rock concert in nearby

gig in the evening with top

conference to launch Youth

Edinburgh Youth CND, c/o top, West Nicholson Street, on 031 557 0718.

Black youth say

'We've had enough'

BRISTOL, Brixton, and now Coventry ... black youth are standing up for their rights. They are fighting back against the racists, the police and years of racial discrimination.

Tory policies put black people at the bottom of the pile. The racist immigration and nationality laws are used to intimidate the black community and break up their families. The 'sus' laws are used to harass black youth.

Black people face worse social conditions too. Unemployment is much higher among blacks, especially the youth, and they are forced to live in the most run-down areas with poor housing and facilities. To cap it all black people also live under the constant threat of racist attacks.

After a lifetime of discrimination and harassment it's no surprise that black youth are in the forefront of the fight back against the Tories. The Brixton events were an explosion of black anger and resistance. The target was the police.

In the days leading up to the riots the Brixton police launched a massive operation called Swamp 81, resulting in 1000 mainly black youth being stopped and searched. No wonder the black community and many white youth in the area supported the struggle against the police.

The experience of black youth in Coventry is the same: 'The police deliberately provoke us, sometimes making false arrests, and harass us everywhere we go. When you go to court the magistrate always believes the police evidence against ours.'

That's the view of West Indian youth in Coventry who are organising against racist attacks in the area after a young Asian was murdered by skinheads in the city centre last month.

Unfortunately the fascist organisations like the NF and British Movement have grown over the last year. Some white youth are attracted to their 'easy' solution of blaming blacks for the crisis.

But black people don't cause unemployment. In fact they suffer worse unemployment. In Brixton for example more than 1800 people under 20, most of whom are black, have never had a job.

Black people are victims of the crisis not the cause, just as other working people and youth are victims of the crazy unfair capitalist system.

But the black youth of Brixton and Coventry have shown that there is an alternative, that they are prepared to fight back against the system. Now the unions and the LPYS should follow their lead in campaigning for positive action to defend black people's rights.

In particular the labour movement should support the self-organisation and self-defence of the black community, and fight to commit the next Labour government to repeal the immigration, nationality and sus laws, and all other racist legislation.

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RALLY FOR REVOLUTION!

REVOLUTION YOUTH celebrates its first anniversary as an independent revolutionary youth organisation this month.

We're one year on in the fight against the system that Reagan and Thatcher offer us: a society with evergrowing dole queues, where the murder of black people goes virtually unopposed, and where death in a nuclear war is the only future to look forward to.

There is an alternative to this sort of society. At the moment society is run in the interests of a small, rich and powerful minority who gained their wealth and power through the exploitation of workers throughout the world.

Revolution Youth fights for a society where the needs of people are put before the 'need' to make profit; a society where decisions are taken by the people whose lives are affected by those decisions; a society free from oppression and the threat of war.

In short, Revolution Youth is fighting for a socialist society.

An example of what we mean can be seen in the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada. There, the people are working to rebuild their society after years of repression from the US-backed dictator Eric Gairy.

Since the Grenadan people overthrew Gairy in March 1979, they have made enormous gains.

Unemployment has been cut by 50 per cent, a free health service has been created, and women have won the right to equal pay for equal work.

These gains will never be made by the likes of Thatcher and Reagan. They use their police and armed forces against anyone fighting for their rights — be

they prisoners in Ireland or black youth in Bristol and Brixton.

In El Salvador for example, Ronald Reagan is prop-



ping up a brutal military junta against the mass resistance of the people.

But the people of El Salvador have their strength as workers and farmers to rely on, as well as the inspiration from the revolutions in Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua. They also have the potential support of workers, farmers and youth the world over.

Revolution Youth sees its role as building support for liberation struggles wherever and whenever they take place. The worldwide support for the Nicaraguan Literacy Crusade last year was vital to its success in eradicating illiteracy amongst the rural population.

Britain has been hard hit by the world recession and the monetarist policies of the Tory government. Unemployment has nearly doubled in a year, living standards have declined and social services have been

drastically cut.

The Labour Party has begun to take a lead in the fightback against the Tories' anti-working class policies with massive demonstrations against unemployment in Liverpool and Glasgow. More and more people are looking for an alternative to the Tories.

The leftward shift in the Labour Party behind Benn seems to offer that alternative. We must make sure

that Benn's words are transformed into action to really challenge the Tories.

The movement to stop Cruise missiles coming to Britain has also grown massively over the past year, with tens of thousands taking to the streets to protest against Thatcher's support of Reagan's war drive. Revolution Youth has taken a lead in the youth wing of the anti-missiles campaign, fighting to win more young people to the ranks of Youth CND.

Revolution Youth is building an organisation of young women, young workers, young blacks and all young people who want to fight against the sort of future that the Tories offer us. We're building an organisation fighting for a socialist society — the only future worth fighting for.

Revolution Youth is holding a rally in London on 27 June: to celebrate our first anniversary, to celebrate the victories of the revolutions across the world which have freed thousands of people from capitalist oppression, and to reaffirm our commitment to kicking out the Tory government.

So, come to the Revolution Youth First Anniversary Rally!

Stand — against the war drive of Reagan and Thatcher: No Cruise, no Trident; Britain out of NATO; Jobs Not Bombs!

Stand — with all those across the world fighting for their liberation! Rally — with Revolution Youth, for everyone fighting for their rights!

Come to the Revolution Youth First Anniversary Rally — 27 June, Caxton Hse, London. (nr Archway Tube) 7.30pm. Speakers from: Grenada, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ireland, French revolutionary youth, Youth CND, Revolution Youth.

Troops Out Now!

Get the British troops out of Ireland — that's the message from the majority of working people and youth in this country. British policies in Ireland have failed miserably. The 'troubles' continue, as they inevitably will until Britain gets out of Ireland altogether.

In the last few weeks world opinion has appealed to the British government to rethink its strategy on Ireland. There was international outcry following the death of Bobby Sands MP on hunger strike, and a wave of sympathy for the Republican cause.

Lech Walesa, the leader of Poland's independent union Solidarity, described Sands as 'an IRA freedom fighter... a great man who sacrificed his life for his struggle'. Huge demonstrations in Ireland have followed the deaths of each hunger striker, once again showing the massive support for the prisoners' demands.

Despite this broad opposition to British policy in Ireland Margaret Thatcher, backed to the hilt by the Labour leadership, prescribes more of the same repression. More troops have been sent to Ireland in the past few weeks. Only a tiny handful of left MPs led by Tony Benn have called for the withdrawal of British troops.

Many young people in this country have been forced into the army by the massive rise in unemployment. With job prospects getting worse each month and only a pittance on the dole — it's easy to be lured by attractive advertisements for fat wage packets and far-away places.

Now the Tories plan to start Youth Opportunities (YOPS) schemes in the army, bringing one step closer conscription of youth into the Tory war machine.

What they don't tell unemployed youth who sign up is that the Irish youth they are sent to shoot suffer even higher unemployment. In recent weeks British soldiers have shot and killed several innocent teenagers, mainly by shooting

them in the head with plastic bullets.

Over the past 12 years thousands more have been picked up, injured or attacked. And young women have been raped and abused by soldiers and police.

Yet still they expect us to believe that the communities resisting British rule are no more than 'criminals'. Hundreds of Irish youth from these ghettos are locked up in the H Blocks and Armagh women's prison.

They were tried in special courts with no juries, under special laws that deny the basic rights of human justice. They are convicted on the basis of confessions extracted under torture. Yet their special status is denied.

We know that the black youth who rioted in Brixton were not hoodlums and thugs. They were fighting discrimination, harassment, brutality

and unemployment. We know that those arrested were political prisoners. The same is true of those arrested in Belfast and Derry.

The Irish prisoners have shown their willingness to die to force the government to admit that Ireland's problems are political, not a breakdown of 'law and order'. They have shown heroic determination to force the British government to change course and get out of Ireland.

Youth in Britain have nothing to gain from the war in Ireland. It's time we organised inside the unions and the LPYS to say loud and clear: we won't die for Thatcher's war in Ireland, get the troops out of Ireland now, support the demands of the Irish prisoners.

PIERS, Bristol Revolution

National Demonstration

Support the Irish prisoners' five demands!

Stop the deaths!
Saturday 13 June, 1.30
Assemble Finsbury Park, march to Hyde Park
Called by the H Block/
Armagh Committee

Come to the rally

If you want to come to the rally and/or want more information about Revolution Youth then write to us: PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Name.....
Address.....
Age..... Occupation.....

