

Socialist Organiser

ELECTION SPECIAL. 10p

Paper of the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory

VOTE LABOUR

ONE THING distinguishes the Labour Party from all other parties. It is the mass party of the working class, built by the trade union movement to be its representative in Parliament. It is, accordingly, the party through which the vast majority of workers will express their hatred of the Tories — the representatives of wealth and privilege.

The vast majority of workers will rightly want to vote Labour, not because of Labour's record, but in order to deny the bosses a victory in Parliament.

The Labour government's record is a disgrace. Instead of challenging capitalism, Labour has managed it in the interests of the rich and powerful. Socialism has not been discredited — it was never tried. And the wishes of the Labour Party conference were ignored by the Government.

The SCLV calls on every worker not only to vote for Labour but to campaign for a Labour victory. The fight must be kept up after the election to push the Labour leaders to break with the bosses and bankers. We need leaders that will fight for and with the working class in government and out. And we need a labour movement capable of calling the leaders to account.

The fight won't finish with the election. The power to run society does not lie in Parliament, but with the ownership of industry and the organisation of the army, police and state bureaucracy.

That is why we need to fight to create a really socialist movement that will break this power. We need to replace the chaos and anarchy of the profit system with a society run by the working class and democratically planned to meet our needs.

FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

No more Labour acting like Tories

FACING UP TO CLASS POWER

Ken Livingstone, Hampstead

I'M STANDING for the restoration of all cuts in public spending, for an expansion of public spending and job creation in the public sector to eliminate unemployment.

Public ownership must be extended to the productive sector of the economy to make a real solution to our problems.

I'm campaigning for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland, the repeal of all immigration controls, an immediate cut in fares and a rent, price and mortgage freeze.

The Tories are standing on the most harsh right-wing manifesto since the 1930s. They seek to cut back the living standards of working class people while giving tax cuts to the rich and private companies.

We've got to be quite honest about the policies of the last Labour Government. The chance of defeat for us lies with Callaghan's failure to meet the problems of the British economy with socialist solutions.

Every Labour Government has failed to advance towards socialism because the Labour Party has been led by the social democratic wing — people who just don't believe in socialist policies.

That's why the election of party leader by conference and democratic accountability of MPs is so important. I've undertaken to submit myself to a full re-election process before each election. If at some point the party felt it no longer wished me to continue I'd resign and fight from the grass roots for my views.

We've seen a clear shift in power from Parliament to the civil service. Economic power lies outside the control of Parliament — in many cases it rests abroad — so a socialist government needs to intervene to get this economic power. Only with massive active working class support can we prevent a Labour Government being at the mercy of foreign or domestic military intervention — which would come the minute we started trying to take the wealth and power away from the rich.

If I'm elected I see my job to use Parliament as a platform to win the Party and people generally to socialist policies and a socialist leadership.

Peter Tebbutt, Falmouth

THE LONG-awaited manifesto of Labour's National Executive, which was going to put forward real alternative socialist policies, finally emerged shorn of any socialism at all. The stamp of Callaghan, Healey and Co. is clearly marked on this document of 'no change'.

Public ownership of the 'means of production, distribution and exchange' under

workers' control is as far removed from the manifesto as it is from the thinking of the 'moderates' who run the Government. Even Labour's conference decision to abolish the House of Lords has ended up with a feeble compromise of just clipping the 'noble Lords' ermine by removing their power to delay legislation.

Of course somewhere to put 'Brothers' like Lord Scanlon, Lord George Brown and the future Lord Callaghan is desirable... but Parliament is hardly the place that would leap to most workers'

minds!

The working class is crying out for a party with a sound political base able to offer a real alternative to the discredited capitalist system, which has failed to provide meaningful jobs or a decent standard of living for the old, one-parent families, and the low-paid.

The time is long overdue for a complete reshaping of our society — that is evident from the last few years and the experience of talking to many working class

voters in the early days of the election campaign.

Over and over again workers of all ages say: "We do want a Labour Government, but a Labour Government which is going to be loyal to us — the workers. We don't want the Tories or Labour leaders who act like Tories and live like Tories".

In Falmouth the closure of the dockyards is on the shelf after 370 voluntary redundancies were rammed through. The big question is, will the Tories keep the docks open if they win, and for how long.

The Tory candidate for Dorking, Mr K Wickenham, boss of European Ferries, has said that his firm will use Falmouth for repairs if it is taken over by 'free enterprise' in the shape of Bristol Channel Shiprepairers, who wriggled out of being nationalised. The Tories want to 'give free enterprise a chance'.

We should be fighting for socialist policies in the election to save jobs in places like Falmouth yard — fighting against all cuts and redundancies.

CAMPAIGNING FOR LABOUR BUT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

The EEC blind alley

WHAT'S THE most important election issue? Jobs? The unions? Social services? Inflation? One thing's for sure: It isn't the Common Market. Yet the EEC has been made into an important focus of Labour's election campaign, not only by Callaghan but even more so by Benn and the Parliamentary Left.

Within the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory there are different views on the question of the Common Market. At the time of the 'Great Debate', some of those now supporting the SCLV were for voting 'no',

and some were for not voting at all in the Common Market referendum. Among the many individuals the campaign has attracted, there will be supporters of both views.

The majority feeling on the Steering Committee of the SCLV, however, is that whatever position was taken at the time on the referendum on the EEC, to raise the question now is at best diversionary.

Labour candidates who are SCLV supporters ought to be explaining that the problems facing the working class do not come from 'abroad', but from the capitalist class.

Some Labour candidates won't be parroting the Government line. They will be speaking up for the decisions and the struggles of the labour movement, and campaigning on some or all of the policies of the SCLV. Here we include personal statements from six of these candidates.



Labour candidates against Callaghan: Knight, Livingstone, Roberts

Don't manage the system: fight it

Joan Blackmoor is standing for Gedling borough council

NOTTINGHAM Council are cutting their housing projects while there are thousands on the waiting lists and there are young people with children trapped on the top floors of high-rise flats. It's a big cause of vandalism. If you live in a slum you don't smile sweetly at the world, you take our your anger at society in all sorts of ways...

For the labour movement, that means taking political action.

In October 1978 we set up our Tenants Association, and drew in a lot of people who weren't political but had a real grievance against the council bureaucracy. They turned to people who were political to get action going.

The biggest issue we've fought so far came up in December. Two local schools, Stanhope Junior and Stanhope Infants, are to be 'merged'. The only announcement was a two-inch public notice in the papers on December 22nd, saying objections had to be received by February 22nd.

We held a tenants' and residents' meeting and sent a petition to the Permanent Under Secretary of State for Education to object — because we believe it is just another way of saying they are closing one of the schools.

The tenants' association is there to keep an eye on what the council does, or doesn't do. The Labour Government has imposed drastic cuts in the public sector and the Tories are eager to carry them even further.

If it wasn't for the tenants' association I wouldn't have considered standing for the council, but it will be a good way of finding out what's going on and pressing our case.

We've got to use councils to ram the Tories' sneers about Labour as 'the Socialists' down their throats... by acting like socialists. I don't like the idea of Labour councillors being managers for the Tory system of running councils.

Labour councillors and the Labour Party should be fighting against the whole way things are run, and keeping workers who vote for us informed of every detail to help them fight back.

FIGHTING TORY RACISM

Ted Knight, Hornsey

INFLATION is seen by everyone as a key election issue. Our campaign in Hornsey says we need control over the economy, with an alternative economic policy.

It is essential to oppose any wages freeze — wages are not the cause of inflation. We are advocating a prices freeze. Workers cannot be expected to tighten their belts any longer.

Unemployment is not a major issue in Hornsey. But we can't be complacent. We need to use the new technology to improve leisure for workers and their families, and to introduce a shorter working week with no loss of pay.

Expansion of public spending is one of our main platforms. We're opposing public expenditure cuts and hitting hard at the Tories' proposed 'economies'.

On the Common Market, we're saying no. Labour must withdraw and get down to solving our problems with the European labour

movement, not a club of rich businessmen.

We are challenging the local Tories on Thatcher's racist "swamping our culture" speech. We have a strong "Asians for Ted" and "Cypriots for Ted" campaign because these communities can see our Labour Party is in the forefront of fighting racism and discrimination.

The Asian voters here are very firmly Labour. Even though many run small shops, and might be expected to vote Tory, they are aroused because their shops are broken into by fascists, because they see the racist thugs attack fellow Asians in Brick Lane, and because Thatcher's speeches are fuelling the race hate attacks.

Obviously we're fighting off the wretched record of the Labour Government too. But nothing will be solved for working people by the election of a Tory administration. We're trading on the fact that I'm fighting for socialist policies. We might be fighting against the odds, but I'm not afraid to speak out against the Labour Party leadership

Defend the Unions

Ernie Roberts, Hackney North

THE TORIES and their allies, the TV, press, and radio, are fighting harder than they have ever done. Aided by the right-wing Social Democratic Alliance in the Labour Party, they are conducting a campaign of character assassination against left-wing MPs and candidates. The SDA have issued a list of 43 left MPs and 20 candidates whom they want to see defeated.

This unholy alliance aims to remove all trace of socialist ideas and policies from the Labour Party and the rest of the labour movement. They fear the demands of working people for a new deal and a new society — one based on need, not greed. Working people everywhere must see these frantic efforts of the Tories and their friends as a threat to social and welfare advances like the Employment Protection Act, Health, Education and Housing, and the

Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts.

A key issue in the election will be the protection of the trade union movement from the reactionary attacks of the Tories; also the exposure of the Common Market and its effects upon food prices and the general standard of living.

A key point for me is the need for a Labour Government to take over real and effective control of the economy, to take it out of the hands of speculators, bankers and bosses. Labour Governments have not really controlled the economy, they have been peripheral.

Just voting for Labour isn't enough. Just as in the trade unions there must be democratic control. Therefore it is the responsibility of all electors to make sure the elected carry out the policies decided.

Every socialist must enter the fight for the return of a Labour Government with more left wing socialist MPs committed to fighting for socialism.

Arthur Palmer, Carlton constituency, Nottingham

WHAT'S REALLY objectionable about the Tories is their basic anti-union warfare. I issued a press statement attacking the local Tory MP for his denunciation of the NUPE strike. I'm right behind these low-paid workers' fight for a living wage and reduced hours.

Philip Holland, the Tory candidate, is a buddy of Grunwick boss George

Ward. He invited him up to the Carlton area to publicly thank him for his stand against workers fighting for the right to join a trade union.

The aim of the Tories is to appeal to the greedy, not the needy. This won't improve the conditions of working class people. The local Tories are delaying the housing programme, making longer waiting and misery. We're also fighting hard

against the National Front fascists who are standing a candidate. I welcome the participation of the Anti-Nazi League. If I'm going to lose votes because I'm anti-Nazi, so be it.

My message to Labour doubtfully is, don't be absent voters. Only by arguing and continuing the struggle after the election for socialist policies can we defeat Tory policies.

Backing the workers' wage struggle

LIBERALS

Party of the muddle ground

THE BIBLE is full of mythical beasts — head like an eagle, ears of a lion, haunches of an ass and feet like a fish... Today, on the British political scene, we have a secular version: the Liberals.

With a taxation policy like the Tories, a devolution policy like the moderate nationalists, workers' participation like the Labour left and a 'front bench' dotted with sheep farmers, the Liberals, like the beasts of the Bible, can neither walk, fly nor swim.

Which group in society do the Liberals actually represent? They would like to represent the progressive businessmen, the independent professions and managerial workers. Their problem is that the Tories and the Labour Right do it better.

When David Steel addressed the National Federation of the Self-Employed, he started with an appeal to the 'small businessman' crushed by a mushrooming

bureaucracy. He got applause for that. He advocated tax cuts, and got support for that. But, turning away from mild Toryism for a moment, he also supported the Employment Protection Act, maternity leave, and redundancy payments. He almost got booed off the stage.

The slogan 'Small is beautiful' might express the ideology of the Liberals, but it's not very comforting when applied to your own party. Eager to make the best of a desperate situation, however, the Liberals have been trying to court the disillusioned and confused, posing as 'the alternative'.

The Liberal vote will be no more than a measure of political confusion and disappointment. Should there be a hung Parliament, however, that tiny group of non-descripts — who will be willing to sell their votes to either side — might be able to affect the course of British politics out of all proportion to their real influence.



Men in the muddle: Liberal leaders Steel (top) and Pardoe

Is Norwood facing both ways?

VOTERS IN Norwood, South London, will be receiving a strongly left-wing, anti-Government Labour manifesto. But the candidate is junior Prices Minister John Fraser, a staunch supporter of Government policy.

It would be easy to say that the contradiction is Fraser's problem. In one sense it is, but in some ways it is ours too.

How did it happen? At Norwood Labour Party's General Management Committee meeting on March 29th, a manifesto was adopted which gave a radical challenge to the Government's policies.

The Norwood party want British troops out of Ireland. They take the side of black people against racism from the press, the law, the NF, the bosses and the Tories. They oppose the immigration laws and call for an end to police harassment of black youth under 'sus' laws.

They call for free contra-

ception and abortion on demand, aid for battered and raped women, and free nursery and creche facilities. And they pledge support to all workers fighting for better wages.

John Fraser would have preferred to fight on a milk-and-water manifesto. The party, however, insisted on its right to say what it wanted to the Norwood voters.

Difficult

If the party could impose these policies on a member of the Government, why couldn't they select a new candidate more in line with their thinking?

The re-selection process (despite attempts to change it) is lengthy and difficult. The Norwood seat is marginal. John Fraser is a conscientious constituency MP, with a strong personal following, especially among black people in the area.

Yet even without re-selection, the manifesto is a direct challenge to the right of the Parliamentarians to ride roughshod over Party members and supporters.

John Fraser can in future be more easily held to account on the policies which are being put to the electorate by the party, whether he agrees with them or not. No way can he appeal over the heads of the party to the people who voted for him.

But before he can be held to account, let alone replaced, he must first be elected. This is why the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory will campaign for a vote for John Fraser, as for all other Labour candidates. We want the biggest possible turnout of Labour voters, so that it is possible to hold those like John Fraser to account.

In Norwood, at least, they have policies on which to do that.

How to make Ireland an election issue

IN BARNSELY, Brendan Gallagher is standing against Northern Ireland Secretary Roy Mason.

Gallagher's aim is to denounce Mason's Irish policy, to campaign for British withdrawal from Ireland, and to publicise the case of his son Willie — wrongfully convicted, he says, on the basis of a forced confession, of planting a bomb.

The SCLV still says: vote Labour. But not because we have any confidence in Mason!

We support the campaign for troops out now. We support the Irish prisoners' struggle for their rights. We condemn the fact that local councils and the National Union of Mineworkers have refused Brendan Gallagher meeting halls for his campaign.

We believe socialists in the area should fight for

Brendan Gallagher's right to get a hearing, and should see to it that the issue of Ireland is raised in all the election meetings.

We sympathise with people in the Irish community who despise Labour's record. But we believe the most important thing is to expand the growing opposition within the labour movement to Britain's Irish policy, by work during and after the election campaign. While the Labour Party remains the only mass working class based party in Britain, attempts to pit candidates against it, at this stage, will be viewed with antagonism by many labour movement activists who might otherwise be won to that opposition.

Vote Labour, but remember: the fight to rally the British labour movement against repression in Ireland is only just beginning.



Brendan Gallagher (inset) is running in the election to protest at the British Army in Northern Ireland

Blame the bosses, not the English

DURING THE election the Scottish National Party (SNP) will focus on oil. They will argue that a Scottish Assembly or a Scottish Government which can tax the oil companies means more jobs and better wages.

It is just not true. Total revenues to the British Government from oil in 1980 will be £2 billion, while the oil companies walk off with profits of up to 50% after tax.

To raise revenue means raising taxes, and that means taking on the power of the oil multinationals. Labour has tried it once already and backed down in the face of stiff resistance.

The SNP have no intention of even trying. As soon as their votes went up in the early '70s they sent Willie Wolfe off to America to assure the oil companies that the SNP meant them no harm.

Even the £2 billion is only any good if it can be put to some use. Both the SNP and Plaid Cymru (the Welsh Nationalist party) argue that 'more power' and more money for Wales and Scotland means more jobs, that Scotland and Wales are discriminated against by Westminster.

Hand-outs

Again, this is not true. Since the early '60s, massive amounts of money have been channelled into the regional aid programme — giving free hand-outs to the bosses to invest in the regions. Scotland received over 30% of all expenditure under local employment legislation, between 30 and 40% of regional employment premiums, and nearly 40% of ex-

penditure under the 1972 Industry Act.

Even so, a report of the Scottish Council Research Institute in 1974 found that "unemployment continues unabated... as though regional policy had never existed". And nothing has improved since then.

The same story of depressed industry and high unemployment is true for Wales, but also for the north of England. Cardiff, Liverpool, and Glasgow are the three worst disaster areas in capitalist Britain.

Oil revenue and Government grants are only of any use if the bosses want to invest. And they don't — because it is not profitable. Both Wales and Scotland are too far away from major markets, and even with grants it is not worth investing.

The only way round this is

to attack the profit system. The problem is not the English but the bosses — Scottish, Welsh, or English.

The other argument the nationalists use is that more power to the regions is a good idea because it brings government 'closer to the people'. But this just ignores the existence of classes in society. Is it better to have a Scottish capitalist like SNP supporter Hugh Fraser exploiting you than some English boss?

Parasitic

For a long time the Scottish capitalists have specialised in one of the most parasitic areas of big business — financial speculation. Financial and insurance companies form a higher proportion of Scottish than Eng-

lish business. Not that Scottish capitalists are any better if they decide to run factories in Scotland instead.

How hard the boss attacks your wages and conditions is nothing to do with his nationality. The drive for profits is international.

If the SNP have no new arguments in this election, they will, unlike Plaid Cymru, be given a boost by the majority vote for a Scottish Assembly in the Referendum on March 1st.

The blame for any boost to the SNP lies squarely with the Labour Government. Devolution is irrelevant to the needs of the working class. But socialists respect the democratic decision of the Scottish people.

There was a majority in the referendum for the setting up of an Assembly. The Labour Government should have respected it.

WORKERS' ACTION
Revolutionary socialist weekly. From May 19th, Workers' Action will be going from 8 pages to 12 pages, with four extra pages of background analysis, in-depth discussion, debate and polemic. The price will go up from 10p to 15p to meet the increased costs.

Special offer: until the end of May, subscriptions at the old rate, £4 for 25 issues, £7.50 for 50 (in Britain and Ireland).

WA: Box 1960, Rising Free, 182 Upper St, London N1.

Chartist no.74

In magazine format.

With articles on the Bolshevik tradition, Socialist Feminism, the Labour Left, immigration, local government. 32 pages for 35p plus 15p p&p from 60 Loughborough Rd, London SW9.

Stop the NF!

THE NATIONAL Front will be putting up some 280 candidates in this general election. Hoping to tap the deep reservoirs of disillusionment, confusion and despair among the electorate, the NF will be waging what it calls "a very, very heavy racist campaign".

There is little risk of the National Front doing well in any constituency. It has only once managed to save its deposit. The real danger is that under the cover of respectable electoral activity, this gang of thugs will be free to spread their race-hate lies with little opposition.

Protected by election laws, they will be hiring public halls and conducting canvasses in an effort to stir up hatred and violence against blacks. They will get TV time for their Nazi ranting.

Our job will be not only to outdo them in terms of putting over socialist ideas, but to mobilise people in every area to thrash the fascists off the streets, to deny

them any platform for their sick fantasies, and to encourage TV workers to 'pull the plugs' on the Nazis.

One of the National Front's main election activities will be in Leicester. Over the last six months they have been stepping up their attacks on blacks and anti-racists there, daubing the Sikh temple with their filth and scrawling their slogans around the town. Now they have decided to hold their St George's Day march there on April 21st.

A committee has already been set up by the Trades Council, drawing in all anti-racist groups and committed to stopping the fascists from marching. The Anti Nazi League have called for a national mobilisation to fight the fascists in Leicester on that day.

We can't rely on the police to ban the Front's activities — though they are clearly against the law. Dealing with the fascists is a responsibility we have to take on ourselves.

We oppose the banning of National Front activity by the state. Such bans inevitably mean a strengthening of the state, and that means a strengthening of our enemies. Our job is to sweep the fascists off the streets by our own strength and our own direct action.

Mobilising against the fascists — whether the National Front, the British Movement, or any others — is an important task during this election campaign.

**Stop the NF Nazis!
12 noon, Saturday
21 April, Victoria
Park, Leicester.**

Coach from London, organised by the SCLV: departs Wood Green 9am, Seven Sisters 9.15am, Finsbury Park (Rainbow) 9.30am. Fare: £3.



The National Front: a party of race hate and organised violence.

SCLV: what we're doing

THE SOCIALIST Campaign for a Labour Victory was set up in the belief that a general election need not, and should not, mean the suspension of militant struggle. We don't agree with the view that elections are best fought and won by pretending Labour has no connection with the class struggle.

So instead of going out with dull Government hand-outs that try to kid people the Labour Government has done wonders for the working class, we say: canvass and campaign on the basis of working class needs and demands. Don't just drop the struggle for the duration, but step it up!

The SCLV will be doing just that during the election. As well as this issue of *Socialist Organiser* designed for use in campaign work, we will be producing another in two weeks' time which will take up the issues that arise as the campaign gets underway.

We have produced six leaflets on the major issues facing working people. These leaflets will be given out by Labour Parties, and provide a fighting basis for canvassing either for the general election or for local elections.

And the SCLV will be calling on all its supporters to mobilise to stop the National Front's march in Leicester on April 21st. We are calling for Labour Parties to co-operate with the Anti-Nazi League during the campaign, holding joint meetings and distributing joint leaflets.

So if you want to fight for a Labour victory and fight Callaghan's right-wing, anti-working class policies — give us a hand!

Get your CLP to take our leaflets. Order extra copies of *Socialist Organiser* to sell while canvassing. If we organise properly we can stop the Tories and the Labour Government dominating this election campaign between them, with their rival claims to be the best conservatives. But we must get moving now!

SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN FOR A LABOUR VICTORY

For more information on the SCLV, cut this out and send to SCLV, 5 Stamford Hill, London N16.

Name.....

Address.....



SCLV badges, in red, white and black: 20p each or six for £1. Add 10p for p&p.

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Meanwhile, on the industrial battlefield...

BL craftsmen: promises aren't enough

THE BRITISH Leyland toolmakers' strike in 1977 was the first blow that began to break the ice of wage controls. The toolmakers demanded wage rises and the right to negotiate separately. After a long dispute, they were forced back to work with a promise that their case would be considered.

Nothing was done to keep the promise. And now the toolmakers are out again, together with other BL craft

workers, for the same demands. Now they want £90 a week basic.

About a third of all BL Cards craftsmen are out as we write. But the strike looks like growing, and in any case it will halt all car production within a couple of weeks.

BL boss Michael Edwards, backed up by the Labour Government, has replied with threats to cut investment and close down BL factories one by one if the strike goes on. The union

leaderships have been almost equally hostile, calling on workers to cross any picket lines put up by the unofficial craftsmen's committee. The engineering union has even announced an 'investigation' into strike leader Roy Fraser.

BL production workers — at Longbridge, at least — are sympathetic to the strike. Fed up after being swindled over their parity payments, they are glad to see another group of workers fighting the

swindlers.

The union leaders say that separate negotiating rights are impossible under union rules. The fact is, however, that craft workers in some other companies, like Lucas, already have such separate rights.

Strike leader Roy Fraser says: "This dispute will only end when we get a positive commitment from management. We are not going back for just promises this time".

JIM DENHAM



Roy Fraser

Civil service: Election excuse for a sell-out

WITH THE election under way, the pace of the civil service pay negotiations has hotted up. The clear intention is to get them out of the way so the Labour leaders can campaign about working well with the unions without being embarrassed by industrial action.

The full-time officials want to negotiate a deal like the 9% plus £1 which other public sector unions got when they settled, to be followed by staging of the rest of the increases due under the civil service pay comparability scheme.

When asking if the Government would agree to this, Ken Thomas of the CPSA promised to call off a strike of Air Traffic Control Assistants over Easter. However, the SCPS are still allowing their Customs and Excise officers to go ahead with their action.

The union bureaucrats are fighting hard to get this staging completed by the end of 1979 so that the whole comparability tarce can start again in 1980.

Now that the unofficial action at the Washington and Livingstone computer centres has come to an end, the union officials have the unofficial action well under control — partly because many of the rank and file are waiting to see how bad the sell-out is going to be, partly because every effort was made to undercut the official action. The odds are stacked against us.

The crucial moment will be at the CPSA National Executive meeting on Wednesday April 11 for which a mass lobby is organised to call for rejection of staging and stepping up the action. But this time it is likely that the full-time officials will be able to work with the right wing on the Executive to put any offer out to ballot immediately.

Every effort has to be made to reject staging and demand the union leaders call all-out action to win the full claim now.

STEPHEN CORBISHLEY

TIMES: JOBS STILL AT RISK

WITH THE proposed date for reopening of the Times less than a week away, still no agreement has been signed with the unions involved. The workers at the paper won a half-victory in March when the Times bosses were forced to climb down from their demand that unions agree to their plans for the introduction of new technology, speed-up, and job cuts, before any of the sacked workers would be taken back.

The workers have been reinstated, but the major battle over the management proposals has still to be fought. The union leaders are keen to get agreement, even though they are sticking out for some concessions over manning levels and who is to operate the new technology.

Whatever concessions are wrung out of Times boss Duke Hussey, with or without the intervention of the government arbitration service ACAS, the deal that comes out at the end is likely to mean selling jobs. The Times workers have already won a half victory. What they need now is an organised fight for workers' control over the new machinery. Only that way can sackings be avoided.

Dunlop: Bosses going for the kill

THE TRANSPORT and General Workers Union Executive has given the Dunlop Speke Joint Trade Union Action Committee approval for any action necessary in their fight to save the threatened tyre plant's 2,400 jobs. Action taken so far has included sit-down protests blocking Speke Boulevard and the occupation of two Merseyside radio stations.

But on April 10th, nine days before the plant was due to close, the unions presented a plan to the management designed to make the plant 'viable'. The unions will agree to 1,000 jobs being lost and more 'flexible' work processes, disputes procedures, and manning agreements. In return the unions are asking that the rest of the tyre-making jobs be kept, together with the other lines of production at Speke like golf-ball manufacture.

They are also calling for talks to be started on new products to be made at

Speke, while the Government is asked to underwrite the Speke plant to the tune of £2 million and to introduce import controls against foreign tyres.

Though the union 'plan' contains almost every possible example of how NOT to fight redundancy, it is not at all certain that Dunlop bosses will want to make any concessions at all. The Action Committee has called for an extension of the blacking on Dunlop tyres already operating at Southampton and Liverpool docks and at Ford Halewood.

That action, together with the occupation of the plant and an extension of the international unity shown by the international day of action on March 7th, is the way to save all the threatened jobs in Dunlop. The Dunlop bosses look like they want a fight to the finish at Speke, giving no concessions. No concessions should be offered by the workers.