

Join the
Labour
Party

Socialist Organiser

Against all bans and proscriptions!



Going from strength to strength

Steve Good (asst.
branch sec., Kings X
ASLEF) told us:

I THINK the dispute is going
from strength to strength at

the moment.

We had 60 pickets in Gill
ingham the day before yest-
erday, and 30 or 40 today.
There were 20 men going in
to work there. Now it's
between 8 and 10. Yesterday
they had to close down the
service.

Picketing was very slow
when this dispute started,
but now it is increasingly
effective.

Not much thanks to the
union leadership, though.
There is a 'Central Strike
Committee' in London. This
committee sees its role, as
far as it has been explained
to me, as instructing branch-
es to set up meetings to co-
ordinate picketing. It doesn't
send out or organise pickets.

Kings Cross has had to
play a central role in picket-
ing.

We were down at Victo-
ria today. Most of the extra
coaches are run by non-
union drivers, but there are
TGWU members too. The
story we're getting time and
again from the TGWU mem-
bers is: "I've had no instruc-
tions from my union".

There is no positive lead-
ing being given by the TGWU
officials — though we did get
a number of TGWU mem-
bers today saying that if BR
sacked us they'd take action
themselves.

We need other sorts of
support, too. Money is going
to be very important. At
Kings Cross we've had some
generous donations. More
collections will be needed.

A lot of our members
have been going round to
local Labour Party meetings
and there has been a good
response.

If the BRB go ahead with
sackings, the dispute can go
one of two ways. The
ASLEF leadership went into
this dispute prepared to
compromise on flexible
rostering — prepared to work
an experimental scheme. The
threat of sackings could
aggravate the weakness at
leadership level.

Or the sackings could
lead to an escalation.

This will depend very
much on what the rest of the
trade union movement does.

IAN WILLIAMS
(NUR Executive, in
personal capacity)

SID WEIGHELL's attitude
to the ASLEF dispute is, like
his attitude on many things,
completely unreasoning.

We've got two Executive
decisions, back in January,
saying that the ASLEF posi-
tion was justified. And what
we've got now is a threat by
the Board that as of July 3
they would impose new
working conditions on a
trade union in the railway
industry.

Whether or not the NUR
has accepted flexible roster-
ing, we can't as a union say
that the Board has a right to
force working conditions on
another union. ASLEF had a
choice between a strike or
capitulation.

My own NUR branch has
advised its members to
donate the strike pay they
received for their two days
on strike to ASLEF.

ASLEF face a life and
death struggle, and if they
are defeated, we'll be next.
It would be entirely criminal
of the Labour Party not to
support them.

Weekly paper of the Socialist Organiser Alliance.. No. 93 July 15, 1982 (Claimants and strikers 10p) 25p

Tories out to smash ASLEF

ALL OUT TO DEFEAT TORIES!

by Harry Sloan

SO it's war on all fronts. Apparently the Tory high command, carried away with its Falklands victory, feels able to take on the labour movement at home. It bases this on intelligence reports on the state of readiness of the trade union leadership.

As we go to press, BR management seem certain to issue sacking notices to the striking ASLEF train drivers.

The aim is to break the back of ASLEF. Drivers will be taken back only if they individually break ranks and accept flexible rostering.

BR doubtless know that this manoeuvre will not succeed if ASLEF stays solid. But they reckon on the ASLEF leaders losing their nerve and opening the way for the union to be humiliated.

At the same time Norman Fowler, Tory Secretary for Health and Social Services, has adamantly restated the government's refusal to increase the miserable 6-7½% pay offer to a million workers in the health service.

Next week will see a 3-day action by NHS workers coinciding with an all-out ASLEF stoppage, and probably spilling over into a wave of unprecedented supporting action.

London Transport ASLEF drivers have said they will strike if their BR colleagues are sacked. NUR members on LT have said they will not cross picket lines. Miners and other sections who have supported previous stoppages by NHS workers could well be out again. The Tories could face a wave of simultaneous strike action bigger than anything since the 1920s.

And so they should. The attack on ASLEF is one of the boldest steps yet in a determined Tory drive to break the strength of the unions, drive down living standards and smash up established working conditions at the expense of thousands more jobs. Even now Norman Tebbit is talking of a third anti-union Bill to dictate the rules of unions.

But while the Tory class war cabinet leads its troops of managers into battle, the trade union general staff is cowering in its bunker at Congress House.

As the Tories fire salvoes of threats, ultimatums, lock-outs and legislation, the union leaders fire back with wet lettuces of compromise and attempts at capitulation.

But if the generals of the labour movement won't lead the fight, the ranks are nevertheless coming out of their trenches and advancing against the Tory enemy. Health workers have stood firm against demoralisation and sell-out "compromises"; ASLEF drivers have responded solidly to the threat to their jobs and their union.

Miners, too, and other sections of workers have shown their readiness to join battle with the Tories, striking alongside the health workers.

Next week must see the maximum turn-out for the 3-day action, in solidarity with the NHS workers and ASLEF, and a tenacious fight to go beyond that to all-out action by the whole workers' movement to defeat the Thatcher government once and for all.

Editorial — page 3

Thatcher's boys return



When the troops got back from the Falklands on the Canberra, they had a message for us all.

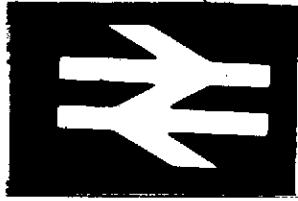
For trade unionists, a banner draped over the ship's side read: 'Call off the rail strike... or we'll call an air strike!'

For women there was a banner reading: 'Lock up your daughters! The bootnecks are back! For Labour supporters — 'Maggie rules OK'.

Together with their gesture on the way out, when troops spat over the side of the ship at black dockworkers in Sierra Leone 'because they were black', the messages make up a pretty comprehensive manifesto.

During the war, Socialist Organiser argued that the main enemy for British workers was not Argentina but the British state. See what we meant?

CALL OFF THE
RAIL STRIKE
...OR WE'LL CALL
AN AIR STRIKE!



Health workers join ASLEF pickets

ASLEF pickets at Saltley and New Street in Birmingham have been joined by COHSE members from Walsall General Hospital and St Margaret's Hospital (Birmingham).

We spoke to one of the COHSE members, Gillian Walker, a student nurse at Walsall General.

"In this day and age all workers have got to stick together. The success of our campaign so far has been largely due to the solidarity shown by other workers, so the least we can do is to return the favour."

"It's a real inspiration for us coming down to the ASLEF picket lines. The blokes really appreciate our presence, and we go away feeling stronger as well."

"This type of solidarity also helps undermine the 'special case' mentality that too many nurses suffer from. The sooner we realise that we are workers just like the ASLEF strikers, and that we've got to fight alongside other trade unionists against the common enemy, the sooner we'll win our claim."

"What's happening on the railways and what's happening in the hospitals is part and parcel of the same Tory offensive - so let's unite to defeat them!" The COHSE placards at Saltley read: Save our railways, save our hospitals, defend our unions.

A petition had been circulated among ASLEF members at Saltley, and won 70 signatures for a return to

work. But after the picketing, a mass meeting of Saltley ASLEF on Sunday 11th showed a 383 to 7 majority for continuing the strike. On the Monday morning, only four ASLEF members reported for work.



Outrage over New Cross verdict

by Mick Liggins

"We have no illusions in any inquiry that is conducted, but we are going ahead to publicise our campaign and to show the hypocrisy of the judges."

That was the New Cross speaker at the YS black youth conference who explained the history of the New Cross campaign.

On January 18, 1981, 13 young blacks were killed when a firebomb caused a fire which gutted the house where they were holding a party.

Rather than looking for the real culprits, the police were determined to put the blame on the young people at the party. They took over 1,000 pages of statements, and they came up with several far-fetched theories about rows in the party which supposedly resulted in arson.

The most likely cause of the fire was an attack by racists on the party. In the area there had been a history of racist attacks with black women unable to walk the streets for fear of attack.

Last week the Action Committee took the case to

court again trying to overturn the open verdict recorded at the last court hearing.

Their determination was shown by the mass vigil that they held from 9pm to 4 in the morning outside the court. They have organised many other events, such as the black people's day of action which brought 15,000 West Indian demonstrators on an eight-hour march through the streets of London.

But the High Court upheld the open verdict.

However, the Bradford 12 Campaign has shown that mass action can force the racist state to back down. That campaign received support from all over the country.

We must give the New Cross campaign the support that it deserves,

and force the state to admit the probability of racist murder. This fight is very much linked to the Bradford 12 Campaign. They are both concerned with the defence of blacks and Asians.

In the case of the Bradford 12 the community was allowed to defend itself. In this case the racists are being allowed to murder and terrorise the community.



PTA arrests

LAST week Peter Grimes walked into Paddington Green police station to deliver some shaving kit and other personal items for his brother Leo, held there under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The cops took the package and then told Peter: "You're arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act."

Peter Grimes told us: "It was the usual thing. Fingerprints, forensic tests, medical examinations, and 48 hours of interrogations."

"They were asking me about the Chelsea barracks bombing last year."

Like most victims of the PTA, Peter was eventually released without being charged - and without any right to sue the police

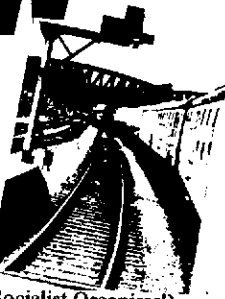
for wrongful arrest, or to get compensation for the harassment and loss of earnings.

Leo was held for six days - but likewise released without being charged. We asked Peter how Leo was treated. "Like any other 18-year old who knows nothing about politics, he was terrified. They were asking him about the Chelsea bombing, too."

Apparently the cops' only basis for arresting Leo was Peter's previous activity as an organiser in Britain for the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

CORRECTION: In a report in SO92, we gave Leo Grimes' name wrongly as Neil, because of a mishearing over the phone.

SHUTTING DOWN AYLESBURY



Alan Stephens reports from last Friday's ASLEF picket in Aylesbury, one of the few stations that ASLEF scabs were still working from.

DETERMINED, vocal picketing began at Aylesbury station from 4am. The pickets, mostly from Kings Cross and Euston, had set out at two in the morning, and were determined to get results.

As the first of the media heroes, the 'ASLEF rebels', began to arrive, all attempts to talk to them were rebuffed with insults. The police presence grew, and the cops were obviously straining for action.

Four of the scab drivers reappeared from the station and started to abuse the

pickets. "There are 28 of us here, and we don't give a fuck about you", one shouted. "There's 24,000 of us, and your union cards will be gone at the end of this", came the swift response.

After shouting at the pickets, the majority of whom were under 25, that they "weren't worth shutting on", one of the scabs went on to explain that he was older and wiser than them. He didn't get a chance.

"I'm more of a trade unionist than you'll ever be", shouted Tricia, a member of the ASLEF branch committee at Kings Cross.

Infiltrate

Later we spoke to Andy Johnson, Kings Cross branch secretary. "The Daily Mail said at midnight that there would be 100 pickets at Aylesbury - they printed the story before the picket had even begun. They have obviously sent somebody to

infiltrate our strike headquarters. They've even taken pictures of members arriving and leaving."

Police

Steve Good, assistant branch secretary, commented: "We'll have to make sure we give them more pickets to rant about. Today the police were here already. They've even attempted to limit the picketing to two people!"

"You can tell that they are out to make arrests in this dispute."

Ten more pickets arrived and Ken Price from Euston told us about their success there. "Only one bloke tried to go through. He was an ASLEF man, and we persuaded him not to go in."

This was greeted with cheers, and another chorus of the pickets' anthem: "Blacklegs strive to make the country tick! But they bloody make us sick!" (Full lyrics in next

week's Socialist Organiser!)

Driver Ray Timpson reported on the situation at the Cricklewood depot. "Six blokes went in at the start, until we got the picketing organised. We've now got the scabs down to two. One of them is putting in by phone from Bedford. In normal times BR don't allow this!"

We asked Ray what he thought of BR's tactics and the Edwardes-style sacking threats.

"If it comes, then surely we've got to have some backing from the TUC. All of us should ignore it and stay out!"

The pressure on the TUC should begin now for action to be organised should just one ASLEF or NUR member be sacked. Meanwhile, full support and solidarity pickets in defiance of the Tory laws must go ahead so that we get more headlines like the Oxford Mail's in response to the picketing at Aylesbury: "First blood to the pickets!"



No ragged trousered reactionary



By Andrew Hornung

'Sectional'

"THIS is a narrow, stupid, sectional dispute," frothed Weighell referring to ASLEF's fight. Just the right words to describe... Weighell's and Johnson's dispute with the train drivers.

'Partisan'

TWO other Labour MPs have attacked Foot's stand. One is Peter Shore who is Shadow Chancellor and will soon be making a bid to become Party leader. The other is Brynmor John, the Party's social security spokesperson, better remembered as the Defence spokesperson who was moved after he attacked the Party's policy on defence.

According to this pair, the Labour Opposition is 'too partisan'!

PERSONALLY, I'm not surprised a prowler managed to get into the Queen's bedroom. As an unemployed person on a dole queue pittance he probably just wanted to talk to ER II about how he might be able to get the kind of social security money she was on.

Everything fits. Think of his opening remark: "Have you got a cigarette?" These are hardly the words of a criminal caught in the act. Then ER II tells him to call for her footman. A footpad wouldn't fall for this line about the footman. Obviously the bloke thought he was about to get a job on the palace staff. Cruel blow then when instead of an interview he gets arrested.

AS FOR Whitelaw's shock, I'm not surprised. One look at his eyes shows that he has been spending long nights under ER II's bed with the corgis - fidgety little beasts - trying to stay awake to catch any intruders. No wonder he feels a failure!

WALTER Johnson has hitherto been best known for his claim that Michael Foot's duffle-coat would lose Labour over a million votes at the next election. Now he insists that it was the effect of rail strikes on London's suburban com-

Foot next?

SID Weighell of the NUR, and Derbyshire South MP Walter Johnson have attacked Foot's support for ASLEF - his first pro-working class remarks this year.

Weighell accused Foot of ignoring the facts. Foot should watch out. After all, Weighell only recently urged the NEC of the Labour Party to widen the witch-hunt to include Benn. Why stop there?

Foot burned at the stake amid a pyre of blazing railway sleepers?

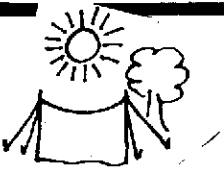
muters that lost Labour the last election.

Johnson is a former president of the TSSA, the white collar rail union. Perhaps Johnson would have liked it to be white collar and tails.

Labour Party headquarters yesterday failed to deny malicious rumours emanating exclusively from the SO office that Walter Johnson had suggested that the next party political broadcast should consist of a filmed train ride from Tunbridge Wells to Waterloo by the complete troop of Labour MPs, men in tuxedos with tails and women in evening dresses with Thatcher-blue hairdos.

SDP

Perhaps if his suggestion is not heeded, he will follow another former TSSA president Tom Bradley MP out of the Labour Party to the SDP. After all, they're a well turned-out lot and they even hold conferences on trains!



LPYS Summer Camp Go wild in the country! Only £20 for a week at Bracefields Camp Site, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire (Sun guaranteed!) All Class Fighter supporters should attend. Further details from Jane: 01-609 3071.

**Socialist
Organiser
EDITORIAL**

'WE NEED ACTION TO GET RID OF THIS GOVERNMENT!'

Prepare a general strike

The 1945 Labour government nationalised the railways. In 1982 BR management are leading a Tory assault on the unions. Ernie Bennett an ASLEF member from Birmingham New St, spoke to Selly Oak Labour Party last Thursday, 8th, about the political lessons.

"I've been a train driver for 38 years, and I've given the employers a lot of loyalty over the years."

"But now the British Rail Board is trying to abuse that loyalty."

"Why should we accept a system that will ruin our social and family lives and

mean the loss of thousands more jobs?"

"The most sickening thing is that all this is happening in a nationalised industry. I thought we were supposed to own the railways!"

"I remember when the railways were first nationalised, and we all thought that the ordinary people and the railworkers themselves would be in charge. But it didn't work out like that."

"What's the point of nationalising the railways, paying off the debts of the old owners, and then handing control back to just the same sort of people as ran them before?"

"There's no doubt in my mind that the BR Board is out to smash ASLEF, as part of this government's attack on the unions. The health service workers are facing exactly the same thing, and I for one think we should be

giving them every support. "In fact, I think we need to be building for united action across the whole of the trade union movement to get rid of this government."

"But it's up to people like you in the Labour Party to make sure that the next Labour government isn't the same as the previous one — that it will be a government that stands by the workers, instead of letting them down yet again."

ONCE AGAIN, workers are talking about a general strike.

The joint picket lines, strikes and demonstrations of health workers, miners, firemen, council workers, engineering workers, and many others, in the NHS pay campaign, have brought working class solidarity with a bang from the slogan sheets into living reality.

The British Rail Board's determination to beat ASLEF into the ground has alerted trade unionists to the fact that this government's policies are just as big a threat to union rights as Heath's Industrial Relations Act was.

It comes just a month after the June 10 dockers' strike against Tebbit — the first industrial action against the new anti-union bill, and a token of a growing though belated awareness in the rank and file.

The trade union leaders have done all they can to break the momentum. There is one striking exception: NUM president Arthur Scargill, who has called on mine-workers to strike in support of the health workers and defy the anti-union law. He has boldly set the NUM on collision course with the government over pit closures and pay.

But what Scargill has done — and it's early days yet in the NUM, of course — shows up all the more the leaderships of the rail and health unions.

NUR general secretary Sid Weighell manoeuvred and hustled to get the NUR's strike called off, and now shamelessly attacks the ASLEF strikers. The ASLEF leaders, for their part, told their members to cross the NUR's picket lines.

NHS union leaders followed up the tremendous one-day strike on June 23 by delaying further action for nearly a month — to July 19-21. Evidently they hoped that the rail dispute would be over by then!

But the fight continues. And if British Rail goes ahead with its threat to sack train drivers, then the demands on the leaders for an all-out mobilisation should — and will — become louder and sharper.

BR is hardly strong enough to do to ASLEF what Ronald Reagan did to the US air controllers' union PATCO — sack the lot, recruit scabs, and sit it out. But it can hope, and try, to scare the leaders and break the back of the union.

It can't and won't succeed if ASLEF gets support from other unions.

A general strike could get the threats to ASLEF lifted and the 'flexible rosters' ultimatum withdrawn. It could clear out the Prior Law — already defied a hundred times on the NHS picket lines — and stop the Tebbit Bill.

It can do more. It can make it impossible for the vanguard Tories to govern, and drive this Tory government from office.

And the level of mobilisation needed by the working class to defeat this entrenched government would open up tremendous possibilities beyond the limited objectives of defeating Tory policies or even of bringing down the Tory government.

A general strike poses implicitly — and, as it develops, more and more explicitly — the question of which class is master in the country.

If the Tories retain power after a general strike, they will quickly counter-attack. So indeed would a Labour government led by the present Foot-Healey-Shore team. But that is the round after this one. The task now is to mobilise the full forces of the labour movement to win this round — to defend ASLEF and defeat the Tory government.

Socialists must start organising for a general strike. July 19-21 can be crucial. If BR sacks ASLEF members, we should immediately demand that the TUC makes July 19 the beginning of a general strike. Whatever the TUC does, we should work for the maximum turnout, the maximum unity on health and rail picket lines, and the broadest joint local meetings and rallies.

A general strike will be developed and won through the network of workers' committees and organisations created in struggle — shop stewards' committees, combine committees, trades councils, Labour Parties. We must fight to gear these bodies to the urgency of preparing for a head-on clash with the Tories, to strengthen the links between them, and to equip them with a fighting political perspective against the Tories — the perspective of a workers' government, a government based on and accountable to the workers' movement, taking decisive measures against capitalist power and privilege.

Flying pickets clamp down on scabs

IN THE Manchester area, a tiny handful of scab drivers have allowed management to run four local services on a sporadic and unreliable basis, to Bury, Bolton, Oldham, and Alderley Edge.

These are all short runs, so one scab can make five or six trips per shift.

Overall the strike has been virtually total. For example, at Blythe Bridge, the biggest depot, everyone is out. At Newton Heath there is only one scab out of nearly 200 drivers.

Flying pickets have been out to depots at Bolton, Bury, and Altrincham, preventing management from running any kind of regular service anywhere except from Bury, where the scab drivers have been getting to work by coming up the line from other stations. (One ASLEF driver was driven through the picket line by management).

On Monday morning, pickets were out in force throughout the area, in case the lock-out threat led to people coming in. In the event it didn't. The strike remained virtually total.

All the pickets seemed to agree on what is at stake. As one at Bolton said,

"The crunch has come this time. They've picked us off deliberately in order to smash us. If we give in on this one, then we might as well pack our bags. There'll be no union left!"

Another man, at Bury, pointed to the change in BR's attitude after the NUR called off the strike. "As soon as that strike was called off, they moved in for the kill, and rejected a compromise offer from Buckton. It seems they only want total surrender."

Another was angry about the term 'flexible rosters'. "Forget flexible rostering",

he said. "We're already working that. We have been since 1919. What we're out for is the eight-hour day!"

What is the way to win now? Everyone I spoke to reckoned the TUC should be getting off its knees.

"It's very weak, the TUC. What we could do with is four or five Arthur Scargills!"

Many felt that management scare tactics had backfired. "It's done the opposite of what was intended. It has made the strike more solid. Management now have only one card left to play, and that is to sack us all!"

Will they, I asked. "I don't think they could. They would have a general strike on their hands if they did!"

Borgias still in business!

By Jo Thwaites

THE road to the top is long and arduous — and never entirely straight and true.

Archbishop Paul Casimir Marcinkus, son of a Lithuanian window cleaner, born in Chicago, is now head of the Vatican's bank — the Institute for Religious Works (IOR).

He's a rather unlikely archbishop — fond of fast cars, smokes heavily, strong American accent and a nice palace in Rome overlooking a park.

Of course he had no experience in banking before he was appointed secretary to the IOR. No doubt this lack of previous experience will be used as the extenuating factor when the full story comes out — if it ever does — concerning the death (by hanging under Blackfriars Bridge, London), of Roberto Calvi, president of the Banco Ambrosiano.

The Banco Ambrosiano has a chequered history to say the least. It has taken over many of the assets of one Michele Sidona, who is now serving a 25 year jail sentence in New York.

Sidona was a close business partner of the Vatican's bank, and Calvi's bank took over that role when Sidona was locked away.

Little is known about the dealings of the Banco Ambrosiano and the Bank of Italy has spent some time trying to work out what it is up to. There has been talk of shady deals with central and South American interests, (including finance for the sale of Exocets to Argentina) and movement of money and assets out of Italy using the secret facilities available to them through the links with the Vatican (the Church can do it anonymously).

But when officials from the Bank of Italy have tried serious investigation of Ambrosiano, they've faced losing their jobs, even ending up in jail on trumped up charges. Archbishop Marcinkus has been asked to help and has not been cooperative. On one occasion he simply failed to turn up to a meeting.

Maybe Calvi was mur-

dered rather than simply and conveniently committing suicide. Certainly an attempt had been made on the life of the vice-chairman of Ambrosiano earlier this year.

At the moment the rugged Archbishop is sitting tight in his office directly below the Pope's private apartments. Perhaps it would be best if he stayed there.



"Cut him down!"

PRESS GANG

By Patrick Spilling

THE HEAD of Scotland Yard has reacted with fury and amazement to the news that an ASLEF member was found in the Queen's bedroom discussing flexible rostering.

Parliament was suspended for a special emergency debate on this latest example of the unions' aggression.

The Prime Minister, in a special message to the House of Commons, said she had been left with no alternative but to proscribe ASLEF. Ray Buckton is to appear at Marylebone magistrates' court later today, accused of belonging to an illegal organisation.

The Queen acted with enormous courage, according to informed sources at the palace. She woke up in her bedroom at 3am to find the ASLEF driver standing in the room. He sat on her bed for three hours trying to explain British Rail's proposals for flexible rostering, while the Queen pretended to take an interest.

He asked for a copy of the railway timetable to

explain a point about down-time and reverse switching. Her Majesty — who always sleeps with a timetable under her pillow — cleverly pretended she did not have a copy in her bedroom. She 'popped out' to get one from the corridor, but in fact called the detachment of machine-gunners who always sleep outside her room. The driver was arrested and taken to the Tower.

Later he managed to smuggle out a message saying that he had been unable to sleep because he should have been driving the night express to Glasgow.

"It's bloody murder when you wake up in the middle of the night knowing you have eight hours to kill" he wrote. Conservative MPs later tabled a motion demanding tighter measures to ensure that the monarch does not come into contact with members of the working class unless they have been suitably programmed with a special course in nationalism.

The motion went on to

deplore the interruption to the Queen's sleep. It said that the monarch and her family needed long periods of rest, and they had been accustomed to a regular eight hours' sleep a night since 1919.

Mr Sid Weighell later attacked the drivers' union, saying that he had been planning to meet the Queen himself later this year. "It is an outrage that members of an insignificant railway union should put my knight-hood at risk."

Mrs Thatcher was attacked in the Commons by Mr Roy Hattersley, opposition spokesman, who said that no train driver had ever sat on the Queen's bed while a Labour government was in power, and that Labour governments had a much better record than the Tories of protecting and preserving such institutions as the Royal Family.

Mrs Thatcher rejected the allegations and told MPs that the Canberra would be requisitioned to take busi-

nessmen up the Thames to the City every morning, and that a special re-fit was being ordered to make sure that there were enough bars on board.

Meanwhile today British Rail said that 100% more train drivers had returned to work after an intensive campaign to persuade them of the management's case. This brought the numbers working up from one to two.

One train travelled today on its regular route around a funfair. It was fully loaded with TV crews and reporters who had waited all day for a ride. The train left the station two hours late as the driver posed for photographs and discussed contracts for his memoirs with the Sun. He said later that he had to return to work, because where else could he make £30,000 a week for a one hour day. His train was met by Mrs Thatcher who had hurried from the Commons, and the driver was later made an honorary member of the Parachute Regiment.



MITTERRAND SWITCHES TO THATCHERITE POLICIES

JIM BENSON weighs up French developments since last summer.

ON the evening of May 10, 1981 French workers poured into the streets in their thousands to celebrate an historic event: the election of a socialist government; "their" victory and "their" government. Despite three years of bitter bickering between the main workers' parties — the Socialists and Communists — and despite a deep and sharp divide between the trade union bureaucracies, workers overwhelmingly expressed their confidence in a socialist government elected on a bold programme: nationalisation of major monopolies and banks, reflation of the economy, injection of vast resources into social services, etc.

A mere year later, the SP/CP government hardly pretends it will fulfil the wishes and hopes of the working class. On the contrary, wracked by an ever deepening economic crisis, the Mitterrand-Mauroy government has put its election manifesto in abeyance and has undertaken to resolve the crisis with capitalist measures which smack of Thatcherism. "Austerity", "rigour" and "sacrifice" have become keywords of every political speech and statement.

"Fellow workers, to win the battle against the crisis we must tighten our belt", explains Jacques Delors, minister of finances. "We must put a brake on wage increases" added Prime Minister Mauroy.

The Communist Party, senior partner in the government, quietly approves of the new turn. For the benefit of its audience the CP declares its staunch refusal to "manage



Finance Minister Delors

the crisis", but its economists are already mastering new terminologies: rather than talk about "austerity" they accommodate themselves with the word "rigour"; rather than use the word "profit" they are busy coining "new criteria of management to improve productivity and competitiveness".

Mitterrand's economic strategy started from a two-pronged objective: to reflate the economy and to satisfy the basic economic demands of workers. In order to achieve this the SP/CP government undertook to:

- 1) increase consumption in order to stimulate production;
- 2) reduce unemployment

ment by bringing industry to full productive capacity, and

3) develop the nationalised sector.

The appointment of openly bourgeois ministers (like the Gaullist Michel Jobert, Minister of Commerce) and technocrats/administrators (like Jacques Delors, Minister of Finance) threw real doubts on the government's ability to implement its programme.

First the SMIC (legal minimum wage) was increased by 10%; nowhere near the 30% demanded by the CGT-CFDT unions in order to compensate for the fall in living standards since 1968.

In October 1980 Mitterrand declared: "... a left sounding speech is not enough. What we need is enough strength to resist the pressures of international capitalism, otherwise we will be subjected to the will of the dominant oligarchies. We have therefore to guarantee our freedom of decision with the help of an economic plan and a public sector which will be the spearhead of this plan at all levels ..."

Too much

Plans for the nationalisation of major monopolies looked quite impressive on paper: the public sector was set to include 50% of all industrial investments, a quarter of the French industrial workforce and 80% of the output of all monopolies. That proved too much for the bosses. Mitterrand's own huddled cabinet, the technocrats and bureaucrats, were abandoned to the private sector.



Renault strikes were the thin end of a wedge of working class action

"3 million shareholders (230,000 of whom owned 47% of the shares) were generously compensated at a cost of 45 billion francs (£4 billion).

"In a move to compromise with the bosses" organisation CNPF — the equivalent of the CBI — the government chose new managing directors from the rank of the CNPF to head the nationalised industries. In other firms already nationalised, like Renault, Air France or SNIAS, vicious managements appointed by Giscard remained undisturbed.

Approach

"Several months later, Dreyfus, Minister of Industry, summed up the government's approach to the nationalised sector in his "letter of commission" to the new managing directors: "You should be working towards 'economic efficiency' through a continual improvement of competitiveness (...) the criteria usually used in the management of industrial firms will apply to your group".

It is in this framework that managing directors of the nationalised public sector have defined their rights to draw up production plans for the next four

years.

Far from using nationalisation to reorganise the economy for the benefit of the working class and to achieve full employment, Mitterrand has shown little sign of tampering with capitalist structures.

Redundancies

Also the managing directors retained the right to make the necessary redundancies: already in the steel sector, plans have been drawn up to reduce the workforce by 20,000 by 1985 in conformity with EEC strategy to reduce the European steel production. Twenty-five billion francs of public funds are already been earmarked to finance the operation.

"The government's predictions of a decisive reduction in unemployment have proved a pure rhetorical exercise. Unemployment has passed the 2-million mark, with a 350,000 increase since the socialists were voted in office.

Again the government's approach to the problem is far short of the measures enshrined in the election manifesto. Instead they opted for hand-outs to capitalists:

600 "solidarity contracts" (consisting of rebates, direct grants,

etc.) have so far created 17,000 jobs — far short of the target of 150,000 a year — and this at the cost of 28 billion francs from public funds.

The massive and steady increase in unemployment has taken its toll of social security funds. UNEDIC, the biggest unemployment benefit fund, will show a deficit of 40 billion francs in 1983.

Measures destined to stabilise or even reduce the deficit are very similar to the attacks on claimants in this country: reduction of the benefits for the "less disadvantaged" claimants, increase in National Insurance contributions, crack-down on "scroungers", etc.

The reduction in the working week to 39 hours took place amid massive industrial unrest. This was partly due to the way the government legislation was framed, leaving loopholes for the bosses.

The reform was forced by workers through active mobilisation and strikes. But this reduction has had hardly any effect on unemployment. Today Mauroy is already backpedalling on this aspect of the manifesto by declaring that the legal reduction of the working week to 35 hours will be considered in 1984!

Another aspect of the

government's policy to reduce unemployment is to apply pressures on capitalists to invest and expand. Instead it chooses to rely on their good will by helping them with massive hand-outs:

*11 billion francs were slashed from the employers' contributions to the "Professional Tax".

*National Insurance contributions were frozen.

*Tax evasion reached scandalous proportions — nearly 90 billion francs.

Despite all these generosities, capitalists have shown no sign of increasing their investments. Small businesses have invested in 1981 a mere 50% of their profits, big enterprises only 60%.

The rest of the money is used for speculation in the money markets or is simply exported abroad.

Deficit

Even the proposed wealth tax, supposed to redistribute resources and reduce inequalities, will rake in a mere billion francs.

Faced with a budget deficit of 80 billion francs the government took certain monetarist measures, namely a devaluation of the franc by 10% in relation to the Mark. The weakness of the franc is due in part to the weakness



Communists Party (CP) ...

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October 20 elections for Prior's 6-county 'Assembly'

By Bruce Robinson

JAMES Prior has succeeded in overcoming the filibustering of the Ulster Unionists and Tory backbenchers. The Northern Ireland Assembly proposed in his White Paper published earlier this year will now be elected on October 20.

This has caused an uproar amongst Loyalist politicians as the elections will be conducted on the old 12 constituencies rather than the new 17 seats recommended by the Boundary Commission.

They claim that with proportional representation this will give more seats to the minority parties such as the Catholic SDLP.

The same people are of course experts in how to manipulate constituency boundaries so as to ensure Loyalist majorities. For 50 years up to 1968, these means ensured that a Catholic majority in Derry never won control of the City Council.

More fundamentally, the borders of the Northern Ireland statelet itself were drawn in order to preserve an artificial area which would have a Protestant majority, yet still be politically and economically viable. Any Assembly

based on the partition frontiers thus has an artificially created majority and a minority held within the state against its will.

Although the Unionist parties are guaranteed a majority, how much of a

majority is vital because of the way Prior intends to use the Assembly. Unless an Executive can be set up with the support of two-thirds of the Assembly's members (or unless it has in Prior's opinion 'sub-

stantial cross-community support'), no powers will be devolved to the Assembly and Prior will maintain the essence of direct rule.

The Assembly will then become a mere talking-shop, which, like the 1975 constitutional convention, will eventually degenerate into the hoarse repetition of the claims of the Unionists and SDLP until finally the British government decides they have sat long enough.

There is a slim chance that, with the support of the Alliance Party, the Paisleyites and Official Unionists could stick together the required two-thirds of the Assembly. But it is a remote chance and that is why the Unionists are so concerned about the boundary changes.

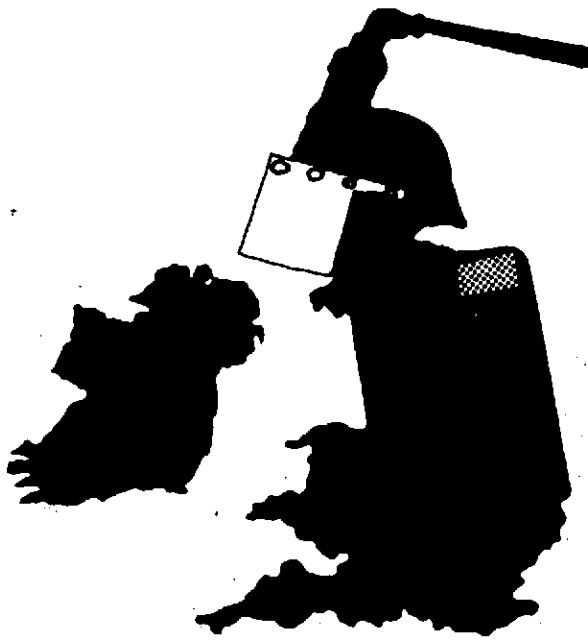
On the Catholic side, Provisional Sinn Féin has already said that it will fight the elections, though

it won't take any seats it wins. The SDLP is split on the issue and has not yet taken a clear position, but almost certainly will fight the elections rather than leave the field to Sinn Féin and miss the chance of being able to deal with Prior through their strength in the Assembly.

Prior's plan is a gamble, with the cards stacked so that even if he loses, the situation won't, in his view, be much worse than at the moment.

His plan will fail because there can be no 'majority rule' with the support of the Catholic minority in the artificial state within which 'majority rule' oppressed them for so long.

Contact: Labour Committee on Ireland, BM Box 5355, London WC1N 3XX.



Zionists - only against one holocaust!

MOSHE Machover, a leading anti-Zionist Israeli activist and editor of the journal 'Khamshin', told this story to an audience in London gathered to protest against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Some time ago, an Israeli academic institution decided to hold an international symposium on the holocaust and genocide.

At first things went well. A number of Israeli institutions agreed to participate, including the Yad Vashem Institute which is concerned exclusively with the holocaust of Jews under Nazism. Support from overseas was quickly forthcoming too.

But then things started to go wrong. To begin with the government started to pressurise the organisers to exclude from the agenda any reference to the genocide of Armenians at the hands of the Turks. The inclusion of this item

apparently had irritated the torturers who run Turkey today.

The Evren dictatorship is ideologically sympathetic to fascism, but then Israel doesn't have any friends in the region who aren't.

That might have been swallowed by the organisers. But soon the conference was a dead-duck any way, for the Director of the Yad Vashem Institute withdrew his support. He didn't realise that the conference was going to be anti-semitic.

Anti-semitic? Well, yes! After all, given the breadth of the agenda, it was clear that the term holocaust was being used to cover groups of people other than the Jews who perished in the concentration camps. And to assert that the term 'holocaust' applies not only to these tragic victims but to other people is anti-semitism!

Solidarność

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Spanish cops back to 'normal' duty

By Harry Sloan

SO at last it's over. The month of mindless machismo culminated last Sunday in the defeat of a violent squad of German hatchet-men by a skilful and resilient Italian team.

The World Cup - like so many "international" sporting occasions - has established itself as a gladiatorial contest which focusses the most frenzied nationalism of men around the world.

Controlled as it is by a handful of established footballing nations, FIFA successfully discriminated repeatedly against the newcomers to world football. Algeria was squeezed out by a blatantly fixed game between Austria and Germany - while the Kuwaiti manager was instantly disciplined for his complaints over these double standards.

But in the tide of chauvinism which engulfs the occasion it seems that some on the left have gone overboard on a position of "inverted nationalism" which quite loses touch with reality.

Socialist Challenge on June 24 carried an article by Geoff Bell and Davy Jones arguing in favour of Spanish cops beating up British football fans:

"We will then be treated to English fans rioting and the Spanish police effectively (!) dispatching the conga-dancing, anthem-singing, 'We Hate Argies' thugs to the gutter from where they crawled. And that will be one of the most pleasing sights of the World Cup."

Obviously a substantial number of British fans in Spain were outright

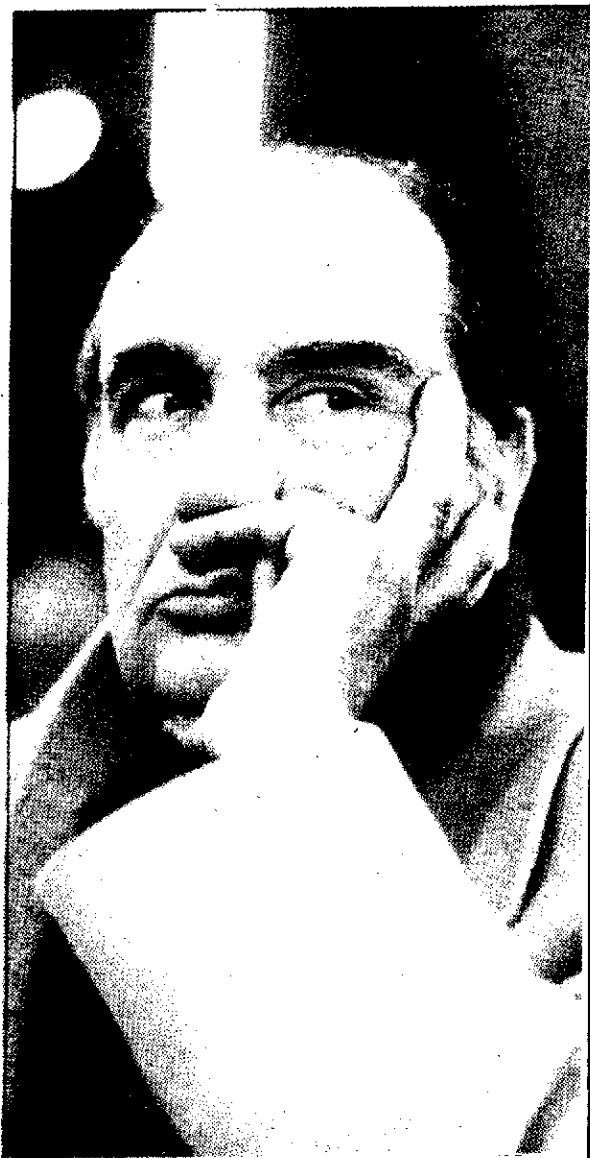
reactionaries. But we must wonder what has happened to the class consciousness of any 'socialists' who can rejoice in the vicious scenes that were shown of the armed defenders of the Spanish bourgeois state laying into British supporters.

The logical extension of this Socialist Challenge position would be to support or even call for police violence against virtually all British football crowds, which on average contain more than their fair share of racists, nationalists and monarchists.

Perhaps the IMG comrades forget that the majority of active football supporters are also working class - the class they as socialists are supposed to be mobilising against the capitalist state apparatus!

It should be noted that during the same week, the same Spanish cops were called into action against Polish supporters of Solidarność. Their flying of huge banners supporting the repressed trade union was objected to by Moscow bureaucrats during the Poland/Soviet Union match - televised live in the USSR. They telephoned FIFA - who in turn called in the Spanish police to beat up the demonstrators.

Now the World Cup - the continuation of politics by other means - is over, the Spanish cops can get back to their primary responsibility - beating up Spanish, Basque and Catalan workers with the kind of thoroughness the IMG comrades obviously admire.



Mitterrand

of the French economy in general but also to the "political" speculations in the stock exchange.

The government also took a decisive turn to make the French working class bear the brunt of the crisis. Mauroy announced recently a price freeze on certain products but also a salary freeze for the next four months. While prices can hardly be effectively controlled, the decision to freeze wages is seen as a serious move to depress workers' living standards by around 3%.

All these measures are said to be dictated by the "international crisis". Mitterrand now speaks in the name of "realism". The "utopian socialist project" has little place when confronting "the reality of governing".

The government has inherited the reactionary institutions established by the Gaullist coup of 1958. The Fifth Republic concentrates real power in the hands of top civil servants and technocrats beyond the legislative institutions of the bourgeois state.

The repressive apparatuses were immeasurably strengthened under Giscard. The powers and strength of the police have reached an unprecedented level making it one of the most powerful police forces in Western Europe. To think that such a formidable machinery will passively stand by while deep political and social change takes place is the utmost naivety.

Cosmetic changes

Mitterrand, refusing to dismantle the rotten institutions of the Fifth Republic, has instead made cosmetic changes, dissolving the State Security Court and the Armed Forces Permanent Tribunal. The police hierarchy was left undisturbed. The 1982 budget was increased by 19.7% to cover the recruitment of an extra 14,000 policemen and purchase even more sophisticated equipment for better surveillance and repression.

Home Office Minister Deferre's speeches about "security", the "fight against crime" and "law and order" are indistinguishable from those of his predecessors. Top police bosses openly express their satisfaction with the government's performance; and so do the Army top brass.

After May '68, different military regions were reorganised to enable the Army units to act quickly and effectively against the "internal enemy". None of these policies and priorities established by Giscard are being challenged.

The support of conscripts for Mitterrand has evaporated since he blatantly refused to implement his promises to reduce the length of service to six months and to grant them the most basic democratic rights.

The backpedalling of the government stands in stark contrast to the confidence of the working class. Last autumn's strikes at Renault-Sandouville, Billancourt and at the SNCF were the thin end of the wedge. While differing in their nature and objectives, these strikes were well-supported and usually achieved unity between members of different unions.

Massive mobilisations were to follow at the beginning of 1982. Strikes over the 39-hour week marked a decisive turn: more than 650 firms were affected, and several hundred thousand workers struck at one time or another during those two months.

The beginning of 1982 saw also the sharpening of other forms of struggle: there were 62 occupations, an undeniable expression of the new mood of workers threatened with closures and redundancies. This was followed by sharp struggles in the car industry (Citroen, Talbot) involving the most oppressed section of the working class: the immigrant workers.

If the hopes of May 10 are to be realised, it will be in struggle against the socialist government and not through it.

Labour witch-hunt



LPYS in the front line

By Mick Liggins

It seems quite likely that the first official organisation to come under attack in the witch-hunt will be the LPYS.

In fact, the witch-hunt began a while ago, when the YS was prevented from re-printing its pamphlet,

The Ideals of October.

The pamphlet deals with the Russian Revolution and its significance today. A lot can be said about whether the pamphlet is Trotskyist or not, but the fact is that it has been banned as a 'Trotskyist' document. The ban reflects

the Stalinism that is rooted in the labour movement, and indeed in the right wing of the party: general secretary Jim Mortimer objected to the pamphlet on the basis that it "attacked the republican government in Spain" (in the 1930s).

Resources

Dennis Skinner correctly described the ruling on the NEC as a return to the 'burning of the books'.

The LPYS has also come under attack in terms of resources. When Linda Clarke, ex-editor of Socialist Youth, the LPYS paper, gave up the job because she was pregnant, the officials refused to replace the full-time position and thus cut the YS staff by 50%.

The budget is also under attack. It seems a bit ridiculous that the budget for 5,000 youth is only £1,000 less than the salary for one Labour Party general secretary — £25,000.

Censor

The best way to answer the witch-hunt is to build the LPYS. In accordance with this the YS NC asked for a million leaflets to be printed for the October 16 YOPs demonstration — and the Labour Party bureaucracy said we could only have 300,000. On the

Liverpool demonstration we had a million leaflets.

There is also an attack at regional level. The bureaucracy had attempted to censor the Southern Region YS bulletin, because it had an editorial on the witch-hunts. The YS said they would put the bulletin out with blank pages and circulate the editorial privately.

Backed down

In the end the bureaucracy backed down, but no doubt they will try again.

This is not the first time in the YS's history that it has had to fight the hold of the bureaucracy, and it may not be the last. One thing is for sure, if we don't get the backing of the labour movement now for a proper campaign to defend the YS, then we won't be able to fend off the attack successfully.

So make sure that in all your emergency resolutions to conference and resolutions for the NEC, you mention the YS.

And put this model resolution through your YS branch for the YS national committee:

"This branch calls on the LPYS National and Regional Committees to oppose the witch-hunt against Militant, the left in general, and particularly the LPYS by: 1) organising a campaign of resistance to the witch-hunt. This should involve campaigning throughout the trade union and labour movement for support for the LPYS against the witch-hunters, lobbies of the NEC of the Labour Party when it has the witch-hunt on the agenda, and fighting alongside those who are fighting the witch-hunt in general, such as the Unregistered Alliance.

Campaign

2) Campaigning to build the LPYS over the summer and autumn period through building massive support for the Liverpool demonstration on October 16 against Tebbit's attacks on youth, throughout the whole labour movement, as well as on the YOPs schemes and among unemployed youth.

LCC — selling the Left down the river

By Gerry Byrne

UNITY is a grand thing. It summons up all that is best in the traditions of the labour movement — solidarity, an injury to one is an injury to all, standing together against the common enemy, etc., etc. But like all grand abstractions, a number of crimes have been committed under its general banner.

The right-wing know this better than anyone else: in the last ditch, when they have been discredited in every particular, when their policies have been defeated and their nominees revealed as corrupt and/or disloyal, they wheel out the dusty banner of 'unity' to silence their critics.

Now sections of the erstwhile left are pulling the same play. The LCC is circulating an open letter proposing a 'New Deal' for the sake of Party unity — essentially the suspension of all internal life in the Party in order to present a united front to the electorate — and is backing the call for registration of all groups inside the Party.

New Deal

Putney CLP now has a resolution going to annual conference based on the LCC's 'New Deal'. An examination of its detailed proposals reveals just how dangerous is this approach in the face of the right-wing's onslaught, and secondly, how hollow now are the LCC's left-wing credentials.

Ironically, since the resolution condemns "attempts to manipulate the Party's electoral and policy making machinery for sectional gain", the motion was presented at the ward in the spirit of "just something I dreamed up in response to our defeat at Mitcham and Morden" with no suggestion that it was part of the LCC's concerted, national campaign to cut the ground away from the rest of the left.

Under cover of a lot of verbiage about unity being "number one priority" and would you believe it, "a new tolerance and self-discipline", the resolution effectively proposes a Witch-hunters' Charter.

It demands that: "Divisive actions and speeches must cease to be acceptable throughout the Party". Since politics is about differences, in outlook and material interests, this can only mean the suspension of all democratic life in the Party.

And as nowhere is it specified what will happen to those who continue to make divisive speeches or actions, one can only assume that they will be left to the tender mercy of

the NEC and the Party apparatus. This proposal actually goes far beyond what the right are demanding, the register. It would cover not only organised groups but individuals and it is aimed directly at their freedom of expression, not organisational technicalities.

It is also proposed to freeze Party politics at this year's conference — "Left groups will cease to press for constitutional change so long as right groups accept the Programme as the basis for unity".

Revealing

This is very revealing. The LCC, having got many of its favoured policies through annual conference and its supporters selected for seats round the country, thanks to the efforts of the whole of the left fighting for reselection and socialist policies, wishes to pull up the ladder. "We're doing very nicely, thank you" say the middle-class careerists who have ridden on the back of the democracy movement, "now it's time to stop upsetting the apple-cart (or gravy train)!"

The cynicism of this move can be illustrated by an amendment to this clause moved by Peter Hain. After I had spoken, pointing out that no way were the women in the Party, having finally got organised, going to give up on trying to change the Party structure in our favour, the ban on constitutional change was amended to exclude changes giving women and ethnic minorities equal representation.

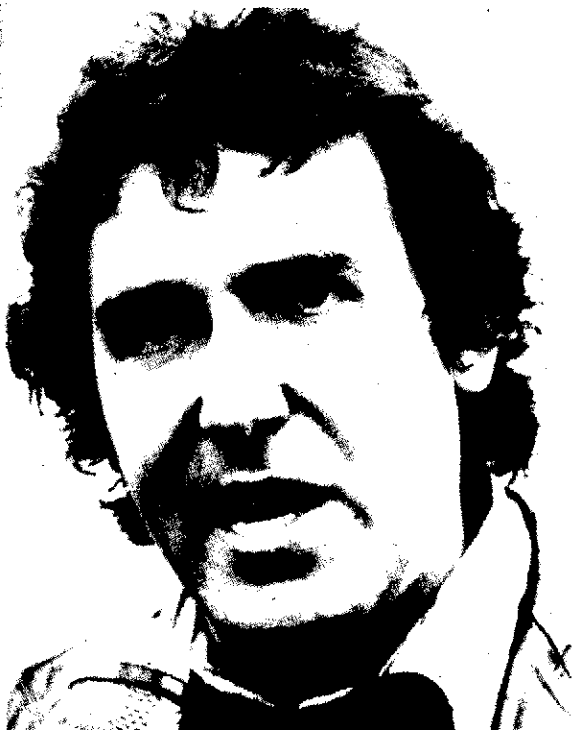
But if Peter Hain and his supporters had meant this to be anything other than a ploy to head off opposition they had the chance to show it. There was a resolution at the same meeting from the Women's Section proposing a constitutional change to allow women to elect the women's section of the NEC. Here was a chance to demonstrate their sincerity.

Hit lists

Of course, this resolution was not prioritised for conference.

"Witch-hunters, slates, hit lists and other attempts to manipulate the Party's electoral and policy making machinery for sectional gain, will cease."

Witch-hunts? It was made clear that this referred to attempts to unseat sitting MPs, NEC members and the like. In other words, you can have re-selection, but don't use it. You can have elec-



Peter Hain — cynical

tions, but you can't organise in support of your preferred candidate.

Privately, it was pointed out to me that of course there would still be "the smoke-filled rooms" where general secretaries and party bureaucrats traded off seats and policies, but it would no longer be public. Marvellous! The only problem being that the "public" who would be excluded from participation equals the ordinary party

members.

Nowhere in the whole resolution — nearly a page long — is there any mention of the purge being launched by the Party leadership against Militant, and after them the rest of the left. A curious omission? No, the mover pointed out that this was deliberate as that "will all be sorted out by September".

Which makes one sus-

The badge all witches are wearing.....



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TRIBUNE rally. Stop the Purge! Speakers: Tony Benn, Jo Richardson, Arthur Scargill. Pat Wall. Tuesday July 20, 7.30, Camden Town Hall, London NW1.

POLISH SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN bulletin: new issue out now.

Individual copies, or sale-or-return bundles, can be obtained from Marion Pitman, 29 Hampton Road, Twickenham, Middlesex. (01-898 7165) at 30p per copy. Subscription (six issues) £2.50.

'Voice of Solidarnosc': weekly bulletin of the Solidarity Trade Union Working Group in the UK. Subscription £5 for three months, from STUWG, c/o Acorn House, 314-320 Grays Inn Road, London WC1 (837 9464).

Socialist Organiser delegate meeting: Saturday July 24, 11.30am to 4.30pm, at Birmingham Labour Club, Bristol St, Birmingham. (Opposite 'Night Out' restaurant: 5 minutes' walk from New St BR station & main bus station)

Health workers action in London.

Monday 19 July: March, University College Hospital, Gower Place, to Jubilee Gardens, organised by NUPE 1.00pm.

Monday 19th: Lobby Haringey Council, Wood Green Civic Centre, 7.30pm. Monday 19th: Friern Barnet and Islington COHSE Action bus touring hospitals in N. London.

Tuesday 20th: March from St. Mary's Hospital, Harrow Road, W9.

Tuesday 20th, Labour Party public meeting organised by Wood Green Labour Party with Reg Race speaking. 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre Brabant Road. Wednesday 21st: Joint Shop Stewards Committee march sponsored by Hackney Trades Council from London Fields, 10am.

SUPPORT the health workers! Islington march and rally, Wednesday July 21. March 12 noon from the Town Hall, rally 2pm at Whittington Park.

Lamb roasting, Clerkenwell Labour Party, Sunday 18 July at 12 noon, Granville Square, London. Licenced. Entrance 50p.

Oxford Health Workers for the Full Claim meeting. 8pm Tuesday July 20th at Headington Labour Club: "What way now in the fight for the full claim?"

Oxford Socialist Organiser Thursday July 22 at 7.30pm. Prince of Wales, Cowley Rd. "Defend Militant, fight the Register!" All socialists welcome.

CONFERENCE of Socialist Economists annual conference: Bradford University, July 16 to 18. Details: J.Macdonald, 20 Stanley Rd, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 2DH.

TROOPS OUT delegation to the North of Ireland, August 7 to 9. Details from John Underhay 01-735 1064, or PO Box 353, London NW5.

WORKERS' march against Racism: FROM Brick Lane through Brixton to TUC conference in Brighton. September 4 to 8. Sponsors include: Jayaben Desai, Anwar Ditta, Nasira Begum, Tony Benn, Ted Knight, Ken Livingstone, Paul Boateng. Details 01-274 3951.

STOP SIZEWELL B — national rally/conference against the Pressurised Water Reactor. Saturday November 6, Central Hall, Westminster. Called by Anti-Nuclear Campaign.

ZIONISTS hands off Lebanon! Labour Committee on Palestine picket of El Al office in Regent St, 12 noon, Saturday July 17.

LABOUR Committee on Palestine public meeting: Friday July 23, 7pm, County Hall, London SE1.

HOLOCAUST 82: genocide in the Lebanon. Meeting organised by Labour Middle East Council in conjunction with Trade Union Friends of Palestine. Wednesday July 21, 7.30, Dulwich Baths Small Hall, Crystal Palace Rd, London SE22.

CHILE/El Salvador festival: Thursday-Saturday September 24-26. Three days of music, poetry, theatre, exhibitions, films, seminars and workshops, at Manning Hall, University of London Union, Malet St, London WC1. Details: El Salvador Solidarity Campaign, 01-359 2270.

Training girls to be invisible women

Ann Duggan reviews "Invisible Women - the Schooling Scandal" by Dale Spender, published by Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative.



SEXIST ideas and attitudes are very deeply embedded in society. None of us have escaped from their effects although some people are now beginning to question these ideas and attitudes.

Within a capitalist society, the family and school are two powerful agencies of socialisation. It is in these institutions that most people form their ideas, attitudes and personalities and where sexism is perpetuated.

In Invisible Women - the Schooling Scandal, Dale Spender draws upon a great deal of her own research and that of other people to show how sexist practices have operated in the education system and how sexism occurs in the classroom.

Supremacy

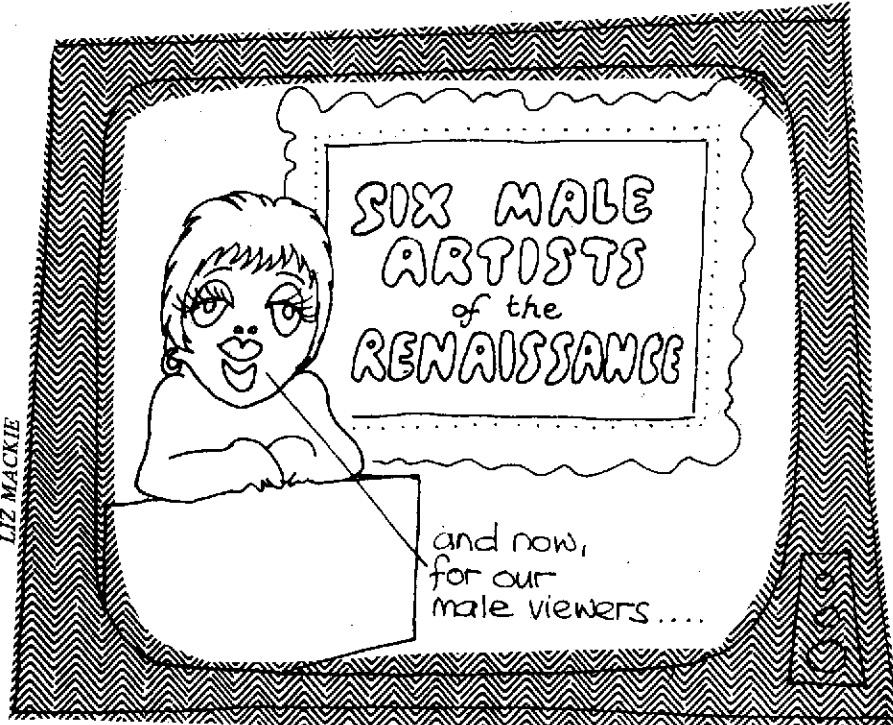
It is her view that education and schools play a significant role in constructing male supremacy and in perpetuating male dominance and control in our society. They also 'teach' girls to feel inferior, to be passive and docile and undermine their confidence and self-esteem.

Dale Spender begins by examining the knowledge which is available in the curriculum of most schools (and in society in general). Most of this knowledge has been made by men. In it men are the central figures, the makers of history, art, music, the writers and the scientists.

According to Dale Spender this is a one-sided view of history and culture. There are, and have been, women who, despite the difficulties confronting them, have made contributions to knowledge and culture but they are and have been largely ignored.

Writer

She gives examples of such women as Aphra Behn (1640-1689). In her time she was a very well



known writer, who had seventeen plays produced and wrote 13 novels. Yet today she is virtually unknown, while some of her less successful male contemporaries are part of the established tradition.

In her time she was strongly condemned by male critics because she did not have a classical education, but this did not prevent her plays from becoming very popular.

Insignificant

Through the absence of women from knowledge and the textbooks, girls learn that women have had nothing to do with the development of society. In the classroom girls learn the lesson that they and women in general are insignificant.

nificant.

The results from a number of studies on teachers in the classroom show that teachers devote over two-thirds of their time in the classroom to boys and at the best only one-third to girls, even when there is an even distribution of the two sexes in the classroom. Research has also shown that teachers' attitudes and expectations towards the two sexes are completely different.

Dale Spender found that teachers (no matter which sex they were) were in general more concerned about boys. They considered boys to be more capable than girls, and they got on better with boys.

Interviews with teachers showed they knew far more about the boys in their classes, they learnt their names sooner and they knew the boys as individuals. When they had difficulty placing a pupil it was always a girl, and to some teachers who were interviewed the girls were often nothing more than an undifferentiated mass.

Underestimated

Girls in school 'learn' their lessons well. Dale quotes from Michelle Stanworth who in conducting research on pupils in schools found in her sample that all the girls in a class underestimated their rank as supplied by the teacher, and with the exception of one boy the boys all overestimated their rank in relation to the girls.

The boys in classrooms see girls as a 'despicable' category that they do not belong to. The girls serve as a negative reference group to promote positive self image for the boys. Dale Spender also mentions the extent of sexual harassment of girls in the class-

room and also the way in which girls are constantly ridiculed, interrupted and silenced by boys.

In the face of this overwhelming evidence from the teacher and boys of their 'inferiority', girls often retreat, accept their 'inferiority' and assume their 'proper place'.

Preparations

In looking at the theories of prominent educationalists, Dale concludes that all of them have seen girls' education as a preparation for marriage and motherhood. Jean Jacques Rousseau (the 18th century champion of liberty) stated that women were created for the purpose of entertaining and caring for men. They must be confined and restrained and urged to practice self-sacrifice, in order to acquire that docility which woman requires all her life long for she will always be in subjection to a man.

The Norwood Report of 1943 and the Newsom Report of 1963 both reiterated the need to train girls for their vocation of marriage and motherhood.

Dale Spender also argues that the issue of co-education versus single sex schooling is not as simple as it seems.

From the research of R.R. Dale, who is an authority on co-education, she points out that it is known (and in fact has been known since 1937) that girls perform much better in single-sex schools than they do in mixed-sex schools. Boys on the other hand perform better in co-educational schools.

Real life

Educationalists have never treated this fact as problematic - it has not



led them to question what happens to girls in mixed-sex schools.

R.R. Dale who supports mixed-sex schools, argues that mixed schools are a preparation for real life, and single sex schools are an unreal experience. According to him in mixed-sex schools the natural aggression of men and submission of women makes its presence. "Maybe nature intended man to be leader and women to provide the stability."

The evidence that Dale Spender puts forward from her own research and the research of others overwhelmingly supports her argument that education and school play a significant role in constructing male supremacy and in perpetuating male dominance and control in our society.

Excluded

In documenting the exclusion of women from knowledge made by men, Dale does say that while all men benefit from such knowledge not all men have been equally represented in its construction.

She says that blacks, working class people, old people, non-heterosexual people and disabled people have been similarly excluded from the construction of knowledge.

However she says that even when these groups are taken into account, researchers often concentrate on the men of these groups rather than the women.

Dale Spender describes how in recent years women inside and outside educational institutions have got

together to discover knowledge about women's contributions to society. Despite many difficulties some resources have been built up documenting research and writings from women, particularly women from the past whose work has been in danger of disappearing. She argues that women and girls in schools and other educational institutions should get together to discuss the issues affecting women.

Marginalised

This conclusion could be generalised to women in every sphere of life where women's issues have been ignored or marginalised and not just in education.

In the labour movement there is a real need for women in trade unions and in political parties to get together in caucuses to work out how to make women's issues a priority and how they can collectively tackle sexism.

It is by doing this and beginning to fight for their rights that women can start to regain the confidence, strength and self-esteem which has been destroyed by society and in particular by the education system.

Invisible Women - the Schooling Scandal is not an easy book to read - one which you can pick up and browse through in a few hours. It deals with a complex subject and one on which it is obvious there is still a great deal of research which can be done.

Its weakness to me, is in Dale Spender's unclear view of knowledge. She almost implies in places that knowledge which is made by men is invalid simply because it has been made by men.

This is, for Marxists, obviously an absurd view on the validity of knowledge. We can acknowledge that women's contribution to knowledge has been largely ignored but it doesn't follow therefore that all knowledge developed by men is invalid.

Certainly, this is an interesting and thought-provoking book and one in which everyone must recognise some of their own experiences of education.

For teachers, it must raise many questions about our classroom practices and attitudes towards the boys and girls we teach.

Time to think



JOHN HARRIS

GERRY BYRNE reports on a women's summer weekend.

AT times over the last year, life in Women's Fightback has felt like a non-stop round of meetings, conferences and activities without a chance to pause for breath. Now's the chance for that breath - to take stock from what we've learned in these actions and assimilate some of the ideas we've been developing.

We'll be discussing the male domination of language, sexuality and male violence; sexist images of women and how we internalise them; and theories of sex and class and their interaction.

But it will also be a chance to unwind and relax.

Women's Fightback summer weekend - July 17-18, in Staffordshire. For last minute details phone 01-607 9052 or 5268.

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LABOUR'S PROGRAMME

WITH THE BOSSES

By
Arthur

While recognising the huge gulf between the theory and the practice of Labour policies, some of the actual proposals embodied in the Party's newly published 'Programme' can be used as a starting point for discussion — for or against. Arthur Bough investigates.

THE HOME Policy section of Labour's Programme 1982 appeared as a 48-page Supplement to Labour Weekly of 25 June.

It is divided into sections headed Labour's Plan for Jobs, Labour's Social Strategy, Planning and Environment, and Democracy and Human Rights.

In addition to an analysis of Labour's economic strategy which underpins the rest of the Programme, and a brief look at other important proposals, this review also looks at what the Programme has to offer the most oppressed sections of the working class.

Strategy

Labour's strategy seeks to reduce unemployment below one million within five years, by a 'substantial' programme of public spending, and selective tax cuts, financed by borrowing. The main focus will be more investment (housing, hospitals, schools, railways, etc.) and current spending in public services, with tax reductions to increase workers' purchasing power.

Import controls will be introduced to stop the increased spending just going on imports.

It looks easy: the crisis is due to a hiccup in the economic mechanism which can be cured by intervention rather than replacing the system.

But financing the expansion by borrowing will raise inflation, throwing the burden on the working class. Increased taxation on the rich is proposed, including a wealth tax for assets over £150,000, but the effect on revenue is marginal.

The financiers will make a fortune lending to the state, and industrialists faced with the resulting high interest rates and world slump are unlikely to rush into expansion.

If purchasing power does rise, manufacturers will probably take advantage to raise prices.

With such inflationary

pressure, demands will be raised for the introduction of wage control. Indeed, talking about an annual economic assessment with the TUC, the Programme says this must include "such issues as the share of the national income going to profits, to earnings from employment, to rents, to social benefits, and to other incomes."

It is not clear to what extent suppliers will be taken over. The Programme speaks of public ownership in electronics, pharmaceuticals, and health equipment, the construction industry and building materials, road haulage, etc., but it is not clear whether these industries or just specific firms are to be nationalised. Certainly, as far as banks are concerned, the Programme speaks only of nationalising one or more banks.

Socialists have long opposed import controls as trying to shift the burden of unemployment on to foreign workers. And the Programme introduces a new danger. It states "... we will avoid simply protecting inefficiency by tying protection firmly to measures of industrial planning and intervention."

In the context of a capitalist economy, this means that inefficient firms will only be protected if they lay off workers, introduce speed-up, etc. Workers will be expected to accept this on the basis that they will receive through revamped planning agreements the right to 'plan' their more efficient exploitation, and because 'their' firm will get state assistance.

Planning

A Department of Economic and Industrial Planning will be set up along with a Cabinet Committee and a tripartite National Planning Council. The government will bring its proposals to the NPC for discussion. A five year plan including sectoral targets will be drawn up to be dis-



Unemployment soared under the last Labour government

cussed at the Cabinet Committee and published by the government. The plan would be amended annually in line with a National Economic Assessment.

The sectoral targets would be implemented through Agreed Development Plans drawn up by the Planning Department and leading companies.

A major weakness of this strategy is its separation of economics and politics. The emphasis is on gaining the co-operation of the bosses.

The Planning Department will be given a number of largely ineffectual powers like price controls, credit controls, import controls, etc., to induce co-operation, but the power to nationalise recalcitrant firms is mentioned almost as a footnote.

The only place where mobilisation of the working

class is mentioned is in the section on multinationals, "... every assistance will be given to trade unions in their attempts to organise on an international basis."

Jobless

Nowhere is the perspective of aiming for co-operation with the bosses clearer than in the section 'Jobs for all who want them'. It speaks of extending the Temporary Short Time Working Scheme, which has provided rich pickings for the bosses, and of introducing a host of other subsidies to the bosses for taking workers on, setting up new firms, giving early retirement, etc.

*The Community Enterprise Project Scheme will be extended.

*A reduction of the working week including a 35 hour week without loss of pay.

*More flexible working so parents can share the responsibility of caring for dependents.

*Extension of protection to part time workers.

The Programme proposes to extend the long term rate of Supplementary Benefit to the unemployed after a year on the dole, as an interim measure before making unemployment benefit last as long as unemployment.

Increases in Supple-



BL workers marching against cuts in real wages imposed un-

mentary Benefit are proposed along with relaxation of the capital limit, and abolition of the rules affecting strikers' families. Separating the payment of benefit between men and women is considered. Meanwhile, as long as the co-habitation rule exists, it must not be administered too harshly.

The Youth Training Scheme will continue. Labour proposes to increase the basic allowance to a mere £30 a week (1982 prices), rising in line with average earnings. However Labour will encourage youth to join trade unions, and allow unions to negotiate contracts for their members on MSC courses.

Such trainees would then have the status of

workers and be paid a wage.

On past performance it will be up to youth to organise themselves into unions and take action to get a decent wage.

Women

Positive action is proposed to encourage women to train and apply for better paid jobs. The public sector will initiate Positive Action Initiatives, including a Positive Action Resolution in contracts with outside firms. Other policies include the MSC training women for areas where they are under-represented and possibly a statutory

duty on employers to negotiate agreements and set up Equal Opportunities Committees.

The trend forcing women back into the home is to be reversed. Besides extra support in child care and services for the old and disabled, shorter and more flexible hours are seen as a way of changing the division of labour in the home.

*The married man's tax allowance to be phased out over 3 years.

*Child Benefit to rise to £7.25 as soon as possible (1982 prices), and eventually to the level for long term National Insurance Benefit.

*One Parent Benefit to be developed.

In Health care:

The Youth Training Scheme will continue — Labour proposes to increase the basic allowance to a mere £30 a week.

It will be up to youth to organise themselves into unions and take action to get a decent wage.



JOHN HARRIS



"Classical Social Democracy, functioning in an epoch of progressive capitalism, divided its programme into two parts independent of each other: the MINIMUM programme, which limited itself to reforms within the framework of bourgeois society, and the MAXIMUM programme, which promised substitution of socialism for capitalism in the indefinite future. Between the minimum and the maximum programme, no bridge existed. And indeed the Social Democracy has no need of such a bridge, since the word SOCIALISM is used only for holiday speechifying."

Leon Trotsky, 'The Transitional Programme'

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Callaghan and Murray greet the anti-picketing provisions of their 1979 "Concordat"

Blacks

Positive Action is proposed to deal with unemployment among blacks, but not the establishment of quotas. The programme also seeks ways of ensuring genuine equality of access to Social Services.

Proposals for education include:

- *Multicultural books, curriculum, exams, etc.
- *Teacher training to pay attention to the needs of ethnic minorities.
- *Schools to employ staff able to communicate with ethnic minority parents.

The Programme is extremely weak in its proposals to deal with racist attacks. Racism in the police force is recognised to exist, but no mention is made of the development of self-defence groups. Blacks are to wait until racism is 'trained' out of the police. The police are asked to be more sensitive in their questioning of the victims of racist attacks.

In line with the Scarman report, more democratic control of the police through elected police authorities (including for London), is proposed, along with community policing (as opposed to policing by the community!) and independent complaints system.

But there is no proposal that would seriously tackle the nature of the police as a strong-arm gang for the established order.

The racist thugs of the SPG will be disbanded, but opposition to the use of plastic bullets, CS gas, and water cannon is qualified by the phrase "in any but the most exceptional circumstances." Toxteth, Brixton?

Other proposals include:

- *A campaign against racist ideas among the community.
- *Tougher laws against racist literature and speeches.

Fascist marches are to be dealt with by official bans and re-routing, rather than effective working class mobilisation to kick the fascists off the street.

The role of immigration and nationality laws in legitimising racist ideas is recognised and the repeal of existing laws is promised. But they will be

replaced by a supposedly non-racist Nationality Act, on which will be based supposedly non-racist immigration laws.

Proposals on deportation and detention include:

- *A right of appeal.
- *Migrant workers affected by the 1971 Act allowed to stay, and those removed allowed to return.
- *Right of appeal against deportation on political grounds.

*Minimise administrative detention, right to apply for bail, and continued detention to be justified before a court every seven days.

(It is 16 for non-gays).

*Ensuring the definition of privacy is the same for every citizen.

*Repeal or amendment of the law on soliciting.

*Amend the Employment Protection Act so that homosexuality is no longer a valid reason for dismissal.

Gays should also benefit from Labour's housing programme which recognises that the 'typical' family is no longer a valid criteria for determining housing provision.

Youth

Proposals affecting unemployed youth are covered in the section on the unemployed, and proposals concerning gay youth are covered in the section on gays. Other proposals for youth include:

- *A student traineeship for all 16 and 17 year olds whether in full time education, at work, or on the dole. The right to a systematic education and training.
- *Provide a maintenance allowance for all students on approved courses, at least £20 a week for 52 weeks.
- *Allow senior pupils in schools to sit on Boards of Governors.

No mention is made of the National Union of School Students and the importance of students organising in it to gain more control over their school life.

Gays

"Sexual acts should only be punished by the criminal law when consent is not given and there is therefore a genuine victim: when there is not full responsibility (by reason of age or otherwise) on the part of one or more of those involved; and when offence is caused to identifiable third parties who are not the police officers involved in the case."

Labour's proposals include:

- *Reduction of the age of consent, but only to 18.

The troops will not be withdrawn. In short a continuation of the present imperialist policy.



Health

The health budget is to rise by at least 3% a year. More hospitals will be built, and small community hospitals will be retained.

*Pay beds to be removed within two years. Private sector discouraged rather than removed.

*Regional Health Authorities to provide plans for reduction of waiting lists within a year.

*Decent pay for health workers.

Positive Action is seen as necessary to combat unemployment among the disabled, including introduction of a quota (backed up with adequate resources to police it) and the provision of grants to employers for adapting premises. A new allowance for the disabled is also proposed.

Pensions

Pensioners should benefit from proposed changes in the administration of means-tested benefits like rent and rate rebates, and from a one year rent freeze. The transport policy which proposes improved public transport, and cheap and concessionary fares for them. In the longer term, pensions are to rise to one-third average gross earnings for single people, and half average gross earnings for a married couple.

Other proposals include:

- *Progressive reduction of men's retirement to 60.
- *Extension of the Job Release Scheme.
- *Full indexation of all benefits.
- *Increase in Supplementary Benefit.

Ireland

Labour's policy on Ireland is based on the non-sensical decision of the last Conference. Labour is supposedly against the Unionist veto, but in favour of a United Ireland only by consent of the Protestant minority. Labour will campaign to persuade Protestants of the benefits of a United Ireland. Meanwhile, it will help them maintain their privileges by devolving some governmental functions.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act will be repealed. Irish prisoners will not be given political status, and the only proposal for the Diplock kangaroo courts is to have three kangaroos sitting instead of one. The troops will not be withdrawn, and there is no statement about the use of plastic bullets or CS gas.

In short, a continuation of the present imperialist policy.

There are many more important proposals included in the Programme — more than can be dealt with here. The following are some of the most important.

Education

- *Provision for all pre-school children whose parents require it.
- *Establishment of nursery centres.

*A Bill to charge VAT on school fees followed by one

to forbid private schools from charging fees.

Transport

- *Establishment of a National Transport Authority.

*Encourage use of rail for freight.

Government

- *Introduction of a Freedom of Information Act.

*Establishment of a Data Protection Agency to prevent abuse of computer files.

*Reform of Civil Service to remove public school and Oxbridge bias.

Ministers will be given more say in the appointment of senior officials. Back bench MPs are to be brought into government departments to increase control, and Ministers are to have their own advisers with strong links to the labour movement.

*The House of Lords is to be abolished, not in a matter of weeks but during the lifetime of the Parliament. (No mention of the monarchy).

*The honours system is also to be abolished.

*The Security Services are to be legally established rather than abolished, and supposedly subject to greater control.

*Introduction of an Interception of Communications Act.

The Press

*Establishment of a subsidy to small circulation newspapers fixed in inverse relation to circulation.

*Legal obligation on wholesalers and retailers to take any lawful publication and arrange its proper supply and display.

*Introduction of a legal right of reply against the press and media.

Local government

Labour will retrospectively cancel any penalties imposed on councillors for carrying out manifesto commitments. However, opportunity for a cop-out on this is provided in the statement that this does not include wilful financial negligence. Does this mean opposing cuts, and rent or rate rises?

Common Market

In line with Party policy Britain will withdraw from the EEC. A number of points in contravention of EEC regulations are cited as reasons for the need to withdraw, and a page is taken up setting out what seems an overly long and complicated procedure for

withdrawal.

The Programme states in many instances that "Labour will" carry out this or that policy. As in the past, we must doubt whether many of the policies outlined will ever see the light of day under a Labour government.

Already Tony Benn has warned that Foot and Healey are trying to prevent the Programme being discussed and voted on as a whole at Annual Conference.

Interestingly, outgoing General Secretary, Ron Hayward, has gone into great length in his Foreword to the Programme in explaining the relationship between the Programme and the Manifesto. "... the priorities which will determine the Manifesto at the next election will need to be finalised at that time based on the relevance, costs, timing, and legislative time available over a five year Parliamentary term."

It is amazing how fast legislation like the Prevention of Terrorism Act can be pushed through, or how easily the Tories can push through anti-working class legislation, and when it comes to a Labour Government putting through measures in the interests of the workers there's never enough time. As far as costs are concerned, these can be easily met if we relieve the bosses of their property and organise production for the needs of workers.

Persuasion

Instead of the perspective of mobilising workers to challenge the bosses' property and state, the foundation of the Programme is a belief that the bosses can be persuaded to co-operate by various clever devices. There is a failure to come to grips with the fact that the interests of workers and bosses are irreconcilably opposed.

Similarly there is a failure to recognise the class nature of the state, which is there to protect the bosses' interests by all possible means. Thus the approach to the police, security services, and civil service is to establish all kinds of usually Parliamentary checks and balances — without any evidence of any real will to operate these checks rigorously against the will of the cops and bureaucrats — rather than dismantling these institutions and replacing them with a state controlled by and responsive to workers' needs.

Radical ideas

However, there are many important and radical ideas and proposals in the Programme, especially relating to women and blacks. It provides a basis for discussion from which more adequate policies could be developed in the course of struggle.

Such a possibility will however, be ruled out unless the right wing counter-revolution is defeated and reversed. Without a fighting organisation like the party and adequate mechanisms to ensure democracy and accountability, the Programme like all the others in the past will be no more than waste paper.

SOCIAL
TRACT
SOCIAL
INFLECT

Labour's "social contract"

*Screening facilities to be made more accessible.

*Well Woman clinics encouraged.

*Abortion — for a woman's right to choose, better NHS facilities including day care facilities.

Unfortunately, Labour MPs are to continue to have free vote on abortion.

In Education:

*Positive Action to improve sex balance in teaching force giving girls better career models.

*Remove sexist bias in teaching materials.

*Oppose premature specialisation, and establish common core curriculum.

*Special programmes in maths, science and technology for girls.

*Develop non-sexist teaching techniques.

Rape

On rape, the Programme says that the police should form victims of the existence of Rape Crisis Centres, and be more sensitive to their questioning.

Such reliance on the police leaves much to be desired. No suggestion of providing self-defence training for women, for example, is made.

Other proposals include: *Amending the Equal Pay Act to close the loopholes, e.g. establishing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, and equal pay for part timers.

*Amending family law — reduction of adequate Parent Family Benefit over than reliance on maintenance payments.

WHY BEGIN WAGES WAR

We reprint below an abridged version of a statement issued by the Workers League of Palestine. The Workers League is affiliated to the Fourth Internationalist Tendency. Not all of the positions it contains are exactly those held by Socialist Organiser but the statement is a useful analysis of the present struggle in Lebanon.

FOR years, imperialism has conducted its policy in the region under the banner of striving for 'political settlements' and 'peace'. The American Rogers Plan and its adoption by Israel and Egypt paved the way for the massacre of September '70 during which tens of thousands of Palestinians were murdered. The Camp David Accords sealed the sale of Israel to the American companies and gave Begin a green light to establish the 'Civilian Administration' headed by Milson in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The only meaning of the imperialist policy of 'political settlements' is the consolidation of the Zionist regime of repression, exploitation and murder. For years we have warned that behind the talks on 'settling the question of Palestine' were hidden plans to inflict a death-blow on the Palestinian people and to deny them any political expression whatsoever.

Knife

The full US backing for Israel in the June 1982 war, without which the Israeli aggression would not have been possible, must ultimately remove any illusion that there exists a 'democratic' way of imperialist rule in the region, respecting the right to self-determination. The knife stuck in the heart of Lebanon should remind the masses of the region that the return of the Palestinian refugees, peace, democracy and human life, all won't be achieved until the removal of imperialism, with all its agents, from the region.

(...) Since 1967, when the mass struggle of the Palestinian people for the return to their homeland developed, Israel has pursued a consistent policy of bombing the concentrations of Palestinian and Lebanese population, military operations and punitive expeditions. This policy brought the destruction of the economic and social sub-structure of Lebanon and the ruin of most of the villages and cities of Southern Lebanon.

Zionist troops march to annex the Golan Heights during the Polish upheavals of 1981.

The Palestinian masses in their struggle inspired the Lebanese masses, resisting with all available means the Israeli attacks, whereas the Lebanese central government was exposed in its refusal and inability to defend its citizens and lands.

In 1975, confronting murderous provocations of the fascist Falangists, attempts at establishing martial law and Israeli terrorist aggression, the unity of the Lebanese and Palestinian masses showed its power. The revolutionary position of the Palestinian left, rejecting the official PLO policy of 'non-interference in the internal matters of the Arab states' and creating fighting unity with the Lebanese masses, showed the right way to defend the Palestinian and Lebanese national democratic interests.

Defence

The Lebanese masses struggled against the exploitation imposed by imperialism and its allies, the bankers and the feudalists, against the fascist bands and the anti-democratic structure of the Lebanese state, and for united defence against the Israeli attacks and raids.

After a series of battles, 80% of all Lebanese territory was in the hands of the united forces of the Palestinian and Lebanese masses.

The military intervention of the Syrian Ba'ath regime in 1976, in agreement with the US and Israel saved the fascists from being totally crushed. This Syrian-Falangist military unity directed against the revolution, together with the limiting of the perspective of the revolution itself by the leadership of the 'Progressive Front' and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who refrained from consistently carrying out the tasks of dividing the lands to the fellahin (poor peasants) and the socialist organisation of the economy, restrained the revolution.

Undeclared

But the masses, although suffering heavy bloody blows in Tel Al-Ze'atar and Jisser el-Basha, were not defeated. The Palestinian organisations and Left and Democratic militias retained their control over their weapons.

(...) A situation of a continuous civil war was created in Lebanon, with the local bourgeoisie incapable of reconstructing a bourgeois state apparatus, and the Left and Palestinian militias continuing to build their power.

In this situation, and after the imperialist treaty between Zionism and the Egyptian bourgeoisie had been established, imperialism decided to attempt 'solving the Lebanese

problem' through the Israeli military force.

But the aims of imperialism in Lebanon — the establishment of a satellite state, administered by a local dependent bourgeoisie and succeeding in oppressing the Lebanese masses and preventing any political and military expression to the Palestinian struggle for national liberation — these aims are historically impossible. Even in the short run, the realisation of these political aims is unlikely to happen. In Beirut, in Northern Lebanon and in the occupied territories — there is continuing the mass struggle of Palestinians and Lebanese with a determined decision to defend themselves and their revolution at any price.

The aggression in Lebanon was made possible only due to the state of the regimes in the Arab East, which is the most convenient for imperialism since 1948. The period following the Second World War was characterised by the collapse of a series of reactionary regimes, and by a subsequent revolutionary wave, its height coming into full expression in the years 1958-9.

But in no country was there a revolutionary workers' leadership at the head of the masses, capable of leading this wave beyond the establishment of Bonapartist regimes, establishing a

socialist regime, and thus really uproot the foundation of imperialist rule. The limited scope of the achievements won by the Bonapartist regimes and their weaknesses were soon exposed.

Since then, imperialism has resumed its total control over Egypt, strengthened its hold in Iraq and has been aided by the consolidation of the petro-bourgeoisie in building a reactionary front in the whole region.

Against this background, the Palestinian revolutionary struggle projected itself as an example and symbol for the masses of the whole region. But it should be understood that the Palestinian problem is an outcome of the pattern of imperialist rule in the region and that it cannot be solved without overthrowing this whole order.

Imperialism, dividing the region and preventing the formation of a united Arab state with a real basis for independence, cultivated the Israeli colonialist state as a basis for military actions against the countries of the region. Israeli military power was built by

imperialism not only in order to oppress and exploit the residents of Palestine, but as a perpetual military threat against the masses of the region. The Palestinians were expelled from their homeland so as to prevent them from constituting any danger in the Israeli base.

Alone they cannot defeat this mighty military tool. Those who attempt to pose the Palestinians alone against Israel to demand their rights, either politically or militarily, send them into a death-trap and thus renounce any real struggle for the independence of the region from imperialism.

Full victory

As the problems of Lebanon can only be solved in the full victory of the Lebanese masses, in establishing national independence against imperialism, establishing full democracy and building socialism under the leadership of the working class, so the masses in Lebanon, or the other countries of the region, will never be free to decide their future without

getting rid of the Israeli threat in the service of the United States of America, i.e. without solving the Palestinian problem, dismantling the lethal Zionist military apparatus and establishing a democratic state in Palestine.

(...) The war of occupation of Lebanon exposes, internally also, the mounting enslavement of the Zionist state to the role it plays as a military policeman of imperialism in the region. During this war, Zionism could not use the usual excuse of 'danger of annihilation' within the Jewish masses so as to pull them into being cannon-fodder in the service of imperialist aims.

Zionism found itself obliged to lie time and again as to the aims of the war and its real scope. For the first time, during the war itself there could be heard the voice of democratic opposition to the Zionist war amongst the Jews.

At the same time, the pseudo-opposition within the Zionist establishment is exposing its zero value and its humbling devotion to the illusion of military power, when the whole Israeli political establishment is silencing any criticism as soon as the military apparatus begins its action.

The Zionist state is in a continuous economic and political crisis. The mass, unceasing opposition of the Palestinians against the occupation has eroded much in the internal strength of Zionism and even began to influence part of the Jewish masses.

Already now the occupation of Lebanon imposes an additional burden on the Israeli economy, a burden which the bourgeoisie tries, in turn, to impose on the Arab and Jewish working class.

As long as the opposition to repression and the 'political settlements' that Israel is trying to impose in Lebanon and in Palestine continues — so the possibility that part of the Jewish masses will refuse to be a cannon-fodder is increasing and that a united approach of the working class under Israeli rule will paralyse the war and the apparatus of oppression.

20 June 1982

Begin with his principal military and economic sponsor (above); another victim of Zionist aggression in Lebanon (left).



Turkey Solidarity Campaign

Contact: BM Box 5965, London WC1N 3XX.



Solidarity with South African workers

16 months - still no TUC action on Rowntrees strike

THE solidarity campaign in support of black workers on strike at Rowntrees in South Africa puts the following demands - recognition of SAAWU as the sole, representative union, reinstatement of all sacked strikers, release of all detained trade unionists and an end to police harassment of the union.

Socialist Organiser fully supports the aims of this campaign. However, we are critical of the ineffective manner in which this campaign has been conducted by Anti-Apartheid.

In particular we have

called for the formation of direct links between independent unions in South Africa and unions here at all levels. We have also been unhappy about the substitution of an ineffective boycott campaign of Rowntrees products [plus writing to MPs, etc., etc] for working class solidarity.

Superficial 'top-level' protest has, we feel, been substituted for any serious effort to mobilise British Rowntree workers as allies of their brothers and sisters in South Africa.

This interview with the senior GMWU shop steward at Rowntrees in York

shows the support for black South African workers that exists at the grass roots level, points to problems of taking effective solidarity action and in particular shows the potential importance of forging direct inter-union links.

We cannot offer Rowntree workers a way of seriously supporting South African strikers without a risk of "an insecure result", but anti-apartheid activists can and should listen to what sympathetic workers say, map out practical plans for solidarity, and on that basis fight to convince workers,



Trevor Haigh speaking on the July 3 solidarity demonstration in York

When did you first hear about the Rowntrees dispute?

The first contact was from Chris Barrett of the local Anti-Apartheid in March of 1981...

What did you do?

National officers of the GMWU called a meeting in conjunction with TGWU and USDAW with management to establish what the facts of the dispute were. Management wrote down their version.

They said that there was no dispute; that new employees had been engaged; that earlier on management in South Africa had agreed to talk with SAAWU about recognition but only alongside the Sweet Workers Union (the stooge company union) and SAAWU had refused; that the workers had dismissed themselves by not turning up for work for three days; and that they had gone on strike for refusing to do what had been a routine job for 20 years.

Did you believe them?

It didn't add up. You don't do a routine job for 20 years and then organise a majority strike against it. If the workers were technically dismissed, then the problem is with the technicality.

What did you do next?

We had to educate the rank and file about the issue. We went through normal consulting procedures and discussed it



at shop stewards' meetings. We contacted the South African Labour Education Project, the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the

South African Congress of Trade Unions - we were always closely in contact with them - and the International Confederation

of Free Trade Unions. the International Union of Foodworkers sent us information later but it didn't add to what we knew.

Were they able to provide you with enough information?

No, we were still not sure of the facts. We proposed to Rowntrees management that they fund exchange visits between the unions, for SAAWU reps to come here and for GMWU reps to go there.

You asked management?

Yes, I don't see why we shouldn't get them to pay for it. But they refused anyway. We then proposed to the union head office that we should organise an exchange.

The National Executive consulted with Anti-Apartheid and they told us that such visits would be dangerous. They said that we wouldn't be able to meet the trade union there; that if we went to the homelands we would risk being arrested; and that if a trade union sent delegates over the media would use it to say - look, we've got links with British unions so that things are OK here.

I thought these arguments were feasible.

Would you oppose an exchange of visits under any circumstances?

No, I'm not totally opposed to visits.

Did you know that other visits had taken place, by shop stewards from BL and AE for instance?

No. We were never in-

formed. If we had, it would have re-affirmed my view that visits can be useful to express solidarity and to learn the detailed facts about the struggle.

What happened next?

The national officers of the GMWU, TGWU and USDAW arranged a meeting with management. We didn't know that meeting was going to take place until after the event, so we weren't able to ask our own questions and that creates a problem.

What was the outcome of this meeting?

They put forward their demands for re-instatement, recognition of SAAWU and the workers' right to join a union of their own choice. The position of the company was that they would agree to reinstate sacked workers as and when vacancies occurred. If SAAWU could demonstrate a realistic membership at the plant they would discuss this with the SWU present.

But it doesn't make sense. Having sacked so many SAAWU workers it would of course reduce the number unionised in the plant. I think there is a condition of employment at Rowntree that workers join the SWU, but I'm not sure.

What is the status of the dispute now?

It is registered at the national level as an official item of dispute with management.

Is it possible to raise the

issue locally as an official dispute?

No. It now goes through the normal bargaining procedure at the national level. It has been put on the annual round of negotiations for two years but with no visible result.

What do you think is the next step?

I honestly don't know. We're hoping to do it round the negotiating table but if that doesn't work we'll have to think again.

Did you know that SAAWU put an invitation through the International Union of Foodworkers to unions here

to send a fact-finding delegation over to South Africa?

I am not aware of that. I am aware that SAAWU has direct telephone contact with the TGWU.

Would you tell us why you oppose the boycott?

I think it is important that British workers show solidarity with South African workers, but it's a contradiction if their unions have a successful boycott and the end effect is an insecure result for our workers. The solidarity would break down. This is not a way forward.

OUR POLICY

Trevor Haigh's statement is useful not because we agree with him, but because he has revealed why national union officials and local level stewards have failed to offer any concrete solidarity to the Rowntree strikers. But even now he offers no hint as to how this situation can be changed.

It is plainly a scandal that the TGWU - with its telephone contact with SAAWU - and GMWU, the main Rowntree union, have called no national action. But the answer has to be a fight from shop floor level for action - preferably solidarity strike action, and blacking of supplies to the South African operation; but if necessary token stoppages, combined with a fight for action throughout Rowntree UK,

would be a step forward.

The TGWU should be imposing full-scale blacking of Rowntree not only in the food industry, but on road haulage and at the docks. TGWU national secretary Bob Harrison, like Haigh, showed sufficient interest to turn up on the march - but he too has done little or nothing in practice to mobilise the colossal power of his union in concrete solidarity action.

The bitter lesson of the strike is that union officials in Britain will - almost without exception - run from any fight for genuine international solidarity.

A new, revolutionary leadership is vital to expose this situation and offer real support to workers internationally in their struggle.

SCIENCE

by Les Hearn

What the left hand's doing

ROUGHLY 10% of humans are left-handed, a statistic that remains remarkably constant geographically and historically.

In the past, left-handers have been looked on with suspicion, being accused variously of being devious, daft or diabolic (during witch-hunts, for example - the Latin for "left" is "sinister"). Left handedness has also been equated with clumsiness ("cack-handed") while the words "dexterity" or "adroit" both originate from "dexter", Latin for "right".

In a pseudo-scientific attempt to justify prejudice against left-handedness, Sir Cyril Burt estimated that while 5% of

the ordinary British school population was left-handed, the proportion rose to 12% in special schools for the "mental defectives".

Whether these statistics were accurate or not, this was at a time when left-handers were routinely forced to write with their right hands at school, perhaps also being told that left-handers were cack-handed and stupid.

Handedness is a phenomenon controlled by the brain, so what do we know about the brain which could explain it?

The two halves of the human brain, while appearing identical, have differing functions. The left (dominant) half controls

movement and sensation on the right side of the body (and vice-versa) - it also specialises in reasoning, logic, mathematics, reading, writing, language and analytical skills, while the right side specialises in creative and visual processes.

It might be easier to understand left-handedness if right-handers had left-dominant brains and vice-versa. But there is no link at all between left-right dominance and handedness - the vast majority of left and right handers being left dominant.

So what causes handedness? There are no detectable physical differences between the brains of left-

and right-handed individuals but in left- and right-pawed rats, differing levels of the chemical dopamine (which carries impulses across the gaps between the endings of certain nerves) are found on the right and left sides of the brain.

Whether this is an effect or a cause of handedness is not known, but it could be that general messages from the brain ordering movement of a limb are more easily transmitted on one side of the brain than the other.

In all other species with handedness (or pawedness) including our closest relatives, the chimps, the split is 50-50 right-left. Handedness is not inheri-

ted in other species, so it seems that it is caused by some random event (perhaps an accidental imbalance in dopamine production) which has no evolutionary significance.

In humans, there is a weak link between handedness of parents and children, but this could be due to environmental influences. One attempt to establish such an influence was the assertion in 1975 by a Canadian psychologist that left-handedness was a deviation from a "natural" state caused by minor brain damage during complicated and traumatic births - an updated version of the "left-handed equals daft or clumsy" view. This theory was later

shown to have no support in fact.

So the environmental influence may be no more than the example set by parents teaching their children certain skills. This might be enough to change a weakly left-handed child into a right-hander or vice-versa.

Uniquely amongst species with handedness, humans exhibit a stable split of 90-10. So it would seem that there is some evolutionary advantage to right-handedness amongst humans. But there must also be some advantage to having around 10% of left-handers. What these advantages might be, though, is unknown.

Prejudice against left-

handers may no longer be important, but they still find that modern society takes them little into account. Right-handed designers don't cater for left-handers, who often have to undergo strange contortions to use a pair of scissors or a potato peeler!

Information: New Scientist.

Socialist Organiser
Science Group, contact
Les Hearn, c/o Socialist
Organiser, 28 Middle
Lane, London N8 8PL.

How can I fight back?

Dear Socialist Organiser, I'm sure many women will have sent you a letter like this one. I am a woman, I'm twenty eight years old, I'm married and have one daughter.

I'm also one of the million or more unregistered unemployed women.

I was a general assistant in a school kitchen until she started making cutbacks. In one week I have applied for six jobs and I'm still looking. I only apply for jobs that I have experience in.

I feel sure that as soon as I mention that I have a child my chance of a job flies out of the window, even though suitable arrangements can be made for my daughter. I only apply for jobs that can be fitted in with my daughter's school time and my husband's shifts.

I've had all the usual comments thrown in my face, e.g. what do you know about politics, you're only a housewife, or 'a woman's place is in the home'.

I'm looking for a job because like three million other people I want to feel like a human being and be able to live decently without worrying how we will be able to afford decent food and clothes.

Angry

I feel so angry and disgusted at times that I could sit down and have a good cry. I don't, mind you, I get ready and go to the Job Centre yet again. If there are any organisations I

could join, even though I'm only a housewife, that are trying to get women a better deal, I'd like to hear about them.

The sooner women are treated like human beings not scum, the better this country will be.

Yours faithfully,
S.W. McAdam
Oldham

P.S. This is the first time I've bought Socialist Organiser and I'm very impressed with your views.



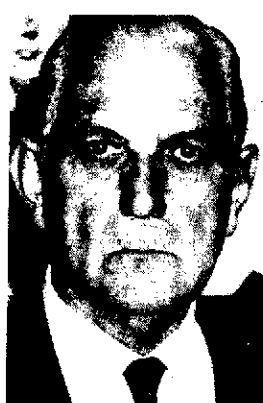
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Writeback



We invite readers to send us their letters, up to a usual maximum length of 400 words. Send to 'Writeback', Socialist Organiser, c/o 28, Middle Lane, London N8.

Did defeat topple junta?



During the battle for the Falklands, article after article appeared in Socialist Challenge supporting the view that not only was the Argentine claim to the islands just, but 'that a defeat for Argentina will only lead to a strengthening of the Junta's hold over the population'. (Brian Grogan, SC, 13 May).

Thus Socialist Challenge said the only enemy in this war between an oppressor and an oppressed country was Thatcher.

At the end of the day, however, we were proved correct. The Junta was defeated, Galtieri was dismissed, the Air Force and Navy withdrew from the Junta, military rule was severely discredited, and better conditions created (certainly than existed before the crisis) for trade unions and working class parties to organise.

Now at the time of the crisis, the Manchester comrades of Socialist Challenge poo-pooed these arguments. They said

we failed to grasp the dynamics of world revolution, and that their relationship with the United Secretariat of the Fourth International allowed them to draw upon a whole spectrum of global knowledge and experience which could be the only scientific basis for developing a correct analysis of the likely political developments. And that in conclusion as workers we should support the Junta's claim.

Indeed at one stage SO supporters in Rochdale were dismissed as 'anglo-centric syndicalists', whatever that may mean, and that we were too concerned 'with the trivia of everyday trade union work to grasp the complexities of geo-political processes'. However, at the end of the day the Rochdale parochialists got it right and the super-internationalists of Socialist Challenge got it wrong.

BARRY HASLAM
Rochdale

'Unofficial' candidate - were we right?

IN Socialist Organiser number 87 there appeared an article about Glasgow District Councillor Pat Keegan who had resigned from the council over the closing of Govan Baths who on failing to regain readmittance to the Labour Party panel of candidates stood and won the seat as 'Labour Candidate against

the Cuts' against an official Labour Party candidate.

Contained in the article was the following statement: "Militant supporters have argued that Pat must be expelled from the Labour Party, if he hasn't

been expelled already' on the grounds that he is a 'maverick'.

This statement came as somewhat of a shock to local Militant supporters, particularly as they had been particularly active in supporting Pat Keegan's campaign for re-admittance to the District Council Labour Group. Subsequently the author of the article containing this lie was approached and informed that the statement was untrue and asked to publish a retraction in the next edition of Socialist Organiser.

His response to this, not unreasonable, request was to publish a leaflet which accused local Militant supporters of making 'dark threats of further action', of launching a 'mini-witch-hunt' against Socialist Organiser and named the comrade accused of calling for Pat Keegan's expulsion from the Labour Party.

These three points cannot be left unanswered.

The so-called 'dark threats of further action' was in fact that if Stan Crooke would not write a retraction, the matter would then be taken up in letters to Socialist Organiser and other papers produced within the Labour Party explaining that Socialist Organiser could not be relied upon to print the truth when factional points could be scored and that Stan Crooke was the same. Further to that the issue would be raised in Govan CLP with Pat Keegan.

Ammunition

Because we have demanded a retraction of Crooke's lying article and pointed out that the article gives ammunition to those presently attempting to witch-hunt the Militant, Crooke accuses us of launching a 'mini-witch-hunt' against him. This accusation, like the original article, is merely a product of Crooke's fevered imagination.

In Crooke's leaflet, Frank White, chairman of the LPYS in Scotland, is named as the Militant supporter who called for Pat Keegan's expulsion. Up to now Crooke is the only person who heard Frank White say that, whilst myself and five other people who were at the meeting, where the comments are claimed to have been made, have no recollection of them.

The real reasons why Crooke attacks Frank White

are that Frank spoke and voted against a resolution moved by Crooke congratulating Pat Keegan in standing against and defeating an official Labour candidate. This, plus Crooke's blind hatred of Militant, it seems, led to the work of fiction in Socialist Organiser 87.

In normal times lies about Militant and its supporters in Socialist Organiser are not really worth taking up. But in the situation of a witch-hunt against Militant they have to be answered. Indeed it seems very strange to have, on the one hand articles telling lies about Militant supporters and, on the other, articles calling for the defence of Militant in the face of the witch-hunt.

I would hope that Socialist Organiser will put this matter straight given these present circumstances.

Fraternally,
ANDY CONNOLLY
Crosshill-Prospecthill
Labour Party

STAN CROOKE REPLIES:

When a Socialist Organiser supporter moved a motion of support for Pat Keegan and for Fairfield Labour Party (Pat Keegan represents the Fairfield area and enjoys the support of the Labour Party branch there) at the May meeting of the Crosshill-Prospecthill Labour Party branch, the first of the two speeches against this motion came from Frank White, a leading supporter of the Militant in Glasgow and current chairperson of the Labour Party Young Socialists in Scotland.

White began his speech by claiming that Keegan should be expelled from the Labour Party if he had not already been so, on the grounds that he was a

maverick trying to fight the cuts outwith the Labour Party. White went on to say that he hoped that no-one would confuse any possible witch-hunt of Fairfield Labour Party with 'real witch-hunting' of socialists in the Labour Party. He concluded by saying that he found the motion both confused and confusing.

This astonishing tirade went unchallenged by any of the other Militant supporters present at the meeting. The minutes of the meeting show that, when it came to a vote on the motion, all the Militant supporters voted against the motion.

The 'official' candidate whom Pat Keegan defeated was one bureaucratically imposed by the Glasgow District Labour Party against the active opposition of the Fairfield branch and the CLP.

While Militant supporters might regard it as unacceptable to defy such bureaucracy their position was not shared either by local Party activists or by the Labour electorate, who gave Keegan an 819-299 victory over his 'official' rival.

Militant supporters, subsequent to the appearance of the article, have informed us that they have defended Pat Keegan, particularly in the Fairfield branch and in Govan CLP, and it is on this basis that they ask for a retraction of the above-quoted statement. We must reject their request.

Whilst welcoming the support given by Militant to Pat Keegan in Govan, and anywhere else, we refuse to retract the statement of contention, based as it is on Frank White's speech at the May meeting of the Crosshill-Prospecthill branch.

Defeat imperialism to defeat juntas

EITHER Stan Crooke is right that the Malvinas war was a conflict between two middle-ranking capitalist powers ('sub-imperialist' Argentina versus declining

Labour Party Conference

Socialist Organiser
BRIEFING

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imperialist Britain), in which case defeatism on both sides was the correct position. Or, he is wrong and it was a war between a declining imperialist power - Britain - and a semi-colonial country - Argentina, in which case defeatism of Argentina would be correct.

But Martin Thomas wants his cake and to eat it. Argentina is 'sub-imperialist' and Britain imperialist but we must defend Argentina if the mainland is invaded.

(Presumably he would defend Britain if Argentina invaded the British mainland).

But this is absurd. Did we side with Iran when Iraq invaded? Would we have supported German 'national rights' when Britain invaded Germany during World Wars I and II?

Secondly, he says that the reason for not supporting Galtieri's war was because it was for 'reac-

tionary aims'. What he fails to see is that it is possible for the junta to have 'reactionary aims' and still carry out a progressive action - the seizure of the Malvinas.

Martin Thomas has written articles exposing the aims of the Junta in wanting to use the islands as US backed bases for a South Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The Argentina Trotskyists Poltica Obrera argue much the same thing in a recent edition of their paper. But they draw the opposite conclusion.

They say that the junta's reactionary aims could only have been defeated by socialists winning the leadership of the progressive struggle to seize the Malvinas from British imperialist control. This could only have been done by socialists being in the front trenches of the war.

After defeating British imperialism, the guns of the soldiers could have

been turned on the officers of the junta itself, with socialists in a position of leadership and strength.

Surely, this was the essence of Trotsky's argument in his book Permanent Revolution: that the 'national bourgeoisie' is afraid of seriously fight imperialism for fear of the guns being turned on itself?

Only by defeating first British imperialism could the conditions be created to bring down the US imperialist-backed junta. Both US bases and the present British garrison would then have been avoided.

SO, by calling for the defeat of Argentina and the withdrawal of Argentine troops from the islands, have in effect helped to undermine such a possibility and thus has been a negative influence in the struggle to prevent both US bases and British garrisons.

CHRIS ERSWELL
Liverpool



Only part of the fleet has returned: part remains to establish a new base in the Falklands

LABOUR CAMPAIGN FOR GAY RIGHTS
National Conference
Saturday 24 July, 1982
11 - 5.30 in Nottingham, at
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Workshops on LCGR, Labour Party Discussion
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Chris Richardson, 0602 780124.



Pinochet

DON'T MISS 'MISSING'!



The coup was backed by leaders of 'the land of the free'

TONY RICHARDSON reviews the latest film by Costa Gavras.

THIS film is based around the true story of Charles Horman, who gets caught up in the 1973 Chilean coup and is executed by the troops of the Pinochet junta.

The story tells of the search for him by his wife (played by Cissy Spacek) and his father (played by Jack Lemmon).

Costa Gavras has made some good political films. 'Z' dealt with the Greek coup and 'State of Siege' with the Tupamaros guerrillas; but in my opinion this is better.

Here he unravels the American participation in the coup in a way that involves the viewer. The

ingredients of the true story are combined with his ability to create images that in a few brief seconds tell more than any length of speech or book.

The true story provided the basic ingredients.

Horman was a vaguely left-wing journalist. He happened to be caught by the coup in a naval base town from which the American intelligence agents helped organise the coup.

He spoke to some of these agents who, as he was American, took it for granted he would support the coup.

The problem was he wrote down all they said in his notebooks.

When it was discovered what he had done, his home was raided when he was alone; he was taken away to the football stadium and there he was executed. The

junta claimed he had been released.

The American Embassy too said he had been released and suggested he must be in hiding.

The film is based on the search of his wife and father for him, and their gradual unravelling of the truth.

In this is the strongest ingredient of the film. His father, brilliantly played by Jack Lemmon, is a wealthy, conservative, American. He has a great deal of influence and is able to put pressure on the US government.

He is a great believer in American 'democracy' and cannot believe US involvement in the coup or that his son is dead. He starts off believing the US Ambassador when he says he is doing his best.

Horman's wife goes everywhere with him in his search. She has similar-

ly 'left-wing', pro-Allende politics to Horman. She ridicules the US Ambassador and this causes great conflict with the father.

It is in their search that the father learns the truth and changes his opinion.

One is reminded of that great film *Soldier Blue* by Ralph Nelson in which a white woman who has lived with the Indians goes on a journey with a soldier who will not believe that the US Cavalry committed atrocities on the Indians. During the journey his mind is slowly changed, culminating in the 'Wounded Knee' massacres.

The other ingredient of 'Missing' which turns it from a good into a great film is the direction of Gavras. He doesn't show the torture of Pinochet's Chile, he just shows fleeting glimpses of the action of the military during the coup and then longer

views of the bodies.

But in these fleeting glimpses he brings out the horror of the events. He makes us feel the rush to be indoors before the curfew, with people running desperately one way, and then the other, cramming onto buses.

On the night before he died, Horman and his wife are caught out in the curfew and so have to stay in a hotel. This produces the clearest image in the film.

Fugitive

We witness the desperation of the fugitives in the hotel; but opposite the hotel a party is going on. The rich of Santiago are dancing to 'My Ding-a-Ling'. A troop transporter

goes past; the party stops, the rich all move to the window, clapping the soldiers. The soldiers salute.

Again the scene is over briefly.

During their investigation they meet a military refugee who knows someone who saw Horman while he was being interrogated. Flashed onto the screen for a few seconds is the scene of Horman strapped to a chair, of the tortures and of the American military adviser who is the same person who is supposed to be helping them find their son.

The military refugee makes it clear that Horman, as an American, could not have been executed without the agreement of

the US officials.

In their search they tour the Embassies. In some of them they can't move for the hundreds of political refugees.

"Says it all"

As the father looks out at the vast empty lawns of the US Embassy, without a single refugee, he realises that "that says it all".

Finally the American Ambassador comes close to admitting their support for the coup and tries to explain it.

"We have 3,000 companies operating down here. We have to look after their interests."

Go and see 'Missing'. How good it is to see a brilliantly made 'political' film!

Fighting for GAY RIGHTS

LPYS must discuss gay rights

By Will Adams

AT the LPYS National Conference last Easter the Standing Orders Committee wouldn't allow a debate on the resolutions on gay rights to be taken. This has happened repeatedly. At the 1981 National Conference there were six resolutions on the subject (more than on some of the subjects which were discussed) but the National Committee used a bureaucratic manoeuvre to avoid a debate.

Currently the LPYS position on gays is a bare statement that we are opposed to discrimination against

gay people — hardly an adequate position for a socialist youth movement.

We must fight to get the LPYS to adopt a better position on gay rights. But more importantly we must campaign to get the issue discussed in LPYS branches and at regional and national LPYS events. This is important for the information and education of those LPYS members who have backward ideas about gays.

There have been a number of incidents when gay LPYS members have been verbally abused by other

LPYS members. This clearly shows the need for discussion and education.

A good place to start this discussion would be at this year's LPYS Summer Camp. This is a week-long event of political and social activities where the National Committee arranges discussions and debates on all sorts of issues: unemployment, YOPs, women's rights, Ireland, etc. It could be very useful to have a discussion on gay rights there.

The NC can hardly argue that there isn't enough time to fit it in. But

in the past they have not bothered to organise anything, and it has been down to individual LPYS members to organise a discussion unofficially.

I suggest that you move the following resolution in your LPYS branch:

"This LPYS branch notes the lack of discussion on gay rights at recent national events. We feel that the issue is an important one for the LPYS to take up and so we call on the National Committee to organise a discussion on gay rights at this year's Summer Camp."

Please try to do it soon and make sure the resolution is sent off to the National Committee as quickly as possible (it's worth checking at the meeting after the one at which the resolution is passed to make sure the secretary has sent it off). Write and let me know if you are successful so I can see what support the resolution is getting.

Whatever happens, there will be a discussion, official or unofficial, on gay rights at this year's Summer Camp, so it should be worth going if you can make it. It's at Bracelands

Camp Site, near Coleford in the Forest of Dean for the week 1-7 August and costs £20 self-catering. Write to A. Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 if you want to go.

The Labour Campaign for Gay Rights is working to get the labour movement as a whole to take gay rights seriously. You may be interested in joining. Or you could propose that your LPYS branch affiliates — it's a good way of getting a discussion going. They can be contacted at 61a Bloom Street, Manchester M1 3LY. Membership costs £2 (waged) or £1 (unwaged) for a year.

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Bermondsey condemns NEC policy

by Peter Tatchell

The Bermondsey Labour Party Women's Section and the Chaucer branch (my own) have passed resolutions condemning the NEC's decision to keep the age of consent for homosexual men at 18 instead of lowering it to 16 (equal to heterosexuals).

We call for full civil and human rights for gay men and women to be included

in the Manifesto and carried out by the next Labour government.

The statement in Labour's Programme 82 on gay rights is a progressive step in comparison with the past, when there was no mention at all. However, I am still concerned about whether or not this will actually be in the Manifesto or carried out by the next Labour government.

Some aspects of the

statement are fairly vague. For example, there is no firm commitment to remove laws which penalise homosexuals, like the offence of 'gross indecency', which only exists for male homosexuals and is frequently used by the police to harass and discriminate against homosexuals.

The Employment Protection proposals to make it illegal to discriminate against gay women and

men in employment are very welcome, particularly in the light of the current case of Judith Williams — a social worker in North Wales who's been sacked purely because she's gay.

Resolutions

I hope that as many constituencies as possible will send resolutions to the NEC along the lines of the one

we passed in my ward and the women's section.

To have this difference between homosexuals and heterosexuals in the Party's programme is more or less colluding with the denial of civil rights to gay men. That's totally inconsistent with the Labour Party's commitment to equality for all citizens.



NUR conference 'Like banging your head on a brick wall'

Rob Dawber (Sheffield City NUR)
analyses why the NUR conference
was not as democratic as it seemed

IT IS Sid Weighell's constant boast that the National Union of Railwaymen is one of Britain's most democratic unions.

He also claims a radical tradition for it - a founder of the Labour Party, and 99% of its branches affiliated to local Labour Parties.

The NUR Annual General Meeting, at the Holiday Inn in Plymouth, did not fit this image.

The first act of the 77 delegates was to call off the strike against BR over wages, productivity, and investment, referring the dispute to the Railway Staff National Tribunal (RSNT).

Weighell had done only the absolute bare necessities required of him in the run-up to the strike called by the NEC. He sent out notification of the strike and very little else. Indeed, our branch received copies of a very good edition of the union paper, putting forward all the arguments and facts on the dispute, only last Tuesday, July 6 - over one week after the strike had been called off.

Weighell also manoeuvred the date of the strike. The NEC had given the BRB a deadline of June 7 for a

response on pay and productivity, and met that day to discuss action.

A strike, they reckoned, would need two weeks' preparation, so could be called for Monday June 21.

However, Weighell, who controls the NEC's agenda, refused to bring the information until Wednesday 9th, and so the NEC felt they could not call the strike until Monday 28th, the first day of the AGM.

According to the NUR constitution, the NEC does not exist when the AGM is sitting, so any decisions on the dispute would be taken by the AGM delegates with only the sparsest information.

Lack of information does not explain everything, however.

The first resolution at the AGM was of no confidence in the General Secretary Sid Weighell. It failed to find a second. The second resolution, on disarmament, was simply a repetition of the previous year's decision in favour of world disarmament, plus congratulations to the NEC on having affiliated to the World Disarmament Campaign.

Once it was passed, the



president, Tommy Ham, then ruled out of order all the other resolutions in that category - containing specific opposition to Cruise, Trident, the neutron bomb, transportation of nuclear fuel on the railways, and support for CND, unilateral nuclear disarmament, and closure of all nuclear bases in Britain.

The AGM did call for the restoration of democratic and trade union rights in Poland, and condemn Thatcher's crocodile tears on this issue. But it then went on to pass a resolution from Weighell's own branch, Northallerton, calling for incomes control to be part of socialist economic policy.

A resolution on the Tebbit Bill ended up as an endorsement of the TUC policy ('a damp squib', as the Sunday Times put it). This was enough to allow the president to rule out of order the next resolution, which was slightly stronger.

A call for the next Labour government to nationalise all top monopolies and multinationals was passed, but followed by rejection of a resolution on implementing TUC policy on equal

opportunities for ethnic minorities in both the union and the industry.

A resolution from Battersea on positive discrimination for women was also defeated. One of the two women among the 77 delegates proposed the resolution, but the other woman opposed it, arguing that she had not needed any help herself. She was followed by one of the male delegates arguing that a woman's place is at the kitchen sink.

The AGM also rejected proposals for a NUR women's conference.

Rejected

Later in the week, the AGM rejected a resolution calling on the Labour leadership to accept the established right for Constituency Labour Parties to choose their own Parliamentary candidates and for members to take part in unofficial groupings.

This rejection enabled the president to rule out of order other resolutions which called in addition for rejection of the report on Militant and for Labour Party conference decisions to be binding on the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The chair was challenged but upheld.

The tactic of placing a chosen resolution at the head of the group of resolutions on a given subject, and then ruling out all the rest,

was used again on the annual pay claim. The first resolution called for a 'substantial pay increase'. It was accepted, and then all others were ruled out of order.

A resolution to move the settlement date from April to January 1 was taken, but lost after passionate opposition from Sid Weighell.

'Concern'

On productivity, a vague resolution expressing 'concern' was passed, ruling out two resolutions opposing productivity deals.

The issue of one-man operation of trains was deferred to the special general meeting which is to consider the outcome of the RSNT on productivity and pay.

Rule changes were a major issue at this year's AGM. Rules revision comes up only once every three years, and the Railworkers' Broad Left had taken the opportunity to get resolutions through branches for

* one delegate from each branch (at present AGM delegates 'represent' groups of branches),

* voting by branch members, rather than one vote per delegate,

* NEC members to be eligible to stand again after their three-year period,

* the NEC to determine



its own agenda,

* the General Secretary, assistants, and divisional officers to have to stand for election every five years

* manifestos to be distributed for union elections, rather than just candidates' biographies,

* the General Secretary's salary to be the average for the industry.

These were all thrown out by the simple expedient of someone shouting 'Move business' as the proposer was approaching the rostrum, getting a second, and then winning a two-thirds vote. The only one debated was on five-yearly elections for General Secretary, and that was lost by a simple majority.

Finally, the AGM reversed the NEC decision to take no action against the people accused by Weighell of sending out unofficial circulars. NEC members associated with the Broad Left have now been fined £10 and required to state in writing that they will not break the rules again.

The rules in question were designed to stop blacklegs and union wreckers

operating inside the union in its very early days. Weighell has now turned them against those who wish to make our union more democratic and accountable, and therefore stronger.

One delegate told me that the discussion at the AGM was like banging on a brick wall. Against you was Weighell, who had brought with him almost the whole of Unity House, the NUR HQ.

He had files and research staff. He could pull strings and manoeuvre, and he had enough supporters there to get away with it.

Only a handful of delegates were Broad Left supporters. We need to ensure more left-wing delegates in future if the NUR is to become anything other than a hatchet for the right in politics, and a union that presides over worsening conditions for its members and the decimation of the railways.

Cheap fares cut costs

ACCORDING to London Transport's official report, the Labour GLC's cheap fares policy actually reduced the cost per passenger to public funds.

It also brought 'a small but significant reduction in the use of private cars, a reduction in traffic congestion and, undoubtedly, a reduction in road accidents.'

Peter Masefield, the retiring boss of London Transport, presented the report last week and called for an increased public subsidy to LT making it possible to cut fares by 20%.

LT bosses clearly have their own reasons for wanting low fares: who wants to manage a decaying, declining, high-fare service? But their report highlights the blind viciousness of the Lords' ruling that the cheap fares were against the law.

When fares were cut 32% last October, passenger numbers went up 10%. This March, after the Law Lords' ruling, fares were raised 96% and passenger numbers went down by 18%.

London Transport now receives a lower rate of subsidy (27%) than any other major urban transport system in the world. Paris receives 52%, New York 70%, and Milan 83%.



Bosses block vote

FUNNY HOW progressive the big block vote can become when it is used in the interests of business.

The latest example came at the Annual General Meeting of Marks and Spencer, where some directors came under attack for secretly having houses bought for them by the company.

Under the deal, the directors were entitled to buy back their homes at five or ten year old prices. The deal involved a total of £1.8 million on buying houses for the directors. It has only been revealed because of recent

changes in the Companies Act, which forces M&S to publish details in this year's annual report.

The row caused a storm at the 400-strong Annual General Meeting, and looked like bringing a defeat for the Board after a vote was called for by Mr Harold Joels, a grandson of the brother of the joint founder of the company.

But the directors found they were safe. Between them the 400 people present had approved the deal by 260 million votes in favour to 4.6 million against.

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Glendale fights on

AUEW members are maintaining a 7.30am - 5pm picket at Glendale Engineering, Hythe Rd., London NW10.

The dispute, made official by the AUEW district committee, is for union recognition in this small factory. Blacking of Glendale products is also being sought.

Messages/money: Mick Woods, 76 Austen House, Cambridge Rd., London NW6 5LY.

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy

THE Conference resolution book will shortly be available to Party organisations. The priority now is preparing for amendments - and also nominations for the positions elected at conference (NEC, Leader, Deputy Leader, Conference Arrangements Committee). The deadline for these is Friday August 13th.

As a number of CLPs traditionally do not have meetings scheduled for August it is extremely important that provision is

made in the July GC meetings for the CLP to put forward amendments by either:

a) scheduling a special August GC before the 13th;

b) Empowering the EC of the constituency to put forward amendments in line with existing policy.

Nominations can be put forward at either the July GC meetings or at an August meeting before the 13th.

Curbing the cops

THE LABOUR-controlled Nottinghamshire police authority has stopped the county's chief constable from buying plastic bullets.

At the last minute the discussion was opened to the public, after a picket called by Socialist Organiser had denounced secrecy.

The decision was a victory for the picket, mobilised only three days before the meeting.

Earlier in the week, County Council leader Dennis Pettit had insisted on the local commercial radio that discussions would remain 'restricted'.

But, faced by accusations of damping debate and colluding with the chief con-

stable, the police committee backed down and 'de-restricted' the item.

This was a major change of direction for the council's Labour group, which has previously refused to challenge the chief constable in public.

In May, county councillors admitted their desire to retain chief constable Charles MacLachlan's cooperation over a crime survey and the post-Scarman liaison committees that Labour is due to set up.

Their intention then had been to defer a decision on plastic bullets for as long as possible, avoiding a principled decision from the outset.

JOHN BATCHELOR

"The original kangaroo court"

FROM all the reports I got of the AGM, the atmosphere there was something akin to a cross between a Nuremberg rally and a foxhunt in full cry.

We've been fined £10, but none of us know exactly what we have been fined £10 for. We haven't been given precise details of the charges. We weren't able to put any defence case - it was the original kangaroo court.

What we were really guilty of was opposing Sid Weighell publicly. And the

by Ian Williams
(NUR Exec,
in personal
capacity)

real sting in the tail is that there is a threat - as far as I can understand, I've heard nothing officially yet - that future occurrences will be dealt with under the rule that provides for expulsion.

Since we don't know exactly what the past 'occurrences' were, it's very difficult to avoid future 'occurrences' - short of total silence. And none of us intend to be silent.

Rulecan flares again

MANAGEMENT at Rulecan, Runcorn, have reneged on their earlier agreement to re-employ the women workers at a new factory in Runcorn.

The women are calling for mass pickets every Monday and Thursday from 7am. Mothercare and C&A shops are being leafleted in Liverpool, asking people not to buy goods from these Rulecan outlets.

This should be spread

nationally. The NUTGW (the women's union) is supposedly organising blacking at the Gratton and Kays catalogue warehouses, but not committing anything to paper in view of the legal threats.

Messages/ money. NUTGW, Room 46, Imperial Chambers, 62 Dale St, Liverpool 2. Cheques payable to NUTGW Local Fund.

CHRIS ERSWELL

CAPLANS THUGS

AS THE fight for union recognition at Caplans Cash and Carry, Manchester, enters its 10th week, events have taken a new turn with the appearance on the picket line of 20 hired thugs.

Paid £20 each per day, the strong-arm men have been employed by Caplans to intimidate the pickets and to ensure that scab deliveries can enter the warehouse.

This is clearly a great setback, and highlights the need for verbal support to be

made concrete, in a series of well-organised mass pickets.

The T&G officials are finally coming round to this view, but exactly how prepared they are to build for mass pickets is a matter of some doubt.

Should the decision to begin mass picketing be taken, we must ourselves work to ensure its success.

Messages/ money: Dave Jones, c/o 37 Plymouth St Salford.

LYNN FERGUSON

NGA for register

THE National Graphical Association (NGA) biennial conference, held at Eastbourne, condemned the National Council's support for Dennis Healey in the 1981 deputy leadership election.

The conference voted by 157 to 143 to condemn the decision.

The key speech was made by London Region delegate Ross Pritchard, who pointed out that Tony Benn's anti-EEC, pro-AES views were closer to NGA policy than Dennis Healey's. It is worth pointing out that, if NGA delegates to the Labour Party conference last year had voted for Benn, he would now be deputy leader.

But despite warnings of witch-hunts and blacklists, the conference went on to

welcome the proposals for a register of groups in the Labour Party.

The other main item on the agenda was the proposed amalgamation with the National Union of Journalists. Despite several reservations made by delegates in conversations outside conference, the report from Assistant General Secretary Tony Dubbins was the prelude to a very positive debate where every delegate without exception spoke in favour of amalgamation.

The main reservations were about possible dilution of the NGA's closed shop and proposals for a Professional and Ethical Council which would deal with issues arising from the NUJ's code of conduct.

EDP successes

EDP STRIKERS in Sheffield are now in their 7th week of picketing in a dispute centred on victimisation by management.

The picketing has been successful in turning away deliveries of paper and computer equipment, but taxis are still entering with newly employed scabs.

Last Friday, the weekly strike committee met, and threw out an offer from management that they still had some full time places left and were prepared to re-employ four of the sacked strikers. So the strike continues, with picketing organised

in rotas and morale being boosted by the response to mass pickets and the many messages of support and donations.

Following the last mass picket, where there was a large and aggressive police presence, patrol cars are frequently seen around the area in the mornings in expectation of another one. Let's make the forthcoming picket on Friday July 16 an even larger one!

Meet at the corner of Tapton Park Rd and Fulwood Rd at 7.30am.

BRIAN WOOD

Albert, the electronic genius, tries to sabotage 3-day action

LINK UP WITH RAIL AND OTHER UNIONS!

RUMOUR has it that COHSE general secretary Albert Spanswick doesn't get to use his telex machine very often. He certainly didn't rush to use it to declare any of the recent occupations - St. Benedicts, Longworth or St. Mary's - official. He definitely didn't use it to give official approval to the all-out action of COHSE members in Edinburgh in May.

Imagine the shock then in regional offices from Perth to Aldershot when it began clicking away last week. What earth-shattering news was coming from Albert so urgently? Had the TUC finally declared all-out strike action? Had the Tories given in and agreed to 12%? NO!

The telex brought news of the most disgusting sell-out yet in this pay dispute - a page and a half of useless suggestions and waffle from Spanswick, in yet another vain attempt to quell COHSE members' militancy.

He says that he has met with the 'action committee' (no rank and file members of course) and they are 'requiring an increase in the action at present being carried out and an intensification of action already taking place.'

To anyone actively involved in the dispute this



JOHN HARRIS

could only mean indefinite strike action.

Not so - the three day campaign means to Spanswick and the committee

sectional strikes and 'utilisations' (whatever that means). They recommend 'utilisation of engineering and maintenance

COHSE secretary still sacked

FOLLOWING on the first of the days of action for the NHS pay claim, a woman ancillary worker at Newsham General Hospital (Liverpool) wrote a letter to the Liverpool Daily Post which insulted the union members who participated in the campaign.

A religious fanatic, she claimed exemption from industrial action on grounds of conscience, but this apparently will not prevent from accepting the pay increase won by the action.

After a confrontation between the woman and the COHSE branch secretary (who is also a woman) resulted in a scuffle, the branch secretary was sacked. There was an immediate walkout by ancillary staff at Newsham, which quickly spread to Alderhey, the Royal, and Mill Road maternity hospital.

The next day, the union members were back at work pending talks with management. This looks like typical sabotage of the action by COHSE officials. The branch secretary is still sacked, and the prospects look grim.

CHRIS ERSWELL

Victims of privatisation

THE privatisation bandwagon rolls on. To make British Airways juicy enough for the profiteers, management now plan to cut 7,000 more jobs by March next year.

They have already cut 16,000 over the last two years, as well as reducing money wages last year.

This February and March, they fought an eight-week strike of ramp workers at Heathrow the last group of workers at that airport to resist the speed-up plans

imposed on them by British Airways.

After all this devastation, all that an official TGWU spokesperson could find to say about the 7,000 job cuts this week was: 'We are very annoyed at the total lack of consultation'.

But at the sharp end of Tory Britain, the name of the game is no longer consultation. It is confrontation. And it's about time the unions got a leadership that recognised that.

Winners lose

"As far as I can see, we are worse off than we ever were, although we won the decision at the tribunal", said sacked USDAW shop steward Siobhan Lanigan this week.

Siobhan and 16 others were sacked by Foyles bookshop in London for joining the union. For weeks they picketed the shop, but official union support was insufficient to make blacking effective, and they were forced to rely on an industrial tribunal.

Siobhan and two others went as test cases to the tribunal. They won. Then Foyles got the reinstatement order suspended.

USDAW, having pushed the workers into relying on the tribunal in the first place, has now left them in the lurch by an executive decision not to appeal against the suspension. Too expensive, they say!

Siobhan and Sue Taylor, the two workers who got reinstatement orders, are unemployed and feeling the pinch. But if they get new jobs their case for reinstatement automatically falls!

Meanwhile Foyles have little to fear. If the reinstatement order is upheld and they still defy it, the worst that will happen to them is a fine.

staff' (engineers remember have already settled for 8%) and 'utilisation of hospital administrators'!! Emergency cover is not mentioned but the circular says that levels of services to inpatients must be maintained at a 'reasonable level (reasonable to whom?) and children's wards 'must have normal services continued'.

Having tried his hardest to sell out any effective action, Spanswick then tells us to redouble our efforts to get other unions involved and to write to MPs to 'ascertain their views'. This is ludicrous, given that we have been in a major dispute now for three months. If MPs' views are not known by now, they are not worth having!

Spanswick closes with a timely reminder that COHSE conference decided 'overwhelmingly against all-out strikes'.

Well, Spanswick, think again. COHSE members will not be involved in any sell-out now. We have fought tooth and nail to get COHSE to take industrial action and we have proved that COHSE members will fight.

Throughout the country joint union committees are coming together. NUPE and COHSE stewards are standing together on pickets and fighting together for the full 12%. No way will we quit now, and we certainly will not go to work and ask others to strike for us.

In the vacuum left by the leadership militants must work together to mount a class fightback. Health workers should be making links with railworkers. Parallels between the attempted sell-out by

But FULL CLAIM • HEALTH WORKERS' dedication won't pay the rent
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Spanswick and the scandalous action by Sid Weighell during the NUR strike must be highlighted.

Our long term goal has to be true democratic unions where leaders cannot betray us year after year. The only way to get this is to elect all the full timers and to make sure they are accountable by regular re-elections.

Meanwhile we have to fight in the hospitals for all-out strikes from the 19th. Establishing local Health Workers for the Full Claim groups can bring activists together and help to break down the isolation which exists. Selling the bulletin gets people involved and interested.

IN THE very long interlude between national calls for action, things have been kept going in Sheffield by selective action in two of the major hospitals.

A withdrawal of sterile supplies should reduce both to accident and emergency only by the end of this week, and badly affect other hospitals too.

Other hospital workers are paying a levy of £1 a week to support the strikers. But they have little time for such piecemeal actions, and many see indefinite action with emergency cover as the only way to win the 12%.

For the 3-day strike, demonstration has been organised on the 20th, with the illustrious leader of health workers, Albert Spanswick speaking. NUPE local government workers have pledged support for a three-hour stoppage to join the demonstration. Let's hope Mr Spanswick gets the welcome he deserves.

ELLEN TAYLOR

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Socialist Organiser

Peter Tatchell writes

The witch-hunt can be defeated. Last year Michael Foot vowed he would 'never' accept Peter Tatchell as Labour candidate for Bermondsey. This week the Labour Party organisation committee voted for a new selection in Bermondsey, which will probably mean Tatchell becoming the candidate. Behind the scenes this move is probably designed to sew up 'soft left' backing for the new register of groups in the Labour Party. But it need not turn out as intended. If we campaign, we can win.
PETER TATCHELL WRITES:
FIGHT THE TORIES,

IT IS regrettable that when the NEC organisation committee met this week, it did not agree immediately to endorse my candidature in Bermondsey, as the local Party had requested.

We are fed up with the wasteful internal diversion of non-endorsement. Bermondsey members want to get on with the job of campaigning with an official Labour candidate, for a Labour victory at the next election.

Though second-best and somewhat unsatisfactory, organisation committee's decision to allow my participation in a new selection conference is welcome. However, we have maintained all along, and continue to maintain, that there was nothing unconstitutional about the first selection procedure.

Hopefully, the next time around, the NEC will accept the democratic decision of the Bermondsey party.

In the meantime, I will continue to campaign locally and take on the role and responsibilities of the non-endorsed Labour PPC for Bermondsey, as I have been doing for the last six months.

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LEBANON: UNITED FRONT OF REACTION

by Harry Sloan

DESPITE genocidal slaughter and massively superior numbers and firepower, the Zionist armed forces of Israel have not yet been able decisively to defeat the Palestinian and left wing resistance in West Beirut.

There are now 35-40,000 Zionist troops, backed up by bombers and heavy artillery, massed on the outskirts of the city.

But continued hectic diplomacy on all sides confirms that the storming of the Palestinian and leftist stronghold is far from the simple matter it has been claimed.

Menachem Begin's bloody regime has demanded the evacuation of the PLO fighters: in this the Zionists have won the full support of Israel's US imperialist backers, together with many of the so-called "pro-Palestinian" Arab regimes.

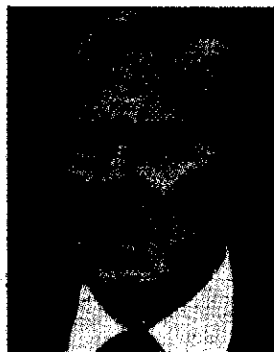
Effort

Indeed the whole "peace" effort at present taxing the energies of US envoy Philip Habib is one of securing a Palestinian withdrawal without the Israeli military invasion of Beirut.

In this position the USA has been consistent from the outset of the war, when former Secretary of State Alexander Haig welcomed the Zionist invasion.

His successor, George Schultz, holds a similar view. He told Senators this week that the war in the Lebanon "provides the chance for a peaceful Lebanon".

Begin (left) and Schultz - both out to crush the people of Palestine



The risk of possibly sending US troops as part of an international force to supervise the withdrawal of the PLO fighters would be "worthwhile", he claimed, if the US imperialists "can remove the PLO from West Beirut and avoid an explosion."

Schultz, it should be noted, was co-opted by Reagan to the State Department from his post as President of the Bechtel corporation with large Saudi Arabian interests.

It is no coincidence that the Saudi regime too has been exerting its influence to secure the withdrawal of the Palestinians - offering jet planes and cash to ease them out of West Beirut.

Like other Arab bourgeois regimes, the Saudi leaders combine a veneer of verbal support for the Palestinians with a profound opposition to any struggle which might undermine the delicate balance of forces which preserves the political control of their reactionary regimes over the oppressed masses in the Middle East.

Lebanon had furnished an almost unique example of the linking up of the dispossessed Palestinian forces with the militias of the Lebanese left in the struggle against the fascists of the Phalange.

Indeed despite press reports of "6,000" PLO fighters, the forces of the left who are fighting along

side the Palestinians are also substantial.

The Zionists are even now facing a rising toll of casualties in their siege of Beirut and would find a final onslaught no easy matter.

Meanwhile there are acknowledged reports of Palestinian resistance behind the Zionist lines.

Behind all the rhetoric of "peace" in Lebanon, socialists should be clear that the American, European and Arab bourgeois leaders mean nothing less than the crushing of the Palestinians and Lebanese left and the establishment of right wing rule.

In this struggle our stand must be clear - for concrete solidarity with the forces



fighting the Zionist invaders and their reactionary supporters. We must reject all illusions that EEC, UN or US "peace plans" offer anything but defeat.

It is the international workers' movement that must take the lead in solidarity action. In Greece and in Australia dockworkers have already given a lead by blacking trade with Israel. This action must also be

fought for in Britain, the US and the EEC.

The Scottish TUC has declared itself in opposition to the invasion: now is the time to put this view into practical action by fighting for demonstrations, blacking action and solidarity strikes, demanding Zionist troops out of Lebanon, and victory to the PLO and the Lebanese left in their fight against Zionism and the fascist Phalange.

Campaign for solidarity

by Andrew Hornung

IT WAS standing room only at a Bradford meeting called to protest against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The meeting was organised by the Bradford Labour Movement Campaign for Palestinian Solidarity.

Barry Turner, an SO supporter and councillor for Bradford Moor ward, condemned the ferocious invasion and showed how the war was the logical outcome of Zionism.

Other speakers included a representative of the PLO and a local Palestinian, Dr. Omar.

"When I spoke at the meeting", Barry told SO, "I was speaking on behalf of my Labour Party branch. It's no good talking about Palestinian solidarity and fighting Zionism unless you're fighting in the labour movement. That's where the Zionists

are, Labour MPs and trade union leaders who support Zionism have to be fought on this question.

Growing

"In Bradford our campaign has been growing. In response to the critical situation in Lebanon now, not to mention the General Strikes on the West Bank and in Gaza, we have organised a speakers' tour round the branches and Constituency Labour Parties in the region. We are also producing a ten-page pamphlet on the situation in Lebanon."

Mobilisation in Bradford is not limited to the labour movement organisations, however. Barry reported, "Mosque leaders in Bradford are calling jointly with us a demonstration on Friday from Infirmary Field to Lumb Lane. Leaflets are being distributed in English and Urdu."

In London several organisations are organising pickets and meetings. A march has been organised for July 31.

Elsewhere trades councils are calling meetings. Oxford Trades Council has organised a meeting with Lebanese and Palestinian speakers, local trade union speakers and a representative of the Labour Committee on Palestine.

Events

Events
July 15 - Oxford Trades Council meeting on the invasion of Lebanon, 7.30, Blackfriars, St. Giles.
July 16 - Picket of BBC (organised by Palestine Solidarity Liaison Committee), meet White City, 12.00
July 17 - Picket of El Al Offices, Regent Street W1 (organised by Labour Committee on Palestine), 12.00
July 21 - Public Rally on

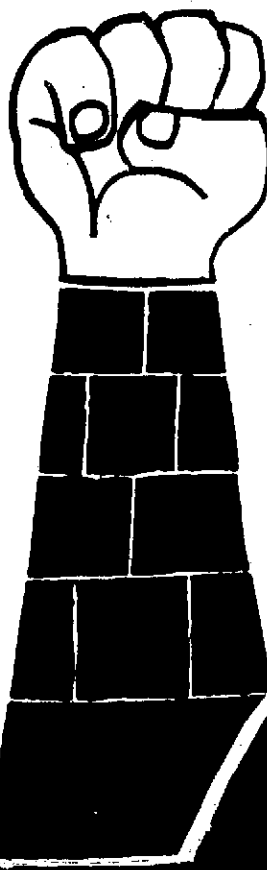
"Holocaust '82" (organised by Labour Middle East Council) Dulwich Baths, 7.30pm.

July 22 - Islington Labour Parties meeting, Labour, Lebanon and Palestine. 7.00pm at Islington Town Hall. Speakers include Moshe Machover and Eric Heffer.

July 23 - Public meeting: The War in Lebanon: the Logic of Zionism (organised by Labour Committee on Palestine). Speakers: Ken Livingstone, Stuart Holland MP, Peter Tatchell, Lebanese, Palestinian and anti-Zionist Israeli speakers, County Hall, 7.00pm.

July 31 - Demonstration and Rally (organised by Palestine Solidarity Liaison Committee). Meet Speakers Corner, 12.30. March to Trafalgar Square. Rally - 2.30pm.
August 2 - Organising Committee of Labour Committee on Palestine. County Hall, 7.00pm. All supporters welcome.

£6000 fund



This week's donations - Doug Mackey £35, Stoke SO £10, Godfrey Webster £25, Lynn Gregory £25, Glasgow SO £10, Sue Himmelweit £18, Helen Flack £10 - bring the total up to £2682.50 towards our £6000 total. Area by area, the amounts collected and the percentage of the target achieved are:

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Edinburgh	40.00	22%	Leicester	86.00	22%
Stirling	-	-	Northampton	-	-
Carlisle	-	-	Cardiff	45.00	45%
Durham	110.00	110	Bristol	-	-
York	-	-	Oxford	357.00	71%
Bradford	-	-	Southampton	-	-
Leeds	68.00	68%	Basingstoke	45.00	45%
Hull	-	-	Brighton	-	-
Sheffield	102.50	103	London	274.00	13%
Merseyside	120.00	38%	Miscellaneous	138.80	-
Manchester	148.00	38%			
Winsford	-	-			
Stoke	20.00	67%			
Birmingham	413.00	83%			
Coventry	574.80	137			

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