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# Socialist Organiser

Against all bans and proscriptions!

Paper of the Socialist Organiser Alliance No.103 OCTOBER 7 1982 (Claimants and strikers, 10p) 25p

## ZIONIST HANDS OFF LEBANON!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9. assemble noon at  
Speakers' Corner, London, and march to  
Trafalgar Square.

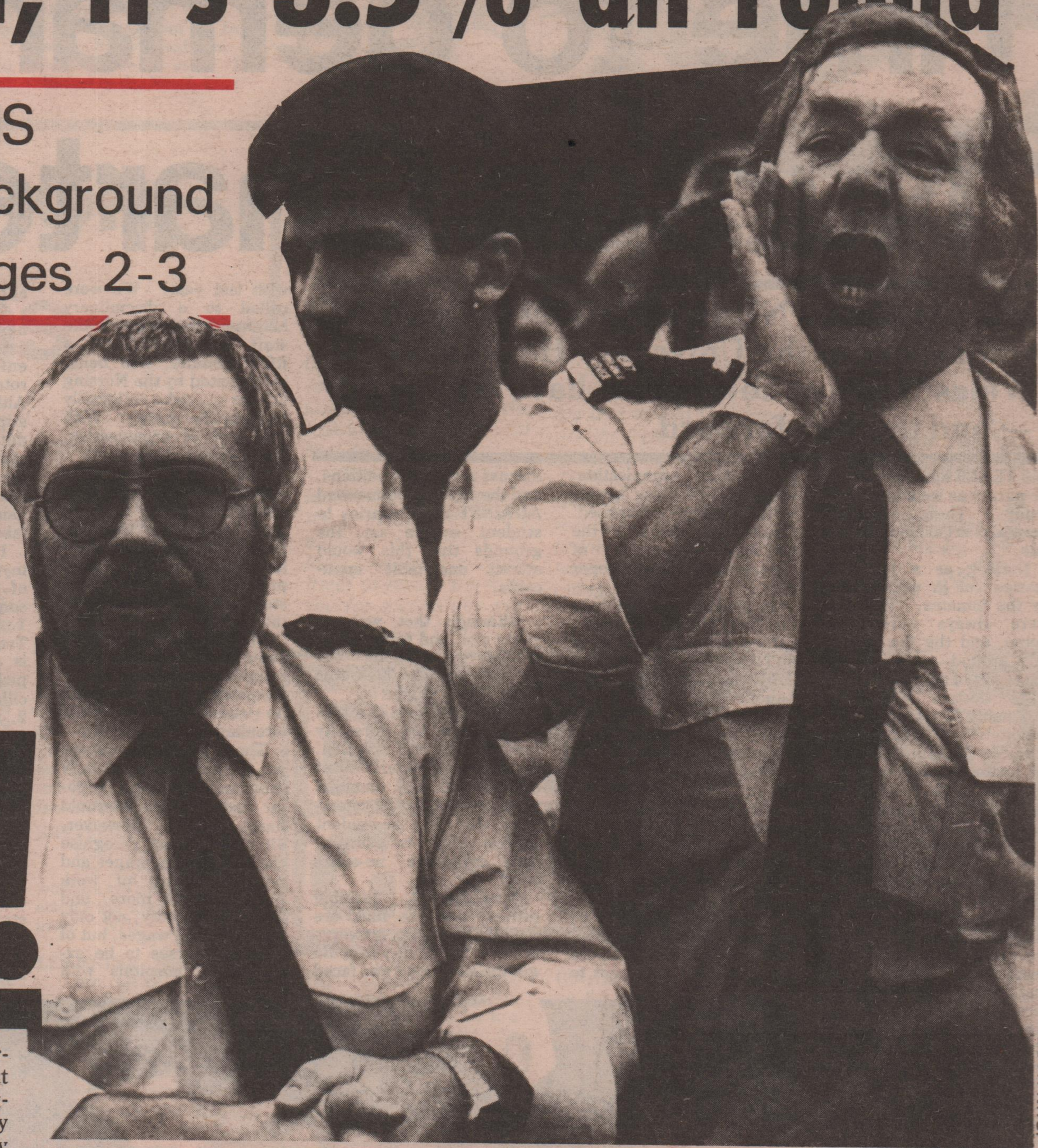
Called by Emergency Cttee against the Invasion

# Unless NHS win, it's 3:5% all round

# TAKE

NHS  
background  
pages 2-3

# ON THE TORIES!



LAST Friday the Tory government announced a 3½ per cent pay norm for the public sector. TGWU general secretary Moss Evans declared that the Tories were throwing down the gauntlet and saying to workers: "Take us on".

They are indeed. The question is whether the labour movement will rise to the challenge.

Next steps planned by the TUC for the NHS pay dispute are a series of regional days of action from October 4 to 20 and a national transport strike in early November.

But the TUC has made no official call for strikes by non-NHS workers on the regional days of action — only a vague appeal to trade unionists to do what they can locally. And plans for the transport strike remain vague. NUR leader Sid Weighell is openly denouncing it.

Coventry, Leicester and Sheffield shop stewards have called for a national conference of local coordinating committees, "to review the strategy". The Scottish CoHSE Regional

Council is calling for a recall conference of the union to discuss all-out indefinite strike action (with emergency cover) in the NHS — a strategy that NUPE is already committed to by its conference decision.

Demands have also been raised for a 24 hour general strike, officially called by the TUC, to mobilise the rest of the labour movement behind the health workers.

The planned transport strike, if effective, would already be half a general strike. It should be made a full 24 hour general strike — and that, together with all-out action in the NHS, would prepare the way for indefinite general strike action capable of defeating the Tories and all their pay-curb and union-bashing plans.

That way we would take on the Tories and win the NHS workers' full 12 per cent claim. But if the labour movement lets the NHS workers go down to defeat, it will be a defeat across the board — a signal for the Tories to impose their 3½% norm.

LAST Friday Col. Luis Munoz visited General Milans de Bosch in the luxurious quarters where Milans had been held since being sentenced to 30 years jail for his part in the attempted coup of February 23 1981.

For four hours they worked on the thick portfolio of plans for a new coup which they had formulated over the previous three months. Milans could have any visits he liked, and his phone was not bugged.

Unfortunately for them, Munoz then left the coup plans in his car! They were picked up by an intelligence agent, and Munoz and two other colonels were arrested.

Their intention was to seize communication cen-

tres and public buildings on October 27, the day before Spain's scheduled general election, and mobilise army units to gain full power. Clearly they must have had a wide network of contacts involved in the plot, but no-one is pushing for a full investigation.

Manuel Fraga, leader of the Popular Alliance, the parliamentary party closest to the military, commented laconically on the arrest of the colonels: "That's bad news. It's regrettable".

Felipe Gonzalez of the Socialist Party (PSOE), which looks set to win the election, was hardly more vocal. "We can't have any military man interpreting the wishes of the people", he said. "We need professional and constitutional

armed forces to defend us against our enemies". Pressed further, he said that coup attempts were inevitable but could never succeed.

The Spanish CP was equally muted.

A colonel who disapproved of the coup explained to the Paris daily Le Monde that he considered it unnecessary. "Today the real 'coup' is the weight of the armed forces in political life. It is great enough that the PSOE, once in power, will... content themselves with seeking coexistence with the military".

Whether even such compliance would save a PSOE government from another coup attempt is dubious. Spain has already had nine coup attempts or alarms

since August 1977.

Cajoling the military to be 'professional and constitutional', trying to kill the coup danger by kindness, will not work. The only serious measure for Spain's workers' parties and unions to take against the military plotters is to arm the workers' organisations.

The PSOE, like many reformists elsewhere, continues to argue that the sacredness of democracy is best guaranteed when the bourgeoisie is armed to the teeth and the workers are disarmed. It is heading down a road of disaster for itself, for Spain's frail parliamentary democracy, and for the associated trade union and other rights.

## Warning in Spanish coup





# Time to demand a "Nurses Charter '82"

**Mary Ireson, a NUPE shop steward and ward sister at the University Hospital of Wales, looks at how nurses have organised — and the way forward**

150 YEARS ago there were no nurses as we know them today. There were no properly organised hospitals.

Nursing as a job was carried out in workhouses by the inmates. The rich were always nursed at home, and the few hospitals around were largely the resort of poor people.

As doctors began to rationalise treatments, hospitals expanded. Florence Nightingale started nurse training schools. Nursing came to be seen as a suitable occupation for young ladies from wealthy backgrounds. In 1916 the newly formed Royal College of Nursing (RCN) finally won a register of trained nurses.

The RCN's articles of association specifically prevented the college from imposing on its members or supporting with its funds 'any regulation which, if an object of the College, would make it a Trade Union.'

The real object of the RCN at this time was to become the controlling body of nursing. It was never meant to be a body that would campaign for higher pay and better conditions at work.

But instead the General Nursing Council (GNC) was set up (and this body still exists today) to keep the register of trained nurses.

The GNC maintains standards: but it can throw nurses off the register (and out of their jobs) for all sorts of reasons. The most notorious is for striking — any nurses seen leaving her patients in jeopardy by striking can be held to be acting unprofessionally.

Drugs offences, drunken driving, and being involved in fights, can be enough to lose a nurse's registration. The code of ethics for nurses drawn up by the GNC states that even in private life outside of work, a nurse must always set an example!

The RCN went on to develop as an independent

professional organisation. More middle class nurses were being recruited. Unlike the ladies of the previous generation of nurses they wanted proper pay.

In 1919 the RCN published 'The Nurses Charter', calling for a 48 hour week and better pay.

In 1926, however, the Labour Party declared that the only way that nurses could advance their pay and conditions was to be organised into Trades Unions. So started the battle for nurses to be organised.

Some joined the RCN, and others Trade Unions. Even today about a third don't join anything at all.

The RCN maintained its elitist, protectionist, non-militant stand. In 1939, the Athlone Committee met to

discuss nursing conditions, and the RCN recommended AGAINST high salaries to student nurses on the grounds that this would attract unsuitable applicants.

Although that was 40 years ago, and things have moved on, among the hierarchy of the RCN this attitude still lingers on.

In 1982, they still refuse to recognise the necessity for industrial action, despite the groundswell of opinion that way amongst rank and file RCN members. (Recently the student section voted to overturn the iniquitous no-strike rule).

Management, Nursing officers and the like, are usually the shop stewards of the RCN. Thus you could get the situation I was faced

with last year. We were called to a disciplinary hearing involving all the staff. The Ward Sister, a RCN member, was being represented by the Nursing Officer ... who originally brought the charge! With this sort of organisation, who needs management?

The RCN stewards (although some are very good) are usually hand in glove with senior management — being 'professionals' themselves, they often provide very ineffectual stewarding and representation.

The 'No Strike' clause is seen as almost a type of religious commitment — frequently it is called a no strike vow in RCN circulars.

There are many reasons for the reluctance of RCN members to strike. Popular myth is that it would harm patients. However, all nurses must recognise the fact that low wages and poor conditions of work harm patients more, and the RCN is guilty, not only of depressing wages, but of allowing nurses to be exploited in hospitals with

appalling conditions.

In particular the RCN has never conducted a real campaign against the enforcement of night duty rotas on student nurses. Although training only stipulates 3 months of night duty to be necessary for registration, all British hospitals force student nurses to work 9 months, using them as cheap labour.

Harming patients is the myth — reality is a number of other depressing reasons:-

1. Some nurses are snobs! Trades unions and striking is for factory workers, picket lines for nasty ancillary staff.
2. Low Trades Union consciousness — never having seen what strong organisation can do to improve matters, nurses see no need to organise.
3. The majority of nurses are women, and women are traditionally poorly organised.
4. Nursing has a special structure. Student nurses are always the most militant, but the most easily sacked.

On registering and completing their training, they become staff nurses, and then ward sisters. Each ward acts as a very separate unit from the rest of the hospital. Each ward has its own loyalties and peculiarities, and this ward system does not encourage unity amongst hospital nurses, against management. It instead encourages competition and rivalry, particularly in the big general teaching hospitals.

The full-time ward staff consists usually of only 4 or 5 trained nurses, who all work different shifts. The Ward Sister is very much the central figure. She is usually management orientated, and her influence sets the tone of the ward.

If she doesn't approve of what a member of staff does, she can make their life a misery. A subtle system of staff appraisal, and a system of privileges which can or cannot be granted, make sure that staff toe the line.

So ideas are not exchanged and opinions formed among a large body of nurses. The system produces isolationism.

Except in wards with militant sisters, life can be very hostile for strike-minded nurses.

So it can be seen that the RCN and the nursing job, and the people that do it (often middle class, as you have to have at least one 'A'-level to train these days), conspire against militancy. However, more nurses are seeing the need to join a Trade Union.

In 1972, the TUC Health Services Committee established that some 30% were already in a TUC union. One third were in the RCN, and one third not organised at all.

## Compete

Nursing auxiliaries are not allowed into the RCN, and in 1978 25% of nurses were this grade. COHSE, NUPE, NALGO, the T&GWU, and GMWU all competed for nursing members, leading to disunity.

All the union publish inaccurate estimates of their nursing members, and unions fight amongst themselves for nurses. It is

a crazy situation.

Most psychiatric hospital nurses are organised into COHSE. COHSE organises nurses quite well, and has done quite a lot to improve conditions of work. However, they are notoriously non-militant over striking in some areas, and often discourage nurses from striking. COHSE stewards were heard to say in the 1979 dispute that it was OK for ancillaries to strike because their COHSE nurses would carry on working anyway.

## Frightened

Nursing auxiliaries and militant trained nurses and students working in General Hospitals are usually in NUPE, but it varies from hospital to hospital.

However, Alan Fisher didn't help when he said that NUPE doesn't expect nurses to strike.

All the unions are reluctant to call their nurses out to strike, and give a strong leadership, for they are too frightened of losing membership. With so many unions competing for members, it is very easy for a nurse to transfer her membership.

## Changing

Things are changing though — more nurses are joining picket lines and demonstrations in this pay dispute than ever before.

We need a Nurses Charter '82 — calling for:

1. Nurses to be organised into Trades Unions, which will commit themselves to act in unity and to act in our interests.
2. For Trades Unions to take more interest in our job and working conditions than in our membership fee.
3. For major changes in working practices:

- abolish enforced night duty for student nurses
- greater staffing levels
- better shift payments
- end the elitist hierarchy — for patient orientated care, rather than task orientated.

This is not an exhaustive list! Nursing needs a major overhaul in the way that we organise our job and our conditions. Not only for ourselves, but for the patients we look after. We've got a lot to fight for.



"More nurses are joining picket lines and demonstrations in this dispute than ever before".



# PAY BATTLE

# Slow start in the regions

THE TUC's regional days of action got off to a predictably slow start on Monday and Tuesday in Merseyside and the North-East.

Instead of giving a clear call for strikes, the TUC had just asked non-NHS workers to do what they could — and then had given local activists no time to organise. In the circumstances even small non-NHS turnouts represented a great deal.

On Merseyside, Cammell Lairds shipyard stopped an hour early, and some workers took the whole day off. On the demonstration in Liverpool there were banners from Ford, Vauxhall, the buses, council workers, and direct works, as well as Lairds.

The bulk of the five or six thousand strong demonstration was health workers, with a lot of nurses, and the mood was militant despite heavy rain.

Nearly all hospitals in the area took action. On Tuesday nearly five thousand health workers marched through Newcastle and Gateshead. In the pouring rain they passed by pickets at hospitals throughout the city, ending

with a rally in Eldon Square. Speakers at the rally, including a Northern Region TUC spokesperson and a local MP, seemed unperturbed at the lack of support from other workers, simply saying that they had issued no call for solidarity action.

The centre of attention on the day was Morpeth. Local ambulance workers were locked out by management, who insisted that they should work normally or not at all. At St George's mental hospital, staff responded

to management bringing patients in to help in the laundry by occupying the administration block for two hours before joining the march. Reports from Lol Duffy and Pete Cashman in Merseyside, and Deb Baxter in the North-East.

## Round-up on local plans

### A meeting of the rank and file group Health Workers for the Full Claim on Oct. 3 heard these reports:

**SCOTLAND.** The Scottish Region of CoHSE is calling for a recall national conference of the

union to consider the policy of all-out strike. Last Thursday's regional council meeting passed a resolution supporting Jim Tolton, the Leicester AUEW steward sacked for supporting the health workers, and agreed to mount pickets of the local Rowntree Mackintosh factories.

The Scottish regional strike day is October 20. The Scottish TUC are meeting this week to consider calling a 24 hour general strike. In Edinburgh the Trades Council NHS sub-committee is organising picketing of local factories in the morning.

Instead of another demo as on September 22, there will be a turn to local housing estates, to try to involve the community in the campaign, and especially to link up with women in the home and with the all-round struggle against bad housing, inadequate health care and childcare facilities, and for a woman's right to a paid job.

**CARDIFF.** The miners are now organising themselves in support: they tell NHS workers which lodges are going to which hospitals! £8,000 has been raised for financing sectional strikes, which are going ahead.

The regional strike day is Monday October 11, and activists are concentrating on those sections which were out last time or where they expected action but did not get it.

**LONDON.** The day of action is fixed for October 19, also the lobby of Parliament. CoHSE have sent round a circular calling for only one member from each branch to go to it!

Action is being helped by activists who have set up a joint shop stewards' committee covering about ten hospitals.

**OXFORD.** The regional strike day is the same as London's, and this will help strengthen it. The Trades Council is organising an open meeting of the Executive this Friday to draw in representatives of those who took action last time and build up support.

**COVENTRY.** Officially local hospitals are on accident and emergency only, but this is a farce. There is a meeting early this week of TGWU convenors to consider support on the regional day of action (the 15th); NHS activists are lobbying it.

**SHEFFIELD.** Delegates from sections of workers supporting health workers are being invited to attend the area shop stewards' NHS committee.

**LEICESTER.** Similar links are being made between health workers and trade unionists taking solidarity action. NHS activists are making a call for a Leicestershire-wide conference on the 9th to prepare for the 13th, the regional action day; also for a national conference of shop stewards in the NHS, possibly on October 23 in Sheffield (it has also been supported by Nether Edge shop stewards' committee).

Jim Tolton, sacked from the Rowntree factory, got support from hospital workers after the strikers went back to work, but the local union officials called off the action.

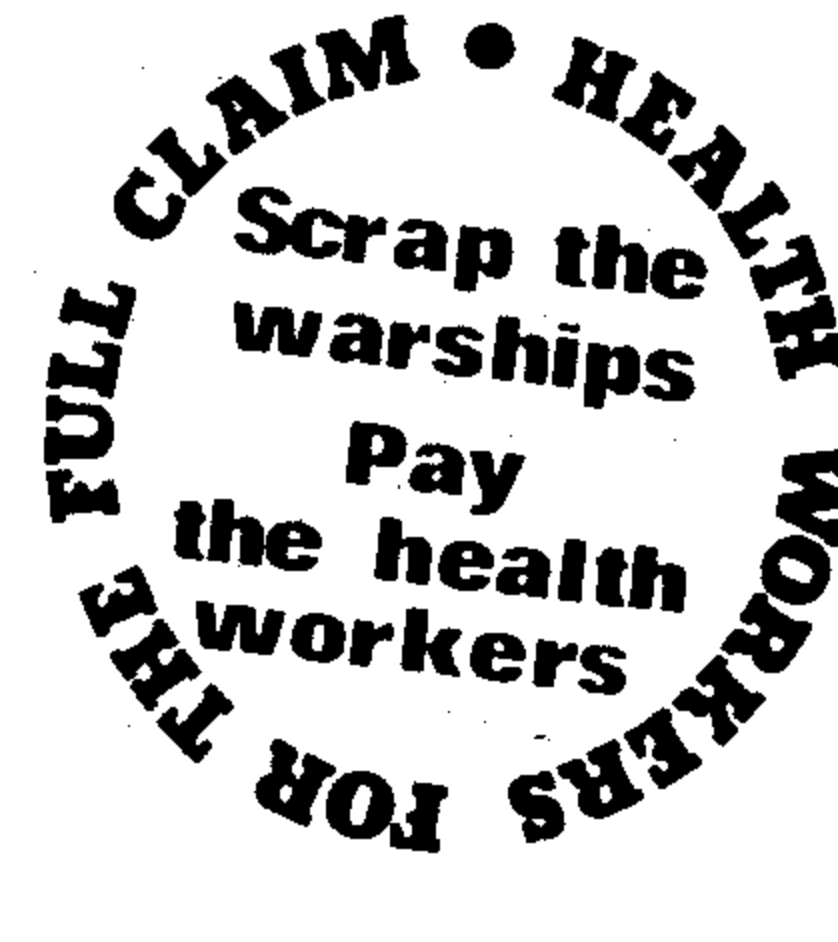


## Coventry call for conference

COVENTRY hospitals Joint Shop Stewards' Committee passed the following motion on Monday October 4. "We call on the TUC Health Services Committee to immediately call a national conference of local coordinating committees to review the strategy for successfully pursuing the 12% claim".

We have made this call because feeling is increasing that to win this dispute the TUC must call an indefinite strike. As the TUC have dragged their feet on calling action, we feel that it is time the coordinating committees were able to voice their opinion.

Julia Redman



JOHN HARRIS



Health Workers for the Full Claim bulletin — no. 6 now out. 10p plus postage from 78 High St, Atherton, Lancs.

**SEPTEMBER 22**

**GENERAL STRIKE!**

**PRESS GANG**

Daily Mail, Daily Express, Financial Times, The Daily Telegraph, THE Sun

THE controversial Think Tank report which suggested selling the health service to a central London meat pie manufacturer was planted by infiltrating members of the Militant tendency, writes our lobby correspondent.

Ministers in the Thatcher cabinet have let it be known that the Prime Minister was mortified by suggestions that she might in any way be slightly, ever so slightly lukewarm about the health service.

Cabinet members were so dismayed by the report that they ordered it to be hidden under the carpet in the Downing Street office. Sources close to the Prime Minister said she was furious at the "bungling cretins" who had allowed the report to be leaked to the press.

And she scotched rumours that it had been prepared on her personal say-so.

Ministers stressed that it was the normal job of the Think Tank to get blind drunk every lunch-time and dream up the most outrageous suggestion they could come up with in the afternoon.

But they believe that members of the extreme left wing hard core Militant tendency might have infiltrated the Think Tank to try to discredit the Conservative

Government, which is riding on the crest of a wave with public support at an all-time high.

In answer to the question "How high is your opinion of the Prime Minister?", 3% said extremely high and the rest of the sample were detained for questioning.

But dissident members of the Cabinet have let it be known that Mrs Thatcher's distaste for the report has not always been quite so evident.

She is reported to have whacked it down on the Cabinet table before disappearing off to collapse the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and dreamed up the title herself — There is No Health in Us.

In a brilliant new concept the report suggests only curing those parts of the body necessary for productive work. In a business tycoon this would mean that all stomach ailments would be treated free. But an unemployed labourer would not have to have the trouble of attending hospital at all — no matter how sick.

The stitching and operations would be contracted out to back street sewing firms and a new headache pill for the unemployed is undergoing trials in Chicago. There would be no waste

under the new system, since all waste products would be utilised by the parent Bellamy Pie Company and offered at discount rates to health workers in hospital canteens.

Conservatives have stressed their commitment to the health service — in particular to consultant fees "without which the modest private charges might have to be raised".

The TUC announced today that the next action after the rolling Days of Action would be a series of local protests in each town, writes our labour correspondent.

Workers in each town will all be asked to hold their breath for 30 seconds at the same time in protest at the government's pay offer. Transport workers will however, be asked to breathe normally and will have their own "breath of discomfort" in December.

Mr Frank Chapple, chairman of the TUC, said that militants in the health service and other unions could extend the action as long as they liked.

The Director General of the CBI denounced the half-minute of action as "another blow against productivity" but predicted that in the private sector few workers would be breathing in a case.



International News International News International News

# BAN THE BULLETS - AND THE BRITS!

**Labour conference last week voted for a ban on plastic bullets. Meanwhile, two Irish families are seeking justice for their children killed by British troops. Martin Thomas reports.**

"THE Catholic people in Northern Ireland have been silent too long. The children in Northern Ireland are murdered by plastic bullets and no-one does anything about it.

"A soldier murdered my son, and the Director of Public Prosecutions says that soldier has no crime to answer for. What can you do to get a prosecution of a British soldier who murders someone like that?"

James Barratt's 15 year old son Danny was shot dead by an army sniper as he sat chatting at his own front door, in July 1981.

The inquest jury confirmed that Danny was "not a gunman or a rioter". Yet the DPP has refused to bring charges.

James Barratt was over in Britain last week to campaign for justice for his son's death. At a Labour Committee on Ireland fringe meeting in Blackpool, and at a London press conference last Thursday, he was joined by Rona McConomy, aunt of Stephen McConomy. Stephen, aged 11, was killed by a plastic bullet this April, and once again the DPP refused to prosecute.

A petition demanding further public investigation of these cases was signed at Blackpool by Moss Evans, Eric Heffer, Alan Sapper, Arthur Scargill and others.

Stephen was shot by a soldier firing from an armoured car as he ran down



the street away from it. Together with five or six friends of his own age, he had been playing round the armoured car and a barricade erected nearby by the troops.

The children ran away as a hatch was opened on the armoured car, and then the plastic bullet was fired, smashing the back of Stephen's head. Two youths who saw the shooting ran down to pick up Stephen. Sheltering behind a wall, one of them shouted to the troops, "Can I get the child?" "If you go near him, I'll shoot you", a soldier screamed back.

Eventually a police jeep arrived and Stephen was taken to hospital. But his brain had been destroyed by the plastic bullet.

No date has yet been given for an inquest into Stephen's death - and it was only this August that there was an inquest on Danny Barratt, killed in July 1981.

There had been rioting nearby the evening that Danny was killed, but then there was a lull, and Danny, with some friends and his father, went out to the front door. He was sitting on a wall, chatting, when he was shot dead.

The shot was fired by a British Army sniper in a nearby observation post. The sniper claimed that he saw gunfire flashes from the Barratt's garden, and Danny holding a gun.

Expert evidence showed that there were no signs of Danny having handled a gun, and that in the visibility conditions of the time it would have been impossible to see from the observation post whether Danny had a gun. The lawyer representing the army told the inquest that they accepted that Danny was not a gunman and that no gun was fired from the Barratt's garden.

Stephen's case and Danny's are not unusual. Many children and



Stephen McConomy on the life support machine. Members of his family said that they wanted this picture put on the front page of the Daily Mirror, "so that British people can see what their brave soldiers are doing, shooting our children in the back of the head".

uninvolved bystanders have been killed by British troops since 1969; very few of the killers have been prosecuted.

The mother of Brian Stewart, a 13-year old killed by a plastic bullet in 1976, is suing the soldier who shot him and the officer who was in charge at the time. But no-one has won a case of this kind, and the hearing has been repeatedly postponed.

Stephen was the 14th person, and the seventh child to be killed by a plastic or rubber bullet since 1970. Seven of these killings were in the five months April to August 1981 - the height of the campaign for the H-block hunger strikers - when 29,158 plastic bullets were fired, nearly a third of the total of rubber and plastic bullets fired since 1970.

In addition to the deaths, hundreds of serious injuries have been caused by rubber and plastic bullets. There is no full count, but in the three months May-June-July 1981, Northern Ireland hospitals recorded 161 serious injuries.

## Eyes

Four people lost eyes from plastic bullets in 1981, several had fractured skulls, many had lesser head injuries, one now has epileptic fits, and two are likely to remain partially paralysed. Several people - some children - have been blinded by plastic bullets over the years.

The rubber bullets (introduced in 1970) and plastic bullets (which replaced

them from 1975) are supposed to be used as riot control weapons - to disperse crowds without serious injury.

There are regulations which are supposed to limit their use: that they should be aimed at a specific person, that they should be aimed at the lower part of the body, and that they should not be used at a range of less than 20 metres. But these regulations are often ignored.

## Head

Belfast surgeons who did a survey of rubber bullet victims in 1970-72 found that more than half had been shot from less than 15 yards, and a third from less than five yards. Head injuries are common from plastic bullets. The bullets are pretty inaccurate, and even when they have been used in the midst of riots, non-rioters - presumably in general less alert and able to avoid bullets - are often the victims.

Plastic bullets are thick, heavy cylinders some four inches long, leaving the gun at 160 miles an hour. Even at a range of 50 yards they have enough impact energy to fracture skulls, rip open bodies, or seriously damage internal organs.

And rubber and plastic bullets have frequently been 'doctored' by sharpening them, attaching coins or blades to them, or inserting torch batteries into rubber bullets.

Still no soldier or police-

man in Northern Ireland has ever been convicted for misuse of these bullets.

Soldiers and police have sometimes been prosecuted for killings with ordinary bullets - though much more often when the killings were done off duty than when they were on duty. But the killers have often been acquitted against all the odds.

Most of the trials are in no-jury Diplock courts - and just as the absence of a jury counts against Republicans in these courts, it counts for soldiers and policemen.

In July 1979, for example, two SAS men were found not guilty of the murder of 16 year old John Boyle. John was looking at an arms dump which he had discovered (and informed the police about, via his father), when the SAS men who had 'staked out' the dump gunned him down.

The Army initially said that John had pointed a loaded rifle at the soldiers.

## Claim

Likewise, when 16 year old Michael McCartan was shot dead by a RUC policeman as he ran away from a corner where he had been painting slogans, the first RUC story was that Michael was a gunman. When 12 year old Majella O'Hare was killed by a British soldier, the Army started off by claiming that the IRA had shot her. No evidence of the IRA being there was ever produced.

Despite all this, the army and the police are still able to persuade the courts that they are reliable witnesses, and to get the killers acquitted if they are ever prosecuted at all.

The European Parliament has now called for the banning of plastic bullets (with only the British Tories dissenting). So has the Labour Party conference.

## Issues

'Silent too long', the group that sponsored James Barratt's and Rona McConomy's visit, deliberately restricts itself to the issue of prosecution of soldiers and police responsible for killings, and the banning of plastic bullets - feeling that it has a better chance on these limited issues than on a straight challenge to the presence of British troops in Ireland. At the press conference, Rona McConomy clearly felt that the campaign's immediate chances were slim even on the limited issues, "but you have to do what you can".

To ban plastic bullets would indeed be a first step. But why are plastic bullets still used, when the evidence of their deadliness is so clear?

They are weapons appropriate for forces trying to intimidate a whole population - a population determined and militant enough that lesser violence will not beat it down. They are weapons used by such forces in conditions where they cannot get away with straightforward indiscriminate gunning-down of civilians but they can get away with murder if a facade of "unfortunate accident" is constructed.

## Root

Such is the situation of the British Army in Northern Ireland. Its objective is to suppress the Catholic community sufficiently to re-establish the sectarian partitioned state under British control.

Plastic bullets should be banned. But unless we go on to deal with the root of the matter, it will be like the "banning" of torture in the interrogation centres. Other methods will be found to do essentially the same job, because the British Army cannot operate and function in Northern Ireland without intimidating the rebellious Catholic community.

Not only the bullets should be banned from Northern Ireland, but also the force that fires them.

# Racist Kohl

GERMAN television showed a historic first last Friday: the first successful toppling of a government by a parliamentary vote of no confidence. After the turbulence of the past few weeks, the end was suitably dramatic, with general uproar and vitriolic speeches.

The CDU/CSU, after 13 years in opposition, rallied 256 votes from their own ranks and those of the centre FDP, less than expected. Schmidt polled 235, and 4 MPs were undecided.

Meanwhile, the new Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has already set about proving that his economic solution relies precisely on

attacking the working class.

In a television interview, he committed the new government to "tackling economic problems" by tax concessions to industry, higher indirect taxes, and cuts in welfare spending.

Not surprisingly, Kohl has invited Mrs Thatcher to pop over and see him in a couple of weeks.

And he is turning his attention to the settled 'foreign' population. He finds the number of foreigners in West Germany (4.7 million, including 1.5 million Turks) too high, and wishes to introduce "financial incentives to encourage them to go home".

Of course, Kohl is not referring to the skilled EEC immigrant workers, but the

Turks, Yugoslavs, etc.

The German left must now be sure to build the fight against racism into their fight to protect living standards.



Schmidt



International News International News International News

# Begin sets sights on Syrians

by Harry Sloan

FORGING on relentlessly, despite the recurrent shock waves from the Beirut massacre, Begin's Israeli government is planning its next steps in Lebanon.

The voices of opposition to the government's involvement in the massacre reached a crescendo last week in an unprecedented demand from over 100 top army officers - led by Chief of Staff General Eitan - for the resignation of Defence Minister Sharon.

The extent to which the military apparatus has been thrown into disarray by the Lebanese expedition in general and the Beirut massacre in particular was underlined by the fact that vocal criticism of Sharon came from the commander of Israel's key paratroops, who declared "I can no longer lead my men with a clear conscience".

And Sharon himself has admitted that a brigade of front line troops could not be sent into action because of their anti-war sentiments.

But the anger of top officers at the way Sharon

shuffled off responsibility for the massacre by suggesting that the army was to blame appears to be something of an exception in the pattern of opposition to Begin.

The huge demonstration of 400,000 which followed the government's initial refusal to hold an inquiry into the massacre was reportedly composed largely of Western, middle class Jews, few of whom would have been Begin's supporters in the first place.

The indications are that Begin's personal support among Oriental and working class Jews remains solid and that his Likud Party could expect to win around 60 seats out of 120 in a General Election - far outstripping the opposition parties.

Having held his coalition government together through the immediate test of the post-massacre events, Begin has given no sign that he is about to concede to pressure and jettison Sharon, whom many tipped to succeed him as Likud leader.

Meanwhile, cashing in on the defeats inflicted upon the Palestinians and the Syrians by the rapid Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the installation of Amin Gemayel as Lebanese President the Reagan administration - acting in effect as Begin's broker - is stepping up its efforts to force further concessions by the PLO and Syria.

Special "peace" envoy Philip Habib has been hawking a 3-stage plan for the evacuation of the 32,000 PLO troops and 15,000 Syrian fighters from Lebanon, and the eventual withdrawal of Zionist troops.

Reportedly both Syrian and PLO leaderships have agreed in principle to withdraw provided that 'guarantees' are given on the safety of remaining refugees.

What such guarantees are worth in the light of the recent massacre by Lebanese fascists is highly doubtful. The withdrawal of still more of the limited armed protection for Palestinian camps under conditions where Phalangist gunmen continue to roam freely could only be seen as extremely dangerous.

Nor would the danger be averted by the incorporation of Gemayel's thugs into the Lebanese army which, according to the Habib plan,

would take over 'law and order' in Lebanon.

There is no way in which the imperialists, the Zionists or the Lebanese bourgeoisie can be entrusted with the task of defending the Palestinian people or the Lebanese Muslim masses: they have proven their brutal readiness to slaughter them in cold blood.

It is the labour movement in Britain, the EEC



and the USA, and the working classes of the Middle East that must rally to the support of the oppressed Palestinian and Arab people in Lebanon and Zionist occupied Palestine.

The struggle must be taken up against the reactionary Arab regimes seeking a framework for collaboration with the Reagan

"peace" plan, and for action by transport and other unions to boycott all trade with the bloody Zionist regime.

## Move to outlaw Solidarity

POLAND'S ruling Stalinist bureaucracy is to introduce a law at the weekend which will definitively outlaw the ten million strong union Solidarnosc, and rule out even the use of its name.

Instead all that will be permitted to Polish workers is the formation of organisations at local level following the acceptance by the state bureaucracy of a charter seeking a union.

### Outlawed

Political strikes will be allowed, any strikes at all will only be permitted after prolonged and complex procedures are exhausted, and wide groups of workers will be banned from ever taking strike action.

This full-scale legal prohibition on Solidarnosc follows on ten months of savage military and police repression of the union by the Jaruzelski regime, which imposed martial law last December.

Since then there have been varying schemes discussed for the long-term solution of the problem posed by the bureaucracy by the existence of a union. The dramatic and militant growth of the opposition of the Polish working class to bureaucratic rule, and their willingness to

fight for control of Poland's nationalised economy which in the hands of successive Stalinist leaderships has run headlong into chaos and massive debts to Western banks.

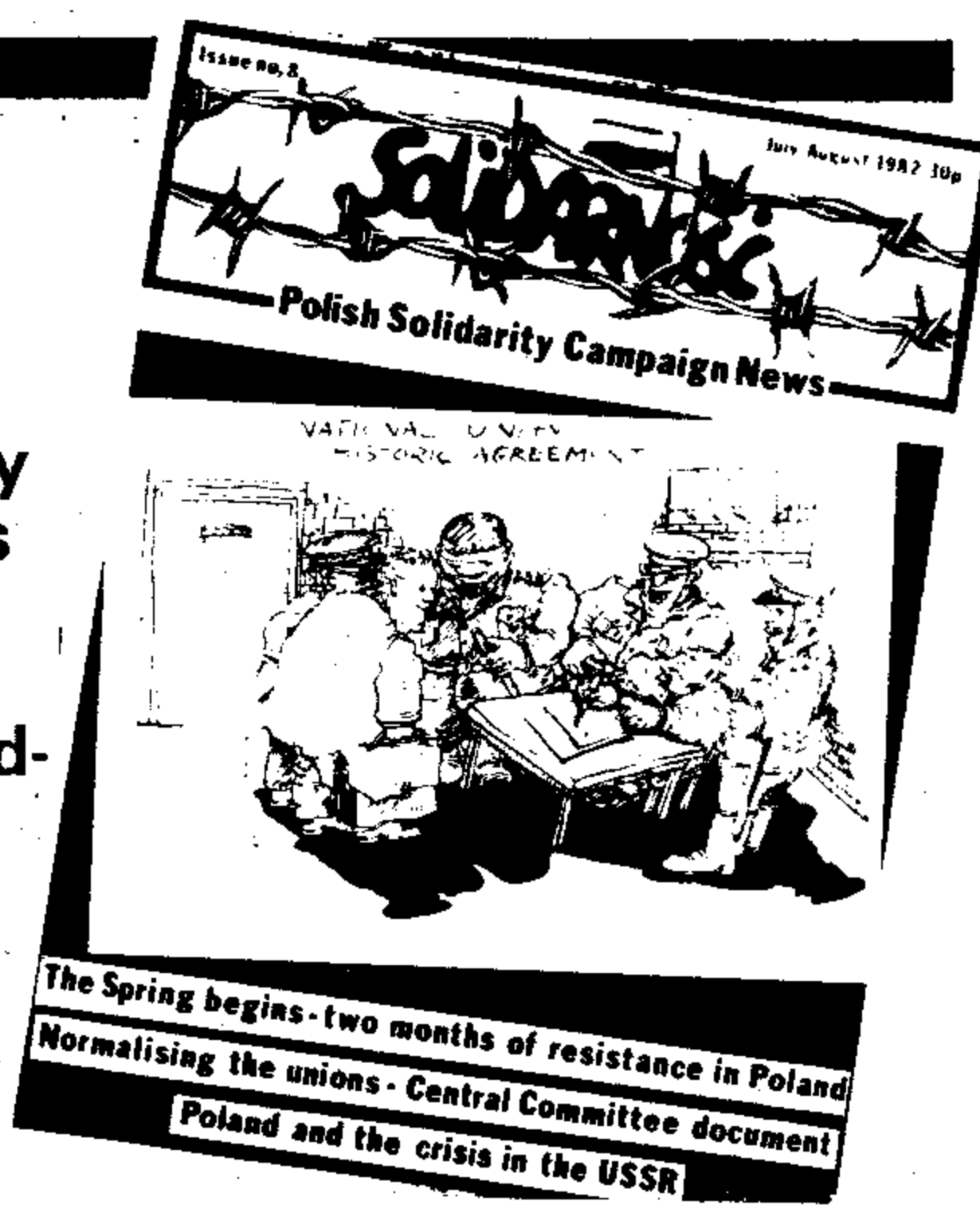
Some, including Church leader Archbishop Glemp, had advocated some form of token reconstitution of Solidarnosc to head off any possible eruption of resistance. Others, gaining in confidence after the military crackdown and the consolidation of power in the hands of the state, advised the firm line which has now been adopted, arguing that the repeated pro-Solidarnosc demonstrations which have taken place represent only a small minority of the union's former membership.

### Disturbances

Glemp has now cancelled a planned visit to Rome, saying that he fears disturbances at home in Poland.

Whether or not this is a correct assessment, there is no doubt that in the next phase of their struggle against the repression of the parasitic Stalinist bureaucracy the Polish workers need not prayers from the pulpit but the full-scale support of the international workers' movement.

Latest issue of Polish Solidarity Campaign News - articles on resistance in Poland and solidarity in Britain and abroad.



Available from SO, c/o 28 Middle Lane, London N8 8PL. 30p plus 20p p&p.

# Hands off Angola!

ALL of a sudden there is a rush of enthusiasm to send imperialist troops to Angola.

Of course the South Africans head the queue, with their repeated raids and mini-invasions of the Southern part of Angola, and their sponsorship of the reactionary UNITA guerrilla organisation of Jonas Savimbi, the former stooge of Portugal's fascist regime.

The nationalist MPLA regime in Angola has been supported against these

attacks - and against the militancy of the Angolan working class - by a strong presence of Cuban troops, which assisted in the liberation of the country in 1975.

Cuban forces are seen as the "acceptable" face of Soviet military support in black Africa, but the link to the USSR has not meant any transformation in the Angolan economy, which balances delicately between the imperialist oil monopol-

ies on the one hand and trading with Moscow's Comecon group on the other.

This political ambiguity in a strategically-placed country in Southern Africa has concerned the US State Department - which refuses to open diplomatic relations with Angola - and of course the South African regime itself.

Now the question of the future of Namibia - the

nation illegally occupied by over 100,000 South African troops and administered as a colony of South Africa - is being used as a means to increase the pressure for a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Guerrilla fighters of the Namibian liberation organisation SWAPO operate from bases in Angola.

### Block talks

While continuing their own incursions into Angola, the South African regime is now effectively suggesting that it will block all talks on Namibian independence until the Cubans are pulled out. Such a stance is tacitly endorsed by the USA.

In response to this the French government under Mitterrand - keen to see a diplomatic solution to the Namibian issue which will contain the struggles in the region - has offered to replace the Cuban troops with French soldiers.

These imperialist forces would, it is argued, protect Angola from South Africa while freeing it from its "dependence" upon the Cubans.

In other words it would cut the most overt link between Angola and the USSR, pulling it decisively into the orbit of imperialist control. And it would put imperialism's foot back in the door of Southern Africa.

Not to be outdone Angola's old colonial masters, the Portuguese military, have also offered their services as a "peace-keeping" force, to ease the exit of the Cubans.

No-one should be fooled by the apparent benevolence of these offers. The Presidents of both Mozambique and Angola have pointed to the parallels between South African actions and those of the Zionist regime.

### Pretext

While the Zionists moved into Lebanon to back up their Phalangist allies, the South Africans are using the activity of extreme right terror groups in Mozambique and Angola as a pretext for escalating attacks.

The Zionist moves have been assisted at every stage by the imperialists, who have now established a large "peace-keeping" force in Lebanon.

It is up to the working class in the imperialist countries to prevent parallel manoeuvres installing troops from the NATO countries in Angola.



South African troops are striking at bases in Angola of the Namibia liberation movement SWAPO (above)

## -New regime, same IMF plan?

"BANKRUPT Bolivia's ruling soldiers have concluded that only a government with public support could push any austerity measures through. They have decided to give the job to a left-wing civilian politician, Mr Hernan Siles Zuazo".

That's the Economist's diagnosis of the military regime's decision to back down in response to a general strike and to reconvene the congress elected in 1980. The general strike, called by the trade union federation COB, had demanded immediate new elections.

The congress was due to

reconvene on October 1 and elect a president on October 5 or 6. Siles, whose victory in the 1980 presidential election provoked a military coup, is leader of a faction of the MNR, Bolivia's bourgeois nationalist reforming movement.

The calculation of the army chiefs, evidently, is that Siles will have to push through the austerity plan that they have worked out in response to IMF demands but been unable to implement. The plan includes scrapping of subsidies on basic goods and a wage freeze.

Bolivia is seeking a \$119 million standby credit from the IMF to help deal with its huge debt crisis. The country has already failed to make several payments due.

Inflation is running at 200%, and exports this year of tin and the other minerals that used to be Bolivia's staple are expected to be 45% down on 1981's level, which in turn reflected a 12% slump from 1980. The whole axis of the economy has shifted increasingly to the illegal cocaine trade, in which many army chiefs are heavily involved.



Siles



# Students face struggle

# 'We have to build real links with the labour movement'

NUS deputy president SARAH VEALE spoke to JANE ASHWORTH

SARAH Veale was elected Deputy President (Welfare) of the National Union of Students last Easter despite a split in the Labour students' vote. Instead of supporting Sarah, a long-standing Labour Party member with a consistent record of opposing the right wing bureaucratic Communist Party domination of NUS executives over the

past few years, the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) leadership backed the candidate of the CP/Liberal Left Alliance, Trevor Gill. Labour students refused to vote for more of the same, rejected the NOLS line, and voted in Sarah on the Socialist Students' Alliance slate.



Sarah Veale

WHAT'S irritated me about NUS in the last few years is that it's played this awful game of being respectable: we can now meet the DES [Department of Education and Science] for hours on end, and they'll listen to us, but what bloody use is that? They may well listen to us, chat politely about grants, and lament that the cuts are being made, but that's not what it's all about.

There's a desperate need in NUS for strong leadership. Some of us have to be seen making a major stand with the students behind us. We've got to change the way students see themselves. We have to build a feeling of competence — convince students that if we do stick together as a union and speak out, we can get somewhere.

We've got to start building real links with the

labour movement.

In each college there are usually just as many people working there as students. Students have got to see themselves as part of the whole fight against the government, and it'd be a start if the Exec knew that.

Take the NHS, for instance. I had a bloody great fight to get NUS to do anything about it. They — and



'Students have got to see themselves as part of the whole fight against the government'

this includes the NOLS people — wanted to chuck out a few briefing papers, maybe a poster or two, and leave it at that.

### Resent

I resent having to spend an hour convincing fellow Labour Party members that we should make donations to strike funds, get students onto the picket lines, close Union buildings, fix up joint meetings and use the NUS paper to push for strike support. I don't care

if donations are ultra vires [unlawful], if we are done for it then we'll campaign against that too.

What hope is there of winning student demands if the NHS workers can't win? What hope have we got of pushing student unions towards linking up with public sector workers if we can't get students out supporting a national dispute like this one?

This year's grants week of action begins on November 15. We'll be going for

6 per cent, which is probably what everyone will be going for. Last year's claim of 17% embarrassed a lot of students, so 6% it is.

As well as 6%, we want a grant for all students. We might get it, too. Youth training schemes have created the ludicrous situation where some FE [Further Education] students get money, but if you're an FE student doing O or A levels then you don't get a penny. Labour's Programme 82 promises to do

something about this.

The national event of the week will probably be a demonstration leading to a festival in Jubilee Gardens — in sight of the DES — with bands, stalls and speakers. I want the theme to be access to education for all, so we'll involve school students too.

It'll be yet another battle on the Exec to convince them that the festival should have an anti-government focus, with speakers and stalls from labour movement campaigns. People won't come if it's just going to be seen as a gang of students having a fun day out at a carnival in London. It's got to be political.

We've got to make sure that the grants week is a success. The Education Alliance week of action is a good place to start. [The Education Alliance, organised by the TUC to unite campus unions with the NUS, is calling a week of action against cuts on October 11-16].

If local preparations are going well, then new students will have been drawn in right from the start with the idea that student unions have to work with trade unions. There hasn't been much central planning from the TUC, but the demonstration on the Wednesday should be a big one.

There's a lot going on, and all of it demands we work with the trade unions and get serious about building real links with the union rank and file. And the NOLS leadership of NUS isn't equipped to do this.

We've got to get out to the campus unions, mobilise our own members, and do something about the disgraceful politics of the NOLS leadership.

## No lead from NOLS

SINCE Easter, NOLS has been the leadership of NUS. But for many of the students who voted them in there will be some confusion.

Do they still exist? And are they choosing their moment carefully before they produce the mass campaigning union they promised? Or have they been sucked into the Endsleigh Street bureaucracy and become mere shadows of the ghosts of the last alliance?

So what have they done since they took control?

Have they prepared NUS to fight teacher education cuts? No, but they have backed the demo called by London Polys and that's good. Shame that NOLS hasn't thought fit to prioritise debate on this at conference, but when it comes down to it they don't want to prioritise anything that is too contentious or that demands action, like for instance student union financing or winning back student union autonomy from college authorities.

Have they democratised NUS? The naive amongst us might have thought that given NOLS support for the Labour Party democracy campaign, and against the register, NOLS in NUS would be a model of democracy and accountability. Well it's not. NOLS conference and NOLS NC can't instruct its people on the NUS Exec to do anything and now NOLS has decided to dispense with caucuses at NUS conference so there is no chance for the minority to question what is going on and no accountability.

Has NUS thrown its weight behind the NHS workers?

No, it couldn't even see fit to close the NUS headquarters on the 22 September Day of Action.

Has NOLS campaigned against the register? Well it did vote for the left slate at Labour Party conference and against the register but will the Clause Four leadership want to organise labour clubs into local alliances to resist expulsions and defend the YS? Motions on this to me, please, before the next NOLS National Committee on October 29.

Socialist Organiser students have called a conference in County Hall on 27 November for NOLS activists who are willing to work with us to build a left wing alternative leadership.

We want as many students to come as recognise the need to orientate NUS to the labour movement and push NOLS into Labour Party activity and to direct NOLS in NUS to working for student and labour movement support for workers' struggles abroad.

Details from Jane Ashworth, 41 Ellington St., London N7.

## Action week: Stop the cuts!

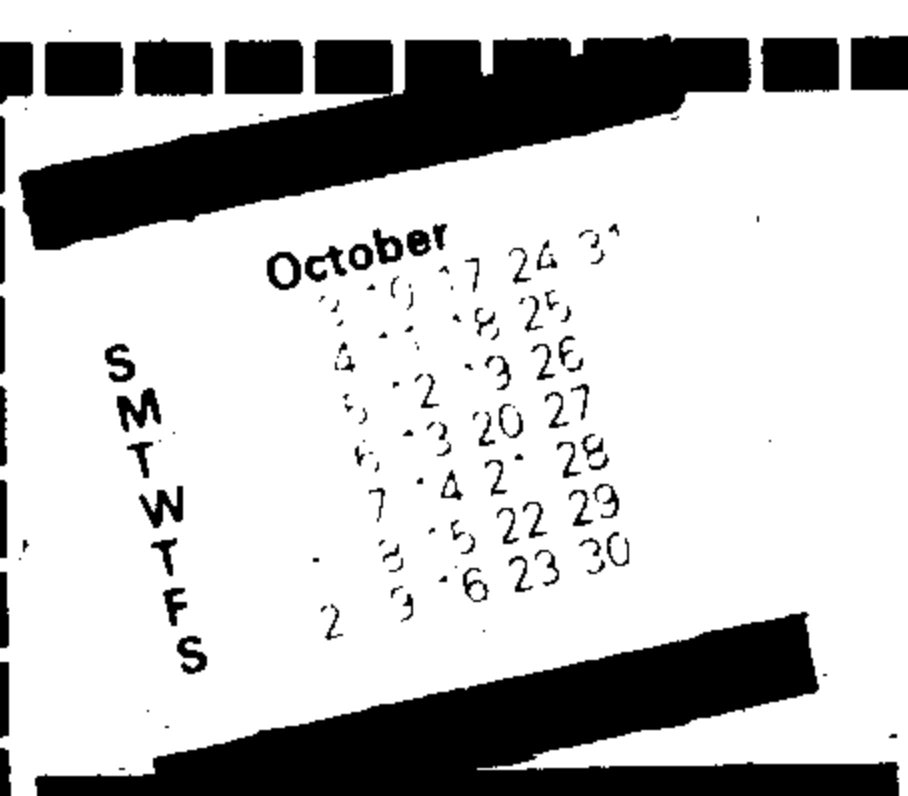
Next week is the Education Alliance National Education Week and it comes at a time when the campaign to protect teacher education is taking off. Socialist Organiser asked student activists about the week's activities and how they thought we should be using the week to provide the basis for the next few months campaigning.

Viv Whittle, sabbatical Manchester Area NUS says: "In Manchester, where one college may be shut down completely, and another two merged, there will be a motorcade into town, leafleting and a march on Wednesday to a rally. We will use the rally to convince students and workers that the cuts can be stopped. We've really got to make sure that the teacher education cuts don't go through. That means drawing everybody in — school students, teachers, parents, NUPE as well as students unions."

NUS has backed a demo called by the unions of the London Polys where teacher education is being cut.

"National Education Week provides a focus", says Ken Stratford, President of Thames Polytechnic, one of the colleges affected.

We'll be arguing for a mass mobilisation of our students on the demo.



## WHAT'S ON

Paid ads 5p per word, £4 per column inch. Send to Socialist Organiser (What's On), 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

**NATIONAL UNION** of Students (Scotland) women's conference. October 30-31, at Strathclyde University Students Union, 90 John St, Glasgow. Open to all women — not just students. Registration £2, information from Cas Stewart, NUS Scotland, 12 Dublin St, Edinburgh EH1 3PP (031-556 6598).

**NOTTINGHAM** Socialist Organiser meets every Friday 7.30pm at the International Community Centre, 61B Mansfield Rd.

**SOCIALIST** Organiser Labour Party conference briefings — full set £1 from SO, 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

**SOUTH EAST** London Socialist Organiser forums. every other Thursday, 8pm at the Queen Victoria, Artillery Place, Woolwich. October 7: 'Fight the witch-hunt'. Speaker John Bloxam. October 21: 'The Tebbit bill' — speaker Wendy Mustill.

**ISLINGTON** Socialist Organiser, meetings every other Sunday, 3pm at Thornhill Neighbourhood Project, Orkney House, Caledonian Rd. Next meeting October 10. Details: Nik, 607 5268.

**NORTH-WEST** London Socialist Organiser group discussion meetings. every other Sunday, 8pm (for venue, see SO sellers).

October 10: 'After the Labour Party conference'. October 24: 'The Tebbit bill' November 7: 'The Women's Campaign for Jobs'.

November 21: Housing December 5: Poland.

**HULL** Socialist Organiser public meeting. 'After the Labour Party conference'. Wednesday October 27, 7.30pm. Trades and Labour Club, Beverley Road.

**ASSOCIATION** of Socialist Councillors conference. Saturday October 9, 11am to 4pm, Camden Town Hall, London. Credentials for Labour councillors and delegates from GCs £5 from Keith Veness, 155C Green Lanes, London N16 9DB.

**LABOUR** Committee on Palestine (Yorkshire Region). Speaking tour on 'The Palestinians and the lessons of Lebanon'. Speakers: Omar al-Ahmed, Barry Turner, Garth Frankland, Roland Rance.

**HALIFAX.** Friday October 8, 7.30 at AUEW Club, opposite Bus Station.

**LEEDS.** Monday October 11, 7.30 at Trades Council Club, Saville Mount.

**KEIGHLEY:** Wednesday October 13, 7.30 at Keighley Library Theatre.

**BRADFORD:** Friday October 15, 7.30 at Central Library, Meeting Room 2.

**POLISH SOLIDARITY** Contact addresses: Solidarnosc Trade Union Working Group, Acorn House, 314/320 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP. Tel: 01-837 9464.

**SOCIALIST ORGANISER** North of England day school on 'The International Class Struggle'. Sunday October 31, 10am to 5.30pm at Manchester University Students' Union, Oxford Road, Manchester. Lots of workshops, speakers, discussions, etc. Registration £1.50 waged, 75p claimants, from 78 High St, Atherton, Lancs. Cheap lunch available, creche provided.

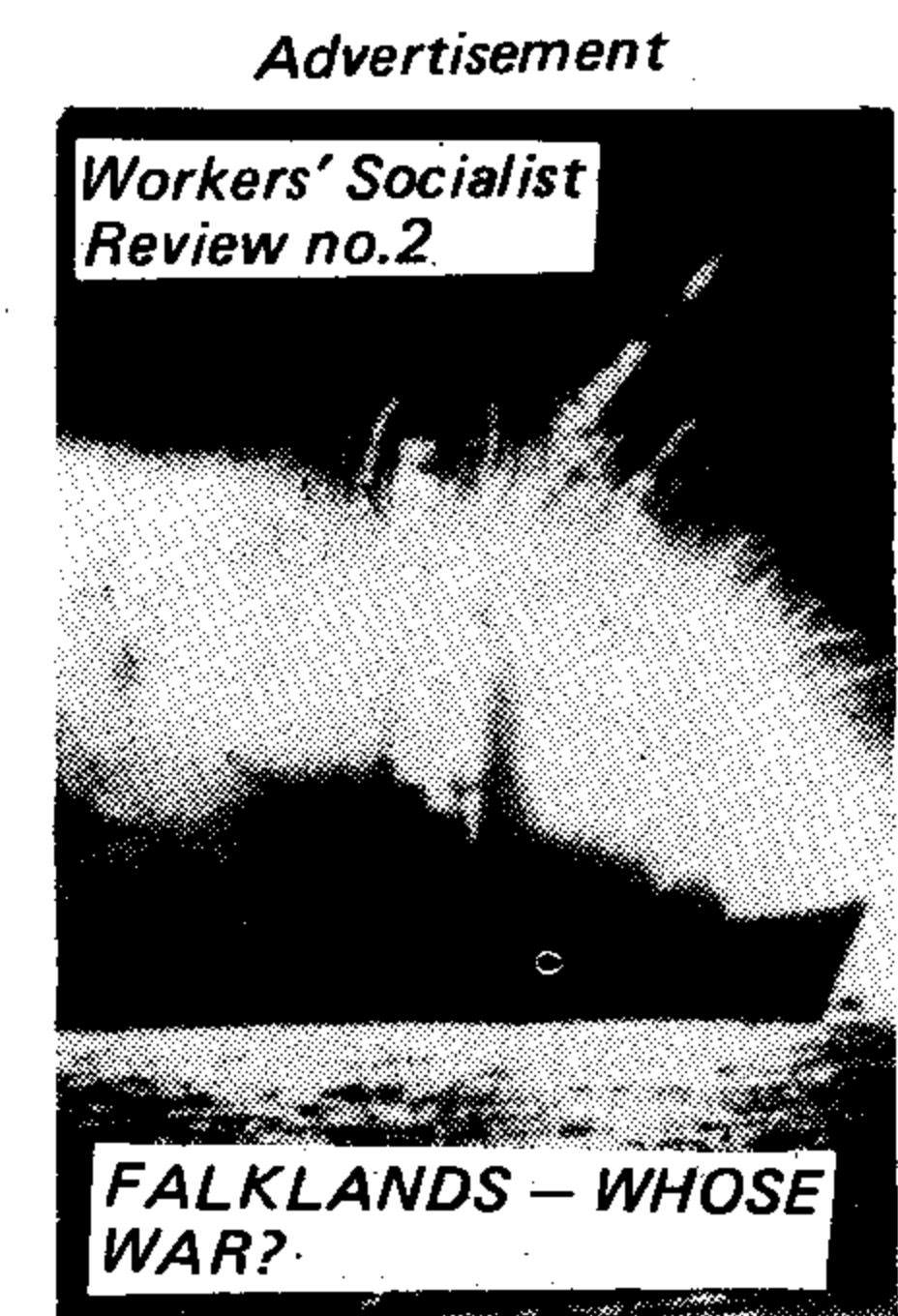
**CAMPAIGN** against Racist Laws conference. Saturday October 23, 10am, County Hall, London. Details. 56 Edithna St, London SW9.

**KURDISTAN** News and Comment issue no.6 now out. 50p including postage from Kurdistan Solidarity, c/o Carila, Box 30, 29 Islington Park St, London N1.

Kurdistan solidarity conference: Saturday October 2, starting 11am, at Brabant Rd Trade Union Centre, Station Rd/Brabant Rd, London N22. Details 01-809 1089.

**HARINGEY** Socialist Organiser: fortnightly meetings at Brabant Rd trade union centre. For details phone 802 0771 or 348 5941.

**SPARTACIST** Truth Kit. New pamphlet on the politics and practice of the Spartacist League, by John Lister. 70 pages, £1 plus 26p postage, from WSL, PO Box 135, London N1.

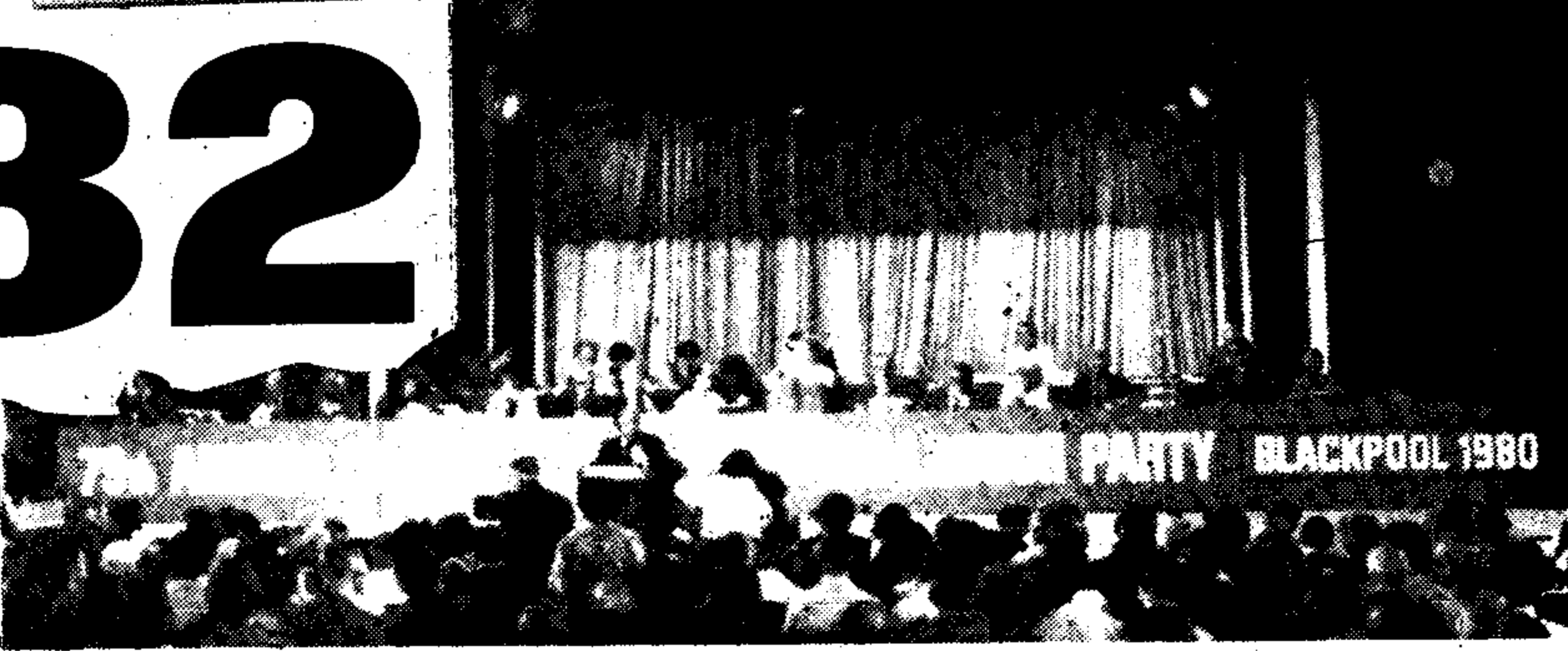


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PEACE-JOBS-FREEDOM

# Blackpool '82



JOHN HARRIS

## WHAT THEY DECIDED

THE Labour Party conference at Blackpool started by approving proposals to make the existence of groups in the Party conditional on the NEC approving them for registration (see below). It also elected an NEC with some 14 members of the Dennis Healey hard Right, as against 8 left-wingers and 5 from the Foot/Kinnock centre.

- That the NEC establish a Register of non-affiliated groups of members to be recognised and allowed to operate within the Party.
- All such groups must apply to and be acceptable by the NEC for registration. The decision of the NEC on eligibility for registration shall be final.
- There must be no secret organisations in the Party.
- All groups organised in the Party must be open and democratic.
- The NEC should update the register annually. The register should include details of the aims, officers, employees, membership and accounts of groups and should be available for inspection by any Party member.

On some policy issues, however, the conference went left.

- By a narrow majority it recognised the PLO as representative of the Palestinian people, supported Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and called for a democratic

secular state in Palestine.

- The policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament was confirmed by a majority of over the two-thirds required for compulsory inclusion in the Party Programme. (The constitution still, however, gives the Shadow Cabinet the last say on the manifesto). More narrowly, conference backed nationalisation of the arms industry.
- Conference called for the banning of plastic bullets. A call for troops out of Ireland was defeated.
- A call for incomes policy was defeated, but the conference let through the NEC's vague talk about a 'national economic assessment'.

was no debate. There was also no debate on gay rights or on the Falklands war.

### Battle on Gay rights

LAST week's Labour Party conference spent about 15 minutes on gay rights when it heard Andy Conway, who successfully moved that there should be a debate on the issue.

Yet there is no doubt that we in the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights (LCGR) and our allies succeeded this year in placing our demands firmly on the agenda of future conferences.

It had always been our intention that 1982 would be a focus for the struggle in the Party. However, frankly had not expected that the NEC would sell its own discussion document - 'The Rights of Women and Men', despite its endorsement by over 100 CLPs.

We were astonished that the NEC proposed to perpetuate discrimination unchanged in the arrangements and merchant navy where homosexual acts are totally illegal in all circumstances, and in a modified form by making the age of consent for gay men 18 against 16 for heterosexuals.

Our anger was shared by our allies, who squared with us for the fight. Socialist Organiser gave us publicity. So did Labour Briefing in its conference issue, with 6 pages of contributions in Street Life section.

The meeting undoubtedly a great success. But one major problem clearly be to put across our fight is about sex politics, not civil rights. The Rights of Gay Women and Men actually got 10 votes in the NEC than the women's rights motion. We in LCGR are determined that we will keep alive wider arguments of gay liberation within socialism.

**Next week: more from LCGR, and other views and comments on the Blackpool conference**

## Block voters block women

by Ann Pettifor (CLPD Women's Action Committee)

TRADE union leaders and the NEC took some trouble last week to forge an alliance that would prove powerful enough to halt the onslaught on their authority by a tiny minority at the Labour Party conference.

In particular, they marshalled their not inconsiderable forces, against the pitifully moderate demand of organised women within the party that they be allowed to voice their views in the course of the major debates of conference on the economy, health, education etc.; a demand the unions felt necessary to defeat by more than six million votes.

Women have not been so roundly rejected by a Party Conference since 1907 when Ben Turner from the Yorkshire Wool Workers Union proposed a women's suffrage motion, only to have it defeated by a massive majority.

This prompted Eva Gore-Booth (of the Lancashire Association of Machine, Electrical and Other Women Workers) to write: "Amongst Lancashire working women there is a strong inherent sense of commercial honesty and

personal independence, and it is no exaggeration to say that amongst the more progressive workers, there has grown up a deep feeling of bitterness and disappointment, a feeling which culminated this year when the Labour Party lead away by a theoretic inclination for the very stale red-herring of immediate, complete and entire adult suffrage, refused to fulfill their written pledge and press forward a measure for the enfranchisement of women."

### Bitterness

The size of the defeat inflicted on women this year will serve, as it did in 1907, to encourage a feeling of bitterness and disappointment amongst Labour women; and it will also serve, as it did in 1907, to fuel debate and further the argument.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, who replied for the NEC, raised a red-herring as stale as that purveyed by the 1907 NEC, by arguing that to accede to women's demands, the NEC would be opening the door to other

minority groups... an argument that deftly ignores the fact that women, who are almost entirely absent from the labour movement's powerful policy-making bodies, nevertheless make up a majority of the electorate, and more than 40% of the workforce.

That, above all, in Dunwoody's fast-decomposing red-herring ignores the double oppression inflicted on this particular working-class "pressure group" - a restricting oppression that can never be claimed by or applied to the other groups "waiting in the wings" for direct access to conference.

Groups like the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, the Parliamentary Labour Party, and the Local Government Conference!

Indeed, by drawing such an irrelevant and irrelevant parallel, the NEC revealed how misplaced is its opposition to the demands of women whose anger and determination is based first on the double attacks they face from Thatcherism as the most vulnerable section of a weakened working class and second, the need to

strengthen women's trade union and political organisations to resist these attacks more effectively.

Ann Davies, who acted as Chair at the Women's Conference this year who used her casting vote at that conference to oppose demands for a strengthening of the Women's Organisation, was catapulted to fame and power this week by trade union leaders determined to suppress the growing militancy of the Women's Organisation.

In Division Four of the NEC ballot, the women's section, she came second only to the longest serving woman in that section, Judith Hart, surpassing even Gwyneth Dunwoody, in her acceptability to trade union leaders.

There can be no doubt that her election was meant as a powerful and provocative challenge to those demanding that the women's section be elected by the Women's Conference.

It is a challenge that will unhesitatingly be taken up this year by the Women's Action Committee of CLPD.



Gwyneth Dunwoody

For it is imperative that we campaign now for the formal constituting of the Women's Conference; and for the adoption there of procedures commonly practiced throughout the labour movement.

We will welcome the introduction of the block vote to the Women's Conference, as the establishment of a vital link with collectively organised working class women. We will argue that the block vote be based not on the unions' national affiliated membership, but simply on female affiliation

- a system that will give added weight to the block votes of unions such as the GMWU, COHSE, USDAW, and NUPE representatives at Women's Conference.

Only in this way will we be able to persuade the trade union movement to take the Women's Organisation seriously, and to give power to a policy-making forum which at present is denied an effective policy- and decision-making voice, and which therefore fails dismally to advance the struggle for women's rights.

JOHN HARRIS



# A BATTLE LOST: A

As a new general election begins to loom near, the Right has won 'half a counter-revolution' in the Labour Party. John O'Mahony reports.



# NEW JOBS

The pressure for unity for the coming general election was used by the Labour Establishment

THE LEFT lost a vitally important battle at the Blackpool Labour Party conference. We have not yet lost the war for a democratic and socialist labour movement capable of posing a working class alternative to Tory rule.

So far it is only half a counter-revolution — the formal part, easily achieved by the block votes.

The right-wing and soft left MPs, and the trade union bureaucrats who gave them the victory, have yet to show that they can make it stick. The situation now parallels the situation after the formal victory of the left on re-selection two years ago: then as now, what comes of it has to be decided in battles that still lie ahead.

The Constituency Labour Parties voted against the witch-hunt, and it is the CLPs who will actually have to carry out any purge. Therefore a united Left, a relentless and unyielding Left determined to resist the witch-hunt, can still hope to minimise the damage to the fabric of the Left, and resume the offensive.

But we must not delude ourselves about the extent and importance of what the block around Foot achieved at the Blackpool conference. Unless the Left rallies and resists the witch-hunt, it may yet prove to be a historic setback for socialism — and for the hopes of a political and organisational renewal of the labour movement in the period ahead.

On the Monday the conference voted by 5,173,000

to 1,656,000 to set up the register; and on the Tuesday conference voted in an NEC with a right wing majority over the combined forces of the serious left and the soft 'left'.

## Heights

The Right have more or less firm control of the commanding heights of the Party organisation, and they can inflict serious damage on the Left and on the Labour Party.

Already there is a probability that Tony Benn will be removed as chair of the Home Policy sub-committee and Eric Heffer as chair of the Organisation Sub-committee. The alternative to Heffer would be John Golding — a stone-age right-winger.

Add Golding as chair of the Organisation Sub-committee to Weighell's antics with the block vote, and some old stagers in the PLP could be forgiven for thinking themselves safely back in the old days when the Right and the trade union barons ran an iron pro-capitalist regime in the

Labour Party.

This is not the 1950s. Capitalism, and British society, is rotting and collapsing all around us. The pressure of the crisis will push workers to the Left, and strengthen the Left — if the Left organises adequately.

What use will now be made of the register?

Though the Militant editorial board has offered to talk to the NEC about the changes in its functioning that the NEC would require to allow it to stay in the Party, it is inconceivable that anything Militant could do will render it acceptable to the NEC.

## Slander

After all the slander and vituperation from the Right and Foot against Militant, they must now act against it — or in the looming election campaign be branded out of their own mouths as associates or even prisoners of 'revolutionaries'.

A majority of this NEC will go at it with a will. There is more to it, though.

As the editorial in the

Guardian (28th) put it: "What Mr Foot achieved yesterday was more than a victory over Mr Ted Grant and friends. It was an assertion of authority, too, over those left wing groups congregated around Mr Benn which have called so much of the tune in the party over the past two years and which stood shoulder to shoulder with Militant yesterday..."

There is a bigger and broader target than Militant. Ted Grant's political head stuck on a spike outside Walworth Road (Labour Party headquarters) will serve to intimidate the less heroic comrades of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, Labour Coordinating Committee, etc. That, to a big extent, is the point of the exercise.

Foot and Party secretary Mortimer probably want to limit expulsions to the Militant editorial board, or at most to the EB, the nine parliamentary candidates said to support Militant, and perhaps the full-time Militant sellers. The Right will want a full-scale purge. And the Foot tendency may find themselves at the mercy of the right wing majority on the NEC whose victory they have helped secure.

An attempt at a wide-ranging purge is therefore a real possibility — a right wing reign of terror to cow and beat down the entire Left.

The one way to stop them in their tracks is for the CLPs who opposed the register to make it plain right now that every single expulsion will be resisted as far as necessary, for as long as necessary, and by every means necessary.

Any other attitude, any spirit of resignation before the might of the block vote, will encourage and evoke a large-scale purge. If the NEC can get a thorough purge of Militant supporters and others on the cheap, then they will go for it.

From this angle, Militant's own current posture of trying for a tacit deal with Foot for a limited

purge is the worst one possible.

It is perfectly reasonable that Militant should explore the possibilities of a principled accommodation with the NEC. If the register were a mere formality, it would indeed be another name for something the Left has long advocated: the right of Marxist groups and newspapers to affiliate to the Labour Party. In fact, of course, the register is a mechanism of purge and witch-hunt, and in the first place against Militant.

But Militant representatives have said that they will accept expulsions (under protest) and avoid pitting the CLPs against the executive: Militant will not advocate out-and-out defiance by CLPs of instructions to expel.

Likewise, representatives of CLPs where Militant is strong have indicated that they will not resist to the bitter end if the NEC instructs them to find replacements for parliamentary candidates said to support Militant.

## Wise

This would not be a wise, nor a very serious, policy even if Foot had control of the NEC. It is likely to be suicidal with this right wing NEC. It is the opposite of how to mobilise the broad left for the fight-back.

The policies of Foot, Kinnock, Lestor, etc have already opened the way to control of the NEC by the hard Right. Even a squelchy-soft left like Doug Hoyle, who blamed the serious left and Tony Benn personally for his near-defeat in the Warrington by-election, was unacceptable to the dominant right wing, and was kicked off the NEC.

Facts like these are already forcing even many who might have been willing to go along with Foot, or not to make too much fuss, to think seriously of where the backlash against the Left is taking the Labour Party. Even the LCC,

which seemed keen to register, has recoiled, and for the moment is refusing and calling on CLPs to refuse to recognise expulsions.

That the NEC majority is now to the right of Foot, Kinnock, etc., has already shown up the absurdity of relying on a liberal and tolerant interpretation of a system of registration that can equally well be applied with vicious intolerance.

The last thing needed for the development and education of this layer of the Party is for Militant to go quietly into the night. It will be educated and polarised to the left by an attitude which refuses to accept that the Labour Party is the property of the Right, and fights every inch of the way.

If Militant plays dead, it may end up dead for real.

And a fight back can win victories.

The Right and the trade union barons whose little caucus meetings in posh hotels dispose of many more votes than those of the entire rank and file of the CLPs want to win the next election. Therefore they have a keen self-interest in not gutting the Labour Party on the eve of that election.

There is every reason to believe that a firm attitude by the serious left and

a determination to resist expulsions will succeed in limiting, perhaps minimising, the scale of the purge.

It is quite likely that the youth movement will be the main casualty of Blackpool. It is widely known to be dominated by Militant supporters; and the YS national structures could be broken up with little cost to the electoral prospects of the Party.

## Contrast

In 1955 the national structures were abolished and the local branches transformed into local youth sections with no regional or national links. The same could be done now by a simple decision of an NEC that want to be seen to be doing something against Militant but also wants to avoid full-scale conflict with the CLPs.

But the YS, too, can be defended if the left is sufficiently combative.

Dennis Skinner and many other speakers at the anti witch hunt fringe meetings in Blackpool illustrated the danger of a purge of the hard left by saying: "After Militant it will be the turn of Socialist Organiser".

Logically it will. That too will depend on whether the Left fights back and paralyses the drive for a whole-



Blackpool — yesterday's Left led the Right's triumph

## LABOUR PARTIES AGAINST THE WITCH-HUNT

Conference of delegates from CLPs, LP branches, affiliated trade union branches, women's sections, YSs, etc.

Saturday October 30, 10am to 5pm, at County Hall, London SE1. Credentials for delegates from CLPs (two each) and others (1 each), £1 from 107 Neville Road, London N16 0SU. Cheques payable to Hackney North and Stoke Newington Labour Party.

Sponsors include: Hackney North, Bermondsey, Hornsey, Wood Green, Chipping Barnet, Peckham, Vauxhall, Brent South, Islington North, and Islington South Labour Parties.

JOHN HARRIS



# WAR STILL TO WAGE



JOHN HARRIS

Ted Grant (above) and Militant are the first target

scale purge.

While Foot and others concentrated mainly on accusations (without proof) that Militant is breaching the constitution, party secretary Jim Mortimer's indictment of Militant was heavily ideological.

Mortimer was a Morning Star style left trade union official until he went to ACAS 15 years ago. He denounced Militant for attacking trade union leaderships, for using the method of transitional demands which (he said) was designed to disrupt the movement, and for allegedly opposing 'detente'.

Earlier this year he argued against a reprint of a YS pamphlet reflecting Militant ideas on the grounds that it criticised the Republican government (of the 1930s) in Spain. Who now says that this isn't a witch-hunt against ideas and policies?

According to the letter of the register regulations the Socialist Organiser Alliance is perfectly lawful. The conferences that have developed the Alliance, beginning with the SCLV conference in July 1978, have all been widely advertised for Labour Party members, and so was our recent AGM. Allegations of the SOA being a conspiratorial group are even more absurd than the lying allegations that Militant is a conspiracy.

Nevertheless, being within the letter of the law is likely to be no protection from the witch-hunt for left-wingers, just as being outside the regulations causes no bother to the right wing groups in the Party.

From the start of the breakthrough by the left Socialist Organiser (and also Workers' Action) said that the alternatives opening up were these:

"EITHER the Left will go from a victory on democracy... to consolidate the Labour Party as a genuinely socialist party seeking to overthrow capitalism on the basis of the class struggle of the working class, and

build up a mass membership around such policies. OR the Left will be purged and the Labour Party transformed from its present ramshackle self into a tight and intolerant party modelled on the West German, Swedish, and other Social Democracies" (WA, 22.9.79).

Does the capture of the NEC by the Right mean that the full rigour of this logic will now unfold? Michael Foot, for example, has referred to the practices of continental Socialist Parties in arguing for the register.

## Revenge

Clearly the Right, scared and now out for revenge, would want that. As yet they are not strong enough to get it without wrecking the party.

If the 80% of the CLPs opposed to the witch-hunt can be mobilised and bound together, the logic can be resisted and stopped. Between now and a cauterising authoritarian regime in the British Labour Party, there would still have to be a perhaps prolonged period of civil war.

There would also have to be a more decisive shift in the unions than has actually taken place. The NUM delegation voted to support the register, despite Arthur Scargill's efforts, but it was a close vote. Scargill has argued that if the votes in the delegation were counted on the basis of members represented, the decision would have gone against the register.

The TGWU delegation's vote for the register defied a TGWU executive vote against it.

In both cases there was a big element of Michael Foot loyalism in the decision. Foot was threatening to resign unless the register went through.

And, as at last year's conference only more so, there was a strong desire for unity which the establishment used.

Moss Evans compared

the register to the slogan 'Open Your Books', and said he wanted it applied to the Right, too.

This is a shameful muddle, but it doesn't add up to a solid trade union mandate for the NEC to conduct a full-scale purge against the determined resistance of the CLPs.

We can get Blackpool in perspective if we analyse the reasons for our setback.

The Right have tremendous reserves of strength in society. Passive Labour supporters, and passive union members, can be brought into play — if only by the pollsters — to intimidate the Left and the middle-of-the-roaders. The SDP was an attempt, with the full support of the media, to use this factor to smash the Labour Party. Their sun is now heading rapidly west. But the stay-at-

home Right, allied to the trade union leaders, have proved a formidable enemy of the Left and of the process of renewal in the Labour Party.

The fragmentation, disorganisation and incoherence of the Left has helped the Right. The united Left around the Rank and File Mobilising Committee lasted less than a year.

Much of the revolutionary Marxist Left — which could have played a key role — was crippled by sectarianism. The SWP, for example, stood on the sidelines, alternately jeering and attempting to lure a few individuals out of the most important battle within the mass political labour movement for three decades.

## Balance

Above all, though, the balance of forces in the Labour Party is heavily against the Left.

The trade unions are 90% of the votes at Labour Party conference. Most of the Left, so far, has too narrowly confined its drive for a democratic labour

movement to the Labour Party.

We failed to build in the unions, to win the rank and file of the unions, to win the organised bedrock of the working class movement.

The Labour Left was dependent for its victories on — and many leftists came to rely on — left bureaucrats like Moss Evans. Those union leaders have now decided that they want a Labour government above all else, and have swung in behind the PLP Right.

Socialist Organiser has for three years argued that the struggle for democracy was essentially an early stage in a struggle for the labour movement to reshape itself organisationally and politically so that it could respond to the crisis of British society. The turmoil in the Labour Party was the result of the proven bankruptcy of long-entrenched reformism, and of an attempt by the movement to rethink its philosophy.

## Unknown

We argued that the reselection of MPs and the election of a Labour prime minister primarily by the movement outside Parliament could (together with the other reforms pushed by the Left) be made to function so that a future Labour government might be under the direct influence and even control of the labour movement — roused, mobilised, and struggling in the factories and in the streets against the capitalists and against the state agencies — in a way and to a degree unknown in Britain so far.

What do the events at Blackpool mean for this perspective?

Most likely a Labour government put in by the next election would be a continuation of the last one. Tony Benn has commented that Blackpool is "a big swing to the Right, but we have got the policies". Not

so, and there's the problem.

Even on policies with a two-thirds majority — unilateral nuclear disarmament, for example — the Labour manifesto is in the hands of Foot and the Shadow Cabinet.

The possibility of using the new mechanisms in the Labour Party to put the government under a degree of labour movement control is not foreclosed, however. It will depend on the level of working class mobilisation, struggle, and conflict with the Labour government.

The struggle to reshape the labour movement is certain to go on. The Labour Party leadership has no answers to the crisis of capitalism. The Labour government that Foot would run with the collaboration of the trade union leaders would at best offer palliatives. Inevitably a Foot-Healey government will disappoint, anger, and perhaps outrage the labour movement. Therefore the underlying drives of the movement will continue and be reinforced by the experience of a Labour government under Foot.

Even if the broad Labour Left subsides in the months or a year between now and the general election, it will be forced either by Labour victory or by defeat to return to the problem of re-making the labour movement so that we have a socialist working class answer to the crisis of capitalism.

There is no sign of an exodus of discouraged leftists from the Party. They will remain active: and even if there is a lull now, sooner or later they will return to the struggle before long. And many will, for example, now be readier to listen to what Socialist Organiser has been saying about the irreplaceability of a struggle for democratic and militant policies in the trade unions.

Some moods of defeatism or impatience are sure to develop among less

experienced sections of the Labour Left. But we should resist anyone who proposes to make the right wing's job easier by deserting the struggle in the mass working class political movement.

The gleeful sectarians of the SWP are writing open letters to entice Labour Party socialists to desert the struggle in the Labour Party — which, like all serious enterprises, brings disappointments and setbacks as well as the triumphs we have experienced in the last three years — and opt instead for the quiet life in the blue lagoon of SWP propagandism.

Their jubilation at the setback for the Left is extremely short-sighted, not to say stupid. On the outcome of the struggle in the Labour Party over the last three years depended the possibility of the working class having any governmental alternative to demolition-squad Toryism. On the fighting broad left in the Labour Party — which is still in its political programme a reformist left — still depends this possibility. So will resistance to a new right wing Labour government.

There is no way in which it makes sense to counterpose the trade union struggle, or industrial resistance to the Tories now or to a new right wing Labour government, against that Left.

On the contrary: the Labour Party Left overlaps with the trade union Left and can be a tremendous force for also transforming the unions, as it learns the lessons of our present setback.

## Siren

The siren voices which call to Labour Party militants from the 'left', urging them to do what the right wing wants them to do — get out of the Labour Party — are in fact telling us to give up, to get out of the political fight in the mass political working class movement.

The call: 'The right wing is entrenched; you can't beat the block vote; let's build the revolutionary party', is also logically a call to get out of the unions.



JOHN HARRIS

Foot

It is by our failure in the unions that we suffered the reversal at Blackpool. The cry, 'go out to build the party', is a proposal that the Left should throw in the towel, but with a good consoling slogan embroidered on it.

That's what the sectarian Left has repeatedly done — thus contributing, indirectly, to the right wing's victory at Blackpool.

We should:

- Stand by Militant. It was scandalous that Militant speakers were not invited to the Tribune rally or to the Benn/Scargill meeting at Blackpool.

- Oppose the register. The register is now a noose for Militant's neck. It would be wrong for those who might now slip through it to do so — and thus help the Right strangle Militant.

- Oppose every attempt at expulsions. Local parties must refuse to expel socialists.

- Organise the Left to coordinate resistance to the witch-hunt. Create the broadest possible left unity to stop the right wing NEC gutting the Party and handing the next election to the Tories. Recreate the Rank and File Mobilising Committee.

Very belatedly the serious left in the PLP has formed a group separate from the old careerist-ridden Tribune group. They should have done it long ago. They could even now play a decisive role in mobilising against the register. Will they?

Tony Benn has clearly decided to bide his time until after the election. But if we do not organise the left in self-defence now, then we close and limit options for struggle after the election.

- Turn the Labour Party outwards. Build a mass Labour Party. Build Labour Party factory branches. Bring presently passive reformist workers into the struggle in their own political movement, so they can learn in the struggle.

- Defend the YS! And — as one of the best ways to do that — turn the YS outwards to ordinary working class youth. Start to build it into a mass working class youth movement.

- The Left must be the most active and determined campaigners in the period up to the election to kick out the Tories and return a Labour government. We must demand that the labour movement organises and mobilises itself in a militant campaign to defeat the Tories. All collaboration with the Tory government must be broken off. And the left must prepare to have its own distinctive voice within the official Labour election campaign, as the SCLV did in 1979.

## CAMPAIGN FOR LABOUR PARTY DEMOCRACY

Membership. £4 individuals, £2 unwaged, £4.50 couples.

Write to: Victor Schonfield (Treasurer), 21 Wallingford Ave, London W10 6QA.



# Blackpool '82

## What they think

### Frances Morrell

Healey and Hattersley made it quite clear that they will oppose having unilateral disarmament in the manifesto, despite the two-thirds vote for it at conference. How do you think the left should respond?

Every constituency party and the trade unions that supported that motion should immediately put in a resolution to the National Executive of the party asking for a clear undertaking that the conference vote will be reflected in the manifesto.

What did you think of the conference debate on the position of women in the Labour Party?

It was valuable to this extent, that when Gwyneth Dunwoody spoke for the national executive the conference was able to see that we are up against a little bit more than simply the prejudice of men in the trade unions - we have a powerful establishment machine against us.

### Ray Davies

## 'Like a rogue elephant'

ONE LESSON we should learn is that despite the fact the right wing organised as never before, they couldn't defeat the mass political support for unilateral disarmament.

I think this is a lesson to young activists who might think of leaving the Party after the conference. It shows what can be done if we build an organisation to which the Left in the Party can turn.

That is the importance of the conference of CLPs against the witch-hunt on October 30.

We need to campaign for major reforms in the steel and rail unions - for the democratic election of officials.

For those who see the quest for union democracy as something of a lost



JOHN HARRIS

## Right fear loss of power

WHEN right-wing trade union leaders make speeches claiming that Labour will lose the next General Election unless they get rid of Militant, you know they must be getting desperate.

What they really mean is that if they do not smash the organised left in both the unions and the party then they, along with their right wing Parliamentary friends, may lose their power over the labour movement.

It is part of a concerted attack designed to smash the left by disorganising the rank and file and so enabling union bureaucrats and Parliamentary careerists to tighten their grip on the labour movement into a stranglehold.

Their fear is not that we may lose a General Election, but that if Labour wins, they will not be able to impose capitalist solutions to the country's problems because the organised left will not allow them to do so.

Some on the left argue that the Register is perfectly acceptable since it is only aimed at the Militant, whose manner of operation they dislike.

It is not so simple. The Register seeks to impose an organisational structure on rank and file left-wingers which makes them incapable of mobilising support against the right or even of putting forward a coherent alternative strategy to the official party line (having their "own programme, principles and policy for distinctive and separate propaganda").

Working class discipline is one of the labour movement's traditional strengths. By seeking to destroy any form of disciplined organisation on the left, the right wing are trying to disarm us for the future. They do so because they fear the potential revolutionary consequences which a disciplined left-wing majority in the unions and the party might have on the balance of economic and political power in Britain.

And most of all they fear that any such movement, which actually tried to take on capitalism would sweep away the sycophantic reformist traitors who constantly sell out the British workers for the sake of what is "realistic" in capitalist terms.

For those who wish to see a socialist Britain there can be no compromise with the Register. It must be totally opposed.

Groups including those which claim to be revolutionary must be allowed to organise within the Party and the wider movement, to fight for their beliefs.

To surrender on this issue would simply give added strength to those whose main concern is their own power and careers and who never have been and never will be socialists.

KATHY TURNER  
Oxford CLP delegate to  
1982 Labour Party  
Conference

IAN HARRISON,  
Councillor,  
Vice-chair, Fulham CLP

## Bitter lessons of Oxford witch-hunt

IT would be foolhardy to pretend that some decisions taken at Blackpool were not a defeat for the left.

The vote in support of the Register, while apparently overwhelming is less so when an examination of the voting is carried out.

### Mandated

In the CLP section, where delegates were mandated by the GMCs, they voted overwhelmingly against the Register. The grass root opposition to bans and proscriptions is not in any doubt.

In the trade union section, too, rank and file opinion, as expressed by the 1982 conference decisions made in the GMWU and in USDAW reflect a mood firmly opposed to a witch-hunt.

Yet, because of the block vote system, this view was disregarded by the union delegations.

There is no doubt that the attack on the Militant stems from a panic within the right wing.

During the debate on the Register on Monday afternoon at Conference, John Spellar, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Birmingham Northfield, (and a member of the EETPU), made a telling remark.

There is a witch-hunt in the party, he said. "It's a witch-hunt against Members of Parliament".

Such a view exposes clearly the centrality of the issue of democracy within the Party.

What price are the gains made on policy, the long awaited two-thirds majority vote on unilateral nuclear disarmament, the passing of worthy resolutions on women's rights, immigration policy, reforms in the social security system, the banning of plastic bullets and so forth?

### Accountable

Until the leadership in the party is accountable to carrying out those policies the goods simply will not be delivered.

The heavy defeat of the four resolutions on Women's

cause, they should learn our lesson in ISTC, which is the most autocratic union in the world.

After the 1980 strike we raised three demands: a revamping of the method of election of the Executive; for conference to be policy-making; and for the election of all full-time officials handling negotiations.

In only two years we won a new method of electing the Executive. And the Executive has voted to make conference policy-making. If we can do all of that in two years, it shows what can be done with organisation.

I think it's very important

that the new group of MPs was formed on the day that the register was passed. I see it as offering leadership against the right wing moves to destroy the party.

But we must link the new group to the CLPs and the trade unions, otherwise it could itself become an irrelevance.

The register is like a wild elephant running amok. The answer is not to submit meekly, but to learn the lessons and to organise.

They rammed through the vote for the register. But conference did not vote for a witch-hunt or expulsions. We must not comply with any call for expulsions.

### Alan Clinton

## CLPs have moved to the left

MANY conference delegates felt depressed by the ease with which the right wing got their witch-hunt, by the shift of the NEC to the right, and by the list of socialist resolutions defeated by four million odd to one million odd, especially those on women's rights within the Party.

However, my abiding impression, sitting in the midst of the constituency delegates, was by no means all gloomy.

The very mood and attitude of the constituency delegates during the debates on the witch-hunt,

on women's issues, and others, showed clearly that the Left has by no means been defeated, but strengthened and consolidated. The constituency delegates have, if anything, moved to the Left, as the right wing has rallied the block vote.

The number of constituency delegates supporting the witch-hunt could quite literally be counted on the fingers of one hand (though Judith Hart skilfully managed to find one of this handful to speak in the debate). The constituency delegates were also almost

unanimous in their support for policies on the socialist agenda like nationalisation of the banks, British withdrawal from NATO, and many others.

Real political strength thus remains in the constituencies. It is also by no means absent from the union delegations. In almost every delegation, with even the most right wing general secretary, there were dissenting voices.

Finally, it is possible to build right now, and without qualification, on other conference decisions, some

of which seem to me to be quite historic.

The unilateralist resolution passed by a majority of well over two thirds made all that marching and campaigning twenty years ago seem worthwhile.

A small step was also taken in the vote against plastic bullets, despite the support for this barbarity by Don Concannon, the party's pro-repression spokesperson. Again, this gives the Left a springboard for further campaigns against Britain's war on Ireland.

Perhaps most unexpect-

edly, the conference voted by a majority for resolutions not only calling for the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but also for a democratic secular state in the area.

In some ways this was the most historic decision of all. Generations of social democrats have been reared on a guilty compliance with Zionism. Now at last its murderous logic has been recognised.

A conference providing us with a building brick such as this cannot have been all bad.



JOHN HARRIS

Healey and Golding



# Preparing CLPs to fight the expulsions

# Call for unity on Turkey

"THIS is a practical meeting, to show that we as members are determined to fight back against each and every expulsion, and fight back united".

Thus Jeremy Corbyn (PPC Islington North) announced the purpose of the 150-strong fringe meeting, 'CLPs Against the Witch-hunt', which met in the aftermath of the decisions on the register and the right turn on the NEC.

Unfortunately the meeting as a whole tended to lurch into general denunciatory speeches against the right wing rather than focusing on the task in hand: offering a concrete line of action for CLPs who could rapidly be in the firing line of a full-scale witch-hunt.

Platform speakers included Martin Flannery MP and the meeting was chaired by Ernie Roberts — which further underlined the link between the fight against the witch-hunt and the launching of a new grouping of 22 left wing MPs pledged to fight the register.

John Gardner, a member of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and Luton East CLP, declared categorically that:

"There can be no expulsions from this Party on political grounds of people who work for the election of a Labour government on socialist policies".

The next year, he argued, must see a three point campaign for:

- No expulsions,
- A left NEC, both in the CLP and trade union

sections,

• Women's conference to control the women's struggle.

From the floor, speakers were equally clear. Rachel Lever pointed out that the 'left wing' LCC had put forward its own plan for a register, while CLPD itself had sought a softer line on this issue.

"We should all get into these left organisations and stiffen them up", she argued.

A Liverpool PPC pointed out that the NEC would face opposition 'across the board' if they tried to expel people like Tony Mulhearn and Terry Harrison.

"CLPs are realising that they need to be organising, and even calling their own annual conference. CLPs are the only part of the Party which does not meet together".

The October 30 conference of CLPs is also open to affiliated unions, YS branches and women's sections, stressed another comrade. And local conferences of these bodies could also be held to ensure solid support against the witch-hunt.

One delegate from Vauxhall pointed out that they have already not only decided not to expel anyone, but written a lengthy explanation of this to all affiliated bodies, and will be visiting them in person after the conference to build a solid base of support.

John Bloxam drew attention to the fact that "last year we said we've won it in the CLPs, we now have to work in the unions. But



we didn't do that work.

"Now it is vital that the campaign against the witch hunt is taken up in the trade union rank and file. This means beginning now to put down resolutions in branches for next year's union conferences".

Ernie Roberts from the platform promised that the October 30 conference will offer detailed discussion on the campaign.

This is plainly needed if the right-wing NEC is not to be enabled to pick off CLPs one by one in the witch-hunting of socialists, and if the fight is to be carried into the camp of the unions in the year ahead.

We either hang together or we will hang separately, warned Ernie Roberts from the chair at the CLPs meeting.

A STRONG call for a united campaign in solidarity with the Turkish working class was made from the platform of a fringe meeting of the Turkey Solidarity Campaign by Reg Race MP.

Over 60 delegates and visitors attended the meeting, which was chaired by Gavin Strang MP.

Race, who is treasurer of the rival Campaign for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey, was vocally critical of the CDDRT's refusal to join the TSC in a united campaign, despite repeated TSC initiatives.

He went on to call for the withdrawal of British and NATO bases from Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

"Why did Britain and the USA back the generals in Greece? Why do they back today's junta in Turkey? Because they want stable watchdogs in the area. The key is the link to NATO", insisted Race.

And he stressed the sheer scale of the repression in Turkey.

Exiled Turkish militant Dogan Tarkan, saved from deportation by an intensive campaign by the TSC last year, spoke detailing the elaborate fraud of the junta's new 'constitution', and pointing again to the NATO link.

The meeting also heard Baz from the General Union of Palestinian Students, who pointed out that he was the first Palestinian speaker in any of the fringe meetings this year.

Welcoming the conference resolution of support for the Palestinians and for recognition of the PLO, he focused on the reactionary nature of Zionist ideology, painted up as some kind of 'socialism' by Labour leaders like Ian Mikardo.

From the campaign as a whole there was a renewed appeal to delegates to go back to CLPs and union branches and press for affiliation to the TSC and to support initiatives to unite the present four campaigns on Turkey and Kurdistan into one.

## Support for Palestinians

Baz, of the General Union of Palestinian Students, spoke to Socialist Organiser

"WE ARE pleased that a resolution calling for recognition of the PLO was passed. But we must remember that the NEC opposed the resolution.

It still must be implemented. We must get Labour leaders to meet with the PLO, which includes the Palestinian trade union movement.

We must campaign to explain the Palestinian problem to the rank and file members, with real facts to combat Zionist propaganda.

Labour militants recognise how the media distort Labour Party policies and affairs. The distortion of the Palestinians is similar, but much, much worse. We

should use this parallel, so that people can understand the issue.

Denis Healey speaks for the Labour Middle East Committee — but he talks all the time of some kind of 'balance' in the Middle East.

It is not a question of 'balance' for us. Zionism is not socialism — it is opposed to socialism.

We are supporting the work of the Labour Committee on Palestine, and of course our campaign, the Trade Union Friends of Palestine.

We need a campaign to do for us the kind of work Poale Zion and Labour Friends of Israel have done for the Zionists.



## "We need a Marxist voice"

THREE women speakers formed the platform of a successful Socialist Organiser fringe meeting on the Thursday evening.

To an audience of over 50 delegates and visitors they spelled out Socialist Organiser's orientation towards the struggles of the most militant, oppressed and exploited workers, and the fight against the bureaucratic leaders of the labour movement who wield the block votes in favour of right-wing policies. CoHSE militant Andrea Campbell, who dealt with the NHS pay struggle, showed this well: "Take the example of Alex Kitson today, answering those who complained about the NEC staying in the Imperial Hotel.

He said delegates have a 'free choice' about whether to stay there. But you have a free choice only if you

have money. What about the unemployed, the low paid, and the homeless?

These bureaucrats have lost any links with the rank and file".

This separation is particularly acute as far as women are concerned.

In Andrea's own union, 77% of the membership are women, yet there is only one woman on the NEC. And while General Secretary after General Secretary had got up to condemn Militant as undemocratic,

"I'd like to say that my General Secretary cast votes in the NEC elections without even consulting the CoHSE delegation".

Winnie Murphy from the textile and garment union NUTGW showed how Socialist Organiser sets out to offer workers "a paper they can talk to and express their problems". What is needed is an alternative to

the politics of reformism.

"Bureaucrats don't just wake up in the morning saying 'we'll betray this bunch of workers today'. As reformists they believe they can win concessions bit by bit. But that doesn't work any more.

They separate union work from political work. Yet the answer to workers' problems is political".

The fight back must involve the working class. The block vote is designed to exclude the rank and file:

"Even if it was controlled by the left, the block vote would still be wrong, because it would be leaders taking decisions for people instead of convincing them".

Gerry Byrne, from the Socialist Organiser editorial board, pointed to the paper's origins in the struggles against the be-

trays of the last Labour government:

"Our campaign began against those Labour leaders taking their policies not from the rank and file but from international bankers.

We have a perspective of transforming the labour movement, wiping out the backwardness which bureaucrats rely on — racialism, sexism and gradualism.

The huge crisis creates huge opportunities. It is necessary to have a clear Marxist voice pointing the way forward".

Floor contributions included a comrade from the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, and Ernie Roberts MP, who pressed for a campaign for control of the block vote.

Harry Sloan

Two years ago, **Women's Fightback's** first conference for Labour women stimulated the new growth of women's sections and launched the demands for major reforms. Now we need to get these implemented, and weld the women's sections into a force that can lead women against the Tories, and represent women's interests in the Labour Party. That's what the second **Women's Fightback** conference, on November 27th, will be looking at. **Register Now!**

**2nd National Conference for Labour women**

November 27th 1982  
at  
Kingsway Princeton College  
Grays Inn Road, London WC2

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Address .....

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# The lack of excitement is incredible!

## Tony Richardson reviews Evan Lloyd's film 'Who Dares Wins'

THIS film is unbelievably bad.

Against the background of the peace movement the director introduces a story about the SAS being used against a group of 'terrorists'.

The aim is to show the invincible nature of the SAS, the elite of the elite — a bit like 'Wild Geese' (a previous film by Lloyd) was aimed at showing black men could not fight unless they were led by whites (in that case mercenaries).

The lack of excitement is incredible: the film is a continuous series of flashes of hooded men sliding down ropes and throwing grenades through windows and firing guns through doors.

In the finale the hooded faceless men drop from helicopters and shoot all the 'terrorists' dead. They then get back in the helicopters and fly away.

All the 'terrorists' suitably have guns in their hands when they are killed. (The real thing is different. In the Iranian Embassy siege people who had surrendered were shot dead.)

But nobody would go and see a film of faceless men, so an SAS hero has been introduced — Lewis Collings (Bodie of 'Professionals' fame). He initially kills half the 'terrorists' himself, and is human, i.e. he is shown caring about his wife and children and thinks twice about killing the woman terrorist.

All this is quite common fare for moviegoers and might be seen as an ineffective propaganda film for the SAS.

But the film is much more propaganda against the Peace movement and the left than for the SAS.

The 'terrorists' are what is described as 'the hard core' of a movement called 'The Peace Lobby'.

This movement is interchangeable for the Peace Movement as a whole. The film starts off showing this years mass CND demonstration, and then cuts to 'The Peace Lobby' as being part of it. All activities of the peace movement are supposed to be organised by 'The Peace Lobby'.

By this technique this organisation becomes the peace movement as a whole.

No explanation is made of the politics of 'the hard core', so one can only assume that the most active members automatically become terrorists. All the people who organise anything are 'the hard core'.

### Outlawed

The woman leader of the terrorists even has her doubts at the end; but she is in too far. In other words if you only do a little, you are helping the terrorists, if you become too active you will become one.

But how does this all arise? Why of course you have a mysterious East European, presumably Russian, visitor giving £600,000 at one go to various organisations. £100,000 goes to 'The Peace Lobby', 'to finance their kidnapping of the US Deputy of State. The rest of the money goes to various organisations designed to sound like other left groups, e.g., 'The International Committee for Workers Control', very similar to the 'Institute for Workers Control'.

When one peace rally is attacked by fascist skinheads, it turns out that this is financed by the 'Russian' for 'publicity'.

After the terrorists are shot, we switch to the halls of the Houses of Parliament. An MP is defending the 'Peace Lobby' people to another MP. He then strolls away and meets 'the Russian'. So 'Left' MPs are controlled.

And as the credits roll on this film about 'terrorists' the music being played is the 'Red Flag', the anthem of the Workers' movement.

# 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.

# Keep an eye on Scargill

YOU are right to stress the importance of the miners' wage claim as a focus for a mass mobilisation against the Tories this winter. Our line in relation to Arthur Scargill should not be that he walks on water but 'support him but keep a weather eye cocked'.

If the dispute is to be fought, Scargill will need to be pushed from below. As in the past, rank and file miners would be well advised not to rely on the Executive.

In the past, Scargill's actions have not lived up to his brave words, as during the steel strike, the Laurence Scott dispute and his failure to call for a one-day strike on June 10 against Tebbit (or in support of the NHS dispute) by all miners. We can see how far and no further he has been prepared to go in the ASLEF sellout where he promised the drivers support if they wished to continue the dispute but did not take the issue up himself either with the rank and file or on the TUC General Council. As things have got tougher, Arthur Scargill has got a little softer. In 1974 he went to the NUM Executive and argued for strike action in support of the Shrewsbury Two, even though UCATT were not taking action.

In the last two years he has only been willing to give financial and moral support to other groups at official level and in practice did little to alienate the AUEW leadership over Scotts. Scargill suffers from important political weaknesses. He is not prepared

to think through the implications of what he is about and this can crucially weaken the leadership he is able to provide.

For example, he argues "The Alternative Economic Strategy is a policy within the existing system. It does not take the necessary step where we have to take the state machine. Unless we recognise the power of the armed forces and the police then we have not quite frankly understood the class nature of our society" (The Collier, number 38).

The Tory Biffen quite correctly stated at the time of the 1981 closure dispute "What we have seen demonstrated over the last week is something which we have long known and this is the capacity of certain sections of organised labour to exercise extra-parliamentary authority."

What could happen this winter if the NUM claim is properly prosecuted in "an exercise of extra-parliamentary authority" could precisely raise the question of "taking the state".

What does Scargill think about this? Is he prepared for it to happen? Does he want it to happen? How does he relate his talk of socialist transformation and bringing down the Tories to the industrial action of his own members? What can be done to deepen NUM members' understanding of the political implications of their action?

Many of us will suspect that Scargill in reality, rather than in rhetoric separates taking the state or even bringing down the Tories from a possible NUM strike, that he sees the limits of the dispute as a collective bargaining struggle with the Tories.

That seemed to be his position in the 1981 strikes. The logic of this is a collective bargaining compromise.

Such a favourable compromise will hopefully provide the possibility of encouraging other workers but will squander the full potential of the dispute. But what if Thatcher stands firm and an unfavourable compromise is all that is on offer. The choice then will be between a demoralising setback for the working class as a whole or deepening the struggle against the state.

We would argue that the latter is the only choice and we must prepare for it now. What about it, Scargill? Does he really want to get rid of Thatcher in the interests of all workers? Or does he just want a few pounds above the going rate for the miners?

MARK STARR  
Oldham,  
Lancs.

# Hands off SWP!

I SHOULD like to respond to some extremely ill-advised accusations against the SWP made in your recent article on the SWP and the Rank and File.

Leaving aside the issue of the rank and file itself, which, as a four year standing member of Redder Tape, I took exception to your treatment of (it was Socialist Caucus's defection to the Broad Left which created an SWP dominated organisation!), I would like to deal with totally unsubstantiated accusations that the SWP has run down international solidarity work, and takes no part in groups supporting international solidarity.

I personally regard this as a scandalous slander.

Let's look at the balance sheet for action: demos against the Falklands/Malvinas war — one quarter SWP at least; demos against US intervention in El Salvador — one quarter SWP; demos against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon — one quarter SWP.

In all of these demos, at which I was personally present, I noticed neither a large Socialist Organiser presence nor any more than two Labour Party banners on each!

In my own branch, Brixton, there are two leading members of Turkey Solidarity Campaign, and a member of Palestine Solidarity Campaign. I have friends in Guildford branch who maintain con-

tact with underground Solidarnosc activists. And who was it who consistently plugged the campaign to adopt Solidarnosc internees?

We have had comrades this year in Central America and Brazil. One of our comrades got out of Beirut by the last plane to leave, and we lost two comrades in Kurdistan fighting with the Pesh Merga.

The SWP has fraternal comrades in Canada, USA, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Denmark, and Norway.

In short, comrades, people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones!

T.J.N.,  
Brixton SWP.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TOTALITARIAN AND AUTHORITARIAN?

WELL, A TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENT ARRESTS, TORTURES AND MURDERS

AN AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND...

LEAVES MANY OF THESE FUNCTIONS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR



The Washington Star/Dan Wasserman

# SCIENCE To CAP it all

by Les Hearn

A GOOD example of the chaos of capitalist food production is the Common Market's policy of subsidising grain and dairy production.

At one level, this redistributes money from the working class to rich farmers (at least in Britain) while various mountains and lakes accumulate. It also encourages unhealthy levels of meat and dairy consumption.

At another level it encourages dangerous agricultural practices while helping to destroy what little wild life still exists in Britain, as farmers are encouraged to utilise hitherto marginal land to grow crops.

Looking just at grain production, these are the results:

1. Continuous cereal growing is encouraged (instead of crop rotation, which helped keep down weeds and diseases and kept the fertility from

falling). This necessitates high inputs of artificial fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides and fungicides.

2. 'Pushing' crops by early sowing and high use of fertilisers makes them more prone to disease and competition from weeds (just like people under stress are less healthy).

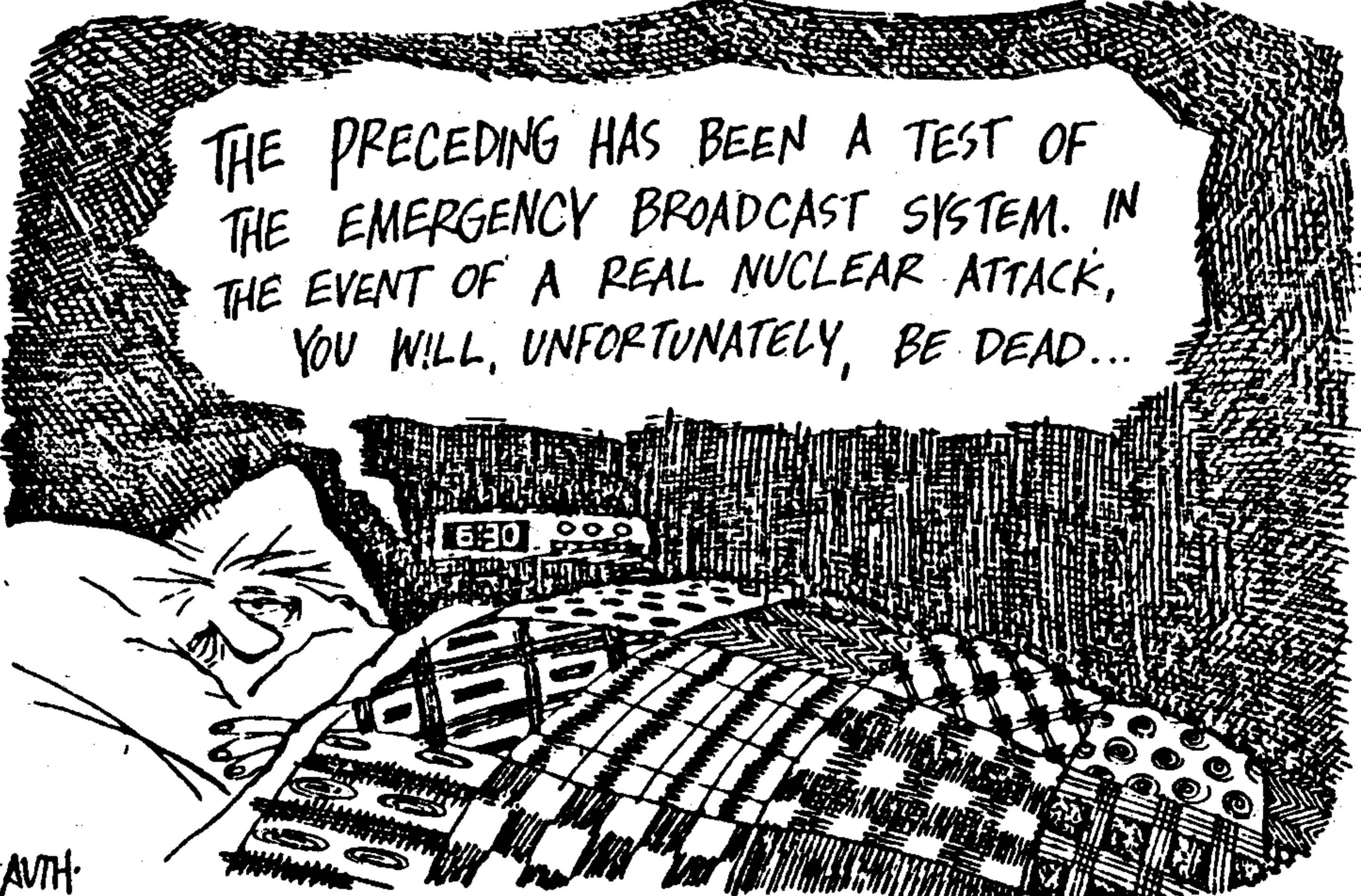
3. Pre-emptive strikes with weed-, pest-, and fungus-killers to protect valuable crops produces just the right conditions for the development of resistant strains of weed, insect or fungi.

4. At the same time the use of more genetically uniform varieties of cereal plant (so that growth patterns are more predictable) makes it less likely that the crop plant can develop its own resistance to disease organisms.

habitats, such as woodlands and wetlands are destroyed.

If nothing else were to be changed about the EEC (and I am one of those heretics on the left who

doesn't see the EEC as the worst thing since sliced bread), its agricultural policies need a bit of sabotage from the next Labour government.



Organise against the Tebbit Bill with the new broadsheet from the Mobilising Committee for Trade Union Rights. 10c plus post from M.C.T.U.R. 28 Middle Lane, London N8

MOBILISING COMMITTEE IN DEFENCE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS

STOP THE TORY ROOIBOY!

TEBBIT'S LAW



2p per chip, 20p per chipolata!

# THE GREAT SCHOOL MEALS MASSACRE

**More jobs have been lost in school meals than in steel — and with hardly a word from the media and the unions. Mary-Ann Todd looks at how school meals were built up — and how they are being cut**

IN 1906, as a result of the horror of Generals at the state of malnutrition of army recruits for the Boer War, it was agreed that Boards of Education could make provision for meals at school for the needy.

Arnold White in "Efficiency and Empire" in 1901 wrote: "Britain would only sustain its empire in the future if she ensured its new generation of children, tomorrow's imperial army, was properly nourished."

The claim can hardly be made that the school meals service today acts as a bed-rock for British imperialism.

Indeed the height of the Tories' recent imperialist attack on Argentina in the Malvinas/Falklands corresponded with the height of their most recent attack on the school meals service.

Of course the imperialist armies need healthy working class bodies, then as now, as their "cannon fodder".

But the lesson we can draw from Arnold White is that school meals make an essential contribution to working class health.

Sections 9.53 to 9.65 of the DHSS Black Report 'Inequalities in Health' (HMSO, 1980) gave hard evidence of this. It showed that the school meals service was needed, it got to the right children and should be extended, improved and "be provided in schools without charge" across the board.

The importance of school meals and milk for the healthy growth of working class children was re-emphasised in September's British Nutrition Foundation Bulletin.

But the proportion who take the meal has fallen in primary schools throughout the country from 75% to 50% since the government ended the legal obligation on local education authorities to provide school meals in April 1980.

The full establishment of the school meals service arose out of demands of the working class fuelled by the depression of the 1930s and the experiences of the Second World War.

In the 1930s the birth rate declined, infant mortality rose and 36% of children were considered unfit, with 80% anaemic.

Women's health was probably appalling although statistics are unreliable, if not unavailable, since so few women could afford medical treatment.

## Spending

But it is clear that most women gave most of what little food they had to their families and neglected their own needs.

Given the political upheavals of the 1930s around unemployment, and the shocking facts of working class poverty revealed on a mass scale by the evacuation of city children during the war, the Beveridge Committee, established in 1941, declared that "this is a time for revolution not for patching".

Well knowing that what capitalism gives it can also take away, the welfare state was based on the major demands of the trade unions for half full employment and adequate insurance for male



School meals staff lobby Parliament. Len Murray is there — but what else has the TUC done?

workers, for themselves and families and last but not least on the premise of providing a healthier workforce for capitalism.

The Beveridge Commission advocated the establishment of the welfare state on the basis that it should be free and universal, paid for by working class national insurance and tax.

These state benefits were to be financed through the redistribution of working class income from the healthy to the sick, from the employed to the retired, from the single to families.

The major prerequisite was that it was never to be financed out of profit.

Butler's 1944 Education Act established local authorities' legal obligation "to provide meals across the board".

In the 1950s, the system seemed to be working in the boom, with wages generally rising faster than the burden of tax and insurance contributions.

In the 1960s and '70s, however, wages were eroded by inflation, resulting in higher wage militancy. In the early '70s, the first massive cuts in school meals took place in public spending cut-backs demanded by the IMF.

## Prices up

Both Tory and Labour governments slapped up prices, cut back on the quantity and quality of food and the hours and jobs of school meals staff.

Labour Chancellor Healey had planned drastic further cuts in school meals if Labour had been reelected in 1979.

Neil Kinnock, Shadow Education spokesperson, still states categorically that he cannot and will not commit himself to a full restoration of the school meals service.

It is the present Tory government, however, that has really done the job on school meals, aided and abetted by the many Labour controlled councils who have carried out Tory policies and

who see school meals as somehow easier to cut than other areas.

The plight of school meals staff, the destruction of the school meals service and the effect this has on children and the tens of thousands of women as workers in the service and as mothers using it, is by and large ignored.

It is ignored by the media, ignored by the trade unions and, shamefully, hardly touched on by the left.

## More lost

There are more jobs lost in school meals than in the steel industry — yet the Times doesn't even list them in the jobless column.

As many as 300,000 jobs are to be lost in the school meals service.

At the Annual Conference of NUPE this year, the Wandsworth dustmen had over an hour to speak on their strike, the Devon school meals steward representing over a thousand women on all-out strike at the time to defend school meals got less than five minutes!

In one school kitchen, staff were told, yes their canteen would close, yes there would be job losses (but then most women in school meals "salt of the earth" as they are expected to lose the jobs). But, they were told on the "positive" side, the closure and jobs loss would offer facilities for those youth who feel despair and futility at today's unemployment — by establishing a "Work for Tomorrow Job Creation Scheme" in their old kitchen, teaching them, among other things, catering skills!

## Contempt

There can hardly be a more vivid example of the contempt which is felt by policy makers nationally and locally for those who work in school meals.

In their eyes these

women have no right to work, they are lucky to have been paid for the opportunity to get out of their homes all these years and perform their 'labour of love' feeding the children of the country.

Anyone visiting today's school kitchens can witness this labour of love performed, at rapid speed-up, in hot, steamy, heavy working conditions.

The women are low paid (a general kitchen assistant earns £1.60 an hour). Admittedly they are better paid than in private catering — but so they should be, having been unionised nationally in what are potentially two of the country's strongest unions, NUPE and the GMWU.

The hours school meals staff get paid for are related to the number of meals they cook. With every price rise in school meals the take up number of school meals drops, so the women receive cuts in hours and wages.

But it takes approximately the same time to prepare, cook, serve and clean up 100 meals as 150. Most women in school meals are working time for which they are just not paid.

## Impossible

In many cases it is physically impossible to cook the meals in the time allocated.

There have been many variations on the same theme to bump up prices, savagely reduce the service and phase it out altogether, apart from the legal obligation to some sort of school meal provision for those in supplementary benefit.

Mark Carlisle's 1980 Education Act — which placed the decision on price fixing in the hands of local authorities, removed all nutritional requirements and any statutory obligations apart from providing specific free school meals.

It has enabled local authorities to pick on school meals as the easy option for cuts.

In the general free-for-all attacks, nearly all have put up prices (arguing 'viability') and introduced packed lunches, only to turn around and point to the fall in take-up of dinners, saying it's an "unwanted service", "eating habits have changed" and using this as an excuse to cut further.

In Oxfordshire, for example, the free school meals qualification was changed and three thousand families below the official poverty-line lost their free meals.

## Cafeteria

They were faced with an outlay of £2.65 a week per child. Since the biggest employers in Oxford, BL and the NHS, have both drastically limited wages rises to less than 4% in the last year, it is easy to see why parents just cannot afford to use the school meals service.

Many local authorities have introduced the "cafeteria", "a la carte" systems; these are fancy names for charging 2p a chip and 20p a chipolata.

Other forms of attack include the proposals to centralise cooking in one big kitchen, cook, freeze it and heat it up in microwave ovens.

The Lancashire School Meals Campaign (LSMC) has produced an excellent leaflet on this showing that reports and figures from local authorities should be subject to strict investigation by committees of workers and users of the school meal service.

Council costings are vague and in response to them LSMC come up with hard facts.

For example, Leeds MBC spent £3 million on technology to produce 30,000 meals. This quartered the staff employed in the central kitchen: yet the scheme still only provides a quarter of Leeds school meals.

LSMC also show that

'cook-freeze' advocates assume that centralised bulk catering and new technology improve things. Yet a government report in the mid-60s acknowledged that the best food comes from small units, cooking on the spot.

Many local authorities would like to place the school meals service lock, stock and barrel into the hands of private caterers like Grand Metropolitan.

They only turn down such options because the tenders they put in are too high and because they want substantial modifications in kitchens and equipment — which they expect the council to pay for!

## Centralise

Other county councils now desperate to meet increasingly stringent government spending cuts by April have become, to put it mildly, more blatantly and immediately destructive.

The most recent example, Gloucestershire, plans to achieve £2.15 million in spending cuts by proposals which include closing kitchens in all primary schools, reducing the meals service in secondary schools and providing packed lunches for about 6,000 children at present getting free meals.

Between 1,000 and 1,800 jobs could be lost as a result of the proposals and it would be the end of school meals for thousands of children.

In response about 1,400 workers supported a total stoppage of school meal, cleaning and caretaker staff at schools throughout Gloucestershire which started on Monday 20 September.

**Next week: the fight back**

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# Oxford claimants back CPSA strike

Claimants in Oxford had salt rubbed in their wounds this week after last month's raid in which more than 280 people were arrested.

To claim emergency payment during the strike by supplementary benefit staff, claimants were forced to go back to the infamous South Oxford Middle School.

This is the former school where on September 2 claimants turning up to claim bed and breakfast money were incarcerated for up to 12 hours.

More than 110 were released without charge and about ten others have been acquitted in court. But more than 100 have so far been

jailed.

Some of those who suffered considerable distress in last month's raid had this week to queue up and go in again to the same school. One man, still awaiting trial, who is denying deception, has had no money for five weeks and he was turned away again.

Once inside, the claimants were given a measly £22 each, regardless of their circumstances. People who had rent to pay were told to arrange with their landlords not to pay it!

All but a handful of the 145 staff at the Supplementary Benefit Office in Oxford have been on strike

for a week in protest against job cuts. The DHSS have refused to provide permanent extra staff for the office, where claimants have had to wait for a week to get an interview even in an emergency.

## Scabs

But the same department has been happy to spend extra money to ship 18 scabs into the area to set up the emergency office in the hope that the strike would collapse, and in the hope that claimants would be deterred from going to the notorious school to claim

their money.

One of the union members told Oxford Trades Council at the weekend that any decision to add staff to the Oxford office would in effect have to be taken in the Cabinet, because if Oxford could win the way would be laid clear to defeat plans to waste jobs in the Civil Service.

The strike is the third in two weeks in DHSS offices against job cuts - the Oxford staff joining two other offices in Birmingham.

The Claimants Defence Committee to approach the unions together with NALGO and the Oxford

Unemployed Workers and Claimants Union to form a joint committee during the dispute.

"The CDC sees it as a practical step to break down the barriers between the unemployed and the employed that the government seeks to exploit."

Most of the claimants collecting emergency payments signed a petition outside the building, supporting the call for more staff.

Claimants' Defence Committee: 44b Princes St, Oxford



# BL pay crunch

BL is to make its offer, in reply to the unions' claim, this Friday, 8th October.

It is widely expected to be lower than 4%. But whatever it is there is no doubt that it will be unsatisfactory to the workforce.

So the arguments that have taken place over the claim during the past week have been important in showing who is really serious about giving leadership to the rising militancy of the workers.

The Cowley Assembly Plant stewards met last week and both the TGWU and AUEW meetings unanimously called for £20 across the board, and have nothing to do with a bonus.

This, as we have said in previous issues of Socialist Organiser, was intended to concentrate on the wages and stop the company and union leadership avoiding the fight through the issue of bonus.

In the Body Plant a similar attempt to have nothing to do with a bonus was defeated by 37 votes to 34 at the stewards meeting after the right wing strongly argued, in line with Communist Party policy at Longbridge, that the question of a bonus should not be rejected.

In the national meetings of both the TGWU and the AUEW Senior Stewards last

Friday, the Longbridge position was carried.

The final claim, therefore, will be for £16 across the board, consolidation of the £22.50 bonus, an increase of 13½% in premium rates and for the sick pay scheme to be fully funded by the company.

Leyland workers will now have to continually argue that there must be no budgeting from the £10 increase and that the bonus is a secondary issue.

One dangerous development arising from the TGWU Senior Stewards meeting last Friday was a step away from the struggle for a democratic structure.

The meeting, which was supposed to be a 'delegate' meeting, ended up being attended by only one senior steward from each plant.

Consequently, the Cowley Body Plant Senior Steward, representing over 4,000 members and other senior stewards representing only a hundred or so workers all had one vote each.

A mass meeting in the Cowley Assembly Plant on Tuesday 5th passed a resolution supporting the claim put forward on the basis that there was no alternative. It also called for the Joint Negotiating Committee to make its "overwhelming priority" getting new money on the basic rate.

## WRP libel suit:

# Let the labour

# movement judge!

ON THE Thursday of Labour Party conference, the Workers Revolutionary Party paper Newsline published a defensive statement, their first comment for about 18 months on their libel case against Socialist Organiser.

Seemingly it was aimed at the conference. Newsline's recent slander campaign against "Peter 'Socialist Organiser' McIntyre" too was probably aimed to poison the Labour Left against SO. With Ken Livingstone speaking at their rallies - he speaks also for the Morning Star - the Healy sect clearly thinks it has now got some chance to influence the Labour Left.

In fact the 'statement by the WRP' is a pack of evasions and lies.

They deny that they are trying to suppress SO. A tiny, but miraculously well-funded, organisation sets its millionaire member

by Sean Matgamna

Vanessa Redgrave to haul SO (which is not financed by miracles or 'angels') ruinously through the courts, but of course this is not an attempt to use their wealth to ruin us!

In fact neither Ms Redgrave nor Youth Training were mentioned in the first article which brought the libel writ.

They lie that a single apology would settle the matter. Our former printers rushed to apologise, and were squeezed for damages, costs, etc. It would cost SO a great deal of money to apologise - as well as costing us our self-respect as an honest working class newspaper committed to 'telling it as it is'.

They quote the comments I made in January 1981 on the WRP as self-evidently outrageous. This is aimed at those who do not know the reputation of the WRP. The things I wrote are widely believed on the Left. It is a matter of fact that though all the other organisations on the British Left are hemmed around by factional hostilities and often venom, no other organisation but the WRP has a reputation for the practices I referred to.

They say that allegations of violence set them up for state action against them. This is the way that the Ayatollah Healy, obsessed with 'agents' and 'spies', justifies using the bourgeois state against a labour movement newspaper to his deluded hardcore followers.

It is of course nonsense. Action against individuals like Gerry Healy for some of the things I alleged could only be taken by the people allegedly concerned. And their expensive solicitors will by now have helped Mr Healy and his friends to glean some idea of the list of former members we will take into open court to testify publicly in support of my allegations.

## Lying

The statement accuses me of lying in Socialist Organiser last May when I said there was no reply to an offer John Bloxam and myself made of informal talks. I made it in a letter to Gerry Healy. There was no reply to my proposal: there was a solicitor's letter asking what terms we proposed by way of compliance with their demands for a retraction and a grovelling apology.

They object to my statement that they spout gobbledegook. This is part of their comment in an editorial (September 30) on Militant:

"The trouble with the 'Militant' group so far as the right wing goes today is



Healy: not gobbledegook?

not that the assurances of their loyalty are unacceptable, but they cannot be trusted to keep their ranks free from well-placed spies in the event of a revolutionary situation. The heart of the witch-hunt against 'Militant' comes from 'Smiley's People' or MI5. That is why Foot has jumped to answer the call.

Of course no one suggests that this is done through a direct approach from the 'Circus' to the 'well-dressed Michael' but in Westminster politics there is no shortage of suitable go-betweens. Because it is really the MI5 which supervises the private lives of the 'mouth and trousers men' who live in these cloistered circles".

Make sense of it if you can (it is intended to seal off Newsline readers from Militant, of course); or of the circular to WRP activists printed in Newsline of October 4:

"We should seek through the use of Volume 14 [of Lenin's works] to analyse the dangerous effects of idealism as activity that leads to stagnation and frustration in the area".

## Contrast

The hysterics of the WRP won't notice the contrast between Socialist Organiser supporter Peter McIntyre's handling of their

recent campaign accusing him of being a police nark and their own response to my comments about them in January 1981.

Peter McIntyre has complained through the National Union of Journalists and is confident that the union will condemn the Newsline. The Newsline goes to court, relying on the power of Ms Redgrave's money to give it a massively unfair advantage over Socialist Organiser. They have consistently refused our offer of a jointly agreed labour movement inquiry into the points in dispute between us. It is still on offer, as is also the proposal for informal talks.

## Draw

Newsline readers who last week read the foul and baseless slanders against Peter McIntyre, and this week read the self-righteous justification of Mr Healy and Co. for bringing the bourgeois state into the affairs of the labour movement (they claim to be part of the labour movement), should draw the obvious conclusions about the WRP and its methods.

They are trying to bankrupt Socialist Organiser. They won't succeed. The address of the Labour Movement Press Defence Fund is 214 Sickert Court, London N1 2SY.

# NUR: throw out McCarthy report!

by Dave Lumley

NEXT Wednesday, the NUR Special General Meeting convenes in Birmingham to discuss its reaction to the McCarthy Report on this year's pay claim by rail workers.

Following the disastrous climb-down and suspension of the NUR national strike back in June, the SGM delegates must vote to reject the report.

McCarthy recommends a 6% increase from 6 September, equal to 4% over the full twelve months, and contains pages of strings, particularly on the removal of guards from many trains, and driver only operation on some commuter trains.

Although the report's conclusions aren't binding on either side, management are clearly happy with most of it and it's a recipe for a huge escalation of job losses, currently running at around 1,000 per month.

Rank and file NUR activists clearly have a fight on their hands. The 77 delegates in Birmingham will be the same as those who called the

strike off in June, and Weighell's allies will certainly make no case for rejection.

Already many branches have rejected the McCarthy package and mandated their delegates to do the same.

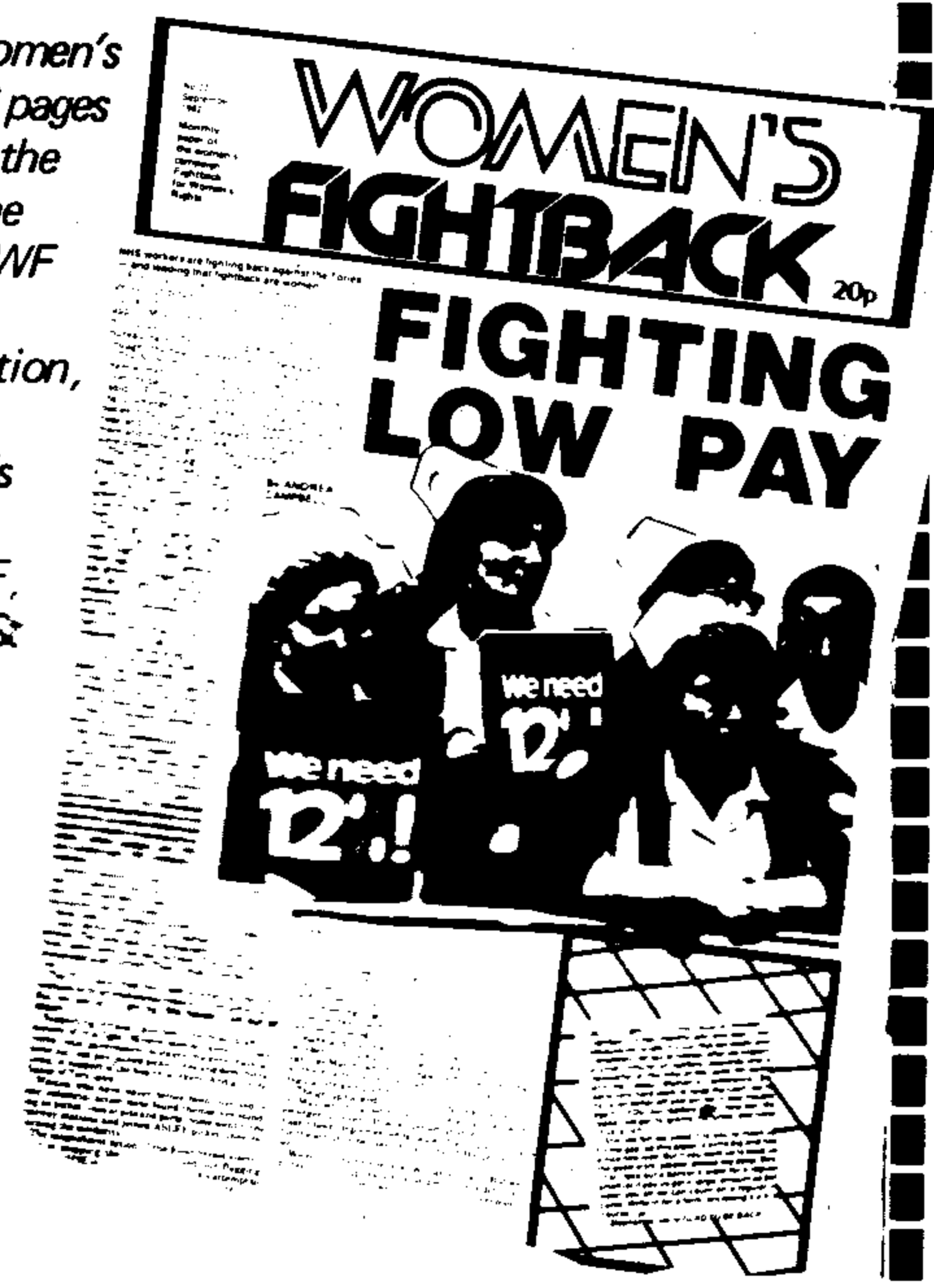
Weighell's credibility has also been shaken for many delegates after the Labour Party conference.

Putting pressure on the delegates to reject will be crucial, which is why a lobby has been organised, supported by the NUR Broad Left, the London Joint District Councils and others.

As many railway workers as possible should get down to the lobby as well as mandating delegates to reject the deal and refer the claim back to the NEC with a call for strike action to back up the fight for a decent wage without strings.

LOBBY: Assemble 9 am at the AUEW offices, five minutes walk from Birmingham's New Street station, near the Albany Hotel.

New issue of Women's Fightback - 16 pages and articles on the NHS dispute, the jobs campaign, WF summer space, sexism in education, Judith Williams, Labour women's conference, etc. 20c from WF, 4" Ellington St London W7



COMING UP Women's Fightback AGM. October 23 County Hall, London. Open to all women, but only members and delegates from affiliated groups can vote. For conference details send s.a.e. to 41 Ellington St, N7; to join WF too send £3 (or £5 to include regular mailings and the paper).





# Demand TGWU backing for S&K strike!

by Ali Mir

On Saturday 2 October, 50 pickets demonstrated their solidarity with striking Asian workers at the Sandhar and Kang cash and carry warehouse in Coventry.

Although the strikers were not on the picket line, because of a court injunction, the solidarity pickets were able to turn away a majority of the customers, despite constant police presence, which kept the pickets away from the entrance.

Picketing is the key to this dispute. In the Bir-

mingham S&K strike last May, it was the successful picketing which won union recognition.

In Coventry, before the court injunction, picketing was over 80% successful. This was the reason why the bosses attempted to defeat the strike with the injunction and is the reason why the pickets must be continued, with the support of the local labour movement.

The picket received no support whatsoever from the local TGWU official who continued to refuse to back

the strike, forcing the strikers to continue unofficially, and without strike pay.

Despite this, the strikers resolved to lobby the TGWU official's District Committee meeting.

Those active in support of the strikers should support their demand for total official backing of S&K; for strike pay for the strikers; for union recognition and against redundancies, and should raise the issue and send resolutions from their Labour Parties and unions to the TGWU.

Demonstrations such as

the 15 October regional health workers protest should be used as opportunities to mobilise support for the S&K strike.

A useful anti-racist link is being provided by the Coventry Trades Council Campaign Against the Race Checks in the NHS.

Messages of support and money to S&K Strike Committee, 88 King George's Avenue, Coventry.

Full support for the mass picket on Saturday 9 October from 8 am to 12.30 at S&K, Kingfield Road, Coventry.

# Women act on jobs

ALL over the country in the week beginning October 18, women will be demonstrating, picketing and meeting to protest their opposition to the latest discriminatory moves by the government against jobless women. Women claimants will be joining together with employed women (especially those in the Job Centres and benefit offices) to highlight the effects of Sir Derek Raynor's proposals. These will discourage jobless women from claiming their rights, add to the harassment of claimants, reinforce the drive to re-establish the myth of "women's place is in the home" and cover up the real extent of women's unemployment.

October 18, the start of the Week of Action, called by the Women's Campaign for Jobs, coincides with the introduction of the "availability for work" questionnaires (UB671) and voluntary registration at Job Centres. Both these measures seriously discriminate against women. The UB671 form contains questions about claimants' childcare arrangements and implicitly assumes availability for work is restricted to the ability to

## from the Women's Campaign for Jobs

take a full-time job, were it offered.

Welsh Women's Aid who researched the workings of the pilot "availability testing" found that both benefit office staff and women claimants saw the question on childcare as aimed primarily at women claimants. The question therefore discriminates both in intent and effect (many women will be discouraged from claiming benefits which are their right because they will feel unable to provide sufficient evidence of having sought or obtained childcare facilities before they have been offered a job).

October 18 is also the day designated by the civil service unions as a day of action against the job losses involved in both Raynor reports. Women's jobs campaigners will be contacting the unions for joint action/meetings on that day to highlight the identity of interest between jobless women and those administering benefit.

They will also be linking up with local actions around the health service dispute to point out the need to fight the destruction of both health and welfare services by this government and the link between the fight to protect existing women's jobs and the rights of those out of work.

As Gerry Byrne, of the Women's Campaign for Jobs, points out:

"The unemployed, and especially women within that category, have traditionally been seen as unorganised and unorganisable. We hope to show by this Week of Action, that the government can not get away with stripping away the few existing rights of jobless women. In demanding our right to be visible as part of the unemployed, we are striking a blow against the invisibility of women's work in the home and our marginalisation (and ghettoisation) at work.

Women's Campaign for Jobs can be contacted at 41, Ellington Street, London N7. Tel: 607 5268 or 789 7387.

## Confed reject

TALKS are due to resume on October 25 over the Engineering Employers' Federation's 3.6% pay offer.

The offer - eerily close to the government's 3 1/2% norm for the public sector - was rejected by leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at talks on September 24.

The Confed/EEF negotiations determine minimum rates for 1 1/2 million engineering workers, with local negotiations on top. But the Financial Times reports that "many companies have told their employees this year that topping-up might not be possible".

The unions are calling for a rise in line with the rise in the cost of living, an increase in the unskilled rate to 80% of the skilled (it is now 72%), and cut in overtime.

# No to apartheid in NHS!

by George McLean

NOT content with insulting NHS workers with his derisory and divisive pay offer Health Secretary Fowler this week launches the Tories' latest racist attack.

On October 1 the so-called 'Charges for Overseas Visitors' Regulations will be implemented. Except for accident and emergency (A&E) cases and patients

## Air India bosses rattled

WITH solidarity action by Air India workers in Bombay due to start this Monday, October 4, the airline bosses seem to be getting rattled.

They have written to TGWU general secretary Moss Evans threatening court action on the grounds that the pickets are unlawful. There is no dispute, Air India says, because the strikers have all been sacked!

The dispute started over unilateral imposition of new rosters and the sacking of shop steward Alroy de Silva, and has developed into an all-out attempt to smash the union in Air India.

"I think that Moss Evans should really wake up now and see what they're trying to do", commented Alroy de Silva this week.

Air India strikers were at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool last week, collecting nearly 300 signatures on a petition of support. The Indian Workers' Association is planning a boycott of the airline. And support is still needed on the picket line - 8am to 6pm every day at the Air India New Bond Street office.

with infectious diseases everyone seeking NHS care will be subjected to an eligibility check. We'll be asked questions about our residency status or date of arrival in the UK. Note that word 'everyone': this is Fowler's 'principle of universal challenge' to which we'll return. People failing the challenge will have to pay for health care.

Why are the Tories introducing these Regulations? Officially, to catch the tiny number of overseas visitors who obtain free treatment to which they are not strictly entitled. Already in SO 78 we looked at the main points against the legislation.

One criticism follows from Fowler's claim that his plan will save over £6 million each year. However, this represents only one two-thousandth of the annual NHS budget. Further, every DHSS study for past governments has shown that such schemes would cost more to administer than they would rake in.

But there is a more powerful criticism. The Regulations state that, apart from A&E and infectious diseases, everyone using the NHS is to be cross-examined. That means millions of people each year under this principle of universal challenge.

### Distress

It is obvious that hard-pressed hospital clerks will not question all patients. Only those who are suspected of being ineligible for free care will be stopped - and this means particular distress will be caused to black people, people with 'foreign-sounding' names, and people who do not speak fluent English.

Moreover, the Manchester Race & Health Group's report\* and Brent Community Health Council's booklet 'Black People and the Health Service' (amongst



NHS relies on black workers - and will cross-examine black patients!

many others) have shown the extent of prejudice against and maltreatment of black people by some NHS staff. Clearly, the racism which exists in society is reflected in the NHS: we are a cross-section of society.

Any racist tendency now has an official outlet.

Thus, the Tories insidiously use the gut reactions of some workers to spread the racist myths of black people as being in some way 'suspicious' and spreading disease and disquiet. Hence, so goes the line, these aliens are stealing our Health Service/jobs/dole. They must therefore be kept under surveillance at hospitals and employment offices.

A final point has been made by COHSE. The eventual bureaucracy needed to implement these Regulations fully could easily be used to run a health system funded solely by private insurance. We have recently seen the Tory Think Tank policy for privatising the NHS, where we would only get what treatment we could afford to pay for.

The racist and bureaucratic nature of these Regulations has not been fully and

persistently exposed by any health union. NALGO especially - as it represents many hospital clerks - must make its position clear, and pledge full backing for any member who refuses to implement the questions. But rank-and-file health workers must also expose Fowler's plan, and support their colleagues locally.

Meanwhile, the law stands. So it is vital to monitor the DHSS as they monitor us. The Manchester-based Race & Health Group has produced a pamphlet outlining the complex and bizarre clauses of the legislation. (Donations always welcome!) We need to know from hospital workers and users of experiences arising from the new Regulations so as to press for the overthrow of any such surveillance in all areas of the public services.

We have also produced a more detailed analysis of racism, the State and the NHS "From Ill Treatment to No Treatment" which is available from: Race and Health Group, 593 Stockport Road, Manchester 13. (£1.50 per copy).

# Save Afia!

THE BLAME for the death of Afia Begum's husband lies with the GLC and Tower Hamlets racist housing policy.

He had to live in slum, overcrowded conditions, where the high fire risk was tragically proven.

Now the British authorities say that his death is a change in Afia's circumstances, and want to deport her!

This was the feeling expressed by many local groups at a recent public meeting in East London in support of the campaign to stop Afia's deportation. Not only deportations, but also

racist housing and education policies, should be fought, the local people said.

Petitions are arriving every day from London Labour parties and union branches. Please keep them coming, and send telegrams to Timothy Raison at the Home Office. Donations are also urgently needed.

\*Picket of the Home Office (Queen Anne's Gate, St James's Park tube): 12 to 2pm, Thursday 7th.

Petitions/information/donations: Sue Carlyle, 36 Bradmore House, Jamaica St, E1 (790 4937).

## Socialist Organiser Alliance

# Get Organised!

Socialist Organiser is not just a paper. We fight to organise workers in the struggle for a new leadership in the labour movement.

If you agree with what we have to say, you can help. Become a supporter of the Socialist Organiser Alliance - groups are established in most large towns.

To 'Get Organised' in the fight, or for more information, write at once to us at 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

Name .....

Address .....





# Socialist Organiser

## STOP THE WEIGHHELLING AND DEALING

by Dave Lunts (Manchester NUR)

As we go to press, Sid Weighell has resigned. This should be the signal for a new drive for democracy in the trade unions.

THAT great champion of "democracy, moderation and common sense", Sid Weighell, has exposed himself to millions as the miserable anti-democrat that he always has been.

Last week at Labour Party conference he single handedly lost Eric Clarke of the NUM his place on the NEC. And as Weighell secretly cast - or didn't cast, as the case may be - the 180,000 votes of the NUR, he knew full well that he was breaking his own union's mandate and delivering the right wing another place on the NEC.

Back in June the NUR AGM agreed to back Clarke for the NEC, partly as a commitment to the Triple Alliance and partly because of the long-standing horse-trading of votes between the NUR and the NUM.

And who moved the NEC list with Clarke's name on it? And who declared that the NUR delegates should be mandated to vote for it? Sid

Weighell.

Weighell was only discovered to have broken this mandate because of the recount of votes, together with Arthur Scargill's investigative skills.

At no time did Weighell inform anyone in his own delegation of his intentions.

After being caught his excuse was that he had written to Scargill earlier in the year, to ensure the existing voting deal was still on and that the NUR nomination for the NEC would get the NUM vote.

### NUR exec member Ian Williams told Socialist Organiser

CONSTITUTIONALLY, it all depends on whether Sid Weighell is prepared to allow the question of his behaviour to be put on the agenda at an executive meeting.

The executive sent a telegram to Blackpool last week asking for a meeting. The Special General Meeting in Birmingham on the 13th and 14th will be decisive, but what Weighell will want to avoid is the executive making a decision and referring it to the conference.

Officially we can suspend the general secretary pending the General Meeting.

In NUR terms it's a purely constitutional issue. Is the general secretary bound by any constraints at all, or can he do what the hell he likes?

If Weighell manages to survive all of this, it's going to be by constitutional manoeuvres and playing fast and loose with the rule book.

The truth is somewhat different. In fact Weighell wrote to Lawrence Daly, the NUM General Secretary, who was on holiday, and apparently never read the letter.

Weighell made no further attempt to contact the NUM. At Blackpool, the NUM delegation was four rows away from the NUR and yet it wasn't within Weighell's wit to lean back and ask whether the agreement still stood?

Even if the NUM had not voted for the NUR nomination, there was still no excuse for what Weighell did.

Not only did the NUM in fact vote for the NUR nomination, but it seems that Weighell has told another massive lie.

Tom Breakall, the right-wing EETPU candidate received a mystery vote of - you've guessed it - 180,000 (Morning Star, 2 October).

The depth of Weighell's deceit has shocked even his right-wing allies, and there is no question that he is now fighting for survival.

Following the NUR delegation's unanimous vote of censure, the NEC meets this week to discuss his behaviour.

No doubt his fate will be decided at a special general meeting which takes place next week to discuss the McCarthy pay deal (the NEC can only suspend the General Secretary, according to the NUR rule book).

Every NUR member should be mandating their delegate, calling emergency meetings if necessary, to vote for Weighell's immediate dismissal. Nothing else will do.

## TGWU re-run of Benn vote

by Alan  
Thornett

MANY OF the TGWU's delegation at Labour Party conference are ex-officio full-timers. Regional committee and trade group representatives are added by rotation.

Four members of the General Executive Council are elected by the Executive to the delegation, but the delegation is in no way a democratic reflection of the membership.

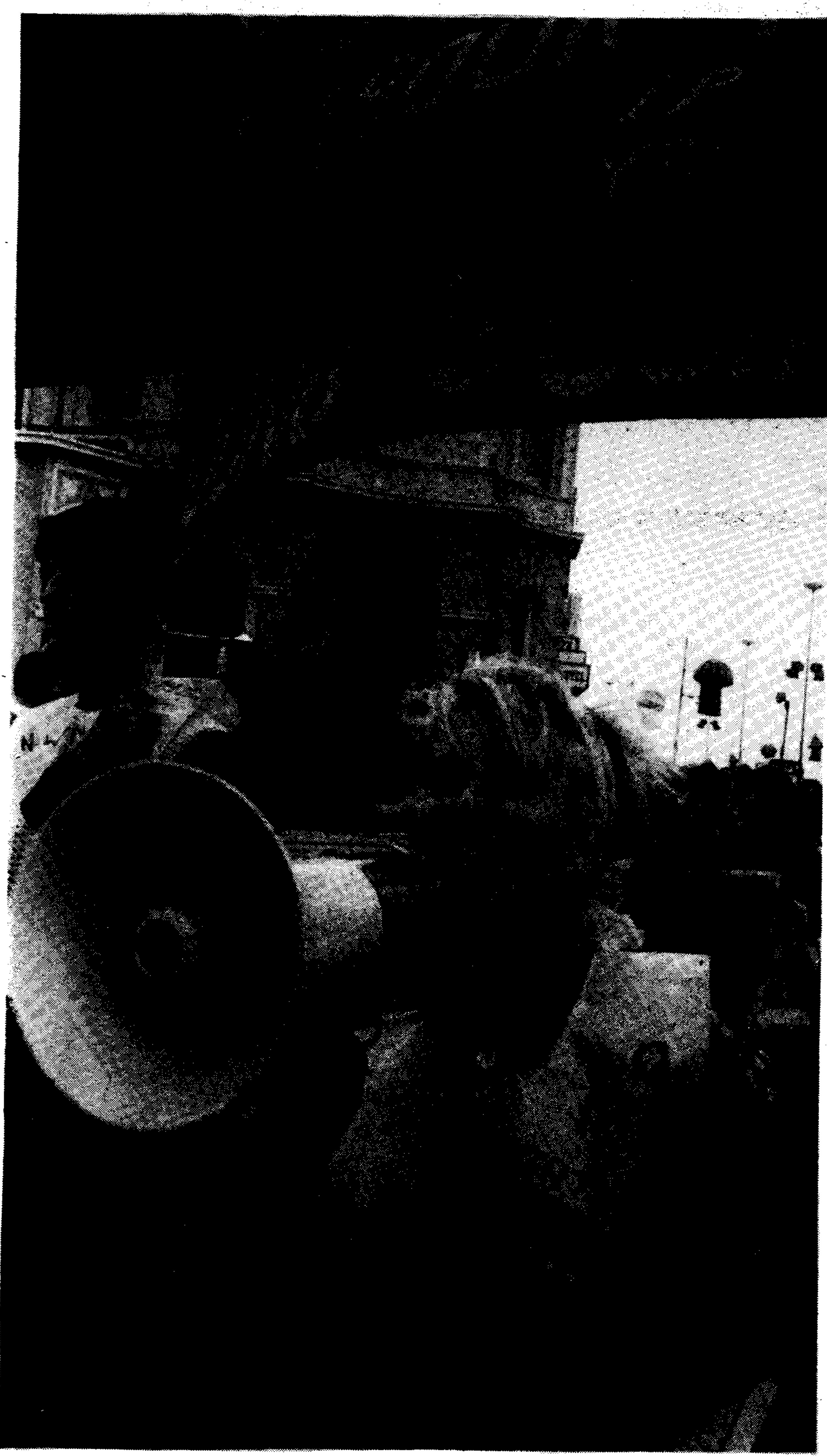
This delegation took it upon itself to flout the decision of the Executive and vote for the register. In effect, a few full-time officials decided 1¼ million votes.

The membership were never consulted. TGWU activists have had experience enough of bureaucratic witch-hunts against left-wingers in the union, and if branches had had a chance to discuss the Labour Party witch-hunt they would surely have been against.

This is a continuation of the method used on the deputy leadership issue. At the 1981 biennial conference I tried to move a proposal to decide the TGWU vote there, at conference, and the platform blocked it.

There may be one good side of this episode. Labour Party activists who might have seen Moos Evans and Alex Kitson as real allies of the Left will have had their eyes thoroughly opened.

We need to fight for membership control over the block vote - and over the whole union.



Young Socialists marching for Jobs, not Bombs, arrive in Blackpool for Labour Party conference. They handed in a statement opposing the register, and saw the conference vote by two-thirds for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

The LPYS is now working for a "Youth Against the Tories" march in Liverpool on October 16 - 10.30 am from Sefton Park.

## £6000 fund



IT'S GETTING to the stage where we're not spending donations to the Special Fund: we're having them framed and hanging them on the wall.

But this week we haven't even had anything to frame!

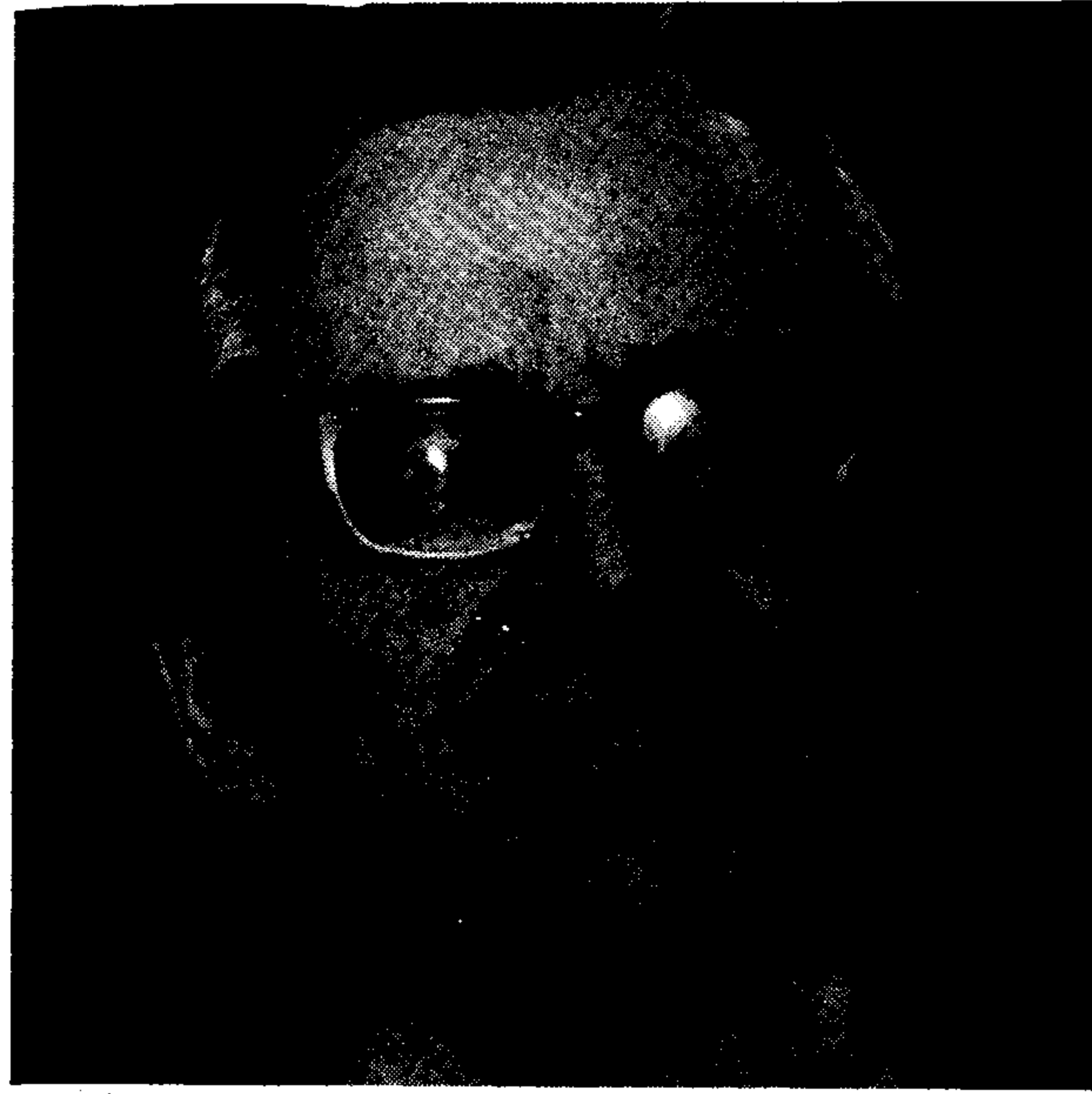
Our comrades at Labour Party conference (see reports inside) showed that people are willing to contribute to Socialist Organiser. Our public meetings brought in collections of £100. On the last day we had a collection for our daily 'Conference Briefing', and raised another £100. So it's time for local groups to go out collecting too!

This week we make a special appeal for our duplicator. It is now in the final throes of its terminal illness, and unless you can help it will be the end for this poor little machine - and also the end of Socialist Organiser sending out duplicated material! Necessary repairs and overhaul will cost £327. Before the "Save the Duplicator" appeal becomes the "Duplicator Commemoration Appeal", rush donations to us at 28 Middle Lane, London N8.

And if you sponsored the three comrades who ran 26 miles 385 yards in the Mersey Marathon to raise cash for Socialist Organiser, please send your money in promptly.

Jenny Fisher

Rush donations to  
Socialist Organiser,  
28, Middle Lane,  
LONDON  
N8 8PL



Weighell - flexible balloting