

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 664
19 August 1983

20p

Special features:

USA—fight for black rights, page 4

Racism in Britain page 5

(The next issue of *Militant* will appear on 26 August)

YOUTH AGAINST

THE TORIES

Notting Hill Carnival

Interested in Socialism—look out for the Labour Party Young Socialist stand



By a *Militant* Reporter

Leaving school or college used to be a happy and exciting time. Now it just means stepping into the abyss of long term unemployment, stop gap government schemes, boredom and poverty.

For hundreds of thousands of young workers in Tory Britain, the only 'career' prospect they face is Youth Training or government works schemes. The Tories want to extend these schemes even further in a cosmetic effort to cover up their appalling record of mass youth unemployment.

Robbie McGregor from Openshaw, Manchester, a shop steward on a unionised Community Programme government works scheme, spoke to *Militant* about work on CP. He well summed up the anger of youth at this industrial conscription, and the frustration at the farcical nature of these cheap labour government schemes.

"We are very bitter. Our area, Openshaw—once the industrial heartland of the north—has been blitzed: Lawrence Scotts, Johnsons, Clayton Dye, Aurora Steel, Walkden Makin, all have gone.

"Like me, many of the lads here have been through unemployment, racism, crime and the riots. They hate the pampered parasites of the rich and comments on Thatcher are unprintable.

"We get paid just £48 a week. Its a trade union rate of £2.02 an hour but we only work a three day week—like institutionalised short time. Our scheme is to renovate a church. Quite honestly it's of no benefit to the 'community'—except a few church goers.

"I don't know how the Manpower Services Com-

Continued on page eight

Fight witch-hunt with cash

THE LABOUR Party executive has written to every local Constituency party forbidding *Militant* to be sold or any fighting fund for the paper to be raised.

In response, North West ward branch of Macclesfield Labour Party "were so incensed by the witch-hunting decision of the National Executive Committee that they passed a motion...registering its support for fellow socialists asking only for the chance to put their views forward in a democratic socialist party. We therefore agree to donate £10 to the Militant Fighting Fund."

This example will no doubt be followed by Labour Party branches and CLPs up and down the country. Get your Labour Party, trade union branch or shop stewards committee to show its support by sending a donation now (special letters appealing for support are available from the Militant offices).

Militant Rally

"MARXISM IN OUR TIME— SOCIALIST POLICIES FOR LABOUR"



Wembley Conference Centre, London
SATURDAY 10
SEPTEMBER 10.30am-
5.30pm

SEND FOR YOUR TICKETS NOW: £2 (£1 unemployed)

Speakers

Ted Grant (Political Editor, Militant)
Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant)
Anton Nilson (Former Red Army pilot, 1918-20)
Terry Fields, M.P.
Dave Nellist, M.P.

Film
"Battle for Algiers"

Send tickets enclosed
(Cheques payable to "Militant Rally")
NAME
Address



No to witch-hunts in industry

THE TRADE union movement has a duty to defend the thirteen workers sacked from BL because of their political views.

The sackings, on the flimsy pretext of filling application forms wrongly in order to get a job, are really designed to intimidate the BL workforce, further reduce the effectiveness of the union on the shop-floor and thereby to forestall any general opposition to management-imposed wages and conditions.

The sacking of these workers is not unrelated to the earlier victimisations of Derek Robinson at Longbridge and Alan Thornett at Cowley, which were part of BL's general strategy to reduce the power of the shop stewards in the company.

It is an indictment of capitalist society, in any case, that workers often have to lie to get a job. With mass unemployment, there are probably hundreds of thousands of job applicants who change their qualifications in the desperate attempt to get employment.

Where bosses' organisations run blacklists of union activists, there is even a direct justification for trade unionists to hide their backgrounds from their employers in order to get jobs.

And such blacklists certainly exist. A spokesman for the Institute of Directors, quoted in *The Times*, virtually admitted as much. "There is already a considerable amount of co-operation at personnel director level on trouble-makers who would apply for

jobs..."

Throughout all industry the bosses would dearly love to take these actions as the cue for extensive victimisations in their own factories and workplaces. "We are certain that the BL case is the tip of the iceberg", commented one spokesman for the Institute of Directors, "and many more cases will now come to the fore."

"Several personnel directors have told us they will now be making sure that these people have not slipped through their nets", he went on. A CBI spokesman confirmed that the bosses will be weeding through their records: "It will be a surprise", he said, "if employers don't take heed and check their own workforces."

It is the height of hypocrisy for the various

employers' organisations and the Tory press to cry in righteous indignation about a so-called conspiracy in British industry, when they themselves form a permanent conspiracy to lower workers' standards, reduce union effectiveness and keep their financial dealings away from the prying eyes of their employees.

A report published this week by the Incomes Data Services, an influential research company, anticipates difficulties for employers negotiating with their workers during any economic recovery. "Buoyant order books, increased output and recruitment of new labour", the report says, "may not be communicated as readily to the workforce as the gloomier news of the recession, but employees are as

quick to see changed circumstances as the most adept accountant is to forecast profitability."

In other words, despite the attempts of the bosses to hide the facts from their workers, economic recovery does become obvious to them. In the motor industry, boosted by record August car registrations and order books more full than for years, there will undoubtedly be demands by the workers to use their newfound bargaining power to win back some of the conditions lost over the last few years.

It is ludicrous for BL bosses to pretend that a so-called conspiracy of a dozen or so workers can have any serious impact on the industrial relations in BL against the wishes and feelings of the thousands of

other workers there, but by uncovering just such a "conspiracy" they no doubt calculate they will be able to weaken any shop-floor action to win back lost ground.

The trade unions at BL, therefore, must be prepared to support the sacked workers to the full, to take the issues to the workforce, explaining the real implications of a management witch-hunt. For the trade unions to give only 'token' support, to merely 'go through the motions' without any serious intent of defending the sacked workers, would be a serious mistake that could rebound on the workforce and many other trade union activists and socialists in the future.

Appeal from Sri Lanka labour leaders

Since the banning of the NSSP in Sri Lanka, along with the JVP and CP, there is to our knowledge only one confirmed report of the arrest of an NSSP leader. S Sathypala, of the Government United Federation of Labour, was arrested at the airport as he tried to leave Sri Lanka.

Other leaders have gone into the underground. Two of them, Vasudeva Nanayakkara and Vickramabahu Karunaratne, have sent the following appeal "To all those who are concerned with the repression of democratic rights, human rights and the rights of national minorities in Sri Lanka":

31 July

Dear Comrades,

The racist terror unleashed on Tamil people in Colombo and in other Sinhala areas after July 24 was inspired by the UNP racials led by Cyril Mathew, the minister of industries.

The Government of J.R. Jayawardene, in the face of the economic bankruptcy brought about by its short sighted economic policy, has aroused Sinhala communalism as a deliberate state policy for the last few months. The bloody suppression of the Ghandhian movement at Vavuniya, communal violence at Peradeniya campus, the massacre of Tamils at Trincomallee, attacks on Tamil leaders' houses, are incidents created by government forces in order to arouse communal feelings among Sinhalese and to frighten the Tamil masses.

Through these racist deeds JR was planning to create the background to establish a dictatorship by eliminating the entire opposition, in particular by suppressing working class organisations. To help him out in this plan the entire bourgeois press carried out a well-orchestrated chauvinist campaign which culminated in an anti-Indian barrage.



Sinhalese mob attacks Tamil premises in Colombo.

This monstrous machiavelian plan went out of control. Firstly, Sinhala soldiers were fed up and exhausted in trying to carry out futile and unachievable tasks in Tamil areas.

They were angry that they are sent to certain death while chauvinist bosses of the government were happily living in Colombo, in luxury and safety. While the upper-class were spared, village boys were sent to this death trap.

This resentment was expressed by the Raja Rata Rifles when they deserted post at Vavuniya. With 13 deaths in one attack, army discipline broke down completely. This had a considerable effect on the Navy

and Airforce too, while parallel demoralisation had taken place in the police force from an earlier stage.

Secondly, the increase in prices in recent months had a devastating effect on the masses; particularly the city masses. Unemployed youth and lumpen elements were almost desperate.

Due to the lack of a united working class front, it was not possible to mobilise a protest movement centred around the working class. Under these circumstances sporadic explosions were seen both among the youth and the city masses in general, even before 23 July.

Thirdly, there was a general resentment against the government for fraudulent-

democratic rights.

★ Ending of links between British and Sri Lankan security forces.

★ Cancellation of Sri Lankan President Jayawardene's visit to Britain later this year.

The statement has been signed by about 40 Labour MPs; Bill Keys, General

Secretary of SOGAT 82; Ken Cameron, General Secretary of the FBU; Jo Marino, President Bakers' Union; Alan Sapper, General Secretary ACTTS, representatives of UCW, National League of Blind and Disabled, TWU, SCPS, and many others.

party members, were busy doing their best to save the lives of Tamils. This we did while having to safeguard not only our own Tamil leaders but also our well known Sinhala leaders.

In particular, comrade Vasudeva Nanayakkara was threatened several times and by telephone calls. In spite of these obstacles, we untiringly carried out rescue work and our agitation for the early transfer of refugees to their destinations of choice.

In the midst of this we were informed by JR and his government that our party was proscribed for participating or planning communal violence! Already directions are given to arrest left leaders.

When one considers the cruel fate that befell the Tamil prisoners at Welikada, arrest today could be the stepping stone for a cruel death.

We appeal to you,

1. On behalf of all those who were members of the proscribed parties, to agitate and force the government to lift the ban on those parties i.e. NSSP, CPSL and JVP and to release all political prisoners.

2. On behalf of those who were affected by communal violence, and suffered loss of lives, bodily harm, loss of property or jobs, to agitate for adequate compensation to be paid immediately.

3. On behalf of Tamils, to agitate for democratic and human rights including that of the right of self-determination for the Tamil speaking people.

4. On behalf of all suffering masses in Sri Lanka of all communities, to help us to overcome both racialism and individual terrorism and develop a mass movement to throw out this reactionary racist government of JR.

Yours sincerely,
Vasudeva Nanayakkara
and Vickramabahu
Karunaratne
NSSP

From 24 July, all our comrades, both leaders and

Work scheme - union victory

It was the conditions on our Community Programme scheme at its site at St Cross Church in Manchester, that led us to form a union.

Everyday our site rakes out the old mortar from between the church's bricks, then someone else points them again. Intense boredom led us to demand a rotation of duties. On one scheme the lads end up in cushion fights and playing tunes like 'Close Encounters' on the church organ.

On our site, we can get rained off—so its not uncommon to see a raindance being performed.

There's not much concern for safety. The lads had to work amongst mud and bricks but all they had for footwear were training shoes—they couldn't afford boots. Another example was we had no ladder extension to get to the church guttering, so a rope was used to tie two ladders together. Luckily the ladders crashed to the ground before anyone climbed up.

We contacted UCATT, the building workers union. Everyone was signed up and I was elected shop steward, and Ricky Byrne the health and safety rep.

But what really sparked off the trade union consciousness was a strike over supervision. A lad was ordered home for being abusive. We disputed the

Robbie McGregor spoke to Phil Frampton

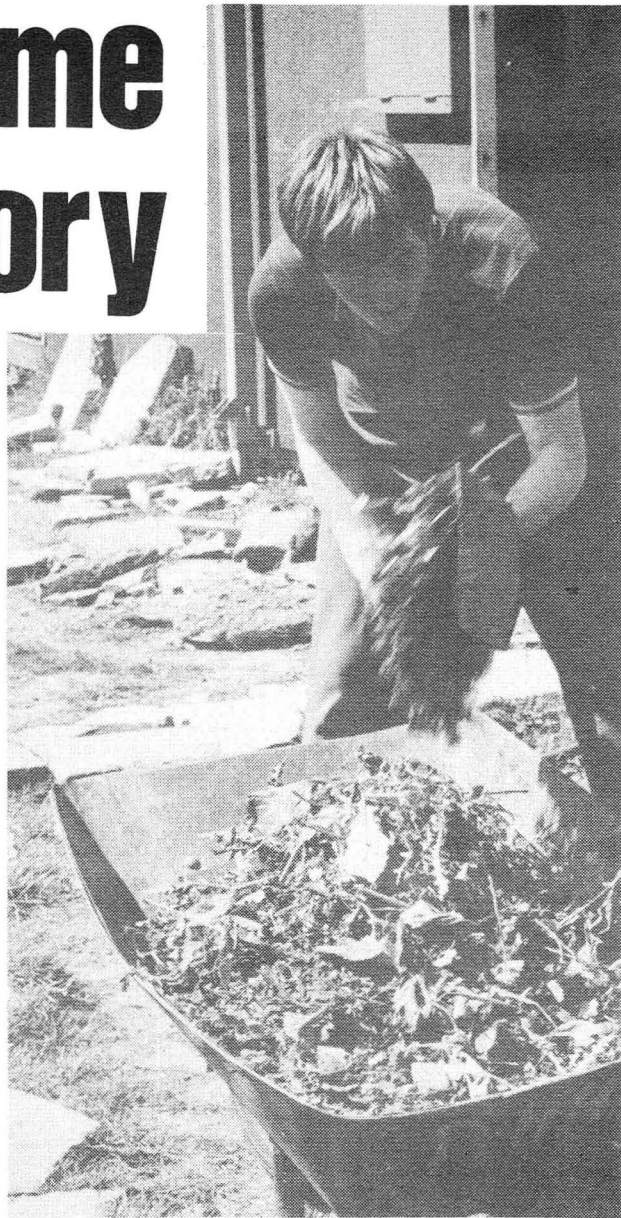
decision and when the supervisors insisted on their decision, we withdrew our labour for half a day. Supervision backed down and although the lad got a warning and we lost half a day's pay, it was a victory for us.

We've built up a joint shop stewards committee linking the half-dozen sites controlled by the Salford Employment Trust. We have a closed shop and explain that the improved conditions are due to the union.

We now get boots and overalls free, holidays in lieu for bank holidays missed, a recognised safety rep, and a dirt money agreement at trade union rates. The shop stewards meet once a month in works' time and now we're pressing for more time to discuss among ourselves.

Hopefully other schemes will follow suit. UCATT and other relevant unions with local CP scheme stewards should visit every CP scheme and get them unionised.

A national conference of shop stewards should be convened to work out policy and elect a national committee. CP workers must not become second class



Only union organisation can improve wages, conditions and training on work schemes.

workers, but take their place alongside other trade unionists.

UCATT must give a lead now by further demanding the right of CP union reps to veto schemes, a £100 minimum wage at 18, short time working on full pay and

the replacement of these schemes by a useful programme of public works under union control.

Any workers interested in further details should contact Robbie McGregor, c/o 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

ads

CLASSIFIED: 10p per word, minimum 10 words. SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres. All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

HACKNEY NORTH: Summer Camp Raffle. Bottle of Scotch won by ticket No 84. Winner phone Jackie 01-985 9475.

FOURTH PERSON to share house, Hendon area. Own room, £21 pw. Phone Tom Smith 205-9412.

FLAT AVAILABLE sharing with comrade. £12 per week. Four miles outside the Polytechnic of Wales. Brychan Davies, 20, Davies Street, Porth, Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan. Phone 0656 63502.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT AMBULANT male, disabled comrade, requires nurse for holiday. Medical attention need: minimal. Contact Iain Campbell, Carlisle (0228) 21068.

Will the girl who phoned Iain in Carlisle on Sunday 7 August, please phone again. Developments since that time mean he now has need of a nurse from 1-7 October. Other inquiries welcome.

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL MIDDLESBOROUGH

- Cassette Tapes (postage paid)
1. Dialectics—John Pickard
 2. Historical Materialism—John Pickard.
 3. Marxist Economics—Mick Brooks.
 4. Marx and the Permanent Revolution—Lynn Walsh
 5. Russian Revolution—Lynn Walsh
 6. Permanent Revolution since World War II Lynn Walsh
 7. 1st & 2nd Internationals Rob Sewell
 8. Communist International Rob Sewell
 9. International Perspectives. Rob Sewell

Any single tape £1.50
Any 3 £4.00
Complete set (9) £11.00
Rally speakers Dave £1.50
Nellist MP & Ted Grant

Orders with cheques to K. Skethaway, 51 Baret Rd, Walkergate, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE6 4RT. Allow 28 days for delivery. Proceeds to Fighting Fund.

Susan and Peter Doyle announce the birth of their daughter Helen on August 2nd.

ONE WEEK TO S. WALES CAMP

SATURDAY 27 – MONDAY 29 AUGUST

Combine political education with holiday. Sunny weather guaranteed. Only £10. Write to 181 Hanover Street, Swansea or phone Swansea 466631 (day) or Swansea 463623 (evening). Cheques made payable to "Swansea Summer Camp".

Speakers: Ted Grant on 'War and Peace' and 'Marxism and the Labour Party'; Peter Taaffe on 'The American Labour Movement'; Keith Dickinson on 'Marxism Opposes Individual Terrorism'; Brian Beckingham on 'Colonial Revolution'.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE GREETINGS

Show that your Labour Party, trade union branch, LPYS, Women's Section supports socialism, not witch-hunts. Advertise in *Militant's* Labour Party conference issue.

3cms (15 words) £4
6cms (25 words) £6
1/16 page £10
1/8 page £20
1/4 page £40

Make cheques payable to *Militant*, and send to Circulation Department, *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN by Tuesday 20 September.

Northern Weekend School WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 August 1983 at the Textile Hall, Bradford

Sessions on:
The Family
Speaker: Leslie Holt, Liverpool Women's Council
Women & the Colonial Revolution
Speaker from SALEP (South African Labour Education Project)
Positive Discrimination
Speaker: Margaret Creear, Rochdale Women's Council
The Role of a Trade-Union Activist
Speaker: Doreen Purves, CPSA, Executive Member DHSS Section and Secretary Newcastle Central DHSS Branch.
Low Pay and the Minimum Wage
Speaker: Sheila Woodhead, Rochdale Women's Council
Bradford Textile Hall is on Westgate, very near the City Centre. The school will open at 10.00 am on Saturday morning and the sessions will start at 10.30.
A creche will be provided.
Booking fee for School: £2. Book now (or ask for further information) by contacting Margaret Creear, 11 Hadden Way, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. Telephone: (0706) 842702.
A Southern Weekend School with the same topics will now be held in London on 24 & 25 September.

Fistful of Fivers

PERHAPS A few of our readers will have heard of the Phelps Dodge copper-mining operation in Arizona, USA. It's been in the news recently because of a six-week old strike where workers are resisting a proposed wage-cut and attacks on working conditions. Pickets have armed themselves with clubs and iron bars, because they have been attacked by scab labour 'guards'.

As the *Financial Times* put last week, there's now an "uneasy truce..." Their Washington correspondent also added a quote from a United Steel Workers official: "we're not going to give up the gains our forefathers died for on the picket lines. It's going to be a long, hot summer."

But the other point to this story is that *Militant* shouldn't have to depend on other papers for our stories—we want our own American correspondents! Now that means having the resources in hard cash. And this is where all our readers can help.

Thanks this week to: Labour Party members in Batley and Morley (Leeds), Fife, members of Liverpool City Council Labour Group; Trade Union expenses from Newham, Withington, Llanelli, Leicester, Mossley

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 8 October
Eastern	771		2400
East Midlands	299		2650
Humberside	128		1450
London East	642		3100
London West	221		1950
London South	458		2700
Manchester & Lancs	815		3000
Merseyside	364		3300
Northern	333		3500
Scotland East	282		2000
Scotland West	267		2700
Southern	577		3700
South West	220		2000
Wales East	108		2000
Wales West	106		2300
West Midlands	327		3150
Yorkshire	483		3300
Others	1830		4800
Total received	8229		50000

Total this week: £1232.03

Hill and Gravesend, and to those at meetings in Peterborough, Newham, Southampton, and Ellesmere Port. LPYS branches supporting us this week included Withington (£17), Greenhills (E Kilbride), Batley and Morley and Sheffield Central Branches. (What about your LPYS branch?)

Individual donations included one of £100 from M Walsh, Salford ASTMS, £15 from R Servian (Wolverhampton), and tenners from J Hall (Wythenshawe), Bootle Readers, P Lennox (a Scottish/American socialist), and J King (Motherwell).

Those who have "rounded-up" their postal subscriptions included F Davies (Blackpool), B Bevan (Southport), C Knight (Tunbridge Wells), E Edwards (Crediton), J Clarke (Maidenhead), N Jones (Porth), C Wilcox (Adleston), G Clack (Merton), I Lambuth (Horsham), N Bathurst (Tiverton), and A Wilson (Halifax). Thanks also to Bill Shorell, an American active in the IAM here on holiday, a Vauxhall apprentice, C Cooper (Wolverhampton), P Sparkes (Bristol AUEW) copper collection, J

Jamieson (unemployed, Newcastle) and A Holt (unemployed, Keighley).

We've reached over £8,000 now—in the height of the holiday period—but we need £5,000 each week now to reach our October target. If all our readers take part in this, it can be done! but because of our readership we're much more likely to get 10,000 50ps from unemployed comrades than 5 donations of £1,000 from film stars! See what YOU can do!

By Steve Cawley

USA

Long battle for black rights

Twenty years ago this weekend 250,000 people marched in Washington DC for "Jobs and Freedom". It was the largest of the great black civil rights marches which shook the United States in the 1960s.

The Civil Rights movement was a heroic and brilliant stage in the struggles of black people against racist oppression. There can be no doubt about the courageous role played in this movement by its leader, the Reverend Martin Luther King.

For, despite his pacifist and religious outlook, his boldness and tenacity helped to bring 21 million black people in the United States off their knees and helped inspire the movements of black people in Britain and internationally.

In March 1965, King organised three marches in Selma, Alabama, for black voting rights. Each march resulted in a fatality but from an initial few hundred supporters King led a final march of ten thousand. One black worker commented: "When I stood there and looked at those people, hundreds and thousands of them, coming up the road, something just came over me... ever since that moment I swore that I would die before I would take what I took before."

James Baldwin, the black American novelist, once wrote: "The American triumph was to make black people despise themselves." In the 1950s this process achieved its most grotesque forms with the production of creams and pills to lighten the skin, and hair straightening devices. For almost a century, US blacks had been treated as a lowly, despised caste, like India's harijans. Scientists and historians were wheeled out to rationalise the inferiority of the black man. Darwin's triumphant evolutionary theories were hidden from view.

Especially in the south, blacks faced the most degrading discrimination. Whites had priority in bus seating. Blacks were banned from many hotels and restaurants, schools and colleges. In the south, only 1% of blacks went to non-segregated schools. Even in the armed forces, blacks were segregated and discriminated against. As late as the 1960s, 24 states still had a ban on mixed marriages.

The American post-war boom in living standards therefore passed most blacks by. In 1966, 40% of blacks were living below the official poverty line. 14 million were living in the ghettos. Unemployment in Watts, Los Angeles—a 90% black area—was 40%. Black incomes were half that of whites and black personal wealth was only 36% of the white average.

The London *Evening Standard* in June 1971

By Phil Frampton

reported that 60% of the population of Brownsville, Kentucky were addicted to heroin.

To keep the lid on all this human misery, the rulers of the world's most advanced country applied a vicious racial police terror. Aside from the regular lynching of blacks by white mobs in the south, the police were free to gun down or imprison blacks on the flimsiest grounds. While blacks accounted for 10% of the population they filled 40% of the prison cells.

There were celebrated cases like that of George Jackson who was given a 25 years to 30 years prison sentence for robbing \$70. Or Ruchell Magee who was involved in a row about \$10 worth of marijuana and received a life sentence. In the southern states blacks were often forbidden from giving evidence against whites.

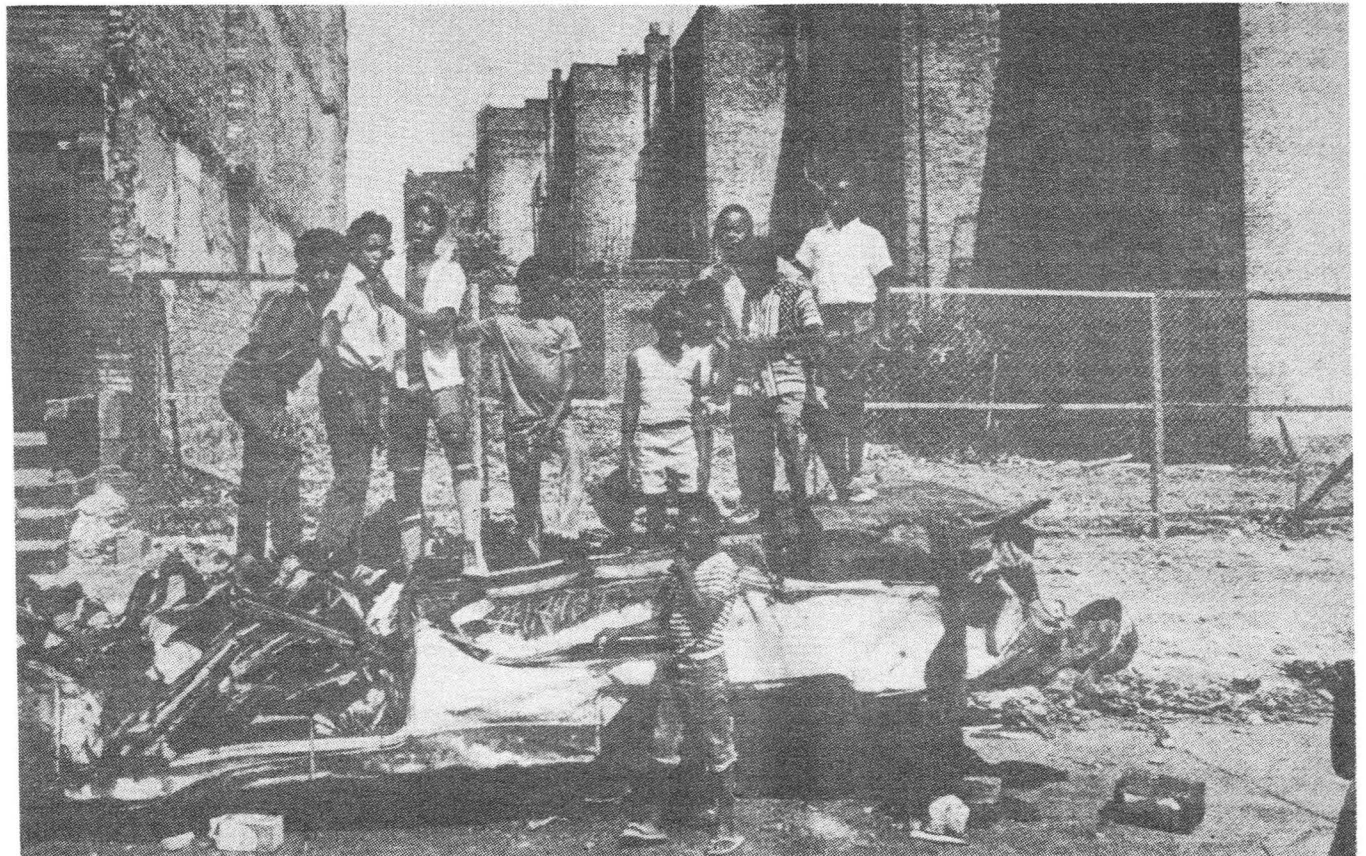
Scared of workers' unity

The civil rights protestors received terrible beatings from the racists and their police protectors. The United States was littered with the graves of those who dared to speak out.

The inspiration to overthrow racial oppression came from the magnificent post-war struggles of Africa's blacks against their colonial oppression. Blacks had achieved emancipation in the 'dark continent' but not in the home of the world's 'defender of democracy'. 100 years previously, Lincoln's Emancipation of the Slaves Act had inspired 200,000 blacks to sign up in the Union armies and smash the old slaveowning states. In the 1960s the blacks were moving to complete the process they had started a century before.

Martin Luther King—like Father Gapon's followers in Russia in 1905, naively thought that deep-rooted oppression could be ended by moralistic appeals to the hearts of the oppressors. "Through non-violent resistance," he argued in 1963, "we shall be able to oppose the unjust system and at the same time love the perpetrators of the system."

King failed to appreciate that the basis for racial oppression was the maintenance of capitalist rule in the USA. Racism was no accidental phenomenon of capitalism—it was its product justified by what, to the wealthy man, was the moralistically sound idea of survival of their class.



Chicago 1970—the anger of US blacks has erupted in a series of urban riots.

The capitalists fostered racialism as part of the justification for slavery. The northern capitalists defeated the southern semi-feudal, slaveowner class in the American civil war. They then brought racialism to an historical climax, in order to suppress the freed blacks and to prevent an alliance of the blacks with the oppressed white workers and small farmers. The dangers for the employers in unity of these forces was later expressed in the Populist movement of the 1890s. One-quarter of a million poor blacks joined the white farmers and the workers organised in the Knights of Labour to form the People's Party.

No longer ignored

Populism forced the employers to intensify their racial terror in the south. To stop the black vote, boundaries were gerrymandered, poll taxes were stuffed and black voters fired upon. So in Mississippi where blacks were in a majority, the number of blacks voting declined to 2% in 1945. The possibility of ending racial oppression lay not in moralistic appeals to the authorities but in a class appeal.

While the American workers have been fed on racialism for years—in 1945 50% of white Americans thought blacks inferior—historically they alone as a class have had no interest in the division of the oppressed.

It was the weak trade union movement of the nineteenth century which sent two-thirds of its ranks into the Unionist armies to smash the southern slavery. Later the Knights of Labour, and later in the 1930s the growth of the new CIO trade unions, saw a unity of black and white worker forged in struggle. Black trade unionists always sought uni-

ty with their white brothers.

The unfortunate fact was that, due to the rapid development of American capitalism, for large parts of its history the US trade union movement was led by reactionaries such as Gompers, who excluded blacks on the basis that they couldn't "understand the philosophy of human rights"! The civil rights movement faced a similar situation in the sixties when the AFL unions, dominated by craft unions that still excluded blacks, boycotted the struggle.

It must be said that the situation would not be the same today. The decline in living standards of the workers since 1969 has turned the American trade unionist into one of the most combative in the world and has shaken to the core the base of the old reactionaries.

Even the Washington demonstration of 1963 was addressed by the head of the powerful United Auto Workers, illustrating the

changed situation where blacks then accounted for over 40% of that union's membership. This support was not a sufficient pole of attraction to the black movement, consequently it took years of painful experience for the leaders of the movement to clarify their attitude to the need for class unity.

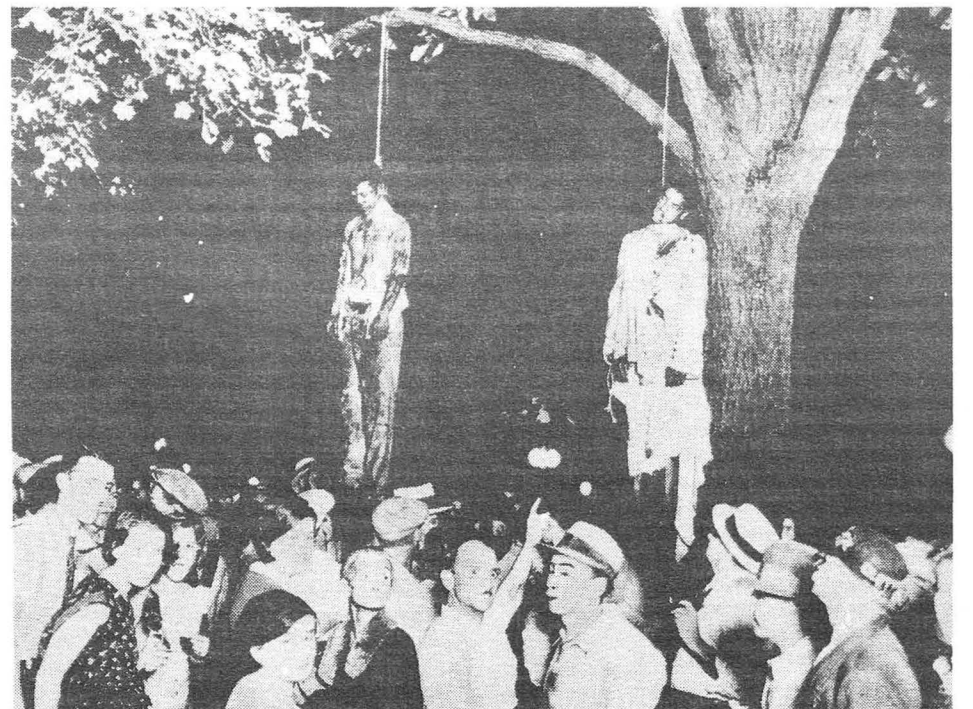
Experience is the biggest teacher of the masses and because of this the masses will always first take what appears to be the easiest road. The religious and separatist movements of Garvey and the Black Muslims formed the most timid forms of black opposition. Pacifism partly had its base in the hold of the religious leaders who dominated the early civil rights movement. The intensified police terror rubbed out the illusions that black moral superiority could convince the white authorities to reform.

Pacifism gave way to riots and the armed defence groups. Moralistic pleading

gave way to the assertion of black independence and the call for "black power". For Malcolm X and George Jackson, black nationalist struggle gave way to the need for class unity to secure the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.

One of the bases for the strength of the civil rights movement was the boom which turned the black, southern-based, small farmers into a national army of workers spread over many cities. The development of an articulate black middle class in the north also gave impetus to the movement against unequal access to schools, colleges etc.

No longer was the black question ignored as even the early workers' leaders, like Debs and De Leon, had done. Northern cities like Washington DC and Newark had a majority of blacks. The movement had its base in the early 1950s battles to desegregate the schools. But as a mass struggle, its starting point was Martin Luther



A southern lynch mob in the 1920s—white racists murdered blacks with impunity.

Racism in Britain

Newham 8 demonstration

The case of the Newham 8—eight Asian youths arrested for “conspiracy” whilst defending local schoolstudents from an expected racist attack—comes up on October 24.

This is an important campaign because it raises issues which are fundamental to the black and Asian communities and the labour movement—the right to defend yourself against attack, the role of the police and the role that racism plays in splitting the working class. It is also important because, from the start, the campaign has looked to the labour movement for support and assistance. MARK AVIS spoke to UNMESH DESAI and SHAHEED TILLEY of the Newham 8 Defence Campaign:

What is the next stage in the Campaign?

UD—We've organised a demonstration through Newham on September 24 which will be the first national anti-racist demo under the new Tory government.

There will be mass pickets of the Court starting on October 24. We have to mobilise the support that we've got and build for the demonstration through the leafletting and street meetings that we've organised.

We will also be linking up with other local and national campaigns against racism and Police harassment. Newham 8 Support Groups all over the country have already begun to organise for the Demo. Sheffield have booked coaches already.

What help have you had from the labour movement?

UD—Help from the LPYS has been considerable, we have spoken at quite a few LPYS branches as well as the National Conference and the Summer Camp. The local branches have been involved from the start and the

National Committee has also publicised the case.

Support from the Labour Party has also been good and one of the local CLPs has organised a public meeting for the beginning of September.

Support has also come from unions, like NALGO and ACTSS, but we need more support from blue collar unions.

Militant has covered the case quite well and *Militant* supporters have been active in the campaign, helping to publicise it and take it into the wider labour movement.

ST—The response from the YS Summer Camp was very good. It made a change to speak to larger meetings. It helped to get the message across much better. We've had a great response from the YS and *Militant* supporters have played an important role in publicising the campaign, especially in East London.

What happens after the Court case?

UD—Cases like this happen all the time. My own

opinion is that we need to radicalise the elements who are getting involved in the campaign and to steer the fight in a socialist direction, linking it with the labour movement.

The Campaign will continue, especially as under this Tory government we can expect more repressive legislation.

ST—Through the campaign we've made contact with loads of black groups and socialists. We've carried out the ground work for a wider anti-racist movement which can co-ordinate activity between local defence groups.

Black and Asian Organisations, Labour Parties, Trade Union bodies and LPYS branches must organise now for the September 24 Demonstration. For information about the Demonstration, the campaign generally or to book a speaker for your meeting contact either Unmesh Desai, C/O 285, Romford Rd, E7. (01) 555 3331 or Mark Avis (01) 552 3204.

How did Simeon die?

WE HAVE all heard about the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Italian banker Calvi.

Calvi was the wealthy banker to the Vatican, an establishment figure, and millions of pounds are involved. As such there is a desire by the state, uncharacteristic of this capitalist society, to find out the truth about Calvi's death.

Yet who has heard of Simeon Collins? The mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of this 17-year old student from East London have not been afforded the same attention.

Severe injuries

The difference is that Simeon, of a black father and white mother, was just another poor boy from the inner-city slums. Simeon died of internal injuries on December 9, 1982. The 'official' story—accepted by the police and the press and backed up by the verdict of the coroner's court—is that Simeon got drunk one evening, and attempted to climb a drainpipe to his girlfriend's flat near his home in Hoxton, Hackney. He fell and suffered internal injuries. He was found at around 2 am by police and taken to City Road police station, where, according to the police, they realised he was injured and was taken to Barts hospital where he later died.

However, his family are far from satisfied with this official version of the events that led to his death.

It took police 13 hours to inform Simeon's mother of the situation. When she and her son John arrived at the hospital, John's first reaction on seeing Simeon was to say "Mum, he's been beaten up." Mrs Collins said, "He was restless and in pain. His upper lip was swollen, a tooth chipped and his forehead bruised." Tragically Simeon later died.

When the family were given Simeon's belongings, his underpants were missing. The rest of the clothes were not torn or stained. Also, a four day old sovereign ring was dented and scratched.

The police later suddenly called on Mrs Collins and asked her to hand over the underpants. When she explained the hospital had not returned them they left without any explanation.

The family called in a different pathologist for a second opinion. Although both pathologists described how Simeon died from injuries to the liver, kidneys and spleen, the first doctor said these could have been caused by repeated falls from a "walking height", but the second said these injuries could be expected to be caused by a fall from a height of not less than eight to ten feet. Mrs Collins does not feel that a fall from the heights given could cause

such massive internal injuries. Indeed, as she points out, Simeon was a strapping, healthy 17 year old who played football, squash and table tennis.

Before the inquest was held a sensationalist report appeared in the *East London Advertiser* (December 17). It was titled "Serenading Romeo plunges to death" and reiterated the drainpipe story. Yet at the inquest not one witness said they saw Simeon climb or fall from the drainpipe. This whole story appears to be based on the fact that Simeon had on one occasion jokingly told his girlfriend some time before the incident that he would climb the drainpipe and sing to her.

Mrs Collins questions why there is such a readiness to accept this version of events when there are no hard facts to back it up. Indeed the drainpipe itself is obstructed by balconies that jutt out—the first one at about seven or eight feet—which make it extremely difficult to scale.

At the inquest much of the evidence given by witnesses conflicted. Mrs Collins was also far from satisfied with the police evidence.

The inquest returned a verdict of accidental death. Mrs Collins is now appealing to the law courts to have the inquest re-opened.

There are many aspects of the case—from the delay in Simeon's operation in the hospital to the general attitude of the police towards the Collins family—that do not tie up. Many questions have been left unanswered. Why did the underpants disappear and why the police interest in them? Why was Simeon taken to the police station when—if the 'drainpipe story' were true—it would be clear Simeon was badly injured and he should have gone straight to hospital?

Class difference

Fortunately Mrs Collins has had help from the lawyer Gareth Pierce, and the Inquest Group (which can be contacted on 01-247 4751) who aid families that are not satisfied with the outcome of an inquest.

Had it not been for the efforts of the Collins family and individuals such as these, Simeon's death would have been neatly packaged up and put to the side to be forgotten.

Ironically, the coroner at the inquest was the same coroner who presided over the Calvi inquest. As Mrs Collins put it, "You can see the difference in the interest they showed in Calvi with up to £3 million insurance involved, than they did in Simeon. But then Simeon was just a poor boy from Hoxton. Its very simply a class question."

By Bob Wade

King's 1955 bus boycott in the southern town of Montgomery. 17,000 blacks boycotted the Montgomery bus company to end its practice of discrimination on the buses. They secured a victory. As a result the boycott movement developed in an ever gathering battle against segregation.

The boycott became sit-ins in white restaurants, bars and hotels. In 1960, 800 sit-ins took place in 100 cities and 70,000 blacks and whites, mainly youth, participated. The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People grew to 500,000 strong. Fearing a black explosion, the authorities gradually made minor concessions. But they did not relax their attempts to terrorise the protesters. The Klu Klux Klan bombed the churches where blacks held their meetings. The KKK were involved in most of the 17-recorded racial murders between 1963 and 1965. 60 blacks were shot dead by the police. King's voter registration drive was continually harassed by the authorities and in the 1963 elections, for example, 70,000 blacks tried to register but only 7,000 succeeded. In 1963 only 6% of Mississippi blacks were registered to vote. And despite all the protests and Supreme Court rulings, in 1964 there were more segregated schools than ten years earlier.

Police brutality led to massive street battles. The riot in Watts, for example, lasted several days and left 34 dead. In 1967 police went on the rampage killing 20 blacks in a Newark riot and 14 in Detroit. The civil rights movement had its effect on the white workers. So by 1964 only 20% of whites said that they considered blacks to be inferior.

But as it had not resolved the problems facing blacks, the black youth took the movement onto a higher

level and, through the Black Panther Party, declared for a revolutionay upheaval as the only way out. The Panthers' policy of separatism, and their reliance on the often heroic but uncohesive black lumpen youth as opposed to the black working class, left them weak and isolated when the authorities moved to ruthlessly crush them. Martin Luther King was assassinated (it is widely believed by the authorities) in April 1968. Coretta King, his wife, pointed out that he was gunned down just as he was attempting to raise demands to deal with problems facing workers as a whole, which had previously taken a back seat in the movement's programme. Once again the US ruling class stepped in to protect the false barriers that divide the oppressed.

Twenty years on from the Washington march, a new registration drive of black

voters has begun. Blacks have won major victories in mayoral elections in Chicago and Philadelphia. The smashing of white racist citadels represents a colossal step forward. Because these victories were achieved by black candidates of the big business dominated Democratic Party, they will not be translated into meaningful



Malcolm X—he learnt the need for class unity.

social gains for the black workers.

Instead they represent part of a new process which will finally dash any black illusions in the Democrats and lay the basis for a new movement. The first stirrings of a movement for an independent party of labour has begun in the trade unions, and the discontent of the now much weaker section of small farmers has reached unprecedented heights. This new era was heralded by the great black revolutionary, George Jackson, before he too was shot dead by the authorities: "Black, Brown, White are victims. Fight! At the end of this massive collective struggle we will uncover our new man, he is a creation of the process, the future, he will be better equipped to wage the real struggle, the permanent struggle after the revolutions the one for new relationships between man."

Jesse Owens, Carl Lewis: What has changed?

THE MEDIA lavished attention last week on black American, Carl Lewis, the outstanding athlete of the recent World Championships. With his three gold medals for sprinting and long-jumping he was compared to the great Jesse Owens, whose victories in the 1936 Berlin Olympics led to Hitler walking out of the stadium in disgust. The press always claim that Owen's triumph showed how the 'western democracies' were anti-racist compared to the barbarities of fascism.

But what happened to Owens when he returned to the USA?

He faced racial discrimination, had no job, and a wife

and two kids to keep. So he did the thing he knew best. He ran. Against anyone or anything for money.

Sponsors wanting advertising used him to run against horses, cars and greyhounds. For this he was derided, denounced and vilified by the rich sporting administrators who wanted to run athletics as an 'amateur' activity. For them Owens was just an "uppity nigger" who had to be taught a lesson.

Within a year he was a caretaker at a children's playground in downtown Cleveland, earning just \$18 a week. Having tamed him, they then put him out to grass. When the war against

Hitler came they gave him a job touring the black ghettos talking about the need for patriotism.

It will be different for Carl Lewis. He can expect to become a millionaire. But when he does so, it will not just be because of his own exceptional talent. His ability to earn vast sums also rests upon the struggles which American blacks have undertaken since the days of Jesse Owens. Yet whilst for an elite few, things have changed, the vast majority of American blacks are still at the bottom of the pile.

By Jim Chrystie

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1968.....

When the tanks rolled in

Fifteen years ago, on 20 August 1968, 650,000 Russian troops crossed the border into Czechoslovakia.

In the main Czech cities, tanks could be seen on every street corner.

By Roger Shriver

Just like the Red Army invasion of Hungary in 1956, their action was no "defence of a socialist country against a fascist enemy".

It was a move to stop a revolt against a bureaucratic dictatorship spreading to other Stalinist countries.

In January 1968 the 20-year rule of the Stalinist President Novotny had been brought to an end and a "liberal" faction within the Communist Party, under Alexander Dubcek took over. The "reformers" had criticised the top-heavy bureaucratic control of Czech industry.

Throughout Eastern Europe, there had been a phenomenal growth in heavy industry, but in a totally lopsided manner marked by a shortage of consumer goods, weakness in agriculture, and poor quality goods.

Dubcek introduced reforms from above in the hope of modernising the bureaucracy and industry by boosting the interests of the managerial elite, but it was not these reforms that led to the panic invasion.

Workers' Protests

As in East Germany in 1953 and in Hungary in 1956, the splits at the top of the government on the way forward led to widespread discussion and questioning amongst the working class, protest meetings and demonstrations. In the "Prague Spring" of 1968, the tentative and limited liberalisation of the press also encouraged workers to suggest further changes. A politically awakened and confident working class could develop into a movement to end the bureaucracies' rule for good. The political alternative of workers democracy haunted the leadership of the Communist Party.

Dubcek was not a workers' hero in the struggle against Stalinism. His economic proposals were similar to those introduced in East Germany in 1963 and even in 1965 in Russia itself,

with *bigger* differentials and incentives to the technologically advanced section of the ruling caste rather than the state apparatchiks.

But the effects of widespread discussion on the Russian and East European situation would have been disastrous for Russia's rulers, causing a ferment in the intelligentsia and later too in the working class. The lack of democracy, the bureaucratic incompetence and mismanagement were becoming a bigger obstacle than ever to development. To stop the disease of opposition growing, the Russian army was sent in.

Already the germ of protest was abroad. In Yugoslavia, after the Czech invasion, a demonstration of 200,000 showed a picture of Lenin with the slogan: "He would never have done this"; and one of Stalin saying: "this is what he would have done". In the USSR a group of intellectuals were arrested whilst preparing a demonstration.

The army tanks did not crush the movement overnight; there were massive shows of defiance. But the Dubcek leadership was just a wing of the bureaucracy, not a genuine workers movement; they were unable to defend the Czech working class. Unlike the Hungarian workers in 1956 there were no workers' councils formed, and the workers were not armed.

Russian soldiers bewildered

The Russian soldiers were bewildered at their orders to oppress the Czech people, and many broke down in tears. But as an article by Alan Woods (reprinted in *Militant* in August 1978) said, "the tragedy of Czechoslovakia was that at the crucial moment the Czech people found themselves leaderless, disarmed and unprepared. The perfidy and cowardice of the Dubcek clique which preferred to see the country occupied rather than arm the

working class, is a clear indication of the real interests of this group. For all his brave words, Dubcek was prepared to eat dirt rather than risk sparking off the spontaneous mass movement of the working class."

The bureaucracy did not arm the workers to defy the tanks. An armed working class organised in soviets would have convinced the Red Army's ranks that the Czech workers were not only right but prepared to fight to the end. Apart from a brief one hour stoppage, there was not even the preparation for industrial action.

Political lessons

Again in 1968 *Militant* pointed out, "If Lenin's programme of 1919 against bureaucratism were to be inscribed on the workers' banner in Czechoslovakia, as it was in Hungary in 1956: election and recall of all officials, a maximum wage differential of 4:1, workers' management through Soviets over industry and the state, multiplicity of parties that accept the nationalised economy, a free press, then the attractive power of the Czechoslovak workers' democracy would shatter the grip of Stalinism in the East and capitalism in the West."

The defeat of the workers in Czechoslovakia, and Poland after December 1981 will not last for ever. The hard political lessons learnt during the "Prague Spring" and the Russian intervention will be vital when new movements arise as they did fifteen years ago.

MILITANT PAMPHLET "Bureaucratism or Workers' Power" by Roger Silverman and Ted Grant, Price 75p (including postage and Packing). Available from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



Prague—20 August, 1968.

Eye-witness report

Reprinted from *Militant*, September 1968

By Rob Jones

TOGETHER WITH two other comrades, I witnessed the arrival of the first Russian tanks and military vehicles into Bratislava at about 12.20 in the early morning of the 21 August.

Bratislava, which is the capital of Slovakia, is situated only some eight miles from the Hungarian border, where the military pincer movement took place into Slovakia.

Within hours, every conceivable variety of military vehicle, from tanks to troop-trucks and supply lorries, were passing through the streets of Bratislava. Almost immediately, the work of contact with, and appeals to, the Russian soldiers began.

The Russian soldiers were obviously tired out after two solid days of manoeuvres. Through an interpreter, we gathered that many did not even know where they were—"We were just obeying orders—we were told to come to this position."

The Russian elite's frantic attempts to "inform" some of their troops as to the reasons for the invasion could only serve to confuse and demoralise them.

By accident we obtained a glance at a pamphlet in Russian, designed for the Russian soldiers' own consumption, which was casually tossed out of one Russian tank. It stated they were present to "liberate" the people from "counter-revolution", that the people were ready to welcome them, and that they had been invited in by the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. Events were soon to tear the veil from this collection of lies...

We spent two weeks in Czechoslovakia. We found no evidence of any sign of a return to capitalism, or of any desire by the people to return to a system of private profiteering.

In a meeting and discussion which we had addressed in Prague, the students and workers made perfectly

plain that the basic gains of public ownership and a plan of production were taken for granted; the point at issue was the best and most democratic manner of organising the people's property.

And now the Russian tanks impotently roam the streets looking for "counter-revolution"!

It was made completely clear to the Russian soldiers that the whole people were united against aggression and invasion, and in solidarity in a search for democratic socialism.

However, on a personal level, hostility to the invading soldiers was not really shown. Around and upon every military vehicle, around almost every Russian soldier, a group of Slovaks gathered to argue and discuss. Even before we left we could see the effect of this verbal bombardment upon the invading troops.

Leaflets were produced in Russian, by the Czechoslovak people, addressed to the troops. One for example produced in Prague by printing workers on 21 August (An Appeal to the Allied Troops which have entered the CSSR.) stated:—

"Comrades, you have come here in the belief that you are here to defend socialism in our country. You can see for yourself that...there is no counter-revolution here.

From our bitter experiences with German

militarism, we can independently defend the Western frontier, because we know that we are defending this frontier not only for ourselves but for the whole of the socialist world, to which we also belong... Therefore we demand that you go away from our country as friends and do not interfere in our internal affairs..."

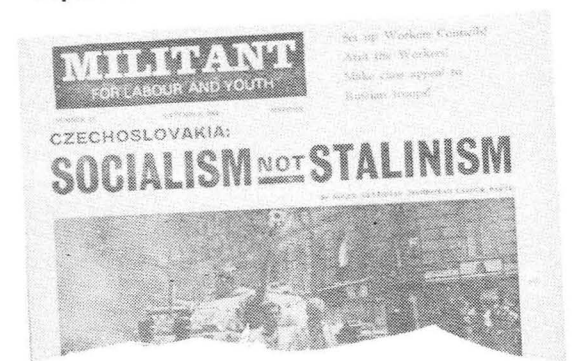
However, no concerted plan of resistance in either political or military terms, was prepared by the Czechoslovak leaders and CP.

A special issue of *Pravda*, organ of the Slovakian Communist Party, which was given away free in the streets of Bratislava the morning after the invasion, merely counselled dignified restraint. No alternative of measures of resistance in any sphere was posed.

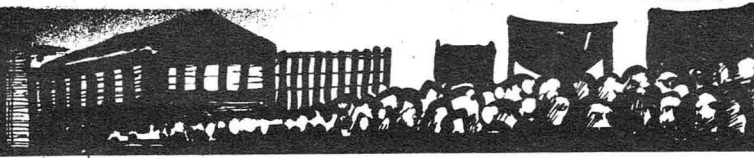
Meanwhile, the occupying military authorities pursued a policy of intimidation against the people (obviously under no illusion that the people would welcome them).

They had already, by the early morning of the 21 August, stationed heavy field-guns along the river Danube, which borders the town of Bratislava, pointing directly at the centre of the city.

However the people, in all their actions, showed that they were united and determined not to accept military intervention.



Industrial Reports



Battles in Bradford and Halifax

KEITH NAREY, Trade Union Liason Officer for Bradford North Labour Party reports on three local battles.

HALIFAX HEALTH workers are in court again! A not guilty verdict on six pickets charged with obstruction during the health service dispute in Halifax last year has been reversed by the High Court in London.

These workers have been under pressure for a year, and are now to be sentenced by the same magistrates who earlier found them innocent!

The health workers are calling for a mass support picket on Tuesday 22 August at 9.30 am at the Main Magistrates Court, behind the Police Station in Harrison Road, Halifax.

HINDLES WORKERS and their wives remain defiant after twenty-two weeks on strike in pursuit of a pay claim and to halt redundancies.

Mass pickets take place twice a week, on Fridays at 3.30 pm and Wednesdays when the wives picket between 4 and 6 pm.

The strikers now have a caravan parked outside the front gate—to show this reactionary employer they're here to stay. The sacking of these workers is the first taste of Tebbit's reactionary law in action. Yet the AUEW Executive has ordered its members not to break the law by picketing Hindle's subsidiary a few yards away!

Under fear of losing official backing the men have to watch as jobs are brought in which keep Hindle going! One solution may be members of other unions doing the secondary picketing.

The strikers are preparing to

lobby the annual conference of the TUC demanding support to beat Hindle and his Tory backers. It is hoped to take a coach full of pickets and wives to Blackpool to lobby and leaflet for support.

If the union leaders showed a fraction of the courage and determination of these workers, this dispute would have been won months ago.

All support and donations should be sent to Hindles Gears Strike Fund, AUEW Offices, 2 Claremont, Bradford BD7 1BQ.

THE OCCUPATION and work-in is continuing (*Militant* 663) at Thornton View Psycho-geriatric Hospital in Bradford. All major health unions are now supporting it.

One elderly patient said "why do they want to move us? This is my home, these are my friends".

The brutal axing of this hospital, closing 10% of Bradford's geriatric care, is the answer the Tories have for people whose working life is over.

So much for Thatcher's promise that "the health service is safe with us"!

Many of the people in Thornton View would not survive the disruption of closure and removal to a strange environment. 30,000 people have signed a petition against the closure.

Send messages of support and donations to the Occupation Committee, c/o Thornton View Hospital, Thornton View Road, Clayton, Bradford.



Work-in at Thornton View Hospital Bradford

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)

Save London Transport

LONDON TRANSPORT workers and users face a long struggle to defeat attacks on jobs and services.

Management mouthpieces of the Tory government are talking about a "Flexibility Document" as the solution to the problems of mismanagement and lack of investment. It has been made clear that 4,200 jobs are under threat.

Job cuts have already started. Craftsmen in LT bus garages were told of forty-six redundancies on Friday 5 August. A meeting was held the following Tuesday, called by officers of the Craft Alliance and attended by over 300 craftsmen from the sixty-four garages.

The decision of the previous mass meeting was reversed with a vote to agree to management's demands. Nevertheless the discussion and eagerly accepted 'Militant' leaflets showed a growing awareness of the urgent need to develop a strategy and fighting campaign to defend LT.

The plan for 1984 shows ten million bus miles to be lost, with all that means for the service and jobs. The Monopolies Commission have proposed maintenance work be given to private contractors, which would fatally undermine the Aldenham and Chiswick works.

A campaign has to be launched now. On the trade union side the stewards need more detailed and regular information from the trade union and craft alliance machinery.

Garage committees such as operated during the fares fare campaign, involving platform staff, semi-skilled and skilled workers need to be revived and built on. District and London-wide craft stewards meetings need to be organised to give greater impetus to any further joint stewards conferences. An immediate London-wide conference of stewards from all sections of the industry is vital to build an active campaign.

By Pat Atkinson

(Shop steward, TGWU 1/1951)

Not so Sch... in Aintree and E. Kilbride

A MEETING was held outside the Schweppes factory in East Kilbride on Friday 12 August to rally support for fellow workers at the threatened Aintree plant in Liverpool.

Tony Hayes, convenor at Aintree, explained that the company was only concerned with making windfall profits, and had given false promises to its workforce in the past.

He argued that there was a pressing need to make united stand against private contracting, redundancies and closures. "If we don't fight now", he said, "then they'll be nothing left to defend in the near future." This was backed up by Ian Miller, convenor at East Kilbride.

Workers at the meeting were in sympathy with these views and agreed to attend a further meeting next week to keep in touch with developments. Local LPYS members will be raising the issue at their next meeting and collecting money to aid the struggle.

Ian O'Hara
(East Kilbride LPYS)

Solidarity with Carousel

By John McClelland

THE CAROUSEL WAFERS strike in Glasgow, over ten young workers being sacked for demanding union recognition, is gathering support from the labour movement locally.

A demonstration took place last Tuesday and another is planned. District Council workers, firemen and many other workers have made donations to the strike fund. There is also strong support from the local Labour Party in Shettleston which has donated £100, and also support on the picket line has come from LPYS and *Militant* supporters.

The strikers' morale is high and their determination to win was summed up by Andy Patton, "We're prepared to stay here for however long it takes to win."

Conditions in the factory are a disgrace, so bad that even the MSC stopped sending yopsters to the factory as they were suffering injuries working the unguarded machinery.

Carol Rodgers described the state of the factory and the at-

titude of Saccamando, their employer, when approached about giving union recognition.

"When the toilets froze over in winter, we complained to Saccamando, who at first said we should use the gents toilets. Of course the girls refused, and he then suggested we get a couple of buckets and a bottle of disinfectant." He would probably have told them to buy their own disinfectant.

This scrooge must be stopped and the strikers have stepped up the action, extending picketing to 9pm at night to ensure that supplies are stopped from getting in.

One weakness the strikers face is their limited numbers on the picket line. It is vital that trade unionists locally, and Labour Party members, help on the picket line. There is also talk of a mass picket being organised.

Send donations and messages of support to Carol Rodgers, 47 Cuthelton Terrace, Parkhead, Glasgow.

Greenings—over twenty weeks

N GREENINGS workers in Warrington (*Militant*, issue 648) remain out.

The dispute, now in its 20th week, is still receiving full support from the 400 workers who are now locked out of the premises. The picket line continues, based in a caravan in the pub car park opposite the site!

Several meetings have been held between management and unions, including one with ACAS, all of which were unsuccessful and unacceptable to the unions involved.

The management at

Greenings and their spokesman, Mr Macdonald, have insisted that among other things, 89 workers of management's choice be made redundant, with further redundancies to follow. They also want abolition of negotiated holidays and the annual wage claim.

It is estimated that the company has lost approx £1 million during the dispute.

I spoke to the convenor A CHOENEY: "The main problem facing us at the moment is money, and the lack of it. We have had wonderful support from all sections

of the labour movement, but having lasted this long the pressure is really on.

"The management have also announced that the office staff are to be laid-off and are to work their notices, all under a general threat of complete closure."

All support to: N Greening JSSC Strike Fund, c/o L Blood, 26 St John Street, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside.

By Martin Booth
(Tatton CLP)

EETPU: Sparks fly in Fife

ELECTRICIANS working at the Shell-Esso petro-chemical plant at Mossmorran, Fife, for sub-contractors Matthew Hall Engineering were dismissed on Tuesday 9 August because they went on strike.

400 sparks answered the strike call after a squad of men were sacked for alleged breach of contract—refusing to work in the rain.

Another 200 Electricians working on the same site for the Lumus company took action in support of the Matthew Hall workers.

Within 24 hours of the

strike the Hall management issued dismissal notices and a day later an advert was placed in the *Daily Record* inviting applications for the jobs.

"There's something very sinister about the management's actions on this one," said an EETPU electrician on the site, "that contract of Matthew Hall's sparks' pay about two months to run".

"The feeling amongst the men is that the management are out to exert themselves, flex a bit of muscle, trying to whittle out the "trouble-makers" as they call them and also to

save an absolute fortune on severance pay. That would certainly explain why the advert in the paper appeared so quickly."

Lumus application forms had been included in all the Matthew Halls' "sparks" pay dockets and the workforce thought that it would be a simple matter of going from Halls to Lumus. Obviously management had different ideas—but they're in for a shock.

By a Motherwell LPYS member

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)



The June meeting of London POEU members voted decisively for action against the Tory privatisation plan.

POST OFFICE Engineering Union (POEU) action against key financial targets in the City marks a new stage in the struggle against the biggest piece of Tory privatisation piracy yet attempted.

The Tories propose to sell a half stake in British Telecom (BT) valued at between £3 - £5 billion. As a result of massive public sector investment BT turnover increased 25% in 1981/82 while the rest of the economy stood still.

Despite £140 million written off as "revalued depreciation", a £356 profit was declared this year. The sale would swell City coffers by an estimated £1 billion per annum.

But the attack on BT is not just a smash and grab raid. The Institute of Directors (IOD) recently put it to the government that whereas unemployment has been an effective weapon against union power in the private sector, the recession has left the public sector relatively unscathed.

Well-planned attacks

The "most obvious and desirable method" of disarming the public sector unions, the IOD concludes, would be a "massive programme of privatisation" coupled with plans to centralise national collective bargaining. BT chairman, Sir George Jefferson is a member of the IOD and government plans along these lines are well-advanced here.

The first British Telecom Act (1981) split BT from the Post Office, preparing the ground for privatisation with the 1983 Bill going through parliament now.

Internal re-organisation has already taken place. Profitable operations have been concentrated into two distinct areas.

Over 75% of profits are now produced by two semi-autonomous divisions which employ less than 15% of staff. This would facilitate the break-up of BT should the government change its tactics. The sheer size of the proposed sale next year would take such a chunk of investment capital from other areas of the economy that the break up and sale of the most profitable sections could well be under consideration.

The new Telecoms Bill has

POEU unplugs privateers

just completed its second reading in parliament. The Tories have been given confidence by the lack of fight against the last bill. Industrial action must be stepped up in a determined fight to defend our jobs.

Despite POEU conference policy committing the NEC to industrial action if there was any breach of the Post Office monopoly, the old leadership restricted the campaign to mainly parliamentary tactics.

The Tories contemptuously brushed this opposition aside. With their increased majority there is even less chance of a polite parliamentary dialogue now.

Despite weak political leadership the strength of public sector trade unions, often within a single industry, the monopoly character of the services (gas, electricity, communications etc) and the loyalty of the union membership combine to produce a formidable obstacle to Tory plans.

POEU members are will-

ing to fight for their jobs and industry and have the power to succeed.

A fighting public sector alliance with active support from the Labour Party must also be set up. Relevant unions and committees of the TUC have already been approached for support in this battle. The Labour Party, following a request from POEU, have agreed that local parties should aid in the circulation of material to the public.

The POEU action so far has been limited to Project Mercury. In order to operate Mercury, BT need to interconnect with the public network. The POEU's refusal to interconnect has made Mercury a much shakier proposition. However, its potential as a scab operation to undermine action against the big business backers of privatisation remains.

The Tories always intended to sell off BT. The decision to grant a single licence to a single competitor (Mercury) in 1981 may well have

THE POEU National Executive has instructed members to act against the big business backers of Project Mercury, the private leech being grafted on to the telecomms network. British Petroleum, Cable and Wireless, Barclays Bank International and Barclays HQ will be hit as key London members go into action.

British Telecom's City of London general manager is circulating a letter begging every "Dear Fellow Worker" in the POEU to help save his job by ignoring such "politically motivated" industrial action. His touching concern extends to the brilliantly original suggestion—a secret ballot.

The Tories' politically motivated plans would line the pockets of their City business friends whilst destroying thousands of his "fellow workers" jobs. How about a secret ballot to see if they are in favour of that Mr Troughton?

By Colin O'Callaghan
(Overseas Telegraph Branch POEU)

been more political than commercial in motive. They see the need to circumvent the power of the POEU.

Our industry is suited to the tactic of selective industrial action. The POEU has a great deal of industrial muscle at its disposal. It can direct sanctions against those with most to gain from British Telecom's privatisation—big business and the financial institutions.

We have an almost unique ability to isolate targets and maintain public support whilst pressing home attacks on the major supporters of government policy.

The great danger of selective action however is isolation. At the moment the membership is being levied £1 a week to give full strike pay to key sections withdrawn in the fight to stop Mercury.

Support for front line

It is vital that support for those in the front line of the action is clearly demonstrated through protest actions involving the mass of the membership in day stoppages, demonstrations and rallies.

In this way the isolation inherent in the selective action tactic can be broken down and we can build the confidence which comes through mass action.

The POEU is maturing fast to match the central role being thrust upon it. This year's NEC elections produced an unprecedented swing to the left. Broad Left candidates are now in a majority.

There is a growing awareness that the issues of 'liberalisation', modernisation and denationalisation must be fought as one inseparable fight.

The new leadership must demonstrate its resolve and determination. A confident and resolute approach will bring overwhelming support from the members.

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WHAT MILITANT STANDS FOR

- ★ The immediate introduction of a 35-hour week without loss of pay as a step towards the elimination of unemployment.
- ★ Reversal of all Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works on housing, education, the health service, public transport and other services.
- ★ A minimum wage of £100 a week, including for pensioners, the sick and disabled.
- ★ Opposition to anti-trade union and other legislation that restricts workers' democratic rights.
- ★ Opposition to all forms of discrimination against women, black and Asian workers and minority groups in society.
- ★ Massive cuts in arms spending, now running at £15bn a year.
- ★ Unilateral nuclear disarmament.
- ★ An end to the devastation of basic industries like coal, rail and steel.
- ★ Workers' control and management in the nationalised industries, run by boards to be made up of one third of each of representatives from: the unions in the industry; the TUC, representing all workers; the government.
- ★ Opposition to dictatorship of the national press by a handful of rich press barons. Printing facilities should be nationalised and access given to political parties except fascists on the basis of their electoral support.
- ★ Nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, including the banks and insurance companies which control 80-85 per cent of the economy. This should be done through an Enabling Bill, with compensation based only on proven need.
- ★ A socialist plan of production, in which the enormous resources of the country are democratically planned for the benefit of the whole population.
- ★ Opposition to the capitalist Common Market. For a United Socialist States of Europe, as a step forward to a World Socialist Federation.

Continued from page one

mission decides what schemes to allow but we feel we should be building roads or hospitals—useful work. Besides, having been made redundant from productive work, we are now looking after churches!

"The consensus on most sites is that the schemes are to keep the unemployed figures down and to make us accept lower wages."

But youth don't have to take this lying down. Join with the Labour Party

Young Socialists and Militant supporters in the struggle for socialism and the fight for union rights, pay and conditions on the government youth schemes.

As Robbie put it, "No workers on the government jobs should lower their heads. By organising and fighting for our rights we can retain our dignity and defeat the Tories' attempt to demoralise us."

How Robbie's CP scheme was unionised —see Page 3

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