

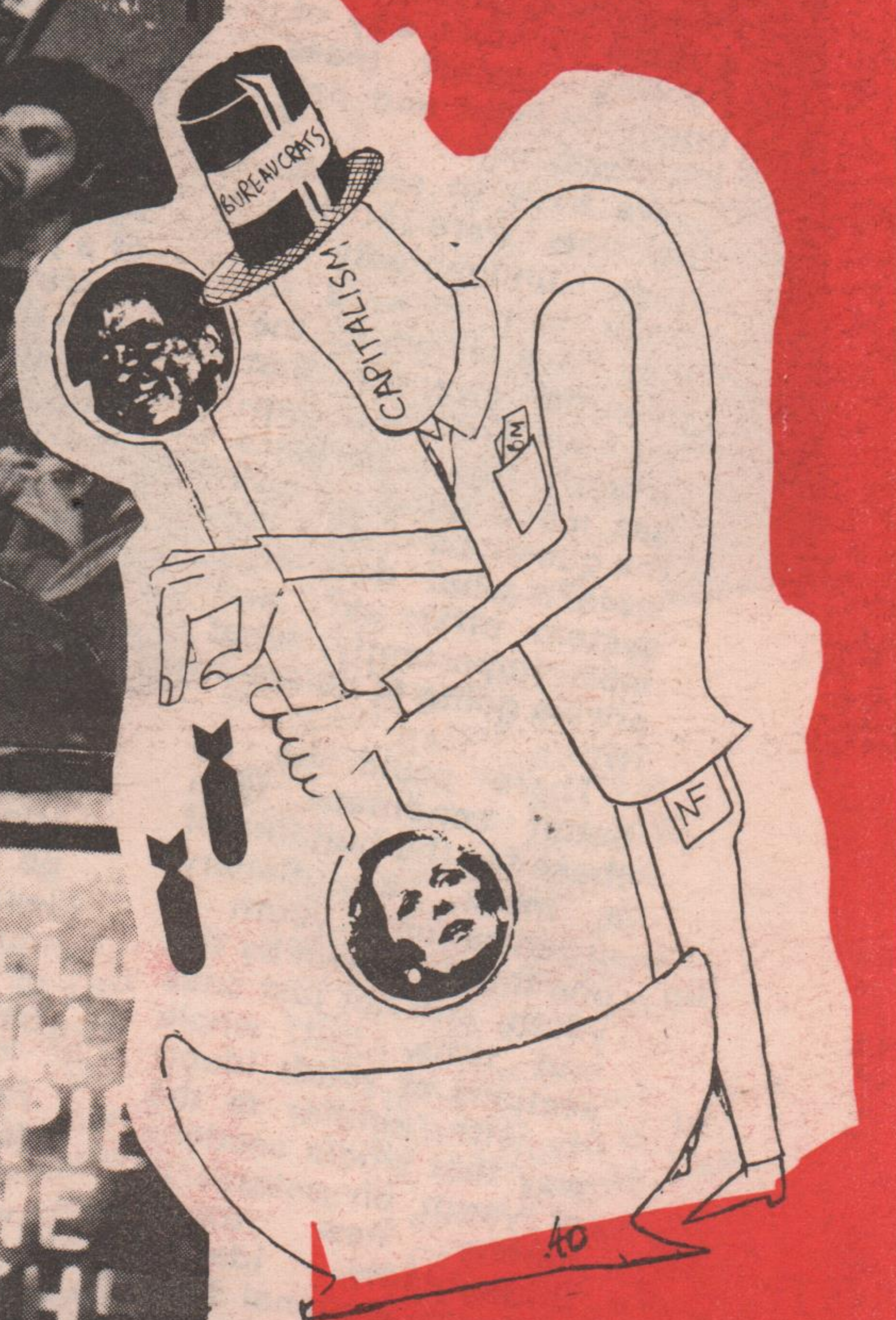
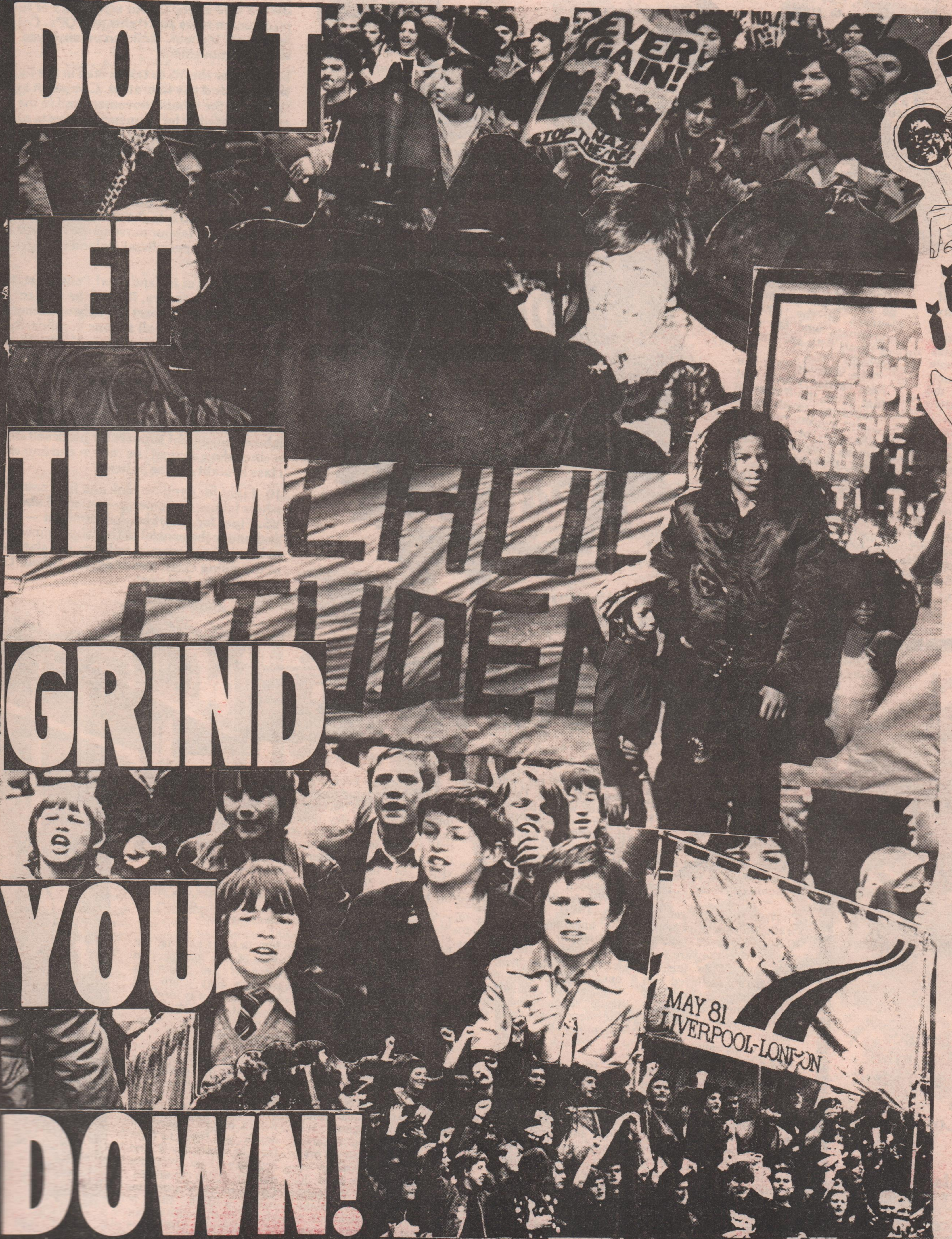
CLASS FIGHTER

NLWym

paper of the National Left-Wing Youth Movement No2. 10p

NOVEMBER 1981

DON'T
LET
THEM
GRIND
YOU
DOWN!



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Editorial

In the aftermath of the riots it is necessary to have a look at what we have achieved and how we can take the struggle further.

Firstly, it would be wrong to go up to the youth, as the liberal leaders of the communities affected do, saying what you have done is wrong and whilst we sympathise with your cause you'll have to find a more sensible way of fighting against mass unemployment and police harassment.

We have to say that the riots were at this stage undoubtedly a major step forward as they have shown us the potential strength that we have and most importantly this experience has made all of us ask the questions what is the state?, what does this system offer us?, and most importantly, what are we going to do about it?

There could be no better conditions than these for the building of a mass revolutionary organisation of youth — one that is known by the youth, and not just ones and twos, but whole sections of youth identify with, similar to the way that whole sections of youth on estates or among new trends undoubtedly identify with the National Front and the British Movement.

At the moment many youth are generally anti-Tory, but this can easily be contained by the bosses. They certainly could not cope with masses of youth united

not just in words, but in action, unionising the YOP schemes, organising into the unemployed workers' movement; organising in the schools against petty rules, sexism, racism, and the Tory cuts.

The vital link in all this has to be the organised labour movement. At the moment the Labour leaders have done nothing to defend the jobs of youth, they have done nothing to create real jobs for youth, instead they have sat back and watched thousands of us come out of school with no chance of a job. They have collaborated hand in hand with the Tories in setting up the openly cheap labour YOP schemes that are taking the jobs of their members at a quarter of the rate.

We cannot say that the rank and file trade union members would not extend their muscle to fight for real jobs for youth. They can see all around the real situation. The blame has to go on to the so-called leaders of the labour movement who are out of touch with the membership.

The warning that the riots carried should not just go to the Tories, it should go to them as well. Youth have no other way of struggling unless they are given a lead, they have no jobs so they can't go on strike. We have to force the labour and trade union leaders to say whose side they're on. Are they with the youth — or against us?



YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Our
Conference
DON'T
MISS IT!
see back
Page...

Where we stand

1. Build a mass campaigning socialist youth movement.
2. Build the National Union of School Students! We will fight to win support for school students in the unions, YSs, and in the National Union of Students.
3. Turn the Labour Party Young Socialists out to industrial workers' struggles.
4. Fight for democracy in the Labour Party and in the Young Socialists. The National Committee should be elected from the YS Conference. No extended speaking time at YS Conference for National Committee members. Equal speaking time for different viewpoints in the YS. 'Socialist Youth' to carry open debate and discussion.
5. Full union rights for the unemployed. Unionise the YOP cheap labour schemes. For full trade union rates and rights on YOPs. Cut the hours, not the jobs. Build an unemployed workers' movement.
6. Fight for the YS to take a lead in the fight for women's and gay liberation. Campaign against sexism in the labour movement and in the YS to make it possible for women and gays to play a full and equal part in the labour movement. For a woman's right to work. No discrimination on the basis of sex or sexuality.
7. Unilateral nuclear disarmament and withdrawal from NATO. Build CND. Fight to draw youth from CND into the struggle for socialist policies in the labour movement. The war drive comes from imperialism! Defend the Soviet Union.
8. Troops out of Ireland now! Political status for Republican prisoners. Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Support the Labour Committee on Ireland. Support all actions in solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle in the North of Ireland.
9. Fight racism. Purge racists from all positions in the labour movement. Organise to drive fascists off the streets. For united black and white labour movement defence squads. Build labour movement support for black self-defence — including against the racism and anti working class brutality of the police.
10. Fight for genuine rank and file control of the whole labour movement — unions, Labour Party, YS. Fight for a workers' government — based on and under the control of the labour movement — to break the economic, military and state power of the ruling class. Never again a Labour Government like the last one!

Our new (and permanent) address is.
Class Fighter 3M BOX 5277 London WC1.

National Unemployed Workers Movement

National Conference
31 October-1 November
Goldsmith College Student Union
New Cross, London

Full details available from
Leicester UWU, c/o 52,
Wyville Row, Leicester
Tel: 0533-898324

UNEMPLOYMENT

Class Fighter interviews a member of the Leicester Unemployed Workers' Union.

Q: Why did you set up an Unemployed Workers' Union in Leicester?

We want to see the trade unions organising the unemployed, but at the moment they are very reluctant to do this. If you are unemployed and want to join the Transport and General Workers' Union you have to pay 38p a week only to be put into a holding branch that never meets. The leaders of the unions do not want to see the unemployed active in the unions, after all it would be they who would be arguing the most for action to defend existing jobs and fight to create new jobs. Something that the present leaders refuse to do.

When we first began to organise the unemployed we approached the T&G and asked them to set up a branch for the unemp-

loyed or get the holding branch to meet. They told us they would like to see this but they had to obey the national guidelines. We knew this was a lie because they have a functioning holding branch in Liverpool.

We decided to set up the UWU to organise the unemployed immediately, but we weren't going to let the union leaders off the hook, we encourage all our members to join the official trade unions and fight for them to organise the unemployed.

Q: What sort of things do you do?

We have been involved in a lot of activities, we go out and support picket lines, we played a major part in saving Beale St. Nursery from closure. It was occupied on the day it was due to close and we helped keep it occupied 24 hours a day for three months. Then we won and the nursery was kept open.

We have also been organising a campaign to get free bus services for the unemployed. All day the buses are going around half empty and we have to walk miles for interviews or to sign on because we can't afford the bus fare.

As well as that we get to know the ins and outs or claiming so we can combat the real fiddlers, the Tories, who make 400 million a year out of unclaimed benefit. Throughout the civil service strike we fought for support for the civil servants against the government.

Q: What plans does the UWU have now?

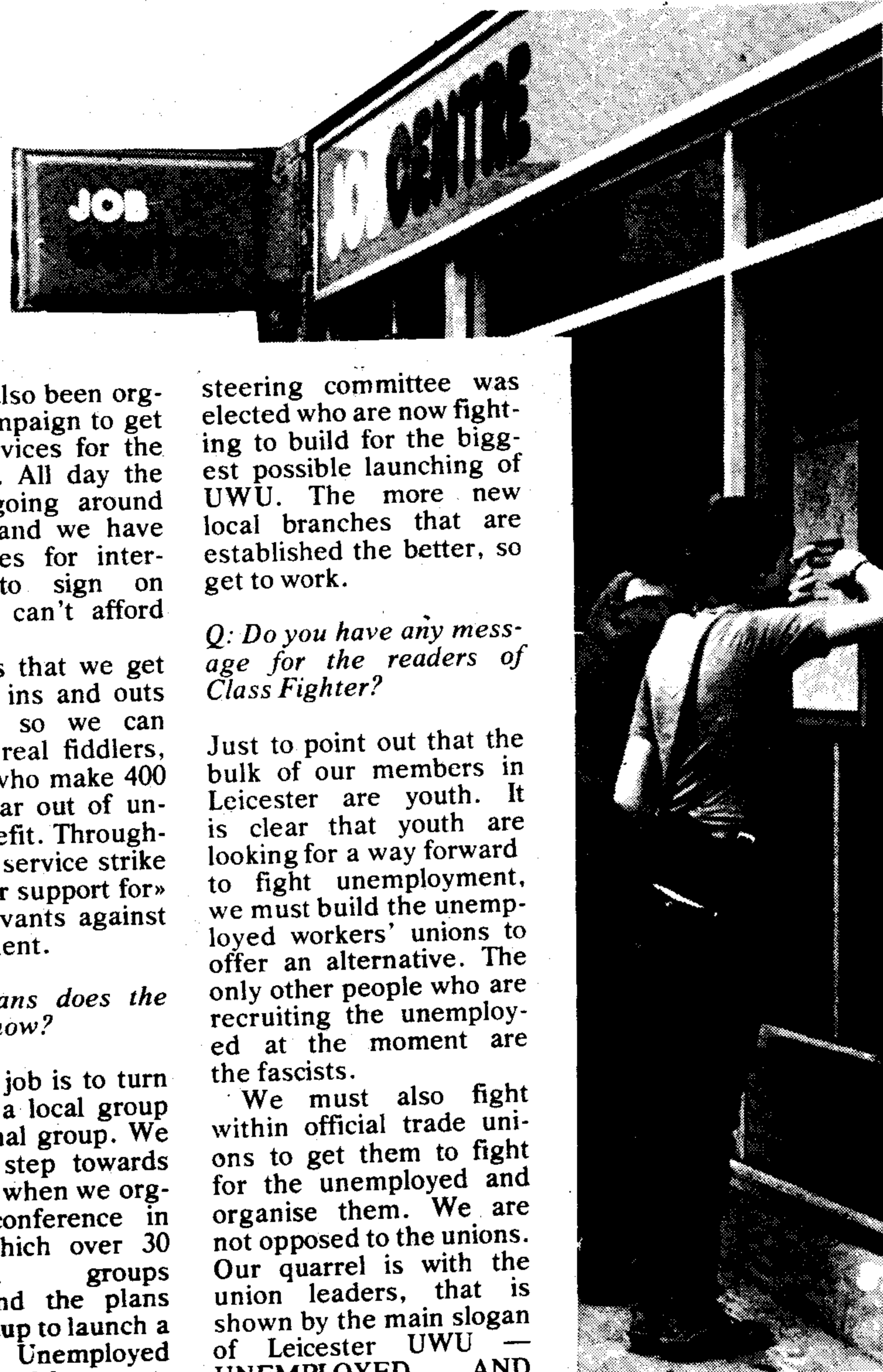
The main job is to turn UWU from a local group into a national group. We took a big step towards this in June when we organised a conference in Leicester which over 30 unemployed groups attended and the plans were drawn up to launch a national Unemployed Workers' Movement. From the Conference a

steering committee was elected who are now fighting to build for the biggest possible launching of UWU. The more new local branches that are established the better, so get to work.

Q: Do you have any message for the readers of Class Fighter?

Just to point out that the bulk of our members in Leicester are youth. It is clear that youth are looking for a way forward to fight unemployment, we must build the unemployed workers' unions to offer an alternative. The only other people who are recruiting the unemployed at the moment are the fascists.

We must also fight within official trade unions to get them to fight for the unemployed and organise them. We are not opposed to the unions. Our quarrel is with the union leaders, that is shown by the main slogan of Leicester UWU — UNEMPLOYED AND EMPLOYED UNITE.



Riot youth have not disappeared

WHAT'S been happening to the 3000 youth who were arrested in the riots over the summer?

If you go by the press and the TV, you'd think we'd all been wiped off the face of the earth. Unless you get a really vicious sentence like Robert Gittings got - 6 years - then it's news for a day.

But it hasn't only been in Manchester - Robert was from Moss-side - that the punishment's been doled out. In Wallasey, a youth of 17 got 3 months for throwing stones. In Leicester a youth got 3 months for threatening behav-

iour. In Nottingham, 6 months has been given for threatening behaviour.

While in Liverpool 8 there has been a total silence from the police and the authorities on the death of Davy Moore as a result of 'positive policing'. In Coventry, fines of hundreds of pounds are being dished out.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg. Most of the cases coming up in court have got no publicity. Youth were charged with anything that came into the coppers' heads at the time.

Basically youth are on trial for just being on the streets at the time a riot was going on. How dare we upset the natural order of things!

For that crime, of being where we usually are, as most of us haven't jobs, the courts are coming down as heavy as they can.

Youth are to be taught a lesson. Shut up or be locked up. Well, we won't - and we won't let the misleaders of the labour movement shut us up either. We must force them to come out on our side - instead of keeping quiet and sitting on the fence.

The labour movement must hear the youth and support them if they are to be won to the ranks of the organised working class.



They're no threat to Thatcher

Review of 'Strength through Oi'

THE MUSIC on this record sounds just like the more mediocre punk of 77. There is nothing wrong with that for new bands, if this music is fun and easy to play [I don't know - I can't play a thing]. If it's an opening for new talent all well and good. But some of the bands on the album have been playing the same stuff for years [Cocksparrer] just waiting for some nuds to come along and make a virtue out of their mediocrity. And along it comes, it's called 'Oi'. An inability to play is a poor excuse for a musical movement.

It's not really the music that defines Oi anyway, it's the same as the 'punk will never die' brigade. It's the skinhead following, and, aside from the joke bands, like Splode and Toy Dolls, the sentiments of the songs which makes a band Oi.

They are desperately proud of their working class origins. The skinhead fashion is good for excluding middle-class hangers-on. You can't be a weekend skin with a crop and shaved partings.

Realising that they are working class leads to some simple 'political observations', like 'We outnumber you', a song on the album. But the working class is more than just the skinheads. So long as skins are outnumbering 'Teds at Southend', as it says on the album, Thatcher can sleep soundly in her bed.

racist police won't get us anywhere.

We need mass action. Three pickets of the law courts have been organised, with up to 200 demonstrators present. Telegrams are bombarding the Home Secretary and West Yorkshire's police chief. And 800 people went to the largest ever black-organised public meeting in Bradford.

But there's more to come. We're organising a national demonstration for Bradford and we're printing 4,000 leaflets.

And members of the NLWYM are fighting for labour movement organisations to fight what is a state attack on the rights of black people and the whole of the working class.

DROP THE CHARGES - FREE THE TWELVE! SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE - CLEANSE THE FASCISTS FROM THE STREETS



Since I can't hear all the words it is the sleeve I find the most worrying. The front boasts a picture of 'Nick in nick', who is a hardened fascist. Self-respecting fascists surely don't appear on albums. The sleeve notes describe a life of drink and violence. Drinking Bacardi, six pints and then down to the football, what! all on dole money? If it's such fun why complain?

Then, to counter the criticism before it comes, there are snide comments about 'hippy social workers' and 'middle class commies'. The bosses must be laughing all the way to the bank, they'll say, 'These skinheads, they cause a bit of trouble, but they're all right. They wave their Union Jacks, one even met the Queen Mum, and they won't join a

revolution'. So the bosses will happily sell you another Oi LP, Union Jack and overpriced Ben Sherman.

The violence, I'm not dead against it. I want a revolution and that's no picnic. But for its own sake violence can just land you in hospital. If you like violence and are open to any offers it's the fascists who might give you it. And remember it was Hitler with money from big business who gave handouts to those who did his dirty work. Communists have always had to fend for themselves.

I don't want to go overboard. Plenty of people just like the skinhead image and the music. I'd rather

they stuck to Specials, Madness and Moon-stomping.

Oi sets itself up as a representative movement of the working class, a voice, but it is dangerous right-wing fascism and must be condemned as such. Not everybody associated with Oi is an out and out fascist, though just as not every skinhead is. In fact some people, like the Oi poet Gary Johnson, has some good ideas but is naive and misguided. Hopefully we can win some of the better people to our side. Mick Rowlinson, Bristol

Stop this show trial!

by Dale Ackroyd

The campaign to defend the Bradford 12 is taking off. The '12' are 12 Bradford Asian youth charged with making 38 petrol bombs and storing them for use against the police.

But the group defending the prisoners, the July the 11th Action Committee, have pointed out a police conspiracy. No one has yet seen these petrol bombs. All the police evidence is based on 'confessions'. Confessions that the prisoners denounce as forced. They were not allowed to see a solicitor until half an hour before they came up in court, by that time most of them had been held for over 36 hours.

the police are trying to 'make an example' of the 12, because these are 12 militant youths. They are charged with conspiracy to endanger life and property and cause griev-

ous bodily harm. This charge carries a maximum sentence of life.

We must stop this political show trial!

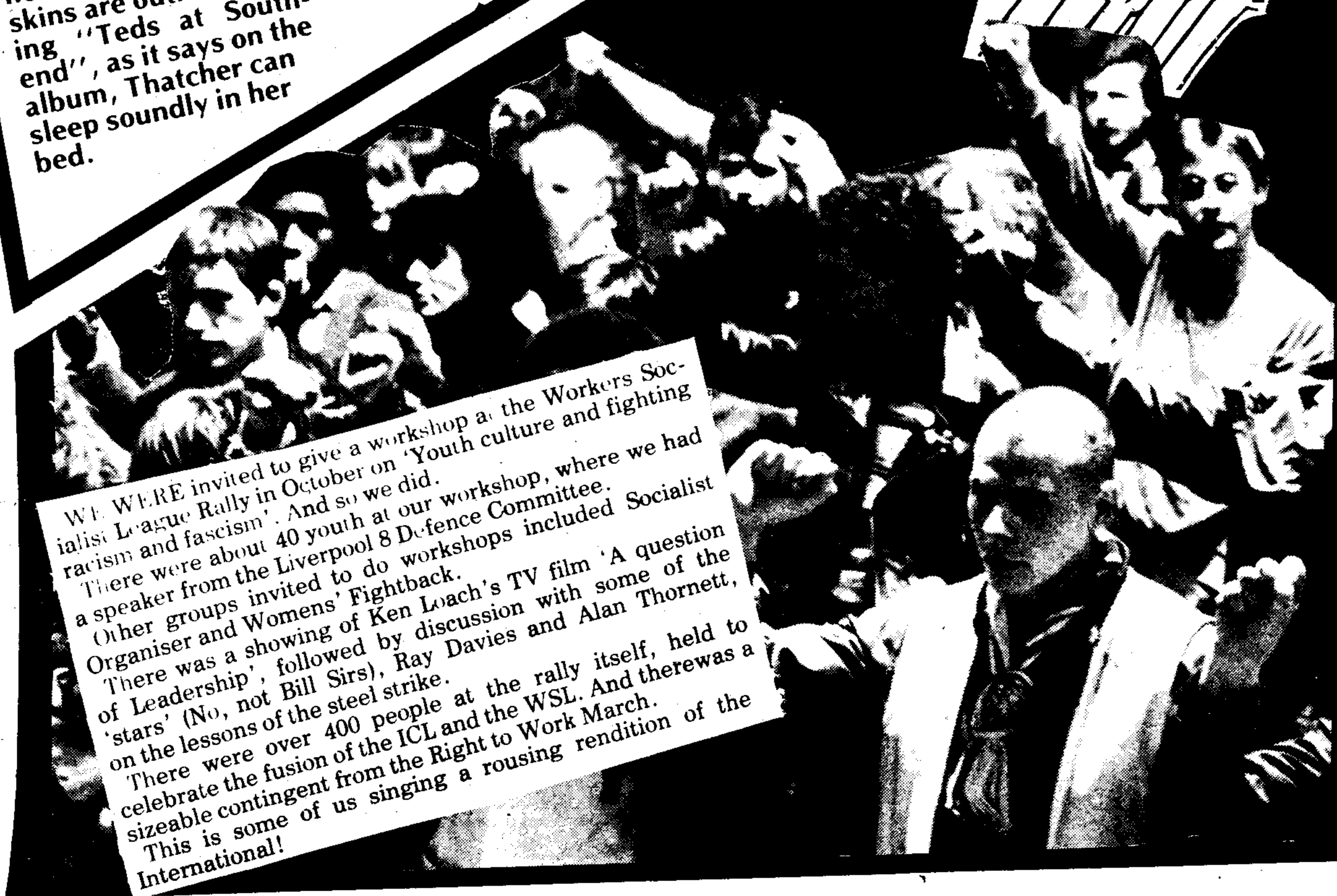
Many of the prisoners were some of the most active campaigners for women like Anwar Ditta, whose kids were kept out of Britain for years by the Home Office. They fought deportations, they fought fascism and now Anwar Ditta has pledged her support for them.

How do the police view this case?

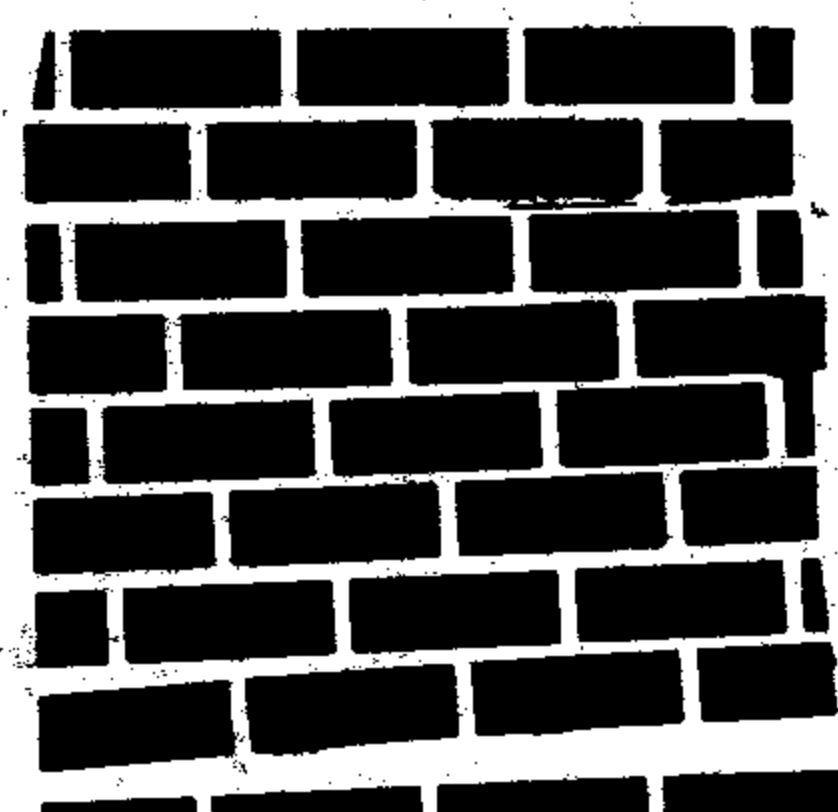
Well, three applications for bail, week after week, have been refused. Just before their arrests some of these youths were working on a case.

Three racists set fire to a shop owned by an Asian man. He only just escaped with his life. The police caught the three, and charged them with conspiracy to murder. They had no problem getting bail.

So pleading with the



WE WERE invited to give a workshop at the Workers Socialist League Rally in October on 'Youth culture and fighting racism and fascism'. And so we did. There were about 40 youth at our workshop, where we had a speaker from the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee. Other groups invited to do workshops included Socialist Organiser and Womens' Fightback. There was a showing of Ken Loach's TV film 'A question of Leadership', followed by discussion with some of the 'stars' (No, not Bill Sirs), Ray Davies and Alan Thorne. There were over 400 people at the rally itself, held to celebrate the fusion of the ICL and the WSL. And there was a sizeable contingent from the Right to Work March. This is some of us singing a rousing rendition of the International!



IRELAND UNFREE!



The hunger strike has ended - with ten men dead and no sign of political status

This is an interview with Bernadette - a sixteen-year-old from the north of Ireland. She describes what life has been like since the war started over eleven years ago.

■ *What are your experiences of living and growing up in the North of Ireland during the present war?*

■ Well, in 1968 I was 4 years old when the civil rights started and then in 1971 when internment began I was 6. I saw our home being raided by the British Army and my brother being dragged out of the house; he was 16 at the time.

After a couple of hours they let him go. It was a case of mistaken identity. They were looking for my older brother. He had to walk down the street at about 12 at night wearing only his pyjamas. He has since been arrested and is now on the blanket doing 25 years.

■ *And how did you cope?*

■ You'd just try and get by as best you could. I was used to the family being divided and not being together anyway. I just used to go and see my mother every week and try not to

Divided

■ You'd just try and get by as best you could. I was used to the family being divided and not being together anyway. I just used to go and see my mother every week and try not to think about it.

■ *Did your mother ever speak of what it was like inside Armagh jail?*

■ Yes, she talks about it and tells of her time in Armagh. She says the feeling of solidarity and togetherness among all the Republican prisoners was very strong as they all had the same principles and ideals.



■ *Has this experience affected the family as a whole?*

■ I feel very bitter and angry at the British - the British government and the British Army because of what they have done not only to my family, but to a lot of other families and to my country. All that people like myself want to do is live a normal life. I feel very deep bitterness, anger and resentment.

Protested

■ *So what has been your reaction to this?*

■ I've tried peaceful protest to demonstrate my anger and bitterness, but the British government won't even accept this as can be seen in Derry, when in 1972 the British Army killed 14 people who were taking part in a peaceful protest to demonstrate against internment.

There is nothing else that ordinary people can do except protest on the streets. When the IRA

took up arms to do something about this, they were condemned from all directions, but too many people seem to forget that if it was not for the IRA, the nationalist population of the north might well have been slaughtered.

■ *You have two brothers on the blanket at the moment. What does it feel like when you go to visit them?*

■ The first time I saw them I was shocked. When I first saw my brother who is doing 25 years, he had been on the blanket over a year. He refused to take a visit even, because he did not want to put on the criminal uniform.

Terrible

But after a year he thought he was cutting himself off too much from the family.

The first time I saw him was really terrible. From a man who had been 22 years old when he was arrested, he had turned into an old man of about 60. He had a long scraggy beard and his hair was matted down with grease. His skin was a waxy colour and his hands were freezing and he could not stop them shaking. There was nothing I could see in him that I recognised from before. It was awful seeing him like that. You didn't want to look upset to annoy him, and you wouldn't break down in front of the screws; they would just love to see that.

But despite his appearance, his morale was great, so high. Especially despite the unending petty harassment.

Late

For example, on a recent visit my mother was going to visit my two brothers. They had both been brought to the visiting area to separate cubicles at different ends of the room. Each had no idea that the other was there. My mother had to have her half hour visit with one, before speaking to my second brother who had no idea at all why he was being kept waiting or why my mother was late.

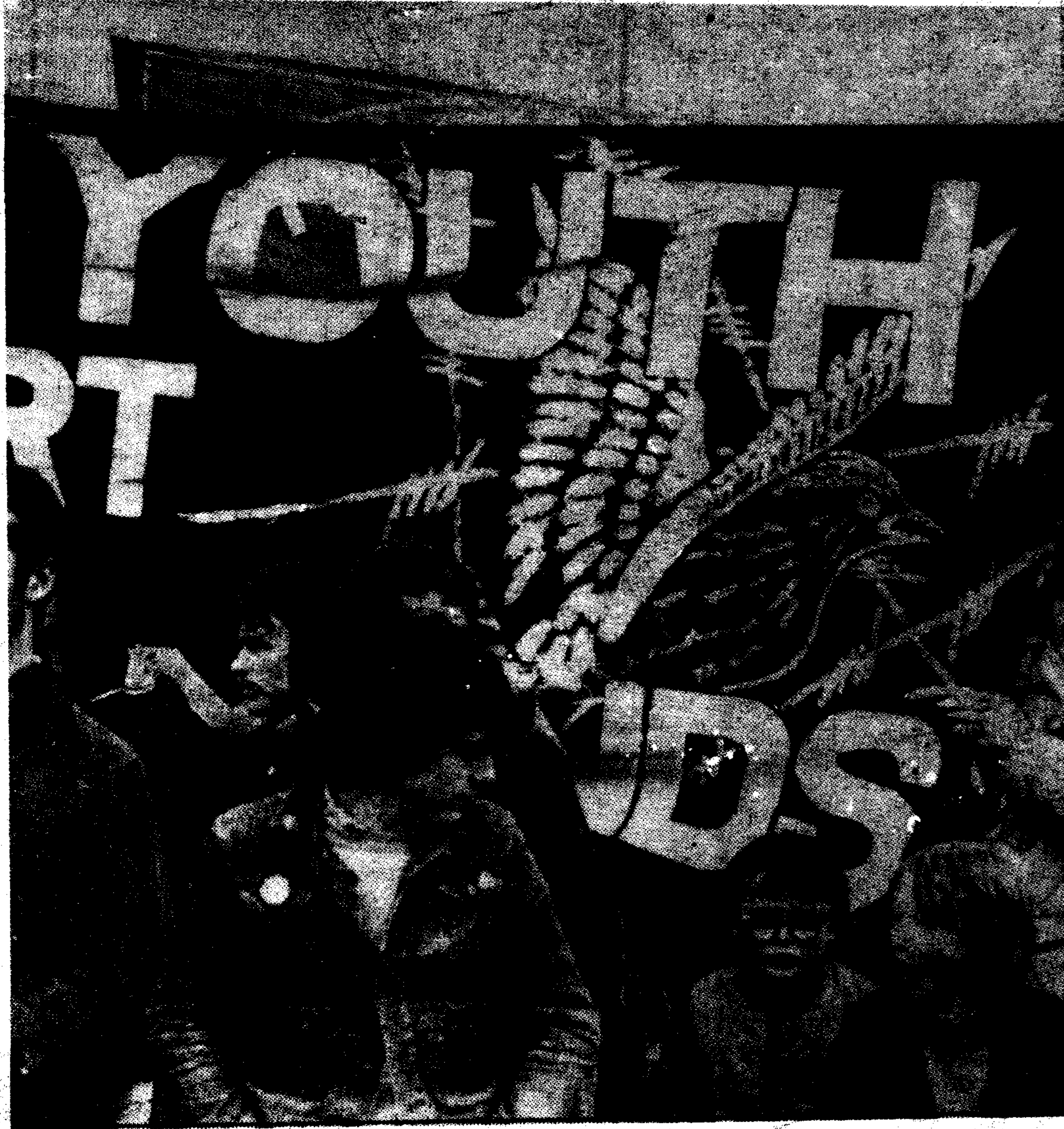
In over two years in the same prison my brothers have not seen each other once.

■ *Having two brothers on the blanket, how do you feel about the hunger strike?*

■ I feel very bitter. There's ten men dead now and it's very hard to take. The British just seem to be letting them die like flies. But I still stand one hundred per cent behind the prisoners and the hunger strikers.

■ *How do you think the hunger strike has affected the way people have organised behind the prisoners?*

■ Not only the present hunger strike but also the



Youth on the march in the North supporting the prisoners's demands

hunger strike which ended last December has really mobilised support, especially from the Irish people in the North and the South.

The hunger strike has brought a reawakening because whenever nothing terrible is done to you for a couple of years, the anger and resentment which is always there, isn't brought to the surface.

But the anger has resurfaced, especially with the death of a hunger striker.

This has been shown in various elections. In Fermanagh and South Tyrone, Bobby Sands was elected. And on August 20th Owen Carron was also elected in the same constituency. Also in the Free State, Kieran Doherty and Paddy Agnew were elected. This shows that the hunger strikers and the prisoners have support.

Ordered

■ *What would you say to the people who suggest that the prisoners have*

been ordered onto hunger strike by the IRA?

■ I would say that that is a load of rubbish. They think that the IRA are gaining something out of this, but there are ten Irishmen dead now. The decision was made entirely by the blanketmen. They were not pressurised by anyone on the outside.

Inhuman

After over 5 years of the most inhuman and degrading treatment, the blanketmen felt that a hunger strike was the only way left open to them.

I feel that people, especially English people, who are trying to put the onus on the IRA are only trying to rid themselves of the guilt they feel.

■ *In what way does the hunger strike committee try to involve youth in the issue in your area?*

■ They try to bring not only the youth, but all people in the area onto the streets in peaceful protest to demonstrate about the situation in the H Blocks and Armagh jail.

■ *You are over here on your holidays. Tell us about your impressions of the reactions to the hunger strike over here.*

■ The people over here seem to be very ignorant of what is going on at home because of the propaganda which has been put across by the British media. They make out that the IRA and the hunger strikers are thugs and common criminals who are doing this for their own ends.

This is a complete lie because common criminals would not go on hunger strike and die for

Principles

thier principles. The truth is that the IRA are fighting for the people and freedom of their country and the hunger strike is just another part of that struggle. It has brought world wide attention. But the world wide attention does not seem to include the British press and media.

■ *Another attitude that is prevalent over here is that the war in the North of Ireland is simply a*

religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants

■ That is a complete lie. It is a religious war in the sense that the politicians who gain the most from it try to keep it going as a religious war. But nationalist people of six counties do not want to fight with their Protestant neighbours.

Of course there have been a lot of sectarian killings - these have been done by organisations such as the UVF, the UDR and the UFF (the Ulster Volunteer Force, Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Freedom Fighters: all loyal paramilitary groups). UDA is still a loyal organisation, although the UVF and UFF (proscribed) who have killed people simply because they are Catholics.

The IRA and INLA do not kill people because they are Protestants because they are in RUC, the British Army and the UDR, because they are part of the oppressor who has put the boot on the neck of Irish people all down centuries.

Troops Out!

Interview by the Manchester Women and Ireland Group. You can contact them at Box 15, Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester 4.



! ?

Sun

This damn fool says bombers aren't criminals

! ?

THIS MORNING The Sun presents the most odious man in Britain.

Take a bow, Mr Ken Livingstone

Well the Sun's done it again. They've come up with a really stunning one this time. This 'damn fool' they refer to happens to be the only, literally the only, labour leader that has had anything to say about the Chelsea bombing. Anything that is, which isn't totally hysterical anti-Irish ranting.

The bomb was aimed at a military target - soldiers. 2 civilians were killed and many others wounded.

It was a horrific explosion, and no-one least of all the IRA is pleased that 2 people nothing to do with the army were killed.

Obvious

But the question no British newspaper asks is 'Why?'. Why do people come from the north of Ireland to London to let off a nail bomb.

The answer is so obvious. There is a war in the north of Ireland and there has been for the past 11 years. Yet if you read the British press, you'd never know. Yes, there were the hunger strikers, but they were just criminals trying to get better conditions in jail. Yes, there are British soldiers in the north of Ireland who patrol the streets of Belfast and Derry but they're just dealing with a few terrorists.

The few terrorists, though consist of the majority of the Catholic population, as was shown during the hunger strike campaign.

The IRA is the organisation in Ireland who have been fighting to remove the British Army from their streets for the past decade. It won support from the Catholic population in the early '70's as being the one that was serious about protecting the republican areas from the Orange Loyalists.

The British Army was sent in supposedly to protect Catholic areas. But it soon became clear what they had been sent for. And keeping the peace had nothing to do with it.

The Army was sent to the North to protect British interests there and maintain the existence of the six-county state. A statelet created by Britain when Ireland was partitioned in 1921.

There can be no peace in Ireland until that artificial statelet is done away with. That is what the IRA is committed to and that is what Thatcher is so determined to prevent.

Army

We would not support the bombing in Chelsea, as it must have been obvious to whoever set it off that people in the street were going to be killed and maimed - people who had nothing to do with the Army.

But the Army is fighting a war in the north. Soldiers shoot down republicans and children in the streets. They have a special legal system - the diplock courts

designed just for the north of Ireland. It had internment, now it has Long Kesh concentration camp. The republicans have only their lives - ten of which were sacrificed in an attempt to squeeze political status from the murderous Tory government.

Misunderstood

Anyway, back to the 'damn fool', Ken Livingstone, who didn't even say any of this. All he said was 'They aren't criminals or lunatics running about, that is to misunderstand them. No body supports what happened in London - but what about stopping it happening? As long as we are in Ireland, people will be letting off bombs in London. I can see that we are a colonial power holding down a colony'.

For this he was attacked in the bourgeois press as a supporter of the IRA, a 'damn fool' and the most odious man in Britain.

But Ken Livingstone deserves our support. He was the only person in the entire labour and trade union movement to come out against the hysterical anti-Irish ravings of the media.

The Sun reckon they've found the 'most odious man in Britain'. Well we've news for them, there's lots more 'odious' people in Britain and Ireland who support getting the British troops out of Ireland - and only some of them are Class Fighter supporters!

What Civil Defence really means!

Get vaporised, get fried by radiation, or get shot - that's what Britain's 'civil defence' against nuclear war offers all but an elite few,

'Civil Defence' sounds like it is some sort of scheme whereby the civilian population will be defended if there's a nuclear attack. The idea is to make you feel a little safer - 'It's OK. There are plans to deal with the situation if it ever arises, at least we won't all be forgotten about. The authorities will have the situation under control.'

The end result of that reasoning being that a nuclear attack wouldn't be so bad after all.

Yes a few thousand people will get killed but the rest of us will be alright; so there's not a lot to worry about and the government can go on spending billions on defence and having the Cruise missiles based in Britain.

Well, we won't be alright. For everyone except for about 30,000 top civil servants, generals and selected members of public service and private industry, civil defence means stay where

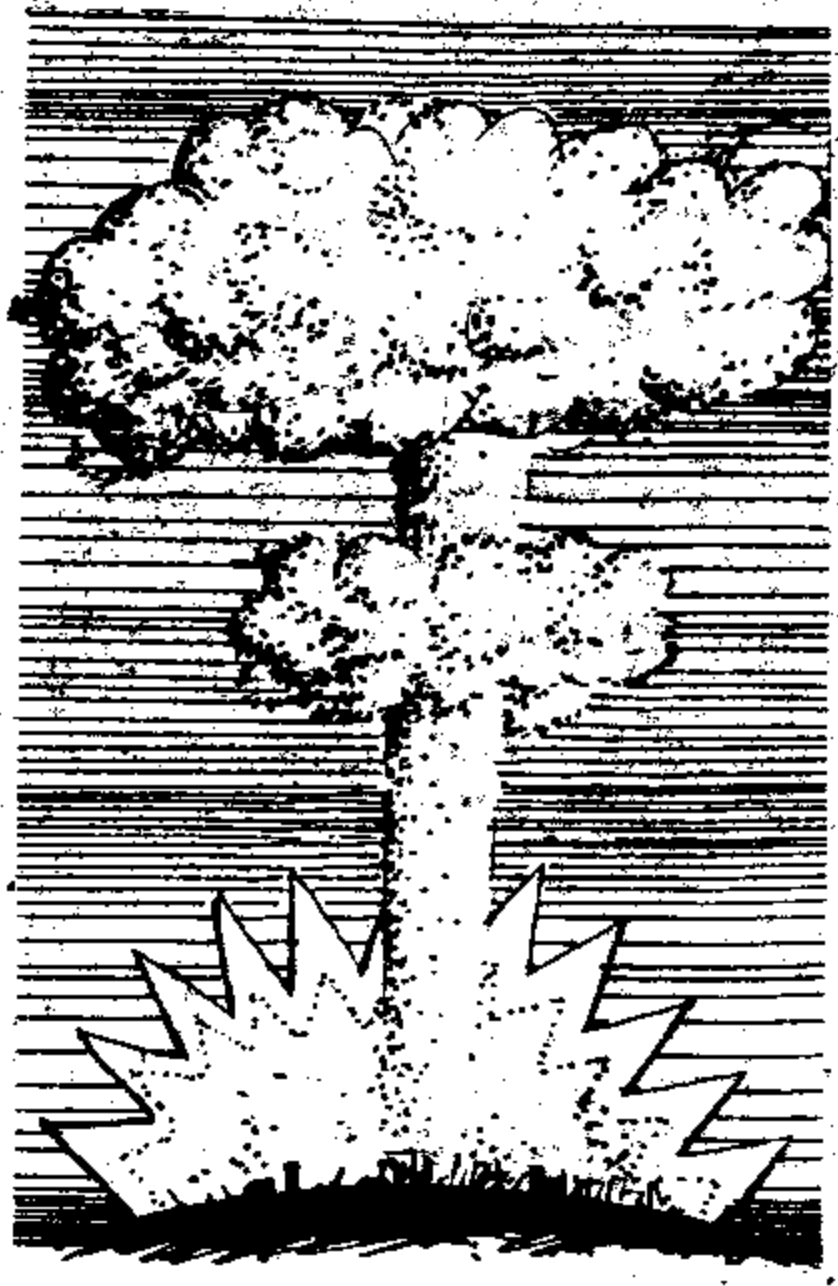
petrol, diesel and other fuel would be impounded, and local authorities would be ordered not to feed refugees who 'chose to ignore the government's advice to stay in their own homes'.

(A detailed map of the ESRs can be obtained from New Statesman, 10 Great Turnstile Lane, London WC1, £2.50, with SAE). It would be extremely difficult to get out of London for instance, as 18 routes out of the city are ESRs.

This all seems to have very little to do with civil defence, but quite a lot to do with maintaining the existing system of law and order, and making sure that the population sticks to the government's instructions outlined in the tragic pamphlet 'Protect and Survive' offering practically zero protection and little chance of survival.

ing industrial resources, and reaches the stunning conclusion that there might not be much left and that 'A large nuclear attack would disrupt the production and distribution of power supplies, and hence most industrial and commercial activities'.

There is a section dealing with 'Manpower'. 'In spite of heavy casualties among the able-bodied population, there should be no general shortage of manpower, since industry, as it existed before the attack would be virtually at a standstill! It goes on to point out that if there was a lack of food, people might not want to do 'heavy or unpleasant' work. If this arose Regional Commissioners would have the power to direct who did what but of course this depends on 'the community's acceptance of the need and their voluntary co-operation'. 'Short of summary execution' that is.



A strange, or perhaps telling, final paragraph points out that 'A large scale nuclear attack on this country would completely disrupt the banking system. Even a small-scale attack on London and the location of the major facilities of big clearing banks would have a similar effect'. This bizarre observation is followed by the rather shocking sentence,

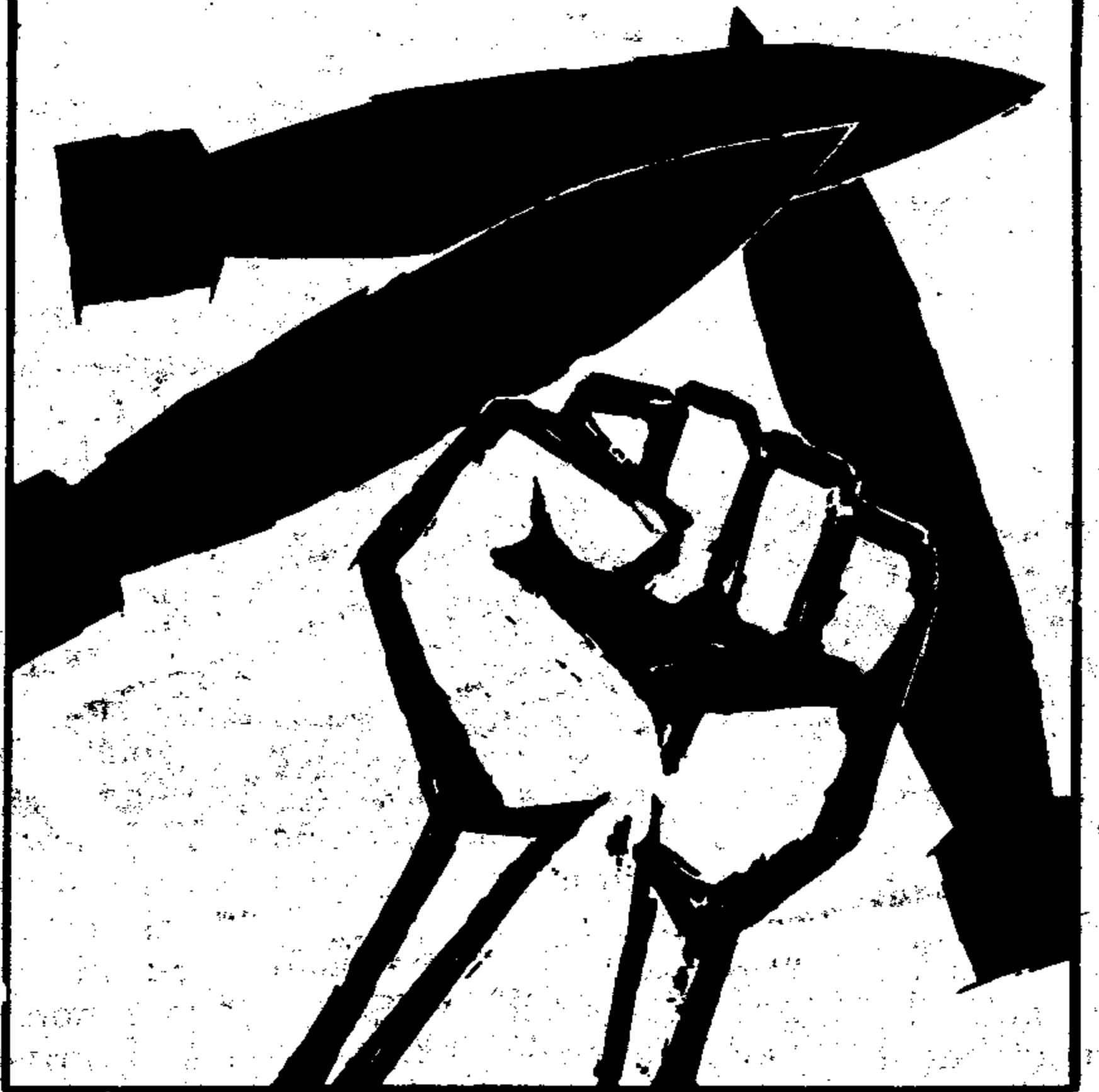
you are, keep out of the way till the system of Regional Commissioners - safely stashed away underground during the attack - reckon it's safe enough for them to come out again. Above ground, if they're still alive, there should be a network of more civil servants stationed in remote 'safe' areas who will link up with the lucky bunker people to form a dozen regional governments.

At least that's the plan. The New Statesman (25 September) revealed what the plans are to keep everybody from moving about. There is to be a network of Essential Service Routes (ESRs) up and down the country. These routes consist of most of the main roads in Britain, including the M1, M4, the A1, A3 and the vast majority of main roads out of the major cities in Britain. These roads would be 'controlled', all

In 1975 the Home Office sent out a circular entitled 'Briefing Material for War-time Controllers'. It was classified and only sent to top civil servants and police chiefs.

The first section dealt with 'Law and Order'. It outlines a system of emergency courts coming under the jurisdiction of regional commissioners where there would be 'provision for appropriate penalties not normally available to courts.' i.e. reduction of rations or execution. There would be no appeals.

That is the most detailed section of the circular. The rest deals with use of survival



'It may therefore be assumed that, for a period at least, the widespread use of money, as a means of purchasing goods or rewarding services, would cease'. However, happily the circular ends with the prediction that this state of affairs would only take a year or so to correct. But there's one word of warning. 'The creation of a new monetary system would be a national matter and not one in which Regional Commissioners could devise their own policies'.

So there we have it. The government has not a clue about protection and survival of the population. Only a lucky few, from the higher echelons of society along with a few art treasures (which, by the way, have a whole bunker to themselves in a mountain in Wales) and military generals will get into the bunkers. The rest of us can just stay put and do what we're told or get shot.

for unionising and organising youth into local and national campaigns such as closures and occupations. The meeting ended with the election of officers.

KAREN HARRIS



OVER 20 people attended a successful public meeting to launch Class Fighter in Leicester on 24th August, including 5 observers from Wolverhampton, who are interested in setting up a Class Fighter readers' group.

The meeting was addressed by Mick Liggins, Chairperson of the National Council for Young Workers, who was arrested during the Leicester riots. He highlighted the various issues that affect youth and how they can organise to fight back against the government.

He pointed out that youth are the main area of attack by the Tories because they are unorganised. The riots have shown that young people can fight back, but this anger needs political direction.

Unemployment in particular hits youth. Jobs are not guaranteed after apprenticeships or YOPs schemes, which serve only to provide the bosses with cheap labour. The NLWYM campaigns for

full trade union rights and rates for young workers so that they can negotiate conditions and fight against low wages. They young unemployed (which will include over half this year's school leavers) should organise into Unemployed Workers' Unions which seek to unite those in work with the jobless to fight back against the Tory offensive.

Police harassment of youth, which includes the indiscriminate use of the 'sus' law should be met with the demand for workers' self-defence squads, democratically elected by street committees so that the police can no longer brutally force their way into people's homes or arrest people who just happen to be on the street.

A campaign should be mounted against the army including pickets outside

recruiting offices to point out that it is not the answer to unemployment. Instead it could mean being sent to Northern Ireland to hold down working class youth who are also fighting against harassment and repression. Class Fighter therefore argues for the immediate withdrawal of troops from Ireland.

Racism and fascism may be seen by some youth as providing a logical and easy answer to the problems they face. The NLWYM must therefore campaign within the labour movement to smash the fascists off the streets, or as Trotsky put it, 'to acquaint their faces with the pavement'.

A discussion followed in which spontaneous meetings were suggested e.g. at the Job Centre or dole office where youth will actually participate in discussion, rather than advertise meetings through leaflets which are often ignored. The problem of relating to anarchist youth - the other side of the coin to fascism - was mentioned. It is often difficult to explain, for example, the need for these youth to organise themselves within the labour movement in a disciplined way and therefore

to direct their anti-authoritarianism through constructive channels such as trade unions and the LPYS.

It was also pointed out that it can be expensive for unemployed youth to join trade unions which often put them into holding branches that rarely meet anyway. This was met by the suggestion that UWU's are therefore a sound basis

GOOD NEWS FROM LEICESTER!

LETTERS

DISARMAMENT AND RUSSIA

Dear Comrades,
In Weymouth Young Socialists we support almost entirely the ten-point programme which is printed in the paper. But we disagree with the idea that the Soviet Union should retain its nuclear weapons. It does not seem right that we claim to support workers' movements in the deformed socialist countries but presumably would not support a workers' movement in the Soviet Union calling for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Also we have all heard of the computer errors in America which have nearly started a nuclear war,

but what about a Russian computer error? Is this also not a possibility?

Whilst I personally (not all of our Young Socialists agree) see that we must defend the Soviet Union in terms that it is economically different from capitalist countries and we must defend what is anti-capitalist, I cannot see that defending it to the extreme of allowing it to keep its nuclear weapons is practical or necessary. I'm not sure that Trotsky would have taken the theory of defence of the Soviet Union so far.

Yours Fraternally,
Caroline Lees
Weymouth YS

THE WAR IN Northern Ireland is a political war against oppression and imperialism and its solution is their elimination. It is not a religious war with a magical solution — "if only people were peaceful and democratic."

The British reaction to the peaceful election of an IRA MP is to let him die and ban prisoners from standing again for Parliament.

The extreme violence of the situation in Northern Ireland is the product of British/Loyalist activity, both in the long term — 500 years of sporadic slaughter and sustained oppression — and in the short term: the RUC attacks on peaceful civil rights demos in 1968 and on Catholic communities in 1969. These armed attacks (half of the Falls Road burned down in

1969) on an already oppressed community forced the Catholics to fight back in self-defence. At that stage the IRA was practically defunct and weaponless.

Having said that, we in no way support attacks on civilians. This is why the Birmingham bombings were excepted — we should have included others. For some years now civilians have not been considered legitimate targets for the IRA but there is a well-orchestrated and hysterical media campaign about the extremist violence which hides this fact and ignores the fact that innocent civilians now being murdered are victims of the Army. Five have been killed this year by plastic bullets, including two girls.

History will regard the IRA (as much of the world

JULY 29th was a day of national hysteria and chauvinism as most of the population sat glued to their televisions or were squashed up and jostling with thousands more watching the Royal Wedding. For five members of Weymouth Young Socialists it was a day that they spent in the police cells being questioned, harassed and

being fed the most terrible food imaginable.

Two of them were arrested red-handed at midnight and the other three were hauled from their beds in a dawn raid. They were allowed no bail, could see nobody [except a solicitor briefly] and were kept at the police station for almost 40 hours. One of the five received a badly cut mouth from an overzealous copper during his arrest and has made an official complaint.

They were fined £100 each and were bound over to keep the Queen's peace for a year.

What had they done? What was this terrible crime? The five had been caught spraying graffiti on walls around the town. Slogans such as "Riot against Thatcher", and "Jobs not bombs", but worst of all in the eyes of the police and society was "Stuff the Royal Wedding" and other similar stronger sentiments.

The police tried to pin a charge of conspiracy on them which would have been very serious and they were very disappointed that they received what they considered to be a very light punishment. A consequence of this is that five of our local Young Socialists have become very well known to the local police and they will now have an excuse to pull them in on any pretext.

All the graffiti was cleaned off very fast [the next day, in fact]. Fascist graffiti still remains in evidence all over the town.

A defence fund has been set up and £56 was raised at the Summer Camp and more has been added since. Any more donations would be gratefully received.

Eric Scott

ARRESTS!

Useful addresses
National Council for Civil Liberties
186 Kings Cross Road,
London WC1.
01 - 278 4575

British Pregnancy Advice Service.
Guildhall Buildings,
Navigation St.,
Birmingham 2.
021 643 1461

Brook Advisory Centres [mostly for young girls and women, contraception and advice]
233 Tottenham Court Rd
London SW1

National Abortion Campaign
374 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1
01 278 0153

Rights of Women [same address]
01 278 6340

Women's Fightback
41 Ellington St.,
London N1
01 607 9052

Freind [gay and bi-sexual men and women]
274 Upper St.,
London N1
01 359 7371

Gay Switchboard
5 Caledonian Rd.
London N1
01 837 7324

Release [legal advice, drugs, abortion etc]
1 Elgin Avenue,
London W9
01 289 1123

Sappho [lesbians]
20 Dorset Square,
London NW1
01 724 3636

Rape Crisis Centre [there may also be one in your area]
PO Box 42,
London N6
01 340 6145

If you or your YS branch have more or other useful addresses or events to advertise in the this column send them in to CLASS FIGHTER, BM Box 5277, LONDON WC1 N3XX

YS SUMMER CAMP

Dear Class Fighter,
Just dropping a line about the LPYS Summer Camp last August in the Forest of Dean.

In past years, the lovely countryside which the camp site is set in has been marred by only one thing — the presence of Militant, who seem intent on running an official LPYS camp as their own little family affair (and in some cases I do mean family affair) with opposing tendencies in the YS such as Class Fighter, or just individuals, getting

no chance to air their views properly — in the large debates and rallies.

This year, mercifully, it was different. A sizeable CF contingent of over 50 comrades, as well as quite a few people we only met for the first time there, were really able to shake things up a bit.

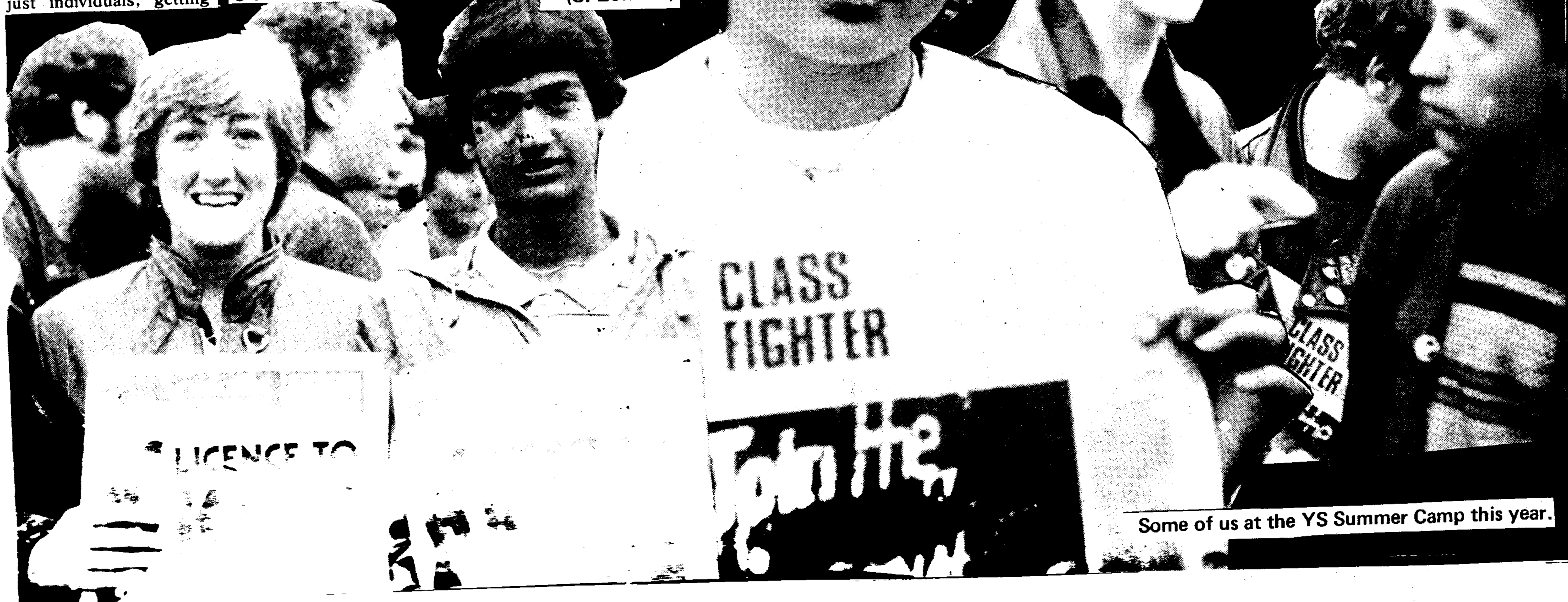
CF, with its own series of meetings not dealt with in the official programme (you know, silly irrelevant issues like this summer's riots and the arrest of 3,000 young people; gays; an eye-witness

report on the hunger strike campaign etc etc) at last injected a bit of life and politics into a normally mediocre week.

Next year we hope to be far more organised — with many more comrades there — and our own facilities for socials etc. What do other CF supporters think and would anyone be prepared to help in starting now to organise for it? Please let me know, c/o Class Fighter.

Yours fraternally,

Chris Marsh
(S. London)



Some of us at the YS Summer Camp this year.

Black women

THE LAST public meeting our YS had invited Anwar Ditta along to speak. It was a joint meeting with the Asian Women's Collective, from which Sushela spoke.

Anwar spoke about the 6½ year struggle she had with the British state to win the right to be with her children only briefly.

The public meeting was an attempt to draw more black women together in the fight against racism. Our YS is involved in anti-racist work — the area in which we work is the main black community in Coventry and over half our members are black.

Although black women suffer as much racism as black men, they rarely attend meetings. This isn't because they're not capable of it — as Anwar pointed out, but because they're often not allowed to: "I suffered it myself,

from my own community, but it didn't stop me fighting for my children".

Black women not only have racism to contend with but sexism inside and outside their own community. Sushela spoke of the need to get Asian women together, to talk about their oppression and to make their fellow Asian men realise that they too are capable of fighting racism and on the broader issues.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing the racial attacks and murders in Coventry. Although Anwar had only arrived in Coventry just before the meeting in Foleshill, she'd spoken to several people already. She knew about the attacks, especially on Asian women — how they have had their saris burnt, how some white girls at schools spit on Asian girls, pull their hair, or even cut their hair.

"If this is happening to us we should protect ourselves, women need to come out."

Recently a bunch of racists came out of the Topshop (a YOPS centre) in Foleshill and beat up an Asian woman just outside her house. As Asian women are rarely allowed to go out to work, being in the home makes them as vulnerable, if not more so, than men — especially to petrol bomb attacks.

Jean, a post office worker, made a comment about a previous anti-racist meeting. "There were only a handful of women and only two of them black — if every bloke had allowed their girlfriend or wife to come there'd have been not only 400 people there but 800." The same applied to rallies and marches.

Asian women can take an active part in struggles was the message of the



meeting — remember Mrs. Desai or the Chix women — even the Rally against Racist Attacks, which was led by nearly 2,000 Asian women shouting and chanting.

We spoke about self-defence — a YS member spoke of the hostility at first even in the YS to women doing defence work. Perhaps significantly a group of young Asian men left before the

meeting had properly finished — let's hope they got the message.

"We can do more than stay in kitchens. Our men must realise that. It isn't our religion which keeps us back — sometimes that's just an excuse, but it's the men. Yet we can fight and we will!"

JUDITH BONNER
Coventry North East YS

Is this your life?

THE MOST obvious way that women are oppressed is in the home in the family. The man goes out to work and brings home the money — the woman stays at home and does the house work.

Even if the woman does go out to work, when she gets home she is still expected to do the house work and cook the dinner.

These roles are reinforced by capitalism. Women produce children, therefore they should be encouraged to stay at home to provide more kids for the work force.

On the telly women are portrayed as doing the washing, cleaning, cooking. At school, you are told these things are natural and if a woman wants a career instead of marriage, well, she just isn't right!

Sexually, women are discriminated against. If a man sleeps around he is virile and masculine. If a woman sleeps around, she is a slag or a tart.

If a woman doesn't climax, she is frigid. It's not because the man maybe isn't considerate in bed, or of course not. Women are supposed to satisfy their men all the time. Remember girls: lie back and think of England!

'Lesbian' is a dirty word and to be one means you're diseased (this also applies to gay men). There is something wrong with women who don't fancy men.

I once spoke to a man [who reckoned he was non-sexist] but he couldn't understand, couldn't comprehend that women could get sexual pleasure from each other.

All through their school life young girls are taught that they should leave school at

16 and maybe take a job in a factory until they can 'hook' a man, settle down, marry and have kids.

They are taught needle work and cooking, good basic home skills. While the boys are taught metalwork and woodwork. In my school the girls only got to do metalwork and woodwork when the boys wanted to do cooking.

In careers lessons, the boys were encouraged to go on to further education or engineering or be doctors or business men, while the girls were pushed into leaving at 16 to do secretarial work, nursing or factories.

Please note girls, these are only stop gap jobs till you start breeding.

But then if you do get pregnant and don't want the baby, it isn't your choice. You don't get any say in whether you want to spend the next 20 years of your life looking after a kid. It's not you that should decide. It's your doctor or your doctor's ion. But remember,

doctors, MP's and priests are mainly men!

I call for positive discrimination for women — that is in every Labour Party, trade union branch, in fact in any group or committee whose decisions affect people, women should be represented.

How can a man [even a so-called non-sexist man] represent a woman as well as a woman herself can? A man can try

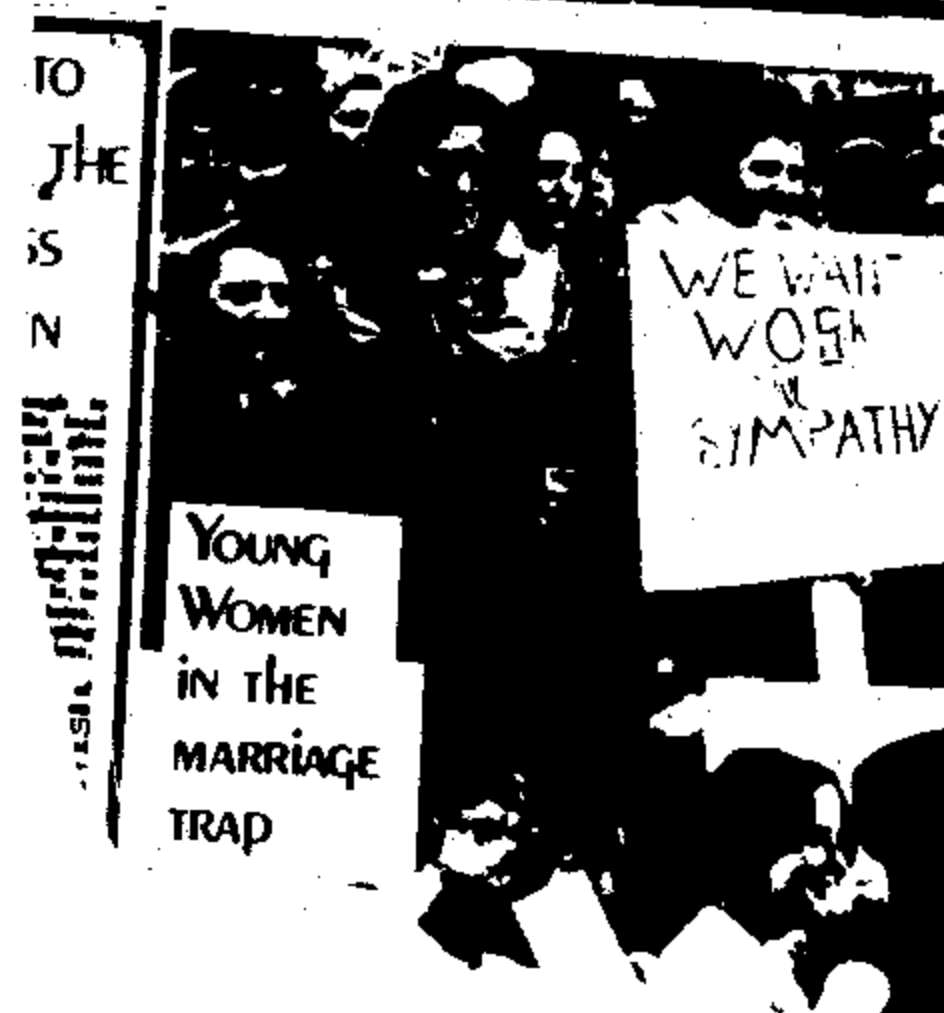
and understand a woman's problems but only a woman has them.

Positive discrimination is a temporary measure, because, hopefully, men will eventually get over their sexist attitudes and start treating women as the equals they are.

P.S: But this doesn't mean of course, that I would favour a left-wing man who would represent women's rights better.

Kate Williams
SW Wolverhampton YS

WOMEN'S FIGHTBACK



IT'S A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO HAVE A JOB

Labour Women Make Politics Not

The new Women's Fightback 10p plus postage from 41 Ellington St, London N7.

JOBS

The Jobs Express train sets out from Newcastle on November 23rd. There will be 375 youth on it by the time it reaches London 4 days later.

It's organised by our old friends the TUC along with The National Union of Students and some other groups. You'll remember the TUC from the People's March earlier this year; you'll not remember them for saving any jobs though. But this time it's just for youth.

The 4 day lightening tour is supposed to bring to the attention, for those who haven't already noticed, that there are a lot of unemployed youth. In fact, over half of the total number of unemployed are under 25.

The demands coming from the train are 'Jobs, Education, Training (!!!) and a Voice in the Country's Future'.

On the TUC's record of fighting for jobs, not a lot can be said, as they haven't done a lot. What a 'voice in the country's future' means, we're not sure; maybe overthrowing capitalism and seizing power, but we doubt it.

However, there will be Class Fighter supporters on the train and its up to us and the labour movement in all the towns the train goes through to fight for demands that really will stop unemployment: cut the hours, not the jobs, strike and occupy to save jobs, like Laurence Scotts, Lee Jeans and many other workplaces (with zero support from the TUC) — build an unemployed workers' movement.

GIVE US A FUTURE



-what kind of future?

EXPRESS

...WHO'S LEFT HOLDING THE BABY?

love & marriage

bundle of joy





CLASS FIGHTER



NLWYM CONFERENCE

Don't miss our founding conference!
 Since the meeting we held in June, attended by over 160 youth from YS branches from all over the country, the National Left-Wing Youth Movement has won many new Class Fighter supporters in the YS, produced 2 issues of our paper plus a special issue on the riots.

Our conference on November 21st and 22nd at Caxton House, St John's Rd. in London is jam packed with sessions on unemployment, YOPs, fighting racism and fascism, youth culture, women's liberation and lots more. We'll have films, exhibitions and we'll be discussing and voting on our policy document. (Copies available from NLWYM, BM box 5277, London WC1 N3XX). We'll elect a new Steering Committee and there'll be a gig on Saturday night with bigg-ish name bands! Food and accomodation will be available both days.

All this for only £2, if you've a job, 50p if you haven't or are on YOPs.

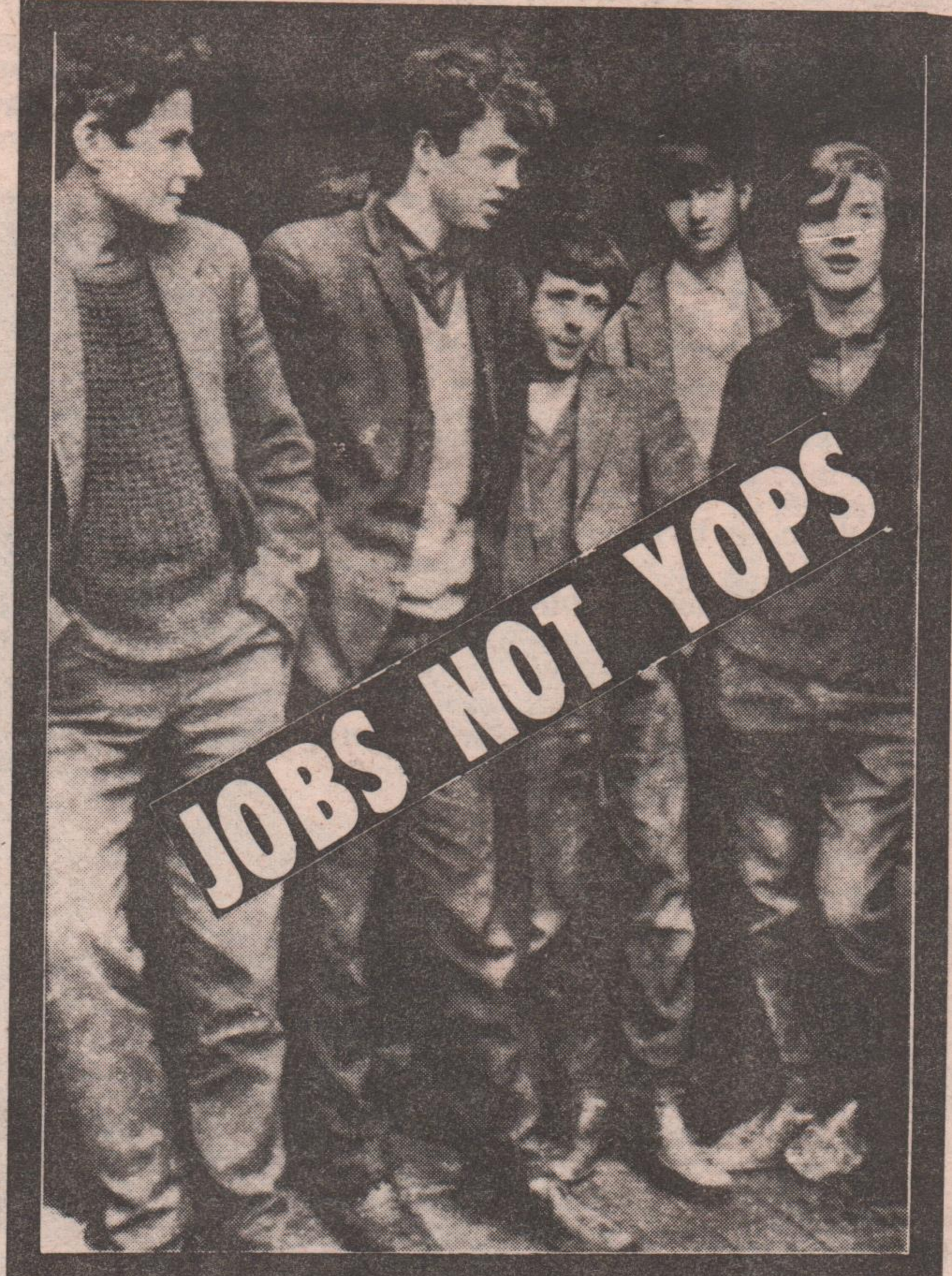
You can't afford to miss it! Write in now for conference documents, registration and details of transport from your area.

21st - 22nd NOVEMBER

ENOUGH



IS



ENOUGH!

Caxton House, St John's
 Way,
 Archway,
 LONDON



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