

CLASS FIGHTER

MAY 7
Rock the Bomb!

ASSEMBLE 11am at the Embankment. March to Brockwell Park for Rock the Bomb Festival with Paul Weller and more

Paper of the National Left Wing Youth Movement

No. 10 April 1983 10p

TORIES TAKE AIM AT YOUTH!

THOSE people who say the Tories don't give a thought to the millions of working class youth left with more chance of a nuclear fry-up than a decent job are wrong.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Margaret Thatcher, Keith Joseph, Norman Tebbit and a number of other important cabinet ministers take time off from their pressing affairs of state to sit down every now and then to discuss the problems of the family and just what they should do about them.

They meet at the Family Policy Group which is a clearing house for all the whims, prejudices and brainstormers that the cabinet ministers have in their baths.

But these bizarre, revolting and malicious ideas are being turned into policy by the FPG. The minutes of these meetings — which we have seen — show that Thatcher is insistent that she means business.

It may look like a revolting creature from outer space, but this is what the Tories have in store for your tomorrow...

The minutes go on about "seeking ways of counteracting those factors which tend to undermine, or even prohibit the exercise of personal responsibility and a sense of individual self-respect". Does this perhaps mean giving people a job and so counteracting the demoralisation which goes with unemployment? No, it doesn't. In the topsy-turvy world of the Tories it means the opposite. The problem isn't unemployment. The lack of self-respect comes from being able to rely on state benefits. Individual self-respect is created by removing the welfare state!

Proposals

The Family Policy Group is not just concerned with youth. It has come up with proposals which would significantly attack all women, young and old. But we

Tory plans for youth are included in a document which has been leaked to the press. Class Fighter has seen it.

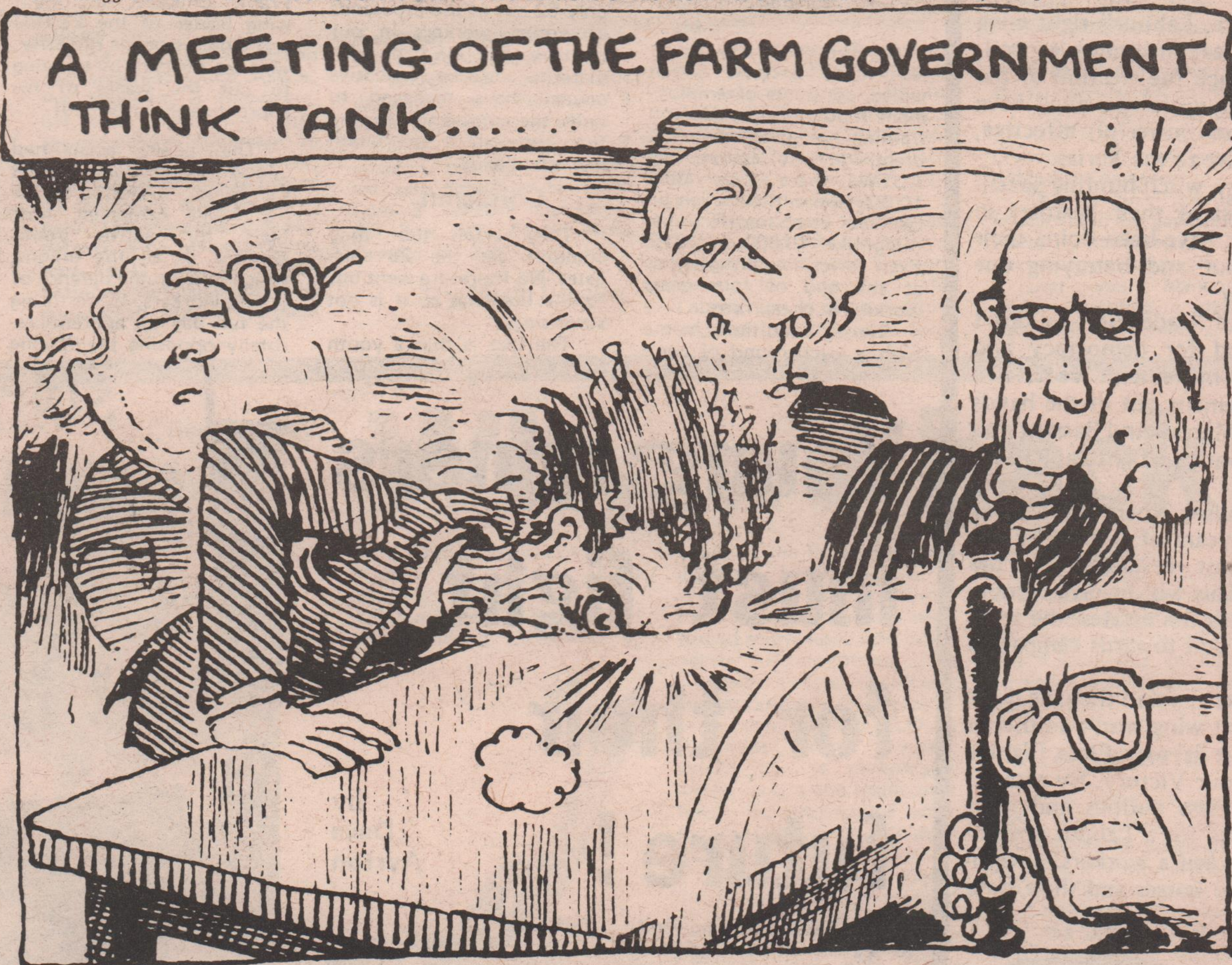
most direct bearing on youth.

The very first proposal backed by Tebbit and Howell says simply "Encourage mothers to stay at home" and we later find out the social pressures the Tories want to put on young women to convince them they don't want a job.

'Responsive'

School courses will change to become 'more responsive' to industry's needs (stop reading that book) and there will be special classes to "provide preparation for marriage and parenthood (to parallel preparation for work)". These courses will apparently attract the sort of money

From 'Maggie's Farm' by cartoonist Steve Bell. Two editions of his work have now been published by Penguin



that their role in life is looking after men and children.

Women will do these courses while men will learn how to become good workers. When not learning how to make wedding cakes (girls) or learning the corporate structure of the factory (boys) there will be a short period of integration, teaching school students to manage their pocket money.

"change the culture so that business wealth creation (making profits out of workers) becomes more acceptable".

These are not the only changes the Tories intend to make in schools. As well as introducing a voucher system which would enable middle class parents to send their children to private school, the Department of Education has been told to encourage parents to set up their own schools and to only

Keith Joseph wants to put all teachers on five year contracts, and you can bet your life the teachers he will want to get rid of at the end of their contract won't be the same ones you would like to see the back of.

'Self Reliance'

The final gem we thought you would like to know about is in a section labelled 'self reliance'.

Cutting up the welfare state means using the family to do its work. It follows then that parents

are to be responsible for their kids' "anti-social behaviour", so blackmailing youth to conform or punishing their parents.

(The Bible says the sins of the parents are visited on the child... the gospel according to Thatcher has the same idea but the other way round).

Another touchingly reassuring proposal... the family is to become increasingly responsible for unemployed 16 year olds... does this mean taking away their right to state benefits?

INSIDE

LPYS 1983

Pete Cashman and Jane Ashworth look at the issues coming up at this year's YS conference — see centre pages.

Colin Roach

Dozens of black youth have been arrested on Colin Roach protest marches. See page 3.

Women

Young women are powerful — review; Immigration laws are sexist as well as racist; Class Fighter women meet. All on page 7.

CND

Oxford YCND march to Greenham — report; Raygun's space war; Why the YS should build YCND — see back page.

Join the LPYS

Editorial

Back-stabbing in Bermondsey

PETER Tatchell's defeat in the Bermondsey by-election was an important setback for the left in the labour movement.

There will be more serious defeats in the future, though, if we don't look at what went wrong in Bermondsey and do something about it.

Some things were out of our control. The scandalous media campaign of lies and smears against Peter was disgusting but predictable. The real scandal, however, was not the gay-baiting of the gutter press—we expect that from the bosses' lie machines. The real scandal was the role played by the right wing leaders in the Labour Party.

These so-called 'leaders' of our movement deliberately sabotaged the campaign. Michael Foot started the ball rolling when he denounced Peter Tatchell's support for direct action and said in the House of Commons that he would never accept Peter as a candidate.

As polling day got nearer, the knives really went in. The start of Labour's election campaign was delayed when the national agent confiscated thousands of leaflets just because they had been printed on a printing press associated with the Militant newspaper.

But this was nothing compared to the disgusting and calculated move by the right wing majority on the Labour Party NEC to expel the editorial board of Militant newspaper the day before voting took place in Bermondsey.

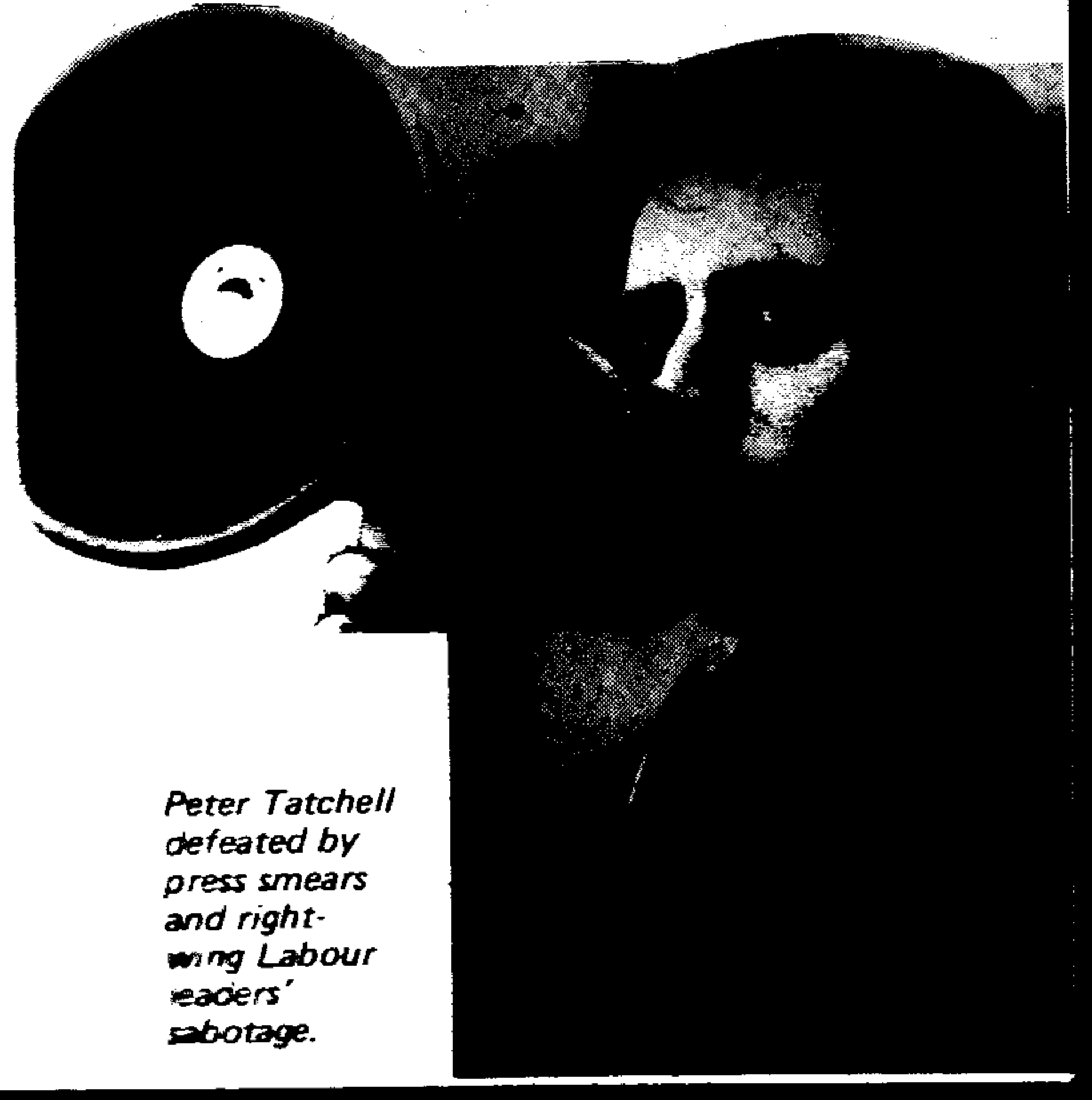
Besides such direct sabotage, Labour's right wing are responsible for Peter's defeat in a more general, political sense. At no time since the election of the Tory government, nearly four years ago now, have they put forward any kind of powerful, effective, working class socialist alternative to the Tories.

Instead they have been busy witch-hunting socialists in the Labour Party, just as their partners in crime, the trade union barons, have been doing their bit for the bosses, selling out and betraying one industrial struggle after another.

This is precisely the kind of 'leadership' we don't need. That is why we stand for democracy and accountability in the workers' movement. We have to take the control of our movement out of the hands of people like Foot, Healey, Murray and Basnett and give it to those who really want to fight capitalism, the rank and file.

In those areas like Bermondsey where the Labour Party has lost support after years of neglect by the right wing 'old guard', we must reestablish it as the party of the working class. This will involve turning the local parties outwards into the estates, the local communities and workplaces and towards campaigns like CND.

If Labour is to win the next election then we must get out campaigning. The right wing won't do this so the rank and file must. That is why Class Fighter supports Socialists for a Labour Victory. By mounting an offensive based on class politics and mass struggle we can start the fight for a Labour government, not like previous ones, but a workers' government prepared to take on the bosses and their state machine.



Peter Tatchell defeated by press smears and right-wing Labour leaders' sabotage.

Duffy's deaf ear to youth



PHOTO: JOHN LISTER

"Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign must take up defence of young workers"

SINCE this Tory government was elected, undoubtedly one of the hardest hit sections has been young workers. The introduction of the 'Young Workers Scheme' which gives bosses the incentive to cut our wages has driven down the average wage for an 18-year old way back to 1977 rates of under £40 a week. Just a glance at Job Centre billboards shows this.

Worse

Conditions in the factories have become much worse, contracts of employment much more vague and training has gone down the drain. In my union, the AUEW, there were only 10,000 apprentices taken on last year compared to something like 40,000 in 1975. Even fewer actually get jobs at the end of four years working at cheap rates.

These conditions come with a background of com-

plete collaboration by the trade union leaders, particularly the ones in my union.

Many unions have a youth section which holds its own conference. AUEW rules state that the 'executive council shall convene annually a conference of junior workers which shall consist of not less than 26, nor more than 52 delegates'.

This is hardly a mammoth task. In fact it's conservative to think that the conference should have only 52 out of the thousands of young workers in our industry. But the right wing majority on the executive council have managed to knife the conference, for the first time since the union was established.

Condemn

They claim that they couldn't get the 26 delegates. No literature went out to the branches so it is not surprising.

The fact is that a youth

conference is the last thing that Terry Duffy, the right wing President of the union wants. It might choose to condemn him for the treacherous role he has played over the YOPs and YTS cheap labour schemes, appearing in grovelling adverts with employers saying what a good thing the scheme is.

Set the pace

A youth conference might also come out against Frank Chapple, arch-right wing leader of the EETPU and close associate of Duffy, who set the pace by agreeing to cut the wages of his apprentices by over £20!

The newly established 'Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign', successor of the YS YOPs campaign must fight for active youth sections in all the unions, which take up the defence of young workers, by restoring the full pay for apprentices, totally opposing the 'Young

Worker Scheme', negotiating the full rate and a proper contract that guarantees a job for YTS workers and doing away with the craft chauvinism which cripples young workers in the union who have less rights than a skilled man.

Young workers in the AUEW should join a fight to oust the right wing leadership by becoming active in the union, attending branch



AUEW's Duffy

meetings and organising activities.

The rate for a skilled worker in the engineering industry is now an abysmal £87 due to the collaboration of the AUEW leaders.

Our fight must start by restoring us back to real wages with a £20 new money across-the-board claim that must be fought for. Defence of jobs must also be a priority with both a 35 hour week and a policy of occupying factories threatened with closure.

The whole future of our union, of the youth, depends on that fight being taken up. The alternative is to sit back and get swallowed up by that champion of youth, Frank Chapple and his cronies in the EETPU leadership.

MICK LIGGINS
Hackney Central YS, Hackney Trades Council and Hackney AUEW 3 branch

Young miners must fight for their future!

by
Dave
Ayrton

YOUNG Socialists who want to see the Thatcher government booted out will have been disappointed to see the miners vote against taking industrial action to save the Tynmawr/Lewis Merthyr Colliery.

The result indicates the need for a massive fight against the right wing leaders of the TUC whose action, or should we say inaction, has sapped the confidence of the working class.

It also shows the need for a decisive, revolutionary leadership which will fight the right wing in the NUM to the death.

Otherwise we will see Arthur Scargill and the left on the executive capitulate again to the right wing, like they did when a ballot was called which derailed the momentum of strike action which was spreading like wildfire through the coal

fields.

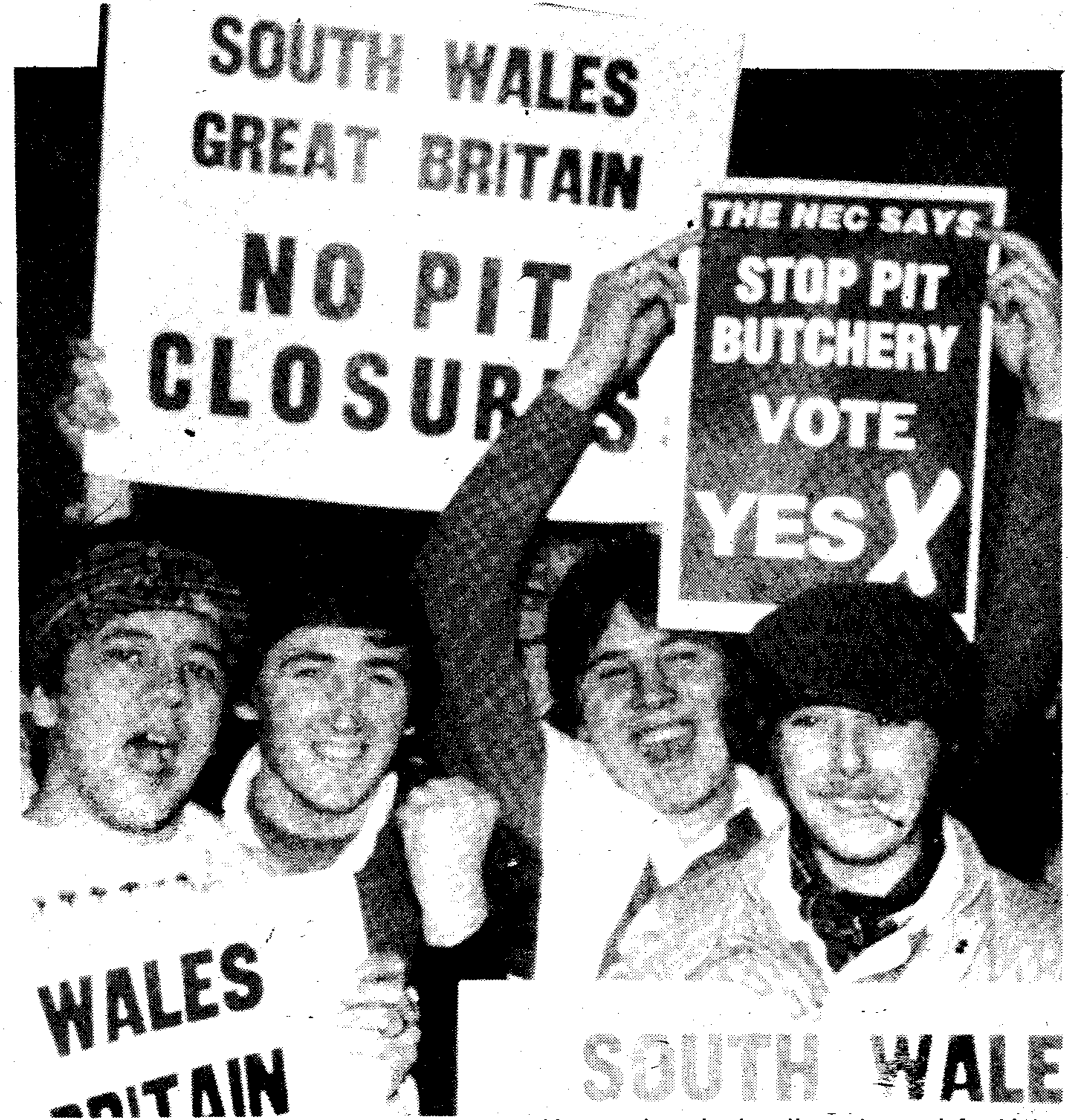
Many of the older miners are blaming the younger miners who were not in the coal industry during the strikes of 1972 and 1974 for the 'No' vote in the ballot.

This is partially true as many do not realise that what they have got had to be fought for in struggle.

Forced to fight

But as the Tories and their allies continue to attack the mining industry young miners will be forced to fight and could provide the basis for a fighting rank and file leadership within the NUM which was the case in the 1920s.

At the moment it is noticeable that young miners are not very active in the union. Steps have been taken recently which give miners under 21 a reserved place on the NUM branch committee.



Young miners back strike action to defend jobs

This, progressive though it may be, is not enough. Many branches find difficulty in getting one young miner to take the post.

We have to present lively politics to young workers

which make them want to get involved in the union.

With anything up to 70 pits facing the threat of closure and axe-man MacGregor being moved in to do the job in mining that he

did in steel, young miners have every reason to get involved in the struggle to defend their industry and with it their jobs and their future.

Colin Roach case

Lift the lid on cops!

SINCE Colin Roach's body was found in Stoke Newington police station, shot through the throat with a shotgun, 84 — mainly black — protesters have been arrested by Hackney and Stoke Newington police.

On the last demonstration on March 12, the police showed what they thought about allegations of harassment of the Roach family by arresting Colin's father, James Roach, along with dozens of other protesters, many of whom were badly beaten.

The main demand of the

campaign is for an independent public enquiry. Home Secretary William Whitelaw has turned this down, promising an inquest, which would achieve nothing. It will be a very important victory for the campaign if we can win an independent public inquiry, which Whitelaw knows will find difficulty in clearing the police.

Meanwhile, the black organisations of the area, along with the local labour movement, should begin collecting evidence for a labour movement and black community inquiry which would expose Hackney's

racist police force for what it is, and echo the sentiment of many people in the area of no confidence in the police force.

LPYS branches, Class Fighter groups and other

youth organisations nationally should take up the Colin Roach case and send messages of support and donations to: Roach Family Support Committee, 50 Rectory Rd., London N16.



Colin Roach protest demonstration

Defend Newham 8!

THE Little Ilford school in Newham, which consists mainly of black and Asian pupils has recently been the victim of extreme racist violence from gangs of white youths in the area. In one instance, a ten year old schoolboy was hospitalised.

The racists have been rampaging through the East Ham and Manor Park areas of Newham looking for Asians to beat up. Not sur-

prisingly local Asian youth believe that the police are not going to defend them, since nobody has yet been arrested for these attacks. So the only alternative as far as Asian youth are concerned is to defend themselves. When they began to do that, firstly by defending the school against attack, the police moved into action. They arrested eight Asian youths on a charge of con-

spiracy.

The campaign to defend the arrested young Asians, the Newham 8 Campaign, has many similarities with the successful campaign to defend the Bradford 12. The lessons of the Bradford 12 Campaign must be learnt here. The principle that self defence is no offence can be won only by an active national campaign building widespread support through

meetings, support groups, demonstrations and so on.

Unless we support this campaign, the Newham 8 could well end up in jail.

Send messages of support, requests for speakers, and donations to: Newham 8 Defence Campaign, PO Box 273, Forest Gate, London E7 9JN.

By Mick Liggins

Labour axe over Gay Centre

AT the moment Manchester has a widely-used gay centre. However, the right wing Labour council are doing their utmost to get rid of it.

At one point the council was threatening to close all its voluntary projects (of which the Gay Centre is one, and Rape Crisis Line and the Bangladeshi Women's and Children's Project are examples of others).

The council funds these projects jointly with the Department of the Environment. In February, the Labour Group of councillors decided to continue to fund

all of these projects *except* the gay centre: for the right wing Labour councillors, a gay centre is just an embarrassment. Since then, the budget has been voted down in a full council meeting. But it is likely that after May, the gay centre will be axed.

The Labour Campaign for Gay Rights (LCGR) has organised a campaign to defend the gay centre.

This is just the latest attack faced by gays and lesbians in Manchester. Clubs have been raided in the past.

Last year Manchester police launched a massive campaign of arrests of gay

men for 'importuning' in toilets — a crime with no victim, and a way of sexual release some men turn to because society denies them others.

Harassment

Lesbians have to put up with policemen coming into their clubs, and like gay men, have their clubs raided.

With the new Police Bill threatening even more harassment, lesbians and gays in Manchester know what to expect from a police force and a council with a record like this.

EDWARD ELLIS

By Clive Bradley

Why we back PLO

LAST June, the Israeli army invaded Lebanon and wreaked havoc with the Lebanese and Palestinian people living there. As a

result of the Israeli invasion, and the barbaric siege of West Beirut last autumn, PLO guerrilla fighters were forced to evacuate into other nearby Arab countries.

Many people — especially supporters of Israel — often describe the PLO as 'terrorists'. Class Fighter thinks this is completely wrong, and is the result of a failure to understand what the struggle in the Middle East is all about.

When Israel was established, in 1947-8, thousands of Palestinian Arabs, who lived there before, were expelled from their land. Israel was set up to be a Jewish state — and what that meant for the political movement that had been fighting to establish Israel — the Zionists — was a state *only* for Jews. To have a state only for Jews they had to kick out the Palestinian Arabs.

Ranted

For a long time the Palestinians had no real political leadership: the capitalist Arab states ranted and raved about fighting for Palestinian rights (but did nothing) until — 1967 Israel easily won a

war against them. After the 1967 war, the Palestinian nationalist groups captured control of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation which had been set up in 1964 by the cap-

alist Arab League.

The radical groups — chief among them Fatah, led by Yasser Arafat — believed that they could only liberate the Palestinians by 'armed struggle' against the Israeli state.

Too powerful

It is obvious now, in 1983, that Israel is far too powerful to be defeated just by guns. For the Palestinians to win they need to build mass struggle and try to win over the Jewish workers in Israel to see the justice of their cause.

But the PLO has increasingly operated as a *defence force* for the Palestinians (and also the Lebanese left) against the Israeli army. This was proved last year at the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila in Lebanon. After the PLO had been evacuated, the Israeli army allowed right-wing Christian thugs to go into the camps and slaughter thousands of unarmed Palestinians.

Without the PLO, Palestinians have died, are dying and will die. They aren't just terrorists, they are essential to the defence of Palestinian refugees.

Majority

For that reason they are supported by the over-

whelming majority of Palestinians. In 1976 Israel organised local elections on the occupied West Bank. All but one of the elected mayors were open supporters of the PLO.

Because of the fact that they are the chosen representatives of the Palestinians, and the only defence the Palestinians have got, we've got to support the PLO, and build support for them in the British labour movement.

Contact Labour Movement Campaign for Palestine at 28 Carlton Mansions, Holmleigh Road, London N16.



PLO leader Arafat



LPYS National Conference 1983

This conference needs to be big – big enough to scare off the witch-hunters who would close down the YS given half a chance.

And it needs to take up issues that are going to help the YS win thousands of new people to its ranks.

The motions coming up which we think are really important for the YS to pass are examined by Jane Ashworth and by Pete Cashman, the Class Fighter candidate for Labour Party National Executive Committee.

Vote Pete Cashman

TO defend the YS and fight off the right-wing witch-hunters who, given half a chance would close us down, we've got to build the YS. When the YS becomes a genuinely mass organisation which is active in every area of struggle that youth take up, the right wing won't be able to get rid of us. We will be winning the youth vote for Labour and we will be the most active section fighting for socialist policies and recruiting to the Party.

How can we build the YS? Youth are amongst the hardest hit by the Tories – young women are the worst hit. We have got to get involved in all the fights, against unemployment and the "training schemes", for nuclear disarmament, for

a grant for 16-18 year olds, against gay oppression, against sexism and racism and the deportations, and for solidarity with the struggles of the oppressed nations against imperialism.

Problem

The YS needs to turn towards ordinary young people who need socialism: but we have a big problem. Although the opinion polls in March showed that the 18-24 age group is the most solidly behind Labour, the Labour leadership is doing nothing to help us organise this support. In fact, its policies and its manoeuvres are helping the Tories.

As well as involving

the YS in the struggles of youth, we also have to fight with the rest of the left inside the Party for left-wing policies and for democratic reform.

Priority

Although electing a Labour Government is the priority for the labour movement, there are things that even a left wing Labour Government can't or won't do. We need a workers' government, one which is accountable to the labour movement. A workers' government wouldn't try to manage capitalism, (which even a Bennite government would do). Instead it would use its powers to further the class struggle. So rather than bolster up

the police and army it would do everything in its power to seriously weaken them. It would be a government which supported workers in struggle, rallied them into a fight as well as passed left-wing legislation.

Vote Class Fighter for a campaigning LPYS!
Vote Pete Cashman, Wallasey YS.

OUR CANDIDATE

Pete Cashman is 19. He is youth officer of the Labour Committee on Ireland, secretary of the TGWU 6/688 unemployed branch and has been a member of Wallasey YS since 1979.

Win the youth vote for Labour

WE ALL want to kick out the Tories. But there is a big problem. The Labour Party Manifesto is unlikely to provide anything approaching an adequate solution to working class problems.

In fact, it's a fair bet to say that the right-wing witch-hunters who write the manifesto will drop the conference policies that are likely to win support, especially the youth vote – unilateral nuclear disarmament and grants for 16-18 year olds.

It is vital that Labour wins the election and that we build the Labour Party in the course of the election campaign. Class Fighter supports Socialists for a Labour Victory, a campaign to which Constituency Labour Parties are affiliating and

which will produce its own material for use before and during the election campaign.

SLV will argue for people to vote for and join the Labour Party on the basis of the socialist policies passed at Conference. SLV will try to link up campaigns and groups who need a labour victory if their interests are to be defended – trade unionists who want the Prior and Tebbit anti-union laws repealed; CND supporters who want our conference policy carried out, women's groups who need positive legislation and public spending cuts reversed; tenants' associations who need houses

built and maintained, and rents and rates frozen; gay people who want the age of consent reduced and legal protection against discrimination by employers and the police.

The YS shouldn't sit idly by. We should work for a Labour victory by specifically relating to the struggles of working people, using conference policy where possible, and when this is inadequate, calling on them to join the party to fight for better policies.



SUPPO

THERE is a clear choice. The Conference can choose between motions which call for the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland as a step towards reunification or motions demanding that

NO SOCIALISM WITH WOMEN'S LIBERATION

WORKING class women are doubly oppressed: they are oppressed as workers and as women. A socialist society will liberate the working class but will socialism necessarily liberate women?

Certainly socialism will create the conditions necessary for women's liberation – socialised housework and childcare; the end of being forced to stay in the family for economic and practical reasons.

We won't get socialism, though, unless we involve the mass of

women. We might get to see a revolution, but without the involvement of women, the society it produces will still be sexist, and so not socialist.

Women's involvement means more than just women participating in the present labour movement. It means developing the labour movement's understanding of women's oppression beyond just calling for creches and abortion rights. All men have power over women. Any man could rape any

woman and all men are brought up to be dominant. All men expect to be treated as independent – all women are taught to be and are expected to be dependent on men.

Implications

The implications of trying to change this are enormous. Women must be able to organise independently of men. Women need to convince the labour movement that the relationships between men and women are political, they are



'Training' rip-off

YOPS, NTI, YTS. Which ever package you are on, it's still a con.

Scared stiff by the thought of hundreds of thousands of unemployed youth hanging around on the streets, "causing trouble and rioting", the government have set up these schemes — the next best thing to conscription.

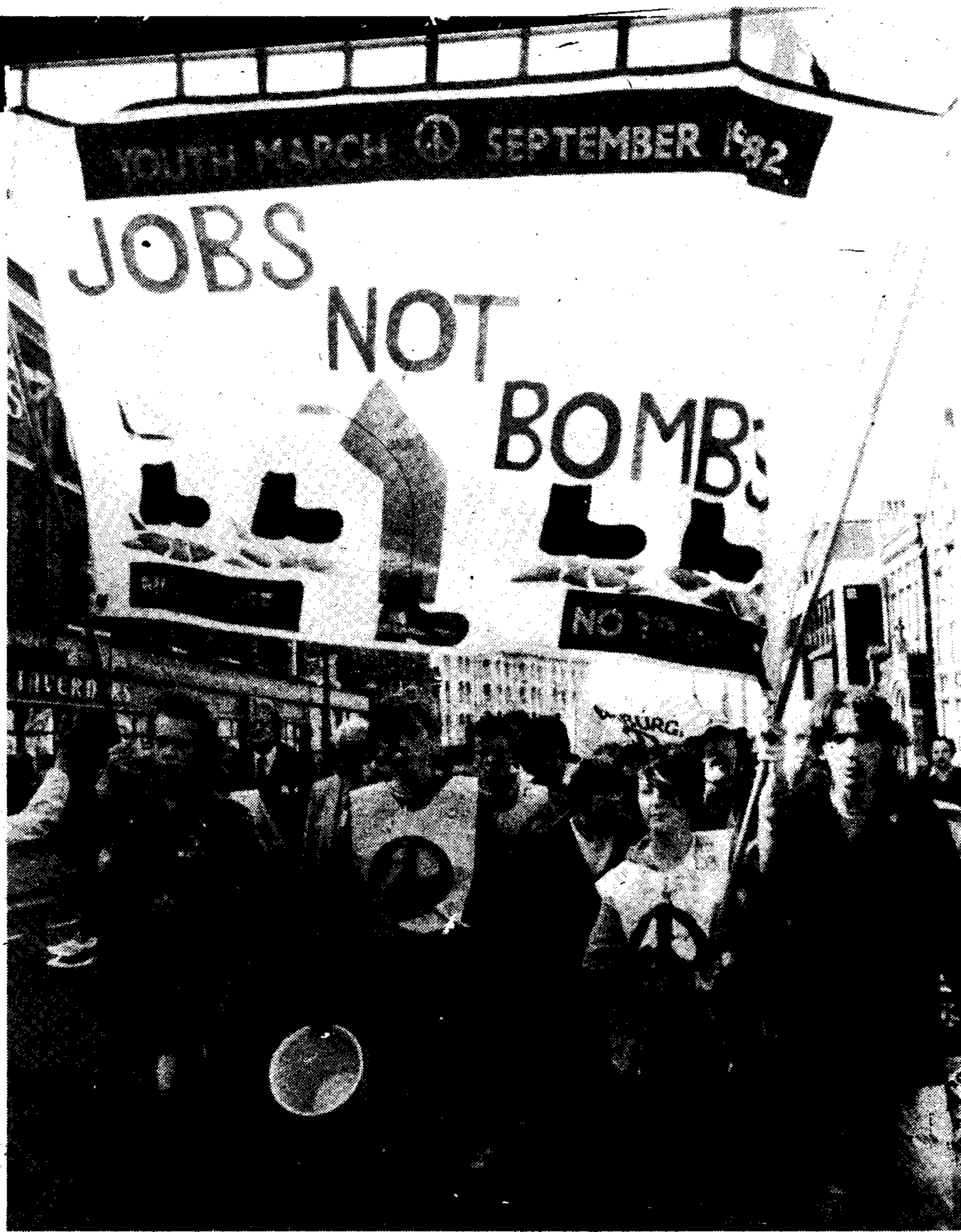
They've even got advantages over conscription. They are easier to sell to the public and the trade unions. It looks like the government is trying to do something

constructive to cut the unemployment figures and best of all, the schemes cut the wages bill and undermine trade union organisation.

YS conference can adopt policy which enables us to campaign against new schemes which don't have union rights and rates of pay and which haven't got a guaranteed job at the end of it.

The YS should continue its campaign to unionise these schemes.

The YS should support the unemployed workers movement and we must fight for unemployed sections and rights in the trade unions too.



Gay LPYS

JOHN HARRIS

THE YS doesn't seem to want to discuss gay rights. For years, members have wanted to take up the issue but the Standing Orders Committee prefer to put almost anything else on the agenda.

As we go to press it seems that this year's conference will yet again not be discussing gay rights. We have been told that the NC will read out a statement saying that the YS supports gay rights at work and condemns sackings on the grounds of sexual orientation. Once again, no debate will be allowed.

Organise

Gay LPYS has been set up to help organise YS members who want to fight for gay rights. At conference we will be challenging the order paper — demanding a discussion, and holding a fringe meeting.

Gay rights are something we should all fight for now. It cannot wait until we have socialism. It is now that people are beaten up or sacked for being gay. It is today that lesbians have their children taken away by the courts, now that the police raid gay clubs, now that people are forced by fear to lead secret lives, hiding their

sexuality.

And it's now that we have to fight.

It is an insult to gay youth that the only labour movement youth group refuses to take up a fight for their rights.

Bringing up the issue in the labour movement leads beyond straightforward questions of legal rights. Take for example, police harassment. The police raid gay clubs and arrest men for being affectionate towards each other in public. Why do the police do this? Because the police are reactionary — their job makes sure they are.

How can they get away with this? Because they aren't accountable to anyone. Why do gay men get picked on and not lesbians? Because the law doesn't recognise lesbianism, because women aren't supposed to be sexual without men.

Capitalism

It's obvious — fighting for gay rights means fighting capitalism too.

Young people are concerned about gay rights and gay activists can be won to the YS if we show that we take up their particular oppression and fight alongside them.

PORT IRISH FREEDOM

a party of labour is set up in the North.

We support the positions which relate to the main political problem in the North, the presence of British troops and the unity they enforce with

OUT ON!

power relationships.

We call for positive discrimination for women must step forward. We think it is more important than men to move aside to women to participate.

We support the motions which call for a Young Women's Conference and demand the right for the Labour Party Women's Conference to decide its own policy which will give it more power.

Britain.

The working class in the North is divided along loyalist and nationalist lines and the unions are divided too. To set up a Labour Party which ignores the partition of Ireland only reinforces the division. By papering over the crack, Militant supporters hope it will go away. Talking about socialist policies for Ireland is meaningless unless it is in the context of a united Ireland. And it is dangerous too. Republican workers will not stop fighting for unity with the South. Building a working class party which ignores this legitimate goal means building an Orange party.

Republicans

We have to take sides in the struggle between the republicans and British imperialism. We are on the side of the republicans. Not to take sides is to ignore the central issue in Irish politics, which of course

the Irish themselves cannot ignore. The fight against the border will go on and it is our duty to support it.

Socialists in Ireland have to convince Protestant workers that their interests lie in the reunification of Ireland. Pandering to their loyalism by ignoring the border does not help create class unity, it props up Orangeism.

We think it is important that the labour movement takes sides and stops lining up with the Tories. It has been Labour governments that have defended British capitalist interests in Ireland, sent in the troops, taken away political status from republican prisoners. The Labour Committee on Ireland, which the YS should be affiliated to, works in the Labour Party to end this bipartisan approach.

We support the legitimate aim of the Irish for a united Ireland and call on the YS to do the same.

Build the YS to fight the witch-hunt

THE five Militant Editorial Board members will be only the first to go if the NEC gets away with expelling them. After these go more Militant supporters, possibly the LPYS itself and then on to the supporters of Tony Benn — the comrades who have caused all the trouble for the right wing by fighting to democratise the Labour Party.

To stop the witch-hunt before it gets thoroughly underway is the only way to stop it.

We must campaign for CLPs to refuse to expel and support any which

are threatened with closure by the NEC for refusing to expel.

Backing down

Hornsey CLP seem to have won their fight to keep Tariq Ali in their party. The NEC threatened to disband them. Hornsey called their bluff and now the NEC is backing down.

The YS should support both the Labour Steering Committee Against the Witch-hunt and Labour Against the Witch-hunt (LAW). We should send delegates to

LAW and get involved in it. We need a campaign which coordinates constituencies through their democratic participation.

And socialists should be fighting — as Militant have done in the past — to keep the capitalist courts out of the labour movement, not to invite them in.

State

The courts are part of the ruling class state. The state is there to defend the interests of the ruling class: the courts are there to make

sure that those with wealth and power keep it.

Enemy

It is possible that the courts might rule in favour of the working class or of socialists on the odd occasion — but we certainly shouldn't count on it.

We need to make our movement clean of the agents of the ruling class. Looking to help from the courts is just holding out a hand to the enemy — we shouldn't be surprised if they bite it off.



Here comes the People's March!

THE People's March starts in Glasgow on April 23 and arrives in London on June 3, followed by three days of activities in the capital.

All unemployed readers contact their local unemployed centre or trade unions for information and try to come on the march.

The last one - which I went on - was a real experience. I walked from Sheffield to London. Young people who are active in their YS or trade union should make sure that their organisation supports the march.

One problem last time was that the marchers were

not allowed to elect their own stewards who were appointed by the trade union bureaucrats who don't know the first thing about unemployment. This time we should campaign for the stewards to be elected and the march to be under the control of the unemployed themselves.

What to do...
1) Write to the Regional TUC asking them for an application form to go on the march or get your own trade union to do this for you. Get sponsored by a trade union branch if you can.

2) Get involved in the town march committees, or

start one up in your town and argue for the march to be under the control of the marchers.

3) Fully support the march but remember to argue that the march alone isn't enough. The unemployed need to be organised locally and nationally in the unemployed workers' movement and trade union unemployed branches.

4) Argue that this march, unlike the last one, should link up with workers in jobs, especially those factories which are fighting threatened redundancies.

By Dave Ayrton

Ban the bullets, remove the troops!

THE Plastic Bullets Conference held at the end of February was a big step forward in the fight against the use of plastic bullets.

Plastic bullets have killed 14 people in Northern Ireland, including seven children.

A lot of the time they are used against youth, especially Republican youth who have had enough of being pushed around by the British Army. Often they are fired at innocent bystanders as a form of intimidation of the whole population.

For too long the labour movement has shut their eyes to what is going on in Ireland. But the Plastic Bullets conference was an important change, drawing attention to the deaths and injuries which the British Army is inflicting on the population.

There were 200 delegates at the conference coming from Labour Party and trade union branches. Unfortunately there were very few delegates from YS branches. This was a pity because the fight of Irish youth is the fight of all youth, no matter what their nationality.

The highlight of the conference was the speech from Owen Carron, Sinn Féin MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. He gave support to the conference and stressed the need to build a mass movement to support the struggle against British imperialism. He got a standing ovation from the delegates, showing that in the war between the Irish people and the British Army, we support the Irish people.

The last Labour Party conference passed policy calling for the banning of plastic bullets. We must fight to get this policy implemented by the next Labour government. However, the banning of plastic bullets alone, will not solve the Irish question. Banning plastic bullets will remove a vicious, and often deadly, weapon from the British Army. But this is not enough. A solution will only be possible when the British Army is pulled out of Ireland where they are not wanted and have no right to be.

TONY DALE



Irish youth are in the forefront of the fight against British imperialism

PHOTO: ANDREW WARD, REPORT

Your letters

Youth need houses too!

Dear Class Fighter,
I was pleased to see the York amendment in for YS conference. It's about housing and it suggests the sort of measures we should argue for.

The main resolutions call for the nationalisation of the building industry (all well and good) and for one million homes a year to be built (again a good

idea). But they don't go any further than setting a Labour government to do this.

What is special about the York amendment is that it links up the housing problems of youth, gays, lesbians and battered women with what we should demand of Labour Councils and what can unite different people with different

problems to fight for.

By specifically talking about the need for young couples and shared singles schemes and the need for battered women to be given a home immediately, we have a policy to campaign around, which can be achieved now.

Imagine this situation in your town. A woman has been beaten up and finally summons up the

courage to move out. The council insists she goes on the waiting list and sits it out at home or finds private accommodation. If we only pass general policy - which says we want one million homes a year, then the YS doesn't have anything practical to say to help

this woman. If the York amendment is passed then we have a definite policy. Yes we want a massive programme of building, but we also want this woman to be immediately given a house as a priority.

June Ashworth,
Islington YS

Well done, the unemployed!

Dear Class Fighter,

Why do the left keep going on about stopping closures of factories making stupid things like motor cars.

When I was last unemployed, I thought nobody wanted me to work for them because I was no good.

Every time I turn on the television, somebody's going on about how terrible the unemployment is and people in unions keep saying we don't want to join the scrap heap.

I don't think these people help at all because they make you feel even worse when you're unemployed.

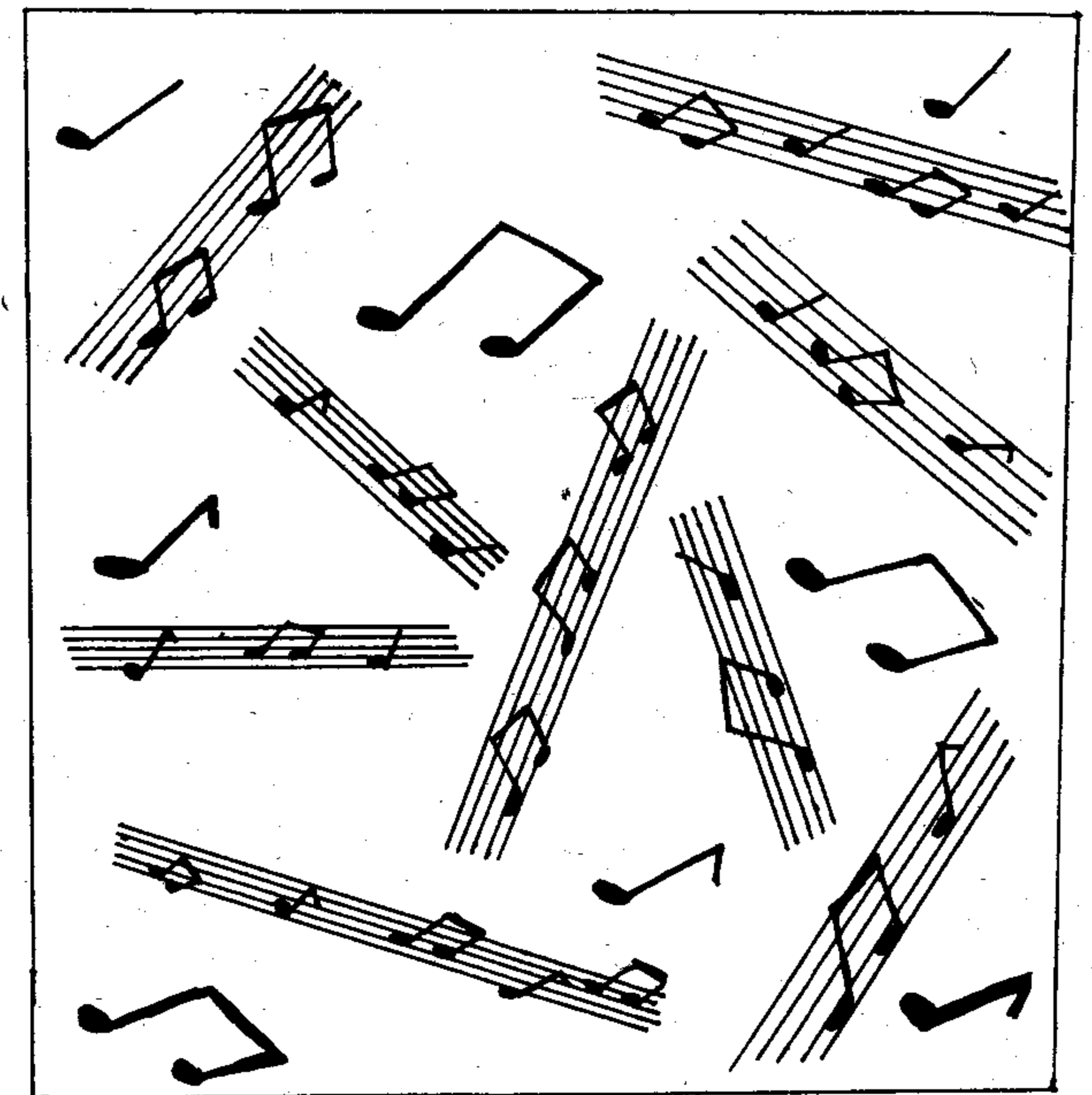
Surely the left should be saying that the unemployed should be proud of themselves for keeping going in this society. And they should be paid a decent wage and get all the education we need if there are no jobs.

As for the people working in the sort of factories that are bound to close nowadays - surely they should be getting their unions to make things that are worth making, so people really want to keep the factories open and the solidarity will build up to force the bosses' hands.

Yours in solidarity,
JIM CRAWSHAW
Peebles



Homeless goes into a hostel...



THE movement the capitalists couldn't kill met in London at the 100 Club on March 15: Discharge were playing and the punks were out in force. Some say punk is dead, but that's not true, it just isn't profitable any more.

Big business pushed it while there was money in it, then moved on. The ideal from which punk began was warped by the desire for profit, and the spirit was soon lost in the glossy packaging and 'Nationwide' appearances. Even the Clash sold out in the end, signing to CBS after years in the forefront of the movement.

But when the businesses moved on, punk didn't die. The people driven away, but the hard core remained devoted to the cult which came from pubs and clubs, not fancy studios.

These are the Discharge fans: the unemployed, those oppressed by appalling education and housing conditions, by police harassment and the constant threat of war. And this is what they sing about, in short sharp blasts of savage power and energy.

'Never Again', 'Possibilities of Mass Destruction', 'Fight Back' and finally their anthem, 'Decontrol'. The exhausted audience called for more, delighted by the performance, and despite the savagery of the music, the evening was not once disrupted by violence. So don't believe the Tory press when they slander that for abuse punk (and I include the music weeklies in that) is a real expression of grass roots feeling, the voice of a trodden-on generation saying with one voice, unite, unite and fight!

MICHAEL ESLEA,
Orpington LPYS

Class Fighter women meet

Class Fighter women met last month. We discussed political issues as they affect women, how women are leading the fight against cruise missiles and women's sexuality.

We had the day school because we felt it is necessary for women to be able to discuss together. It is not just sensitive issues like rape which are sometimes best discussed in women-only meetings.

In mixed meetings the

discussions don't concentrate on how a particular issue affects women. This is because socialist theory generally ignores the particular oppression of women. The whole working class is talked about and this formulation forgets about the conditions and problems of half of the working class — the women.

We talked about how we could help build a working class women's movement which takes up the problem of women, and decided that

the motions at YS conference calling for a Young Women's Conference should be supported.

This would provide a forum for women labour movement activists to discuss their work and draw up plans for action.

The workshop on sexuality provided an opportunity for us to discuss how our sexuality is warped by the media and sexist ideas. We talked about what turns us on and how far this corres-

ponds with what we've been told we should like. A recurring problem was heterosexuality — just how far is it possible for women to be heavily involved in sexual relationships with men and maintain independence and self-direction?

Iran

The meeting decided to hold a day school on women and international struggles.

We especially wanted a discussion on Iran, on how Khomeini's regime abuses women and how the Islamic revival has affected Iranian women in Britain.

We also, though we should, at some point in the future, educate men and invite them to a school organised and run by women about women's struggle.

Our meetings are open to all young women. We can be contacted at 13 Buxton Rd., London N19.



Women fight racist laws

THE racism of the immigration and nationality laws is being talked about more and more now. But it's easy to forget that even within these racist laws, the sexism of the state still comes through.

There is a need for us, if we are fighting racism, to look at the special ways women are affected.

The root of the problem lies in the fact that — for immigration and nationality purposes — the law doesn't regard women as individuals, but as 'appendages' of men: wives, mothers, daughters. Here are some examples of what this means:

*If a woman comes to Britain in her own right, say she has been granted a work permit, and marries an overseas student, she loses the right to stay her work permit gave her. So when the time comes for her husband to leave, not only does she have no legal right to keep him here, the fact that he has to go means that she does too!

*Men who have a right to live in Britain generally have

complete freedom to bring their wives and children to Britain (because they are seen as the men's dependents). The law can't cope with women other than as the dependents of men, so it gives them no right to bring husbands to Britain. At least, women who are British citizens can do this. But because of the history of the nationality laws, very few black women have the right citizenship.

Of course, the law only recognises heterosexuality: there is no possibility for lesbian and gay couples to be united at all.

The sexism in the laws has been brought in a recent anti-deportation campaign, a campaign to keep Halimat Babamba in this country.

Halimat came to Britain to join her husband, from Nigeria. Her husband beat her up, and threatened to kill her.

Eventually Halimat escaped to a women's refuge. Her husband has now gone back to Nigeria. So the

Home Office want to send her and the children back too. This, despite the fact that if they went, Halimat's husband would have the right to take the children, to refuse to support Halimat (so she would have no means of support) and could easily arrange to kill her (which he has threatened to do).

Sharpened

So the problems faced by many women in Britain — leaving a violent husband, and then managing on their own — is sharpened by the racist treatment Halimat suffers under immigration law.

It's not surprising you don't find women with immigration problems in the unions. This is Maria's case:

"I came to England in 1979, when I was 20, to work as an au pair. I was told I would have plenty of time to study to improve my English. But the work with the house, the children and the cooking took up most of my time — after 12 hours of

work I felt exhausted. I could only remain as an au pair for two years, but I could not afford to return to my country. The only way I could do was as a student, so I have to do washing up and cleaning for £72 a week to pay the fees of a private English school. My bed sitter costs £27 a week; I spend £10 on fares and there is hardly any money left for me to eat..."

Most women who come to Britain to work are, like Maria, working in traditional 'women's jobs' in catering and hotel work. Often there are few unions active in these industries, and anyway what's the point of someone going to a union meeting if they have problems following what's going on because their English isn't very good?

No concessions

And Labour Parties make no concessions to those who work in these trades, which often means working at the very times when political meetings are held.

So how are migrant women workers, and women affected by immigration and nationality laws to organise and fight?

There was a conference in London last October which brought over 300 women together to talk about this problem. Since then, smaller groups of women have been meeting to talk about how to build on that conference — which was a tremendous success.

Campaign

In the middle of May, we'll be launching a national 'Women, Immigration and Nationality' campaign.

We'll have plenty of literature on the areas where sexism and racism come together, which we'll be looking for people to help distribute, and activity to mobilise for. If you write to Class Fighter at 13 Buxton Road, London N19, saying you're interested in the 'WIN' campaign, we'll send you the details of the launch meeting.



The message is power!

'Girls are Powerful' is the title of the book, and girls are powerful is the message of the book.

It is a selection of writings by young women aged 7 to 22 for young women about young women's lives. It is a must for everyone who wants to know what young women are thinking.

Divided into different categories, at home, at work, friends and lovers, looks, at school, together it details in the words of a number of young women the particular discrimination and inequalities they face.

From not being allowed to wear trousers to school in cold weather to being put into care at 15 for unlawful sexual intercourse, to facing bricks through the window because you are black.

"I've had so many arguments with blokes about my eye make-up. How do you tell a guy who is about as broad-minded as a cold chip that it's nothing to do with him what you do to your face? They just sit there and once you've shot your mouth off efficiently (you think) they turn round and say — But I don't like it."

"We've been told that if we wear trousers (to school) the hems would get wet on the toilet floors... and that they'd get sweaty... well, if all those things are true, boys should wear shorts."

"Just look at that girl who got a long sentence in a mental hospital for burning some curtains. It wasn't the curtains but the fact that she was having underage sex — they said she was in 'moral danger' but you would never get a 14 or 15 year old boy being taken in for the same reasons, unless he was homosexual."

Well worth reading.

KATE WILLIAMS
Wolverhampton SE YS

Support us!

- () I want a subscription to Class Fighter, and enclose £3 for 12 issues.
- () I would like more information on the National Left-Wing Youth Movement.
- () I would like a National Left-Wing Youth Movement speaker for my LPYS, YCND or other meeting. I enclose details.
- () I want to become a Class Fighter supporter and enclose £5 (waged), or £1 (unwaged). This entitles you to NLWYM Newsletters, mailings, a supporters card etc.

JOIN THE LABOUR PARTY
YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

Tick as appropriate.

Name

Address.....

Age.....

LPYS branch..... Phone no.....



RETURN TO NLWYM. 214 SICKERT COURT. ESSEX RD.. LONDON N1

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 Labour Government like the last one!

CLASS FIGHTER RAYGUN PLANS LASER SPACE WAR!

Rock the Bomb



YS for YCND campaign leaflet available, £1 per 100 from Peckham LPYS, 41 Camberwell Grove London SE5.

with Youth CND

REAGAN wants to construct super-weapons capable of destroying missiles before they reach their target.

These may be based on a platform in space and the armoury might include lasers, microwave devices and particle and projective beams (whatever they are!). We are assured that these plans could "change the course of human history" — end it more likely!

Surprising though it may seem, Raygun hasn't gone completely mad! These proposals are completely in line with the pattern of the arms race.

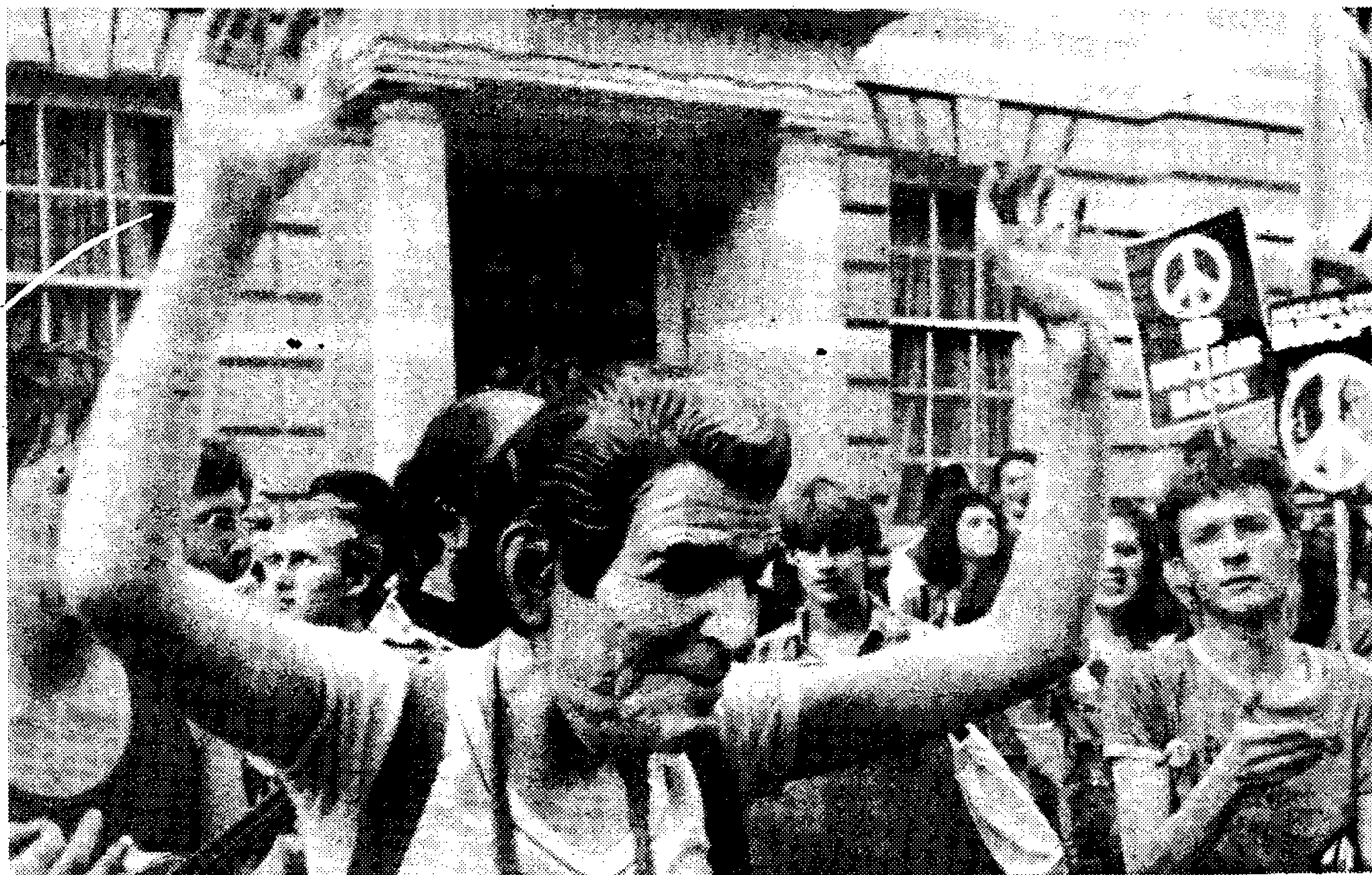
As each 'side' of the arms race looks for the nuclear advantage and warrior technology developments, it becomes more likely that we will get blown to bits. A computer short-circuiting and sending up the B52s (again) or a military chief deciding these 'damn reds' are getting upperty and need a good nuking is all it takes to end it all.

As long as there are class societies there will be a tendency towards war. That is why it is so important that we fight for nuclear disarmament now. It is necessary that we hold the Labour Party to its conference policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Forum

YCND is the fastest growing youth movement in the country and the YS should be working with it.

A campaign in the YS has been set up called YS for YCND. It provides a forum for YSs to work in. The YS national committee has traditionally been either hostile or indifferent to YCND and plenty of YS members are thinking that it is



Raygun's gunning for you...

time this changed.

YS for YCND has produced leaflets that YSs can use to build for the Rock the Bomb festival in Brockwell Park, South London on May 7.

They advertise the festival and argue that disarmament means taking power away from the capitalist war mongers. The leaflets call on youth to join the YS and YCND.

YS for YCND is also going down to Greenham after the Festival on May 8. If you are a woman and want to come with us, write for details of transport to Peckham YS, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

THOSE of us who have been battling away to get Militant supporters in the YS leadership to take YCND seriously will be surprised to read in a report by the Tory Bow Group that the 'lunge to the Left since 1980' (in CND) has been engineered by a small clique of extremists "largely Bennites, but some are supporters of the Trotskyite Militant Tendency."

If you really want the YS to take YCND seriously you should join those of us in YS for YCND who are campaigning for just that! Write to Peckham YS,

Women's general strike - May 24

1983 is the year of Cruise. The missiles will be here by the end of the year if we don't stop them.

And stopping them is what Greenham, the other peace camps and the huge growth of CND are all about.

Women have been in the lead in the fight against Cruise. And now they are taking the initiative again with a Women's General Strike on May 24.

The plan is for all women everywhere — in paid employment, in the home, students, unemployed women — to leave their normal work for the day and take non-violent, direct action and other forms of creative and imaginative action against the siting of Cruise missiles in Europe.

Actions will include pickets and blockades of nuclear bases, silent vigils in town centres and meetings of women to discuss nuclear weapons.

Women make up half the population and occupy mostly low-paid and unpaid but vital jobs. By withdrawing our labour for a day and taking positive action for peace, we can be a powerful influence on the fight against nuclear weapons.

To be effective working women need to be sure that they can leave their place of

work without fear of the sack. So the whole labour movement must back this action.

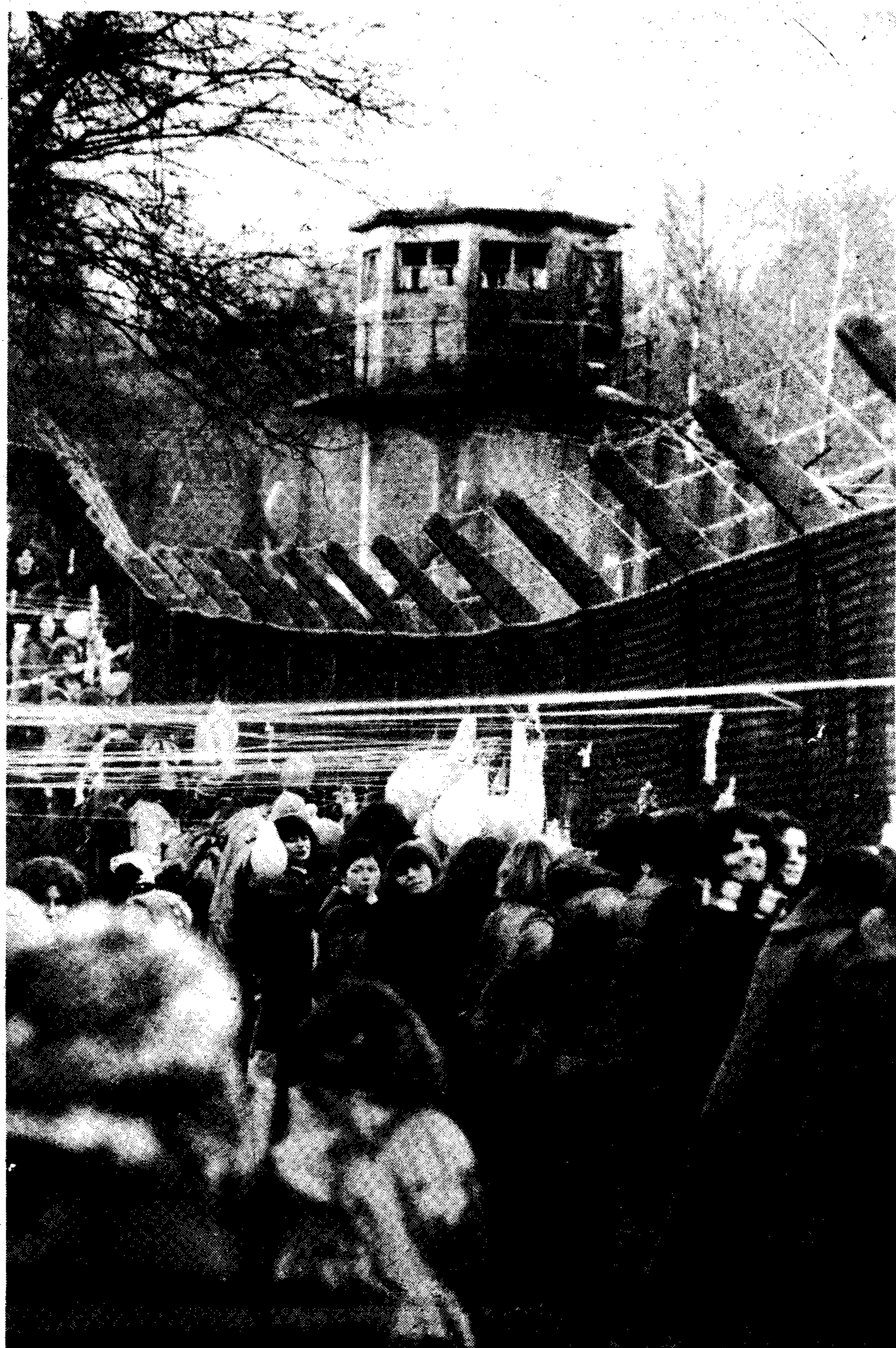
Many unions and the Labour Party support unilateral disarmament so we have the basis to build support for the women's general strike.

YCND gets one new membership application every hour. And it's not surprising. Cruise missiles are coming this year and young people are keen to stay alive. So they join the disarmament movement.

CND and YCND groups have got all sorts of politics represented in them. A lot of members are hostile to the YS. And that's not surprising either. The YS hasn't done much to support YCND.

Peace canvass

Class Fighter thinks the YS should work with



Women link arms around the Greenham base

Greenham march

OVER 150 youth walked 40 miles from Oxford to Greenham Common on a march organised by Oxford YCND in support of the Greenham women. The organisers did their best to ensure the positive participation of women on the march, being group stewards and leading the march into Newbury and on to Greenham. The event, which took place over the weekend 19-20 March, attracted YCND supporters from areas such as York, Birmingham and Brighton as well as Oxford.

The march set off from Oxford Town Hall after being addressed by the Mayor, the Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Oxford, Sarah Veale of the National Union of Students and Cathy Brown from Oxford YCND.

The march reached Didcot on Saturday night, where a YCND meeting was held before the disco. The meeting discussed various points including raising the age limit to 25 for national YCND. Joint activity with the Young Socialists was also discussed. This focussed on building for the May 7 Festival and the importance of being in the YS to fight for a full commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament in the Labour Party manifesto. At the end of the march a rally was held, addressed by Anna-Joy David (National YCND organiser), and a woman from the Greenham peace camp, who greeted us enthusiastically and invited the marchers to visit the camp.

The police presence at the end of the march was quite overpowering, particularly as they were using their special 'riot protection' vans which are apparently in frequent use at Greenham!

The march has made a positive contribution to building YCND groups in the region and on all those groups that took part. Also, given the large numbers of YS members present, the march has helped build the necessary links between the two organisations in the fight for unilateralism. However, it would be good to see more Class Fighter supporters on marches like this in future.

MARK SAPSFORD

YS must build YCND!

YCND, that we should build its activities, participate in CND's peace canvass (which asks voters if they want to get rid of the bomb and then encourages them to vote for the candidate who supports unilateral disarmament).

Links

While we're getting involved in YCND, and proving that our labour movement links are useful in getting the support of Labour Councils, while we are working for a government which will disarm and while we are

spreading support into the trade unions, we can convince CND members that to ensure peace, we have to take political power away from the war mongers — the capitalists.

The YS should be building for the YCND May 7 Festival called Rock the Bomb. This will attract thousands of young people to it and the YS should be part of it.

Sidelines

The last thing we need is for the YS to stand on the sidelines, giving out

leaflets which demand that YCND adopts a bold socialist programme. This, in itself, won't convince anyone. It won't build the disarmament movement, and it won't make it easier to convince YCND members that only if the working class takes power can we get rid of the bomb.

The women at Greenham Common deserve our full support — not only because they are fighting against Cruise missiles, but because they are showing women that they can play a powerful role in society, too.