

CLASS FIGHTER

Paper of the National Left Wing Youth Movement No. 11 May 1983 10p



Scrap the bosses: stop the BOMB!

Come and see us at the
YS for YCND stall.

Rock the Bosses!

Assemble, Embankment, 11 a.m.



AS the dust settled on the ruins of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, secret plans were already being drawn up for the future development of nuclear weapons.

Today, one Trident missile alone could destroy 160 towns the size of Nagasaki. Nuclear Armageddon becomes only a matter of time. The sophistication of nuclear weapons and the increasing occurrence of computer errors poses a big enough threat. But now, the Americans and their allies in the Tory government are placing greater and greater emphasis on developing a "first strike capability". This means having the weapons that will enable them to hit the Soviet Union's weapons before the Soviet Union has a chance to retaliate.

Such a strategy only increases the threat of nuclear war.

Globally, six times as much resources are put into developing more effective methods of killing than into medical research. We all know who pays for that under Thatcher's government. It is the people who die through lack of kidney machines, the health service workers, teachers, nurses and everyone else joining the dole queues.

For young people especially the misery of the dole of YOPs or YTS on top of the prospect of nuclear war is creating despair. That's why many thousands are turning to YCND.

Youth CND, along with campaigns like Greenham are leading the fight to stop the bomb. They recognise what it will mean if we don't stop Cruise: more cheap labour schemes, more unemployment, and more repression as social conditions worsen. Cruise is the most crucial fight at the moment. But we need to highlight the campaign against other weapons like Pershing II and Trident. And we need to campaign against the warmongering of Reagan and Thatcher and that means campaigning for 'Britain out of NATO!'

The siting of Cruise is part of a NATO decision to deploy 529 of these missiles across Europe. Trident is also part of NATO's 'defence' strategy. That's why we must campaign for 'Britain out of NATO!'

CND must take up this demand more vigorously. And the impetus to do this can come from YCND. We must warn people that NATO must be opposed not just because of its nuclear strategy but also because it is a warmongering machine which defends not us, but the bosses and which directly suppresses liberation struggles where it can.

Labour movement

If we are serious about getting rid of nuclear weapons, then we must fight for a government committed not only to stopping Cruise but to complete unilateral nuclear disarmament and the removal of all US bases from Britain. That government won't be the Tories or the SDP/Liberal alliance.

It won't even be the Labour Party as long as it is run by the likes of Foot and Healey because they won't implement Labour Party policy.

Class Fighter believes that only the labour movement has the potential power to halt Cruise and Trident and make sure that Labour Party conference policy is carried out.

That is why we urge all supporters of YCND to join the Labour Party and the Labour Party Young Socialists and take up the fight to force the Labour leaders to carry out our policy.

We think that YCND should turn to the trade unions, many of which are affiliated to CND, and demand that their leaders organise the blacking of all work on the installation of Cruise and Trident and the maintenance of Britain's nuclear arsenal and US bases.

We support 'YS for YCND'. This is a campaign set up by YCND activists in the Labour Party Young Socialists who are fighting to get the LPYS to throw its resources into the building of YCND into a mass youth movement against the Bomb.

Join Class Fighter supporters in the fight for nuclear disarmament and socialism!

Editorial Election fever

MAYBE it won't be June, but maybe it will be. Whenever it comes, one thing's for sure, we've got to kick out the Tories. The question is what sort of Labour government do we want? And the answer is a different one from the last one.

Class Fighter supporters have been working in the Labour Party to make sure that a future Labour government sticks to Conference policies, and MPs who don't can be got rid of. The Labour Party Campaign Document (the basis for the manifesto) sets out to ignore and fudge conference decisions — in fact the document is rather similar to the last but one.

"At the heart of this manifesto ... lies the Social Contract between the Labour Government and the unions."

Labour Manifesto, October 1974

"At the heart of our programme is Labour's new partnership with the trade unions ... Our starting point in government will be to discuss and agree with the trade unions a national economic assessment."

Labour's Campaign Document, 1983

"A new and urgent Industry Act will provide for a system of Planning Agreements between the Government and key companies."

Labour Manifesto, October, 1974

"We will ... negotiate agreed development plans with all leading companies..."

Labour's Campaign Document, 1983

"We shall participate in the multilateral disarmament negotiations and as a first step will seek the removal of American Polaris bases from Britain."

Labour Manifesto, February 1974

"We will propose that Britain's Polaris force be included in the nuclear disarmament negotiations in which Britain must take part."

Labour's Campaign Document, 1983

Public opinion alone won't stop the missiles coming. Those who control arms expenditure and the army, the ruling class, won't give up their weapons without a fight. And that fight won't just be with words. To make sure we get rid of the bomb demands a political fight to take power away from the warmongers.

That fight starts now, and we need to be clear that the only force strong enough to deprive Thatcher and Reagan of their missiles is the organised working class. The Labour Movement has the power to stop production and distribution, the power to stop a government dead in its tracks.

So don't just vote Labour, join it and make it fight to change society, get rid of the bombs and the warmongering capitalists who control them.

HOW WE BUILT OUR YS BRANCH

BLANTYRE LPYS was formed last October by a handful of people but has grown quite dramatically from six to 25 (with a further 30 supporters) in only seven months.

Although Blantyre is only a Ward YS, existing in a town of only 6,000 people, it is now one of the most active YS's in Scotland and probably the fastest growing.

Building an active, interesting YS is a very easy thing to do. It involves only two essential ingredients. Firstly, avoiding the usual boring routine; secondly keeping up real activity — public meetings, socials, five-a-side football, etc.

Our branch attempts to attract large numbers of youth and keep them. To do this we completely reorganised the branch structure as well as the way we relate to youth.

Some of the things we found useful include:

*The Executive Committee deals with all the really boring stuff, like finances, booking rails,

etc. (The EC is, of course, open to all to attend).

*We hold monthly public meetings on various topics, CND, women, Labour Party, etc.

*We also attempt to organise some kind of social life as well — socials, discos, football tournaments.

*Some comrades hold smaller discussion meetings on more in-depth topics such as the EEC, the Alternative Economic Strategy, etc which are open to anyone who is interested.

What's important is that there is always something going on, something youth can get involved in and enjoy.

It's not enough just to hold a boring branch meeting once a month, then ask why the youth aren't joining. It is essential to break from the routine that cripples the YS. Blantyre has done this, and we now have 50 youth around us. And we've only just started.

JIM KEARNS

YS conference: life on the fringes ...

UP AGAINST IT!

FOR THE eighth successive year, the Standing Orders Committee refused to include the issue of gay rights on the agenda of the LPYS Conference at Bridlington.

The newly-formed Gay LPYS group went with the intention of pointing out, through interventions, leafletting and fringe meetings, that this issue should no longer be dodged by the YS.

Friday and Saturday were mainly spent leafletting and slapping "Gay 16 OK" stickers on anyone who stood still long enough. About 350 people also signed a petition to get gay rights discussed at conference.

Stickers

Whilst the petition was totally ignored by the platform, many people still had their stickers on by Monday afternoon.

Our major event was a fringe meeting on Sunday where members of Gay LPYS, Gay

Youth Movement and Peter Tatchell talked of their experiences of oppression and prejudice as lesbians and gay men.

We aimed to show that far from being irrelevant, and merely a product of capitalism, being homosexual is very important politically.

Sacked

Anti-gay attitudes affect between 10% and 20% of the population — in employment (people are sacked and discriminated against for being homosexual), in the law (gay men arrested for consenting relationships under the age of 21, and lesbians losing custody of their children) and in society generally.

It affects them now and needs to be dealt with now (whatever the Militant line may be!)

The meeting was certainly a success — probably the best attended fringe meeting of the weekend, attracting over 300 people.

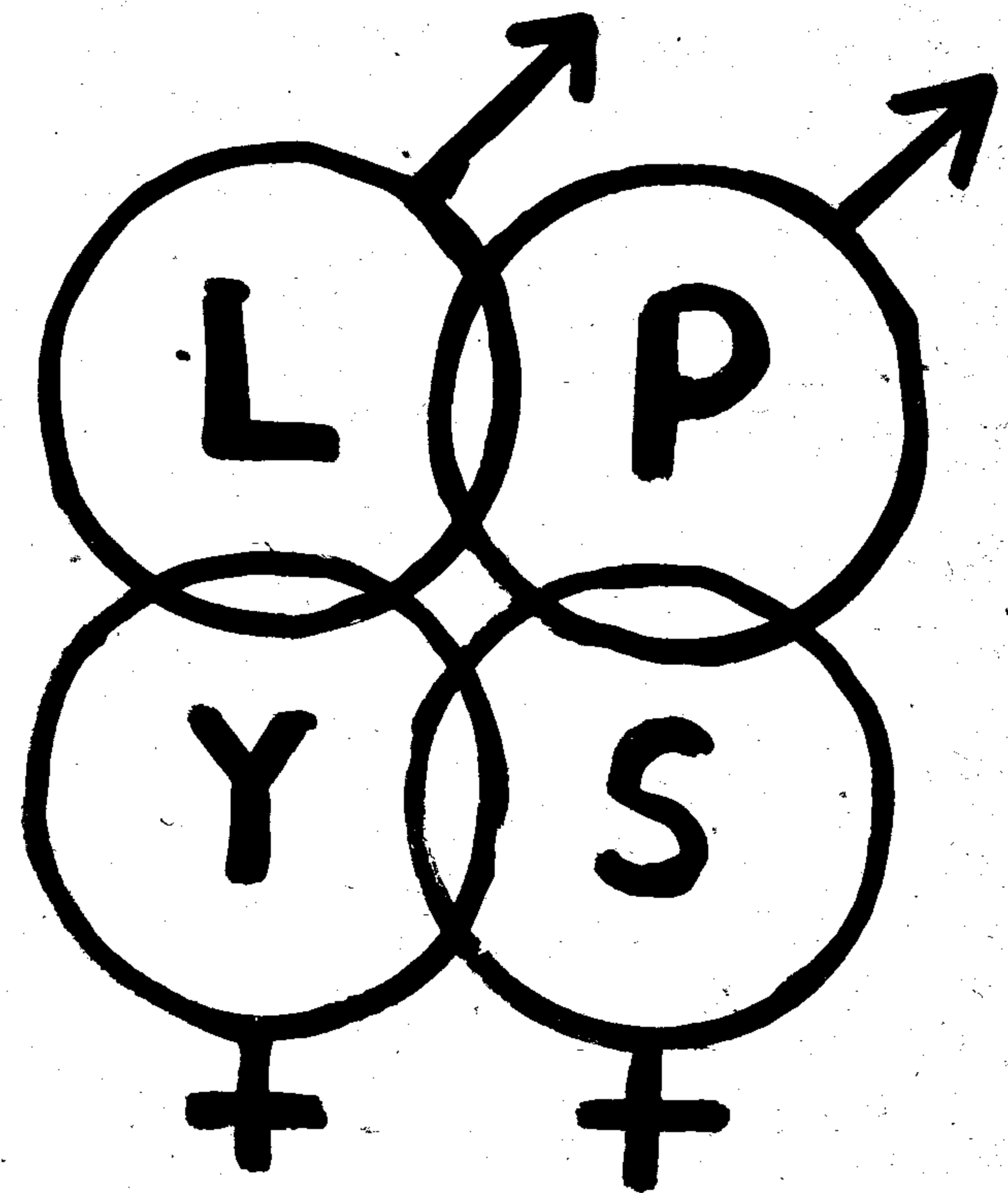
We devoted the rest of our efforts to encouraging new-found sup-

porters to invite Gay LPYS speakers to their branches, to affiliate to Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, to forward resolutions on gay rights for the next LPYS conference and to give financial support.

Deep-rooted

Whilst the weekend was a success for Gay LPYS and may end up with a debate on gay rights at next year's conference, there will still be a lot to do. Supporting gay rights is easy. Getting rid of deep-rooted, anti-gay prejudices and attitudes and creating a climate where lesbians and gay men can feel totally comfortable in the YS is the real test.

JOHN ISTD
CLINT BELL
Gay LPYS



GAY LPYS can be contacted care of LCGR, 61A, Bloom Street, Manchester 1 or 13 Buxton Road, London N19.

One quarter alive!

ONCE again, and no surprise, Militant supporters were dominant at the YS Annual Conference in Bridlington last month.

But despite that and the consequent loss of motions which (amongst others) called on the YS to support and build YCND's activities, and for Trade Union blacking of the YTS schemes, this was a very successful Conference for the left on the YS. And this showed at the fringe meetings.

It's a sorry state when the most interesting and constructive part of any conference is the fringe meetings. But that's how things are, when the 'debate' on conference floor consists of one speaker after another agreeing with the last and there is no attempt to make sure minority positions are heard.

So here goes for an account of the fringe meetings at YS conference.

Despite Class Fighter repeatedly challenging the agenda, the YS has refused to discuss gay rights for years and this year Class Fighter supporters have been active in launching a YS Gay group, which came along to conference.

Once again, as there was no debate, the Gay LPYS meeting was attended by about 200 people, some of them from the Militant, who



PHOTO: BOB SUGDEN

disgraceful record.

Peter Tatchell who addressed a Socialists for a Labour Victory meeting had a lot to say about the witch-hunt against him in the press. About 150 people heard about the SLV's plans to produce model campaign leaflets based on Conference policies for Constituency Labour Parties to give out along with the official party election material.

The meeting discussed the sort of issues we should be pushing, with Revo supporters in favour of limiting

the campaign to nuclear disarmament and against an incomes policy, and Class Fighter arguing that the campaign should be relating to all the Conference policies that the Party manifesto fudges.

We thought that producing leaflets for different sections of organised workers was the best way to win the election and recruit to the Labour Party. So we want to see the SLV producing material aimed at the women's movement, the gay movement and for trade

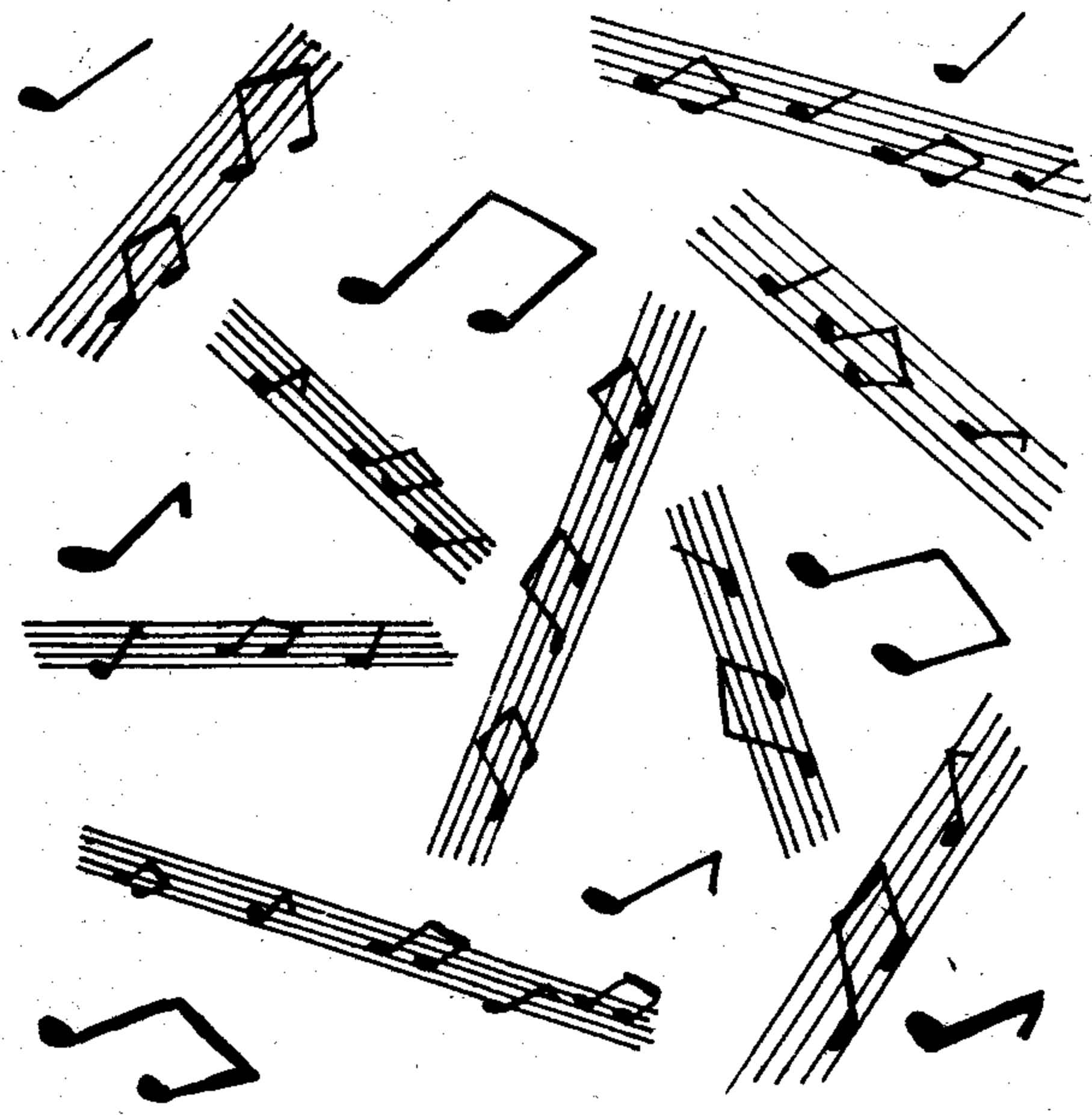
unionists who need to fight to get the Tebbit anti-union laws reversed.

The other meetings we were involved in were YCND, a meeting against the witch hunt and a black activists meeting.

The Class Fighter meeting, once again by far the largest tendency meeting, heard Alan Thornett, victimised BL militant, talk about the crisis in the stewards' movement. Terri McDermott from Nottingham North YS spoke about the Class Fighter Where We

Stand platform and the meeting discussed the way we can build a revolutionary opposition to the Militant in the YS.

Next year's YS Conference should see about 1/4 of the delegates opposed to the policies of Militant: young socialists who are not prepared to do as the Militant ask and wait for the next Labour Government or for a socialist society until we start fighting for what we want. Make sure you're one of them.



Musique

NOT more than four or five years ago "everybody who was anybody" was in the Anti-Nazi League, and the queue for the Clash gig was a sea of ANL badges. Not so today, however.

Now, after the collapse of the ANL just being accused of being a political band by the NME is damning enough to condemn you to eternal marginalisation.

But there are still some of us who like music and have revolutionary politics, and don't see why the two should be kept totally separate.

I wrote for "Musique", a Birmingham-based independent local music magazine which comes out about every six weeks. It is A4 in format and costs 10p for 12 pages.

There are other local music magazines in Birmingham, but most of them to one extent or another, are in the pockets of the big local entertainment chains which control venues or record shops.

One of the main aims of Musique was to remain independent of these ventures, and to be free to criticise them where necessary, thus providing a genuine service.

However, the fact that buying advertising space in Musique does not give you immunity from criticism consequently means that we don't get very much advertising at all! Hence we have to charge 10p.

We also try to maintain a particularly open structure: anyone can send in a

review of a gig or a record they've bought (recently!) and they will have as good a chance as the permanent staff members of getting it printed.

We also try to keep some level of political content in the magazine, whether that's in reviews or in special articles not directly concerned with musical matters.

The latest issue, for example, includes a full page debate on Greenham Common and what tactics the peace movement should employ, as well as articles on the shooting of Colin Roach in a police station and a report of the Campaign to stop the deportation of Muhammed Idrish, a local Bengali social worker.

Politically, you can see, we don't just pick the "easy" issues (to give us popularity, say); but nevertheless, the overtly political bits of the magazine are accepted as part of Musique by the readers.

When we started Musique some of us had bits of technical knowledge (e.g. laying out leaflets, developing photographs, typing, printing, etc.) but we had to pick up other bits.

So if you are interested in either writing for Musique or thinking about setting up your own magazine, we can provide help.

Contact: Musique, 128, Brighton Road, Birmingham B12 8QN, tel. 021 449 5371, or Dave Rommer, 92, Melrose Ave., Willesden, London NW2, tel. 01-452 8868.

Vera Axelrod

Women -all out on May 24!

LOTS of events are happening in the CND calendar this month. There's a blockade at Upper Heyford, a Faslane to Greenham link march with Women for Life on Earth star marches, to name a few.

For women, the most important event is the May 24 'Women all out for disarmament'. As you may know, the call came from women involved in Greenham after a similar event organised from Sweden last year.

The idea is for women, whether in paid work, unpaid workers in the home, students, at schools, universities, or unemployed, to take direct action in opposition to nuclear weapons.

The May 24 Organising Committee has helped establish local coordinating groups all over the country to

ensure that some action happens.

Women's centres, women's groups, Labour Party women's sections and councils are organising activities in their areas. On a national level support has come from ACTSS, NALGO, the Labour Party Women's Committee, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the SE Region and Scottish TUCs.

In the West Midlands (a nuclear free zone), we are pressing for the Council to either give women the day off to take action or urge local government unions to back strike action on the day.

Class Fighter supporters tried at this year's YS conference to get LPYS support in building for May 24, but bureaucratically misguided by NC member Nick Tomms

who put the event down, the conference decided to ignore the call for the women's general strike.

Tomms made a statement to the effect that it was a misuse of the working class general strike and that women are not capable of organising on that level. He needs a lesson in the historical role that women have played as a revolutionary force, that we are political and the duty of socialists is to support such feminist (yes, feminist) action.

Resources

There is nothing to stop women in YS branches organising for the event. The resources and the direct access to the labour movement that the YS holds, gives it an ideal opportunity to force trade unions and

the Labour Party who support unilateral nuclear disarmament, to put their policy into action and come out on that day.

Half the battle for May 24 has been countering the deeply entrenched sexism of men who won't support initiatives directly called by women.

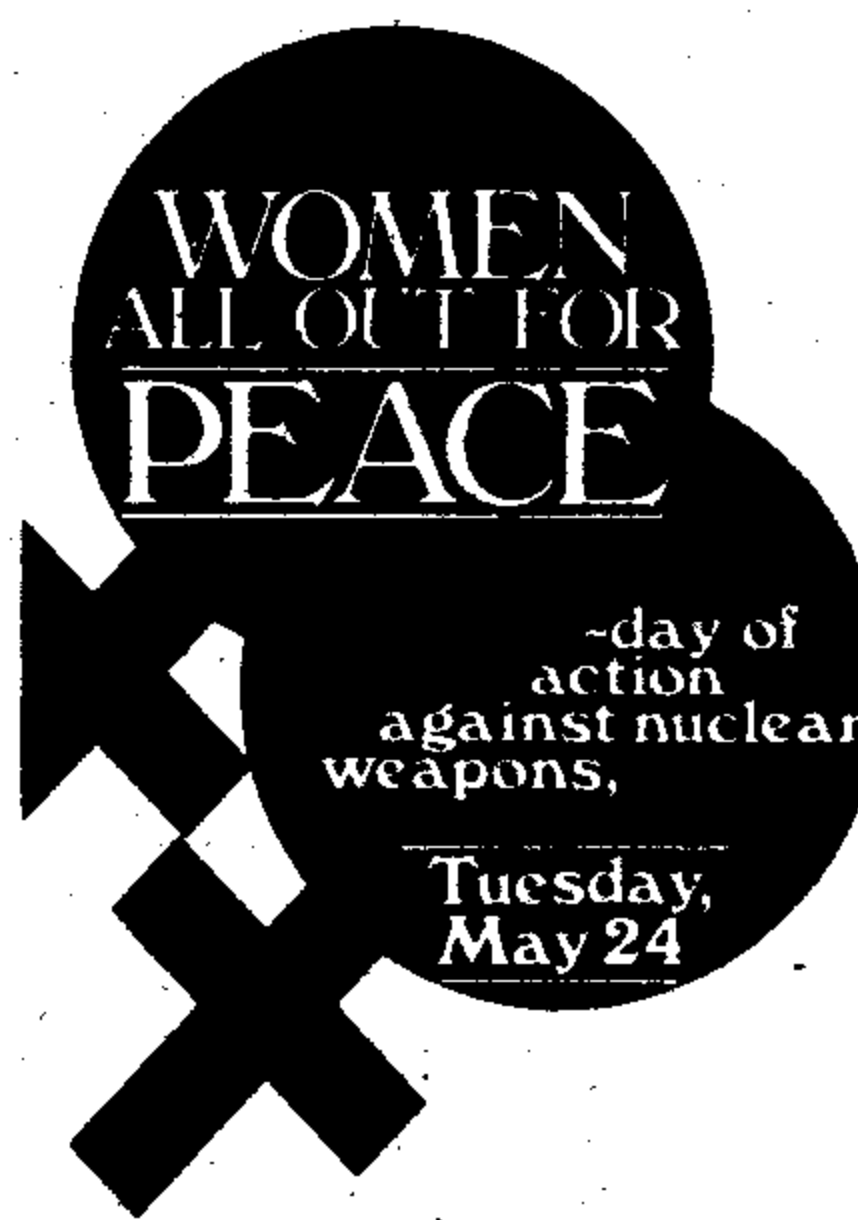
If you've passed that obstacle, here are a few ideas for the sort of action to take on May 24.

*Raise support in your union, workplace, college, nursery, estate, school.

*Get your council to support the day. (Call out members on strike).

*Leaflet, fly-post, your town.

*Lobby, demonstrate, have a die-in, march on your town's army recruitment centre, etc.



*Organise action around factories. Tour factories, housing estates and further education colleges, urging them to join your demonstration.

*Demand that men support your action by organising creches, or supporting strikes and lobbies.

For further information or local coordinating groups phone 01-226 1474 (London Greenham office) or 0273 604265 (Laura, May 24 Committee).

YS for YCND

Class Fighter supports YS for YCND, a campaign to get the YS more involved in YCND. We want to see the two largest left-wing youth organisations in the country which have the same policy on nuclear disarmament, working together.

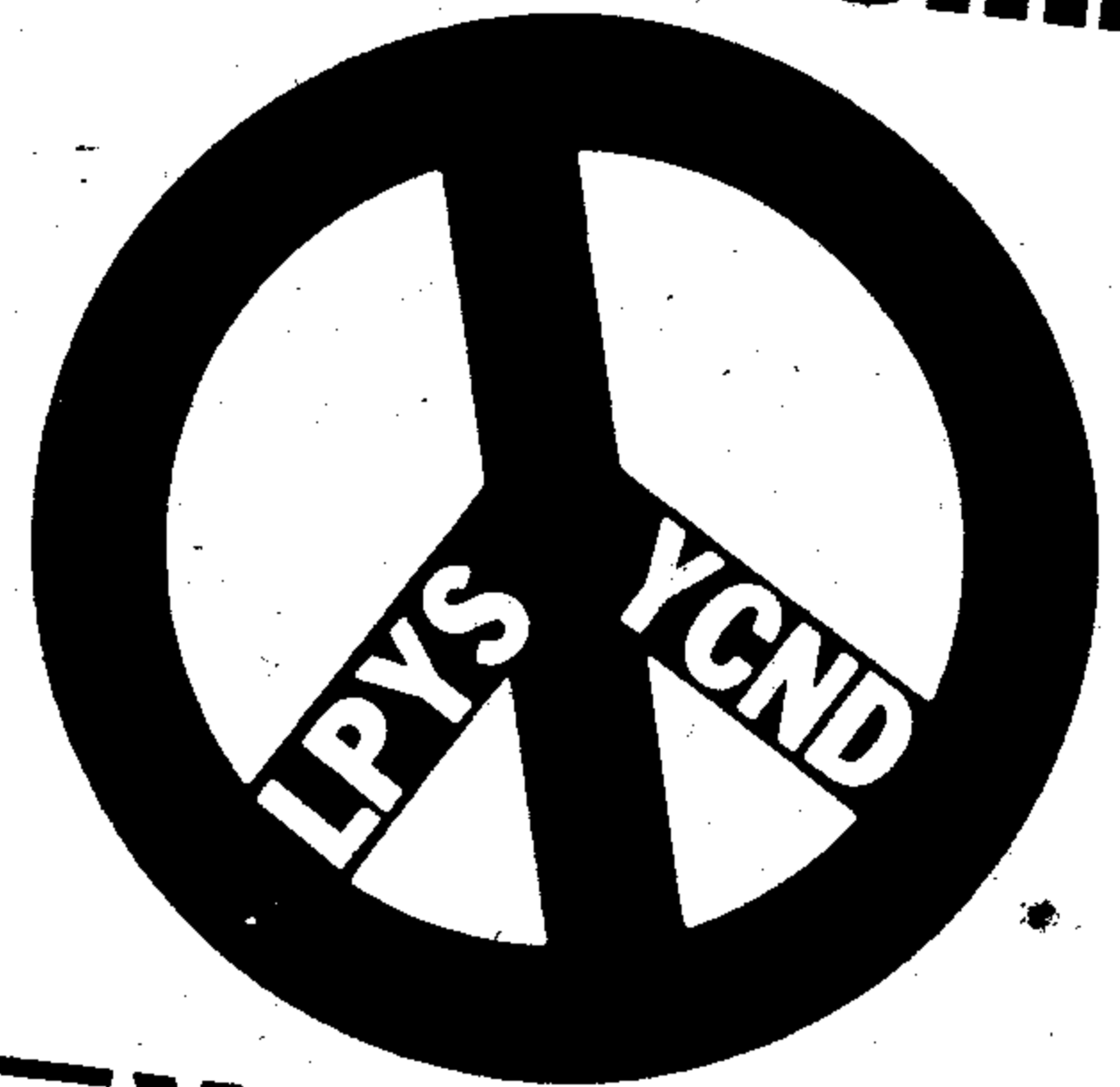
Because the YS is part of the labour movement we have links already made with the Labour Party and the trade unions, and if we are going to see unilateral nuclear disarmament, it depends on mobilising the trade unions which have the power to prevent Cruise from coming to Britain.

YS for YCND supporters in the Coventry YCND group have proposed a sponsored walk around local factories. Already there is a factory CND branch in Rolls Royce. Hopefully the walk will result in more branches being established, as well as raising money.

This is the type of thing we want to see. Carnivals, peace camps, demonstrations, yes. But trade union involvement, too.

Contact YS for YCND c/o Peckham LPYS, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE5. We can send a speaker to your group's meeting, or just keep you informed about our activities.

Rock the Bomb



with Youth CND

WHERE WE STAND

1. Build a mass campaigning socialist youth movement.
2. Re-build the National Union of School Students! We will fight to win support for school students in the unions, YS, 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 YOPs and YTS cheap labour schemes. For full trade union rates and rights on YOPs and YTS. 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 and YCND. Fight to draw youth from YCND 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, and 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!

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

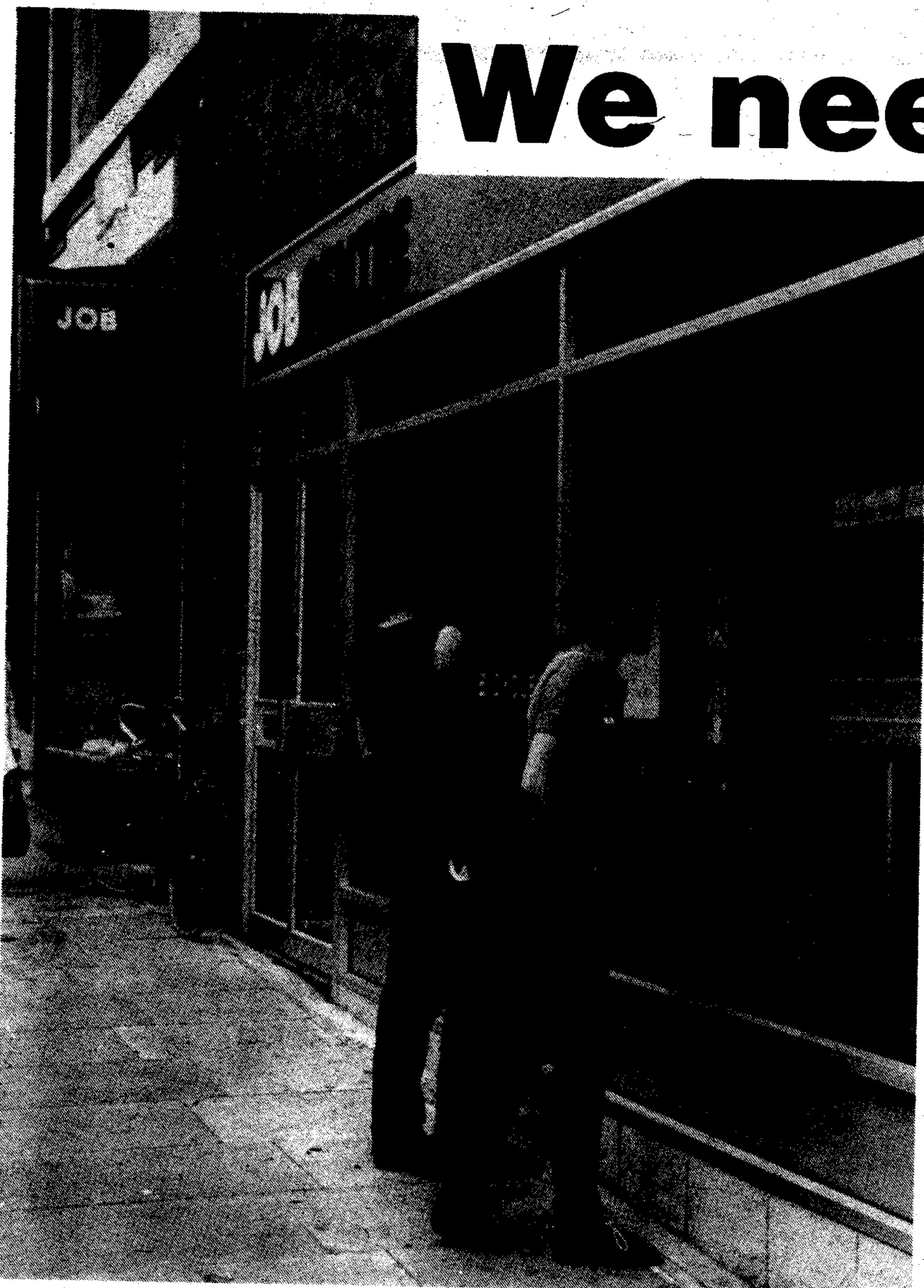
Address.....

Age.....

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

Return to NLWYM, 214 Sickert Court, Essex Road, London N1

Become
a Class
Fighter!



We need real training, un

BOYCOTT

YTS

LOCAL Councils and trade unions are creating havoc with the MSC plans for 130,000 YTS places by September. A leaked confidential report available for senior management suggests that as only half the targeted places have been secured it's time to get tough.

The TUC supports the new schemes but local unions and councils have got wise to them: they are cheap labour, they undercut union rates and shop floor organisation. They are a Tory attempt to cut the unemployment figures and keep potentially rioting youth off the street. And local labour movements shouldn't and won't put up with them.

So now the MSC plans to by-pass obstructive unions and publicly denounce Councils who refuse to sanction schemes which don't pay the union rate for the job and offer the same legal protection as 'real jobs'.

At YS Conference Class Fighter called for a campaign of Trade Union blacking of proposed schemes.

VINCE BROWN of Southwark Unemployed People's Action and a member of Peckham LPYS, looks at the background to these Government 'Training' Schemes.

IN THE mid-seventies, the government, in response to the growing crisis of youth unemployment, introduced a series of special programmes of short term work experience and training schemes. In reality, these schemes were more a cosmetic measure to keep young people out of the labour market, and to keep the unemployment figures low as cheaply as possible.

By 1982, continued youth unrest, in particular the 1981 riots, had prompted the Tories to provide 500,000 such places in the form of YOPs.

The problems of YOPs are well known — low placement in jobs of YOPsters (about one in three nationally, one in five in employment blackspots), exploitative conditions of work, substitution of real jobs by YOPs, and a low level of trade union involvement and recruitment.

Given the close modelling of YTS on YOPs such problems are likely to arise with the new scheme.

However, YTS does differ from YOPs in

many respects. It is not the panic response that YOPs was. In fact, YTS is a well planned, far-reaching Tory initiative which reveals a radical change in the Tory concept of education as well as a powerful new weapon in industrial relations.

It is freely admitted by the Tories and the Manpower Services Commission that YTS is a move away from the concept of education to meet the needs of the individual, towards training for the needs of the employer and the economy.

Closure

That YTS will come to dominate youth education can be seen in the cutting of 17 Industrial Training Boards (a body continually under attack by the Tories in recent years; the proposed withdrawal of all government cash support to apprenticeships by 1985, the running down of the TOPs programme, the closure of skill centres; and of course in the savage cuts in further education colleges, tech-

nological universities and schools provision for the over 16s.

Also, since local education authorities will have to provide FE courses at a one-third discount to YTS, other areas of education spending will have to be cut further.

The ability of FE colleges and local education authorities to fight back will be severely hampered by the financial dependence on the MSC that YTS will bring. The attack on the trade unions is manifold. Firstly, the slashing of pay and conditions of young workers will reduce their expectations and aspirations, affecting their bargaining position for years to come.

Secondly, young people will be discouraged from joining trade unions since their pay and conditions will be MSC-determined rather than trade union negotiated.

Whilst in training, young workers must be given as far as possible, the same rights and protection as other employees. The training itself must be of a high quality

and a year's duration must be regarded as a minimum rather than the norm.

Existing training schemes and apprenticeships must be protected and their relationship to the new schemes must be discussed with the trade unions.

The co-operation and participation of the trade unions must be sought at all levels and stages. No new scheme should be introduced without trade union approval. Pay and conditions of work must be trade union negotiated. Trainees must be encouraged to become full and active trade unionists, and discrimination in employment against women and blacks must be challenged, not reinforced.

Real training

The general education of trainees must cover industrial, political and civil rights, as well as a thorough and wide range of more basic courses.

What we must return to is the provision of real training for real jobs, trade union involvement in the training of young workers and a re-emphasis on education for the needs of the individual rather than enslavement to the employer.

None of these principles should be compromised for the sake of MSC funding. It would be a major defeat for the working class if the principles of MSC training were to become established in the labour movement.

What can the labour movement do to defend the working class from this attack?

Under attack

Thirdly, the low level and limited range of skills learned on YTS will tie the young worker to one job and one employer, and this reduction of mobility will further weaken the bargaining position of young workers.

Finally the strength of the trade union movement as a whole is under attack, by the depressing effect YTS low pay will have on wage bargaining generally and by the employers' threat to substitute real jobs by YTS. It is amazing that any trade unions could consider cooperating with YTS.

In more general terms, the political gains for the Tories from YTS are obvious. By artificially creating half a million 'jobs' and reducing the unemployment figures, they will be seen to be combatting youth unemployment.

What about young people themselves? Will they benefit from YTS?

Gang plank

No, they are the hardest done by of us all. YTS it is claimed is a bridge from school to work. More like a gang plank from the careers office to the dole queue.

Given no job security, no contractual obligations from their employers, they work a full



YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign demonstration in Liverpool

week for £25, and have to pay the first £4 of their fares themselves. This coupled with the other expenses of work means that 16 year olds would be financially better off on the £18.50 they can claim from supplementary benefit. YTS does not create jobs. After a year's service the majority of young workers will be thrown

back on to the dole or onto another mickey mouse, no hope, no training scheme. This Tory sham is nothing more than a vicious attack on young people and on the working class as a whole.

What about the role of local government? Employers are expected to create 300,000 mode A places, the other



Under union control

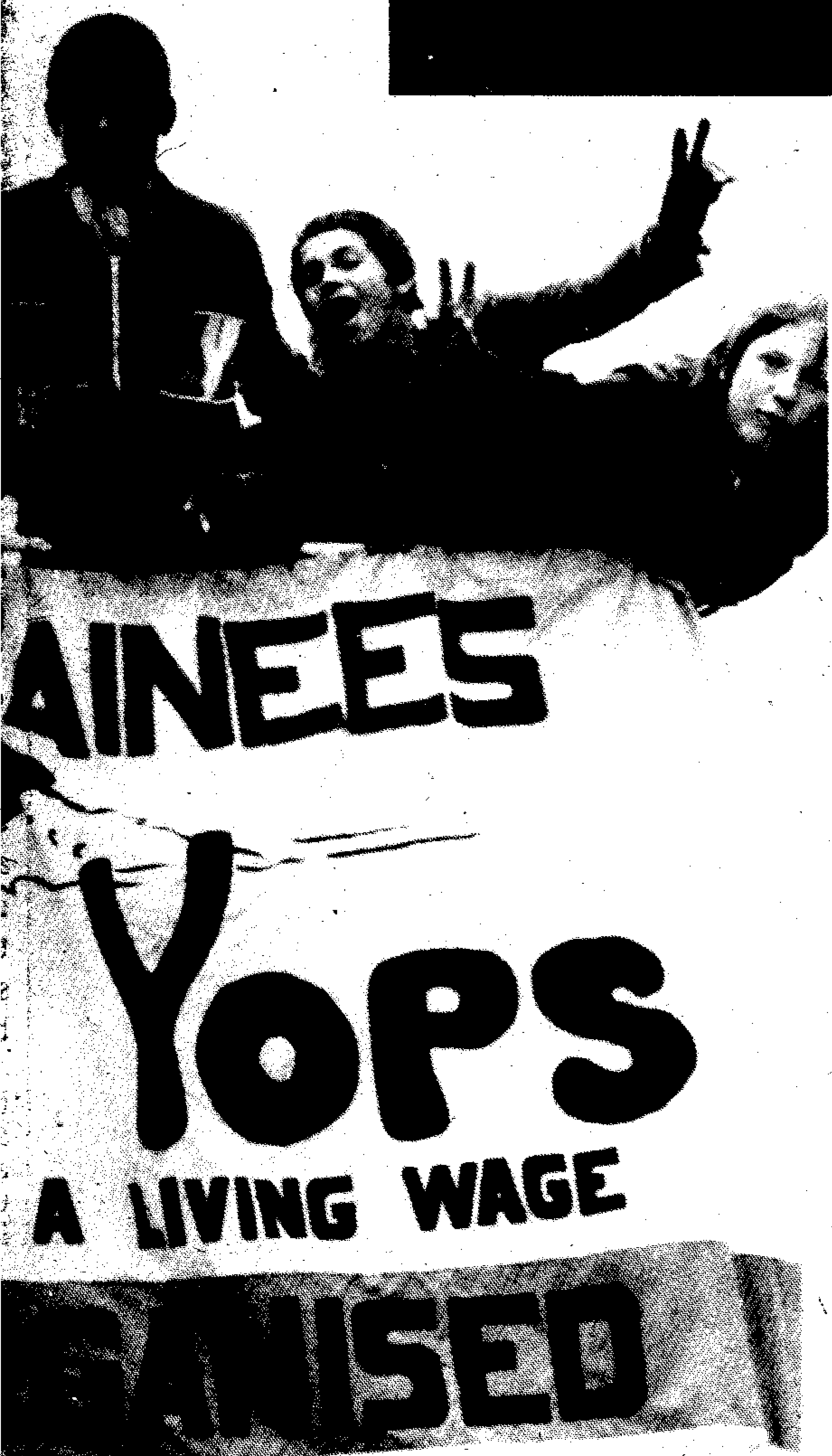
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Photos: John Harris



LPYS demonstration against unemployment



crucial. The refusal of Labour councils to employ slave labour, directly or indirectly, would be a major political and economic blow to YTS.

Labour councils must show the way to a proper training and employment programme, avoiding the pitfalls of YOPs and YTS by linking the expansion of training with an increase in council spending on public works and social services, so as to create the maximum number of jobs possible at the end of the training period.

Fined

A campaign must be started immediately to make young people aware of their rights and the nature of YTS and to dissuade them from participating in it.

Though the Tories claim no compulsion, school leavers are barred from claiming for the first six weeks after leaving school and can be

fined 40% of their benefit for a further six weeks for refusing a 'suitable' scheme. Any case of victimisation of young people by the DHSS for refusing to be exploited by YTS must be taken up by the labour movement. These victimisations have already begun.

Trade unionists must force their leadership to break their entanglement with the MSC, and oppose the establishment of YTS at the workplace. Where unions are strong employers should be pressurised to provide real training with guaranteed jobs.

Apprenticeships must be defended. Local Labour Parties must fight for their Council to boycott YTS and set up their own training schemes.

The right of young people to training, the right of a trainee to a job and the concept of education for the needs of the individual must be defended. Only the labour movement can win this battle.

160,000 schemes being sponsored community jobs (mode B). In areas where market forces are weak, mode A creation will be low. In South-west last year only 149 YOPs places were provided by employers. Thankfully only 46 school leavers were desperate enough to take up places. Here then the of local councils is



People's March for Jobs '83



The People's March sets off in Glasgow

ON Saturday 23 April the Scottish contingent of this year's People's March for Jobs left Glasgow after heading a demonstration of 3,000 workers through the streets of the city to a rally at Queen's Park.

The demonstration, called by the Scottish TUC in support of the marchers, attracted many Labour Party, YS and trade union banners from across the whole of Scotland, partially demonstrating the mass support that the marchers have

throughout the whole of the Scottish labour movement.

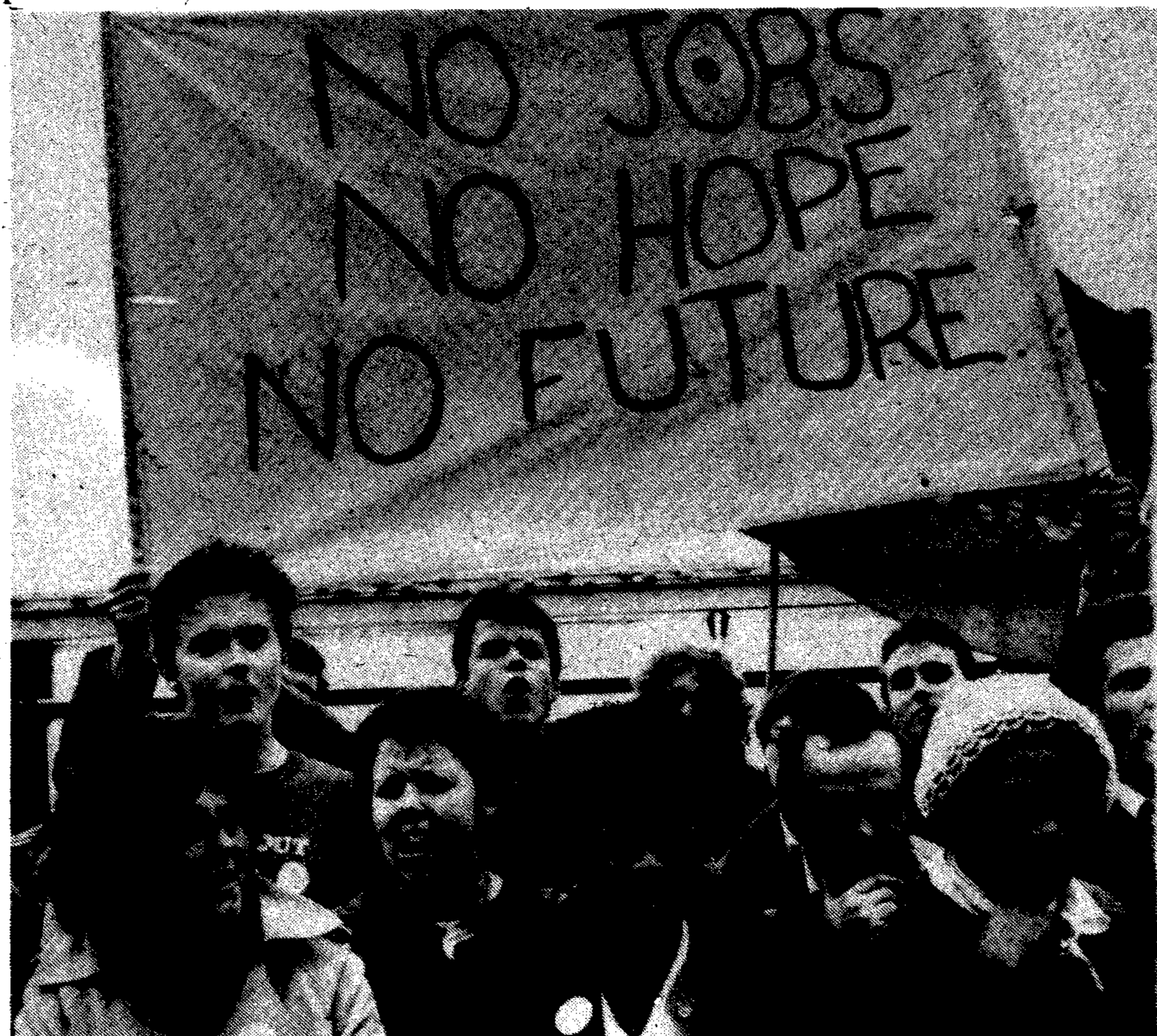
The rally at the end of the demonstration was addressed by a number of leading trade unionists from both the TUC and Scottish TUC, pledging both their sympathy and support to the cause of the marchers.

They also seemed pretty satisfied by the turn-out for the demonstration - which appeared to be on the small side, but the heavy rain and lack of publicity didn't really help.

The 55 marchers will arrive in London on June 5 for the mass demonstration and rally against unemployment.

Class Fighter supporters in Scotland see the building of this demonstration as being an extremely important task, and we will be organising to get as many youth down for June 5 as possible.

JIM KEARNS
Blantyre LPYS



Demonstrators outside Tory Party Conference

It's our march!

OUR YS in York has been active in the unemployed group in town, so it seemed obvious that one of us would go on this year's People's March for Jobs.

The March is going to be a focal point for all the unemployed, but unfortunately, just marching won't actually win us any jobs.

We need to use this very visible protest to actually build something. We should visit factories and offices where there are disputes going on, giving them our support and showing that the unemployed recognise how important it is that the unions fight to save jobs.

One of the key needs now for the unemployed is a national unemployed movement which organises in the trade unions and around the unemployed centres. On the march we'll be giving out union membership forms, encouraging the unemployed to join a union and fight for representation, and for

trade union unemployed branches to be set up like they have on Merseyside.

We should use the march to actually achieve something lasting that we can build on when we get back to our areas after the Rally on June 5.

The last People's March for Jobs in 1981 seems to have been run very bureaucratically. The stewards were appointed and made all the decisions - they even stopped political slogans being chanted.

The platform at rallies along the way had Bishops speaking about the immorality of unemployment but excluded workers who were actually fighting for their jobs.

It's our March and we will fight to run it as we want, and not the way top union officials think it should be run.

MARY MORRISON,
YORK LPYS

REAGAN'S WAR!

US President Ronald Reagan is appealing to Congress for more 'aid' to the military in El Salvador. TOM RIGBY of Peckham YS looks at the background to this latest move.

RONALD Reagan claims there is a "Communist plot" to take over central America as part of a drive towards world domination.

This is complete rubbish. The real situation in Central America is the exact opposite: workers, peasants and youth are in revolt against the intense oppression that they suffer at the hands of US monopolies and local landowners.

To crush this justified revolt, the US bosses and their stooges in the area are prepared to use the most brutal methods.

In the last few years hundreds of thousands of people have been slaughtered by the "security forces" in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

They regularly and systematically rape, burn, machine gun, drown, hang and torture the population in an attempt to crush their resistance.

Yet they have not succeeded! The resistance movements like the FMLN in El Salvador still have the solid support of the great mass of the population and are extending their influence and control into new areas.

It is this resistance to American big business control that so frightens the American bosses. That it is why Reagan is

in the process of increasing "aid" (that is more guns and military advisers) to the military regimes in the region. And it is why Reagan is stepping up the CIA's operations in Nicaragua in an attempt to destabilise the left wing regime there.

The US government is trying to physically destroy the resistance. This strategy is unlikely to succeed. It failed in Vietnam and it seems likely that it will only have the effect of drawing the US deeper and more directly into the conflict.

But what about "Soviet expansion"? Aren't the guerrillas just tools of the Russians and Cubans? This is what Cowboy Reagan would like us to think. All the make-up, Grecian 2000 and sincere delivery that goes into his TV appearances are designed to convince us.

Reality is very different. There is no massive flow of arms from the USSR or Cuba to the freedom fighters. Even the Sandinista government in Nicaragua has not provided the kind of aid that might have been expected.

This is because Soviet leader Andropov and Cuban leader Castro are not revolutionaries.

Despite what Reagan may say, they are bureaucrats who put their own privileged posi-



tion and stranglehold over society first and the interests of the world's oppressed people last.

Castro and Co. are trying for a negotiated settlement in El Salvador which would mean disarming the workers and peasants while maintaining the very basis of their oppression — capitalism.

If the Russian and Cuban Stalinists have their way, no struggle, no matter how justified, will be allowed to upset the delicate balance that the Russian and Cuban

bureaucrats are trying to create between themselves and the bosses' governments in the west.

Fidel Castro is no friend of the revolution in Central America. But unfortunately, the Sandinistas aren't that much different. After the overthrow of the dictator Somoza in 1979, which was a great step forward for the workers and oppressed throughout the world, the Sandinistas have not gone on to establish workers' and peasants' power. Instead

the Sandinista government has been unstable — switching from one option to another, trying to please everyone. They have tried to keep the support of the Nicaraguan bosses, who still own 70% of the economy and who the Sandinistas describe as "patriotic businessmen".

Direction

At the same time, the Sandinistas have increased their links with Moscow and Cuba, who provide teachers, doctors

and engineers as well as military advisers.

Nicaraguan society could move in any direction, but the thing that unites the bosses, bureaucrats and Sandinistas is opposition to workers' self-rule.

The revolution in 1979 was immensely popular but since then the Sandinistas have banned strikes, imprisoned trade unionists and returned occupied factories to their capitalist owners. Workers' organisations are only tolera-

ted if they can be directed by the Sandinistas.

Unions and militias have been built from the top down, in an attempt to limit and control the initiative of the workers and peasants.

Activity

If the revolution in Central America is to be successful, then the masses must rely on their own strengths and activity, and not on Castro or the Sandinista leadership.

The workers and peasants must establish their own kind of revolution, based on collective control over the economy and society and real workers' democracy.

It is the duty of workers and youth throughout the world to rally to the defence of the people of Nicaragua in their struggle against imperialism. We can do this by blacking and strike action against the supply of arms to the US and the right wing forces in Central America.

Conference

This activity needs to be organised. That is why Class Fighter supports the Labour Movement Conference on El Salvador on May 14. We think you should support it too.

The links have to be made with CND as well. It has to be pointed out that Death Squads in El Salvador and Cruise missiles in Europe are just different aspects of the bosses' war machine.

Black unions fight apartheid

By
Bob Fine

MOST of us know that apartheid is a terrible kind of racism institutionalised in the South African state.

The black majority do not have the vote, often do not have the right to join trade unions of their choice, do not have the right to live where they wish, do not have the right to equal education, and so on. At the same time, the economic system of apartheid is a system of brutal exploitation of labour, thanks to which a few multi-national companies and their white servants and mercenaries get rich, while the mass of the blacks is impoverished.

Blacks have never taken their oppression and exploitation lying down. In particular there has been a long and heroic history of black workers fighting back.

for themselves powerful trade unions. At Fords, BL, GEC, General Motors, Smith & Nephew, Volkswagen, Associated Engineering and many other of the brand names famous here, black workers have organised themselves, fought for union recognition, improved wages and conditions, the right to negotiate. They have gone on one strike after another — all illegal — and they have often won.

The foundation of apartheid is the exploitation of black labour. If black trade unions can continue to build as they have done — despite police attacks, spies, arrests, murders and deportation — they will rock the foundation of apartheid. Already, thanks to their strength on the factory floor, they have compelled the state to make timid concessions to their right to exist.

They now organise over 200,000 black workers. They have come together in national federations, the biggest of which is FOSATU (Federation of South African Trade Unions) with about 100,000 members. They are having a number of "unity meetings" among themselves to sort out differences of policy among them.

One of the most important tasks for us is to show solidarity with these unions,

which are fighting bitter struggles with companies like BL. Workers here and black workers in South Africa face the same enemy.

BL management would like to treat workers here in the same disgusting way they treat South African workers:

refusing them union recognition, calling the police in, abusing them, playing off coloured against Africans, 'race' against 'race'.

Multi-nationals like BL operate all over the world. They not only try to set one 'colour' of workers against

another, they also set one national workforce against another.

But workers too can unite across national boundaries: supporting each other's trade union and political struggles.

What apartheid shows is

that racism does not only mean the oppression of blacks; it also means an attack against all workers. It is the mark of an uncivilized and brutal society. The best hope of defeating it lies in the organisation of workers.

In South Africa, trade

unions are the first stage of such organisation. On it black workers hope to build a political movement capable of overthrowing the entire apartheid state: its pass laws, and its "special areas" for blacks, its gaols, its policemen.



Suppressed

In 1920, 80,000 black newworkers went on strike; the 1930s Trotskyists are active union organisers among poor white as well as black workers. In 1946 a general strike of African mineworkers was again suppressed. In 1960 a general strike swept the country; in 1973 the kids of Soweto temporarily outstaged the workers.

Today, many black workers have once again built

"...a totalitarian police state..."

STOP THE BILL!

The Tories are pushing a Bill through Parliament which will drastically increase police powers. BRYAN EDMANDS outlines what the Tories are proposing.

A FEW days ago I happened to turn my radio on which was tuned to a local station and caught the following snatch of an interview with the editor of our local daily Tory rag (Coventry Evening Telegraph).

"... The Bill represents the new nature of Britain, a totalitarian Police state..."

Now he and the newspaper he manages aren't exactly renowned for their left wing or even liberal views, so I was interested to hear more about what was causing such agitation.

Well, it might have escaped your attention, given the minimal amount of public comment and opposition, but there is a piece of comprehensive legislation going through Parliament at the moment — the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

This is directly aimed at working class people, particularly in its operation at the unemployed, youth and blacks.

The only widespread criticism of it I've come across have generally been voiced in Parliament and the media. These criticisms have come from professional and middle class bodies such as journalists (NUJ) or doctors (BMA) and the churches.

And these criticisms have been restricted to one small part of the Bill concerning the confidentiality of personal

records/files. In other words, they are only concerned about its effect on them!

Hardly a word about the very real, threatening features of this Bill (the main parts) which are going to affect you, me, all of us, everyday, if this becomes law.

These features can be summarised in eight points:

1. Stop and search on the streets.
2. Arrest for minor offences (e.g. litter, parking) if you cannot provide evidence of your name and address.
3. Detention for 4 days in police stations without being charged.
4. No access to solicitors, family, friends for 36 hours.
5. Enforced taking of fingerprints and intimate body searches (i.e. you cannot refuse to cooperate).
6. Police will be able to set up road blocks in areas for indefinite periods for spurious reasons.
7. Searching of homes, etc., of people not directly suspected of any offence.
8. Seizure of evidence that may relate to any (and not specified) offence during searches.

From this you can see the police are given licence to virtually do anything they want at any time to anyone. It means the legitimisation of methods that separate, individualise, intimidate and brutalise anyone unlucky enough to be picked up for a lengthy period without anyone else being informed.

But besides this (bad as it is) the police also get powers to enable them to control wide geographical areas and the people living there.

These features are already part of everyday life in that other 'part' of the UK — the North East of Ireland. There, the British state and its armed police and army have been trying to subdue for decades, the nationalist communities who want the British to get out.

We should see the Police Bill as part of a growing authoritarian, reactionary, anti-working class trend in the Thatcherite Britain of the 1980s.

A forerunner of this trend was the Prevention of Terrorism Act, originally a temporary measure which has, in fact, been maintained year after year.

Well, what can we do about it?

First, tell as many people as you can about this Bill. Write letters to, and lobby, local councillors and Members of Parliament, expressing your concern.

If you are in the Labour Party Young Socialists try to get your local Labour Party to join you in mounting a campaign of leafletting and public meetings. Contact local trade unions and community groups, especially black groups.

If you are in YCND make the point to your local group that this Bill represents just a small part of this government's (and the bosses') plans to contain and ultimately remove any kind of free decision-making by the

working class about our future. It will help to smash any dissent against future wars — nuclear or not.

And point out that it is linked to the recent proposals by various Tory MPs that demonstrators should be liable to pay for the police presence on their march — an attack on the right of people to organise and assemble together. You'll need to raise vast amounts of money first, whether you want the police around or not!

If you don't belong to LPYS or YCND, then you should remember that you are stronger and can do more if you are organised and united with other people — so why not join one, or better still, both!

Colin Roach demonstration - May 14

THE next major event for you all to put in your diaries is May 14. The Colin Roach Family Support Committee is organising a demonstration and rally for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach at Stoke Newington police station in January.

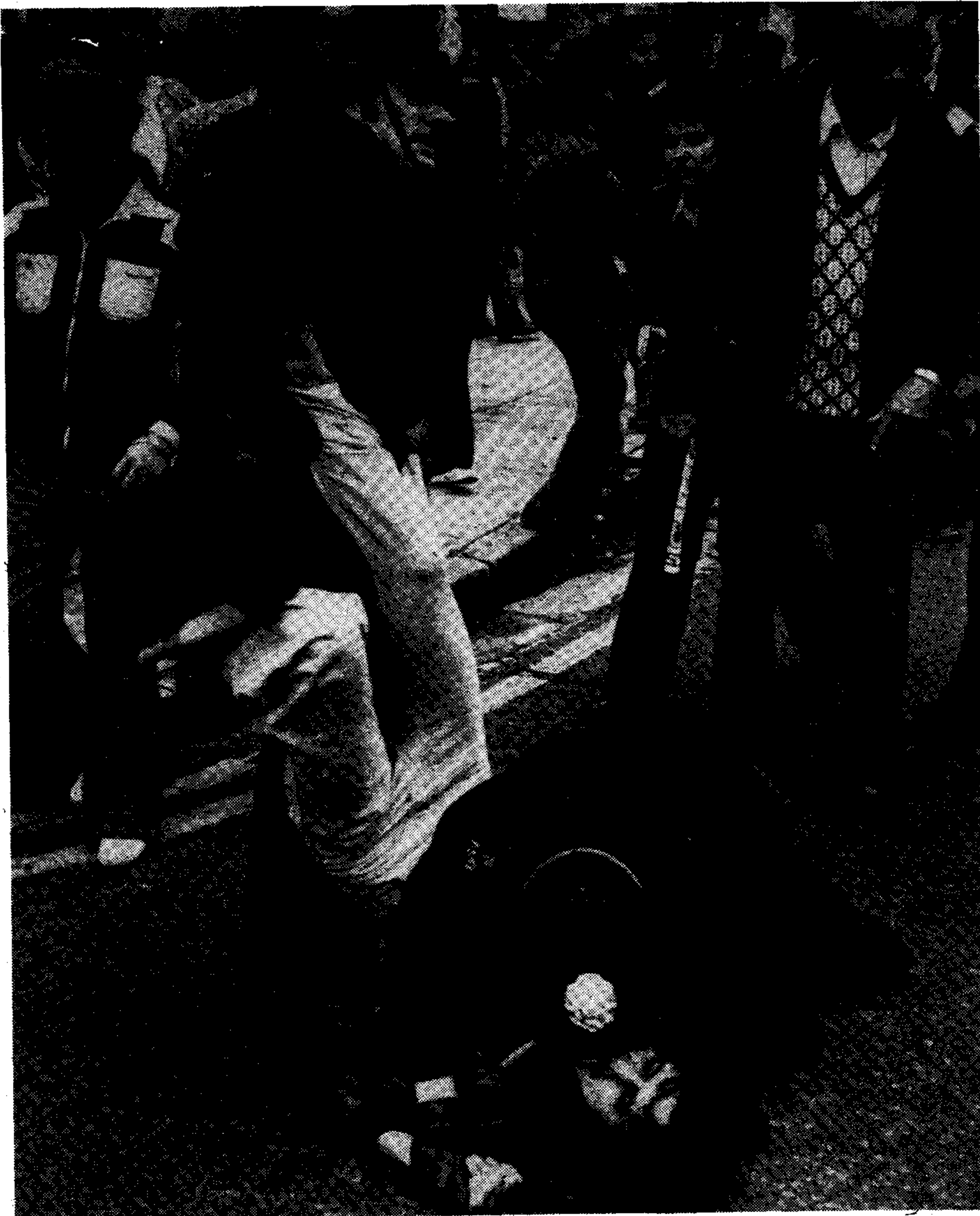
Since Colin died, there have been almost 100 arrests of people campaigning for the independent public inquiry. Every march has been harassed, provoked and harried by the local police — but supporters of the campaign have not retaliated to this police provocation.

There has been state harassment of the campaign too. At the moment a legal battle is raging about whether the inquest on Colin should be held in St. Pancras, as the coroner wants, or in Hackney Town Hall, a much bigger place, and where the Roach family and the campaign and Hackney Council want it to be.

Home Secretary William Whitelaw has refused a public inquiry saying that an inquest will serve the same purpose, but they want it to be held in such a small room that it will practically be held in private. If it was held in St. Pancras, not only would very few people be able to attend, but it is also well away from Hackney and Stoke Newington.

The campaign needs support and we must fight to make May 14 a challenge that Whitelaw and the police can't ignore.

The Roach Family Support Committee can be contacted c/o 50 Rectory Road, London N16. The Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign can be contacted c/o Oxford House, Derbyshire St. London E2.



For an independent inquiry into the death of Colin Roach!
Roach Family Support Committee, 50 Rectory Rd, London N16

Black trade unionists SOLIDARITY

T.G.W.U. OFFICIAL STRIKE
Conference: June 4 and 5, County Hall, London SE1
Contact: Neville Adams, 115 Neville Rd, London N16

DEFEND THE NEWHAM 8!

The Newham 8 — Asian youths aged between 15 and 21 — face charges of conspiracy as well as threatening behaviour and actual bodily harm.

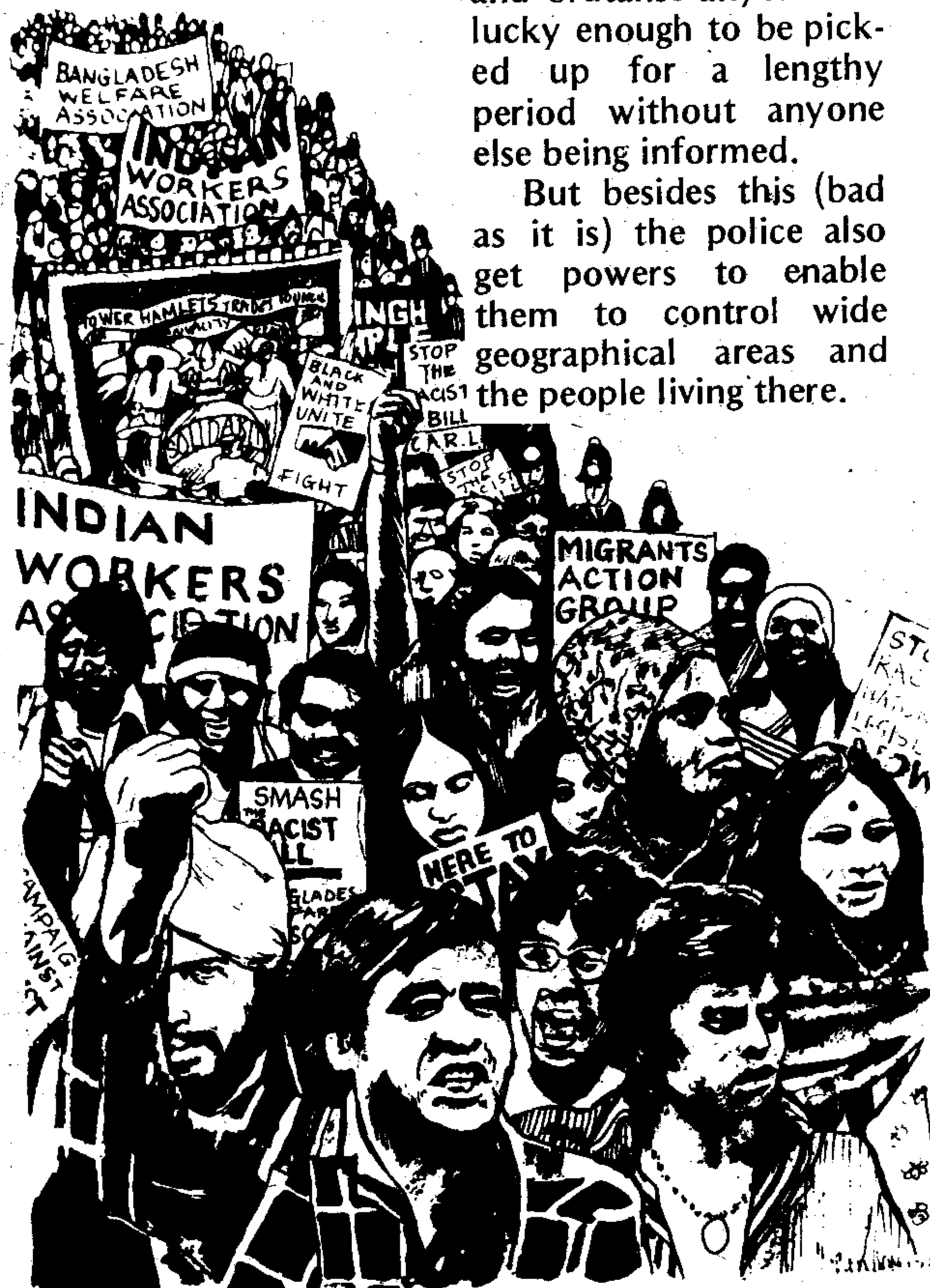
They were arrested on September 24 1982 after an incident with plain-clothes police officers. In the previous week there had been three major racist attacks on Asian schoolchildren at Little Ilford School, in Newham, and an incident where 60 or 70 white youth with iron bars and sticks went on the rampage in East Ham and Manor Park.

Send invitations for speakers, or resolutions of support, to Newham 8 Defence Campaign, c/o PO Box 273, London E7 9JN.



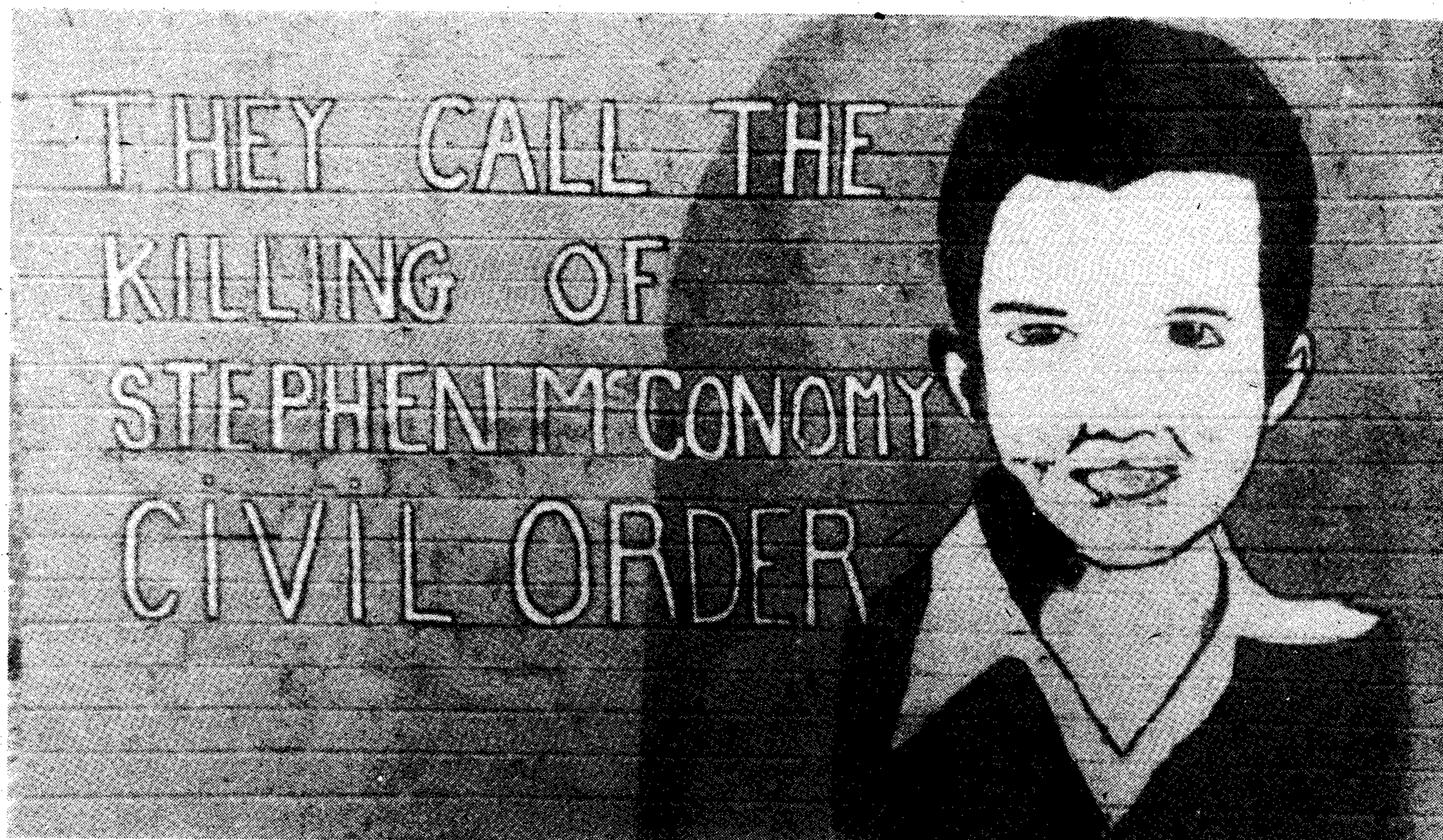
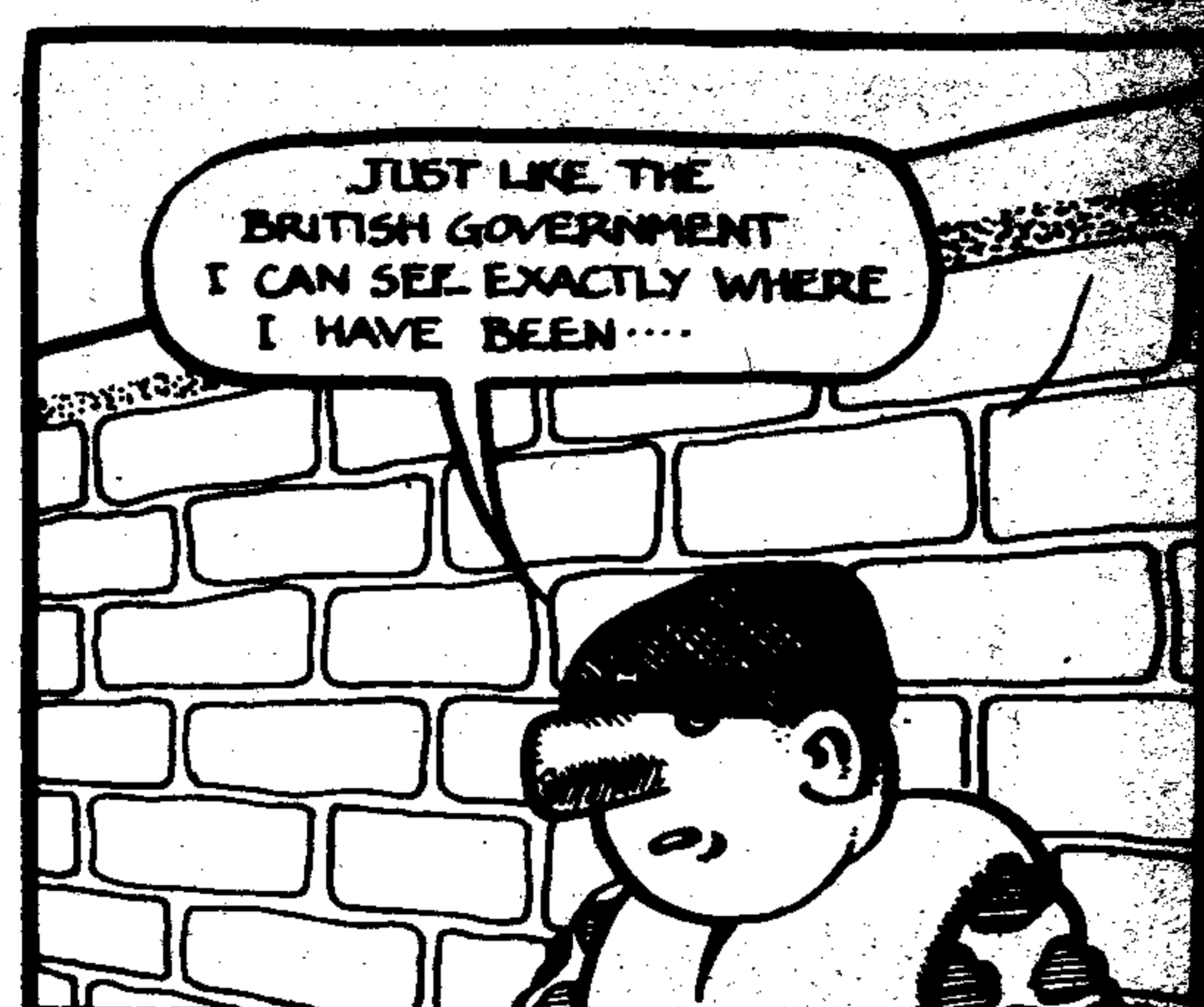
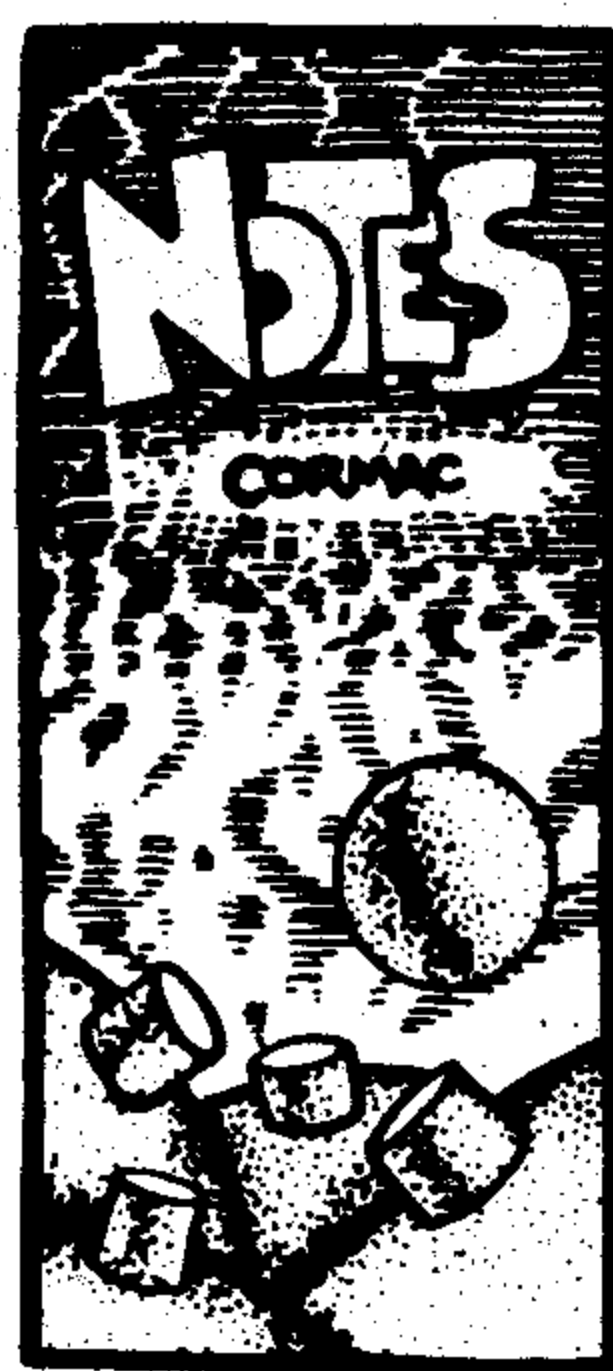
STOP THE POLICE BILL!

NATIONAL CONFERENCE — SUNDAY MAY 15
Organised by the National Campaign Against the Police Bill, c/o Room 50, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St., London E8 (tel. 01-986 3123 ext. 280).



Ireland

British troops out now!



WORKING class youth in Northern Ireland, like working class youth in Britain, face mass unemployment, hopeless job prospects and the insult of the Youth Training Schemes and £15 a week from social security. But their problems go much deeper than that.

For all of them, unemployment is worse, Northern Ireland is the unemployment blackspot of Britain. Those who do find work are the lowest paid workers in Western Europe. Living and working conditions are comparable only to Southern Italy.

Problems

For Catholic youth in areas like West Belfast, Derry, Strabane and Newry there are additional problems. Apart from having unemployment figures between 30 and 60%, they face harassment, repression, imprisonment, torture or even murder at the hands of the British Army or the loyalist dominated 'security' forces - the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The trade union

movement is badly divided by the sectarianism built into the whole of society in the Six Counties.

Prejudices

Drawing a border between the mainly Catholic South and the mainly Protestant North was bound to create even more firm sectarian prejudices in both communities. The people who lose most from all of this are the Irish working class, and above all the women and youth.

The partition of Ireland, the deliberate creation of a sectarian state and the repression of the nationalist community were no accidents. They were not the unfortunate results of an otherwise fair settlement. They were the deliberate policies of a strong element in the British ruling class and the Unionist ruling class in the early years of this century.

Ever since 1921, the Northern Ireland state has shown that it can only exist with the help of blatant sectarian discrimination, and the physical repression of the nationalist minority.

This situation is not in

the interests of Protestant workers in Northern Ireland. It leaves them docile before their own bosses, loyal to the capitalist state and yet more exploited than most European workers.

British intervention in Ireland is against the interests of British workers also. It fuels nationalism and chauvinism among workers here, and it encourages loyalty to the British state. The record of the Labour Party on Ireland, for example, is a disgrace and we must ensure that in future the Labour Party acts in the interests of Irish workers and not British bosses.

Solidarity

At this year's LPYS Conference, Class Fighter supported a resolution which would have committed the YS to oppose British imperialism in Ireland.

It called on the LPYS to build solidarity for the just struggle of the Republican movement and to work with the Labour Committee on Ireland to change the pro-imperialist policies of the Labour Party.

This resolution was

defeated and the Militant and Daily Mail newspapers gleefully reported a speech which endorsed, wrongly, all the methods of the Provisional IRA and advocated more killing.

It has long been common practice in the British press to concentrate on unrepresentative speeches, events, etc., on the Irish issue. We should expect something better

from Militant and the left, however.

The record of the British labour movement on Ireland is appalling. We are proud to be swimming against the current in the LPYS to change that record and to give support to a struggle that worries the British state so much.

Whether it's high unemployment or plastic bullets that oppress

working class youth in Northern Ireland, the root cause and the real enemy is British imperialism. There is a struggle now going on against that enemy by the most oppressed section of Irish society.

Whatever our criticisms of the politics and methods of that struggle, British socialists have no principled option but to support it.

Fighting to win support for the Republican struggle in the labour movement in Britain is an important part of the overall fight against imperialism and, for working class emancipation.

It is a struggle which working class youth in Britain should join us in.

PATRICK MURPHY
Stockport YS and
LCI

Heads high as Cowley returns

TRADE UNION leaders have had lots of practice at selling out the struggles of BL workers in recent years so they're pretty skillful at it by now.

But the recent sell-out of the "washing up time" strike at Cowley did not result in the usual demoralisation of the workforce.

The strike received massive support in the BL Assembly Plant in Cowley for one simple reason. The workers had had enough of being pushed around by an arrogant, dictatorial management year in, year out. Basic agreements on working conditions have been torn up by the management and the unions have been told to like it or lump it.

The decision of management to deprive workers of six minutes a day washing up time was not the most serious erosion of working conditions inflicted on the workforce but it was the last straw. The workers

decided to fight.

Both management and union bureaucrats were taken by surprise at the strength of feeling and militancy of the strikers and it took Terry Duffy (AUEW) and Moss Evans (TGWU) 4½ weeks to get the tracks running again.

One new element in the situation in Cowley is the large number of young workers in the plant. With new investment in the Maestro car, BL have been taking on labour. So, for many young workers this was their first taste of battle. And although their leaders turned them round and led them away when the battle was in full cry, they don't feel bowed or beaten.

Keep an eye on Cowley. These militant workers could be back in the news sooner than you think.