

Campaign stops deportation

VICTORY

for George Roucou

► The George Roucou Defence Campaign has beaten the Tory home office and broken the mould of anti-racism in Britain

Roucou's campaign was the first ever to convince trade unionists to stop work and demonstrate against the threat to deport a black immigrant. Last week this working class pressure paid off. The immigration appeals adjudicator ruled that Roucou has the right to stay in Britain, and dismissed Tory deportation boss David Waddington's demand that the Ucatt shop steward be sent packing to the Seychelles. The case was not won on a technical point of law. It was won by a political struggle against racist legislation.

The George Roucou Defence Campaign has proved that it is possible to break through the bitterly racist climate in Thatcher's Britain — if we put our faith in the working class.

Roucou's supporters took the case against deportations into scores of union, workplace and Labour Party meetings. They won backing from dozens of labour movement bodies. They mobilised 1500 people, many of them Roucou's workmates from Manchester city council, for a work-time march in February. Hundreds more gathered behind 30 union banners to protest outside the appeal hearing last month. The authorities decided the case was too hot to handle, and dropped the deportation order into the bin.

Roucou's victory should be an inspiration to all anti-racists, at a time when black people in Britain

are under siege. In the week when Roucou celebrated with his wife Kim and their three children, other immigrants felt the lash of British racism.

A group of Tamil refugees were left facing detention or even death by the Sinhalese regime in Sri Lanka, the first victims of the Tories' crackdown on airlines bringing immigrants to Britain. Tower Hamlets council in East London refused to house Asians whom, it insisted, had perfectly good homes to go to — back in Bangladesh. Sri Lankan refugee Viraj Mendis sat in his Manchester church sanctuary waiting for the next attack from the racist razor gang who have already carved up his supporters. But after the

Roucou campaign's success, we don't have to let the immigrant-hunters have it all their own way. If we go out to win ordinary people to take sides with the victims of the Tories' racist vendetta, we can sabotage the deportation machine at the heart of the government's hate factory.

We cannot wipe out racist ideas in the working class overnight. But every militant campaign we build on the Roucou model will be another blow against the bigotry which the authorities have used to split our movement. 'An injury to one is an injury to all' has been an empty slogan for far too long. We can bring it to life by putting working class power on the streets behind the banner of anti-racism.



TAKING A STAND FOR BLACK RIGHTS: ROUCOU AND SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS IN MANCHESTER

Karen Green

Kinnock's desires

As the weekend opinion polls put the Tories 12 per cent ahead of Labour and the Alliance, Labour's deputy leader Roy Hattersley launched his party's draft election manifesto with a warning that working class people should expect to gain next to nothing from voting Labour. The party, Hattersley announced, needed a 'wholly credible manifesto' — credible, that is, in the eyes of the capitalist class. It must therefore include 'only those items which can be implemented and afforded within the lifetime of a parliament'. Not only has Labour dropped its traditional election promise of jam tomorrow, it is now making clear that the margarine would be spread pretty thinly too.

The next day Neil Kinnock appeared on TV to deny that Hattersley's remarks meant Labour was diluting its policies. But he didn't fool anybody (except the man from the *Morning Star*). Kinnock's incoherent interview confirmed that he is trying to halt Labour's slump in the polls by playing up to the prejudices of moderate voters. 'The Social Democrats and the Liberals may desire as we desire,' announced Kinnock, 'but only the Labour Party can deliver.' The Labour leader now presents the project of sneaking SDP-style policies into Downing Street under cover of his overcoat as a worthy goal

for the working class.

Just what are these 'desires' which the labour movement is supposed to share with the Alliance? The desire to see the teachers give up their two-year struggle and bow to the Tories' imposed pay deal, as SDP leader David Owen has commanded? The desire to make the people of Liverpool suffer enough cuts to balance the books for the tight-fisted Tory government, as the city's new Liberal administrators have decreed? Or the desire to see Asian immigrants clear off back to Bangladesh, as expressed by another new Liberal council in Tower Hamlets, East London?

Kinnock and Hattersley may be willing to represent the desires of the insecure small shareholders and disgruntled professionals who are worried about the drift of Thatcherism and thinking of voting Alliance. But as the middle classes seem none too keen on the idea of being championed by them at present, the Labour policy makers are set to travel still further down the road to Yuppietown. Those of us who still desire to improve the lot of the working class should have nothing to do with a party that thinks we have anything in common with David Owen's Brylcream-and-Beaujolais style of politics.

Saving Labour

The campaign to save the Labour Party from extinction has a strangely mixed membership. Two groups currently expressing concern about Labour's desperate plight in the polls are right-wing journalists and left-wing activists.

Right wingers like *Sunday Telegraph* editor Peregrine Worsthorne have written worried columns about what might happen if Labour loses its hold over its traditional supporters in the working class. They dislike Labour intensely, but point out that it has long played an invaluable role for the British establishment.

Labour has contained working class protests within the parliamentary process, and promoted the idea that capitalism can be reformed to serve ordinary people. It has helped to preserve the existing order, and to ensure that reactionaries like Worsthorne still exercise influence over society. If Labour goes down the political pan, ask the right-wing intellectuals, who is to say what unpredictable and subversive forces might be thrown up by people looking for an alternative to the mainstream establishment parties?

This fear, you might think, is one which would give heart to left-wing people who are rightly worried about what horrors another term of Thatcher might bring, and appalled by the rightward drift of Labour Party policy. Yet leading left wingers seem to share Worsthorne's worries about Labour's demise. They are so deeply ingrained with the tradition of working within and campaigning for the Labour Party, that they cannot see its crisis as the cue for a change. Instead the left has accepted that it has a responsibility to rescue Labour. Thus its spokesmen are privately encouraging activists to stick with Kinnock's party, while publicly doing nothing radical which might further embarrass the party leadership.

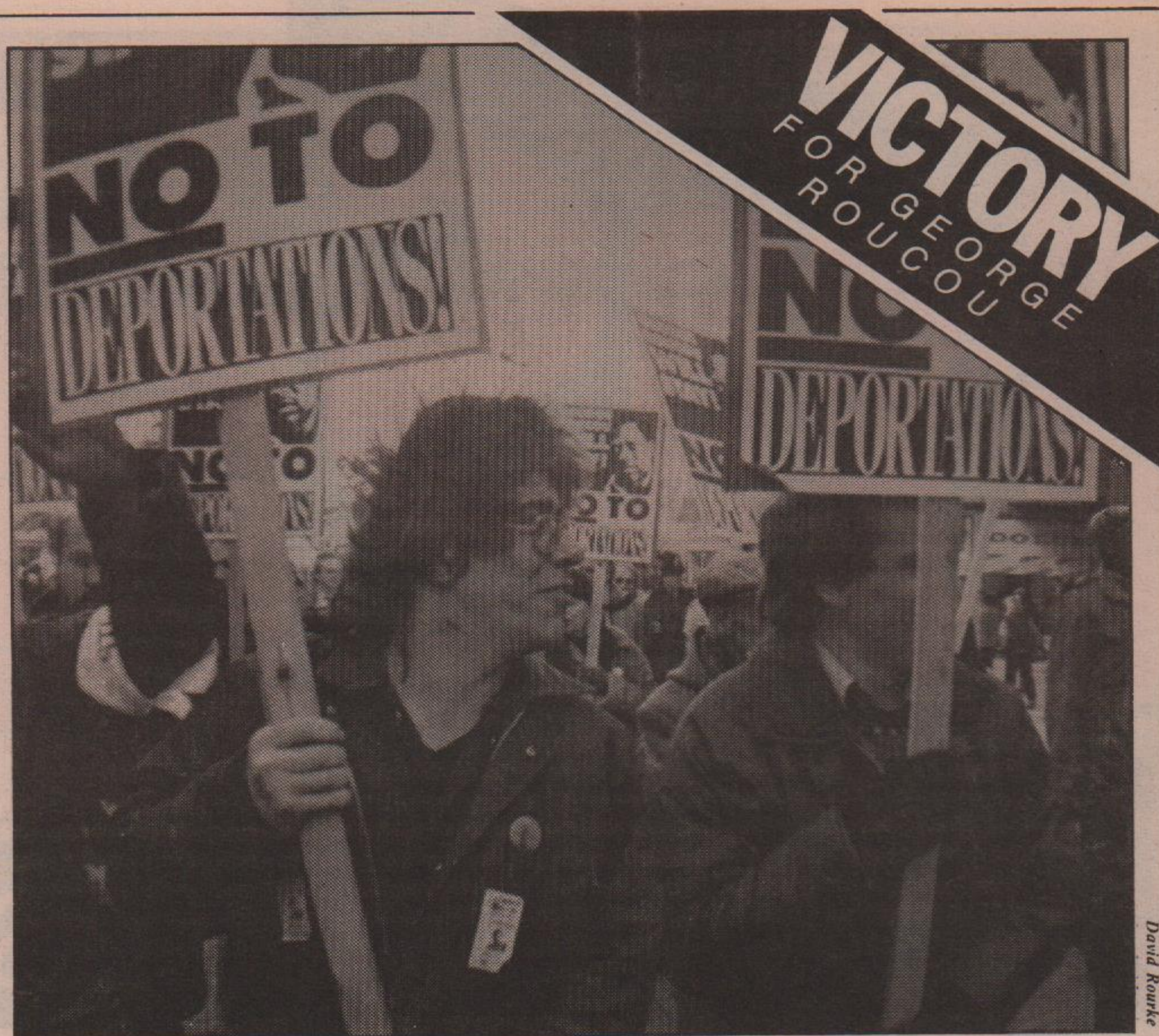
Last week in London, the Revolutionary Communist Party debated leading members of the Communist Party of Great Britain and the Labour left on the attitude we should take to current developments (see centre

pages). John McDonnell, former deputy leader of the GLC, made much of the strength of what he called the class struggle tendency within the Labour Party. He talked about the struggles Labour left wingers had fought in the past, and those they plan to fight in the future. He made no mention of the present. This is not surprising.

Today, the Labour left is paralysed by the general election, and the fear that it might be accused of spoiling Labour's chances. The only struggle it is conducting is one to shake off the 'loony' label and to appear reasonable. Thus, while left-wing Lambeth council leader Linda Bellos drags a councillor into the chamber with her newborn baby to pass a cuts budget, radical members of Labour's London executive silently accept the fact that they have been locked out of their own meetings by Kinnock's stooges. This may be fair enough for those who think saving the Labour Party is all-important. But those who give priority to saving the working class must take a different attitude.

The Revolutionary Communist Party is campaigning for *The Red Front* as a bloc of left-wing individuals and organisations who are committed to preserving the working class as a political force, rather than rescuing the party that threatens to kill off working class politics. Our campaign for *The Red Front* arises from the need to maximise the forces fighting to defend our class in the here and now. The George Roucou Defence Campaign is one example of the benefits this approach can bring. It has won, not by waiting to see what turns up after the election, but by organising trade unionists to take immediate action against racism. It gives us a glimpse of the sort of development which Worsthorne is worried about. You can help to give him nightmares by backing *The Red Front* (fill in the box on page 11).

Because of our Easter weekend conference, there will be no *tns* next week. We'll be back on 24 April.



GEORGE'S WORKMATES ON THE 1500 STRONG WORK-TIME DEMO IN FEBRUARY

TACKLING THE RACISTS

Building workers' senior shop steward **Tony Whiston** argued for George Roucou's right to stay in Britain at dozens of workplace meetings. He explains the significance of the campaign

It was a unique situation. Even during a major dispute, like the direct works' strike in 1977, you didn't get the organised meetings that we've had here to win support for George. There was a tremendous amount of interest raised, and it's still going on.

'Now it will be clear to people that we can achieve some success.'

'I never had any illusions about racism in the workplace. It's a feature of every depot you work in. But I was taken aback and almost demoralised by some of the meetings we held.'

'Some people said that the law of the land should determine whether George was allowed to stay or not. Then there was sheer unadulterated racism that said George was black and he should go back with the rest of them. But the most fundamental opposition was that George was an immigrant and immigrants were taking jobs.'

'There were some very heated meetings, and there were suggestions that we should limit the campaign to the fact that George is a trade unionist. But even if we'd wanted to, we wouldn't have been allowed to. Either antagonistically or otherwise, people saw the race issue and raised it in a wider political context. The trade unions were forced to respond.'

'We found it was necessary to isolate individuals and tackle the political issue of race. We referred to the immigration laws and their basis, and we fought for a work-time demonstration. In a workplace that's threatened with privatisation because of the withdrawal of government finance, the whole pressure is to play down such an issue. At the moment, there is a feeling within the movement that you can't risk anything.'

'But this campaign does demonstrate that you can win limited but substantial support if you conduct the arguments consistently.'

'The significance of the direct works' campaign is that a trade union took on board a campaign which involved far more than bread and butter issues. In fact, unless the trade unions recognise the political nature of their struggle, and respond to it in a manner which exceeds some of the more narrow approaches, they won't be able to withstand government attacks.'

'The most important thing now is to carefully consider what's been achieved. I'm very optimistic about what can be achieved in the future. Immigration will become an important issue in the general election. The whole issue of immigration laws should be a subject for discussion in the trade union movement.'

The George Roucou Defence Campaign has been backed by the following organisations:

Joint shop stewards committee (direct works) • Ucat North West region • Ucat Brixton second branch • Nalco branch executive council • Nalco city engineers joint shop stewards committee • Nalco city treasurers JSSC • South Manchester Health Authority — Nalco • Nalco area 6 social services • Manchester Trades Council • TGWU executive council (Manchester area) • GMB Manchester • GMBU — GMW section (Lancashire region) • GMBU — 390 Liverpool • Nupe housing • Nupe porters and cleaners, town hall • Nupe nursery nurses • Nupe Oldham hospital • AEU Manchester North District Committee • AEU Manchester South District Committee • Baldwin and Francis • AEU • NEI Mining Equipment JSSC (AEU) • Sogat '82 North West Region • Astms Community branch • Astms North West division • Astms Midland Health Service branch • Astms ICL Manchester A27 • CPSA — DTI Manchester • CPSA Manchester district • NUR Manchester district council • AEU Cricklewood • EETPU Manchester • NUT Manchester • Silentnight strikers • Brent Nalco • Ilea Nalco • IRSF Shipley • Natfhe — All Saints branch • Durham Mechanics — NUM • Acts 6/389 • Usdaw Fallowfield D21 • Trades Union Congress.

Manchester NUS • Liverpool Polytechnic Students' Union • John Laing Lockout Committee • M6 workers' fighting fund • Nurses' defence group • Workers Against Racism • Stockport Anti-Apartheid • Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign • Ghana Brothers Welfare Association • Jamaica Caribbean Society • Manchester • Wythenshawe law centre • Tooting and Balham law centre • Grassroots Cooperative • Lewisham racism awareness training unit • Race equality committee, Bristol council • Manchester city council • Manchester city Labour party constituency Labour parties — Withington, Manchester central, Motherwell south, Wythenshawe, Eccles branch Labour parties — Hulme, Beswick and Clayton, Withington, Harpurhey, Rusholme, Winton, Benchill, Woodhouse Park, Blackley, Crumpsall, Charlestown, Hurston, Moston, Ardwick, Cheetham, Bradford, Moss Side, Levenshulme, Longsight, Royton north, Royton south, Waterhead, Winton • Bernie Grant, Eric Heffer MP, Alf Morris MP, Terry Fields MP, Graham Stringer (Manchester council leader), councillors Basil Curley and John Clegg.

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VICTORY
FOR GEORGE
ROUCOU

'I WAS READY TO CRACK'



MARCHING TO VICTORY: GEORGE ROUCOU, HIS WIFE KIM AND WAR ORGANISER CHARLES LONGFORD

Andrew Calcutt spoke to **George Roucou** and Manchester Workers Against Racism organiser **Charles Longford** about the defence campaign that stopped the home office deporting Roucou by winning the support of rank and file trade unionists

When did you hear the result of your appeal?

Roucou: I was outside painting the house on Tuesday, when my solicitor came to tell me the news. It made me feel like a human being again. My wife Kim was so pleased she fell to the floor and started crying. I've just been down to the yard here at Manchester council direct works, where I am a shop steward in Ucat, the building workers' union. Everybody's delighted.

How did you organise the campaign?

Roucou: In the last six months, we haven't sat down for one minute. One of us has always been at a meeting — in community centres, trade union branches, and Labour Party wards. We always argued that the unions should give support to all deportees. **Longford:** At the first campaign meeting I went to, we decided to ask trade unionists for real, active support. Until then, a number of resolutions had been passed, but it was just paper support. What we attempted to do was turn it into action. That meant going into workplaces and having the arguments out in the open.

We had about 60 shop meetings with rank and file members of Manchester's town hall unions. We recognised that we weren't going to win everyone, but that a significant number of workers would stand by George against home office attempts to deport him because he's black. It was only when we started getting that sort of support that national union leaders decided they'd better support the campaign.

Roucou: We had the meetings in work-time, because there would only be a handful of people at branch meetings.

Longford: And we argued for a work-time demonstration as being more significant than a Saturday event. All the work that George has described was to build for the demonstration on Friday 6 February. There were 1500 people on it, many of them council workers. It was the first ever work-time demonstration in support of a deportee, and the adjudicator had to pay attention to it.

The result is a victory for George and his family. It's also a victory for the whole of the labour movement. When so many people are saying you can't do anything, we've shown it's possible to start reversing the tide. We've proved that if you take on the arguments, you can win them. Perhaps with just a

minority at the moment, but at least this campaign has begun that process. It's shown the rest of the labour movement it can be done. That must give heart, not only to anti-racists but to union activists as well, because most are reluctant to take on these unpopular issues.

George, your defence campaign had been running for some time before it took off. What changed?

Roucou: For the past three years, me and David Graham, my solicitor, have mounted a campaign. But for the past two and a half years we got the wrong advice. There were too many home office attacks, and I was ready to crack. It was just about to collapse, when we made contact with Workers Against Racism.

We had the idea of going to the unions before, but we didn't get anywhere until we got support from Workers Against Racism. The housing section of Nupe was the first bit of really concrete support. Me and Charlie Longford went to the meeting and won the lot of them over. Then we went to the engineers' union, and then Nalگو, and then

we put pressure on Ucat.

The organisers of Workers Against Racism also expanded the campaign to Liverpool, Birmingham, London and Bristol. They worked out a full diary for me. I've been so busy I feel like I've just had a baby!

Some people criticised Workers Against Racism when they got involved. But I said to David Graham 'We've been sat down here for two bloody years. This organisation is prepared to do the work, and they're welcome.' We didn't have the full backing of the council or the union. But we went out and we won it. We spread the word and shared the work. When we tested our strength, we found we had more than we expected.

Longford: We had a lot of support from Labour Party members in ward and constituency meetings. Labour councillors were good at passing resolutions, but most of them were embarrassed to see George because he would ask them what they'd actually been doing for the campaign. Patting him on the back, and then crossing the road whenever they saw him coming.

What are your plans for the future?

Roucou: I'm planning to give my mind a rest, and then I want to support other people under attack. We are willing to go as far as it takes.

TO KEITH TOMPSON, NATIONAL ORGANISER, WORKERS AGAINST RACISM

Dear Keith,

I am writing to express my thanks and those of George Roucou, his family and friends to WAR for its magnificent support in the fight against the Home Office decision to deport him. We believe the battle has now been won with the Adjudicator's decision in favour of George's appeal. The Adjudicator referred to public support for George as one of the reasons for that decision. Nobody could be in any doubt of that support following the major demonstration by George's fellow workers on 6th February and other events organised jointly by WAR and local union members. The contribution made by WAR members in developing the campaign's contacts with Trade Unions and in the Labour movement and in terms of pure hard work has been enormous and is deeply appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

David Graham

David Graham
Chair George Roucou Defence
Campaign

TURNING THE TIDE IN THE TRADE UNIONS

'British unions continue to fail black workers in numerous ways. Many unions and their members exhibit a "colour-blindness" which rejects racism as a trade union issue. However...in February, Manchester city council workers became the first British trade unionists to stop work in protest against the threatened deportation of a black colleague, George Roucou, a shop steward in the building workers' union Ucat.'

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR REPORTS,
MARCH/APRIL 1987

CATERPILLAR OCCUPATION

NO LEGAL DEFENCE

Solidarity action against the law is the one thing that can defend the Caterpillar occupation from the employers, judges and union officials now opposed to their struggle for jobs



IF CAT STRIKERS ACT NOW TO WIN WIDER SUPPORT THEY CAN SAVE THEIR JOBS

National and regional officials from the Amalgamated Engineering Union are trying to scupper the occupation against the closure of the Caterpillar plant at Uddingston, near Glasgow. Worried about sequestration after the courts issued an injunction against the occupation, AEU president Bill Jordan took the first opportunity last week to denounce 'illegal action which is against union rules'. Then the AEU executive sent regional official and top Communist Party member Jimmy Airlie to try to bully the shop stewards into organising a withdrawal.

The strikers refused to abide by the officials' instructions. 'Give-in Laird — that's what we call general secretary Gavin Laird' said toolmakers' steward Jim Hall. 'The union won't put up a fight, but we don't give up at the first sign of trouble. If we get out of the plant, we've got nothing.'

Cat strikers have not given up. Yet, week by week, the majority in favour of carrying on the occupation has got slimmer as the forces ranged against the strikers have got stronger. The strategy adopted by the Joint Organising Committee has been unable to stem the mounting tide of disillusion.

MISGUIDED

Convenor John Brannan has advised Cat workers to put their trust in the law. Last week he talked about 'a lawful right to defend jobs'. The JOC even backed the Scottish TUC's idea that the Tory government should use the Income and Corporation Taxes Act to block management's threat to strip the plant. But, for the past eight years, the Tories have done everything they could to extend management's 'lawful right' to attack trade unionists defending their jobs. The court order granted against the Cat strikers two weeks ago is the latest in a catalogue of cases, stretching from Warrington to Wapping, in which the capitalist courts have used the law to attack the working class.

We cannot use their legal system to preserve our jobs.

The JOC strategy has been based on the misguided notion that Scottish Tories, courts, church leaders, and businessmen can help to defend Scottish jobs against American-owned Caterpillar. Although the JOC has helped to organise some blacking action against Caterpillar at Greenock docks, it has played such initiatives down and concentrated on promoting a 'Scottish front' with establishment figures to lobby the government for assistance. This has meant making the campaign as 'respectable' as possible. It has ruled out the possibility of fighting for the sort of solidarity which could win the dispute. The dire consequences of this approach are now becoming clear, as the Scottish dignitaries — and trade union

bureaucrats — distance themselves from an illegal occupation, and more moderate strikers become disheartened by their lack of progress.

Since the Cat occupation began, Revolutionary Communist Party supporters have argued in strike bulletins that members of the establishment, whatever their accent, are only interested in defending the power and profits of their class. They don't mind appearing at the odd rally or signing a

petition as a public relations exercise. But they won't fight for jobs. Any buy-out arranged by bosses like Sir Monty Finniston, who has been trying to set up a deal, would involve job cuts and worse working conditions. The people who will are other members of the working class movement. This is where the destiny of the dispute lies.

ACT NOW

Cat militants know that the reason the police have not yet tried to enforce the court order has nothing to do with doubts about fine points of law. 'They haven't moved in' said one striker 'because of our agreement with Caterpillar workers in Belgium and France. We contacted the Gosselies plant in Belgium, and they confirmed they will take industrial action if the police move in. The Grenoble plant are also standing by their promise.'

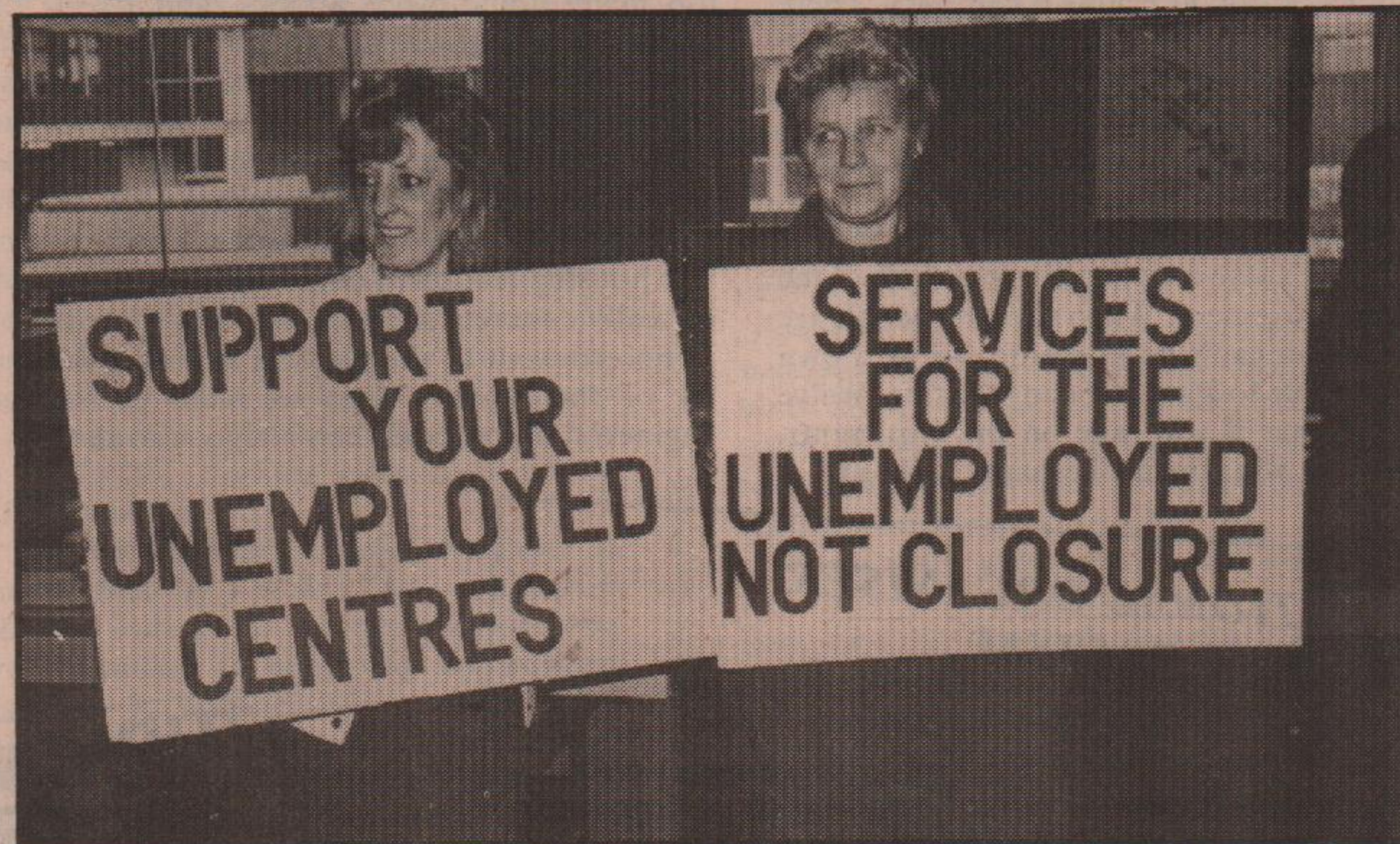
Workers' solidarity — not legal niceties or Scottish front rallies with Presbyterian ministers and Tory MPs — is the only thing between Cat workers and the full force of the law.

It is clearer than ever that defending jobs at Caterpillar means arguing for other rank and file workers to black the company's products, and organising physical defence of the occupation against police assault. Strikers must act now, before it's too late. Any other strategy plays into the hands of the employers, the courts, and the AEU officials who grovel before them.

Ceri Tully

DEFEND KIRKBY UNEMPLOYED CENTRE

POLICING THE UNEMPLOYED



LABOUR COUNCILLORS SET THE POLICE ON LOCAL PROTESTORS LAST WEEK

Last week Ian Morris, an unemployed GMBU activist, joined the protest against the Labour council's plans to knock 55 per cent off the funding for Kirkby unemployed centre. He did not expect the council to use the police to intimidate protesters.

'When I got to the unemployed centre in the afternoon, I was told that police had been outside all day, patrolling up and down. When we arrived at the council chambers the police were on the door, and when everyone came into the council chamber for the finance committee meeting, they followed us in. People felt intimidated, but the Labour councillor chairing the meeting ruled that previous experiences of people from the unemployed centre warranted a police presence to keep order.'

This is just one more example of the Labour Party's open hostility toward working class people in Kirkby. Yet some

activists are still claiming that the Labour Party can be used to defend the unemployed centre. By asking people to join Labour in the hope of deselecting pro-cuts councillors at a future date, they are turning the campaign to defend the centre into a recruitment drive for an organisation that uses the threat of police violence to silence working class people.

Equally misguided are the plans for centre staff to strike to prove how much the community needs them. In a town where 75 per cent of all households have used the centre, the council already knows it is essential. It also knows that any shutdown, however temporary, will pave the way for permanent closure. Instead of making things easier for their opponents on the Labour council, centre workers and supporters need to argue for solidarity action from council workers who could refuse to process the cuts.

CIVIL SERVANTS ON STRIKE

THE SELECTIVE ACTION TRAP

Civil servants are on strike over a wage claim. But the rolling programme of selective, regional strike action imposed by their leaders won't win civil servants a decent pay rise. Kerry Andrews spoke to Ciaran Conaghan, chief shop steward at the Manpower Services Commission HQ in Sheffield, about the problems facing trade unionists who want to win.

'Members want a flat rate increase of £20 a week — the majority of Civil and Public Services Association members earn less than £120 a week. The union's national committee balloted the membership on the government's pathetic offer of £5.75 a week. But the officials refused to make a recommendation on it. They were astonished by the vote in favour of industrial action.'

'Rank and file activists won the vote by their hard work. In South Yorkshire, activists went out to as many workplaces as possible. We got no help from the union. The official strategy is a six-week rolling programme, concentrating on social security and unemployment offices with Wales and the North-west as the first areas. We know the problems of selective action with time limits. The Tories will be happy to sit it out, and nothing gets resolved. But many of us want all-out action. A worker at Rotherham benefit office told me that once she came out she didn't want to go back until we'd won. Members are also worried about the isolation that goes with selective action.'

SEVER ARTERIES

'The CPSA is strongest in London. But the officials didn't choose London as the first area because it would be a drain on union funds. They're more interested in paying off the mortgage on the London headquarters than fighting for a living wage.'

'Militants in the CPSA and Society of Public Servants are arguing for immediate escalation. The vote shows a tremendous willingness to fight, despite the lack of official support. It's up to us to turn that anger into decisive action. That means an all-out strike as soon as possible — the only way to win. So far, the rank and file have been able to exert some influence. We'll have to redouble our efforts to maintain that and stop the sell-out. If the government offer us another £1 or £2, the national committee will use this as an excuse to suspend the action. We must warn our members that this is going to happen.'

The disastrous experience of the teachers' two-year dispute should be a lesson to civil servants. Their leaders' refusal to organise all-out action has bred disillusionment among members and allowed education minister Kenneth Baker to impose his own terms. CPSA and SCPS members must follow Conaghan's advice and avoid the trap of selective and regional action. National action aimed at severing the arteries of the civil service would change the Tories' tune in a far shorter time than six weeks. Rank and file activists must set about organising themselves, across union lines, to take the action that their leaders won't touch.

Workers in unemployment and social security offices can expect to be slandered by Tory propaganda about trade unionists making the unemployed suffer. The civil service unions have made it easier for the government to turn the unemployed against their members, by implementing Tory attacks on the jobless from Restart schemes to availability for work tests. Activists must now take the initiative and unite workers on both sides of the dole office counter against the Tories. Their campaign must include effective opposition to government attacks on the unemployed.

READ THIS!

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE AIDS PANIC

Dr Michael Fitzpatrick
Don Milligan

The Truth about the Aids Panic
Dr Michael Fitzpatrick and
Don Milligan
£1.95 (plus 40p p&p)

When Dr Legg tells Dot Cotton to use a condom you know that nobody is now safe from the Aids panic. The intrusion of the government's safe sex propaganda into soaps like *EastEnders*, alongside Dot's outbursts about Aids being God's punishment for the 'perverted', serves to reinforce every popular prejudice about the disease and its victims. This new book by East End GP Dr Michael Fitzpatrick and gay rights activist Don Milligan argues that the government has inflated the threat from Aids to spread prejudice against homosexuals and to popularise old-fashioned family values about sex and morality. They criticise the radical exponents of safe sex for going along with the Tories' reactionary campaign and explain why standing up for lesbian and gay rights is the only way to beat the disease and the bigots.

THE RED FRONT

A platform
for
working
class
unity

Revolutionary Communist Party

The Red Front: A Platform for Working Class Unity
£1 (plus 40p p&p)

As a general election approaches, the Revolutionary Communist Party's new programme sets out our alternative to the capitalist system and the parties dedicated to its survival. It points out the pressing need for an alliance of left-wing groups and individuals to campaign around a platform of working class demands if we are to defend our living standards and rights now and in the future, whichever party wins the election.

THE NAZIS IN THE SOVIET UNION

Barbarism

Come and See,
Elem Klimov (Director)

One place Margaret Thatcher could not avoid visiting in the Soviet Union was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The shrine recalls the death of 20 million Soviet citizens in the ferocious defence of their country against Nazi Germany. The sacrifice they made in the Second World War is something neither visitors nor the Soviet people are allowed to forget. The constant emphasis on this episode in the nation's

history helps to cohere Soviet society against the threat of foreign invasion, and behind the current arms and space policies of its government.

Elem Klimov has been officially acknowledged as one of the Soviet Union's top directors. That status is unlikely to be jeopardised by *Come and See*. Although its heroes are not the Red Army, but rather the partisans fighting a guerrilla struggle against the Germans in Byelorussia in 1943, it is still part of the relentless process of



THE SOVIET UNION AFTER THATCHER

Hail, Mikhail

Martin Walker, *The Waking Giant: Soviet Union under Gorbachev*, Michael Joseph, £14.95

'We never use a screwdriver in the last week. We hammer the screws in. We solder on the connections, cannibalise parts from other TVs if we run out of the right ones, use glue or hammers to fix switches that were never meant for that model. And all the time management is pressing us to work faster, to make the target so that we will

all get our bonuses.

This Soviet television worker's description of 'storming' (the practice of rushing to meet the target at the end of the month) is typical of the fascinating picture of Gorbachev's 'new look' Soviet Union contained in Martin Walker's new book.

Martin Walker has been the *Guardian's* Moscow correspondent since 1984. Followers of his regular reports will not be disappointed by this very informative and readable account of Soviet life. If you want to know why the Strategic

remembering. It is also a stunning film.

Through the eyes of a simple 14-year old peasant we are introduced to the war in the menacing shape of the partisans ravaging their own countryside for recruits and provisions as if they were invaders. Our perspective is soon distorted further as the boy is deafened and shell-shocked in an air raid. From there we are swept down a nightmarish spiral of horror, culminating in the massacre of an entire village by a Nazi anti-partisan unit. In one of the most compelling images of barbarism I have ever seen, the drunken storm troopers herd young and old alike into a barn-like church, and set it ablaze. We are informed at the end that 620 villages in Byelorussia received identical treatment, while in a further 4258 villages part of the population was killed when their homes were razed.

The dislocation of the youth from his family, from the partisans, from his native countryside and finally from his senses is not always easy to watch. But it is difficult to escape. We begin with, and return frequently to, a close-up of his face, and by the end we see an old man. Time and again the most astonishing images loom into view, as when the boy, crazed by the discovery of his family and kin piled dead behind an outhouse, struggles across quicksand for an eternity in an attempt to reach the other bank and leave reality behind. Such sequences, and the film is really

a collection of them, are fashioned and presented self-consciously, rather than being subtly and artificially woven around a story, and they have a much greater impact for that.

Klimov's style allows him to leap from moments of the most poignant intimacy, to flashes of surreal disorientation, to perspectives of epic grandeur. In the opening part of the film we see the little twin sisters giggling and then snuffling at their mother's rage about the boy leaving home. We see too in sudden close-up a nest of eggs smashed underfoot by the fleeing youth. We see the desultory chaos of the partisans' camp transformed in the instant that the group photograph is taken. It is a stirring moment. Just when we might have thought this was a shambling rabble, a mixture of jokers and conscripts, at the very last second they draw themselves up for the photographer with the utmost seriousness, the utmost consciousness of their role in the history and the survival of their country.

At the end Klimov is not embarrassed to include a montage of film clips of Hitler's rise played backwards as the boy pumps bullets into the Führer's photograph, each round propelling the monster further away, further back into history. He then shoulders his rifle and follows the column of partisans into the mighty forests to continue the struggle.

Pat Ford

Rocket Forces produce the only reasonable refrigerators, or more topically, why they can't produce condoms that work, then this book is for you.

But *Waking Giant* is more than just a litany of strange tales and interesting observation. Walker shows himself keenly aware of the peculiar historical forces that have shaped Soviet society. He repeatedly reminds us of the unimaginable impact of the Second World War, the great purges and the horror of Stalin's industrialisation drive through which the Soviet working class was created. More recently, he shows the uncertainty of Khrushchev's years and the systematic corruption of the Brezhnev era to be important in understanding the modern Soviet bureaucracy.

Most importantly, Walker begins to grasp the chaotic and generally backward character of Gorbachev's Soviet Union without falling into crass ridicule. 'The single great advantage of the "socialist" system is that when the state announces a national priority, it can pour unlimited funds and manpower into a single mammoth project.' The Soviet armed forces is the

most obvious example, where through close supervision, and the pick of resources, a reasonable level of efficiency is attained.

Revealing the limitations of the journalistic approach however, Walker's assessment of the possibilities of reform are off the mark. The 'glasnost' (openness) policy and the other reforms may help Gorbachev consolidate support for the bureaucracy, and more importantly, may gain him access to the Western technology he desperately needs (and not just for visits to Mars). But those reforms cannot provide the Soviet economy with a dynamic for development within itself, the ability to generate systematic technological innovation and improvements in the productivity of labour. Walker provides a more perceptive description of the problems of Soviet society than many left-wing commentators, but for a proper analysis of those problems you will have to move on to Frank Furedi's *The Soviet Union Demystified*.

Adam Eastman

ABORTION IN THE USA

No choice

Rosalind Pollack Petchesky, *Abortion and Women's Choice*, Verso, £10.00

In the USA the controversy surrounding abortion is second in the moral panic stakes only to the Aids scare. An hysterical campaign aimed at making abortion illegal or inaccessible (successful in some states) has been accompanied by bomb attacks on abortion clinics. Whereas a decade ago the proposal to amend the US constitution to define the foetus as a human being was considered cranky, a new bill now has presidential backing. The Roe vs Wade decision by the US Supreme Court, which in 1973 gave American women the

most liberal abortion law in the West, was upheld last year by only one vote.

The steady erosion of abortion rights over the past decade has met with a weak and confused response from US feminists. Instead of mounting a defence, they have been consumed by debates about the status of abortion as a necessary demand, and have capitulated to the pro-family propaganda of the right. Petchesky's book tries to place the fight for abortion rights back at the centre of the fight for women's rights.

With thorough research into the historical, legal and political background, she backs up her argument (against the women's movement and the moralists) that for most women abortion is a matter of necessity not choice. Talking about the individual's

right to choose ignores the many factors in society — from parental anger to lack of adequate childcare and healthcare facilities — which make such a notion meaningless. It also reinforces an individual rather than a collective response to the problem. Petchesky recognises this and the need for fundamental change: 'Making authentic moral judgements about abortion and having choices that are real, involve changing the world.'

Her analysis of how and why women are denied equal treatment is not so good. She explains capitalism's denial of women's right to control their own fertility as patriarchy conspiring with capitalism to deny women power over their lives. The rise of the 'new right' is seen as an inevitable backlash against the impact of feminist and left-wing ideas in the seventies. The economic crisis, she argues, does not generate the backlash, but feeds it, while the backlash in turn helps to deepen the crisis.

Women are denied power in

capitalist society because they are excluded from mainstream economic life and confined to the family as domestic slaves. There is no conspiracy in that, nor any coincidence in the fact that during a period of crisis the oppression of women is intensified. By popularising right-wing ideas about the family now, the establishment can justify its measures to keep women in the home and force them to take on further responsibility for looking after the sick and the elderly, as well as the men and the children.

The failure of the US left and feminists to mount a serious challenge to the pro-family ideas of the establishment during the sixties and seventies permitted the backlash of the eighties to make headway. Reagan's America is not the USA of the boom years, but that does not make the success of the backlash inevitable. If we correctly identify the root of the problem — in a particular economic system rather than in a timeless notion like patriarchy — we will have taken the first step towards tackling it.

Wendy Ellis

Rachel Webb's diary

TO highlight National Housing Week Lambeth councillor Rachel Webb trailed round the borough with a homeless family dumped into bed and breakfast accommodation and dependent on supplementary benefits. She claimed she wanted 'to see things through the eyes of the homeless' and jotted down her findings in a diary. Health experts were called in to tell the family how to feed themselves better on their paltry income, and environmental health officers informed them of the inadequacy of their living conditions.

Homeless families do not need experts to tell them that cramped 'hotel' rooms and poverty do nothing for their health. In Lambeth, 478 families are living in so-called temporary

accommodation with no hope of getting a decent home. Lambeth's housing department is on the brink of collapse, with staff struggling to deal with ever-lengthening waiting lists, backlogs of unpaid housing benefit and mounting disrepair. The council has just agreed to a £2.4m cut in the department's budget for 1987-88. Always grossly understaffed — in the homeless persons unit, levels of up to 50 per unfilled vacancies have been sustained over the past year — the council has now incorporated the money saved from not filling vacancies into its cost-cutting strategy.

Perhaps councillor Webb should note in her diary: working class people need decent homes. Neither Tory nor Labour-led councils provide them. We'll only get the housing we need when we realise the necessity of fighting for it ourselves.

Lynne Arman
Housing worker



David Rowke

FALLING TO PIECES THANKS TO LABOUR'S SLUM LANDLORDS

What happens at an Aids test

LAST week I went for an Aids test at the Royal Hallamshire hospital in Sheffield, as I had been an intravenous drug user from 1978 to 1985. At the genitourinary clinic large notices advised anyone having the Aids test to see the health visitor first. After 15 minutes, and six loud announcements that someone 'wanted to see the health visitor', she finally came.

I explained I wanted the test because I was worried about my general state of health. As she was an Aids counsellor and could see that I was worried I expected her to give me some kind of reassurance. All she said was that Aids was not as common in Sheffield as in London, even though it was still a very worrying problem. She then said that if I had the test I had to agree that if I discovered I was HIV positive I must tell my doctor, dentist and partner. Also that just by having the test, whatever the result, I would no longer be eligible for life assurance. I was beginning to feel even worse than when I arrived. She then said that if I was HIV positive I would have to keep close ties with the clinic so that if I got a sniffle I could go back to them so that they could treat me and so prevent me from getting seriously ill and perhaps dying (her words exactly).

Not one intravenous drug user, who has always used drugs within the city of Sheffield, has been found to be HIV positive. Thankfully I too was negative. But while representatives of the establishment are allowed to carry on in this insensitive

and discriminatory way there will always be people afraid to have the Aids test. This will ultimately lead to the perpetuation of the Aids virus within the high-risk groups and many more young lives will needlessly be lost. This is one reason, among others, why we should defend lesbian and gay rights now.

Anon
Sheffield

Anti-gay hysteria in Scotland

I RECENTLY tried to establish a Lesbian and Gay society at Falkirk College of Technology. A colleague and I wrote a motion on gay and lesbian rights to come before the executive for approval. This was passed by a mere one vote, and was referred to the union general meeting. At the UGM opposers of the motion (both in the Labour Students society) claimed that lesbians and gays were not discriminated against and therefore there was no need to have a policy to protect them. They added that Aids was caused by gay relationships. The policy was overwhelmingly rejected, three quarters of the students present opposing it.

Myself and a woman who spoke for the motion have since had a lot of abuse, some of it verbal, some of it physical, all of it disgusting. Whenever I sit down to eat students move away saying 'Don't sit next to that pouf', etc. Anyone who agreed to support the Lesbian and Gay society is treated in the same way. One person, who is standing for the presidency of the union, is

now saying 'To stamp out Aids we should crucify or burn gays.'

I would ask readers of the next step to write letters of support to the executive, because they have attempted to resist this anti-gay carnival.

Alan Turner
Glasgow

Nupe workers for gay rights

SOME of us hospital workers raised a motion for a solidarity contingent on the Gay Pride March in our recent branch meeting. We also put on record our opposition to Patricia Hewitt's attack on gay rights.

Labour Party members in the branch meeting were immediately up in arms about the motion. Our regional officer said that given it was election year it was important to keep our heads down and not rock the boat. He felt the motion contained too direct an attack on the Labour leadership. When we asked him how far he was prepared to go in his defence of the Labour leadership, he replied that he was prepared to go as far to the right as was necessary to get Labour in. All trade unionists would agree, wouldn't they?

We in Nupe are not prepared to go along with him. For us it is very important that we campaign around gay rights. We are organising a meeting for all health workers to discuss where we go from here.

Nupe shop steward

Oldham

Join the Labour Party?

I AM an active member of the Labour Party and read *tns* regularly. I find it attractively laid out, direct and accessible in style, and the perspective it offers, 'essential reading'. One major disagreement, however, is that I think your ideas would be much more effective coming from within the Labour Party.

Not all Labour supporters believe in Labourism; certainly I see it as only one of several ways of organising and acting. Working for the Labour Party does not mean trusting its structures, leadership or the parliamentary road. The Labour Party is the political voice of the working class with all its ideological and structural faults. Similar weaknesses can be identified in the unions but I've yet to hear you suggest separate miners', print workers' or telecom engineers' unions be set up.

Separate organisation is an extravagance that can be ill-afforded, particularly at present. Labour supporters need to be systematically engaging with your ideas. Certainly inside the Labour Party you would get more support from me.

Dave
Peckham

Reproduction

ALISON CORRIGAN (Letters, 3 April) has got a point when she argues that it is women's right not to reproduce that is under attack at present. After all the United Nations declaration on human rights stands for everyone's right to found a family, but not for women's right to avoid having children they do not want or cannot afford. However she goes too far.

We have always opposed the state forcing anybody to have an abortion, use contraception or be sterilised. The reason for this is that the state has a

eugenicist motive rather than simply providing a service. Black women in particular have told me of the relative ease with which they had abortions. Working class women with more than five or six children are often offered sterilisation, on the assumption that they are too stupid to use contraception. When I was in hospital the sister on the ward victimised a woman having her tenth child, telling other patients that the surgeon carrying out her caesarean should also tie her tubes because her family had already cost the taxpayer 'a quarter of a million' to care for.

The state has always sponsored contraception on the grounds that it will prevent the working class from having 'too many children'. These views were put quite explicitly in parliament when the existing family planning laws were enacted. We support free abortion and contraception on demand because we put women's rights first. But when the state interferes with our reproductive organs for its own ends, as was clearly the case with Jeanette, revolutionaries must stand up and be counted.

Kate Marshall
London

Defend Libyan students!

MOHSEN MADI is a Libyan, studying at the Newcastle College of Arts and Technology. He has been studying in this country for the last three years; the home office have decided this is long enough. 'Mr Madi should now make arrangements to leave the country immediately' said the home office in their letter to him. 'If he fails to do so consideration will be given to enforcing his departure.'



David Rowke

When Mohsen moved to Newcastle from London he failed to inform the home office for six months. The spectre of a 21-year old Libyan moving so easily around Britain is obviously too much for the Tories to take, in their search for foreigners to be labelled as 'terrorists' or blamed for unemployment.

Workers Against Racism is equally determined to prevent the deportation. A campaign has been started in the local colleges to convince students to fight all deportations. If you are a student in the North-east and would like to get involved please get in touch with us.

Mike Jay
Newcastle

If you would like to respond to any of these points, raise questions or comment on what you have read in the next step you can write to *tns*, BCM JPLTD, London WC1N 3XX. Or phone the letters page over the weekend on (01) 729 3771.

SECTARIANISM AND THE LEFT

Sectarianism is one of the most overused and misunderstood terms on the British left. Left wingers use the label 'sectarian' to denounce anybody from the people they don't like to those they disagree with. Militant, for example, sees any left-wing group other than itself as a sect. More widely, it is a longstanding convention on the left that anybody or any party with strong views and principles is necessarily sectarian. In the same vein, the expression of disagreement at public forums is usually dismissed as the act of a sectarian.

Marxists don't use the term sectarian as an all-purpose insult, but as a precise definition. A

genuine sectarian is somebody who puts the interests of his or her organisation before that of the working class. Sectarianism is usually the product of isolation. It is fostered by an inward-looking approach which reduces political questions to their consequences for your own party.

Sectarianism is not an adjective that describes unpleasant, insensitive or loud individuals. Nor is it a term of abuse to be directed at those who pursue their objects single-mindedly. It simply means putting party before class.

The Labour Party never tires of denouncing 'left-wing sects'. Yet from a Marxist perspective it is the

most sectarian of parties. Labour's first and only concern is to get elected. Anything else is of secondary importance. Labour leaders can change their policies from one week to the next, ignoring the needs of the working class. The only question they ask is: 'how will this affect our electoral prospects?'

One reason why the term 'sectarian' has been transformed into a ready-made swear word is the British left's dislike of discussion and debate. The left looks upon debate as a luxury it can do without. Political opponents are discouraged from attending other people's meetings. The Socialist Workers' Party

equates political criticism at its public meetings with disruption. At campaign meetings and related forums, the left often discourages debate because it is supposed to undermine unity. This fear is entirely irrational. The fact that disagreements already exist indicates that there is no unity to undermine.

This negative attitude towards debate means that, on those rare occasions when political differences are actually raised, the debate is conducted in the atmosphere of a beargarden rather than in the spirit of comradely criticism. Anybody who has attended conferences organised by the Labour left will know that, despite all the posturing, there is no debate. A hothouse climate prevails in which one entrust group after another promotes strikingly similar resolutions. The model adopted is that of student union politics, where the manipulation of the rule book and cheap rhetorical tricks are taken as the hallmarks of wisdom.

Revolutionary Communist ideas cannot thrive in a left-wing culture which fears real discussion and regards political struggle with suspicion. The Revolutionary Communist Party sees political debate as essential, not only to demonstrate the relevance of our ideas, but to clarify the issues of the day. Debate can clarify problems and become an educative experience for the party. It is a way of testing our political programme and, under the pressure of contending ideas, of developing it further.

Supporters of the RCP have a responsibility to promote the party's politics. This can best be done through organising discussion and debate around the party's programme. Most of the time this form of work can be effectively pursued at work, in union meetings, on housing estates, etc. But it is also essential to enter into a dialogue with other organised activists. It is often difficult to organise political discussion with other parties. The prevailing

mood on the left is one of hostility towards political dialogue. But this is all the more reason for RCP supporters to refuse to take 'no' for an answer.

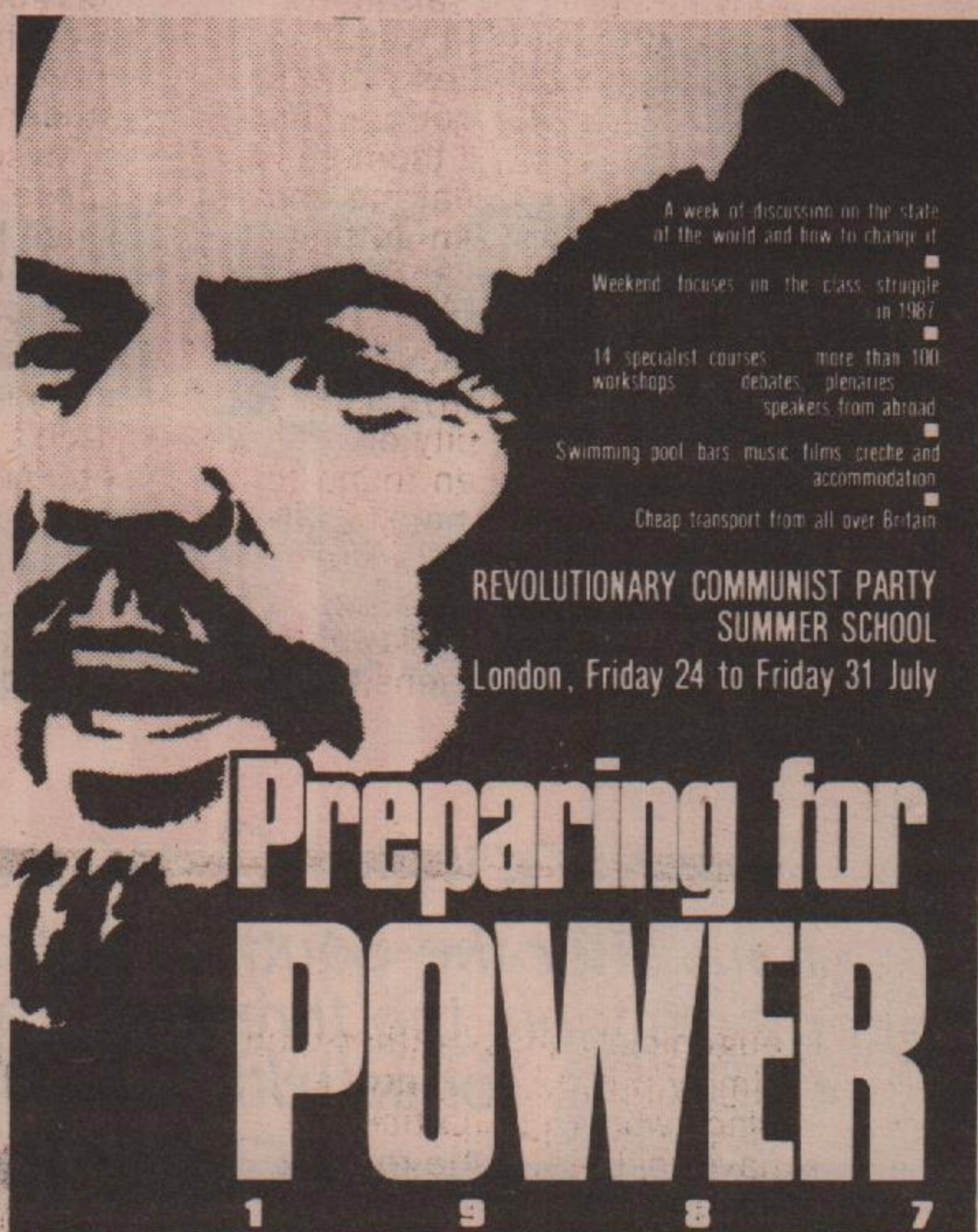
To overcome the left's philistine resistance to discussion, supporters should work out ways to force the left to confront our arguments. The most effective approach is one that focuses on a specific problem which the RCP and the left have in common. Issues such as what to do about the problems facing the strike at Caterpillar, or how to confront a group of racists at work, should be proposed for discussion with others on the left. RCP supporters must give a lead through personal example. They should never allow themselves to be provoked and, even in the most heated encounter, should maintain a comradely demeanour. With the retreat of the left and its crisis of ideology, we have nothing to lose and everything to gain from the promotion of discussion and debate.

Frank Richards

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE AIDS PANIC

BRISTOL: Thursday 9 April, 7.30pm, Shepherds Hall, Old Market
COVENTRY: Thursday 9 April, 7.30pm, West Indian Centre, Spon St
EDINBURGH: Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm, Pleasance Theatre, The Pleasance
GLASGOW: Thursday 30 April, 7.30pm, McLellan Galleries, Sauciehall St
MIDDLESBROUGH: Wednesday 29 April, 7.30pm, St Mary's Centre, Corporation Rd



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the next step

THE SUN SAYS

A MESSAGE
from one rising

Sun to another

THE SUN today has an important warning for the Trade War Lords of Japan.

Don't make an enemy of our country once again.

There are still many British ex-servicemen alive who remember only too well the agony of the POW camps and how their comrades were tortured and murdered by sadistic Japs.

Last time we ended our argument with Japanese Imperialism in a perfunctory way.

This time the argument will have to be settled a different way but it must be settled—and equitably.

We're not against the success of Japanese business. But free trade must work BOTH ways.

Our exports could flourish like theirs if we weren't blocked by dirty tricks like bottles of scotch priced at £40.

We are now being told that the cost of tough sanctions against Tokyo will be loss of Japanese investment here.

That is a price we must be prepared to pay.

The threat to our country is every bit as deadly as the invasion of the Falklands five years ago.

Our territory may not be at stake this time. The livelihood of millions of families is.

Mrs Thatcher saw off the Argies. She must now see off the Japs.

If she does the British people will reward her at the election with a massive majority.

'JAPS' AND 'ARGIES' ARE NOT OUR ENEMIES

Reject
Tory
tub-thumping



Five years after the South Atlantic War set Thatcher up to win the last general election, the threat of trade war with Japan could provide the Tories with a Falklands Factor for 1987

'Don't make an enemy of our country again' was the warning the *Sun* issued to Japan last week, as the Tory government threatened to start a trade war. The editorial took the tone of the war comics on which generations of British youth have been raised. It attacked the 'sadistic Japs' for their treatment of British troops 40 years ago, and called on the government to settle scores with 'Japanese imperialism' once more.

The new round of anti-Japanese jokes, speeches and cartoons has dragged up the old chestnut about underhand Japanese trading tactics being responsible for the problems of industry and unemployment in Britain. 'Our exports could flourish like theirs,' said the *Sun*, 'if we weren't blocked by dirty tricks like bottles of Scotch priced at £40.' The *Mail* ascribed the phenomenal success of Japanese capitalism to the way in which businessmen there are 'brainwashed' at 'hell camps' to become 'trade war Samurai' who can 'conquer the world'.

The trouble British whisky firms have in flogging a few bottles more in Japan hardly explains why around five million people are on the scrap heap in Thatcher's Britain.

Nor does the fact that some Japanese managers attend courses where they are taught to scream and to get dressed in snowstorms explain why people across the world refuse to buy British goods. Japanese firms run rings around British businessmen because British capitalism is the most

degenerate and decrepit of all the big economic powers (see page 8). This means that, in economic terms, Thatcher has little interest in a genuine trade war. Thus she despatched a minister to Tokyo this week to try to sort things out.

The main motive behind the anti-Japanese tub-thumping is political. Just as Thatcher's Moscow trip had much more to do with electioneering at home than arms negotiations abroad, so the Tory attack on the 'yellow peril' is primarily designed to start a patriotic bandwagon rolling which can carry her to victory at the polls. The Tories may decide that targeting Japan is their best bet of creating a sort of bloodless version of the Falklands Factor, which served them so well at the last election.

The gutter press has got the message. The *Sun* has declared that the Japanese threat to British livelihoods is 'every bit as deadly' as Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands five years ago last week. 'Mrs Thatcher saw off the Argies,' said The Paper that Supports Our Boys, 'she must now see off the Japs. If she does the British people will reward her at the election with a massive majority.'

If Thatcher tries to repeat the tried and tested formula of uniting the nation behind the government and against a foreign 'threat', she can be sure that the opposition parties will offer little resistance. Both Labour and the Alliance share her aim of

defending British capitalism. Five years ago they gave full-blooded backing to her act of piracy in the South Atlantic. Today, Labour is the party which shouts loudest for import controls and retaliation against Japan.

The Colonel Blimp, 'British is best' outlook which unites all sides of the house of commons means that, when the Tories throw insults at foreigners and raise the Union Jack, the opposition simply stands to attention and cheers for more of the same.

The bigots in the British establishment are reaching fresh heights of hypocrisy in their efforts to target the Japanese. 'They are the most xenophobic and chauvinistic people to trade with in the world,' said a spokesman for the City of London. Unlike genteel and diplomatic British dignitaries, of course, who sent Prince Philip to the Far East last year to call Oriental people 'slitty eyes'. The British ruling class is the oldest school of chauvinism in the world. Last week's ITV documentary on the South Atlantic War gave us a glimpse of the barbarism that lies behind its campaigns against 'Argies' and 'Japs'.

Behind the smokescreen of gung-ho hysteria whipped up at home by the press and politicians, British troops were fighting a bloody war to rob Argentina of the Falklands. While Thatcher told us to 'rejoice' at the victory for 'democracy', they were piling up the bodies of Argentinians killed by British bullets and bayonets — not including the 365 who drowned when the

Royal Navy torpedoed the *Belgrano*. 'Everybody we came across was all twisted,' one soldier who buried the Argentinian dead told the TV interviewer. 'You could see the agony these guys had been in when they died. I feel bad about the bodies and the way we just tossed them into a hole. They were just kids.' But they were 'Argie' kids, so Britain's rulers did not feel the slightest bit bad about having them tossed into holes in the cause of 'freedom'.

The British authorities stir up popular hatred against all things foreign to get us to fight their wars for them. Today, the bosses want us to back them against Japan and work harder for less to make their goods competitive. Tomorrow, as the competition and conflicts among the capitalist powers hot up, they will want us to go and die beneath the flag in a war which will make the slaughter in the South Atlantic look like a Sunday outing.

We should have nothing to do with the anti-foreign filth now being flung about by every established British party.

Our enemies are the British authorities and employers who exploit and dominate us. We should side with the victims of Britain's overseas aggression, whether they be in Argentina, Libya or Ireland, and make clear that we have a lot more in common with the workers of Japan than with the chauvinists in the house of commons and the City of London.