



The collapse of the 'municipal socialism' fraud is one obstacle removed

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diversion.

All these forms of 'reformism' are in essence a reactionary fraud on the working class, and prop up capitalism rather than 'help to change it' in the lies of Labour/TUC hypocrites.

Defending them now-as the 'all-out, exclusive conflict' would be a fatally crippling diversion from the real fight now posed by history - which in fact is to overthrow capitalism completely, because of the incurable terminal economic and political crisis it is rapidly degenerating into.

The decisive question for all conscious socialist advance is to correctly characterise which epoch of change has been entered into. Is it the epoch for defending (from Thatcherite reaction) another flourishing of reformist capitalism, duplicating the 40-year postwar boom? Or is it the epoch of the slump-collapse of international financial imperialism; of the supremacy of the planned socialist states; and of the overthrow of warmongering capitalist cut-throat trade & arms-race rivalry and the drift towards fascism and World War III.?

If seen in the latter perspective, then the decay of British capitalism's nationalised industries, just like that of its big corporations like Dunlop, machine tools, the motor industry, textiles, shipping & shipbuilding, aircraft, etc, - is in effect to be welcomed as the necessary passing away of the old capitalist order before, out of the inevitable chaos, the new workers state/socialist order can be forced forward by dire revolutionary necessity.

In the same way, the inevitable failure of local council reformism by the pro-capitalist Labour Party, - and failure of closed

shop perks 'job-preservation' by pro-capitalist trade unions (in the crucial sense that they are for capitalist democracy, and against socialism in the workers states (dictatorship of the proletariat)) is to be welcomed for clearing the decks of the old and discredited reformist deadwood now littering the path of working class advance, and making way for the revolutionary leap now possible and necessary.

Mass struggle itself around these reactionary dismantlings of 'past reformist gains' is obviously excellent and unavoidable. In the course of such struggle many valuable lessons can be learned about the true picture of the current international balance of class forces, all-decisive for understanding which political programme and tactics will triumph and which are doomed.

But while supporting such struggles, the task of revolutionary leadership is to draw out the political lessons to the maximum possible, and to prepare for the exposure and overthrow of the failure of the reformist limitations & pro-capitalist democracy illusions imposed lethally on the fight by the traditional 'left' posturers in the Labour -TUC movement.

The idea, for example, of the 'next Labour government' investing the 'British economy's' way out of slump is a fatal and crippling illusion.

And it was exactly this same general confused political perspective which in reality all the time held back the miners struggle during their magnificent strike. And the overcoming of this longstanding illusion of the working class, - through the 'defeat' of a flawed perspective which justly failed to galvanise the

have been sufficiently contaminated with traditional Labour/TUC class-collaborating opportunism to leave large sections of the working class unsurprisingly lukewarm about them.

Whether unconsciously, by instinct, or with some subtlety, workers are helping destroy some deadly reformist myths and illusions by refusing to go over the top on behalf of the traditional 'left' local Labour Party careerists and Labourite trade union bureaucracies.

An all-out fight now by the working class just to defend local Labour careerists' right to manage capitalism at municipal level, to defend the nationalised form of capitalist industry, or to defend mafia-union closed shop perks (as in the NGA-Shah dispute) would be a reformist

1. Reformists last stand.

(From Bulletin 282, 13.3.85)

The scattering of the anti-rate-capping campaigners, just like the collapse of fights against privatisation and the limitations placed on the miners strike by Labour/TUC reformist blinkers, contains lessons about the issues as well as about the 'failure' of the people leading them.

None of these battles have openly expressed the essential life-or-death question for the working class over capitalism's terminal crisis.

All of these matters, -some to a greater extent, some less so, -

entire working class, - was a real historical advance for the future socialist triumph of the whole working class, gained on the necessary failure of the reformist trade union limitations imposed by the traditional Labourite NUM on the miners heroic stand.

By battling for the NUM leadership's reformist Labourite perspectives, the miners were doomed to defeat.

But just by battling in itself, - especially in the unprecedented heroic way that the mining communities took on the whole power of the capitalist state and its rotten slump ethics and more than held their own, - the miners have helped prepare the break of the whole class from reformism. This will prove to be an absolutely priceless historic advance, worth an infinite number of traditional trade-union compromise 'victories', such as are philistinely suggested 'might' have been the 'best solution' at different stages of the epic strike by middle class 'revolutionary' tactical coaching.

The Trot groups do not just reveal their patronising anti-working class conceit in trying to run the strike for the miners (as opposed to entering a class-wide ideological struggle on the real historical perspectives of the international balance of class forces).

Much worse, they also cement the diversion of treating the strike just as a strike and limiting its significance to the useless prospect of merely winning a reprieve for a nationalised capitalist industry in a clapped-out capitalist economy which is being crushed in an incurable world capitalist crisis, - entirely missing the real political revolutionary significance of the miners mass action.

Fought to 'win' as an old-fashioned reformist defence action, the strike was always doomed by the epoch of capitalist terminal decay which no longer gives any room for further class compromise. And the middle class "revolutionary" groups' concentration on 'winning' or 'losing' as a trade union battle was always a reformist diversion from the real revolutionary significance of the strike.

Seen as opening shots in a wider revolutionary political revolt against the whole of capitalism, (including its Labour/TUC collaborators and their 'left' Livingstone-Trot mimics) - the miners stand against 'democratic' compromise was a triumph from the start, - as the Leninist movement explained.

And gaining this revolutionary consciousness is the crucial link in the entire chain of development towards the successful socialist revolution. Bringing on and organising this consciousness, - hammering away in each and every separate issue and situation at the highest possible point of political development it contains, - is the make-or-break challenge facing all would-be socialist leadership. Only the Leninist movement has even reached the starting grid. The entire rest of the 'left' has failed by a mile, - its analysis of events consistently hopelessly wrong on almost every vital complex question.

When miners leader McGahey says there is "no dispute" with Kinnock at the end of the strike and like Scargill calls for reconciliation with the Labour Party to gain 'victory' under its next government, he is hopelessly misleading the working class. When the rival 'Star' faction of the CP headlines "Labour & TUC drive to aid coalfields" at the end of the very week in which Willis and his fellow bureaucrats had sold the miners out in their talks with McGregor, workers were being hopelessly conned.

And when the Trot variation of this opportunist middle class 'left' hostility to the dictatorship of the proletariat (Leninism) pretends it can 'solve' the problems of capitalist degeneration by piling all the local financial burdens (caused by the worldwide slump) onto the shoulders of the 60% of people (who struggle to own their own home in Britain) just because rates are the one lever which careerist Labour councillors (who want to look good 'combatting the slump' in the eyes of 'their voters') can get at without too much trouble, - then workers are being taken for a ride again. The working class will have a clearer idea of the revolution-

ary tasks facing it, - and will therefore be better off, - once capitalist reaction has surcharged, rate-capped, privatised, or injunctioned into the dust all remaining reformist pretence of 'curbing', 'controlling', 'changing', or 'resisting' capitalism (through gimmick local grants to minorities on the rates, through closed-shop trade union compromises, through state-capitalist nationalisation, etc, etc, etc,) - none of which takes the fight one inch closer to overthrowing capitalism, but on the contrary, all acts as a diversion from the revolution, thus in fact thereby helping to continue propping up capitalism, - as the opponents of proletarian dictatorship (Leninism) have always done. Spread the influence of the ILWP Bulletin.

2. Red Ted worse than capitalism.

(From Bulletin 289, 1.5.85)

The Redgraveite millionaire anti-communist press's 'Labour Herald' "Challenge Kinnock's Road" hoax, signed by Knight, Warburton, & McDonnell is a feeble 'left' ruse which will divert few self-respecting workers from the revolutionary upsurge which will sweep the entire Labour Party away.

No amount of 'left' reformism is a serious challenge to the class-collaborating, pro-capitalist Labour establishment.

Reformism cannot be reformed any more than capitalism itself can be 'reformed'. The 'reformist' process itself is treacherous undialectical nonsense where continuing, class-divided, capitalist society is concerned.

The very essence of Marxist scientific socialism is the understanding of revolutionary class conflict as the only possible basis of major progress for civilisation through its succeeding class-dominated modes of production (tribalism, to slave-society, to feudalism, to capitalism, to the dictatorship of the proletariat).

Only in the final stages of the construction of socialism and when communism does non-

antagonistic evolutionary contradiction and conflict replace revolutionary, antagonistic contradiction and conflict as the pattern of development.

The anti-Leninist philistinism of the Trotskyite-backed Labour Herald ignores even this ABC of scientific socialism.

The Knight/McDonnell fake 'challenge' (to try to cover up the Trot/Left-Labourites' humiliating retreat from their 'revolutionary' resistance to Thatcher's rate-capping public spending cuts) may upset Kinnock but could never possibly change Labourite reformism.

And, of course, neither is it meant to. Knight is a puddled old Trot opportunist marked by years of anti-communist head-banging in Healy's anti-Soviet bunker.

The whole point of the 'left' Labour municipal 'rebellion', - just like the whole point of Trotskyism, - is to pretend to be fighting against yet more sell-outs of the working class by the anti-Leninist reformist tradition but without actually insisting on (or even mentioning!) the whole Leninist-Bolshevik history of revolutionary combat (theory & practice) for proletarian dictatorship at all.

Astonishingly, - despite the abysmal anti-socialist treachery of eight Labour Governments spread over 60 years, and thousands of Labour municipalities, - the possibility is not even raised by this Trot 'Herald' hybrid that Labour Party reformism might not only not be the vehicle for socialist revolution (which is not breathed a word of) but might be the worst counter-revolutionary enemy the working class has ever had.

Just the opposite. The entire 'Challenge Kinnock' bombast is in fact remarkably, and suspiciously, careful never to so much as hint that Labour Party reformism might not be the way to socialism.

These shamefaced Trots merely declare:

"Our objective must be to bring together firm left socialists:

* To mobilise and organise support for the immediate struggles opposing Thatcherism;

* To develop a firm left programme for the socialist trans-

formation (!) of our society and fight for its adoption by the Labour Party;

* To ensure the implementation of this programme while Labour is in office."

In other words, anything but even mentioning the revolutionary crisis inexorably creeping up on the capitalist system, - let alone encouraging or giving a lead to the revolutionary movement.

In other words, nothing but more bogus 'left pressure' which has been a regular fraudulent feature of reformism since ever before the Labour Party began.

In this monstrous 'left revival' perversion of history, these Knight/Trot 'reformists' pretend to suddenly discover that "When Labour governments came to power under Wilson and Callaghan their purpose was no longer (emphasis added) to achieve a socialist transformation of society. . . ." but "Instead, Labour governments simply managed the capitalist system".

It is an outrageous deception of the working class to pretend that before the Wilson/Callaghan era, any Labour governments had the ending of capitalism as their purpose either.

This vicious sinister propaganda wants to exploit the rotten 'left' myths surrounding the 1945 Labour government which helped capitalism back on its feet after the worldwide revolutionary anti-imperialist crisis (in reaction against the imperialist World War II) by nationalising, subsidising (at public expense) and restoring basic industries in Britain (coal, steel, rail, health, etc) so that one day they could be privatised back into 'entrepreneurial class' profiteering hands again.

Far from these 1945-government services to capitalist industrial and political revival being any part at all of a 'socialist transformation' of society, they were a deeply and deliberately reactionary fraud on the working class to help impose a conscious counter-revolution or postwar socialist aspirations.

This conscious, criminal Labour 'reformist' treachery found its most blatant expression, of course, in the barbaric Cold War imperialism which Britain

helped Washington and the West to impose on the national liberation struggle and world socialist revolution.

The ('pre-Wilson') fake 'socialist' and 'heroic' 1945 Labour Government

* Approved the nuking of Hiroshima to terrify Russia;

* Launched the first Western colonial-military onslaught - against the Vietnamese communists who had liberated the whole of their country from the Japanese imperialist occupiers and their French colonial Vichy collaborators;

* Imposed similar imperialist blitzkrieg on the anti-fascist, Red liberators of Malaya and Greece in order to re-establish capitalist-colonial exploitation there too as part of Washington's worldwide anti-communist crusade;

* Launched SAS-fascist subversion to try to topple the communist liberators of Albania & Yugoslavia;

* Helped Washington and the West exonerate 99% of German imperialism's Nazi war criminals so as to restore ruthless neo-fascist anti-communism in West Germany once again;

* Launched the Cold War anti-Soviet 'Iron Curtain' provocations as a prelude to the counter-revolutionary subversion stunts later in East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, etc;

* Founded NATO as the 'anti-communist defence' fraud cover for arming and training the CIA inspired anti-Soviet subversion which has gone on non-stop since 1945;

* Rammed through the re-arming of German imperialist militarism and the resurrection of the Nazi-Gehlen secret police Gestapo (now called BND) as the backbone of the West's European anti-communist crusade

* Re-directed MI6 and the Special Branch to exclusively infiltrate and subvert the 'left' in Britain rather than bother any more with the fascist right;

* Sanctioned the Western nuclear arms race by launching British capitalism's 'independent' H-bomb;

* Set up the Zionist-imperialist occupation of Palestine and the fascist annexation of the Palestinian homeland;

* Reimposed British colonial terror over as much of the Empire as possible (paving the way later for the Smith fascist dictatorship in Rhodesia, the apartheid fascist tyranny over Namibia, the Orange fascist tyranny over the occupied north of Ireland, etc, etc);

* Helped launch and run the imperialist warmongering blitzkrieg against the Korean socialist revolution;

and much, much, much more counter-revolutionary villainy besides.

Not only do the Knight shamefaced Trots perpetuate the utterly false myth of the 1945 Labour Government being 'socialist' (and anything but counter-revolutionary). They also totally rule out any perspective for the working class better than a return to a '1945-type' Labour government.

"The failure of the Labour government which succeeds Thatcher could result in an ever greater and more dangerous shift to the right," is all they offer.

This pretence that a '1945-type' is worth having, - and that workers had better settle for this or risk being plunged into even worse reaction, - is exactly the treacherous line of the CPGB liquidators led by Hobsbawm whose revisionism of Leninism has now gone so far that they have in practice become the open agents for bourgeois defeatism within the workers movement, - demanding aggressively that all further thought of socialist revolution in Britain be wiped out as 'daft dangerous, and damaging'.

The Knight shamefaced Trots are close to these CP liquidators in class spirit, - that of cowardly petty-bourgeois opportunism, - the trade unionist ideology of protesting but never protesting too much as to rule out all possibility of a shabby class-collaborating compromise at some stage.

The arch-protester Knight's hint of ultimate class-collaborating liquidationism is seen in the peculiar reference to the stance inside the Labour Party adopted by the Knight-Healy Trots in the 1950s around the 'Tribune' newspaper.

"In the 1950s, the 'Tribune' newspaper gave a direction to the Left of the Labour Party," Knight pretends, "not by establishing a faction or sectarian group, but by setting a current of socialist opinion on policies with which left socialists could readily associate."

This is a sly sectarian dig at the Redgraveites' hated Trot rivals like Militant, Socialist Organiser, and Socialist Action who have all now infiltrated the Labour Party like fleas on a mangy cat.

The 'Herald' shamefaced Trots are in effect doing exactly the same thing, infiltrating as fast as they can through the newspaper's bogus rigged 'forums' packed with Healyites.

But their new shamefaced Trot pose is not averse to hypocritically putting the boot into their hated sectarian Trot rivals at the same time with the 'Herald's' smarmy "no faction" posture, inviting Labour HQ to give it in the neck to rival sects under the 'no party within a party' rules and proscriptions.

But although pure humbug, the essential petty-bourgeois opportunist spirit of this is close to liquidationism.

The Livingstone-Knight-Blunkett opportunism on which the shamefaced Trots launched the 'Herald' deception in the first place is as reactionary as 'left' Labour promises already were nearly 100 years ago.

The 'rebel' heroes Livingstone Blunkett, etc, have already shown they have no real intention to disrupt stinking bourgeois society, - and the rest of 'left' Labour will not be far behind in being bought off for 'respectability', and 'reason'.

Meanwhile, the working class will be delivered up by this opportunist class-collaboration to yet more slump/war slaughter from insoluble imperialist crisis - just as has already been inflicted on the planet for the last 100 years because of these 'left' reformists, who in reality hate Marxist revolution far more than they hate capitalism.

"The most repulsive thing here" wrote Engels from London in December 1889, "is the bourgeois 'respectability' which has grown deep into the bones of

the workers.

4 "The division of society into innumerable strata... each with its own pride but also its inborn respect for its 'betters' and 'superiors', is so old and firmly established that the bourgeoisie still find it fairly easy to get their bait accepted.

"I am not at all sure, for example, that John Burns is not secretly prouder of his popularity with Cardinal Manning, the Lord Mayor, and the bourgeoisie in general than of his popularity with his own class... And even Tom Mann, whom I regard as the best of the lot, is fond of mentioning that he will be lunching with the Lord Mayor... One realises what a revolution is good for after all"

Sounds like Ken Livingstone on the Wogan show all over again.

Lenin commented in 1907: "The philistine illusions of the philistine heroes of West-European municipal socialism are already making themselves felt. The fact that the bourgeoisie is in power is forgotten..

"The bourgeois intelligentsia of the West, like the English Fabians, elevate municipal socialism to a special 'trend' precisely because it dreams of social peace, of class conciliation, and seeks to divert public attention away from the fundamental questions of the economic system as a whole, and of the state structure as a whole, to minor questions of local self-government."

Although written nearly 80 years in advance, Lenin is practically word-perfect on the sick 'rate-capping' fraud antics which the GLC, Lewisham, Manchester, Sheffield, Lambeth, Hackney, etc, 'left' Labourites and the 'Herald' are performing in order to avoid the question of revolution.

Lenin adds that the issue of the "economic system as a whole... which affects the very foundations of the class rule of the bourgeoisie, it is in that sphere that the philistine, reactionary utopia of bringing about socialism piecemeal is particularly hopeless.

"Attention is diverted to the sphere of minor local questions being directed not to the question of the class rule of the

bourgeoisie, nor to the question of the chief instruments of that rule, but to the question of distributing the crumbs thrown by the rich bourgeoisie for the 'needs of the population'.

"Naturally, since attention is focused on such questions as the spending of paltry sums (in comparison with the total surplus value and total state expenditure of the bourgeoisie) which the bourgeoisie itself is willing to set aside for public health (Engels pointed out in The Housing Question that the bourgeoisie itself is afraid of the spread of epidemic diseases in the towns), or for education (the bourgeoisie must have trained workers able to adapt themselves to a high technical level), and so on, it is possible in the sphere of such minor questions to hold forth about 'social peace', about the harmfulness of the class struggle, and so on. What class struggle can there be if the bourgeoisie itself is spending money on the 'needs of the population', on public health and on education? What need is there for a social revolution if it is possible through the local self-governing bodies, gradually step by step to extend 'collective ownership', and 'socialise' production (local transport, etc).

"The philistine opportunism of that 'trend' lies in the fact that people forget the narrow limits of so-called 'municipal socialism' (in reality, municipal capitalism...). They forget that so long as the bourgeoisie rules as a class, it cannot allow any encroachment, even from the 'municipal' point of view, upon the real foundations of its rule; that if the bourgeoisie allows, tolerates, 'municipal socialism', it is because the latter does not touch the foundations of its rule, does not interfere with the important sources of its wealth, but extends only to the narrow sphere of local expenditure, which the bourgeoisie itself allows the 'population' to manage.

"It does not need more than a slight acquaintance with 'municipal socialism' in the West to know that any attempt on the part of socialist municipalities to go a little beyond the boundaries of their normal, i. e. minor, petty activities, which give no substantial relief to the wor-

kers, any attempt to meddle with capital, is invariably vetoed in the most emphatic manner by the central authorities of the bourgeois state...

"Anything that goes beyond the limits of state administration, i. e. anything that affects the main sources of revenue of the ruling classes and the principal means of securing their rule, anything that affects not the administration of the state, but the structure of the state, thereby goes beyond the sphere of 'municipal socialism'...

"The petty-bourgeois method is the method of building up relations making for the greatest possible degree of social peace. The proletarian method is exclusively that of clearing the path of all that is medieval, clearing it for the class struggle...

"It is this anti-proletarian spirit that municipalisation introduces..."

"Despite the deeply fallacious opinion of the Mensheviks, municipalisation does not extend and sharpen the class struggle, but, on the contrary, blunts it.

"It blunts it too by assuming that local democracy is possible without the complete democratisation of the centre."

In other words, all piecemeal or local 'socialist' reformist 'advance' is in fact a futile dead-end when put forward as the 'solution' to capitalism's terminal crisis, and when the need to destroy the capitalist state and bourgeois class power is totally ignored.

And the Livingstone-Knight-'Herald' enthusiastic promotion of 'rate-capping' resistance, etc, is nothing but a complete deliberate diversion away from revolution, in order to betray the working class to 'permanent' class collaboration and imperialist slump/war degradation.

The middle class fake-Marxist shamefaced Trots are totally dedicated to this blatant class treachery by their psychotic hatred of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp. The Trots are the neurotic remnants of Trotsky's individualism which tried to build a 'permanent' counter-revolution out of petty-bourgeois opportunism and paranoid defeatism (see ILWP Books vol 5)

The 'left' Labourites share this middle class anti-communist

hatred of the dictatorship of the proletariat (Leninism). It is no accident that these bogus 'Marxists' remain members of the pro-imperialist, pro-NATO, pro-capitalist-'democracy' Labour Party. And all these anti-Leninists will stick to this reformist corpse like fleas to a mangy cat. Down with reformism and its 'left' parasites.

3. Clearing the battlefield.

(From Bulletin 290, 8.5.85)

Defence of past reformist gains and structures is a treacherous diversion of the working class away from revolutionary struggle to the extent that what is defended is seen as the solution to capitalist crisis.

Only the overthrow of the capitalist state and ruling class can create the opportunities for ending the worldwide 'free market' slump and economic crisis.

More than 100 years of parliamentary & local government class compromise and trade union closed-shop deals are an enormous historical barrier to the all-out class confrontation which alone can now lead to further social advance for the working class (and ultimately for the whole of Western civilisation).

Unless the historically redundant and degenerate financial-imperialist ruling circles of Western monopoly capitalism are ruthlessly confronted by the working class and overthrown, there will be no end to the continuing slump degradations leading inevitably once again to widespread war and fascism.

The institutions of trade union, local government, and parliamentary class compromise are under attack because of the collapse of more than 100 years of empire super-profits which provided the material basis for this inter-class collaboration.

A century of reformist politics has always included endless squabbling between the main participants in this compromise, -the Tory-Liberal bourgeoisie and the Labour-TUC petty bourgeoisie (with bureaucratic workers organisations in tow).

That squabbling is reaching a crescendo now because the severe restraints of British capitalism's disastrous longterm competitive decline (at a time of deepening worldwide capitalist crisis & trade war) are forcing serious, uncomfortable, & potentially lethal cutbacks on all the class interests who benefitted out of the imperialist compromise.

But although the disruption of the old pattern of class collaboration (caused by the curtailment of colonial super-profits) is pushing tempers to the limit within the old system of parliamentary/union compromise, the structures themselves are incurably structures for imposing some fresh compromise as a 'solution' to the problems.

This is eventually how the enormous social upheavals of the First World War and then of the 1930s and World War II, - the previous great international capitalist crises this century, - were resolved (at least in Britain and the West) temporarily.

The absolute difference now is that this latest global capitalist crisis, - the third this century, - is obviously the system's terminal crisis. There will be no temporary 'solution' this time based on a fresh class compromise to keep capitalist 'democracy' going.

The cost of yet another international holocaust of war, fascism, concentration camps, slaughter, and blitzkrieg occupations will be intolerable to the vast mass of mankind. All the Western regimes responsible for this renewed degenerate arms race and international hostility will be overthrown by their working classes (who always bear the brunt of the suffering and dislocation.)

In addition, the 'spoils' for the 'victors' in a new imperialist world war will be so truncated by yet another vast expansion of the international socialist camp (as happened after WWI and WWII) that the capitalist 'free market' system will be castrated for good.

Thus the entire institutionalised labour & trade union movement, which all thinks solely of the future in terms of some

new realignment between employers and unions in industry, and of some new 'balance of power' structures in Parliament and local government, - is in effect merely trying to shore up an unpreservable pattern of past history, in effect holding back the working class from the fight and the understanding it needs to develop urgently.

The traditional labour movement institutions of trade union, local government, and parliamentary compromise are themselves the vehicle for defeat & disarming of the working class in the changed revolutionary circumstances now approaching. It is no longer enough just to fight for a more 'left' content in local government argy-bargy trade union compromise, and parliamentary retreats & capitulation.

In reality, of course, it was never enough. It was only the frustrated (and immature) revolutionary edge and thrust of working class struggle which ever forced the capitalist state to concede reformist changes in the first place anyway. (Read Lenin On Britain). It has always been in the best interests of the working class for the struggle to have been an all-out revolutionary struggle throughout the whole of the epoch of imperialist-reformist concessions. The sooner a revolutionary socialist reorganisation of British society began, the better (truer now than ever before, but always true). And more reforms would have been gained anyway - the more powerful the revolutionary thrust of the working class.

But now circumstances really have reached an unprecedented crisis for British capitalism. Any compromise 'solution' now is going to be nothing like the uncomfortable but still vaguely tolerable domestic compromises of the WWI slump-crisis and the WWII/1930s slump-crisis, (seen from the narrowly selfish British working class's 'self-interest' which just managed to avoid the worst horrors of military slaughter and imperialist/fascist conquest which much of the rest of the world suffered in WWI and particularly in WWII).

With its Empire cushion shot

away and its industrial competitiveness now in catastrophic tatters, the working class in Britain will suffer the full devastating force of the coming fascist/warmongering degeneracy of imperialism's latest insoluble trade-war crisis/slump.

Just as the masses of Russia had no way out but the revolutionary road in 1917: and just as the masses of China, Vietnam, Korea, Cuba, East Europe, and ever-larger parts of Africa, Asia and America had no way out but the revolutionary road in the aftermath of WWII, so will the masses of Britain, certainly, and of most of the rest of the capitalist world, have no way out but revolution as a result of the approaching third great international warmongering/fascist crisis of the imperialist system.

The British capitalist state has already forced the crippling burdens of fortress Falklands, fortress occupied north of Ireland, and fortress NATO (the insane anti-communist crusade) on the backs of the working class.

But this is nothing yet as compared to what is coming.

Far more costly, degenerate, and lethal than even these jingoistic warmongering monstrosities, will be the forthcoming outbreak of trade-war hatred between rival gangs of so-called 'allies' in the Western (capitalist) system.

The latest failed Bonn summit was a bit like another Munich 'peace in our time' useless piece of paper. It is early days yet, and the rival warmongering imperialist blocs are still not firmly decided or clearly visible. Nor is there even yet talk of inter-imperialist war (assuming that the Falklands conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, the Turkey-Greece brawling over the Cyprus invasion and other territorial and arms-race rivalry, the Zionist warmongering adventures in the Middle East, etc, are merely practice runs deliberately manipulated by the Washington imperialist circles).

But the aggressive intolerance of the American big bourgeoisie and the superior truculence of the German and Japanese militarist-imperialist circles are already showing signs of paper-thin patience and domineering temper towards each other, - and

total contempt for smaller bourgeois powers like New Zealand, France, Mexico, Spain, India, etc, who insist on challenging the big powers dominance.

In this terminal crisis of the capitalist system, the reformist labour movement institutions like the Labour Party and the trade unions will be totally at the mercy of bankrupt British jingoism.

Labour and the TUC will be right in the forefront of every rotten 'import controls' stunt & 'British national interest' racket going.

The trade unions and the Labour Party will be as eager to demonstrate their 'patriotic spirit' as they were over the outrageous Falklands colonialism (despite all their bitchy point-scoring reservations about 'the way the Tories are handling things', etc.)

This will work until the price in slaughter and devastation has to be paid. In the revolutionary crisis that will follow, the reformist Labour & TUC institutions will have to be overthrown just as ruthlessly as the capitalist state will be.

Any Labour local government martyrs which emerge from the rate-capping 'holocaust' will be an equally fraudulent diversion from the real revolutionary fight which must be developed. They will be martyrs to a reactionary cause of 'preserving local democracy', - i.e. local class-collaboration with capitalism, - the notorious 'municipal socialism' so derided by Lenin (see ILWP Books vol 7).

The local election results have driven further nails in the whole corrupt system of working class misrepresentation dominated by the monopoly capitalist media (the BBC/ITV/Fleet Street lie machine) and the parties & individuals which they approve. The derisory turn-out and the derisory refusal to give any of the parties a working majority indicated the growing contempt in which the entire parliamentary circus is now held.

The artificially-high Western living standards cannot last much longer due to the speed with which the international socialist

6 revolutionary and national liberation struggle is sweeping away corrupt imperialist stooge dictatorships in one country after another. Revolution will be the only way forward. Everything else is a complete waste of time.

4. Leninism needed not 'left' posturing.

(From Bulletin 295, 12.6.85)

'Local democracy' is a reactionary con trick. It is simply the local administration of centrally run capitalism.

After six months the great 'local democracy' fight has collapsed into a comic farce of betrayal, deceit and opportunist manoeuvring. After six months of outrageous posturing, comparing their fight to the miners strike etc. they have achieved nothing, except to further expose the utter bankruptcy of the Labour Party and its spineless subservience to the Capitalist system. Whether Knight sets a rate is not the point. The entire 'fight' has been staged as a huge irrelevant diversion from the real issues which are facing workers in Lambeth and everywhere else, i.e. the Capitalist slump and the drive to imperialist international war. Rather than fight that, which they are under intense pressure to do, they've decided to fight about the distribution of the crumbs from the table of the central capitalist state and not to challenge the system itself at all.

Not once has any of these 'lefts' mentioned the international capitalist crisis, which is the reason why Thatcher wants to destroy the welfare state. The fact that capitalism no longer needs a healthy, educated working class, just cannon fodder,

is never raised by these posers. Not once has an attempt been made to give a class analysis of the situation, or to offer a revolutionary perspective to workers of how to fight the slump, like getting rid of capitalism. Their entire political perspective is 'municipalization', and posing as 'Reds' whilst being virulently anti-communist. The only option they've offered the working class is to support the Labour councils, and to elect a new 'left' Labour government, who'll be like the 1945 Labour government, and re-build the welfare state. This is the most vile con on workers. The 1945 Labour government was utterly reactionary and useless. Its entire purpose was to hold back the working class from revolution after the fantastic victory of communism over fascism. All the 'gains' of the 'welfare state' could have been achieved ten times better without capitalism and the Labour party.

Only an understanding of the nature of capitalism and the revolutionary alternative can arm the working class with the strength to defeat this system. It is essential to learn the lessons of the revolutionary fight that led to the building of socialism in the USSR where unemployment is zero, health care is free and unrivalled, and housing is guaranteed for all at the stunningly cheap rent of 3% of income inclusive of heating and lighting. This compares with approx. 50% of wages in Lambeth. The massive struggles of the Chinese communists, the Vietnamese, the Nicaraguans, Cubans, Zimbabweans etc. provide rich material for the British working class to learn from. In all these strug-

gles there has been clear political leadership from revolutionary parties. From these struggles and from the experience of the British working class which has many times proved its ability to fight and organise, one clear understanding emerges; the need for Marxist-Leninist revolutionary theory, unhindered and unfogged by all the anti-communist garbage poured out by the media, the labour party and the trots. It is an understanding which recognises the central role of the soviet Union as the stalwart of working class power and achievement.

5. Trot freemasonry collapses.

(From Bulletin 309, 18.9.85)

The twisted little sect of 'Militant' left-Labourite opportunists have found the spoils of office too contradictory to maintain in a slump. Irresistibly sucked into the trap (of helping capitalism to run its system) by the fame and nominations for Parliament (and a lifetime's meal-ticket) that they hope will follow from proving themselves to be 'humane, bold, and capable local administrators and leaders', the Trots quickly fall for every vice that generations of arrogant Labour class-traitors have done in propping up the fraud of 'municipal socialism' (see Lenin's hostility to this local 'reformism' in ILWP Books vol 7). In power in Liverpool & Lambeth to take advantage of contracts awards and all the other perks of local government office under capitalism, the Trotskyite 'revolutionary' frauds (of various denominations) have been cut short by capitalism's lack of funds. Because of their 'left' image, the Trots are unable to just get on with the normal business of local council corruption (as their more ortho-

dox Labour colleagues have grown fat on since the start of the century.)

'Militant' and similar sects feel obliged to pretend that under their 'leadership', Labour will really 'put the people first'.

But being a thoroughly bourgeois, pro-capitalist, historical movement, the middle-class Labourite phenomenon can only run capitalism (when in office inside a capitalist state and economic system), - just like any other 'leadership' gang of parliamentary opportunists, and regardless of how 'left' their posturing.

Omitted entirely is any question of mass political mobilisation which is the only possible basis for any serious steps towards genuine 'socialist revolution' (so prominently featured in all Trotskyite propaganda).

But without mass mobilisation on a deliberate programme of revolutionary consciousness and action, all the 'left' posturing in the world can produce nothing better than the damaging confusion, cynicism, and despair now hurting Liverpool workers and 'their' council.

Genuine revolutionary socialism (Leninism) does not deny itself the possibility of also using the hustings for revolutionary propaganda.

But unlike Trotskyite fake-'revolutionary' tail-ending of Labour parliamentarism, no party of mass revolutionary mobilisation (Leninism) would ever be allowed by the capitalist state to get as far as occupying government office (local or national).

The very programme of turning every political activity into nothing but a vehicle for further revolutionary agitation and organisation would long since have panicked the capitalist state into open bans and censorship against Leninism, which is easily caricatured as 'revolutionary violence' since it undoubtedly stands for the immediate overthrow and smashing of the capitalist state.

Council worker activists in Liverpool have been tragically

misled, drawn into running 'reformed' capitalism dressed up by Hatton & Co as 'socialism', and 'worth sacrificing everything for'. The only thing workers will in fact be sacrificing for in Liverpool is the 'left' notoriety and future Parliamentary careers of the Militant clique.

The only way forward now for the working class is to openly campaign for nationwide revolutionary consciousness leading to the overthrow of the capitalist state in London. Nothing can get the slump off the backs of the working class (in Liverpool or anywhere else) other than the overthrow of the ruling class & its capitalist system. And that cannot be achieved just around Liverpool.

The miners were led into just such a reformist blind alley (even if out of more 'honest' trade union leftist confusion) as the council workers called on to strike (or face the sack anyway) in Liverpool. A stoppage to force the capitalist system (even under a Labour government) to resurrect the Plan for Coal and to stop the closure programme was an impossible nonsense. The worldwide capitalist slump can either be succumbed to, or it can be overturned. The one thing that is scientifically impossible is to 'reform' the slump back into a boom. Only a long period of war and capital destruction can lead back to a boom under the free-market-forces system. The great historic significance of the entire 20th century is to prove this, and to demonstrate that Bolshevik revolution is the only long-term way of rising above endless capitalist wars and slump-destruction.

But the alleged relative 'sincerity' of Bennism versus Trotskyism is totally irrelevant, even if provable (which is doubtful). They are both hopelessly incorrect in their delusions that 'left' reformism can be made to work where generations of earlier 'left' reformers unfailingly failed or sold out. It is the unalterable objective betrayal of the socialist revolution by all reformism, 'left' and right, which matters

to the working class, not an analysis of the supposed 'motives' of the traitors and conceded opportunists.

The proletariat in Britain will be mobilised into revolutionary general strike action at some stage, - possibly even on an issue like pit closures or Tory penalties on local councils. But it can never be so mobilised by the same old limited reformist perspectives which have betrayed the working class under Labourite party & trade union leadership for the past century. Impossible. Only when led to revolutionary consciousness by a mass Leninist (pro-Soviet, pro-proletarian, dictatorship, pro-socialist camp) party will such political general strikes begin to lead the way to socialist revolution.

The people and council workers of Liverpool have been dragged into fake 'revolutionary socialist' activity which has not even gone off half-cock. It is not revolutionary socialism at all, - but the same old Labourite jobs-for-the-boys corruption & reformism.

This has been a disastrous con game workers ever since Labour first became the capitalist system's alternative party of management at the start of the century. For nearly 100 years, Labour councils have done nothing but administer the booms or slumps that the capitalist ruling class was imposing overall (including when Labour has been in office nationally as well), - either crumbs or mouldy crusts.

Now its mouldy crust time again, and the working class in Liverpool (or Lambeth, or anywhere) will have all the burdens of the slump imposed upon it, - despite all the 'left' Militant posturing.

Nor would it make any difference if there was a Militant Labour government in office in Westminster as well. The capitalist economic ruling class and state machinery nationally would see to it that 'left' reformist government became impossible just as the Tory establishment (nationally and locally) are ensuring that 'left' reformist government is impossible in Liverpool.

For in truth 'left' reforms are impossible in a slump unless the money is found in the only way possible, - by dismantling the very costly capitalist state.

But only revolutionary mobilisation can achieve this. The ruling class will never permit it, least of all because of a mere ballot result.

There is no way that the council in Liverpool (or anywhere else) is going to be allowed to liquidate the local capitalist state establishment (by running down all police, Defence, military, capitalist-legal institutions, etc) to raise the funds to really transform the fate of the proletariat in the city.

The power to totally reverse society's priorities in favour of the poor masses and at the expense of private accumulation of capital can only be taken off the bourgeoisie by force, - by political mobilisation in full revolutionary consciousness.

But Militant, nor any other 'left' Labourite entourage of Bennites, Trots, Eurocommunists, Scargillites, etc, - will never overcome their deep anti-communist ideological objections to the dictatorship of the proletariat and the necessary preparations for it in the fight for revolutionary consciousness.

The Trots have a profound class hostility, - middle class - to the dictatorship of the proletariat and the Soviet workers state.

Thus none of the entire swamp of 'left' posturers will ever consistently fight for unconditional class solidarity with the Soviet workers state and the socialist camp in the endless deluge of anti-communist stunts and provocations with which the CIA/imperialist establishment blitzes the working class in the West.

And paradoxically, it is precisely because of this that not a single element in the swamp can even contemplate advocating greater Leninist clarity, determination, and efficiency (in the KGB's work, for example, or any other arm of

the socialist camp's building of strong workers states) to replace the revisionist confusion which has marred some of Moscow's activities and leadership in the past (with many effects tragically still lingering in the present).

Only Leninism is capable of combining principled unconditional support for the socialist camp (in all its conflicts and differences with the West) with blunt open polemical criticism of Moscow's ideological shortcomings as a Leninist leadership (likewise other centres of socialist state construction and revolutionary leadership). (See ILWP Books vols 3 to 7).

The Trot/Eurocommunist Swamp's incurable inability to break from their anti-Leninist middle class prejudices (born of the unprecedented postwar capitalist boom) rapidly asserts itself at every turn, unfailingly leaving them as putty in the hands of every 'democratic' intrigue and subversion financed by the West's colossal anti-Soviet slush funds, - and always with disastrous damage to their own reformist opportunism as well as to the legitimate interests of the working class.

For example, the \$50 million laundered through the Banco Ambrosiano by the Vatican to pay for 600 full-time organisers of the instant Solidarnosc 'union' arranged by the CIA in Poland in conjunction with deposed fascist-nationalist landowners and capitalists, plus extremist Catholic intelligentsia, - created a perfect international ideological climate for 'independent' reactionary workers groupings of all kinds.

If a rightwing priest-ridden clique 'independently' opposed to the Polish socialist state, why not a Tory-minded breakaway hostile to the miners heroic fight against further pit closures and unemployment. Or 'law & order' and 'Queen & country' minorities undermining TUC or Labour Party majority decisions, especially on defence or capitalist state legislation, continuing the treacherous defections beg-

8 un by Jenkins, Prentice, Owen, Williams, Chappel, & Co.

Every time the 'left' swamp fall for the non-stop torrent of anti-Soviet gimmicks like the KAL007 spy plane; every demagogic stunt by the fascist Sakharov; the bogus 'rebellion' by the stateless Himalayan tribesmen pilfering the social advances of the Kabul regime at the instigation of hashish, the Khans, the mullahs, and the Pakistan military dictatorship; and every fortune-hunting 'defection' to the West by ideologically-weak Soviet artists; etc; - the reformists make a rod for their own backs (in their feeble efforts to make imperialism more 'reasonable' by gestures towards arms limitations, decolonisation, anti-apartheid, aid to colonially-exploited countries, environmental protection, international understanding etc, etc.)

In the ceaseless climate of anti-Soviet hysteria which 'democratic socialism and trade unionism' plays a full part in helping to create, no wonder that Reagan & Thatcher can survive so long on imperialist atrocities like Grenada, Falklands, El Salvador, Nicaragua subversion, anti-'terrorist' stunts in Ireland, the near East, and elsewhere; - plus the endless crippling arms race and military manoeuvres and nuclear rocket escalation which then further plays into the hands of inculcating a racist, hate-filled, murderous fascist ideology among Western youth, Rambo-style.

Where do Liverpool 'Militant' stand on these great international class issues which so decisively set the class climate for domestic political struggle? They are more hysterically neurotic anti-Soviet than any other section of the bourgeoisie. They hate the workers states and the dictatorship of the proletariat, and go out of their way to slander any revolutionary regime which gets anywhere near to beginning to build up a strong socialist state, - the only Leninist programme, - such as Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Kampuchea, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Angola, etc, currently, - and Cuba &

Vietnam in the past, not to mention the whole of eastern Europe, Russia, China, Korea, etc.

Can such demented anti-communists ever hope to seriously inspire the working class to really sacrifice everything in order to take on the capitalist state? Impossible. It would be against every sound working class instinct, - which is to distrust all anti-communists implicitly. And every anti-Soviet stunt which occurred meanwhile, - such as the latest bogus 'spy' scandal, - would be eagerly lapped up by Militant, - thus totally playing into the hands of the counter-revolutionary anti-communist atmosphere relentlessly built up by the capitalist state to permanently demoralise the working class.

Ultimately, of course, the Trots do not want to defeat and overthrow the capitalist state, - if the alternative is proletarian dictatorship (which it is). Which is why no Trots nor any of the anti-Leninist swamp ever have overthrown imperialism. They would much prefer dressing bourgeois 'democracy' up to smell sweeter (concealing its capitalist dictatorship essence) than submit to the dictatorship of the proletariat, the only possible replacement for capitalism.

To the extent that the strike by council workers in Liverpool is a determined revolt against the Western capitalist system, it will deserve workers sympathy everywhere. But to the extent that it is another party political manoeuvre by the Militant clique, it is a fraud on the gullible.

Any support action must be for clear revolutionary consciousness and for an end to all anti-communism, especially for an end to the anti-Leninist fraud of pretending that the pro-capitalist petty-bourgeois Labour Party, - however 'left' its posturing, - can ever bring about the socialist revolution. In other words, the Militant-provoked class conflict in Liverpool can be supported in anything but the name of sto-

ge Trotskyite enmity and anti-Sovietism.

6. Fake Trot 'revolution' on the rates.

(From Bulletin 310, 29.9.85)

The main 'chaos' Militant will cause in Liverpool (to quote Tory allegations) is in the minds of its own supporters, sadly.

Workers there are being foully misled into preparing to sacrifice everything "for the revolution" when in fact all that the Trots plan is continued class collaboration.

As one working class woman being interviewed declared: "Where's the fire. I have two lads out of work, and they've remained redundant, whatever this council does, or the next one."

For the workers asked to take 'revolutionary' action to paralyse the city and 'force' the government's hand, the perspectives are even less appealing.

At the moment, they have jobs, and could be lucky enough to keep them if Liverpool council just rubs along in the slump just like local governments everywhere.

They are being offered the choice of the sack or indefinite strike, - for what?

If there was the faintest suggestion from Militant 'left' Labourites that a nationwide revolution would be aimed for once Liverpool was successfully paralysed, then at least there would be the prospect of a worthwhile fight (even if the Trot leadership was particularly treacherous, opportunist, & uninspiring, with an international record of nothing but counter-revolutionary betrayal to its name.)

But these law-day Mensheviks masquerading as Bolsheviks (as Trotsky did) do not even hint at any such perspective. They do not even promise a revolution in Liverpool, let alone in the rest of the country as well.

In which case, what is the 'revolutionary' call to workers

for? For what purpose are people being politically mobilised around an indefinite political general strike?

On the surface, it can only be to continue Labour Party local government with a very minor (£30 million) addition to the Liverpool budget to be squeezed somehow out of a reluctant Tory system.

And what will that achieve? Have not Labour councils been struggling since time began to 'force' or 'embarrass' reactionary governments (as many Labour ones as Tory) to dispense more local 'justice'?

And after nearly a century of Labour/TUC reformism winning 'power' - at national level as well as in local government - what has this done to prevent the working class still being at the mercy of the capitalist system? Nothing at all.

As the woman said, her two boys are still redundant because of the capitalist crisis whatever Liverpool council Trots get up to.

Nor is there any vast, obvious, sustainable basic alteration to the conditions of the Liverpool working class and people generally in a period of slump, regardless of what Militant say they would like to see happen.

Equally obviously, nor could there be any fundamental change from such limited 'reformist' resources applied on such a limited scale.

And certainly there is no guarantee at all that Militant or any group of 'left' Labourite Trots will be put back in office to continue the marginal improvements (claimed) in the way that the capitalist system affects the working class of Liverpool.

So what, on the surface, are the council workers (and voters) being asked to make such huge sacrifices for?

The answer is painfully obvious. Merely to keep Hatton & Co in office, in the public eye, and in line for lucrative Labour MPs jobs (security for life) at some stage in the future.

Not surprisingly, there was no widespread blistering enth-

usiasm to make 'revolutionary' defiance of the Tory government, halting the city for such paltry Militant-sect purposes.

So much for the surface. Obviously, Trots everywhere, - and especially Militant, - are nudging each other knowingly and saying that the council workers supporting Hatton all know that the real aim is revolution, after all.

But this pathetic subterfuge only makes the confusion a million times worse, not better.

Revolutions are made by the proletariat educated towards revolutionary consciousness by a combination of spontaneous bitter experiences at the hands of the incurably crisis-ridden system, plus conscious revolutionary leadership from a Bolshevik party which has proved itself in practice time and time again as having told the working-class the truth about the insoluble contradictions of capitalism, of the need to overthrow its state machine (concealed class dictatorship) and of the need to smash that state and replace it by the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Has anything remotely like this been heard by the people of Liverpool from Militant?

And all of Militant's actions inside the Labour Party equally prove the class-collaborating opposite to revolutionary preparations.

Never mind the secret free-masonry cabals to capture ward nominations, general management committee positions, and council or MPs seats. The rightwing intrigue and conspire in just the same way but it does not make them revolutionaries.

How do the entrists try to educate the working class against Labour's traditional reformist treachery?

By loyally going out at every election and telling workers that at voting for Kinnock, Hattersly, Kaufmann, Shore, Healey, Rees, (or whatever their local constituency's rightwing reactionary happens to be called) will do them good.

Just as in previous years, they worked equally loyally on the doorstep for such treacherous reptiles as Prentice, Jenkins, Williams, Rodgers, Owen, George Brown, Wilson, Callaghan, etc.

To earn Brownie points and to get on and win their own MPs niche eventually, the 'lefts' in the Labour Party have been defrauding the working class in Britain ever since reformism began. For nearly a century, workers have been lied to and fooled that supporting Labour will eventually mean a 'left' takeover, followed by 'real' socialist policies at last.

The even bigger joke is that this miraculous transformation has already actually happened, - several times.

Aneurin Bevan was a 'left' who rose to the top with Trot support Wilson was a 'left' along with Barbara Castle, Crossman, Driberg, Benn, etc. That government imposed an incomes policy, tried anti-union legislation, sent the army's military dictatorship into colonial-occupied Ireland, and tried to join US imperialism in its fascist slaughter of Vietnam.

Michael Foot was even more of a 'left'. He backed imperialist gunboat diplomacy against the colonised Falklands being re-joined to their Argentina motherland, and reinstated official witch-hunts inside the Labour Party.

The Militant record is even worse on policies of their own choosing.

The Trot/Mendieviks also declared that British imperialism should continue to occupy Argentine territory and massacre its liberation forces in view of the unpleasant nature of the Buenos Aires regime.

The Militant support imperialism even more blatantly in Ireland where they deride the Irish national liberation struggle with all the lofty arrogance of insular armchair 'socialist' critics who swear they are for the 'real' class-liberation of Ireland but meanwhile support the Labour Governments which actually put the armed boot in.

Even more loathsomely hypocritical than any other act in

postwar British politics, the Militant helped put the boot into Labour MP Eddie Milne in 1974 when the fellow 'rebel' was properly campaigning for a full inquiry and exposure of the local government corruption (Poulson, Cunningham, T Dan Smith, Syd Sproule, etc) which was making Labour a laughing stock (and still does) in the eyes of all honest workers. They helped the rightwing party establishment hound Milne mercilessly for being a 'disruptive, anti-party' influence when he was forced to continue his campaign as an independent Labour MP after being thrown out of the party. (Wedgwood Benn helped Militant in this infamous witch-hunting campaign against the only honest man in the Labour Party).

But the entire Trotskyite entrism fraud is summed up in the Militant's bilious anti-communism. They are more hysterically anti-Soviet and hostile to the building of strong workers states throughout the world socialist system than even Reagan & Thatcher themselves.

Their anti-communist hatred springs from their subjective petty-bourgeois defeatism which marked Trotsky's lifelong treacherous instability, terrified of Leninist leadership discipline. They like dishing out 'tough' treatment to their own misguided followers in the instructionist routines of the closed sect; but they hate the idea of submitting to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In reality their entire history of class-collaboration with the rightwing establishment in the Labour Party, -and latterly in the capitalist state as well (their MPs in Parliament and their councils locally), -is no temporary half-way house for 'tactical' reasons but in fact what the Trots really prefer, - representing the working class, rather than letting the working class itself take over.

In reality, the Militant are totally opposed to proletarian revolution. If they could get

people to support them, they would go on 'representing' workers under the capitalist system, - slowly pretending to 'reform' it into socialism (as all 'lefts' have always done) but in reality content to be representative figureheads, - just as Labour have always done.

So the real reason for all the secretive nods and winks only about 'revolution' is not to spring a 'tactical' surprise on the capitalist system (is it really going to be so easily fooled?) but to fool gullible workers that their Militant representatives really want the working class to make a 'socialist revolution'.

The silliest ruse of all is that Militant have not told the working class of Liverpool about the coming revolutionary socialist struggles because they 'don't want to alarm them' or 'put them off'.

Such is the Trots lack of confidence in the ability of the working class to see through the counter-revolutionary anti-socialist propaganda which floods out endlessly from every educational and informational pore of the capitalist system.

The truth is that far from wanting to take on the CIA/MIS/BBC/Fleet Street anti-communist propaganda, the Militant love it, -just as all the Trots do, - because of its relentless anti-Soviet character and vilification of the socialist camp.

They keep quiet about their 'revolutionary' thoughts because they do not want to take on the counter-revolutionary ignorance imposed on the working class in the West.

Militant are in fact nothing more than the latest in a long line of bogus 'left' Labourites whose only real objective historical purpose (whatever they pretend about themselves) is to act as a diversion to prevent the working class falling under the influence of real revolutionary leadership (i.e. pro-Soviet, pro-dictatorship of the proletariat, pro-socialist camp, trained in Leninism, etc)

The crisis of frustration and

10 confusion they have been the focus of in Liverpool in fact reflects the entire historical crisis of reformism. It has always conned the working class into painfully urging: Why will the system not accept proposals so eminently reasonable and such an obvious solution to the economic crisis!

The fake 'left' leaders (like the Trots) always hide from the working class the blunt fact that capitalism will not accept 'reasonable' solutions because it cannot, - by the very nature of its free-market system. It would be easier to persuade the leopard to change its spots.

The Militant admit as much in their quiet conspiratorial 'Marxist' pretence.

But what they act out in front of the working class, - and what they alone really are, - is the same old pathetic 'left' reformism of capitalism which has been tried again and again and has always served one purpose only, - to keep the working class quiet with promises of jam tomorrow and the drama of purely reformist protest strikes and marches.

The working class of Liverpool should still take action under its own banners of all-out revolutionary struggle to overthrow the capitalist system, - and especially its Labour 'shadow', - all parts. No wonder they are reluctant and confused about taking action under the leadership of the Trots who are themselves part of the petty-bourgeois opportunist system which itself must be overthrown.

7. Labourite joke.

(From Bulletin 316, 6.11.85)

The fact that the vast majority of the working class in Lambeth is sick to death of the 'ratecapping' and local democracy' fraud, and the endless posturing of Knight and his council, and don't really give a damn whether he's made bankrupt and thrown out of office or not, is an

extremely healthy sign of the growing rejection of reformism by the working class. The Trotskyist cliques who moan about working class 'apathy' over ratecapping, and complain that the working class won't fight, couldn't have got it more wrong. The so-called apathy is not matched by a surge in support for the Tories, or anyone else at the moment. There is simply a feeling that the whole rotten show is irrelevant, - which it is, - and doesn't answer any of the problems facing the working class. Whilst Knight is spouting on about 'local democracy' and how brave he is, the police are shooting people, sledgehammering down doors in Brixton, and generally putting the boot in wherever they can. Unemployment is soaring, and health and housing conditions are returning to the slum conditions of the 1930's. Knight pretends that if only the government would return the rate support grant to its 1979 level then everything would be O.K. What a joke. It is the capitalist system which causes slump and poverty, and it needs to be overthrown, and a planned economy (like that in the Soviet Union) has to be built, under the dictatorship of the working class, - and it is that which Knight will never talk about. Like all his hangers-on in the WRP, SWP, and all the other varieties of the same thing, he hates communism and is terrified of revolution. He is aware, though, of the massive pressure for social change coming from the working class, and is forced to pose harder 'left' all the time, just to stand still. There is no chance at all that this left posturing will ever some-

how become revolutionary. It can only lead to chaos and confusion in the working class. The posturing Militant sect in Liverpool, and their attempt to sack the entire council workforce, are a perfect example of where all this crap gets the working class.

Knight and his council is generally hated by the working class, with whom they've been in conflict for years. He is well known to preside over an administration riddled with corruption, racism and free masonry, right up to the highest 'left' levels. Knight can twin Lambeth with every city in the Soviet Union if he likes; he can get his trotskyist friends to make video nasties of him posing in every socialist state in the world; but he is still a reactionary, - and his party, Labour, is still reactionary, - because they won't do anything about getting rid of capitalism, of building the revolution here, in this country, which is what is needed, (and is the greatest act of solidarity with the Nicaraguans the masses in South Africa, and everywhere else).

The campaign to get rid of capitalism is what is required, and is the only answer to the chaos now facing workers in Liverpool, Lambeth and many other boroughs. Trying to whip up support to defend Knight and his posturing councillors is just whistling in the wind; the working class knows they're useless, and doesn't support them.

8. Left hysteria can not replace revolutionary understanding.

(From Bulletin 327, 29.1.86)

Hatton, Knight, & Co are just careerists, like all Labourites. They are also treacherous opportunists, like all Trotskyites. In office, they have further developed an astonishingly rapid aptitude for bent racketeering as well, - jobs for the boys, bullying of opponents, packing of meetings, plus a greedy, grasping commercial-mercenary streak. They follow on to a long history of Labour local government corruption (read Eddie Milne's astonishing lifestory 'No Shining Armour' about the Poulson, Dan Smith, Cunningham scandals, etc, and how Militant helped boot Milne out of office for insisting on exposing it all).

These shady antics are widely understood by the working class and are a common talking point in Liverpool, Lambeth etc.

Nor could the working class ever regard local Labourites-on-the-make any differently, - because 'municipal socialist' opportunism could never behave any differently, - by its very nature and the nature of state power under capitalism (see Lenin above).

Until pigs fly, there can never be 'honest' Labour local government (or by anyone else either). Capitalism dictates the dominant relations for the whole of capitalist society.

And the natural posture of all who help run a system of exploitation and cut-throat competition, - as Thatcher and the entire Civil Service establishment, plus the entire Opposition and press, have been demonstrating in the Westland scandal, is to lie, cheat & swindle 24 hours a day despite being the highest authority in the land, - and then to expect life to go on much as normal afterwards even though the whole 10 Downing Street seat of government has been shown to be nothing but a bunch of

pidling, lying, and incompetent crooks.

All that local Labour town Halls have ever done is to manage a less exalted copy of that Downing Street farce, - plus plenty of slobbering anticipation of making it to the big time one day as Labour Prime Minister.

Hatton, Knight, & Co in their posturing 'left' impatience (a traditional and frequent pose from the early 20th century onwards) have merely broken some of the rules. But like many 'left' opportunists before them (Bevan, Wilson, Castle, Foot, Benn, Kinnock, Livingstone, etc) they have not at all broken with the 'game' itself, - that of office-seeking within the unchallenged framework of the 'democratic' state (i.e. the permanent bourgeois-capitalist domination/dictatorship over all important legal, economic, political, and social establishment in Britain).

In one sense, they are worse frauds than any of their 'left' predecessors in the Labour Party because the anti-rate-cap 'stars' have blustered and postured all the way to the appearance of taking revolutionary resistance, plus plenty of talk about it, while in actual practice doing absolutely nothing to prepare for real revolution, and in fact actually hating with all their political being the very idea of serious revolutionary struggle (Leninist theory, Soviets, proletarian dictatorship, solidarity with the socialist camp and the revolutionary national-liberation struggle (Vietnam Cuba, Angola, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, etc), and emphasis on cadre politics and mass mobilisation as against illusions in Parliamentarism and municipal socialism, etc).

These 'left' impostors hate the real world of bitter struggle by proletarian dictatorship against savage imperialist intervention and subversion, and against opportunist Menshevik 'democrats' (see Lenin collected works vols 25 to 33).

Hatton Knight & Co posture against capitalist state laws because they need to act very

'left' these days to win (from a sceptical working class) office, fame, and fortune the relatively easy way (compared to Marxism-Leninism's uncompromising stance of endless revolutionary hardship until imperialism is finally conquered worldwide, - the history-making triumphant route towards socialism being pioneered by the Soviet camp).

Trots like Hatton & Knight say they hate the USSR because it has allegedly 'abandoned the struggle by the international working class for socialism'.

In reality, they hate the Soviets precisely because they have sacrificed heroically to defeat imperialist counter-revolution (1918 - 1921, and 1941-1945) and at great cost have helped fraternal revolutionary movements to do so too (China, Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Angola, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, etc)

Which great defeats of imperialist counter-revolution have the Trotskyite Western petty-bourgeoisie ever successfully 'sacrificed' to achieve? None at all. All their 'sacrifice' is to get into the perks of capitalist local-government office, leaving the working-class outside to suffer the growing miseries of the slump just as the poor have always had to do.

The only 'difference' about the present posture of Knight, Hatton, & Co is that they felt the need to go that little bit further in 'defiance' of capitalist rule than Livingstone & Blunkett did. And the capitalist state regularly makes examples of Oppositionists who 'protest' too much, or who refuse to bend the knee quickly enough to the 'rule of law' when asked.

Under capitalism's curious 'democratic' conventions, only prime ministers are allowed to 'break the rules' (they get their Ministers to resign instead) and even then they are not expected to get caught out too blatantly (Nixon's mistake).

Knight and Hatton have merely got 'too uppity', not raised a revolution.

Certainly the farce of the official state-authority 'law & order' solemnly telling the middle class Trots that 'disciplined & stable government must be re-asserted' should be jeered off the stage by all workers. What 'rule of law'? - the one that condemns millions of proletarian families to live in rat-infested slums, with no worthwhile job prospects, and hopeless educational and social conditions for their children, and war-mongering nuclear arms race as their only longterm future? Those responsible for such a 'rule of law' don't just need disbarment, earnings attachments, or fines, - they need wiping out as a class, - along with their lumpen-fascist stooges who are whipping up the racist filth demanded by capitalism's hopeless slump-ridden Nazi-warmongering future.

If such jeering gets Knight & Co lighter sentences or let off altogether, lucky for them.

But the one thing the working class should not be conned into believing (and will not be) is that Knight & Co have risked surcharges for the sake of the working class. It has been for the sake of their own opportunist Labour careers.

Telling workers that their whole future rests on Knight's fate would be the most monstrous, treacherous distortion, - as bad and corrupt as the main idea itself that Labour's promises, - even 'left' Labour ones, - have ever been anything but a grotesque betrayal of working class interests.

It is ludicrous to suggest that because the capitalist state might find it useful to make a temporary scapegoat of Liverpool or Lambeth councillors to 'explain away' the capitalist system's own incurable difficulties, then that 'proves' that Knight & Co must be the 'solution' feared by the bourgeoisie.

Bourgeois propaganda, desperate for any nationalist or 'rule of law' or 'Christian crusader' nonsense to boost the capitalist ruling class's flagging morale with, - disgracefully tormented (and slaughtered) the 'Argies' four years ago. A Libyan photo-

grapher in Wiltshire has just been hounded as an 'Arab pig'. Black culture has been denounced and discriminated against as 'swamping Britain'. Minorities of all kinds are constantly persecuted. While a setback for the British imperialist establishment on all of these matters (as on any matter) is obviously a good thing from a revolutionary defeatist point of view, - it does not make all of these specifically "the answer" to capitalism's crisis, no more than Knight's prosecution, - or Michael Foot's hounding from office, - prove them to be the 'revolutionary socialist solution' to the incurable slump.

There is, however, one well-tried and tested historical leadership for working class advance to socialism, - Leninism. On this, and this alone, the entire future of the working class really does rest.

To spread Leninist revolutionary consciousness and train a cadre party of Bolshevik theory and practice, it really is worth sacrificing everything else.

In everything that the working class does between now and the socialist revolution, - nothing matters more than using each situation first & foremost for the further development of Leninist understanding of the international balance of class forces.

Bluntly, in practice this means working to build the ILWP. Any activity in the workers movement which loses sight of this main perspective, or diverts people away from it, or is shamefaced about it, or pretends to be 'tactically leaving it in the background temporarily', is a badly missed opportunity for further spreading revolutionary consciousness.

Bull-at-a-gate methods are not always necessary called for.

But tactics and strategy will continually remain hopelessly confusing questions unless this fundamental essence of Leninism, - building a party, - is always right in the forefront of everyone's thinking.

And as it happens, - a constant full frontal charge in the name of the ILWP by thousands of people all round Britain wo-

uld hardly be a bad thing.
12 A quite modest group of people of all types built the Bolshevik Party in Tsarist Russia. The historical time is ripe for it to happen again in Britain.

9. Who is 'shifting to the right'?

(From Bulletin 322, 18.12.85)

This phrase about the alleged condition of the labour movement, currently in vogue in the 'left' swamp from the SWP to the RCG, emphasises the wrong things and therefore gives an entirely misleading impression of the class struggle in Britain. The balance of class forces is swinging rapidly towards the working class, both here and internationally. The squeezing out of petty-bourgeois 'representation' traditions, -from 'left' Labour and 'left' trade-unionism to the routinist, opportunist sects of the 'left' swamp, -is a decisive blow against anti-communism, anti-Sovietism, anti-theory philistinism, and the whole rotten tradition of ignorance of Leninism.

The notorious petty-bourgeois pessimism of the 'left' sects in seeing only 'defeat' after 'defeat', 'setback' after 'setback' -in Britain and internationally, -is in fact a reflection of them seeing the writing on the wall for themselves.

Genuine revolutionary Leninism can only be delighted at the ignominious collapse of 'municipal socialism' in Liverpool, Lambeth, Haringey, etc and at the exposure of the rotten, petty corruption at the heart of all opportunism; at the humiliating evaporation of Labour's "natural working class majority" at the polls; at the proven sterility of Scargill-Benn 'next Labour government' and 'Plan for coal' illusions that a capitalist economy and social system can be 'forced' to do what any determined government or political movement wants it to do; etc.

The 'left' sectarian swamp enjoys backbiting over other

people's misfortunes, obviously, but its pained 'responsible' solidarity noises in the direction of the witch-hunted Militants in Liverpool, -and even for the lousy WRP thugs, - is more than just the usual posturing.

They express solidarity with crooks like Hatton & Militant, Healy and 'philosophical Trotskyism', etc, because the swamp sees no essential difference between the rotten manipulation, thuggery, frauds, and gerrymandering suppression of discussion (inside the WRP and Liverpool) and the self-seeking posturing opportunism they all get up to in their own sects and which they believe is all there is to politics.

None of them have ever grasped that a scientific struggle for the truth about the balance of class forces is not only the kernel of Marxism but also of Lenin's leadership of tactical struggles, party building, and the construction of the socialist state.

When the RCG (along with the Sparts and RCP the most self-righteous of the remaining sects following the collapse in disgrace of the WRP and Militant (imminent)) -refuses to analyse and account for its own stupidity in writing off the mining communities as being too greedy and corrupted for a real struggle (just as the great strike was unfolding); in writing off the 1981 hunger strikes as a 'failure'; in sitting on the fence for months over the CIA-Vatican counter-revolution (Solidarnosc) in Poland; in obscenely sucking up to Ken Livingstone when he was a prominent 'left'; etc, etc, --they know that they are being dishonest opportunists and pulling stunts which they hope they can con and manipulate their paying 'supporters' into either not noticing, going along with, or turning a blind eye to.

The same applies to the mile-long list of outrageous opportunist treacheries and stupidities perpetrated by the anti-communist stooges from the RCP and the Sparts, particularly over their identification with the Polish counter-revol-

ution for the first media-blotz 12 months before the cracks in Solidarnosc's rotten fraud began to appear and the stink of fascism got too strong. The Sparts, in fact, knowingly went through an entire phony rigmarole of self-justification in order to extricate themselves from what they eventually realised was a very dangerous & compromising position for this so-called 'Defend the socialist camp' gang of well-heeled US frauds to be caught in.

Totally alien to these gurridden, posturing outfits is Lenin's understanding that workers will only trust a leadership which mostly gets things right but which also knows how to responsibly to face up to and experience from its own mistakes when it gets things wrong.

Corrupt thuggery is the essence of modern Trotskyism, -based as it is on rank opportunism and anti-Soviet lies directly out of the CIA's Cold War propaganda arsenal (see last week's Bulletin). Hatton is a grasping little crook, -the absolute essence of the entire tradition of 'left' Labour posturers. He is nothing but a counter-revolutionary enemy of the working class, just as Healy and his corrupt gang are.

Their successful function in the bourgeois West was only to block brighter workers off from the real science of Marxism-Leninism (which had to expose and destroy Trotskyism as an effective force in Russia before there could be a successful Bolshevik revolution organised over a 14-year period by a party which the Menshevik Trotsky only tagged onto just 56 days prior to the seizure of power.)

Trotskyism is collapsing in ignominy now in Britain (and elsewhere around the West) as the fraudulent basis for Trotsky's "science", -the notion that the Soviet Union's socialist state could only be the West's biggest accomplice as the gravedigger of the world socialist revolution, not its chief material support and inspiration, -has collapsed in the ruins of the capitalist states of Cuba, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos,

Nicaragua, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Yemen, China, Afghanistan, etc, --overthrown by revolutionary movements with the full sympathy and support of the socialist camp.

The further revolutionary socialist triumphs imminent in El Salvador, South Africa, Philippines, etc, make the Trots' 'Washington-Moscow axis' as criminally stupid as Trotsky's own "Hitler-Stalin, Twin Star" garbage.

Any worker in Britain who offers support to these exposed and degenerate Trotskyite opportunists now that they have collapsed in disgrace and are being disowned by the capitalist press as well as by their misguided 'supporters', - is doing the working class a treacherous disservice, not a favour. Let the crooks Hatton & Healy rot, -and their stinking little gangs of petty-bourgeois-minded groupie followers.

And when the RCG correctly expose both the 'realists' (so-called) who follow Kinnoch to the right, as well as the 'idealists' (so-called) who deny there is any scuttling to the right by the 'left' Labourite swamp, -they denounce them only in the name of "new forces emerging in the class struggle that put the fight against racism and imperialism and the defence of democratic rights at the centre of their politics".

Why not put "revolution" at the centre?

For in reality, this is what the revolt at Broadwater Farm, Brixton, Toxteth, Handsworth, etc, is really heralding, -plus all the other signs of decay and collapse of traditional 'left' Labour posturing, and its echoes in the 'left' swamp.

But the RCG are traditional academic fence-sitters, careful sceptics who are too smart to get caught out in the more obvious traps of the cruder areas of the swamp, but who are just as hostile to any real championing of Leninist scientific Bolshevism as the rest of the petty-bourgeois posturers.

Like the philistine SWP with its sanitised new version of the dictatorship of the prole-

tariat (trying to turn it into a harmless cross between the Primrose League constitution and the Marquess of Queensberry rules) - the RCG still want and hope to remain with a comfortable foot inside the old 'democratic' labour movement camp, academically pontificating about this, that, and the other while flagellating their guilty consciences with some noisy solidarity with Ireland and the African revolution, (while nevertheless getting their political analysis wrong nearly every time).

But Leninism is for the crushing of the 'left' Kronstadt counter-revolution, not for fence-sitting over Solidarnosc as RCG did; it is for the arrest and disbandment of Menshevik and SR opportunists, not for declaring solidarity with their Liverpool & Clapham opportunism; etc. And it is a real revolutionary movement which will transform the class struggle in Britain, not the anti-Leninist swamp.

10. Labour movement crisis heralds great changes.

(From Bulletin 333, 12.3.86)

Trade unionism, reformism, and the fake 'left' are all in chaos over the print bosses onslaught, Labour Party expulsions, and the Court verdicts against the anti-ratecapping councils.

Attempts to organise 'solidarity' for any of the victims are meeting justified scepticism and even contempt from the working class proletariat.

Incurable suspicion surrounds every devious move of the print union officials who won't call their Fleet Street cream out on strike but do pressure small provincial branches to stick their necks out, -Northampton this dispute, Stockport in the last one, -while all the time continuing shady closed-shop deals with all the Fleet Street proprietors. What sympathy should we have, the proletariat are asking with the working class aristocracy

of the anti-communist printing union closed shops on Fleet Street who have always backed this bureaucratic set-up.

Equally, what concern is it of ours, workers are asking, that the careerism of the opportunist Militant Trots is being inevitably curtailed by a Labour Party halt to 'entrism'.

Most of all, the masses want to know, what business (literally) is it of ours that the local government rackets of lucrative contracts awards, jobs-for-the-boys, vote-catching, and other juicy careerist perks as indulged in by Lambeth and Liverpool 'lefts' and by similar Labour opportunists, -have had the whistle blown on them by the High Court tory mafia?

Neither the 'municipal socialism' fraud, -nor the 'law & order' moralising of the courts, Parliament, or Labour leadership, -has the slightest effect in halting the degenerate destructiveness of the capitalist slump. So what concern to the working class are these bourgeois squabbles over office and how the capitalist government racket is to be played?

The surcharged councillors got a deserved derisive reception by workers in Liverpool & Lambeth, -not a "rapturous standing ovation" as lyingly reported in one instance (the Guardian, naturally) in the press.

The Lambeth town hall reception for the returning 'victorious' High Court felons was in fact a giant raspberry. The council's employees were being paid to attend, -as an important 'report back' meeting of concern to their future employment. Nearly 10,000 could have turned up, on pay. All 10,000 knocked off work. Only 500 turned up to hear Knight. The other 9,500 sensibly went home early.

There was some clapping by a minority of those 500 attending, -the 'left' Labour security guards, careerists, council groupies, thugs, etc. And it was a 'standing ovation' because all the chairs were occupied by the huge legions of capitalist press groupies that Knight had invited to witness his 'triumph'.

The rest of the working class and council workers of Lambeth

are as heartily sick of the useless posturing fraud of Knight's 'left' Labourism as the people of Liverpool simultaneously showed they were of Hatton & Co's Militant opportunism, --none of which is doing anything to bring down the capitalist system.

If the Labour and trade union 'lefts' came out bluntly for an indefinite strike campaign to bring down the Thatcher government and the ruling class capitalist state, then a real mass movement could begin in earnest.

But a strike campaign in order to rescue Hatton's tattered careerist prospects and lucrative opportunism deserves only the bird, -and will get it.

All arguments about 'the one issue being tied in with the other issue because of Labour's role' etc, --'temporarily & unfortunately', etc, ---'until new & better leaders can be found', etc, --are not worth a pail of cold spit. 'Municipal socialism' has always been nothing but an obstacle to the fight for the socialist revolution in the West, -never an advance towards it. (See

ILWP Books vol 7). Leninism has always been for the destruction of the influence on the working class of all Labourism, -'left' and right, - and all 'municipal socialism', -before real progress towards revolutionary socialist consciousness can be made.

Hatton, Knight, & Co, -and all Trotskyism, -are the last-ditch stand by anti-communism to thwart the rise of a genuine Bolshevik movement in the West to sweep aside the corrupt rottenness of Labour Party and Communist Party reformism. The Trots prop up the dying Labour Party, preventing its demise, their being the sole remaining source of energetic canvassing for Labour candidates (their own and rightwingers) at election times.

Their anti-communism is pathological (see ILWP Perspectives p 5, ILWP Books vols 3 to 7) and incurable.

Smashing and overcoming this anti-communism (petty-bourgeois opportunism) is a major historical watershed-contradiction standing in the way of the working class's path to revolutionary consciousness, --not a

helpful halfway house along the route which can be moved on from by merely finding less unsavoury 'leaders' than Knight or Hatton.

But no worker should fall for the disgusting opportunism of the Communist Party reformist/revisionist groups like the NCP which has put the boot into the Militant but only to further their own rotten 'affiliation' careerism with the Labour Party.

Astonishingly, the NCP 'New Worker' editorial (28/2/86) declared it was "important to deplore the hypocrisy of the Labour rightwing", -not because the rightwingers themselves have been permanent opportunist wreckers of the Labour Party's standing in the eyes of the working class since the first 'socialist programme' was betrayed more than 60 years ago, --but because "The anti-Militant campaign is more noise than action; only a handful of the factionalists are to be expelled".

Kinnock & Co are certainly stinking hypocrites, -but they could take lessons from the degenerate NCP crowd.

By all means let the 'left' and 'right' Labour opportunists clobber each other for all they are worth. It is a private fight among petty-bourgeois careerists, -of little interest to the working class.

But to take up a stance urging the Labour right wing to boot out more Militantites more quickly as a 'good thing' raises an entirely different, and wholly unpleasant and unsavoury note.

This is the language of the prison trusty, narking to the screws on some upstart comen in order to get a better dungeon in the reformist jail.

No self-respecting worker has any favours to ask of the class traitors running the Labour Party. Exposing and destroying the opportunism of Militant is an issue solely for the working class. By appealing to the Parliamentary gangsters for action, - even while calling them hypocrites, - puts the NCP in exactly the same reformist-opportunist mire as the Trot entrists themselves, -creating illusions in Labour Party reformism both as a way of achieving eventually a 'purified' mass party of the working class,

14 and then as a way of 'introducing socialism' using that 'correct-thinking' Labour Party.

It is this fraud that is the worst crime ever perpetrated on the working class, - particularly evilly so by the 'left' reformists of the CP, NCP, 'left' Labour, etc, who pretend that it only needs 'socialist policies' pushed through the old trade-union-based Labour Party structure (plus a more liberal line on affiliations to allow the CP, NCP, etc, in alongside the Fabians, etc) to disestablish the 400-year-old British ruling class and its capitalist state. Treacherous, lying fraud.

These pro-Labour recidivists are the biggest comen of all. And having baited Kimock for his hypocrisy now, where will the NCP be next election time? Not only urging a vote for Labour to get these crooks into office, -but even railing against the CP for daring to stand the odd candidate or two independently against Labour, -the same grovelling stance the NCP adopted at the last election.

The CP itself goes even one better than this cowardly NCP line by calling in its latest confidential policy document on the unions for an end to any challenge to the capitalist system (outside of greater appeals to bourgeois democracy than even Thatcher's property-owning democracy can make.)

Full class-collaboration with capitalist state anti-union legislation is demanded, including bourgeois-approved (and supervised) ballots for all working class decision-making, relinquishing independence in strikes and union matters as well as in the governing of the country as at present (through the fraud of election ballot campaigns dominated by capitalist media and their approved 'official' parties)

It is certainly correct that there are "many bad practices and corruption" in the trade union movement, -and the CP knows more than most about it, having been the conscious 'left' prop of the rotten bureaucracy all its life.

And it is certainly true that a historic watershed has been reached in the political history of the working class in Britain (and throughout the West). A massive

once-and-for-all change is about to take place.

But it will not be in the reformist CP's direction of total liquidation into Parliamentarism and bourgeois 'legality'. Exactly the opposite. The terminal collapse of imperialism in insoluble economic crisis is the beginning of the development of mass revolutionary consciousness for the first time ever among the Western working class.

This is the background to the unprecedented chaos and collapse throughout the 'left' swamp. (Anti-Leninism, and hostility to the dictatorship of the proletariat and the Soviet workers state and the ever-expanding socialist camp, - is doomed.)

And this developing mass revolutionary consciousness, -and the development of the first real Leninist party in Britain, -the ILWP, -is the only possible solution too.

Fake-'left' lunacy
Pillor-k-of-the-week award goes to Foot of the SWP in chiding the CP for characterising Aquino (in a rare 'left' gesture by the pretend 'Tankie' dissidents at the Star) as 'another Imperialist puppet'. "Ultra-leftism" snorts Foot. The Aquino movement contains "real revolutionary potential. To abstain from all this, while not even criticising the governments of Nicaragua & Angola, seems grotesque.... Nicaragua, Angola, & Ethiopia side with Russia in the Cold War. The Philippines do not. Foot urges "working class activity against such governments". GM

11. Isolate the corruption & the closed shop class collaboration.

(From Bulletin 334, 19.3.86)

The way to challenge the corruption which NALGO is afraid to expose in the Hackney freemasonry investigation, and in the Lambeth building contracts scandal, etc, -is to demand the exposure and overthrow of the entire reformist trade union tradition and Labour 'municipal socialism' fraud in Britain. The one is impossible without the other, and corruption is inevitable all the time that reformist leadership continues to be tolerated by the working class.

The alternative leadership is to tell the truth about imperialism's worldwide anti-communist racketeering. It all hangs together. If the lying fraud of Labour/TUC support for the bogus 'defence of Western democracy' NATO shield is tolerated, -which in reality means invading Greek socialist independence in 1945, infiltrating fascist feudal/monarchists into socialist Albania & Yugoslavia, obliterating socialist Malaya with Nazi scorched-earth blitzkrieg, preventing the socialist reunification of Korea in favour of US imperialism's fascist stooges in the south, assisting over 200 other Western colonial military aggressions since WWII from the Dominican Republic to Vietnam, keeping Marcos, Somoza, Pinochet, Botha, Ian Smith, Duvalier, etc, and every other fascist dictator armed and supplied, ---etc, etc, etc, ---as long as all this imperialist reaction is supported, via NATO, by the Labour/TUC reformist opportunist movement, -then there is not the slightest chance that smallscale local capitalist corruption in Hackney freemasonry graft, or Liverpool building contracts corruption, etc, will be tackled.

The real starting point for a break with reformist trade-union corruption and class collaboration is to break from the ideological tyranny of anti-communist confusion under which every worker in the West is forced to stagger around blindly, incapable of clearly seeing that the enemy of all mankind is Western imperialism's anti-communist crusade itself, -and nothing else.

And it is again no accident that one of the chief uses of the class-collaborating closed shop has been the blacklisting of genuine Bolsheviks by the 'trusty' union mafia itself (including by its CP members), -doing the bosses' most important strike-breaking work for them.

For what alone can finally win strikes (on the way to finally settling accounts with capitalist slump and speed-up) is correct political perspectives, -not just by more union activism as the SWP still treacherously insist.

These fake petty-bourgeois 'revolutionaries' want no change

in the anti-communist confusion which holds back and divides the working class in the West.

The SWP ludicrously pretends that the existing reactionary opportunist political set-up in the trade union and labour movement could itself bring down capitalism, -if only it got its timing right; and if only it had better tactics; and if only it had more determination; and if only it had less pessimism; and if only it did not cave in to threats; etc.

In other words, anything, any excuse, to cover up the anti-communist political backwardness of the labour & trade-union movement which is the sole real fatal weakness of the working class need to fight in Britain for the socialist revolution.

Why? Because the SWP are the essence of opportunist petty-bourgeois anti-communism themselves. (See ILWP Books vols 3 to 7).

"The best opportunity to fight the Tories was in June 1984" say these armchair socialist dolts in their latest confusion sheet. (SW No 978). If Liverpool Labourites had joined their anti-ratecapping fight up then with the Miners; if the NUM had agreed to it; if the council workforce had been in "united support" of all this; and if advantage had been taken at a time when "the Tories looked decidedly shaky", -then... etc.

"The decision not to mobilise that support and to accept a compromise deal involving creative accounting instead, was a disaster" is the SWPs mighty conclusion.

But the argument is entirely circuitous. The great question for 150 years is WHY has the British working class never used its undoubted superior strength to smash decadent imperialism to smithereens? Why does it always miss the boat? Why does it always fail to mobilise? Why does it always fail to unite?

The SWPs 'profound' answer to all this is: "Just go ahead and do it. Stop missing all these opportunities. Stop being divided. Stop being pessimistic." It is pure evangelism, and bitterly hostile to Leninist theory. And the unchanging class basis for 30 years of this Cliffite exhortation is phil-

istine petty-bourgeois opportunism and anti-communism.

"There is a danger that following the defeat of Liverpool, people will draw the conclusion it is impossible to overcome the rotten ideas of people like Neil Kinrock" it moans again, similar to a thousand previous obituaries on Labour party defeatism, above a lacklustre, unconvincing, routine appeal for workers to join the SWP instead.

But nothing is said, as always, about the huge historical class force of anti-communism which alone can explain why workers continue to stick to hopeless Labour despite getting betrayed time and time again.

Only anti-communism has been the West's ideological weapon for holding back the working class from the socialist revolution throughout most of capitalism in the last 68 years.

But nothing will the SWP do or say about this because anti-communism is the SWP's own sole perch of existence. If it had ever consistently opposed anti-communism, it risked losing its own relatively large (compared to other groups) but very shallow and opportunist membership, -especially in the worst period of the Cold War surrounded by capitalist boom. It would not contemplate a crusade against anti-communism now for fear of missing out on what the entire 'left' swamp hopes is going to be a non-communist 'revolutionary' move against capitalist slump in the West.

So the SWP sticks to urging workers to throw themselves at the barricades regardless of the fact that there is a hopelessly corrupt, politically-cowardly and philistine, non-existent 'leadership' of the trade-union & labour movement which could not skin custard let alone overthrow capitalism.

They write scoldingly of the Liverpool debacle: "A social worker in one of the offices which has consistently supported the council said: 'when we heard the court decision we held a meeting straightaway. We heard that a 24 hour strike had been called in protest. We unanimously walked out to join it. But when we got to town, nothing

was happening". No explanation is offered of the 30 years Trotskyist opportunist anti-communism behind Militant's abysmal collapse into corruption and retreat, -just the stupid exhortation that if people had not given up, that if there had not been an "air of depression", that if there had not been "the tragedy of Liverpool council which turned its back on the people who could have won a victory", -etc, etc, then all would have been well. The real pessimists, of course, are the philistine morons who read and write this shallow 'analysis' going round in endless circles.

'Never mind the political anti-communist bankruptcy of the existing labour and trade-union movement' the SWP are saying, -'just throw yourselves on the barricades anyway, -and all will be well'. At best this is the most treacherous shallow nonsense. At worst it is irresponsible provocation.

As usual, the SWP's greatest irresponsibility is their sheer ignorance. Of the surcharged Labourite opportunists, SWP write: "They did not con anyone. They did not rig ballots. They did not cover lies with an advertiser's gloss. They did not defraud taxpayers. They did not grant council contracts to their business friends", etc.

But every single SWP member in Liverpool and Lambeth who is not a complete blockhead knows exactly the opposite, that the corrupt 'entrists' opportunists did precisely all of that, --and inevitably so, because of 'left' Labour's perpetual cover-up of the incurable graft of 'municipal socialism' (see Lenin on this subject, ILWP Books vol 7) from permanent class-collaboration with capitalism.

Eddie Milne's remarkable autobiography 'No Shining Armour' telling how he was ousted from Parliament and the Labour Party by the establishment, -including Militant and Wedgwood Benn, - for exposing the Poulson-Smith-Cunningham racketeering rife throughout the Labour Party, is a closed book to these SWP opportunist sycophants. They are all content in

the anti-communist swamp together.

Defeating this anti-communist backwardness may mean an all-out challenge to existing class-collaborating trade-union structures, as well as the building of a cadre party's independent grasp of Leninism through the ILWP.

Leadership, -from clear understanding and correct political perspectives, -must be given among all workers, at all occasions. Only a party of Leninist revolutionary theory can achieve this throughout the working class.

All obstacles to this leadership being put before workers must be removed or overcome, sooner or later.

Transitory old trade-union structures of the dying reformist epoch must not be allowed, through blacklisting, to isolate and silence revolutionary leadership.

Just as the ILWP alone can provide the conditions for the development and confirmation of correct Marxist analysis of events and tactics, overcoming the censorial rule-book 'discipline' of the routinist swamp sects, -so anti-Leninist fear and narrow-mindedness among existing union hierarchies may force revolutionary leadership to go outside some of the present TUC unions' restrictive framework.

The fundamental Leninist tactical principle will remain of taking the revolutionary struggle into every gathering of workers, no matter how rightwing.

But an even firmer priority is that the revolutionary voice must be raised, -whatever the obstacles. As with the 'broad workers party - the Labour Party' which never in practice made it possible for members to fight for Leninism to become policy. -no more than the Communist Party does now, -so will revolutionary workers have to put their challenge to their industry colleagues and workmates from outside the existing union structures if anti-communist bans and sharp practices mean it cannot be done any other way.

It is revolutionary ideas which will eventually triumph, not existing reformist labour movement structures.

12. Reformism the enemy in the workers movement.

(From Bulletin 333, 12.3.86)

The arrogance and racism of the Fleet Street union officials and some stewards on the Wapping picket lines is a sickening indictment of the 'Great traditions' of the British trade union & labour movement. An equally sickening indictment is the arrogance and racism of the so called 'left' of the movement, represented by 'militant' Knight & co. and various other Trotskyist hangers on.

Whether you are told to 'fuck off back to Moscow' and beaten up by the Fleet Street mob, (which is what happened to an individual who in fact wasn't a communist, but was protesting against the obvious deal that has been struck between the police and union officials to control the number of pickets at each gate), or whether you are chucked out of 'public meetings' and threatened by Knight's mob, or Militant's mob, for raising the question of communist revolution in solidarity with the socialist states, -against the deceit of parliamentary representation, -in reality exposes them all as the same rotten thing. They are all right wing opportunists, and they are all social chauvinists.

The National Front style of the older, 'traditional' opportunists, who make monkey chants at black photographers at Wapping, and urge the police to "leave us alone, and go and beat up some blacks in Brixton instead"; and the Lambeth 'left' councillors, who have decided to rename

dozens of public build-
 ings and parks in the bor-
 ough after African natio-
 nalists and revolutionar-
 ies , -both deserve the
 same contempt. Twinning
 Lambeth with Moscow and
 Nicaragua doesn't change
 a thing; renaming slums
 doesn't stop them from
 being slums; and preten-
 ding to be revolutionary
 doesn't make people rev-
 olutionists. Virtually
 every black resident of
 Lambeth has instinctively
 thrown up with disgust,
 or collapsed laughing in
 disbelief, at this latest
 act of outrageous postur-
 ing. It is clearly seen
 for what it is, an oppor-
 tunist stunt to win black
 votes in the May elect-
 ions. As Lenin said;

"Wherever marxism is
 popular among the workers
 (in this case you can
 substitute the S.African
 revolution, which is
 Marxist) this political
 tendency, this bourgeois
 labour party, will swear
 by the name of Marx...It
 has always happened in
 history, that after the
 death of revolutionary
 leaders who were popular
 among the oppressed cla-
 sses, their enemies att-
 empted to assume their
 name in order to deceive
 the oppressed classes"
 (Imperialism and the
 split in the socialist
 movement, October 1916.)

The Lambeth 'lefts'
 don't even have the dec-
 ency to wait till they're
 dead before stealing
 their names.

The 'Militant Tendency'
 of the Labour Party (or
 not, depending on who the-
 y're trying to deceive), -
 don't go in for such cr-
 ude stunts though. Through
 their influence in trade
 union organisations they
 control recruitment to
 the Liverpool Council wo-
 rkforce, which employs 20,
 000 people. In a city with
 a large black population,
 less than 200 black work-
 ers are employed by the

They have further ins-
 ulted the black community
 by appointing Samson Bond,
 a 'Militant spiv' from Lo-
 ndon, who knows nothing ab-
 out Liverpool, as race rel-
 ations chief, and patronis-
 ed the black protesters
 by informing them that it
 is 'not a race issue, but
 a class issue'. In other
 words 'Our race, our class,
 piss off if you're black
 and don't do what we tell
 you.' Using Marxist phra-
 seology to back up their
 chauvinist arrogance expo-
 ses their total hostility
 to revolution and to Marx-
 ism Leninism.

The 'Race' issue is an
 immensely important part of
 the class struggle, espec-
 ially in Britain, which as
 an imperialist nation has
 exploited millions of bla-
 ck workers around the wo-
 rld, and whose 'great lab-
 our and trade union trad-
 itions' are built upon the
 exploitation of these wor-
 kers. The basis of racism
 in the white British wor-
 king class is the opportu-
 nism of the labour movem-
 ent, which made a deal with
 capitalism that a section
 of the working class shou-
 ld reap the benefits of
 imperialism, in alliance
 with the capitalists, aga-
 inst the oppressed nations,
 and against the poorest sections
 (the majority) of the working
 class in this country.

Lenin pointed out:
 "All marxists have spok-
 en about the English wor-
 kers who have concluded
 an alliance with their ca-
 pitalists....In that coun-
 try there are not only
 labour unions, but unions
 are formed between workers
 and capitalists in the sa-
 me industry for the purp-
 ose of raising prices, of
 plundering the rest. All
 marxists, all the sociali-
 sts of all countries, poi-
 nt the finger of scorn at
 such examples, and beginn-
 ing with Marx and Engels
 have talked about the wo-
 rkers being bribed by the

ignorance and their craft
 interests." (Imperialism
 and the split in sociali-
 sm, Lenin, October 1916.)

The labour movement in
 Britain is still dominat-
ed by the ideology of op-
 portunism, based directly
 on its imperialist histo-
 ry. The 'traditions' of
 the labour movement need
 exposing and destroying.

The left swamp, from
 Militant outwards, the Tr-
 otskyites etc., who all w-
 ant to 'defend' trade un-
 ionism, and who campaign
 for the Kinnock Labour P-
 arty, cover up and defend
 these traditions, and prop-
 up the labour aristocracy,
 of which they are in reali-
 ty, a part. They are in ex-
 actly, the same mould as
 the Fabians of the early
 1900's, and embrace every-
 thing which is rotten ab-
 out the labour movement.

Engels was clear abe-
 ut what he thought of them.
 Substitute the word 'Labour Par-
 ty' for 'Liberals' in the follow-
 ing passage (it became the
 main 'progressive' anti-Tory
 'Opposition' party after 1917 in
 response to the influence on the
 British working class of the Bol-
 shevik Revolution, to head wor-
 kers here away from socialism)-
 and Engels description of the
 treacherous tactics of the 'soci-
 alists' of his day (Fabians, etc)
 exactly rehearses the fake 'rev-
 olutionary' fraud perpetrated by
 all Labour 'lefts', Trot 'entrists',
 Militant, CP would-be affiliators
 etc, today, -propping up Labour
 (as the 'socialists' then propped
 up the equally rotten Liberals)
 instead of challenging the Lab-
 our Party outright because of its
 incurable anti-socialism and
 organising the destruction of the
 Labour Party's credibility in the
 eyes of workers.

"The Fabians here in L-
 ondon are a gang of care-
 erists who have understan-
 ding enough to realise
 the inevitability of the
 social revolution, but not
 trusting the gigantic task
 to the crude proletarians
 alone, they are gracious
 enough to stand at the h-

ead of it. Their fundam-
 ental principle is fear of
 revolution.... Their soc-
 ialism is municipal soci-
 alism, the municipality
 and not the nation should,
 at first, at any rate, take
 over the means of produc-
 tion. They depict their
 socialism as an extreme
 but inevitable consequen-
 ce of bourgeois liberali-
 sm. Hence their tactics,
 not to wage determined
 struggle against the libe-
 rals as opponents, but to
 push them towards social-
 ist conclusions, i.e. to
 hoodwink them, to permeate
 liberalism with socialism,
 not to put up socialist
 candidates against the L-
 iberals but to foist them
 on the Liberals, i.e. to
 get them elected by decep-
 tion.... But of course, t-
 hey fail to understand t-
 hat in doing so they are
 either lied to and deceiv-
 ed themselves, or else mis-
 represent socialism. Besid-
 es a lot of rubbish, the
 Fabians have published s-
 everal good works of a p-
 ropagandist nature.... but
 as soon as they get on to
 their specific tactics of
 hushing up the class str-
 uggles, it all turns putrid.
 Because of the class stru-
 ggle, they fanatically hate
 Marx and all of us." (Pr-
 eface to the corresponde-
 nce of Marx and Engels w-
 ith Sarge and others. Col-
 lected Works Vol. XI.)

The stupid Hatton has
 actually admitted to cam-
 paigning for more 'right'
 wing than 'left' wing ca-
 ndidates. Now the swamp w-
 ant to protect 'British j-
 obs' and 'British indust-
 ry', the Labour Party def-
 ends the arms industry if
 it employs 'British worker-
 s', and the Trots help
 them, because their oppor-
 tunism won't allow them to
 expose them.

As the empire has been
 lost, and with the emerg-
 ence of more powerful riv-
 al capitalist powers, the
 basis of opportunism in

Britain has been eroded, and is now falling apart at the seams. The miners strike proved the dead end that the 'traditional' reformist trade union struggle leads to, and the lesson learned was the need to start the political struggle for the destruction of the old opportunist fetters which dominate the labour movement, and hold back the revolutionary struggle. The campaign now should be against the Labour Party, against the TUC and the old traditions of the labour movement organisations, not to push them "towards socialism", but to destroy their influence in the working class, Lenin explained:

"The fact is that 'bourgeois labour parties' as a political phenomenon have already been formed in all the advanced capitalist countries, and unless a determined ruthless struggle is conducted against these parties all along the line, or, what is the same thing, against these groups, tendencies, etc, it is useless talking about the struggle against imperialism, about Marxism, or about the socialist labour movement.... There is not the slightest reason for thinking that these parties can disappear before the social revolution. On the contrary, the nearer the revolution approaches, the stronger it flares up, the more sudden and violent the transitions from one stage to another will be in the course of the revolution, the greater will be the role in the labour movement of the struggle of the revolutionary mass stream against the opportunist philistine stream....

"In the nineteenth century the 'mass organisations' of the English trade unions were on the side of the bourgeois lab-

our party. Marx and Engels did not conciliate with it on these grounds, but exposed it. They did not forget that the trade union organisations directly embrace the minority of the proletariat.... It is not so much a question of how many members there are in an organisation, as what is the real, objective meaning of its policy: does the policy represent the masses? does it serve the masses, i.e. the liberation of the masses from capitalism; or does it represent the interests of the minority, its conciliation with capitalism?....

"Engels draws a distinction between the 'bourgeois labour party' of the old trade unions, a privileged minority, and the 'great mass', the real majority. Engels appeals to the latter, which is not infected with 'bourgeois respectability'. This is the essence of Marxian tactics!

"We cannot, nor can anybody else, calculate beforehand what proportion of the proletariat will follow the social chauvinists and opportunists. This will only be revealed by the struggle; it will be definitely decided only by the socialist revolution. But we know definitely that the 'defenders of the Fatherland' in the imperialist war represent only a minority. And it is our duty, therefore if we wish to remain socialists, to go down lower and deeper to the real masses; this is the meaning and the whole content of the struggle against opportunism. Explaining the fact that the opportunists and social-chauvinists in reality betray and sell out the interests of the masses, that they defend the temporary privileges of a minority of the workers, that they transmit bourgeois

ideas and influences, that in practice they are allies and agents of the bourgeoisie; we thereby teach the masses to understand their real political interests, to fight for socialism and the revolution throughout the long and painful vicissitudes of imperialist wars and imperialist armistices.

"To explain to the masses the inevitability and the necessity of breaking with opportunism, to educate them for revolution by a merciless struggle against opportunism.... unmasking the hideousness of national-liberal-labour politics and not to cover them up, is the only Marxian line to be followed in the world labour movement." (Imperialism and the split in the socialist movement, 1916, October)

13. Labour opportunism lets police and fascists off the hook.
(From London Bulletin 5, 24.8.85)

The refusal of the police to prosecute known fascist thugs who assault Asian families in Tower Hamlets is a further indication of the capitalist state connivance in turning a blind eye to fascist degeneracy, while they will detain in cells and interrogate for eight hours Asian victims of arson attacks.

Scotland Yard can lie all they like about racial attacks falling, but as capitalism's slump worsens with more unemployment, more poverty, bad housing, & social care etc., so the ruling class will need to directly encourage even more racial attacks, more pol-

ice state violence against workers in general, more drug and alcohol abuse, attempting to cower the working class into accepting the inevitable economic collapse, fascism and the drive to war.

The Newham Seven youths who defended their communities against fascist thuggery (and were prosecuted for it) have taken a correct step in organizing community defence squads.

The whole working class should take matters further into their own hands and bringing down the whole stinking capitalist system (parliament, councils, courts etc.) which is being driven into imposing the same death squad viciousness that is happening in Ireland, South Africa, Phillipines etc. (all propped up by the 'democratic West').

The silence of the Labour run Tower Hamlet council over the police refusal to charge race attackers 'unless there is a serious assault, because to do so might make matters worse', is a despicable piece of collaboration in covering up state-encouraged fascist attacks.

Instead of taking action themselves to turf out known attackers, Anne Hassan of the Tower Hamlets Race and Housing Action Team is turning round and blaming the Asians for leaving the area because 'It puts pressure on the families left behind and is a victory for people who want to keep their streets all

white'.
18 This stinking grovelling subservience to capitalist rule is the hallmark of worms who have carved out a nice little career for themselves while putting the brunt of capitalist degeneracy onto the backs of the working class through administering chronic housing conditions, poverty and racial abuse.

Equally the so-called 'progressive' Islington council has been tripped up over its 'anti-racist' policy, with council housing staff striking against the reluctance of the council to sack a known fascist.

But as the masses are showing in South Africa and the Phillipines the eventual path to take to deal with fascist degeneracy is to struggle for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism by developing Leninist theory to impose proletarian dictatorship. This disciplined theoretical struggle is the one thing the Labourites & their Trot hangers-on will run a million miles from.

The sickening sight of these reformists (Livingstone, Knight etc.) busily running capitalism whilst one major contingent after the other of the world's labouring masses irrevocably throws in its lot with the Soviet-led world socialist revolution will not take long convincing workers which side of the barricade they need to be standing.

14. Revolution will rout the racists.

(From London Bulletin 6, 8.9.85)

'Red' Ted Knight, leader of the capitalist administration in Lambeth, has recently sent a letter to all employees congratulating himself over the 'very successful ratecapping campaign'. This would be hysterically funny were it not for the fact that these opportunist collaborators with parliamentary and 'local democracy' are destroying thousands of peoples chances of a decent life. The ratecapping farce has achieved nothing for the working class. Rents and rates continue to rise, homelessness is increasing, unemployment is rising, and health services are being cut. Those that are fortunate enough to have somewhere to live are finding that their housing conditions are deteriorating to slum conditions, as major repairs are not carried out. The bed and breakfast racket, and slum landlords are the only aspect of housing which is flourishing in Lambeth. Some victory. The entire purpose of the 'campaign' was to fool people into believing that the 'left' council was fighting the system, and that 'local democracy' and 'municipal socialism' are the way forwards for the working class. The only victory is that they completely failed, and another nail has been firmly

hammered into the reformist coffin.

The increasingly explosive situation the 'left' servants of capitalism are trying to contain, has rapidly forced them to adopt another phoney, 'fighting stand', anti-racism and 'equal opportunities' are the ground they've chosen to posture on, hence the Tyra Henry tragedy has now become a 'race relations problem'. None of these Labour poseurs gives a damn about racism, if they do, what are they doing in a party with one of the foulest racist records on this planet? Why are they paying for the racist SPG to prowl the streets assaulting black people, and anybody else they don't like? Why has the administration got millions of pounds invested in South African interests, and why don't they sack several well-known racials holding senior management positions within the council?

The answer is because they are reactionary anti-communist scum. They know damn well that to get rid of racism, they have to get rid of capitalism and imperialism, whose very roots are based in racism and exploitation. But they want to preserve capitalism, which provides their cosy Labour Party careers as 'representatives of the working class.

In the Soviet Union, hundreds of different colours and cultures live together in peace, and genuine equal opportunities are guaranteed to all. They had to have a revolu-

tion to achieve this. Lambeth Council want people to believe it can be achieved by writing a meaningless (in the context of capitalism) 'equal opportunities' policy document. It's inevitable failure is then blamed on the working class for not 'fighting hard enough for it'. Reformist nonsense like this, at a time when the only call should be to get rid of capitalism is worse than useless.

To pretend to be fighting racism, whilst in reality supporting the very system which created it, can only serve to spread division and confusion in the working class, which is, of course, the entire purpose of this reformist garbage.

Racial discrimination and racial violence are on the increase, in Lambeth and everywhere else that capitalism rules. Only revolution and the dictatorship of the working class can eradicate it, like it has in the Soviet Union, and soon will in South Africa.

15. Anti-communist Labour is not fighting racism.

(From Bulletin 381, 18.2.87)

There are very few places in the world where the Labour Party of 'Great Britain' is regarded as having anything to do with building socialism or fighting racism.

Certainly not in Africa, or India, or

the Soviet Union, or China, or in Greece, Malaya, Palestine, or Ireland and other countries which have been at the receiving end of Labour government 'socialist building' policies.

In fact, it is true to say that millions of people, all over the world hate the Labour Party and everything it stands for, as it is responsible for more racist imperialist warmongering butchery than any other party pretending to be socialist in the world.

None of this, though, impinges on the consciousness of the tired old remnants of the corrupt British Labour movement, who in 1987 are posturing around their mortgaged town halls, claiming to be fighting racism and building socialism. This they will never do. For one thing they won't even talk about how they are going to do it, and gloss over their racist party's entire history, as if it had never happened, or as if it was some other party that has now changed, but no one knows when, or how. They also have a habit of throwing out of their meetings anybody who dares to raise the subject. And, for another thing, the British capitalist state, whom they serve, is about to dismantle their entire phony 'local democracy' racket because it can no longer afford to run it.

The egotistical local Labourites pretend to the working class that the councils are under threat

because of the 'challenge' they are making to the state; but what challenge? Surely not 'rate capping' again, and it certainly isn't because of their much vaunted equal opportunities policy, even the BBC adopts that posture, and as everybody knows, it makes sod all difference to the vast majority which gets no opportunities at all. The talk of the non-existent challenge simply serves the purpose of masking the real reason for the decline of 'municipal socialism', which is the crisis of the capitalist system itself, which Labour never mentions.

For these politicians of the local state, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao, Ho Chi Minh, and other great revolutionary leaders might just as well have never lived, the Soviet Union never have had a revolution, or China, Vietnam, Mozambique, Angola, Nicaragua, Cuba, etc, etc, etc. Volumes of socialist theory might as well have never been written, according to these opportunists. For them life begins and ends with the GLC, the Town Hall, or the House of Commons.

The anti-communist Labour movement will do nothing but mildly and futilely 'protest' about the non-stop stream of capitalist-state murderous brutality. But it will sit back contentedly watching the Western media wallow in an orgy of humbug over just one death in the class struggle in East Europe, - that of the reaction-

ary priest Popielusczko. It will similarly back the counter-revolutionary side in its phony 'progressive' demos for 'trade union' (ie pay bargaining) 'rights' for the staff of the reactionary GCHQ, but it will never demand the closure of that police-state spy outfit for betraying ANC workers in Britain to illegal BOSS fascist agents here. To close GCHQ would mean harming the Reagan-Thatcher anti-communist crusade (and that of every previous Labour Government). The anti-communist labour movement will ignore flagrant civil rights violations under its noses of non-stop police provocation and harassment of every black community in Britain, aiding the fascist work of the Nazi-racist thug groups (political 'nationalist' parties in England) in Brixton, Tottenham, Handsworth, the McGoldrick case, etc. But it will churn out the media for continuous anti-Soviet propaganda in favour of fascist reactionaries like Sakharov, Shcharansky, Ratushinskaya, Solidarnosc advisers, etc.

Far from calling for British colonialism's defeat by the Irish national-liberation struggle, Kinnock went flag waving with **the British imperialist** troops in the occupied zone in January - totally refusing to meet Sinn Fein, the undoubted leadership of the independence movement. And this Orange fascist insult to Ireland's heroic 700 year struggle for liberty from British oppression was delivered on the

very day of the scandalous revelations of British secret police bugging of the Irish Embassy in London. It is GCHQ which is doing this embassy spying as well, of course, being in charge of the Zircon project against the Soviet workers state (for revealing which Campbell and the New Statesman have been Gestapoblitzed). GCHQ is, of course, **the very agency** which spies on all strike leaders such as the wapping dispute printers. Yet thanks to their Labour/TUC 'patriotic' enslavement, many Wapping dispute victims have been forced into parading outside the Cheltenham spy centre for 'trade union rights' for the very GCHQ 'workers' whose labour helps finger them for 'special treatment' from the Special Branch.

Totally supporting the capitalist-state system as Labour and the TUC do, backing every punitive imperialist crushing of national-liberation 'terrorism' in the Middle East, Ireland, or whatever, it is not surprising that ill-informed 'public opinion' feels that if **Tory jingoism** will still dominate whoever runs the Government - then it may as well be a real fascist-militarist like Thatcher dishing out slaughter to the anti-imperialist movement abroad, and mass unemployment to the anti-capitalist movement at home. And with God having now officially joined the Manchester police force, and the exposure of Zionist-imperialism banished from the Royal Court

20 stage - the futile fascist inviting bankruptcy of the Labour 'loyal Opposition' is now complete. It is now a choice for the working class of collective mass suicide, or making a Bolshevik revolution.

(From Bulletin 397, 10.6.87.)

Illusions in the Labour Party's bogus 'reform' plans for 'municipal socialism' or 'revolution through Parliament' have long since ceased to be a major obstacle to the spread of revolutionary socialist consciousness among the proletariat in the West.

Anti-communism and national chauvinism are the crucial ingredients for keeping workers still duped by the shallow nonsense of 'freedom & democracy' propaganda in Nato (which now barely conceals the rampant monopoly-capitalist corruption of non-stop colonial-warmongering arms-race by the West.)

And in this depraved matter, the Labour Party is more loathsomely jingoistic and cretinously anti-communist than any of the petty-bourgeois hypocrites.

What must come is the total collapse in bitter confused frustration of the whole 130-year illusory history of British workers' class-collaboration with the imperialist system. This can only happen in conditions of deep suffering, profound antagonism, and colossal upheaval, - the sort of circumstances of World War 1 degeneracy which, precisely finally broke the Great-Russian masses from Russian imperialism.

There is not the slightest possibility of any smooth transition from parliamentary capitalist traditions to 'revolutionary' parliamentary activities.

For as long as the working class is naively led into approaching the electoral farce much the same way as in the past, - including the occasional chance to vote for a 'real revolutionary alternative', - then playing this bourgeois game can only cement perpetual bourgeois victory.

Failure to defeat the grotesquely dim witted and insensitive Thatcher - despite the virtual collapse of British manufacturing industry and record unemployment, will expose the hopelessness of all parliamentary illusions. A victory, and inheritance of the catastrophic economic problems piling up for capitalism, - and Labour's

practical bankruptcy and servility to Western international finance-capital will be painfully in the open as never before.

And curtains for the illusory 'reformist parliamentary socialism' nonsense will also mean curtains for all its various 'left' apologists in the 57 varieties of Trot & CP swampism.

Class conscious workers in Britain need to build up Leninist revolutionary understanding as never before. Future struggles may well include running genuine Bolshevik electoral campaigns just to expose the fraud of parliamentary 'democracy' from within as well as from without, a sound Leninist tactic.

But first and foremost in Britain (and throughout the West) must be built a literate Leninist movement. That is the real struggle facing workers. Spread the ILWP Bulletin.

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Image of Lenin with quote: "Only he is a Marxist who extends the recognition of the class struggle to the recognition of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is the touchstone on which the real understanding and recognition of Marxism is to be tested." - V. I. Lenin. ILWP ILWP Bulletin 10p weekly. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office. Postal subscriptions: (P&P : ILWP, PO Box 50, London SW16 6TR.