

# Daily Notes

Thursday 26th May 1983

No. 6

## ANOTHER WAY TO VOTE LABOUR

The Labour Party's programme is so extreme that many traditional Labour supporters may well be tempted to vote for the Alliance, especially where the candidate is a Liberal. Liberals seem so respectable. But what would such a vote achieve?

A voter who wants to elect the Conservative candidate should vote Conservative: why attempt to achieve the same effect by voting Liberal?

A voter who helps to elect the Labour candidate by voting Liberal might as well have voted Labour: calling the vote 'Liberal' is merely salving one's conscience.

Nor should any voter suppose that Labour extremism can be modified by electing the Liberal candidate. Even with the aid of their SDP comrades, the Liberals cannot reasonably hope to form the next Government. Their aim is merely to hold the 'balance of power'; and on every occasion in the past when the Liberals had this opportunity they used it to install and keep in office a Labour government—in 1924, 1929, 1974 and during the eighteen months of the Lib-Lab Pact in 1977-78.

Voting Liberal is not the way to stop Socialist tyrannies.

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**Conservative  
Research  
Department**

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### 1. LIBERALS SUPPORT LABOUR

Anyone who supposes that the Liberals are opposed to the Labour Party should inspect their voting record in House of Commons debates. Liberals have repeatedly voted with Labour. We list only the major instances:

- 1979** 22nd May—Labour amendment to Queen's Speech.  
 20th June—against repeal of Scotland Act.  
 26th June—against repeal of Wales Act.  
 16th July—against third reading Education Bill.  
 17th July—against public expenditure plans.  
 18th July—against third reading Finance Bill.  
 30th October—against abolition of Overseas Development Ministry.  
 5th November—against second reading Education (No. 2) Bill.  
 6th November—against second reading Industry Bill.  
 7th November—against cash limits on BSC.  
 12th November—against third reading Southern Rhodesia Bill.  
 28th November—condemned Government's economic policies.  
 4th December—against Immigration Rules.  
 5th December—rejecting Government Public Expenditure White Paper.

- 1980** 15th January—against second reading Housing Bill.  
 5th February—against second reading Local Government (Planning and Land Bill).  
 6th February—for an amendment to Industry Bill extending NEB's powers.  
 12th February—for an amendment to Education (No. 2) Bill requiring LEA consent for assisted places scheme.  
 7th May—against public expenditure plans.  
 8th May—against second reading Finance (No. 2) Bill.  
 21st May—against third reading Social Security (No. 2) Bill.  
 5th June—against increases in overseas students' fees.  
 11th June—against third reading Tenants' Rights (Scotland) Bill.  
 29th July—no confidence motion.  
 29th October—against regulations for Assisted Places Scheme.  
 9th December—against second reading Local Government (Scotland) Bill.
- 1981** 28th January—against second reading British Nationality Bill.  
 3rd March—opposed independent nuclear deterrent and Trident.  
 1st April—for an amendment to British Telecommunications Bill extending right to strike.  
 9th April—against Government's public expenditure white paper.
- 1982** 19th January—against second reading Oil and Gas Enterprise Bill.  
 17th March—against second reading Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill.  
 29th March—against Trident.  
 30th March—to annul Local Government (DLO) Regulations.  
 5th April—against third reading Local Government (No. 2) Bill.  
 25th May—against third reading Transport Bill.  
 10th June—debate on NHS pay dispute.  
 6th July—against Defence Estimates.  
 12th July—against Finance Bill.  
 14th July—for Labour regional and industrial aid policies.  
 16th November—against second reading Water Bill.  
 17th November—against second reading British Shipbuilders Bill.  
 24th November—against British Nationality Bill.  
 15th December—against Immigration Rules.
- 1983** 26th January—on Franks Report on the Falklands conflict.  
 1st February—against second reading Transport Bill.  
 8th March—against third reading Energy Bill.  
 23rd March—against third reading Housing and Building Control Bill.



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## 2. THE REAL REMEDY

Q. Why not use the money now being spent on unemployment benefit to create more jobs?

A. Labour's idea that any increase in public spending and borrowing could be almost immediately paid for by reductions in the cost of unemployment benefit and increased tax yield through the creation of more jobs, is economic nonsense. Admittedly, a few very short-lived jobs might be created, but this artificial boom would soon turn to bust. For it would soon be overtaken by the sort of mounting inflation which under the last Labour Government doubled the number of people out of work and which, apart from the world recession, is one of the major causes of the present tragically high rate of unemployment.

The only real way to improve job prospects is to get on top of inflation so that our goods are competitive, and to create the conditions in which industry can become profitable. This is precisely what this Government is doing.

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## 3. REJUVENATING BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL BASE

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, speaking at the Conservative election press conference on 23rd May, said:

'The micro-chip revolution will bring new opportunities and new jobs, not only in the so called "sunrise" industries but also in the older industries as they too apply the new technologies. The arrival of the microchip is the most important industrial development since the war, Britain must not miss out on it.

'We've increased our spending on the new technologies from £100 million in 1978-9 to £350 million in 1983-4. This threefold increase clearly demonstrates the priority we are giving to this key area:

- We've embarked upon the biggest civilian research effort since the war, the Alvey programme to develop the next generation of super computers for the 1990s—£200 million from Government and £150 million from industries over the next five years.
- We are providing £70 million to equip factories with the latest advanced manufacturing systems and to establish Britain as an important innovator in this field, and a further £130 million for small engineering firms to buy the latest machine tools.
- Our 'Micros in Schools' scheme has put a micro-computer into every secondary school and has now been extended to 10,000 primary schools. In Higher Education we have allocated an extra £100 million over the next three years for IT training in universities and polytechnics.

- We're setting up a national network of Information Technology Centres to train unqualified and unemployed youngsters in computing and electronic skills. Already 55 exist with 1,500 trainees, by the end of the year there'll be 150 with over 5,000 trainees.
- Over 50 companies are now designing and making microcomputers in the UK, and Sinclair is the first company in the world to sell over one and a half million of them.
- We've created new opportunities in communications, which today is our most important growth industry. We've licensed a private network, Mercury, and two radio telephone systems to operate from April 1985, and are encouraging the development of private cable systems.

'All these exciting developments will create new jobs, new jobs here in Britain.

'The Alliance do not even have a spokesman on this area and in their Manifesto they devote precisely 49 words to innovation and technology. The Labour Party say rather more, but it is a pale shadow of what we've actually done. They would shackle the development of cable TV, and restore and extend British Telecom's monopoly. Worst of all they would nationalise part of our highly successful electronics industry. Nationalisation has failed in the older industries; it would be a tragedy if it were now allowed to kill off the new.

'We're creating a technological power house in Britain to rejuvenate our industrial base and carry it into the next century. Labour would create an industrial museum.'

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## 4. A SIMPLE CONTRAST

*Theory:* 'We're absolutely opposed to the closure of a coal pit'  
(Mr Michael Foot, *Economist*, 21st May 1983)

*Practice:* During Labour's period of office from 1974-1979, more than 20 coal pits were closed.

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## 5. LABOUR'S EXTREMIST CANDIDATES

However many seats the Labour Party wins at the General Election, it seems certain that, compared with the last Parliament, a much higher proportion of its MPs will be Left-wingers. A survey carried out by *Tribune* newspaper earlier this year among Labour parliamentary candidates confirmed a continuing lurch to the Left: if Labour held the seats it won four years ago the size of the Tribune Group and other far Left groups in the parliamentary party would leap from their present 75 to



a potential 120 members. And if Labour won the 326 seats necessary for a majority in the House of Commons, 'nearly half of its elected members would be prospective members of the Tribune Group or a similar grouping to its Left' (*Tribune*, 11th February 1983).

Another survey, carried out by the Labour CND Group, showed a big increase in support for one-sided disarmament among Labour candidates. The survey revealed that 37 new candidates who sympathise with CND's unilateralism are set to replace 37 sitting MPs who do not. All the 42 candidates surveyed were opposed to the introduction of Cruise and Trident missiles and wanted American nuclear bases removed from British soil (*Labour Weekly*, 11th March 1983).

Among the potential Tribunites and unilateralists are a number of the most Left-wing candidates the party has ever fielded. At least 85 Labour parliamentary candidates, including some 40 former MPs, have recently been associated with Communist, Trotskyist or other Marxist organisations or journals.

The following quotations illustrate the extreme views of some of these Labour parliamentary candidates:

**Valerie Veness** (Hornsey): 'A Labour Government has got to take on the people who obstruct it, arresting them if necessary—arm the workers if necessary—elect the judges' (Interview with *Socialist Worker*, 15th January 1983).

**Tony Banks** (Newham NW): 'The only answer to the threat of destabilisation and possible use of armed force by the ruling-class will be the countervailing power of a working-class politically conscious and motivated by the Labour Movement to defend its own Government' (*London Labour Briefing*, February 1983).

**Stuart Bell** (Teeside, Middlesbrough): 'The Labour movement envisages abolition of the House of Lords and with it the system of hereditary peers. It should also consider abolition of the Law Lords' (*Tribune*, 5th March 1982).

**Dennis Somerville** (Fareham): 'It was Healey and Co who originated the policies now being carried out by the Tories, but the doses have been increased. We are now paying the price for Denis Healey . . .' (Letter to the *Morning Star*, 23rd March 1983).

**Rod Fitch** (Brighton, Kemptown): 'I will fight the next election on policies which relate to the crisis of capitalism and for the return of a Labour Party committed to full socialism, including the public take-over of the commanding heights of the economy, the abolition of the House of Lords, unilateral nuclear disarmament and withdrawal from the Common Market' (quoted in *The Times*, 10th December 1981). Mr Fitch is one of five supporters of the Militant Tendency adopted as Labour candidates.

**James McAllister** (Basingstoke): 'It is NATO we must get rid of, comrades; NATO is truly the cancer of Europe' (Speech to the Labour Party Conference 1980).

Such candidates win approval from some unlikely quarters. *New Worker*, the journal of the New Communist Party, which takes an openly pro-Soviet line and supported the invasion of Afghanistan and the introduction of martial law in Poland, backs Labour in the General Election. It has said that the New Communist Party's support for Labour 'is not based on temporary or tactical considerations. The interests of world peace are paramount, and the importance of electing Labour to advance that cause cannot be over-estimated. But deeper even than this is the fundamental importance of working class unity, the basis for achieving lasting peace and socialism' (*New Worker*, Election Special, 20th May 1983).

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## 6. LABOUR SCARE STORIES (1)

### The Smear

'I forecast ... an all-out assault on the social security system if Britain is to have another Thatcher Government.'

(**Mr Brynmor John**, Labour's spokesman on social security, Kendal, 22nd April 1983)

### The Record

Since 1979, the Conservative Government has:

- improved the real value of retirement pensions and widows' pensions;
- raised attendance and mobility allowances for the disabled and handicapped by more than the rise in prices;
- increased total social security expenditure on the disabled by 21 per cent in real terms.

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## 7. CONSERVATIVE POLICY FOR SCOTLAND

**The Economy.** The Conservative Government's aim over the past four years has been to protect Scotland from the ravages of the world recession, and to ensure that Scotland benefits from the recovery of the economy.

The Conservative Manifesto for Scotland reaffirms the Party's commitment to the maintenance of an effective regional policy. This has been, and will continue to be, an important means of easing the process of industrial change and of encouraging new investment and new business to Scotland. In pursuing these policies we will make certain that they are cost effective and create genuine jobs.

Conservatives will continue to support and build on the good work and experience of the Scottish Development Agency, the Highlands and Islands Development Board, Enterprise Zones and New Towns, all of



which are important in the process of industrial regeneration. We shall also consider the introduction of a 'freeport' in Scotland.

**Energy.** We shall encourage the further development of North Sea oil and will ensure that Scotland receives its fair share of the benefits. We reaffirm our commitment to the future development of the fast breeder reactor based at Dounreay, which is so important to employment in the North of Scotland.

**Rural Areas.** Our policy recognises the importance of maintaining rural communities throughout the Highlands and Islands. The Manifesto contains a commitment to increased help for highland ferries, and we will continue our major road improvement programme that is so important to the economic potential of all of Scotland's regions. We shall attempt to increase the viability of certain services in rural areas, such as Highland airports, by returning them to the private sector. Tourism is important to the whole of Scotland and rural areas in particular. We will build on the increased funds we have provided for the Scottish Tourist Board and give it powers for promotional activity outwith the UK.

**Agriculture and Fishing.** We are strongly committed to supporting agriculture in Scotland and will continue the improvements made over the last four years. We are determined that farm incomes shall recover to acceptable levels. We shall legislate to make more tenanted farms available to young people.

The fishing industry has been given greater security as a result of the EEC agreement on a common fisheries policy. The Government has already given substantial aid to help our fishermen weather a difficult period. We will secure the future for the Scottish fishing industry by way of restructuring grants and encouraging investment.

**Housing.** We shall improve the terms for tenants buying their own council houses. We will continue to encourage a high rate of housing improvement, and will extend the Tenants Charter to enable council tenants to get necessary repairs done themselves and then be reimbursed by councils. The sale of empty council housing for owner occupation will be encouraged, and we will ensure that land is made available for private building.

**Health.** We renew our commitment to the NHS, on which expenditure in Scotland has risen from £870 million in 1978 to £1,737 million this year. To release more money for looking after patients, we propose the contracting out of some hospital services such as laundry and catering where this can improve the service. Special priority will be given to 'Care in the Community', and the treatment of the elderly and the disabled.

**Education.** Much has already been done under this Government to improve standards and extend parental choice. We will press ahead with

measures to make teaching an all-graduate profession; introduce a completely new exam system for 14-16 year olds; launch a new syllabus for 14-18 year olds; and enhance the close link which now exists between education and employment. H.M. Inspectors' reports on schools will be published for the first time and we shall increase the provision of technical subjects in our further education colleges.

**Local Government Spending and Rates.** We are proposing a major package of rates reform including a fall-back power to limit rate rises; a fairer rate support grant system to ensure that general penalties on local authorities are directly related to their overspending; a right for businesses to be consulted on local authority spending plans; a comprehensive discount scheme for all ratepayers whose rates are too high in relation to income; and a closer relationship between the Scottish and English rating valuation systems.

**Constitution.** In four years we have improved the quality of Government in Scotland, by establishing a Select Committee on Scottish Affairs and increasing the role of the Scottish Grand Committee. We remain willing to consider further changes to improve the government of Scotland within the United Kingdom.

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## 8. WHERE THEY HAVE GONE

'I remain a Labour man . . . but they are now to be found in the SDP rather than the Labour Party'.

(Lord George-Brown, quoted in the *Yorkshire Post*, 23rd May 1983)

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## 9. ANIMAL WELFARE

The Conservative Manifesto states:

'We now propose to introduce legislation to update the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 which will ensure more humane treatment of laboratory animals in scientific and industrial research.'

A White Paper entitled *Scientific Procedures on Living Animals* (Cmnd. 8883), which was published on 12th May 1983, contains the Government's proposals for amending the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876. It recognises that experiments upon living animals will have to continue in the foreseeable future in order to protect man, animals and the environment, but states that animals must only be used in strictly defined circumstances where there are no reasonable alternatives.

The proposed legislation would enable the British Government to ratify the Convention of Europe on the use of animals for research purposes. In



fact, the new proposals are stricter than the Convention of Europe in a number of respects, particularly in relation to the 'pain condition', to which no exception will be permitted in this country.

The White Paper proposals are summarised below:

- (1) A new Committee would be established by statute to replace the existing non-statutory Advisory Committee on Animal Experiments. It would have wide powers to advise on questions of policy and procedure, including the development of alternatives to animals in experiments. It would also advise on applications referred to it by the Home Secretary as giving rise to special concern. It would advise on all applications for the testing of cosmetics. The Committee would make an annual report which would be presented to Parliament.
- (2) The 1876 Act only covers experiments. Animals used for procedures, such as breeding for physical defects, would be fully protected under the proposed legislation.
- (3) The proposed legislation would cover establishments which breed and supply animals to laboratories, so animals in these establishments would be fully protected. The use of stray dogs and cats would be prohibited.
- (4) Statutory protection would be given to animals at all times while they are in a laboratory and not just during an experiment, as at present. The advice of a veterinary surgeon would have to be available.
- (5) New legislation would provide for rigorous examination of every proposed project using animals in order to satisfy certain criteria. Before the use of animals was permitted, the Home Secretary would have to be satisfied, among other things, that the work was justifiable; that no satisfactory alternative to the use of animals could be found; that the minimum possible number was used; and that the least possible suffering was caused. Anaesthetics and analgesics would have to be used wherever possible.
- (6) The use of animals for instructional purposes would be permitted for a range of approved professional training, but *not* in the education of school children or others at the same level.
- (7) Surgeons seeking to acquire manual skill in microsurgery would be allowed to use animals *only* under anaesthetic and with a requirement to use analgesia wherever necessary.
- (8) The Inspectorate would be strengthened and given enhanced duties in operating the new controls over project and personal licenses, laboratories, and breeding and supplying establishments.

## 10. NO INVESTMENT, PLEASE

On 16th May, the *Daily Mail* reported that Nissan, the makers of Datsun cars, might abandon their plans to build a factory in this country if Labour wins the election. Nissan's reaction to the story was one of embarrassment at being drawn into another country's electoral disputes. After several days of confusion, their spokesman in this country, Lord Marsh, was

reported to have denied the story. But whatever the rights and wrongs of this episode, there can be little doubt that many of the proposals in Labour's programme would give considerable cause for thought to any foreign company contemplating building a plant in this country. The Labour Manifesto exudes antipathy to the private sector and to foreign companies in particular. Amongst other policies Labour propose:

- **Withdrawal from the EEC.** Membership of the EEC is one of the most important attractions we offer to foreign companies who have often built their European headquarters here with the express purpose of exporting to other EEC countries.

Many of these companies are in the 'sunrise' high-technology industries; and many have created jobs in unemployment 'blackspots'. Since 1979, inward investment has created over 60,000 jobs and our success in this field is expected to continue to create 10-15,000 jobs a year. The CBI has estimated that more than 2½ million jobs in Britain depend on our markets in the EEC; which now take nearly 50 per cent of our exports. Labour would throw these jobs away.

- **'Agreed development plans' for all companies.** These plans would have to be concluded with the Government and the unions, and would be Labour's mechanism for extending state control throughout the economy. The description of the plan as 'agreed' is something of a euphemism since Labour make it clear that companies that do not co-operate may be nationalised.
- **A special Foreign Investment Unit** to 'monitor closely the activities of multi-national companies'. Foreign companies coming to this country will be subjected to a special extra tier of restrictive bureaucracy.
- **New statutory rights for unions** on information, consultation and representation. This presumably means that companies will have to put union representatives on their boards.

This is not the sort of prospectus that is likely to attract overseas investors: there can be no doubt that companies such as Nissan will find it extremely discouraging.

Labour claim that their first priority is reducing unemployment. This is a laudable aim; it is shared by all parties. But policies such as those Labour propose will not achieve the aim; by deterring investors they will increase unemployment.

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## 11. LIBERALLY DEFENDED

'It has long been the Liberal Party's policy to oppose the whole concept of the independent nuclear deterrent' (Mr Stephen Ross, M.P., *Hansard*, 6th July 1982, Col. 208).

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## 12. LABOUR SCARE STORIES (2)

### Labour's smear:

'Unemployment will rocket to a quarter of the workforce if the Tories gain another five years of office.'

(Mr Neil Kinnock, *Morning Star*, 11th May 1983)

### Labour's record:

1923-24	+51,400 unemployed
1929-31	+1,627,000 unemployed
1945-51	+130,500 unemployed
1964-70	+230,900 unemployed
1974-79	+728,400 unemployed

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## 13. NORTH SEA GAS

The first commercial discovery of gas on the UK Continental Shelf was made in 1965, in the Southern Basin of the North Sea. In this area, the water is relatively shallow, and the climate relatively accommodating. Gas is also found in the deeper, more stormy water further north, where it is produced in association with oil. Natural gas from the UK Continental Shelf now meets 75 per cent of UK annual consumption.

**Under Labour**, private sector interest in exploring for new gas in the Southern Basin practically disappeared. The factors which reduced incentive to search for oil applied also to gas. They were compounded by the low prices offered to the private sector producers by the British Gas Corporation. Indeed, because the BGC was the only potential customer, the producers could not be sure of finding any market at all for their gas.

**Conservative Record, 1979-83.** The Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act 1982 opened the way for gas from North Sea fields to be supplied directly to industrial consumers. It also put the national gas grid at the producers' disposal, as a common carrier. Faced with this potential competition, the Corporation has responded by offering much more reasonable prices for its supplies. This in turn has stimulated fresh interest in exploring for gas:

- In 1982, 17 new exploration and appraisal wells were drilled—almost as many as in the previous eight years put together.
- In the eighth round of licenses, 24 awards were made for blocks in the Southern Basin.

These developments bode well for access in the future to indigenous natural gas.

## 14. LABOUR SPLIT ON INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

On 19th May, the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) published an extremely interesting survey. 500 Members of the last Parliament were sent a questionnaire. The results showed that Labour MPs were seriously and surprisingly divided in their attitudes to independent education.

Labour's Manifesto is quite clear on the issue. It states that 'private schools are a major obstacle to a free and fair education system', and promises to 'withdraw charitable status . . . charge VAT on the fees . . . phase out fee charging . . . and integrate private schools within the local authority sector . . .' (p.21). But some Labour MPs do not appear to have been aware of this clarity: one—from Humberside—told ISIS explicitly that:

'I am not in favour of abolition and that isn't what the Labour Party is proposing.'

Nor was this reply exceptional. 46 Labour Members opposed abolition of the independent schools; and 21 of these—including Mr Ian Mikardo, a prominent Left-winger—were positively in favour of independent education. One Labour MP from Dyfed said:

'I would not abolish independent schools, for I firmly believe that parents must be given freedom to use their financial resources as they see fit, for it is after all their money.'

Similarly laudable sentiments were expressed by a Labour MP from Glamorgan:

'I believe that as far as is practicable, parents should have freedom of choice as to where their children should be educated. This is in accord with my understanding of the European Declaration of Human Rights.'

The divergence between the established policy of the Labour Party and the stated views of many of its parliamentary representatives is interesting not merely in itself, but also as a foretaste of the future. As Labour move steadily leftwards, they will leave behind more and more of their traditional adherents.

## 15. FRANCE: SOCIALIST BLUEPRINT FOR ECONOMIC RUIN

In 1981, François Mitterrand arrived at the Elysée Palace promising the French people that the answer to their economic ills lay in reflation and Socialism. The pillars of his policy were increased social spending, redistribution of wealth, minimum wage regulation and nationalisation. All these policies ran counter to the Giscard/Barre economic strategy, which was beginning to make French industry more efficient when M. Mitterrand took over.

At first, the Socialist policies had little effect on either unemployment or inflation. but higher public spending caused an increase in the budget



deficit, a rising tax burden and a dramatic worsening of an already serious balance of payments imbalance. The Government attempted to correct the situation by 'realigning' the currency within the EMS, i.e., by devaluing the franc. High interest rates were also introduced, but they failed to gain support for the franc. In addition to the devaluations, the Central Bank in France borrowed, both on the international market and directly from Saudi Arabia, a total of \$6 billion in order to protect the dwindling gold reserves that General de Gaulle had so assiduously built up in the 1960s. There is a striking similarity with the operations of the last Labour Government which finally led to a loan from the IMF.

M. Mitterrand's public spending increases proved disastrous. Jobs were 'manufactured' but these were paid for by workers in the private sector, who were laid off following an increase in company taxes, employer pension contributions and the higher interest rates produced by the budget deficit. Meanwhile, minimum wage legislation (which the British Labour Party favours), rendered French companies unable to pay for their workforces.

The Socialists also began to nationalise most of the country's banks and insurance companies, to increase the Government's stake in PSA (Peugeot), and to take-over St Gobain (a technology group), Thomson-Brandt (an electronics and electrical firm), Rhone-Poulenc (chemicals) and Dassault (aerospace). In the process of taking over large sections of French industry, the Government inherited some loss-making giants, and introduced all the short comings of bureaucratic inefficiency so familiar under Labour governments in Britain.

Perhaps the biggest problem facing France has been its deteriorating balance of payments. In 1982, there was a deficit of £7 billion, which would have been worse but for a £2.3 billion surplus in invisible earnings. In October of that year, steps were taken directly to control import growth. It was decreed, for example, that all goods sold in French shops should bear a 'country-of-origin' sticker, and that all import documentation should be in French. This created lengthy queues at ports, airports and border crossing points while forms were translated. It was decided that all Japanese electronic and electrical goods had to pass through Poitiers, where there are only three customs officers.

The much-vaunted social welfare policy of the Socialists has also suffered. Social security claimants face stiff tests before receiving any money; and payments are frozen if employers are unable to pay any more money into the social security fund. Hospitals have not escaped either. There are now charges for food and other non-medical services.

Earlier this year, further action had to be taken to prop up the economy. The new 'austerity measures' (which are viewed with scepticism by both unions and management), include strict limits on the amount of money that can be taken abroad by each adult tourist in a given year. Electricity, gas, telephone and rail fares all went up by 8 per cent on 1st April. In May, a compulsory savings scheme was introduced under which nearly all taxpayers will have to subscribe 10 per cent of the income tax and wealth tax they paid last year into a compulsory state loan.

This history of economic failure and increasing state interference poses an interesting question for the Labour Party and for the electorate in this country: is there any reason to suppose that British socialism will work better than the French variety?

## 16. LABOUR FOREIGN POLICY: UNBALANCED AND DANGEROUS

**Support for Terrorism.** Labour's Manifesto promises 'financial and material assistance to the liberation movements in South Africa and SWAPO of Namibia.'

This is a euphemism for giving support to terrorist organisations, which are increasingly responsible for the massacre of civilians—both black and white.

The poignancy of Labour's statement has been increased by the bomb attack in Pretoria on Friday, 20th May, in which 17 people died. Clearly, the Labour Party has a blindspot when it comes to murder. The people who died were not combatants. They were civilians.

Violence is contagious. Political violence once accepted can spill over into other areas. Indeed, at the Young Socialist Conference in April this year, **Mr Richard Emmet**, referring to Northern Ireland, said:

'Every bullet in a British soldier is another nail in the coffin of British imperialism. The struggle against imperialism must go on.'

**Unbalanced Approach.** Equally remarkable is Labour's selective approach to human rights. Their Manifesto has a full half-column on human rights and contains many references to totalitarian regimes in Latin America, Turkey etc. But the reader looks in vain for any reference to the repression of human rights in Russia. Labour's silence on the human rights of Russian citizens is deafening.

These attributes are not surprising, given Labour's lurch into Left-wing extremism. After all, it was **Mr Neil Kinnock** who wrote:

'I must emphasise that there is nothing in the Labour Party constitution that could or should prevent people from holding views which favour Leninist-Trotskyism or just about anything else' (*Broad Left Alliance Journal*, October 1982).



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