

NOTE

COMMUNIST FEMINISTS

Sally Davison writes: Recently feminists in the Communist Party met for a national conference in Birmingham. We all felt this was timely: there is currently a backlash against feminism, in the world at large and on the Left.

Feminists need to launch a new offensive, so that feminist politics influence all areas of politics — we don't want to be an undigested lump in the Left, the 'women and (any demand from the shopping list) syndrome'. This offensive is not simply negative. Feminist politics have made an important contribution to the Left in the last ten years. We want to carry on making this contribution. In particular, all felt that the alternative economic strategy needs radical revision, taking people's working lives as its starting point.

As far as the Communist Party was concerned, we put forward various proposals geared towards educating both the membership and the Executive Committee about feminism, and called for greater priority to be given to *Link*, the CP women's journal (available from St John St.). *Marxism Today* also needs much greater participation by women. We are working on this, but would appreciate suggestions from women to help us.

RADICAL NURSES

Jane McNamara writes: The Radical Nurses Group is holding its next National Conference in Sheffield at the Park Health Centre, Duke Street (at the corner of Rhodes Street), Sheffield 2, from Saturday 15 May to Sunday 16 May. The main discussion will be on Nursing Training. All nurses are welcome. More details from 218 Heavygate Rd, Sheffield 10.

LEYLAND VEHICLES: THE WORKERS' ALTERNATIVE

Mick Paddon writes: The Leyland Vehicles

Joint Works Committee and the Manchester Engineering Group have just published a report which formed the basis for the union alternatives to the management's proposals for redundancies and further cuts, which generated the recent four weeks strike. Although the strike has ended, largely because of the extreme threats of total closure by the management, the Joint Works Committee still intends to oppose the Leyland Vehicles Corporate Plan and to fight for the alternatives. In the light of our experiences we intend to produce a number of articles relating to various aspects of the fight against redundancies and the alternative plans, since we believe that there are important issues for the whole of the labour movement which require public discussion.

The report covers the history of mismanagement at Leyland, the crisis in the international truck industry, Tory economic policies and Leyland Vehicles and the trade union alternatives. It costs £1.25 including post and packing and is available from: Manchester Engineering Group, Salford Central Mission, The Broadway, Salford 5.

MARXISM TODAY IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Doris Deering writes: Inspired by recent issues of *Marxism Today*, the Hemel Hempstead branch of the Communist Party has organised a series of six lecture/discussion evenings this spring, held at fortnightly intervals around themes contained in the journal.

Our aims have been twofold: to make the series a focus for discussion on short and long-term strategies for local Communist Party members and others on the Left, and to generate interest in *Marxism Today*. Lectures have been of the highest quality, and the discussion positive and constructive. Attendances have been quite good, with about two dozen people on each occasion, comprising both local Communists and

people known personally by members, and other local activists.

I have no doubt that these lectures and the discussions are producing greater clarity in our political work. Many on the Left will agree with the importance which both Dave Priscott and Robin Blackburn have attached to the raising of a socialist political consciousness within the labour movement. I would suggest to other branches that they could do no better in *initiating* this process than to organise a similar series of lectures in their locality.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

John Wakefield is a journalist with inside knowledge of *The Times*.

Harold Wolpe teaches at Essex University.

Peter Vincent-Jones is at the Centre for Criminological and Socio-Legal Studies, Sheffield University.

Keith Dixon works at Grenoble University and is a member of the PCF.

Daniel Perraud is a research worker at Grenoble University and a member of the PCF.

Michael Pentz is Vice Chairperson of CND.

Bob Rowthorn is author of *Capitalism, Conflict and Inflation* and a member of the *Marxism Today* Editorial Board.

Frankie **Rickford** is a *Morning Star* reporter.

Sheila Hancock is an actress.

Sue Beardon is a teacher.

Cathy Itzin is the author of *Alone*, a play written jointly with Ann Mitchell.

Mandy Rose is a film technician with 4-Corner Films.

Sue Steward is a freelance writer and co-editor of *Collusion* magazine.

David Edgar is a playwright.

Elizabeth Wilson is the author of *Mirror Writing*.

Chantal **Mouffe** teaches at City University, London.

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