

NOTE

POVERTY OF POLITICS: WHAT FUTURE FOR THE POOR?

Alan Booth writes: Child Poverty Action Group with the support of over twenty voluntary organisations and trade unions has called a major conference on the poor and the future of the welfare state. Nearly forty years after the setting-up of Britain's post war welfare state poverty continues to grow unabated. 1983 opened with an all-time high of 6.5 million on supplementary benefit, millions more living on similar or even lower incomes, soaring unemployment, and major cutbacks planned in the welfare state. This is the background against which Child Poverty Action Group's conference takes place in London on Saturday 16th April.

Speakers include Peter Shore, Rodney Bickerstaffe, Anna Coote, David Blunkett and Peter Townsend. For more information contact Child Poverty Action Group, 1 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NH.

FURTHER MARX CENTENARY EVENTS

Gabrielk Black writes: From 7 March - 9 April there will be a Karl Marx Centenary exhibition at Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square. The exhibition was opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and as well as the more usual exhibits, there is a special section focusing on Marx's connections with Manchester, which came about through his association with Engels. Opening times are 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

Both the lectures and the exhibition on the Marxist tradition in Britain continue at Marx House. On March 31 A L Morton will be speaking on the 1930s, on April 14 Phil Piratin on the 1940s, and on April 28 Eddie Frow on the 1950s. The lectures take place at 7.30 and there is a small admission fee. For more information contact the Librarian, Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1 tel 01-253 1485.

There is a commemorative event in Bristol on May 14, intended to be a celebration of Marx and a reinvigoration for the struggle ahead. The event is being sponsored by local councillors, a local Labour Party constituency, Bristol Tribune group, Bristol Communist Party, academics from the university, *Marxism Today*, Tony Benn and some local unions. There are also plans for an exhibition of national and local labour movement history. The event will consist of theatre, films, music and an afternoon debate. Speakers include Jack Adams and Tony Benn. Any donations towards making the events successful would be very welcome, payable to Marx Centenary Celebration, 10 Lawford Street, Bristol BS2 0DH.

LATIN AMERICA BUREAU

John Kelly writes: In our January issue we published an article by Duncan Macintosh about the recent Brazilian elections. The accompanying map was taken from the LAB publication *Brazil: State and Struggle*. We apologise for not crediting the map, and would like to take the opportunity to mention the very valuable work of the Latin America Bureau, who publish an excellent *Special Brief* series covering development issues, human rights and the political struggle in Latin America. *Brazil: State and Struggle* is one in this series, and is available from LAB for £2.50 plus 50p p&p. More information from LAB, 1 Am well Street, London EC1.

DANGER — RADIATION KILLS

Tony Ellis writes: The growing unease felt by many people over the dangers and hazards of nuclear power make this recently published booklet by the WEA essential reading for all those concerned for our future destiny. *Danger: Radiation kills* by John Grayson, exposes the hazards to workers of the production, storage and distribution of nuclear energy in the short and long term. The booklet's coverage is wider than the nuclear power industry. It identifies those industries and processes where radiation is present. It spells out the dangers and suggests how best they can be combatted by trade unionists. Radiation is not just an issue for workers in the nuclear industry. A wide range of workers are at risk. This booklet will start to help them penetrate the wall of secrecy and disinformation built around the issue of radiation at work. *Danger: Radiation kills* is available price 80p, from the Workers Educational Association, 9 Upper Berkeley Street, London W1.

UNEMPLOYMENT SEMINAR

Alex Gordon writes: The issue of unemployment is the number one concern for voters as shown in the opinion polls. In what is likely to be an election year it is important that the nature of Tory policy on this issue is highlighted and the alternative policies for full employment further developed. The Communist Party Economic Committee is holding its annual seminar on the topic this year. Under discussion will be policy proposals and suggestions for practical action within the labour movement. The seminar takes place on May 7-8 at Beechwood College in Leeds. The cost for the weekend is £40 residential, and £8 non residential. For further information write to the Secretary, CP Economic Committee, 16 St John Street, London EC1.

THATCHERISM IN MANCHESTER

Ralph Simons writes: A series jointly sponsored by *Marxism Today* and the North West CP started with a really successful meeting in January when Bea Campbell and Stuart Hall opened a discussion on 'the Left in the 1980s'. Subsequent meetings on 'What's happening to the welfare state' and 'A strategy for Disarmament' also brought a good attendance and excellent discussion. The next meeting in the series is on *Trade Unions: problems and prospects*, with Pete Coughlin, Mick Coyne, Tony Lane and Vicki Rosin on April 27 at Manchester Polytechnic Students Union, Sidney Buildings, 99 Oxford Road, Manchester 13, at 7.30. The series has brought together a wide range of people and is proving a useful meeting point for those who are looking for a way through and beyond Thatcherism.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Jonny Akinyemi is a journalist who writes on African affairs.

Mark Page works in local government and is Islington borough secretary of the Communist Party.

Pete Vincent-Jones teaches law at Sheffield University.

Jon Bloomfield is a member of the CND National Council and the Communist Party peace advisory committee.

Uri Avneri is the editor of *Haolam Hazeh*. Avishai Ehrlich is one of the editors of *Khamsin*, a Marxist journal on Middle Eastern affairs.

Doreen Massey is a director of the Greater London Enterprise Board and is professor of geography at the Open University.

Hugo Levie is a research officer at Ruskin College and co-editor of *Privatisation?* Hannah Kanter and Jennifer Peck are members of the London Rape Crisis Centre and helped draft its submission to the CLRC.

Wyn Knowles is the editor of *Woman's Hour*.

Sue MacGregor is the presenter of *Woman's Hour*.

Frankie Rickford works for NALGO.

Mary Harron is a freelance journalist.

Anthony Arblaster teaches politics at Sheffield University.

Roy Lockett is the deputy general secretary of ACTT and a member of the *New Socialist* editorial advisory panel.

Bob Jessop is the author of *The Capitalist State*.