

# STOP PRESS

NUMBER 3

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1988

## GIVE NHS PRIORITY

Chancellor told to set aside £750 million for NHS

Nearly £7 billion should be injected into the economy to achieve a minimum growth rate and to save the health service the Government has been told. In its submission to the Chancellor on the 1988 Budget the TUC called for urgent action to reduce the divisions in society by increasing social benefits, boosting urban and regional policies and supporting local economic initiatives backed up with suitable investment in local infrastructure to tackle unemployment.

At the heart of the TUC's budget package is a lifeline to the NHS. The TUC asked Mr Lawson to set aside £750 million to reverse the long term under-funding of the NHS which is causing so much damage to the quality of public health care.

£340 million of this sum should be earmarked for bolstering ancillary services in hospitals; £150 million must afford full protection for NHS workers against pay and price rises; abolition of enforced "efficiency" savings would cost another £150 million; and £110 million would go towards much needed maintenance work.

Despite this even now the Tories are preparing to give more tax cuts to the rich than the amount identified by the TUC as needed by the NHS. They are set on giving away tax cuts and to hell with a poor NHS and lousy nurses pay.

Other key points in the TUC's message to the Chancellor were:

■ An immediate increase in regional industrial aid - cost £300 million.

■ More money for local authorities for use in the inner cities - £300 million.

■ Greater resources for improvement to the local infrastructure plus support for local economic initiatives - £250 million.

■ Old age pensions should be increased by £8.75 for a couple and £5.90 for a single person - £2,600 million.

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## MAY DAY '88

Derby's 1988 May Day celebrations will be held on the 30th April. The March, held each year to celebrate the long tradition of trade unionism in the city, will start from Osnabruck Sq, progress through the city centre and terminate at the Silk Mill Gates. Main speakers for the day will be Jack Jones, Transport and General Workers Union Retired Members Secretary and John Smith MP Labour's spokesperson on the economy. To mark the 40th birthday of the NHS, and to highlight the governments continued attacks on it, the march will be led by a contingent of nurses from various hospitals in the city. The main theme of this years event will be the problems facing the NHS and 40 years of National Insurance both hard won socialist ideals which are coming under impossible pressure from a Tory Government committed to lining the pockets of their friends in big business. Look out for fuller details nearer the date.

## News-sheet of Derby Area Trades Union Council

### BREL - THE KNOCK ON EFFECT

A report produced by Derbyshire County Council on the social and economic implications of the proposed job losses at BREL confirms the worst fears of local trade unionists. It estimates that the 1420 redundancies announced by BREL in September 1987 for its two main works in Derby would result in a further 45 jobs disappearing from local suppliers of raw material components and services. It also points out that other studies have shown that redundancies on this scale are likely to result in the loss of a further 198 jobs among service firms, especially those in retailing.

Overall, this means that even after the possibilities of alternative employment and early retirement are taken into account, it is likely that almost 1000 of the proposed redundant workers would become unemployed. Furthermore due to the heavy loss of manufacturing jobs in Derby during the last 5 years and the relatively high level of unemployment in this sector of the local economy, those redundant workers who find work would do so at the expense of other unemployed workers. This can only worsen the problems of long term unemployment in Derby, particularly in the inner city.

Statistics like these make depressing reading and emphasise the need

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### IS YOUR BRANCH AFFILIATED TO YOUR LOCAL TRADES COUNCIL?

If you are not sure — THEN ASK  
If you would like more information — THEN ASK  
If you would like a speaker to come to your branch — THEN ASK.

- ☐ We would like to affiliate  
☐ We would like to know whether we are already  
☐ We would like more information  
☐ We would like a speaker to visit our branch

Union

Branch

Name/Address of Branch Secretary

Telephone

Return this slip to S J Godward Secretary Derby Area Trades Union Council, 45 Alder Walk, Derby.



# IN BRIEF

## WHO'S KIDDING WHO?

In November the number of unemployed fell by 65,800 to 2,685,583 or 9.7% of the working population. This official number excludes about 397,800 people who would have been counted before November 1982 when the Government changed the way of counting the unemployed. On the old basis there would be 3,051,400 or 11.2% unemployed.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Derby Area Trades Union Council meetings for 1988 will be held on:

9th March; 13th April; 11th May; 8th June; 13th July; 10th August; 14th September; 12th October; 9th November; 14th December.



Tuesday, April 12. 7.00 p.m.

The Metro Cinema, Green Lane, Derby (housed in Derbyshire College of Higher Education)

**MAKING NEWS** A film by the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom focusing on the media representation of trade unionism and industrial action.

plus

**WORKERS FILMS OF THE THIRTIES** Footage from the archives compiled in chronological order with contemporary music.

plus

**NORTHERN NEWSREEL** Selections from a video production unit which has developed a successful format, style, and content for a magazine videotape outside of mainstream broadcasting. Each half hour bulletin highlights issues of interest to the Labour Movement.

Tickets £1.10

Saturday, April 16 and Sunday April 17

Derby Community Arts Centre, Woods Lane, Derby

**BANNER WORKSHOPS**

Learn how to make a banner for your Union Branch or Community Group at these Banner Workshops.

Tuesday, April 19. 7.00 p.m.

The Metro Cinema, Green Lane, Derby (housed in Derbyshire College of Higher Education)

**SIMON NGUBANE STILL ON STRIKE** Documentarist Melanie Chit's film charts the dispute between the British Tyre & Rubber Company and its black employees, and more broadly, the growth of black trade unions and their problems under apartheid.

plus

**ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID** A response to Channel 4's Union World item on Unions & Apartheid using music and performance to contest assumptions about the inability of ordinary trade unionists to challenge apartheid.

Tickets £1.10

April 21-30 and May 23-28: Monday to Thursday

7.30 p.m. Friday and Saturday 8.00 p.m.

Derby Playhouse, Eagle Centre, Derby

**HOW JANE SPENDALL BECAME A COOPERATOR** by Julie Wilkinson

Sponsored by Central Midlands Co-op. A specially commissioned play telling in an interesting and entertaining way the story of the Derby Cooperative Movement from its humble beginnings in 1849 to the present day.

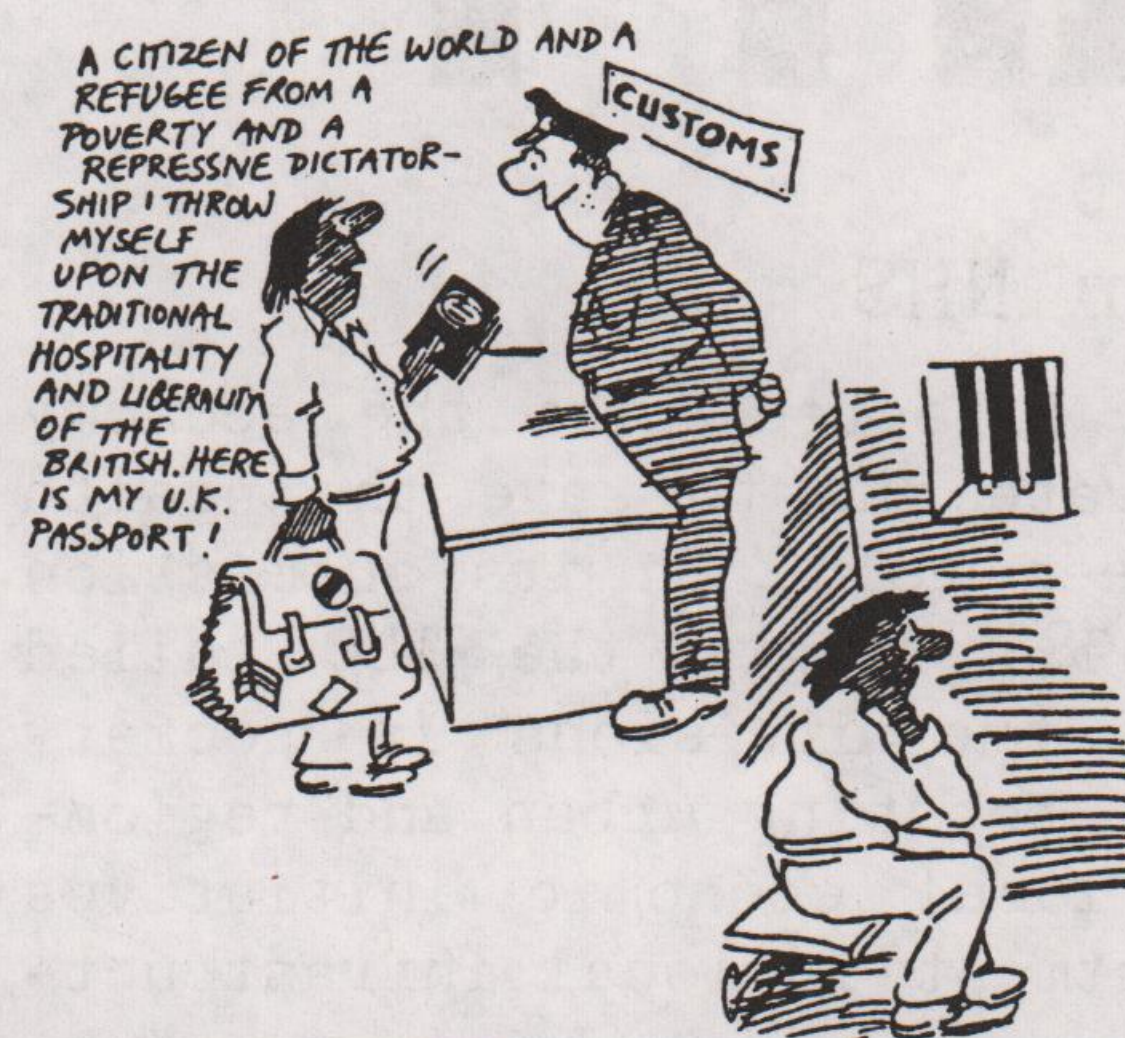
Admission £2.50 (concessions £2.00 Monday - Thursday)

(The Derby Playhouse is situated in the centre of Derby and disabled access is possible - please ask for details when booking in advance and help will be provided.)

# TIME FOR ACTION

call for reform on Refugee laws.

Ahmed Ghavami was General Secretary of an Iranian trade union. Involvement in a strike led to arrest and imprisonment for him and his 14 year old son. Both were badly tortured in prison. When they were released, Ahmed and his family suffered continual harassment from Revolutionary Guards. He went into hiding and later escaped to the UK where he was granted political asylum in 1984.



Refugees from persecution arriving in the UK now may not be so lucky. In March 1987 the Government introduced legislation making it more difficult for such people to reach the UK and for them to obtain asylum once here. Amnesty International fears that refugees are now being returned to countries where they face persecution, torture or even death because of this change of policy. If Ahmed had arrived in Britain today he could have been sent back to Iran without his case for asylum being heard.

To prevent this Amnesty is demanding a major review of Home Office procedures for dealing with asylum applications and is proposing a Code of Practice which should be followed. For details on how to help Amnesty's campaign please contact David Abberley at 145 Boulton Lane, Alvaston, Derby.

## NHS (contd from P1)

■ Child benefit should be put up by £2.50 a week and the single parent family allowance by £2 a week - £2,000 million.

The TUC's budget package would provide a much needed boost to the economy at a time when there is a serious risk of recession, with unemployment failing to fall further and perhaps rising, the balance of payments deeper in the red, high interest rates and uncompetitive exchange rates.

## STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS IS THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE DERBY AREA TRADES UNION COUNCIL. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR FEATURES OR ARTICLES THEN WRITE TO US C/O 1 CHURCH STREET BONSALL DERBYSHIRE.

The views expressed in STOPPRESS are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee or the Council unless otherwise stated.

## MAY DAY SOCIAL

The Social this year will be held as usual in the CO-OP Albion Suite, Exchange Street on Monday 2nd May. The programme for the evenings entertainment is still being finalised so look out for details in leaflets and posters nearer the day. Tickets - free to all trade unionists - can be obtained from your Branch Secretary, delegate to the DATUC or from Secretary S J Godward.

The May Day celebrations do not of course, come free. They have to be paid for. Unfortunately over the years fewer and fewer branches make donations towards the sponsorship of the events. DATUC is indebted to those branches who have contributed in the past but would ask those many branches in the city who have never yet done so to seriously think about a modest donation - £25 would be enough from each branch!

## BREL contd.

for the labour movement to unite against BREL's decision. All trade unionists in the city must actively support the rail unions in their fight.

## Copy deadline

Copy date for the next issue is the 11th March 1988.

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