"The Militant is a paper not a party" Ha..Ha.. pull the other one! "Militant" is the weekly paper of the Militant Tendancy in the Labour Party. It is a supporters group not a party... officially.. but any ex-'Milie' will tell you that 'Militant' is really a hardline Trotskyist party.

Militant has around 5000 mambers, maybe more, with, like the CPGB had, a sizeable passive support. Its strong holds are on Merseyside and in the white collar union the CPSA, working as the 'Broad Left' (without the '84 !)

They joined the Labour Party, as a tiny sect, back in the mid 1960's, using an argument of both Lenin and Trotsky that, as the Labour Party is the party of the working class (though not revolutionary) revolutionaries should join the Labour Party, as a short term infiltration to capture the best members. 25 years seems a pretty

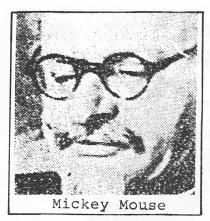
> we demand...the TUC... organise the...general ..ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ



long short term though.

Militant see the main issue today as the leadership of the working class. They (quietly dropping the short term infiltration bit) argue that if they took over the Labour Party they could lead the workers to Socialism. Patronising they are! This 'leadership' fetishism is based on Trotsky... "The world political situation is characterised by a historical crisis of the leadership of the proletariat". Militant don't seem to care that this ws written and based on events 40 years ago !

Militant call continually for a '35 hour week' and 'nationalise the top 200 companies'. Trotsky again! This time based on his 'Transitional Programme' where he argued that Marxists must demand what 'decadent' capitalism can't give to show that Socialism is the



Militant messed up in Liverpool in 1984, though they claimed victory! The council dominated by 'Workers Councillors' (Militant jargon) over spent its budget by millions. In a battle with the Government for more money they badly lost credibility as they eventually borrowed million, at high interest, off Swiss banks (!!!) after threatening to sack their entire workforce! 'Marxists' (Militant jargon for themselves) in action !

Other Leninists eg. SWP say a revolutionary can't be a boss. Too true! Either Militant have been taken over by Labour Party reformist ideas (which they strenuously deny) or they are iust the worst sort authoritarian state Socialists.

Militants are overwhelmingly working class and have a large 'vouth' periphery. Militant members are often wildly sectarian - aggressive to those who disagree with them, but many of the younger and not fully

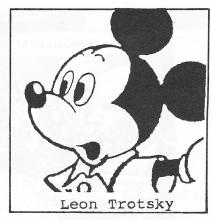
converted are fine.

SWP

The Socialist Workers Party with its paper 'Socialist started up as the International Socialists (I.S.) in the early 1960's. Its 'guru' Tony Cliff, had previously worked with the WRP's ex-guru Gerry Healy Militant's Ted Grant.



Tony Cliff



The I.S. was originally not strictly Leninist or Trotskyist and even had some Libertarian leanings!. Tony Cliff, however, saw in the failure of the events in France in 1968 the neccessity of the 'revolutionary party' - back to Lenin. the I.S's politics were accordingly changed.

In the industrial unrest of the early 1970's the 95% student I.S. performed a 'turn to the class' (as they called it) i.e a massive emphasis on selling before factories at 6.0 am lectures. I.S. did in fact recruit hundreds of workers and peaked around 1974 when they sold 50,000 papers in election week (compared to 15-20,000 now).

Predicting, wrongly, massive industrial unrest in the mid-to late '70's, the I.S. in a thoroughly undemocratic manner - no prior consultation or conference vote, was transformed into a 'party' -SWP. The unrest never happenned, but the Anti-Nazi League and Rock against Racism, inspired by the SWP, saved their bacon. This little lot was massively successfull in helping to defeat Fascism culturally and on the streets, which brought the SWP much credit and supporters.

Today the SWP has maybe 4,000 members. They have swung sharply away from their haydays and are now obsessed by 'the downturn' (what they call the minute level of industrial struggle compared to the 70's). Internal education and entrenchment have become a fetish while they wait quietly for 'the upturn'.

The SWP is mostly middle-class, lots of teachers, social workers and students.

The middle class dominance and political disagreements over what the SWP line on N.Ireland should be, led the group which became Red Action, to spilt from the SWP. A working class group of people, a brave record of anti-Fascist 'activity', they argue that the SWP (and in practice all 'revolutionary parties') have been taken over and are run by middle