THE COOKIE crumbled even before the Labour manifesto was out! With the refusal of the National Westminster Bank to extend Flea Ferranti’s £9 million short-term debt, the giant electronics firm simply ran out of cash.

"But while the manifesto has fine-sounding things to say about "public ownership" and "redundancy," when the crunch came, it was the same old story. Labour stated that it would take action after consultation... under the 1979 Industry Act. An act approved and passed by the Tories! With that Labour passed its own judgment on its own manifesto and its own promise.

The Industry Act 1972 allows the government to encourage investment and promote employment, particularly in "the regions" and the older industrial areas. Basically it is a way of pumping more money into the employers’ pockets.

Now the Labour Party manifesto is most emphatic that Labour would expropriate redundant Ferranti. Ferranti, that should nationalise the busi ness, expropriate the workforce, should cease production of the company’s major line that is missiles and military equipment. It should provide work or full pay to the 16,000 work force.

Bailing out

A radically run electrical industry could certainly find useful employment for all of them.

There’s no point going about demanding "health order books," as Bob Wright of the AUEW Executive does, that means nothing. It is a recipe for more Government expenditure on bailouts of private businesses, and more spending on weaponry.

Wright should be demanding "work or full pay" for his members. But although he is well acquainted with the Labour Party, he knows they won’t buy that. Although it is in the manifesto, "Redundant workers," the document says, "must have an automatic right to retraining, with redundancy leading not to unemployment, but to retraining and job changing." And,

Trade Union representatives outside the DTI for talks to save the jobs at Ferranti.

A couple of years ago, just before the Labour government came into power, there were job losses at Ferranti. The union negotiated redundancies, but when the Labour government took over, they were given a new job. The Ferranti case is not isolated, and it will be repeated in both large and small units of industry up and down the country. For instance, Thorn TV has just announced a planned cut in their workforce of 500.

As the banks tighten their lending systems more and more are bound to go bust — and that in turn will squeeze the smaller firms, putting the bigger ones for payment of bills and other debts. The result is likely to be a flood of jobs and redundancies.

So long as Labour limits itself to public phrases and no more, so long as it sees the "solution" in terms of making industry more productive, more competitive, and more profitable, it will find its time running out and its policies losing touch with the reality of the situation.

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It was the boycotts, overtime bans, and strikes which made nurses a special case — not the articles praising their dedication and bemoaning their low pay.

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NURSES: militancy pays off

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Liverpool

The nurses’ pay award already has ancillary workers looking for a winner. And large even large pay increases will not solve the problems of the NHS, which is desperately striving to stretch its resources.

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Rise of the ancillary workers

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MAYHEM.

4,000 Night shift staff at Runnymede earn 4½ a week more than day work, and are getting higher wages. The Workers’ Weekly body stamping plants have been workers in action.
Since 1972 all sorts of fascist groups have come to the surface. The National Front is the biggest of these, but there are plenty of others. Through the rise of the English People's Alliance and the increase in the number of such groups, the capitalist press, racism, has become a "respectable" type of politics. Thus the fascist organisations themselves are able to pose, in a way they haven't been able to do since the 1930s, as respectable and acceptable in an electoral image.

Naturally and correctly, the left in the labour movement has not taken all this lying down. Most sections of the revolutionary left have, absolutely correctly, adopted a policy of "never letting the NF go unchallenged". Singlet meeting or march that could be taped for television, the deadly enemy of the working movement, are the targets. Muslins and blacks have all been targeted. And we would be right to assume that today's enemies of the working class are protected and supported by the British ruling class.

The growing anti-racist and anti-fascist movement has not been without impact on the minds of the English working class. The fact that the English working class is conscious of the crisis in its life is a necessary condition of the revolutionary movement.

MILOMILITARY

The main excuse that was used, by the leaders of the working class, was that the NF was "losing out" in the class struggle. They pointed to their own "success" and the "failure" of the National Front. Today we have a "triumph" of democracy and against fascism. Of course, when we have a "triumph" of democracy and against fascism, we have a "triumph" of the National Front against anti-fascism! The NF has killed itself.

The most obvious way to stop this would be to call a mass meeting of the working class to discuss the issue. The meeting should be organised by the Labour Party, and the National Front should be invited to attend.

The meeting should discuss the following points:

1. What is the National Front, and what are its aims?
2. What are the links between the National Front and the Labour Party?
3. What are the links between the National Front and the British ruling class?
4. What are the links between the National Front and the fascist organisations?
5. What are the links between the National Front and the racist and anti-Semitic organisations?
6. What are the links between the National Front and the right-wing press?
7. What are the links between the National Front and the racist and anti-Semitic politicians?
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would say that in the coming election, Irish workers should reject the Labour Party and use the campaign to strengthen and represent the Irish Republican politics in the Irish community in Britain. The best way that the British Left could help in this is by supporting the IRP candidates. This will cut out the sheep from the other side of the fence of the R.A.

It is absolutely true that the differences between the Tories and the Labour Party are very small, that both the whole British working class and the British pigs, that the Labour Party leaders, have time after time have abandoned the appeal of the British capitalist class in suppressing the Irish people. It is not surprising that they are now sitting at the same table, that reality but to change it. How can this change be by turning your face to the door against the millions of workers who vote for the Labour Party, but for the British capitalist class in suppressing the Irish people. But the fact is that the Labour Party leaders have abandoned the appeal of the British government in suppressing the Irish people.

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