

# 'Stalinist tactics of Labour extremists'

It is now several months since Mr Benn rejected the advice many of his friends had given him and chose the middle of the local elections to plunge the Labour Party into his campaign for the deputy leadership.

During that period, I have set out my views on all the relevant issues in over 50 speeches and many articles. In this message I want to say a word about the campaign itself and what it has meant to our party.

Mr Benn's claim that his campaign would be "a healing process" and "purify the movement" has proved far from the truth. Many of his supporters have taken no notice of his advice to ignore personalities and deal with policies alone.

The fact is that his campaign has inflicted deep and unnecessary wounds on our movement at a time when we should have been able to concentrate exclu-

MR Denis Healey yesterday intensified his fight for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party—in which his opponents are Mr Tony Benn and Mr John Silkin—by sending campaigning literature to constituency Labour parties all over the country, to Labour MPs, trade unions and other organisations affiliated to the Labour Party.

The literature contained "A message from Denis Healey" in which he speaks of "what the contest itself means to our movement" and asks for support. Here we print the full text of that message.

Together with his "message" Mr Healey reissued a statement of his own views on certain aspects of Labour Party policy. He first issued this when he announced his decision to run again for the deputy leadership.

In the statement he said that he and Mr Foot would make a balanced team to fight the Thatcher Government. He sought greater industrial democracy, the further development in cooperation with the unions of the alternative economic strategy, the pursuit of genuine multilateral disarmament, the cancellation of Trident, and the return of the Labour Party to its tradition of tolerance.

to argue with one another without the Stalinist tactics which the extremists have brought with them.

Above all, we want to get the Tories out. We have no chance of doing that so long as the British people believe that these sectarian minorities might decide the policies of a Labour Government. That is why the vote on the deputy leadership at Brighton is of critical importance. It can be our passport to victory at the next election. Or it can condemn the British people to a generation of Thatcherism. The future of trade unionism in Britain is at stake. So is the future of our party as the democratic voice of working men and women.

So let us set this episode behind us and get back into the mainstream of our socialist tradition. Then, at last, we can unite for the real battle — against the Tories.

sively on fighting the worst Tory government in history. The consequences are plain to see.

With riots in our cities, unemployment rising up beyond 3 million, inflation set to rise again, at least half the Cabinet in open revolt against Mrs Thatcher, and the Tory vote collapsing all over the country, Labour's lead should be soaring and our general election victory should be certain.

Instead, we had a shattering disappointment at the Warring-

ton byelection and have been losing cast-iron Labour seats in working class wards as far apart as Newcastle and Lambeth.

There is no mystery about the reason. You hear it everywhere — on the doorstep, at the factory bench, in the shopping centre. Ordinary decent men and women whose support we should be able to take for granted, are worried stiff that our party has been taken over by the bully boys who howl down free speech at party

rallies, who reject the ballot box in favour of violence on the streets. They have seen loyal party members with years of service to our movement thrown on the scrap-heap in favour of humourless newcomers who preach the doctrines of sectarian hate.

It makes no difference to the extremists whether you are Right, Left or centre. The other day, Arthur Scargill denounced Eric Heffer, Neil Kinnock and Judith Hart as "worse than the hyenas of the

capitalist press."

The extremists have nothing in common with the ideals of our movement. Even today they represent only a tiny minority of our membership. But they are doing us great harm. Their conduct and their dogmas are profoundly hostile to all that the Labour Party has stood for since the pioneers. The overwhelming majority of trade unionists and Labour people want to see humanity and common sense in the saddle. We want to be able