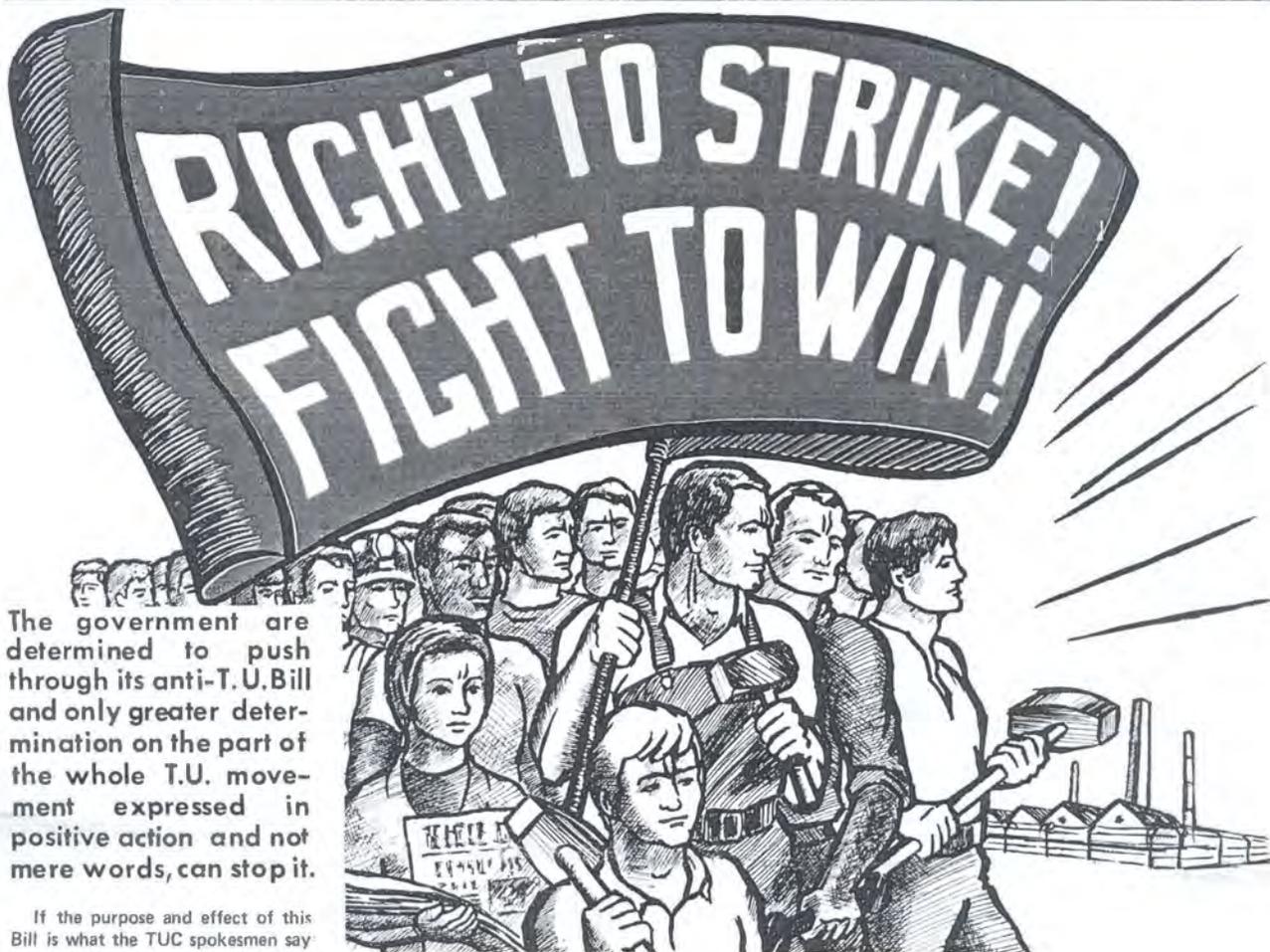


THE WORKER

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The government are determined to push through its anti-T.U. Bill and only greater determination on the part of the whole T.U. movement expressed in positive action and not mere words, can stop it.

If the purpose and effect of this Bill is what the TUC spokesmen say it is, and they do not overstate, then how can they blandly accept it and still presume to be representative of the T.U. movement. Accept it they do, for the Bill will become law and take effect unless words are translated into decisive action and the TUC have made one thing clear above all. They will initiate no action directed against the Bill whoever initiates it. The call of the TUC for meetings on January 12th in the tea break and outside working hours and similar ideas only indicate that the TUC have contracted out of any serious fight against the Bill, this indicates acceptance of the Bill under protest—not opposition.

The opposition of the TU establishment to action on December 8th could only be condoned if the objection were on tactical grounds. This paper did not oppose action on December 8th, and all members of our Party gave active support. The tactical objection did in no way inhibit that support. Tactically our position is that the fight against the Bill cannot be successful if focused on token stoppages without organised follow up. The government cannot be allowed such respite if the opposition to the Bill is purposeful.

The TU establishment while organising no movement themselves did their damndest to sabotage Dec. 8th. This is inexcusable. If the official TU movement were saying that the fight against the Bill should be led and organised by the TU Movement itself and not delegated to liaison committees and suchlike there would be some point, but to oppose movement and initiate none is the height of hypocrisy.

We say that the Bill is an attack on the whole Trade Union Movement and nothing less than an active counter attack by the whole of this movement will suffice.

Let those who argue that there can be no real fight against the Bill until it becomes law and the workers see and feel its effects beware. The argument goes like this. When a worker or section of workers are prosecuted under the terms of the Bill the

solidarity action of the workers will defeat the Bill and render it inoperative.

Can anyone doubt that any such solidarity action will be condemned by the TU establishment as "unofficial", an interference with the law and so on. The same people who sabotaged Dec. 8th will seek to sabotage any action against the Bill before or after its passage. It is necessary for all Trade Unionists to work for the full mobilisation of the membership of the Unions, never mind the TUC. Leaders and members must stand up and be counted in action and not in words. To Feather and company we say:

IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN!

LABOUR PARTY OPPORTUNISM THEY'VE FINALLY SAID IT

JOHN SILKIN, Chief Whip for three years in the last Labour Government, has joined the left-wing Tribune group of MPs and attended their first meeting last night.

"I have always been left of centre, really," he tells me. "It's natural to belong to them. In Opposition a more left wing attitude can have a good deal of influence.

"In Government it would have been difficult. Of course, then I had to be totally impartial; but what would have been unnatural then is perfectly natural in Opposition."

Evening Standard, December 18th, 1970

Editorial

GREETINGS TO WORKERS

Greetings for the New Year to workers in struggle wherever you may be!

Greetings to the workers of Poland in battle against those who usurped power in their name and sold their country to the Moscow capitalists. Greetings to heroic Albania where, alone in Europe, the working class rules and the greedy hand of capital cannot reach.

1970 was a good year for the working class. A year in which more workers than ever before rejected the fraud of Parliament by rejecting that monster which they created — the Labour Party. A year in which increasing numbers engaged in struggles with the employers aware of the truth that you must fight because no-one else will do the fighting for you. A year in which not all battles were fought wisely or too well but in which the potentiality for greater tactical skill and strategic wisdom was created because struggle is the only teacher.

1970 was a bad year for the capitalist class. A year in which the party of open reaction reluctantly assumed office from the party of treachery—and continued their policies, almost to the letter.

A year in which the mask of democracy slipped further, with the resurrection of In Place of Strife, while the march to the Corporate State became a headlong rush. A year in which Mao Tsetung's pronouncement "revolution is the main trend in the world today" (with which all must agree) prompted a hasty gathering of the Great Dictators at the United Nations, where they declared counter-revolution and civil war against the working class. A year which ended with Heath and Nixon in secret conference — the two bankrupts each promising to guarantee the other's creditworthiness.

The New Year brings bright prospects for the working class. Let them be realised!

Let 1971 be the year during which the capitalist ruling class learned once and for all that the workers of Britain will not be gagged by pieces of paper issuing from the Talking Shop in Westminster.

The only thing that will be proved by the staged debates and ohoney bargaining of Government and Opposition over the Industrial Relations Bill is how remote Parliament is from the real class conflict on the industrial front.

Heath likes to think he has a mandate for this Bill in "public protest" at the inconvenience caused by strikes.

CONT'D PAGE 4

INDUSTRY - THE Motors - struggles ahead



The Ford Trade Union representatives have again presented a claim for 'Parity'. This is a long standing claim of Ford workers which has been again advanced but in a form more elaborate and detailed than hitherto, but certain it is that success will not be determined by the sophistication of its presentation; in fact, experience proves that the more itemised the claim the more verbose can be the negative reply from the employer.

The claim is based on the fact that Ford workers are the lowest paid in the Motor industry. While the claim is fully justified the Ford workers would be well advised to think hard about how their claim for higher wages is couched in such terms. Why are Ford workers paid less than any other?

It began when Ford Shop Stewards, not recognised by the employer, turned the management out of the office and locked the door until the employer agreed to recognise the Unions. The door was opened, not to the employer, but guess who? Victor Feather who was then assistant TUC Sec. He persuaded the Shop Stewards to knock it off and let the TUC take over. The Ford agreement, one of the worst in industry, was the consequence.

There have been several similar episodes to the Ford story.

Shop stewards have been fired and the fight for their reinstatement has been knocked off with the promise of an 'official' strike if the leaders failed to settle the issues by peaceful negotiation. Whenever the Ford workers took action they allowed some official sweet talker to talk them back to work. On one occasion Ford workers involved in action allowed the wife of a Ford worker, much publicised by the 'Mirror' to talk them back to work.

It might be truthfully said that when the 'Bellringer' was sacked and the Ford workers left him in the lurch to walk the stones for eighteen months hounded by the press and jobless 'do not ask for whom the bell tolls'.

Well that is in brief why the Ford workers have not got parity. So how are they going to get it? The case is good and sound but sound cases do not produce the goods. Ask the power workers.

Last year for a change the Ford TU leadership, (it has changed) recommended

the Ford workers to reject the final offer of the Ford Company, £4 instead of the £10 claimed. Ford workers voted otherwise. The claim now requires in the monetary sense increases of between £13 and £18.

To achieve this the workers will need to achieve unity and to be serious, if they are they should get all the backing from other Trade Unionists that they require. One mistake that all should avoid. The notion that a large claim must inevitably produce a large settlement. That the experience of last year can be repeated this year.

The Ford Company conceded £4 to buy themselves out of the fight for parity. They would be idiots if they did not take heed of last years experience when the workers voted to knock off the struggle. If Ford workers don't mean parity they shouldn't talk about it, if they do they need to understand that last years attitude can only mean that 'parity' becomes a mere slogan. Only a determined fight can make it a reality. The employer no doubt assumes that the previous vacillation and ultimate retreat will occur again, indeed that the earlier level of militancy is not possible because of that retreat. Since the £4 settlement, presumably designed to bring industrial peace, the contrary has been the result.

As always when workers fail to follow through, to fight on, there arises almost at once a series of guerrilla actions which whilst they may appear as diversions are really in truth expressions of a desire to carry on the struggle by other means or in another arena.

The result has been that Fords has been plagued almost continuously with sections of workers in strike action.

A further sign of the will to fight was evidenced on Dec. 8th when more than 50% of those workers withdrew their labour against legislation and ostensibly in support of the wage claim. How much emphasis was put on either part is of little account save only that no opportunist measures to secure unity in struggle prevail for any length of time: workers are not fooled in this way.

It would be quite wrong to engender the thought that if there was no current wage claim there would be no action on the Bill. Conviction alone sustains any struggle whether it be on wages or anti-TU legislation.

It is essential that stewards, the rank and file leaders in the struggle, secure this conviction; that means confidence in the workers combined with hard patient explanation of the necessity for direct struggle, probably bitter and involving all employed therein.

The errors of previous struggles are there for all to learn. All strength therefore and all support to win this round.

BLMC

An interesting struggle is foreshadowed in BLMC ostensibly around the new product to come forth, commercially numbered the ADO 28, the new automobile to be manufactured.

The Company under the specious argument that Piece Work engenders much strife in bargaining and produces strikes is pronouncing that it wishes, and will put an end to all forms of piece work, in other words abrogate the national piece work agreement to which it is party.

This company is the last large car company of any account which still has piece work in line with the national agreement. The importance of this is that this follows a trend set by U.S. firms to impose in their British factories, that of imposing piece work speeds and efforts for day work wages. Front runner in this process was of course Fords, since aped by General Motors in Britain (Vauxhall) and Chrysler's (Rootes). Thus the U.S. penetration seeks not only to exploit workers in Britain but to do so in the U.S. pattern.

In the coming struggle there are many facets. BLMC say they are hard pressed financially, that their position through industrial action is intolerable, that the conglomeration of units scattered throughout Britain are in some cases uneconomical and they are thus forced to rationalise with consequent closures and redundancy unemployment.

Not so long ago the merger of Morris and Austin was hailed as the economic answer, that it would provide a tower of strength economically and become a great competitor to the powerful companies. This did not prove so and a further merger came about, or take over by Leyland. This too only produced an increase in the malaise, for capitalism is sick (it is this which is uneconomic) and all the juggling will not save it. So capitalism persists in its traditional role, of placing the burden on the workers,

the only producers of wealth, to further exploit the working class. Its avarice and its inefficiency are symptoms of its organic disease which will lead to ultimate death.

Thus, it sets the stage. First its financial troubles, second its plague of strikes, third its competitors who it claims have better methods of exploitation through abolition of piece work—all to produce the threat of disaster which can only be avoided by imposing speed up and lesser payment with fewer workers through redundancy sackings and closures. To produce more with less; the fewer the greater. Through such confusion and smoke screens it hopes to delude, bewilder and disarm the workers.

Confusion on the part of the workers there has been. With the run down of the Morris 1000 the workers have been seeking clarity regarding new working conditions on the new model and have been asking many questions. Incidentally, to ask an employer a leading question when one suspects the worst regarding his intentions is to invite an untruthful reply. Workers do not need to ask, only to tell, but this is a question of timing. To tell the employer far in advance is to arm the enemy. Here a mistake was made tactically by the workers. In October there was a five week strike which sought at best only to retain the status quo and certain conditions considered favourable. Thus a battle was fought when the product was being run down with no new one yet ready to take its place with production in full swing, at a time when many of the workers were uncertain of their future. This has produced the conditions whereby the employer has been able to impose and secure acceptance in effect on a section of the workers of the employers bonus.

There has not been a frontal conflict on the most important issue, the retention of piece work and the fundamentally important principle of mutual agreement. The tactics sought only delay; delay will not avoid the battle. Delay may instead provide the employer with a better field. There is good reason for the BLMC workers to be on their guard.



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

POWER WORKERS

128,000 manual workers in the electricity supply industry operated a work to rule and overtime ban in the second week of December. (Strikes are illegal under the Electricity Supply Act of 1919). The claim was for 25% - £5 16s a week increase (originally there was pressure for £10). Productivity has increased over 22% with fewer men doing more work. Normally the employers will shout about productivity until they are hoarse but when this doesn't suit them they forget productivity and shout "inflation". "Inflationary wage increases" are of course what workers are accused of getting when they fight for only a fraction of what they deserve. In the middle of the dispute the chairman of the Electricity Council got a rise of £2,500 a year to £20,000, but this was greeted with a respectful silence. (A whole host of top Civil Servants, Judges, Generals, Admirals etc. got rises of about £3,000 - productivity presumably being measured in terms of extra long jail sentences being passed or extra miles of red tape—but to show their devotion to "the national interest" some of them agreed to accept only half the increase for six months, leaving them with a mere £30 a week increase). But a 33% increase for Field-Marshal's is "necessary" while a 25% increase for power workers is described as "wildly inflationary". So Heath, costly tucked up with his emergency generator, decided to fight to everybody else's last candle. Threats were made of using troops. Within days it had to be admitted that this was an empty bluff and that the troops going in would mean all but a handful of the lights going out. The work to rule showed how the working class and not the employers are the ones who keep the country going and how they have the power to shut the system down if they so decide. The government was forced to play its next card "public opinion." This meant that a vicious press campaign was whipped up against the power workers. People were incited to attack power workers and their homes. A great fuss was made about the effects of the blackouts on the sick. The power workers had offered to ensure distribution to hospitals but the Electricity Council decided who was to be cut off and gave priority to maintaining power to industry to keep up

profits. (The exception was N. Ireland where industry, shops, practically everything was ordered to shut down under emergency powers in order to keep the street lighting going "because of the internal security situation." In other words, British troops and the R.U.C. needed enough light to shoot people by.) Although hospitals should have emergency generators anyway as power failures can occur without industrial action, reporters hung around hospitals like vultures waiting for someone to die during a blackout so they could scream "murderers." But even the bosses' propaganda machine can be switched off by the workers. And this is what happened, firstly on December 8th when the paperworkers took part in the one-day strike and closed down the Press, and more significantly on December 9th when the London Evening Standard wanted to print a vicious anti-working class cartoon showing the typical electricity worker as a heartless, greedy moron. In an act of class solidarity the Federated House Chapel representing the printworkers refused to print the paper. Eventually they allowed it to be printed with a statement by them attacking the cartoon. The Glasgow Evening Citizen, also owned by the Beaverbrook Group, was forced to withdraw the cartoon as well. A great howl predictably went up about the "Freedom of the Press" - freedom for a handful of Press lords to pump out an unending sewer of ruling class propaganda.

But in the end the union leaders came to rescue the employers from the gloom of the blackouts. They had been so out of touch with the feelings of the power workers that they were astonished when the work to rule was so effective so quickly. After making the customary noises they called off the work to rule in return for a Court of Inquiry which will not be binding on the Government and which will take into account "the national economic interest." Les Cannon's body lies a-mouldering in the grave but his soul goes staggering on.

CHRYSLERS

6,500 workers at Chrysler's car plant at Linwood, Scotland have rejected an offer of a £4 10s a week increase and are demanding an £11 increase to bring them in line with Chrysler workers at Coventry with a basic £38.

ANTI - T.U. BILL

Half-a-million or more workers stopped work on December 8th in a one-day token protest against the Industrial Relations Bill. Dockers, shipyard workers, motor and other engineering workers, Inner London teachers, and paperworkers (despite Court orders) were among the main sections to come out. The main areas affected were Merseyside, the Clyde, Tyne-side, Leeds, Sheffield, the industrial Midlands and London. Thousands of Birmingham transport workers decided to strike against the Bill on New Year's Day. Meanwhile "the TUC campaign against the Bill will continue and intensify" according to Vic Feather. So far this "responsible" campaign has reached the giddy heights of a petition and the call for lunch-time and after-hours meetings of workers on January 12th. Also advocating that the power workers should end their work to rule in the hope of making "public opinion" more sympathetic. Perhaps the crowning glory of the TUC campaign will be its Albert Hall rally on January 12th addressed by that great champion of T.U. rights - Harold Wilson. The only threat to the Government from these pathetic actions is that they might die laughing.

AIRLINE WORKERS

60,000 airline workers were working to rule, withdrawing co-operation and banning casual overtime in support of their pay claim. The employers have only offered 4-and-a-half per cent and the unions have rejected this and have so far rejected arbitration, knowing what this would mean with government pressure.

PILKINGTONS

After eight months the Glass and General Workers Union has dissolved itself. It was set up by St Helen's glass workers disgusted by the way the General and Municipal Workers Union had openly collaborated with the Pilkington management during the 7-week strike in the spring. The GGWU was smashed in a fight for recognition in August and the last 100 members, sacked by Pilkingtons, who refused to rejoin the GGWU, were blacklisted throughout S.W. Lancashire.

STANDARD-TRIUMPH

On December 9th all 8,000 production workers at British Leyland's Standard-Triumph plant in Coventry walked out. This was in further support for their claim for guaranteed pay when laid-off due to outside disputes. On that day 350 fellow workers had been laid off due to a shortage of car bodies from the plant at Speke, Liverpool because of the one-day strike on December 8th.

FIREMEN

Britain's 27,000 firemen banned all duties except emergency calls after pay talks broke down. They were pressing for a £10 increase to give parity with airport firemen. The employers, with Government backing and talk about the national economic interest, have refused to go above a 21s a week increase or 5%, potentially increasing to 10% in April when the basic working week would be reduced from 46 to 44 hours allowing two more hours to be paid for at premium rates. At present the average fireman earns £27 10s for a 56-hour week.

CAR COLLECTION

For the past nine years Mr Robert Hunter, chairman of Car Collection Co, a car delivery firm, has been fighting against union recognition. Nine years ago the Birmingham depot was closed down because of the dispute. Two years ago Hunter lost his British Leyland Cowley contract for the same reason. In November 1970 Hunter rejected a pay claim for drivers at the Ellesmere Port and threw out 16 of the 60 drivers. He was answered by a threat of blacking Car Collection which forced Vauxhall to suspend its Ellesmere Port contract the very next day. Within three days contracts with Vauxhall's Luton and Dunstable and Chrysler's Dunstable plants were also suspended and Car Collection had lost more than 70% of its contracts. But Mr Hunter is as anti-union as ever and is determined to soldier on because he sees "light at the end of the tunnel." On December 20th he said that he was pinning his hopes on the Government's Industrial Relations Bill which would outlaw blacking and let him get his contracts back.

BATTLE HOTS UP

POWER WORKERS

Just Claim - Why the failure?

Amid all the contrived confusion in the unprecedented attempts by employers and Government to whip up and exploit public hostility, the actual justice of the Power Workers wage claim for £5 16s is beyond dispute. If there is a moral it is that these workers have been passive for too long, in addition many were beguiled and misled previously in connection with much vaunted productivity bargaining. Considerable savings and gains accrued to the employer from these deals.

Once again it is the story of more work from fewer workers which did not, in spite of all the promises, produce very much for the workers against the profit accruing to the employer.

The Government intervention on the specious argument of "inflationary settlements" is a direct challenge. Under no circumstance if the claim were settled in full could it be alleged to be inflationary for the workers would still be underpaid. The national Trade Union negotiators were claiming no less than £5 and this against the background of many workers in the industry claiming that £10 would be necessary to secure reasonable comparison with workers in much manufacturing industry which could not function without the service of the power workers.

The attempts to persuade the public that such workers are vicious villains is stupid and dangerous and may well boomerang. No public nor Government has the right to force workers to continue to accept low wages or to remain in employment in low wage industries. It is as well for the Government and a section of the public (for it must not be forgotten that the public at large have not evinced hostility to these workers) to remember that there is neither the right to work anywhere in this land, nor can people be forced to work, least of all in low wage

industries. Only the economic necessity to work in order to live is ever present. This does not justify the right to exploit in such a pernicious way for such frugal wages, the history of which stems from the early depression years and mass unemployment, which we will not suffer at this day.

The ineptness and confusion displayed in the negotiations, the disunity displayed in public statements would be incomprehensible were it not for the knowledge that confidence in workers to struggle is hardly learned by such "leaders," and not particularly welcomed.

To hint in the middle of the struggle, when the work to rule etc. was forcing both the employer and the Government to negotiate, that a settlement might be achieved at £2 10s and then to fall for, or conspire to, a Court of Enquiry with the withdrawal of the action, with the Minister, that is the Government, dictating the Terms of Reference and selecting the Chairman, only underline the fact that avoidance of struggle and search for compromise in finality does not avoid the true conflict. For the Unions to agree to terms of reference so prejudiced and we quote:

"To enquire into the causes and circumstances relevant to the dispute and the Union's claim for a substantial increase in salaries and improvements in conditions for industrial staff, HAVING REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC AND OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, and to the industry's productivity record," is direct surrender to this Government's ploy that wage increases are of themselves inflationary, that the inflation engendered by the system of capitalism must be borne by the workers to the tune of a 7% and more increase in cost of living annually.

Above all, acceptance of this terminology that the well-being of the workers whose economy must be right, is not in the public interest as though the workers are not themselves the public. It rejects too the absolute, that if the economy of the workers is sound then so too is the National economy.



DEMONSTRATIONS ON DECEMBER 8TH LIVERPOOL (ABOVE) AND LONDON



ART TEACHERS

Art teachers, at a recent National Conference of the A.T.T.I. (the Union most art teachers in higher education belong to), voted unanimously to reject the report on art education just published by the Coldstream Committee.

The report is the ruling class response to the militancy began at Hornsey and Guildford two years ago. The main themes in these protests were dissatisfaction with the narrowness and 'conveyor-belt' quality of art education, and strict 'academic' entry qualifications.

Needless to say, the report has nothing to offer on either of these themes. In fact, it hints that things may well be worse - both in the field of quality and numbers of places.

To take the first question, of quality - one of the report's most unpopular proposals is to institute 'Design Technician' courses as alternatives to the Diploma course. These would have to be directly related to places available in industry, and are obviously another example of the elitist thinking of the people who plan our education system, and our society. Train the 'A' stream to be truly creative artists and the 'B' stream to be fodder for the advertising studio.

As for the question of numbers, there are strong hints that some vocational and part-time courses would be closed or 'streamlined' and no mention of expansion or recognition of more Diploma schools. Set against a background of a decline in numbers of art students from 129,123 in 1960 to 111,823 in 1969 and a growth rate of 16% in eight years in Diploma students in comparison with 226% for London Degree students, and 677% for C.N.A.A. Technical Diploma students, the outlook is grim, and art teachers rightly see redundancies as becoming a distinct possibility.

Art teachers are now realising that the ruling classes objectives in art education are the same as their fellow capitalists in industry: that is 'Rationalisation,' more production using less people. They have also seen that their tactics in carrying out their objectives are as brutal as oppressing classes the world over. Hornsey was closed down peremptorily and Police dogs were set on students. When the teachers realise that their objectives are the same as their fellow workers in all fields, their perspective will become clearer.

Wages, Price and Profit

The Electric Power Workers last year produced net profits of £326,700,000 for the Electricity Councils and Electricity Boards in England and Wales. There are 208,229 workers in this industry. The average profit made off the labour of each worker was therefore £1,570-over £30 profit per week! Even if their wage demand was met in full their weekly pay would not amount to £30. In other words the Power Workers spend longer each week producing profits for the employers than earning their own wages. This puts them among the most exploited workers in the world.

These simple facts expose the fraud of the parliamentary phrase-mongers that there is "wage inflation" and a "wages-prices spiral". There is no such animal. To say that wage increases cause price increases is rubbish. The Power Workers could more than double their total wages without affecting electricity prices: it could all be paid for out of the profits that

they, through their labour, create for the employers. As Marx showed a hundred years ago, when wages go up they cut into profits and have no effect on prices. Any increase won by the Power Workers will come out of the £326 million profit they produce-profit which at present is returned in the form of interest payments to the big financiers. Will the financiers accept such a cut in their profits? Of course not; and that is what the fight is all about!

These facts explode another myth, that "nationalized" industries are somehow better than the rest of capitalism. They are monopolies directly supervised by the Government to make profit for the capitalist class out of the labour of the working class.

THERE IS NO GOOD EMPLOYER: THEY ARE ALL AS BAD AS THEIR WORKERS WILL ALLOW THEM TO BE.

* "Wages, Price and Profit." Available from Bellman Bookshop, 2s. post free.

SCHOOL FOR CLASS COLLABORATION

Unable to get around the flat refusal of rank and file electricians to turn liars, the ruling class, last month were left to write their own obituaries to Les Cannon.

At a time when they were spearheading the vicious campaign of slander and abuse against power supply men both the Times and the BBC found space for glowing tributes to a man who, in his own words, "... wanted to be remembered by the employers as one who always kept his word." Building trade workers will have noticed amongst the nonsense written about Cannon, references to his part in building up the EETU/PTU school at Esher in Surrey. Like its former "headmaster" this school was also in the news last month.

The bright sparks who call themselves union leaders are hoping to use the school to put into operation what they call a 'good practice code for shop-stewards in electrical contracting.'

Briefly, the working of this code will be as follows:

1. If you're a J.I.B. graded operative and you don't do anything to upset the boss or his business of pocketing the profits made by your labour, then "he" will encourage you to assume the responsibilities of shop steward.
2. The employer having conveyed his feelings of high regard for you to the union side, will then agree to you being whisked off to the EETU/PTU school

at Esher. There you "will undergo training as agreed to between union and employer."

3. At the end of the course you will be returned to your gvnor as being one "able to maintain good industrial relations thereby increasing productivity and prosperity."

Furthermore if you didn't let yourself be conned by this scheme, and carry on the struggle, the union and the employer jointly through the JIB can have you dismissed from your job, and blacklisted by all JIB employers.

Site stewards and other tradesmen in the building industry will see this code as being as bent as the smile on a moneylender's mother. Like their brothers in power supply they will waken up to the fact that terms like productivity and prosperity all come from the bosses' dictionary. Furthermore what they mean at bottom is - more profit for him, more work and less money for the men working for him.

Electricians should also be asking some pointed questions about what use their school is being put to. Nobbling used to be the concern of course stewards at Lingfield. Union nobbling should now be the concern of shop-stewards at Esher. If allowed to go unchallenged this alliance between bosses and union mis-leaders will be able to put one across site electricians in a way calculated to turn the Industrial Relations Bill green with envy.

Radio

(Note: All times of broadcasts are given in British Time)

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking:
9.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. 32,45,47 metre bands
10.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 32,42,45,47 metre bands

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Tirana:
7.30 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. 31,42 metre bands
5.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. 31,42 metre bands
7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. 31,42 metre bands
9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. 31,42 metre bands
11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 31,42 metre bands
(The 9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium wave, 215 metre band)

Daily Broadcast from Hanoi:
9.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band

"...for generations...the soul of Ireland preached revolution, declared that no blood-letting could be as disastrous as a cowardly acceptance of the rule of the conqueror, nay, the rule of the conqueror would necessarily entail more blood-letting than revolt against the rule."

- James Connolly.

THE WORKER sends fraternal New Year greetings to all communists and progressive people, throughout the world, at present in the jails of reactionary governments such as those in-

INDIA
IRELAND, North and South
SOUTH KOREA
MALAYA & SINGAPORE
TAIWAN
IRAN
BRAZIL
SPAIN
PORTUGAL and its colonies
ZIMBABWE(Southern Rhodesia)
AZANIA (South Africa)
FRANCE
USSR, POLAND and other revisionist countries.

We hope that they obtain their liberty, and achieve new revolutionary successes in 1971.



Editorial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He will learn that the public is not that vocal minority given space in the columns of the TIMES or on radio and television to air their anti-working class prejudices. The indignation about someone stumbling over the stairs in the black-out, in the context of a system that kills and maims workers by the hundreds every year, pollutes the entire country and deprives thousands of the right to work at all, is simply ludicrous.

The public which Heath invokes is made up predominantly of workers with the same interests. They are also consumers the capitalist Government, whether Labour or Tory, tries to set against each other with engineered scarcities and shortages — in jobs, housing, social amenities and everything else. But the unity forged at points of production where all workers are exploited will be proof against such splitting tactics.

The essence of the capitalist system is that workers have nothing to sell on the market but their labour-power. They can only survive by combining together to sell their labour power as dearly as possible. If it seems absurd that they have to withdraw their labour-power in order to get even a half-decent price for it, that is an absurdity of the system — not the action of the workers.

What people who protest about the results of strike action are really saying is that they don't like this system. Neither do we, the workers. But we can do something about it. With the experience of our own struggles and the lessons of successful revolutionary action in other countries to guide us, we can organise ourselves to smash the capitalist system and replace it with a rational and equitable one, a socialist system, under the direction and control of the working class.

1971 is the 100th Anniversary of the Paris Commune — the first time in history that workers overthrew bourgeois authority and seized state power. The main lesson of the Paris Commune — that only by destroying the state machine of the class enemy and establishing by force the dictatorship of the proletariat can workers free themselves from exploitation — will not be lost on the workers of Britain as they move into a year of struggle. Because this struggle is not only defensive, not only against anti-trade union legislation. It is also a political offensive against the capitalist state, and thus a step on the road to revolution.

Correspondence

The interview with the Al Fatah representative in the December "Worker" raised several important questions. Is it true that because a movement is fighting imperialism it will automatically create the opposite — socialism? The Algerian struggle for independence was rightly supported by socialists as it weakened French imperialism and gave encouragement to national liberation struggles throughout the world. But Algeria did not become socialist. The workers and peasants do not control it. Many countries in Africa, Latin America and the Arab world have the same kind of set-up. The old imperialism is denounced, the new Russian imperialism sneaks in and "socialist" slogans cover up a neo-colonialism in which a part of the wealth that used to flow abroad now sticks to the fingers of the army officers, businessmen and bureaucrats who run the country. True national liberation and socialism can only come through the efforts of the working class and the peasants, under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Party, as in China. For the Palestinians to win final victory and defeat the plots of the U.S. and Russia and all their stooges they will need such a Party.

J.R. London, S.W.

★ CHINA-DELEGATION RETURNS ★ HISTORIC REPORT BACK MEETING ★ BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST - LENINIST) DELEGATION ON THEIR VISIT TO CHINA

SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE

REG BIRCH

CHAIRMAN CPB (M-L)

FRIDAY 29th JANUARY AT 7.30p.m.

CONWAY HALL REDLION SQ.

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VIETNAM NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Ten years ago, on 20th December, 1960, men and women from all classes and sections of South Vietnam came together to form a national, united front to free their country from "the yoke of the U.S. imperialists and ... their henchmen, in order to achieve and advance toward national reunification."

Their unity, maintained by a correct political and military programme, not merely smashed the puppet army which has the highest desertion rate in the world, but brought the mighty USA to its knees. Successive Presidents of the USA, backed by the Pentagon's massive armaments programme, thought that the Vietnam war could be brought to a speedy end by one or other kind of bombs, chemicals and poison gasses. But in spite of napalm, fragmentation bombs and chemicals which have destroyed forests, cattle and Vietnamese people-old and young, the people of Vietnam went on from victory to victory. Guerrilla warfare was developed to such a high stage that today the Peoples Liberation Armed Forces have moved to the offensive, especially after the great spring offensive of 1968. The N.L.F. victories that year forced President Johnson to stop the bombing of North Vietnam and come to the conference table.

However no Imperialist power, least of all the mightiest, USA, will simply pack up its bags and quit. It will have to be forced through the power of arms to leave Vietnam. That is why the negotiations at Paris did not for one day hold up the fighting in South Vietnam. By a combination of military strategy, political programme and base building in the liberated areas the N.L.F. not only brought US military effort to a standstill but was able to establish in June, 1969, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

The rising casualty lists and rising taxes to pay for a war which was costing considerably more than a million dollars a day has contributed to many divisions in the American camp and a totally demoralised army which does little or no fighting but is ready to give in. This accounts for Nixon's much publicised scheme to "Vietnamise" the war — that is, to go back to an earlier situation when the only troops being used by the Americans were Vietnamese mercenaries. Today the Americans have not only their own men besides the Vietnamese puppet army but puppet armies from a whole host of countries under US domination — South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. Since they cannot deliver the goods and crush the people of Vietnam Nixon hopes that by cutting down on US troops he will be able to give the war a more "Asian" look by letting "gook fight gook" as was done at the time of Korea.

But such ploys are just not paying off. More and more puppets desert and the P.R.G. control four-fifths of the country and, according to the CIA, have also infiltrated the very state apparatus of the puppet regime of South Vietnam. Nixon decided to "escalate" the war to Cambodia earlier this year. The neutralist regime of Prince Sihanouk was overthrown and new US puppets put in power. South Vietnamese troops were sent to crush the resistance. They could do nothing except antagonise even moderate Cambodian opinion so that today Cambodia has a growing liberation movement which has inflicted heavy losses on the Americans.

Finally, in desperation, the Nixon administration last November resumed its bombing of North Vietnam and has once again tried to blackmail the people of North Vietnam with the threat of further bombing if they should try to help their brothers in the south! The answer to this on the part of the Vietnamese has been to step-up the struggle to get rid of the US invaders. In

its appeal, issued on December 10th the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, make this abundantly clear:

"More than ever before, faced with the new scheme of the US imperialists, our entire party, people and army must ... persist in and step up the resistance war, be determined to fight and to win and fight till all the US troops have been forced to withdraw and the puppet army and administration have been toppled..."



Speaker from Hanoi addressing CBP(ML) celebration on occasion of 10th anniversary of foundation of NLF. Meeting demands U.S. stops bombing Democratic Republic of Vietnam and gets out of South Vietnam.

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POLAND- WORKERS REVOLT

The recent demonstrations and riots, by Polish workers, in opposition to 20% increases on food and coal prices, and rents, combined with frozen wages, shows once again the degree to which capitalist restoration has taken place in eastern Europe. The price increases were the preparation for a "new system of economic management" to be introduced on Jan 1st, bringing in higher interest rates on capital loaned by the Investment Bank, and furthering the profit motive throughout industry.

It must also be remembered that for well over a decade agriculture in Poland has been almost totally in private hands. At present only 5% of the land is used for collective farms, 10% for state farms, while 85% is privately owned.

What a contrast this presents to the achievements of genuine socialist countries such as China and Albania. In both these countries, for over twenty years, since they achieved liberation prices have either stayed rock steady or been reduced, and real wages shown a steady increase. In Albania income tax was abolished this November, and many price reductions introduced this year.

Whence the difference? The answer is simple, in China and Albania the workers hold state power, while in Poland the revisionists have usurped state power and constituted themselves as a bureaucrat-capitalist class. This new capitalist class exploits the Polish workers just as every capitalist class exploits the working-class.

In such circumstances it is not surprising that the Polish working-class should rise up and fight back. It is not surprising that the Polish dockers should march out on strike singing the Internationale, it is not surprising that police and troops should be called out to suppress workers demonstrations.

Furthermore the fact that the Polish United Workers Party should introduce a "prices and incomes policy" like that of the British Labour Party, is also not surprising, for they both have a lot in common — they are both capitalist parties hiding behind a thin facade of socialism. Wilson was the tame servant of the White House, Gomułka was the tame servant of the Kremlin — both served big imperialist masters.

The replacement of Gomułka by Gierek means no real change, just a tactical manoeuvre in order to try to quieten things down. The new leadership may make a few minor concessions, but the Polish capitalist drive to increase the exploitation of the Polish workers will continue. If the Polish workers are to make any real advance they must recapture state power, just as British workers here must ultimately seize state power by force.

THE INTERNATIONALE

Arise, ye prisoners of starvation,
Arise, ye wretched of the earth,
For justice thunders condemnation,
A better world's in birth.

No more tradition's chains shall bind us,
Arise you slaves, no more in thrall.
The earth shall rise on new foundations,
We have been naive; we shall be all.

'Tis the final conflict,
Let each stand in his place.
The International working class
Shall be the human race.