

THE WORKER



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A NEW YEAR OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

WE, the Communist Party of Britain have always maintained from the time of our formation that the day to day struggle of the great British working class for its advance, indeed, for its very survival under capitalism is essentially a political struggle - class against class. Every real conflict in which workers become involved transforms economic issues into political confrontation.

None of the problems absolutely vital to workers today can be solved by changes or reforms within the existing capitalist system. The fight for better wages and conditions, the fight for the right to organise in pursuit of working class aims, the fight for the very right to work at all are thus inevitably part of the fight to smash capitalism and establish a workers state.

It follows therefore that the struggle of British workers here and now, in so far as it is real struggle correctly led, is revolutionary. The revolution of the working class in Britain has begun. The mobilisation of workers in the revolutionary movement has begun.

All the factors of a potentially revolutionary situation are present - a militant working class which will not be cowed, a ruling class as incompetent as it is vicious which out of weakness is forced into the increasing fascistisation of the capitalist state, ever mounting economic and political crisis within the country and an international context in which revolution is the main trend. All that is lacking is the full awareness of workers in their united strength that such indeed is the situation - a revolutionary consciousness to match their courage.

The struggle will not be short nor easy. No ruling class of exploiters has ever yet been overthrown without first having recourse to every form of counter-revolutionary violence it could command. But with a revolutionary perspective workers know what a glorious cause they are fighting for - their own final emancipation from exploitation and with it the emancipation of all those who suffer under British imperialism.

1972 will inevitably see the rising tempo of class struggle. Our New Year message as workers to workers is: let us be of good heart in the knowledge of our united might, break out of old ways and habits and find new and more telling forms of struggle, make it a year that will be remembered in the annals of the long march of the British working class to ultimate victory.



1972 -

Workers vs. the capitalist state. One of the many incidents during 1971 when working class militants clashed with servants of the state.

ADVANCE ON ALL FRONTS

LAST year saw many class battles on wages, the right to work and the Industrial Relations Bill. The "Worker" pointed to the weakness and paraphrased it in its headline - "Not one at a time but altogether". Whilst there was action going on all the time, those in action acted separately at different times. This form of the struggle was sufficient to cause the employing class to bring in the Industrial Relations Bill but not sufficient to kill the Bill itself and therein lies the weakness.

1972 can be the year in which this weakness is overcome with great advance to our class. We enter 1972 with all the key sections of the workers involved in DISPUTE but not yet in STRUGGLE.

Of course no section of organised workers will delegate the conduct of its dispute to some body such as a TUC and rightly so. Nonetheless there is no odds the fact that as each section regards its own claims in the context of the Industrial Relations Act, a million unemployed and the firmness of its own employer, either private or nationalised, in resisting the claims, there is some gloom about. To see the separate demands as part of a general struggle and conducted as such shows things in a very different light.

CONFRONTATIONS

In the early days of 1972, all at one and the same time there are 3 million Engineering Workers, all the Power workers, the Miners, the Postal Workers, Oil Refinery Workers, Railwaymen etc., in direct confrontation with their respective employers.

The Engineers have a thirteen point claim covering wages, hours, equal pay etc., virtually turned down flat by the Engineering employers. The only answer can be action, but the action must begin somewhere on all or any parts of the claim according to workers readiness to act wherever they are; and such actions must spread

to form a general action by all Engineering workers, no matter that some workers will prefer to act on hours or equal pay or wages or some other aspects of the claim instead of on the claim as a whole. Better there be action for instance on wages than that there be complete inaction on the claim in total.

The Power Workers having had their claim on wages and holidays answered with the derisory offer of from £1.30 to labourers to £1.60 to craftsmen, an increase of 7.2% against cost of living increase of more than 10%, have rejected the offer and plan to hold a further national delegate conference to determine next steps.

The Miners have already rejected the Coal Board wage offer which like the Electricity Council's offer is less than 8% and have decided by ballot of members in favour of a strike which is timed to take place on January 9.

Oil Refinery workers too have been offered 7% and have rejected it. Those recently concluded productivity deals in this industry show already a loss based on even the official cost of living figures - a lesson which is not lost on the workers. Mass meetings are planned in this industry to determine the action to be taken.

There is scarcely a section of the working class not similarly involved. AND AT THE SAME TIME. Why therefore the gloom. What power is there than can stand against this, the whole organised working class. All into action then. A broad front in action not words.

Here then is the battle cry for 1972 - not "Heath out" but such action that will fulfill the workers' rightful claims and lead to the sweeping away of the Heaths and the Wilsons too. Thus we will establish the right to work not through politicians' promises. The struggle for economic objectives, hours, wages and jobs must be waged and won and will be.

This struggle must advance further to the struggle for power and that will be won also.

Our Party and our paper are clear and will continue in the coming

year to serve the working class.

Let us all combine in struggle to make 1972 the year of decisive advance for our class and our Party.

STUDENTS Vs. THE STATE

IN the first two weeks of December activity against the Government's proposed system for controlling the student Unions spread all over the country. It is a great step forward that such a large number of students have become involved in the struggle, but there has been up to now a lack of thought about strategy and tactics.

AUTONOMY

The State, by declaring war on the independence and autonomy of Student Unions, has in effect served notice that it will not maintain the status quo. The time has now come to decide whether they will succeed in incorporating student Unions into the State machine, or whether students will fight for the only meaningful alternative - fully autonomous Unions, free from all outside interference.

The focus of the struggle must be concentrated within every individual college. Enough lip-service from the College authorities - let them show how sympathetic they really are by giving in to the students' demands for complete student control over student unions.

Neither will we get anywhere by having 'consultations' with the Government that is so determined to smash our organisations. The only thing students have to say to

them about these proposals is - "Drop 'em!"

Further, students can't look upon their Unions' autonomy as the be-all and end-all of their struggle. The Capitalist class clearly doesn't, as can be seen by their present discussion of various means to drastically cut the cost of producing graduates. The latest proposal, (showing no doubt their concern for keeping the family together), is that up to 35% of students should have to live at home to receive any higher education. The Student Unions stand in the way of these and other plans.

Student Unions are the students' weapon in struggle - it's no good building them without engaging in everyday struggle. In fact neither is it possible, the two go together.

ACTION AT SWANSEA

At Swansea College of Education, the authorities are attempting to throw out a student for "academic reasons". The students, having shown the absurdities of and fallacies in this reasoning, commenced a sit-in which ended just before Christmas but will be taken up again immediately the new term begins. At Swansea, the authorities reacted to the sit-in by cutting off all heating and lighting



IN THIS ISSUE

India's Aggressive War	page 2
Engineer's wage claim	page 2
Ireland	page 3
The Lump & Unemployment	page 3
U.S. Defeats in Indochina	page 4

EMPLOYERS INSOLENT AS CRISIS GROWS

THE contemptuous rejection of the Engineers' pay claim by the Engineering Employers' Federation, the most powerful body in the private sector of British industry, is typical of the employing class's attitude to the just claims of workers in this period of growing economic crisis. It is the old insolent "Let them eat cake" response to the people's demand for "bread".

The Engineering Employers followed their abrupt dismissal of the claim for improvement in the wages and conditions of manual workers put forward by the Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions on November 16 with an 80 page appendix supporting their high-handed action. (See December Worker page 2).

PROPHECY OF GLOOM

Their whole reply in behalf of capitalism is one of gloom. The prophecy is of contraction not expansion, harder times still to come, for the worker of course. All workers involved in the industry should reflect now on the situation.

Whether this is taken as a declaration of war or a preliminary skirmish, we workers must decide what we want, what we shall do, what tactics and what strategy shall be used by our great working class mass to combat this insolent, arrogant rejection of elementary just claims.

The employers' attitude rests on the introduction and coercive application of the Industrial Relations Act of which they have been champions. Their concept shown in reply is things must go on as before, even in decline: "apres moi le deluge!" They appear quite tranquilly to accept even the great depression again—

contraction and mass unemployment. Workers will not accept these consequences of a declining capitalism. The right to work is an absolute that can never be bartered. It is in this that the real conflict exists.

The contradictions of Capitalism are greater than before, the crisis real and deep. It is in opposing these effects, that the real political nature of struggle emerges. It is not possible for capitalism to arrest this very real decline today and especially so does this apply to Engineering Employers.

EMPLOYERS' ADMISSION

Within the reply there is a most startling tribute to our class, grudgingly, or even unconsciously given:

"It has now become clear that given the present circumstances there is probably no socially, politically and economically acceptable level of unemployment that will in itself bring wage inflation under control".

In all the brash, illiterate statements encompassed in their reply it is possibly the best example of the practical application of theory by workers to teach their ignorant, dunce-like "masters". Certainly it is a tribute to the solidarity of the working class, whether employed or unemployed. What is being said here is that in spite of rising unemployment, in spite of artificially contrived unemployment from time to time, the ranks of the working class cannot be broken, nor can they be divided among the possessed of job and the dispossessed so as to serve the employer; that irrespective of unemployment increase workers employed still fight for improvement of

wages and working conditions as is their duty and that workers unemployed will not scab or undercut those conditions, but, on the contrary, we are not divided, all are joined together in that same struggle. Of course we say it is illiterate on the part of the employer not to have known this before. They learn so slowly on our agony which they contrive.

EQUAL PAY

Anybody who does not properly understand what scoundrels employers are should study their reply in connection with the demand for equal pay for women, which is truly the most fundamental demand of all within that wage claim. Here they say:

"...our members are not willing to contemplate any departure from the principles of the Equal Pay Act. Nor will we be able to agree any time scale for implementation shorter than that laid down in the Act (1975)."

This is pretty rich, coming from a phalanx of employers who led the battle against equal pay over all the years—even opposing the introduction of the legislation for equal pay, which in itself is rubbish. The Equal Pay Act was brought in by a Labour Government as a device to block the struggle of women, accelerated by the Ford women's strike in 1968 which was the signal for all other women so to fight. The Act "promised" equal pay by 1975 but was intended to sap the strength of the women's struggle, not to provide equal pay in the true sense.

Having failed to stop the introduction of even this anaemic, Social Democratic legislation designed to deceive the workers, the employers now say that under no circumstances could equal pay be a fact on a factory floor before the time scale laid down in the Act. We shall see—but their attitude is typical of all reaction, like Judges saying that if the Act forbids capital punishment on April 2 then all fools shall be executed on April 1, up to and including.

INDIA'S WAR ON PAKISTAN

THE BACKGROUND

THAT the Indian Government which has never been able to feed its own millions should reach out and grab another thickly populated region is one of the most obscene acts in history.

We exposed the "Bangla Desh" plot against Pakistan from the beginning—the phoney nationalism whipped up by Mujibur Rahman in collusion with the Indian bourgeoisie; the so-called refugee problem when India opened its border to the Bengalis of East Pakistan, mainly Hindus, whom it had helped to throw into a state of panic; its use of these poor hostages to blackmail the rest of the world for aid and to serve as an excuse for aggressive action to end the "intolerable situation" it had carefully fostered; the creation on Indian soil of the Mukti Bahini, that travesty of a guerrilla army, which quickly became the jackals of the Indian military forces invading East Pakistan from all sides.

RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM

Of course this expansionist policy of the Indian bourgeoisie could not have been carried out without the backing of the major imperialist powers. The Indian ruling class has been the willing tool of the imperialist plot to encircle and isolate socialist China. The aggressive "forward policy" of Nehru in 1962 which resulted in the defeat of the Indian forces by China was instigated by the U.S. which more than doubled its aid to India at that time. The green light for the present aggression against Pakistan was given by the signing of the Indo-Soviet treaty in September. The Soviet imperialists have not only provided much of the armament for the attack on Pakistan but have also blocked all attempts at a cease fire in the U.N. till the Indian forces could complete their armed conquest. In the case of the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 the Soviet Union had to do its own dirty work. On this occasion it had the Indian Government as a willing agent to advance its imperialist aims in south Asia.

Weakened by its own disastrously unsuccessful war of aggression

THE Central Committee of the Communist Party of Britain, M/L at its meeting on December 4th and 5th condemned the Indian Government for its imperialist war of annexation against the State of Pakistan, the 5th war of aggression that the Indian Government has embarked upon in 25 years. The spurious policy of non-alignment is now clearly abandoned and the existing Indian Government under the Gandhi clique stands revealed not only as the tool of imperialism but with imperialist ambitions of its own.

This act is only possible under the direct instigation and support of the Soviet imperialists, the Brezhnev gang of revisionists in Moscow.

The territorial integrity of the State of Pakistan must and will be defended by the workers and people of East and West Pakistan. They will unite to drive out the aggressor Indian Government.

The historical origin and geographical complications of the Pakistan State should deceive no one today of what is at stake. The internal affairs of Pakistan are those of the people of Pakistan and whatever the problems they only will resolve them.

The Gandhi Government aggression is designed to deceive the people of India, to divert them, the people from the internal problems of India which that Government is incapable of solving. In this the Gandhi deceivers will fail. The peaceful desires of the Indian people will not be corrupted by such diversions. They will undoubtedly condemn that Government, propped and sustained as it is by world imperialist powers with, we repeat, the Brezhnev revisionists of Moscow in the vanguard.

The Pakistan State is today engaged in a just war of defence — an essential if that whole sub-continent will ultimately prevail and cease to be, as it has been for so long, the saddest place in the world.

This war — this aggression — is not only against the State of Pakistan but its part and parcel of the hopeless attempt and imposed plot of encirclement against Socialist China. Shame on the Moscow revisionists that it should be they who lead in this filthy plot and would seek to be involved in just such a manoeuvre against China as was attempted against the new Soviet Union emerging from Tsarist Russia. Then the world of workers understood what was at stake, that attempt failed because of the courage of the revolutionary Russian proletariat and their support from the proletariat of the world. So too will workers of the world today see the matter clearly.

The classic imperialist technique has again been introduced relative to Pakistan — annexation of the East, puppet government, first attempts to divide and then of course attack the West, just as in Ireland, Korea and Vietnam. All imperialists follow this same technique. They aspire together, U.S. imperialism, British imperialism, and Soviet imperialism.

We call upon all in our Party, never mind their National origins, to stand united in support of the State of Pakistan, in support of the right of the people of Pakistan to resolve their own affairs and in condemning the treachery and aggression of the India Gandhi Government.

against Vietnam the U.S. was glad to let the Soviet Union share the burden of arming India against China; but the U.S. is not, of course, prepared to see the Soviet Union assume an exclusively dominant role in a country into which it has poured so much "aid" that it owns the bulk of the Indian currency. Hence its verbal criticism of an act of aggression no different from those it has sponsored itself.

DIVIDE AND RULE

It is important for British workers to remember that the very creation of Pakistan through the partition of India in 1947 by the then Labour

Government in order to retain the wealth of East Bengal and protect British investments was acceptable to both East Bengal and the Indian bourgeoisie represented by Gandhi and Nehru. This is like the arbitrary carve up of other parts of the world in the interests of imperialism's "divide and rule" strategy. But only the people themselves by overthrowing their own reactionary regimes and liberating their countries from imperialist domination can rectify such unpopular divisions. Any other redrawing of boundaries will only mean that the people have exchanged one lot of exploiters for another.

PLESSEY

original claim was lodged way back in September 1970 — shows how the employers are sometimes prepared to hang on like grim death — and that the workers can be twice as grim and twice as deadly.

MINERS

The National Union of Mineworkers has tried to get assurances from other unions that in the event of a strike, their members will not transport substitute fuels. The National Union of Railwaymen has already sent letters to branches to this effect. In past times of crisis for the working class such as the 1926 General Strike and "Black Friday" in 1921, the attitude to the miners has been a touchstone in the working class movement. Once again the fullest solidarity is needed.

A subcontracting firm of Plessey's in the Ilford area had to send to the Admiralty base at Coultport Argyle for highly skilled fitters, who had previously worked at Alexandria, where prototype work was done on the Mark 24 torpedo. But to kill off all competition to their position as sole supplier of torpedoes to the government, Plessey's took over the Alexandria factory and is attempting to pay off more of the very fitters that it is having to take from the Navy Base at Coultport. However, this ploy failed, because Plessey's workers now occupying Alexandria contacted the district committee of the A.E.U. and shop stewards at Coultport have told the management 'No deal'.

THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK IS THE FIGHT TO SMASH CAPITALISM

AT the end of 1971 unemployment, according to official "cooked" figures, stood at just 34,000 short of a million. The real figure is well over the million mark.

OUT IN JANUARY: 'THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK' issued by the CPB(ML)



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

ANYONE with illusions about the Common Market providing prosperity and more jobs in Britain might have their eyes opened by what has happened at the Vono bedding and upholstery firm in Tipton, Staffs. The management has announced plans to get rid of 175 of the 1,200 strong labour force in February because of declining sales. "Vono sees its future increasingly concerned with the Common Market" said a company statement. Some future!

ROLLS-ROYCE

ON strike since the beginning of November, 6,000 Rolls-Royce aero-engine manual workers continue their fight. Their demand is for an

increase of £5 a week. The company offer finally moved up to £1.50, but 50p of this was to be offset against any national agreement for the engineering industry. The offer, especially the last condition, has been repeatedly rejected by the men.

IDIOTS OF THE MONTH

WE have often described the industrial struggle in Britain as a protracted war. But rarely before in a war can some of the front-line troops have started playing Russian roulette. Workers from the South-Eastern Gas Board's plant at Greenwich, South London have actually raffled redundancy notices, because of the apparently high payments in-

involved. The management originally planned to dismiss 152 men but negotiations resulted in cutting this to 122 and getting a deal giving up to £800 for men with over 40 years service, on top of the normal redundancy payments for the gas industry and pay in lieu of notice.

In some cases men could get a total of £2,500. The result was a rush of sheep eager for the slaughter. Nearly 300 men volunteered for redundancy and management and the union agreed on a raffle to pick the "lucky" 122.

How long will the "golden handshakes" last in these times of a million unemployed and rapid inflation? Some of the workers have tried to

justify things by saying that most of the Greenwich works will be closed in four or five years time so they will have to go anyway. Is the only choice between the sack now and the sack in five years time? Tell that to the Plessey workers. What about fighting for the right to work?

ENGLISH ELECTRIC

THE bitter 20-week battle of 46 draughtsmen and technicians at Preston has ended. The management, which refused to budge from the original offer of £2 a week extra and locked the workers out, was finally forced to concede increases of £2.50 and an average 35p merit award. This long fight — and the fact that the

THE LUMP



Wives, mothers and children of detainees marching from the Bogside on an army post in angry protest.

IRELAND and BRITAIN

IN mid-November the British army conducted a "cordon and Search" operation in the Anderson town and Turf Lodge areas of Belfast. The soldiers were given a free hand to pillage, destroy and murder, and as a result several people were shot and one woman was permanently blinded by a rubber bullet. British politicians have reacted to these incidents by saying that you cannot handle urban guerrillas with kid gloves. Even the U.S. imperialists have had to admit that such attacks on civilians in Vietnam are war crimes. Not so the British ruling class.

Taking advantage of a temporary lull in the fighting at the end of November, the British occupation authorities in Ireland launched a fanfare of claims that the suppression of the Irish people was almost complete and that the British army were "getting on top of the gunman" Gen-

eral Tuzo even went so far as to boast that he would "be able to break the back of the I.R.A. by next spring."

However, within a few days of his making this statement British troops throughout the six counties were thrown into utter confusion by a well planned offensive of bombings and shooting incidents culminating in the successful escape from Crumlin Road jail of Martin Meehan and Tony "Dutch" Docherty, two of Belfast's leading Republicans.

No matter what the spokesmen of British imperialism say, nothing can hide the fact that the British army have lost the initiative and are on the defensive. This is not to say that the British lackings stand on the verge of victory. In fact, they have a long and bloody struggle ahead of them, but there can be no doubt as to the final outcome. British imperialism will be defeated.

The struggle now being waged in Ireland by the Irish people each day teaches new lessons, lessons that we in the British labour movement will ignore at our peril. The struggle in Ireland must be seen as part of the world struggle against imperialism, for the right of a nation to determine its own future. There are direct links between the struggle in Ireland and those taking place in other parts of the world. The enemy is the same. Today it's the Irish people who are engaged in armed struggle tomorrow it will be our turn.

It is not the job of our Party to tell the Irish working class how to conduct its struggle

against British imperialism. Ireland can only be set free by the Irish people. We do have a duty to assist our Irish comrades. We can best do this by arousing the British working class. They are the only force with a voice loud enough to call for British troops out of Ireland and to make this slogan, first put forward by our party when the Labour Government first sent British troops into Ireland, a reality.

Remember still, through good and ill, How vain were prayers and tears How vain were words till flashed the swords of the Irish Volunteers....

Thomas Davis

ON THE BUSES

IT'S not easy to size up the bus industry. The service has been fast disappearing and London Transport's new plans are a deliberate step towards no useful road transport at all. Donald (Big Brother will remember your foreign car) Stokes might have planned it himself the way it forces people to buy cars - or stay home and watch T.V.

PROFITABILITY

Profitability is the key word with fewer and, frankly, pathetic buses for those who travel on them and fewer jobs for those who drive and conduct them. Every proposal contains an attempt to worsen the working conditions. We see part of the present need as steadier journey times for safety in the traffic melee of London, shorter time spent at stops, less waiting time for passengers at stops and fare collection in the space period between stops. These are just simple basic essentials, obvious to all. But instead we have Jumbo buses with painfully slow passenger loading, longer intervals between buses one man fare collection and driving, faster running times for the already harassed driver as well as a radio to deal with. At least Jumbo jet pilots got a radio operator, navigator and crew to help them.

FAULTY

Serious concern has arisen over the contrast... between the safety standards supposedly expected of us under shift work, high pressure conditions and the condition of the vehicles on the road. Midland Red lost a large section

of their fleet in one day recently, through mechanical defects, and it is popularly supposed by us that a huge portion of L.T.E. buses must be taken off the road if ordinary safety standards are to apply. In answer to criticisms from a disgusted bus garage recently, an M.P. raised with L.T.E. the question of buses being allowed on the road with leaky radiators and other minor faults. This was emphatically denied by the Executive who covered themselves by saying that some minor body damage was not repaired owing to shortage of spare parts. However no mechanically defective bus is allowed on the road. This is a lie and is common knowledge as such. Not only are buses on the road leaking water all over the place, but fuel as well, and the list of other faults is endless. I have personally driven a bus on the road with a bald front off side tyre, and didn't discover this for a complete half journey. Buses leave garages in the morning with only one or two gears functional and the gear changing often remains faulty throughout the entire day.

CONTACT

We are divided into over 60 garages while the bosses are in close contact in one building. We operate variable shifts and have infrequent contact with each other for we work isolated from our fellows for large periods although not always as any irate passenger will have noticed on the arrival of a six-bus convoy.

At present we are 'not allowed' to hold meetings

THE number of office workers employed in the construction industry now makes up about half of the total workforce employed. Like the workers on site a very large percentage have become subject to the lump system otherwise known as 'freelance' or temporary working.

What is the lump and how does it lead to unemployment? To be employed on the lump means to be hired by labour sub-contractors and staff agencies and be subject to the danger of instant sacking without redress. For example, the contractors claim compensation from their client for delays on site due to bad weather and increase their profits by sacking most of the workers at the same time, knowing full well that there was plenty of work to do.

In this industry as in all other capitalist enterprise, profits are more important than people and the people are the first to suffer in an economic crisis. There are now more than 500,000 workers on the lump, in offices and on site. Some hoping in this way to avoid paying income tax while others cannot find a job on a permanent basis.

BULLET

What are the reasons why the bosses want their workers on the lump? The principal one is that workers are easier to sack. Secondly, to avoid all responsibility for working conditions, using the sack or the 'bullet' as it is commonly known on any who complain. Of course you don't need a gun to kill. When the bosses smile as they give you the bullet, they smile because they are getting away with murder.

Another excuse for the destruction of jobs, is the misuse of industrialised building systems. Here the parts of a building are made up in a factory, taken to the site and fitted together, sometimes complete with plumbing and wiring, the

bosses then boasting more than a 70% increase in productivity and a 50% reduction in labour. Thus unorganised labour can be forced off the site and out of a livelihood. Not long ago workers made redundant during the winter, could find work in factories. This is no longer the case, and the families of these workers now suffer appalling hardship during the cold winter months.

THREAT

For the host of office workers employed in this mammoth industry, the message is the same, their employers say that they will soon have as little use for college trained workers as they have for their mates on the site. Already the professional institutes run by them are savagely axing a number of colleges, and setting needlessly high academic standards; and there have been wholesale sackings of freelance draughtsmen and temporary clerical workers and the few remaining on a permanent basis are compelled to do more work for less money.

To crown it all a computer at Loughborough University has now been programmed to do not only the initial planning of a building project, but all the structural calculations and design, producing all the necessary drawings and to write a full specification with the minimum of supervision. This fact alone threatens the future massive unemployment of technicians and draughtsmen.

So in what is the largest single industry in the whole country, where £3000,000,000 was spent in 1970 alone, the workforce, being 6% of the National total, has since 1968 fallen from 1.6 million to 1.3 million and continues to fall in numbers by the day. Can any clearer warning be given that it is vital to organise on site and in the office in the fight for the right to work.

IRAQ

RECENT developments in Iraq show both the oppressive nature of the Baathist regime and the rise of revolutionary movement among the peasantry. In its last issue, "Tareeq 'Al-Shaab", the organ of the Communist Party of Iraq (Central Command) gives details of military operations carried out by the government against the peasants in the south. The paper also reported armed resistance by the peasantry and operations organised and led by the party including the execution of some notorious feudal landlords and government agents in the provinces of Dewaniya,

Hay and other parts. These developments come two years after the Communist Party of Iraq broke away from revisionism and the control of the Soviet Union and re-introduced the ideology of Marxism-Leninism, armed struggle and people's war.

The Iraqi regime is one of the few regimes in the world which trades exclusively with "Marxist" slogans and yet carries out repression that is only comparable in brutality to the fascist states of Portugal and South Africa. The Iraqi revisionists still trading under the name of the "Communists" Party of Iraq have "succeeded" in getting representation in the government with a ministerial post no other than that for "Justice". Today they are actively engaged in the government's campaign against the peasantry.

The armed struggle started by the Iraqi Communist Party (Central Command) is one of the most significant developments in the Middle East in recent years. Its example will soon be followed by others in that part of the world.

(by a busman)

THE TRUTH SLIPS OUT

DEALING with the brutal methods of interrogation used by the British Army on internees in Northern Ireland the December issue of THE WORKER stated:

"The introduction on August 9 of internment is only the following of an age old bankrupt policy. It is nothing new to the Irish people nor are the methods used to obtain information. In fact they are expected, even by us that live in this country, for we have seen it all before in Aden, Cyprus, India, Africa, Malaya, Vietnam etc."

Support for this incontrovertible accusation has come from an unexpected source. Mr. Maudling, the Home Secretary, in a debate on Ireland in the House of Commons on November 28, made the following answer to Labour charges of using methods of

interrogation impermissible in civilised countries:

"If the Opposition were saying that those methods must never be permitted; was Aden 'civilised' in 1965 when those methods were used? They had been used in a number of areas in succeeding campaigns." The British imperialist Army has thus been cleared of the imputation of racial discrimination. It is prepared to use the same brutality against Europeans in Ireland as it has used against Arabs, Asians or Africans.

Labour and Tory spokesmen are not noted for their truthfulness; but occasionally, when they are not joining together to vote themselves enormous pay rises, in the course of partisan bickering they inadvertently let the truth out.

RHODESIA

AFTER a short period of wayward adolescence, the Rhodesian Smith regime is resuming more adult relations with its British parent.

Assurances for the rights of the African majority are being loudly trumpeted as the rogues get together. Providing a counter blast to the fanfare are the cries of "Sell out," from the pious. Surely you can only betray a friend - those who thought Heath and his cronies

could ever be a friend are either suffering from infantile delusion or merely engaging in a brotherly squabble.

The rights of the "African majority" will eventually be assured - by the Africans themselves. We do not look to a benevolent Heath or Wilson to bestow these rights. It is not by votes but arms that the people of Zimbabwe will liberate themselves from imperialism and its puppets.

Price cuts at a stroke RHUBARB!

With Heath's promise to cut prices 'at a stroke' having become comparable with Neville Chamberlain's 'peace in our time', the price of food has become paramount in peoples' minds. In fact, "the Grocer" magazine of the trade can report in its latest issue that total food prices have risen by 12.5% since the General Election just 18 months ago. This is just the average for all food; fruit and veg prices taken on their own have risen 24%. Truly, capitalism is providing a luxury we cannot afford! To take Fred Prior's advice 'to shop around' to its logical conclusion, its about time we moved out of capitalism's high street for good and applied some serious thought to establish our own, socialism.

Pigs before People

To ask a greengrocer why food is so expensive is to be told a story straight out of the "Arabian Nights". It's always something out of his control and so we have to "like it or lump it!". Whether it's floods in Liverpool or fighting in Timbuctoo it means 'there's a shortage' and so up with the prices. During last year's dock-strike it was supposed to be the dockers' fault, with all that fruit lying idle on the quayside a shortage was caused and so prices went up. Everybody was supposed to hate the dockers. Of course what happened after the strike did not receive as much publicity. The end of the strike concluded with the beginning of the season for English apples. What happened was that Cape apples, several weeks old, were sold at only a slight reduction of their normal price while the English apples would cause a glut and so apple prices would drop suddenly. This was supposed to happen. Instead English grocers sold only their very best apples and fed the rest, almost as good, to the pigs. The reason this was done was to keep profit levels up. Those who had 'championed' the poor consumer

during the strike were nowhere to be heard. How strange!

Nero a Green Grocer?

It can be said, without telling a lie, that there are more fiddles in greengrocery than there are in Yehudi Menuhin's attic! How many people will know that mouldy beetroot looks that much fresher if you pour boiling water all over it? Or that a greengrocer can make more profit by splitting a bunch of spring onions priced at 5p into 2 bunches for 3p each. Capitalism, like Nero can fiddle all day and night!

Having stated 'the problem' one must find a solution. There's a story going the rounds that markets are cheaper than shops. On many stalls the weighing scales have a screw in the bottom which 'interferes' with the scale in the stallholder's favour. Also, of course, when a stallholder weighs food on scales he tends to throw it on and take it off quick. When this is done normally the indicator flies over the true weight before coming to rest. The point will be taken.

No Pies

It is clear, then, that we would not counterpose greengrocers shops with markets. Nor, is the answer to "roll" your local greengrocer, often only a 'small man' anyway, anymore than we should fight bus conductors because fares are so high. Our Party would suggest that we take the problem out of our locality and see it in national terms, rather as we say that to fight our own capitalist is a good thing but to oppose the whole of capitalism is a better thing. All over Britain millions of people are complaining about prices. If we don't take the initiative and smash capitalism soon then in 30 years' time we'll still be moaning and we'll have nobody to blame but ourselves. Hence our Party. We don't fight for the return of a Labour government we oppose all capitalist governments. No pie in the sky, but Socialism.



As the U.S. Government in baffled rage at crushing defeats of its own and puppet troops in Indochina mounts criminal air raids against North Vietnam these members of the People's Defence Force in Hanoi show the unwavering spirit of resistance of the Vietnamese people which has brought the Colossus of the West to the dust

CAMBODIA

THE puppet government in Cambodia has suffered a crushing defeat in its biggest campaign of 1971 against the liberation forces. The four-month offensive along highway 6 to the north-east of Phnom Penh crumbled into total disorder after liberation forces launched a four-day counter attack in early December.

All along the road, retreating government troops with bleeding feet begged for lifts back to the relative safety of the capital (only relative safety, since as the rout developed Phnom Penh airport had to be closed to international flights). American bombers had to be called in to try and destroy tanks, weapons and other supplies abandoned by the panicking government troops.

The man in charge of this spectacular advance 25 miles backwards, Brigadier-General Hou Hang Sin, operations chief of the army, should be no stranger to the idea of humiliating defeat. He was sacked as head of Phnom Penh's defences after guerrillas wiped out

practically all the government air force in an attack on Phnom Penh airport a year ago.

So together with its defeat in its conventional war in Vietnam, the U.S. is also facing imminent defeat in its "special war" in Cambodia where, as in Laos, the U.S. has poured in money, arms and air support in a vain attempt to save corrupt puppet governments from the anger of the people.

& LAOS

At the same time Pathet Lao forces with the support of their allies in Indochina have scored tremendous victories against the U.S. puppet troops in Laos, clearing the whole Plain of Jars of the enemy.

The air superiority which has enabled the U.S. air force to indulge in war crimes of savage brutality, albeit at heavy losses in machines and pilots, has been successfully challenged by Vietnamese-flown Migs which have added to the toll of U.S. planes downed by ground defences.

CPB(ML) Meeting in the Midlands

IT was a discomfiting night for some of those in attendance at a public meeting of the CPB(ML) held in Handworth, Birmingham on November 27. Both those who seek to divide workers on the basis of colour and those who ask for faith in the Labour Party were blasted.

Unity

Speakers addressed the crowded meeting in both Punjabi and English. Many immigrant workers present had their first opportunity to hear

speeches in their own language analysing the contemporary crisis of imperialism and the tasks confronting the working class in the revolutionary overthrow and destruction of British capitalism.

The speeches urged the need to build a revolutionary unity amongst the working class under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party regardless of sect, colour or nationality. One Punjabi speaker stressed the fact that immigrant workers cannot

stand outside the struggles of the British working class - those who live and work in Britain must recognise that the enemy is British capitalism and it is against this enemy that our revolutionary class war must be waged. The time has come to expose the opportunism of those who would seek to divide the working class by raising the slogans of chauvinism or suggesting that it is possible to engage in revolutionary struggles by proxy in a country thousands of miles away. Speaker after speaker exposed the counter-revolutionary nature of such slogans and demands.

Reactionary

Such attempts to perpetuate within the working class the 'divide and rule' tactics of the employing class are doomed to failure and in the discussion later in the meeting it became clear that the workers present clearly understood the need to work

with our party in building a united revolutionary movement.

The social-democrats and revisionists were exposed and attacked in one of the English speeches in which it was made clear that there was nothing to choose between the reformism of the TUC and the opportunism of the ultra-left who had raised the slogan of left unity. The basis of the return to power of a 'left-wing' labour government. Only our party has denounced the reactionary nature of such demands which seek to turn the clock back by offering the workers Wilson's brand of capitalist politics rather than Heath's. The working class has demonstrated its contempt for parliamentary politics by abstaining from elections: the 'British road' to socialism one English speaker affirmed, will be the road of revolution led by the CPB(ML) under the banner of Marxism-Leninism.

GREEK FASCISTS EXPOSED

IN December the CPB(ML) held a meeting on the situation in Greece, at which the two main speakers were from the Organisation of Greek Marxist-Leninists. The speakers described the development of the current political situation in Greece, and the rise of the fascist military junta, on the basis of the internal class situation in Greece and the relationship between the Greek bourgeoisie and the imperialist powers. The opportunist betrayal by the "Communist" Party of Greece was explained. The speakers described the development of Marxist-Leninist organisation

among the factory workers in Greece and among the Greek temporary emigrant workers in Germany and Scandinavia, and also how many Greek communists in exile in eastern Europe are taking a Marxist-Leninist line in spite of pressures from the revisionist governments of these countries.

After the speakers there was a lively and comradely discussion. The chairman of the meeting in his summing up pointed out how important it is for the British working-class and its revolutionary party to learn from Marxist-Leninists working under conditions of extreme political repression.

JAMES JOHNSON, DIED NOVEMBER 13th, 1971, AGED 65. A LIFE-LONG MILITANT AMONG SHEET METAL WORKERS. A LOSS TO HIS FAMILY AND TO HIS CLASS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAN. 21st MEETING ON ALBANIAN AND FILM SHOW "TRIUMPH OVER DEATH" Organised by the New Albania Society to launch its 1972 programme. Friday, Jan. 21st, 7.30pm at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5.

JAN. 29th FILM SHOW "SURPRISE ATTACK" Chinese film about the war in Korea. Saturday, Jan. 29th, 7.30pm at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5.

FEB. 5th PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN ANNUAL CONFERENCE. A representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation has been invited to open the first session. Saturday Feb. 5th, 10.30am to 5pm at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL.

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GRADUATES ON THE DOLE

HAVE you heard the joke about the privileged student? He was granted an education by a benevolent government and after 3 or 5 yrs emerged into a world where he was eagerly pursued by enthusiastic employers thirsting for his services and waving bundles of bank notes. Few laughs will be heard in the light of the present situation.

In reality, there are nearly 3 million students studying in Britain being trained for the requirements of a modern capitalist state. 17% of these students will find themselves unemployed on graduating, and this figure is increasing rapidly. Graduate unemployment has doubled in the last year. Swansea University holds the record with 42% of students finding themselves on the dole having graduated.

As the economic crisis grows graduate unemployment will undoubtedly

grow even more than unemployment as a whole. One of the reasons being that research is a long term profitmaker therefore in a situation of economic crises with bosses trying to cut back on costs, research is cut back even more than immediate production. Competition for those two areas most popular with students (teaching and higher degrees) will become far more acute than at present.

Students are increasingly realising that they face the same problems as the working class as a whole and for a very good reason. They are a part of that class. They must demand the right to work and when in work refuse redundancy. But we have had capitalism in Britain for over two hundred years and it has never been able to guarantee the right to work. The fight for the right to work is the fight to smash capitalism.