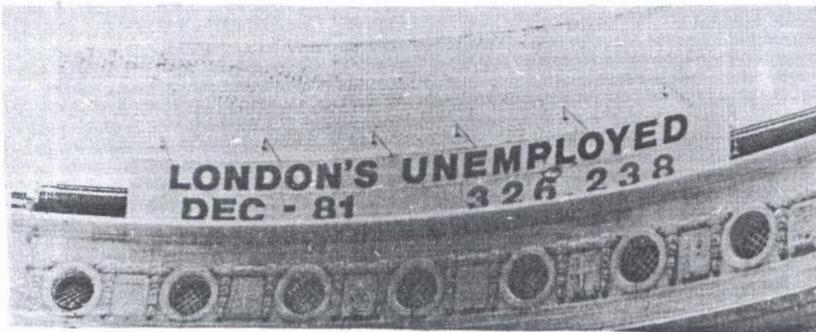




ATTACK ON USSR IS WAR ON WORKERS



Following a request from the Westminster (TOPS) branch of APEX the GLC has erected this massive illuminated sign on top of County Hall, facing the Palace of Westminster. The sign is a constant reminder of the number of Londoners out of work and will be updated each month. It will remind the Parliamentary gang of the enormity of the crime Thatcher has committed. Others should follow suit.

So much at stake in New Year

THE BEGINNING of a new year has seen no let-up in the struggle of organised workers against Thatcherism and the continuing attack upon Britain. Far from being quiescent, workers whom Thatcher had sought to cow with unemployment, dictat, cuts and legal threats have refused to lie down and die. In fact there is growing revolt.

■ Ford workers have won some gains but their will to fight was not properly harnessed and led.

■ Water workers building on their previous successes have compelled a series of revised offers from the employer, and have recorded widespread votes in the regions against the latest figure of 9.1 per cent.

■ Miners vote next week in a pit-head ballot on their claim with an executive recommendation for rejection of Ezra's final offer.

■ ASLEF members stand poised to defend the length of their working day.

■ Merchant Navy Officers have struck to fight the closure of ferry routes from Newhaven and Harwich.

■ Manual workers in electricity supply are entering the battle with a substantial claim and a proposed reduction in the working week.

■ Meanwhile workers like those at British Aluminium's smelter at Invergordon are

making their stand to defend not only their jobs but the future of their local community.

After 31 months of the Thatcher regime it has become clear that struggle is growing but is certainly much harder than before. The need to turn every members' fight into a challenge to the Government and its underlying philosophy has never been more urgent. More money

by itself is not enough.

November 1981 saw a dramatic turn around in the number of days of strike action. The trend is continuing. Clearly "Fight or Die" has got to be the resolution for 1982. In the coming year this message must be carried into every town and village - every workshop and every office - every place where workers are

Victory at Kirkstall Forge

A MASS meeting at Leeds Town Hall accepted the nine point agreement reached between the Shop Stewards Committee and Management, thus ending a month long strike.

This improvement on the 'final offer' of December 2nd was submitted to the Convenor at his home, endorsed by the Shop Stewards Committee on December 21st and ratified overwhelmingly on the 23rd. The men will return to work on January 4th having demonstrated that there is everything to be gained by well conducted industrial action on pay.

Those who fight get - that is the lesson from Kirkstall for all in engineering workers preparing to confront their individual employer. Every such victory adds weight to the battles which must be fought by the whole working

class in defence of living standards.

In response to a £14.81 claim, £8.50 will be paid now and a further £6 in November. This is the basis of the recommendation to return to work. A total group bonus scheme has been agreed, but a three week period is allowed for the men to discuss the details. This will be the subject of further negotiations. There are no compulsory redundancies and none of the strings attached to the earlier offers.

A workforce solid and determined in action returns united in the New Year. Worth over 10 per cent, the significance of this settlement lies in the fact that Kirkstall Forge starts 1982 with a victory. What is the rest of the labour movement waiting for?

WE CONDEMN the cowardly intervention of Thatcher and Reagan in Polish affairs. They have seized on the internal reaction represented by Solidarity to try to foment a bloodbath. In their war on the working class everywhere they have seen a chance to attack the first socialist state, the Soviet Union.

The formation of the Military Council for National Salvation has prevented the bloodbath. Wishful thinking had our media reporting massacres, tens of thousands detained, chaos and starvation. Soviet troops moving through the night in unlit convoys. Now there is no correction but a tacit admission that none of that really happened. We were fed a diet of lies with the Christmas turkey.

More than thirty-five years after liberation the Polish working class face a daunting task, a second reconstruction. Quite rightly the Polish Workers Party is purging from its

strike action against the emergency powers might reflect on the difference between their situation and that of the victims of Reagan's other friends in El Salvador where American advisors supervise the murder and mutilation of hundreds daily. Even in the gravest crisis Poland has retained its civilisation and humanity.

Reagan and Thatcher long for civil war in Poland to weaken the Soviet Union, but they also have strong domestic reasons for increasing international tension. The call is for unity against a common enemy although we have nothing in common with Thatcher and the class she represents. She has seized on the moment to propose a no-strike clause for Ministry of Defence workers, unable to forget Britain's temporary unilateral disarmament last summer when striking civil servants sank Polaris.

Reagan has not limited

'They fed us lies with the Xmas turkey'

ranks the passengers who joined for an easy ride and rich pickings. They will have to take on the subversion of the church and of the peasant farmers who even now are hoarding up to 850,000 tons of grain.

In beginning the task of reconstruction the Poles have had the aid of their allies. The USSR has guaranteed the meat ration, food pours in from the other Comecon countries. The Polish debt to western capitalists, so unwisely acquired, has been underwritten by the Soviet Union.

Contrast the intervention of Reagan. He has moved to increase tension by introducing sanctions against the Soviet Union. Thatcher urges the EEC countries into line but is frustrated by Schmidt. The BBC has stepped up its propaganda broadcasts urging the Poles to a useless revolt just as it urged them to rise in Warsaw in 1944 before the Soviet army reached it.

The three Solidarity members acquitted in a public trial in Warsaw of fomenting

himself to pushing Cruise on us. Another foot-in-mouth slip from one of his 'defence' aides revealed the intention to stock-pile nerve-gas in Britain, for use on us or on Polish workers? His sanctions restrict food exports, technology deals, a maritime treaty; possibilities for progress and international understanding but perceived as dangerous by capitalism.

British workers and Poles would be foolish to forget who our friends are. Nazism was defeated by the Soviet Union and that country now stands as a bastion against reaction in the world. The cost of defeating the Nazis has guaranteed a Soviet horror of war.

A victory for Solidarity would have meant a Catholic Khomeini in Europe, a base to make war on the USSR for capitalism. Jaruzelski's success gives Polish workers a chance to move forward. We would do no harm if we removed one of the overseas props of Polish reaction - Thatcher.

The 'crooked Welsh attorney' and the dole

TROOPS on the streets; internment camps; imprisonment without proper trial; houses wrecked during searches; children run down by army vehicles, or killed and maimed by plastic bullets... Poland? No, northern Ireland which has suffered from the occupation of the British Army since 1969.

It's funny how all those politicians, union leaders and trendy lefties, wearing 'Solidarity' badges at £1 a time, who wring their hands and march about Poland, don't do the same about Ireland. A bit too close to home perhaps?

BUT then we're used to such hypocrisy. On the News and in the papers we are repeatedly told that the Poles' rations have been cut. Only once have they said by how much. They are now to get only 1½lb of meat a week each (they used to get 3lb). Maybe they should be sending food parcels to all those thousands of British families, who can only afford to eat meat at weekends, or coal to the thousands of old folk who will die of the cold this winter.

WHILE on the subject of hypocrites, President Reagan lit a candle, and said that he had refrained from taking firmer measures against the Polish authorities because he 'didn't want blood on his hands'. The people of El Salvador will be glad to know that under the rugged exterior beats a warm heart.

OF COURSE the US got it all wrong over Poland. Their spy satellites were all focussed on Russia while the Poles invaded themselves. So, with a reflex action worthy of Pavlov's dog, Reagan imposed sanctions on the USSR as a punishment (for not invading??). After all, 'reliable' reports have stated that the soldiers were Russians in Polish uniforms. Another case of 'heads I win, tails you lose?'

AT THE same time Reagan announced that he wanted to resume aid shipments to the military junta in Turkey, where thousands of trade unionists are currently on trial for their lives. A contradiction? Not really, when one recalls how he sacked all his air traffic Controllers for daring to go on strike. Remember the pictures of their leaders being led away in chains?

BEING charitable, perhaps one of the reasons why he stopped the two Aerflot flights to the USA every week was his concern for the passengers' safety in view of the inexperience of the scab controllers.

BUT ALL is not lost in America. Last week a judge in Arkansas ruled that a state law which requires that 'creationism' be given equal teaching time with the theory of evolution was unconstitutional. It is an important set-back for the bigots and book burners who make up the self-styled 'Moral Majority'. Perhaps the American people can look forward to a time when Shakespeare and Dickens are no longer banned from libraries in some states as being depraved and pornographic.

THE GREAT National Insurance Act, copied from Bismarck's Social legislation, was passed by the Liberal Government in 1911. From 1908 the Old Age Pension Act had stipulated that 'people who are 70 years of age and whose income does not exceed £31:10:0d a year be paid one

shilling a week and persons whose income does not exceed £21:0:0d a year should receive five shillings a week".

The Act had been piloted through the Asquith government by David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer and by John Burns, the once-militant

socialist trade unionist, now President of the Local Government Board. The Pensions Fund was non-contributory and financed out of general taxation. It would be graceless to enquire how many workers reached the age of 70 in 1908:

Second Orpheus

Lloyd George, described by many as 'that crooked little Welsh attorney', had the quality of Orpheus. Ask anyone old enough to have heard him address a public meeting and you will be told of his silver tongue that could hold enthralled even a hard-headed working class audience and who could 'tear a passion to tatters', weeping as he described the plight of the sick, the old, the disabled.

The Act of 1911 - by now Lloyd George had recovered his calm - closely followed Bismarck and like the German model was created to keep socialism at bay. The costs of social reform would come not from the rich but from the poor. The rich were not to pay anything but healthy employed workers were to contribute towards the needs of the sick and workless.

Workers pay twice

Employers were to make weekly contributions, as were workers, into a National Health Insurance Fund to which the State was to give a small subsidy. As Cole and Postgate wrote 'nominally the workmen were to pay less than half the cost of the benefits they were to receive but it was not difficult to see that the employers' contribution would tend to come out of wages - for it would form part of the cost of employing labour and would be taken into account when wage bargains were being struck'.

Distrust of scheme

From 'THE HISTORY OF THE TUC' comes 'opinion inside the Labour movement was sharply divided about the desirability of the National Insurance Bill. The Parliamentary Committee of the TUC approved of it but trade unionists were divided about it and many socialists deplored the contributory basis of the scheme which they insisted should come from taxations. In April 1911 the TUC formed, together with representatives of the General Federation of Trade Unions, a sub-committee to nominate men for the provisional insurance committees'. The

History states approvingly: 'This was another early instance of the TUC moving into the field of participation in the administration of government'.

One would not expect them to write that the Liberal government did not give away 'life peerages' to useful 'heroes' of the labour movement but sold them for party funds or at least, Lloyd George said it was for party funds.

Dole cuts

Workers, with their gift for exact and pithy language, called the new payments 'the dole'. Since then, successive governments have raided the fund and then say 'we cannot afford to pay people for being idle'.

An interesting footnote to history - Winston Churchill, as President of the Board of Trade in the Asquith Liberal Government, brought in a 'Bill to Establish Labour Exchanges'. Before and during the passing of the Bill, Churchill constantly consulted the Parliamentary Committee of the TUC. The first Labour Exchanges had grand front entrances for employers (with a stone carved so) and a side entrance for workers. The total costs of buildings and the employees therein came out of the National Insurance Fund.

Joseph back from obscurity with more lies

THE PLATFORM of the North of England Education Conference, held at Leeds University, was the setting for the re-emergence of Sir Keith Joseph. Many of his Leeds constituents who believed he had sunk without trace after his brain trauma of dealing with Industry and the Steel Strike, were initially perplexed - but warmed when they realised the Mad Monk had made a full recovery.

Joseph calls for a slimmer, leaner, fitter industry, the need for the removal of inefficient, ineffectual, poorly qualified, the weak and wasters. All rallying calls to warm the stones of Tory hearts. Here was the 'new' Education Secretary using a threadbare second-hand Industry Secretary speech.

To save education is the Education Secretary's intention. This is to be achieved by sacking at least 13,000 teachers in 1982. To dodge the outcry from parents and teachers, he smears these thousands of teachers as being unfit to teach. As it was with Steel and Industry so with education: Joseph's big lie logic is at work. To save Steel sack all the workers. To save Education sack all the teachers and mothball the curriculum.

The people of Leeds who have been responsible for the loosing of Joseph and several others of his ilk (Healey, Rees), should re-gauge the maturity of their wisdom. An inefficient, ineffectual, poorly qualified, flat earth-ist like Joseph should be made to take his own medicine and be rapidly consigned to the scrapheap along with all the other parliamentary dunces.



German workers' courage in demonstrations against the continuing military build-up

Occasionally we have seen on television reports of a struggle by the German people against the extension of Frankfurt airport. This has been described as struggle by naive environmentalists against the felling of trees. There are indeed important environmental aspects to the protest. But the core of the opposition is clearly anti-war. As one protestor said: 'They can't lie to me. This thing is being built for the Third World War. They've done this thing twice with us - not again.'

Frankfurt airport is already the largest centre of military airport traffic outside the United

States. 40 per cent of its traffic is military. In September it was the central juncture for the invasion of 17,000 American soldiers practising for rapid deployment. Behind the present proposals to extend Frankfurt airport are the American plans to double their strength in Germany. They already have 200,000 soldiers there, they want at least 400,000 by 1985.

Thus the courage of the German people who occupied the proposed extension site and their determination in face of the gas grenades, shock detonators and batons which rained down upon them recently, is to be commended. Our sympathy

too must go to the 14 year old girl clubbed by riot police into a coma. If she wakes she will be crippled for life simply for saying war plans must be opposed.

In Britain, sadly, we have been more tolerant of the American invasion and stood by as our countryside has been filled with concrete bunkers and missile shelters. But the present Peace Camp outside USAF Greenham Common and the developing struggle by Scottish islanders to refuse to let NATO savage their islands are building the struggle against the same enemy on British soil. It will end when the bases close.

Editorial

THATCHER'S New Year message to us all is that her policies are paying off, that things have stopped getting worse and are going to start getting better.

But better for whom? Not for us, Britain's workers. Unemployment will continue to rise, public spending on health, education and housing will continue to be slashed and local government will be swept away for daring in certain cases to defy Thatcher by trying to maintain social services.

Profits recover: we don't

All Thatcher means is that profits are going up - at our expense. Also Britain may attract more foreign investment - like Japan moving in to occupy the hollowed out shell of the British motor car industry.

Thatcher, through one of her ministers, describes the industrial working class of Britain in very different terms for foreign investors than when she is justifying anti-trade union legislation here. The work-shy labourers who behind the shield of their overly-powerful unions pay themselves too much and carry out restrictive practices which have brought British industry to its knees have suddenly become, for overseas consumption only, of course, a skillful, disciplined work force whose services can be had more cheaply than anywhere on the Continent of Europe.

Plan for strike ban

Does this mean that Thatcher is easing off the war she has been making against us? Not a bit of it. She is using the made-in-the-USA 'international crisis' over Poland to try to sneak through a ban on industrial action by the half million civil servants who work for the Ministry of Defence. Her ministers are studying proposals from the Engineering Employers Federation which would allow employers to lay off workers without payment in the event of disruptive action by public sector workers like coal miners. She chortles with glee when the Law Lords declare illegal the Fares Fair move toward a rational transport system for which the people of London voted.

No recovery under capitalism

Nothing has changed. The fundamental crisis of capitalism in absolute decline is as serious as ever and the working class is expected to pay for it. Profits can only be kept up by taking them out of our hides. The destruction of Britain will continue unless we stop it.

We have to make it clear to Thatcher that we are not negotiating some acceptable level of unemployment nor some agreed limit below which manufacturing in Britain will not drop. We want her out - her and the capitalism for which she is the laquered doll-like speaker. We have had enough of being the objects of a system which serves the interests of the profiteers. We intend to be the subjects of our own system which serves the interests of the people in Britain. The first move in the realisation of that revolutionary intention is to sweep Thatcher out.

EXTORTIONATE HOURS FOR JUNIOR DOCTORS

BECAUSE OF massive under-funding by the government, and because of the unwillingness of the Health Authority to demand adequate funding from the DHSS, the Oxon Area Health Authority, like most other AHAs, has attempted to recoup its deficit by cutting back on building maintenance, medical equipment and staffing levels.

At a time when fewer and fewer medical students are being trained in our universities and when more and more Junior Doctors are unable to find employment, the Health Service is making greater use of underpaid and over-worked Senior House Officers (SHOs). It is not uncommon for a SHO employed in the casualty department in Oxford to work from 8.30 am until 8.30 the following morning. During this time you would be expected to admit anyone who came in - traffic accidents, cardiac arrests, severe burns, the lot - all day and all night.

During the night you might only get one or two hours sleep and then it is rarely uninterrupted - and this only if someone will cover for you. By the early hours of the morning you are mentally and physically exhausted.

The more tired you get the slower you get, the longer patients have to wait and the more agitated they become. This might then be followed by a "hot round", that is, having to see all the patients admitted to the wards by your Consultant the previous night. This often involves operating, which means you rarely get off work until 1 pm.

The argument usually put forward to justify these sort of hours is that it is good for training, but how anyone that tired can absorb any information at all is ridiculous. The real reason for these extortionate hours becomes obvious when you see that for so-called overtime, SHO's are only paid one third of the hourly rate.

On their own, junior doctors can find it difficult to get another job if it is known that they have been complaining - but united they can win. This state of affairs is an indictment of our class as a whole, but in particular of the BMA.

The time for change is way overdue - junior doctors must take up the fight for pay and hours as part of the fight to save the NHS from Thatcher's destructive policies.

Police proposals charter for brutality

STATING WHAT everyone else has known for years only when it hits him in the face, is a common characteristic of the Home Secretary, Mr Whitelaw. He exhibited this yet again when announcing lately that the police complaints system needs changing, introducing the report of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure.

What the Commission, and no doubt Mr Whitelaw, propose to do to remedy the very real grievances felt by many people against the police (in 1980 there were 15,000 individual complaints against the police, 4840 alleging criminal offences) is to strengthen police powers and curtail civil liberties.

The Commission recommends the setting up of supposedly independent prosecuting authorities, composing salaried lawyers, in each police authority. These to be responsible to Parliament through the Home Secretary or the Attorney General. How independent can you get!

The Royal Commission's proposals to deal with police interrogation provide a charter for police abuse of suspects - any

method to get a confession. To counteract police 'verbals' (officers possess the gift of perfect recall, producing 'verbatim' accounts of long interviews after they have been conducted) the Commission recommends that interrogations should continue to be unobserved and unrecorded.

But when these are over the police will prepare a 'minute' summarising the incriminating statements the suspect is recalled to have made. He will then read this 'minute' into a tape recorder, point the microphone at the suspect and record his instant response (prod in the back, 'yes what did you say, sonny?').

This proposal only adds new technology to the already unsatisfactory procedure while, most importantly, eliminating the 'right to silence' as the suspect will be expected to respond. No doubt courts will draw adverse conclusions if a credible response is not forthcoming. And have the Commission never heard of re-recording until the desired response is elicited?

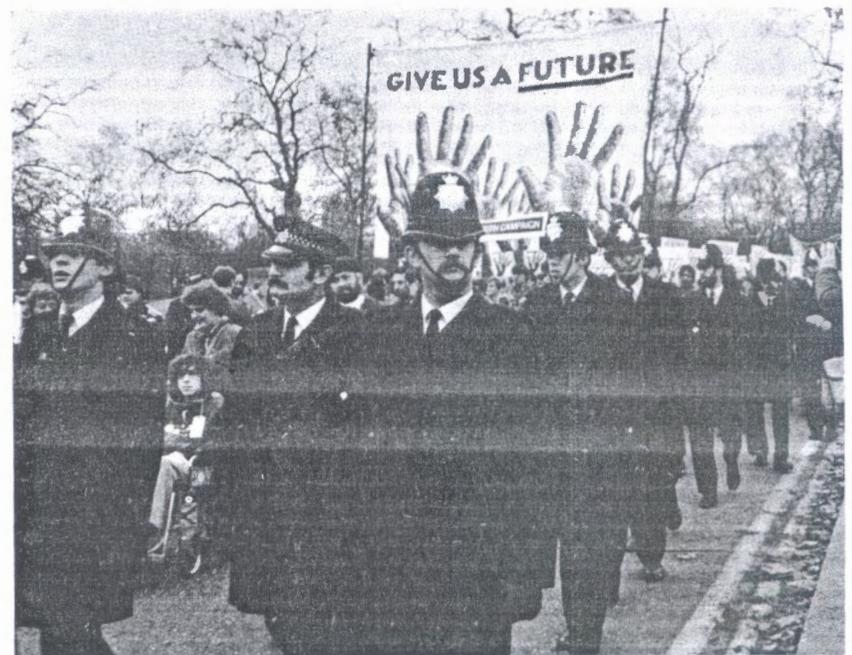
The use of overt pressure by police to obtain confessions is

condoned by the Commission. Even existing safeguards which allow judges a discretion to rule out confessions they think may have been extracted by threats, promises or where the 'Judge Rules' have been breached, are to be dismantled. All confessions except those extracted by torture ('Please, your worship I extracted this confession by use of torture') are to be admissible in evidence, irrespective of the methods used to induce them.

This will certainly lead to many more unfair or wrongful convictions and supplies a positive inducement to the police to use any method they please to extract a 'confession'.

The augmentation of the apparatus of a fascist state is further evidenced in the recommendations that police powers to stop and search be extended, (remember the repeal of the 'Sus' law), that committal proceeding be abolished, the extension of police powers to arrest without warrant, additional powers to demand names and addresses at random and to fingerprint children from the age of 10 without court orders.

Police on parade? Look closely and you can just see that the men in blue are "escorting" a march for jobs. Repression is their business. Photo: The Worker



UNPAID WORK INVITES IMPOSITIONS

THE GUILD of Hospital Pharmacists (ASTMS) is advising members to withdraw from unpaid emergency duties at the end of January after national negotiations broke down on December 16th. Details of the Pharmaceutical Whitley Council meeting have been circulated to all members. The proposal for an agreement on unsocial hours included full details of an On-

call, stand-by and overtime system, but management did not reply to any of the points raised, nor did they suggest an alternative.

In July the Health Minister stated that he recognised that an out-of-hours Pharmaceutical Service was desirable and that the case for payment was a strong one. This time management said they were not convinced and offered to 'produce a paper' and set up another sub-committee. The Staff Side walked out of the meeting in disgust.

Though some progress has been made locally, with certain teaching centres operating residency services, the majority of hospital pharmacists provide out-of-hours cover and receive no payment: a situation which does not exist within any other NHS

staff section. The onus is now on all groups to begin negotiations for a local arrangement in the continuing absence of a national agreement. If this fails members are advised to withdraw services for which they are not paid.

The profession faces a 4 per cent cash limit on pay, impending increases in prescription charges, and severe recruitment difficulties which will be significantly exacerbated by the University Grants Committee proposals for Pharmacy Schools. A Clinical Pharmacy Inspectorate will shortly question the necessity for Pharmacists to visit wards: just as a previous Medicines Inspectorate curtailed manufacture. Decisive action on this issue will set the pattern for future battles in 1982.



SHIPBUILDING OCCUPATION BOOSTS RESISTANCE

Report shows Britain spends most on defence

AFTER 14 weeks of occupation of the Robb Caledon shipyard at Dundee the workforce accepted closure of the yard, since it was being taken over by Kestrel Marine with all Caledon workers being employed by Kestrel.

The issues raised for the first time of closure and the hiving off of British Shipbuilders subsidiaries within the newly nationalised shipbuilding industry have been met by a determined stand by the unions within the industry as

reported in the WORKER No. 47, 1981.

The stand taken by the Caledon workforce has made British Shipbuilders even more determined to support the destruction being perpetrated through Atkinson, Thatcher's man in shipbuilding. Undoubtedly the fact that the ending of occupation meant that the yard was sold and then leased to Kestrel led some within the unions to sigh with relief that the struggle was over and say "I told

you so". But no one can detract from the importance of the struggle of the Caledon workers and its influence on the rest of BS unions.

The lessons learnt and the politics realised will hold for the future. Atkinson, giving his new year address to the industry like some pope or royal, in reference to Robb Caledon and Clark Hawthorn, said there would be "... areas of adjustments", that is, closure and yet more redundancy. He promised a bright-

er future, not based upon investments but greater efficiency, that is, more work for less pay which is set at 4 per cent being a nationalised industry.

With the clarity gained from the Caledon occupation and the stand against compulsory redundancy and closure, the CSEU unions in the shipbuilding industry can lend their weight to the battle against Thatcher's policy of industrial destruction, class destruction and wage reduction.

A REPORT 'Science and Technology Policy' for the 1980s' has recently been published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Britain. It shows, is the only member country that spends more than half its government research money on 'defence' research. Britain is increasing its spending on 'defence' research whereas Germany, for example, spends only a third as much as Britain and this figure is declining.

The report also bleakly illustrates that Britain is one of the few OECD countries to be decreasing rather than increasing its spending on Research and Development in support of industrial growth.

In Government support to universities, the Japanese and Danish governments spend more of their research money than any other country. Britain, spending 10.4 per cent of its research money in universities comes bottom of the list. Only spending on destruction is seen as constructive by our rulers.



'For Health-a revolutionary struggle': the pamphlet that was too accurate

SEVERAL YEARS ago the Communist Party of Britain (ML) published an excellent and far-sighted pamphlet called "For Health - a revolutionary struggle". It is a sad fact however that as the years have gone by we have allowed the statements in that pamphlet to be backed by an increasing mound of evidence. None more so than the statement: "A dignified working-class that claims the right to an effective and freely available health service" is anathema to those who seek to destroy our skills and our industry.

Two obscene incidents at the end of 1981 reminded me of how dignity and a 'freely available health service' go hand in hand. The first involved Westminster Childrens Hospital, London, where 25

children were waiting to die because of shortage of money to carry out marrow transplants. It was almost casually announced that 97 children have died over the past five years because the hospital could only afford 25 operations a year. When a millionaire came up with £100,000 to save the 25 currently on the death list, Mrs. Thatcher said she was "absolutely thrilled".

The second incident involved Normansfield Hospital for the mentally handicapped. Children at this hospital were being confined to the ward because there was insufficient money to staff recreational facilities. A parent's charity at the hospital therefore offered to pay the wages of 1 nursing auxiliaries to staff the facilities. The charity felt that it was more than they

should do but could see no other way of helping their children. As it is, the charity can only pay the wages for one year.

This begging and scrubbing-around way of saving and enhancing lives must be anathema to us. Towards the end of the pamphlet are quoted the words of a president of the Royal College of Surgeons: "No doctor should, for whatever compelling political or economic reason, be required to do less for the care of his patient than he knows to be necessary and possible". The same applies to anyone who works in the health service. Likewise no member of the class should be prepared to accept anything less. "For Health - a revolutionary struggle" available at all CPBML bookshops.

Water workers have to mop up

THE SECOND largest manual workers' union in the water industry, NUPE, has voted by 10 to 1 to reject the 9.1 per cent pay offer. Such resistance to Thatcher's 4 per cent limit is important even if the water workers generally decide not to fight at this time. It is there to build on - like the Longbridge BL factory or the Halewood Ford factory.

It is the manual water workers, of course, who among others are working around the clock in terrible conditions to deal with all the current problems brought by flooding and blizzards.

For this, a class IV manual worker is earning a basic wage of £71.70. Thatcher thinks it's too much and wants further wage cuts. We must let Thatcher know what we think.

HULL NO TO BOYCOTT

HULL dockers have rejected a request that they should put an embargo on Soviet ships in response to events in Poland. Hull dockers are well-known for their loyal and solid support of the labour movement. Their present decision should be set beside the platform of speakers at the Royal Albert Hall in a 'Rally for Poland': Denis Healey, William Rodgers, Sir Bernard Braine (Tory MP for Essex SE), Geoffrey Rippon, Frank Chapple. Is any further comment required?

Nothing could better characterise Solidarity than the fact that members who happened to be out of Poland when action to restore order was taken, like seamen, have found a congenial home in South Africa. British workers will not accept Thatcher as an authority on proletarian internationalism.

Public Meetings
 LONDON
 Friday, Jan. 29, 'Fares Fair - the Londoner's Right'
 Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, NW5. 7:30pm

Bookshops
 Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortress Road, London NW5
 Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
 Clarion Books 5 The Precinct, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex
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