

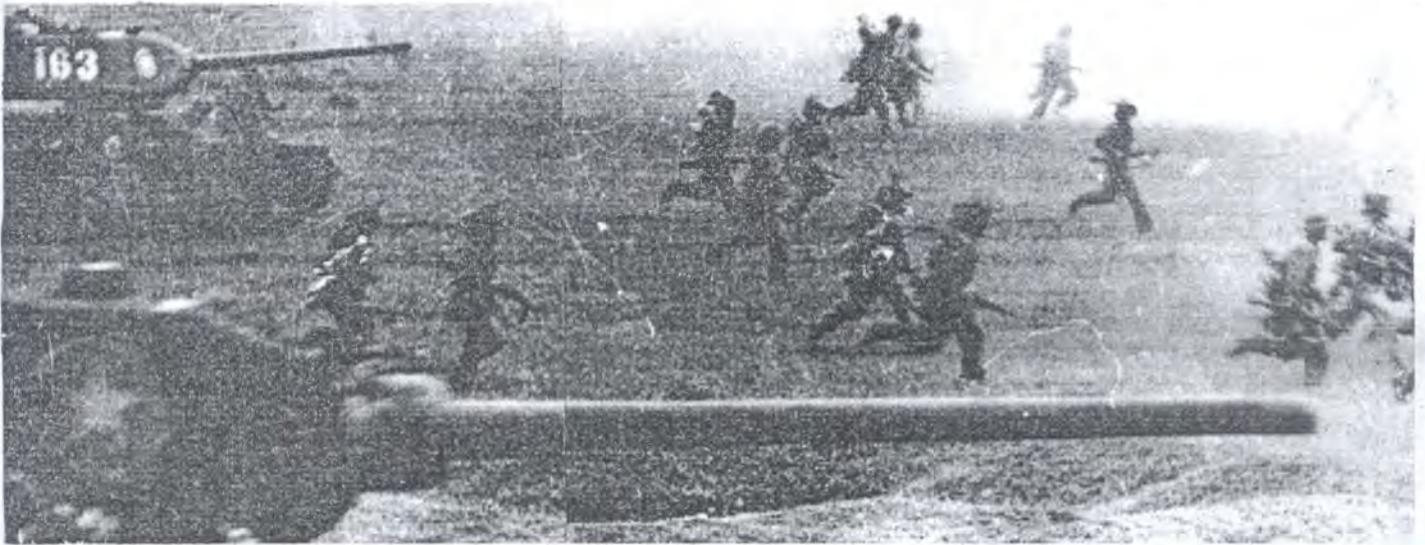
THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) Nov 2nd. 1972(No16) price 3p

VIETNAM WILL WIN!

Co-ordinated attack by tanks and infantry of the Vietnamese People's Liberation Army.



In recent days much inspired rumour concerning 'peace' in Vietnam has been reported. News which all right-thinking humans must fervently hope will become fact. In order to keep the true position in correct perspective however, we give below a report from Reg Birch, Executive member of the AUEW and trade union delegate to Vietnam, of a Press Conference in Hanoi on October 3rd, 1972.

I attended this Conference on the invitation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and also through the aegis of the Commission for investigation of United States Imperialists' War Crimes in Vietnam.

The Press Conference was addressed by the Chairman of the Administrative Committees of Hanoi and Hai Phong and other cities and provincial capitals of the Democratic Republic and was truly an appeal to Mayors, urban populations and peoples around the world. There were four Mayors present, representing 37 cities, all of whom spoke. They stated that for five months now

their cities and population centres have actually become strategic targets for the U.S. Air Force and Navy. U.S. B.52's each carrying 30 tons of bombs have carpet-bombed Hai Phong, Vinh and the provincial capitals of Thanh Hoa and Dong Hai. Over 200 attacks from US aircraft on 700 points in Hai Phong city. 57 air raids against the capital city of Hanoi, indiscriminately striking at hospitals and residential quarters. The city of Nam Dinh has suffered raids; this is a textile city; 70% of the houses there have been destroyed, in the course of continuous attacks of extermination.

Nixon's administration had mobilised over 1000 tactical bombers, to rain day and night hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs.

They have devastated hospitals such as the Bach Mai Hospital, Hanoi. All this to endeavour to sustain and maintain in office the traitor, Nguyen Van Thieu, lackey of the US imperialists. In the words of the Nixon clique (I quote) 'If the war-supporting targets are to be destroyed and the operation to be effective, any new bombing of North Viet Nam must be more violent, and run greater risks of causing civilian casualties.'

Throughout my stay in Hanoi every day, save one, air raids were conducted and warnings given not less than three times a day in the city of Hanoi. I myself saw US planes shot from the sky and two pilot parachutists floating from destroyed F111 aircraft. I actually visited bombed areas and cities, saw the Bach Mai Hospital and had only just departed from there when the US aggressive force, renewing its attacks had bombed the Diplomatic Quarter of Hanoi, causing death and maiming in the French Embassy.

Hai Phong, the major port, suffers perpetual naval bombardment and the whole coast is mined. All of these acts are quite illegal and are war crimes.

In listening to the conference and the reports and having witnessed the devastation and injury, I deliberately asked the question: 'Will such an onslaught weaken the resolve of the Vietnamese people in their struggle for freedom and victory?', and I received the following answer: 'Nixon is greatly mistaken! No bombing can save the aggressors from

defeat. The more US bombs are rained, the more they will fan up our people's hatred. The Vietnamese people have only one will: 'Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom', and they have one unshakeable determination: to defend with all their energies and forces the independence and freedom of their fatherland'.

It is important, therefore, when one conjectures about 'peace' talks to remember the war crimes that are being committed by US imperialism. I have referred only to those matters which arose at that press conference and have set aside, not to be forgotten, the terrible war activity and aggression waged by US forces and satellites in South Vietnam and their into Laos and Cambodia, indeed really into Indo-China as a whole.

I emphasise therefore, the appeal of the Mayors of those 37 cities of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam now under attack, 'that the Nixon administration must bear before history and the world's peoples full responsibility for this crime of genocide, biocide, and ecocide, for the crime of destruction of society, for the devastation of our towns and cities. We strongly denounce to the world, to Mayors and urban populations in the world, Nixon's crimes of war. These are crude violations of international law, acts which run counter to human ethics, dignity and conscience, an extremely insolent challenge to progressive mankind in this 20th century. The world's peoples cannot allow the bellicose Nixon clique to commit its crimes openly. Let us together stay Nixon's bloody hands. We thank you for your sympathy and support'.

Reg Birch, Chairman, Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

A HALF CENTURY OF PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION

Fifty-five years ago the workers and peasants of Russia overthrew their class enemies at home and in the teeth of massive imperialist intervention established the first workers' socialist state.

Twenty-three years ago the workers and peasants of China, having driven out the Japanese imperialists and defeated the U.S.-backed armies of the Kuomintang, founded the People's Republic of China, a socialist state in which the working class enjoys full state power.

After the Second World War the working people of tiny Albania, who had liberated their country from Italian fascists and German nazis, set up a workers' government and successfully repelled all attempts at outside interference as they applied themselves to the task of self-reliantly developing a socialist society.

For ten years the heroic Vietnamese have waged a people's war of liberation against the mightiest imperialist armada of all time. So thoroughly have they defeated all the aims of the aggressors that the U.S. Government, in blind rage and desperation, can only carry out savage acts of wanton destruction which have merely strengthened the determination of the working masses of Vietnam to fight on till the last U.S. soldier has been driven ignominiously from their land and the vicious little puppet Thieu has been toppled.

Russia: a vast imperialist power where capitalism was beginning to develop. China: the most populous country in the world, semi-feudal and semi-colonial, whose poverty-stricken masses died in their millions from natural and man-made calamities. Albania: the smallest and most backward country in Europe. Vietnam: a colonial territory in South East Asia. In all of them the working people were victorious.

What do these great revolutionary struggles in such different places under such different conditions have in common?

In each case as the vanguard of the people's struggle there was a communist party, based on the principles of scientific socialism, Marxism-Leninism. In each case, led by great popular leaders, like Lenin, Stalin, Mao Tsetung, Enver Hoxha, Ho Chi Minh, these parties have been able to apply the principles of Marxism-Leninism to the conditions in these countries.

The working people everywhere have the qualities of courage, comradeship and determination to put an end to their exploitation. To these qualities must be added the organisation of a Marxist-Leninist party informing their struggles with the revolutionary experience of the world proletariat, its victories and its defeats.

continued page four

ON THE INDUSTRIAL

FRONT



bristol bridge

The struggle for safety at work is not led by management or by government inspectors, but by the potential victims, the workers themselves. Construction workers on the M5 bridge, which will cross the River Avon at Bristol, walked out on 10th October. They wanted a first-aid attendant on the Somerset side, which has the appropriate name of Pill. At present it takes half an hour for first-aid men to reach Pill from Avonmouth.

power struggle

If anybody is in a strong position to torpedo any wage freeze, whether 'voluntary' or compulsory, it is the 110,000 power workers. They can shut the country down faster than the miners. And just as the miners smashed Heath's strategy of fighting the unions to a standstill, the power workers could strike a blow for all workers and especially all those other public employees whose negotiations are being hied up until the government comes up with some incomes policy. The electricity supply workers claim is for a £5.50 increase in the minimum rate, a five-hour reduction in the working week and an extra week's holiday. The Electricity Council refused to negotiate until the government made up what could laughingly be called its mind. The union negotiating team replied by threatening industrial action. But they played safe by postponing real decisions on action until the day after the Govt-TUC-CBI negotiations. But if anybody has learned the dangers of playing safe, it should be the power workers. Two years ago they staged a 'work-to-rule' and claimed they weren't really doing anything drastic. But this defensive stance did nothing to prevent a hysterical attack by government and press. The best form of defence is attack.

We hope readers will remember where they put the candles.

midland cold storage

The dockers' picket line outside Midland Cold Storage depot, Waterdon Road, Hackney, has proved so effective that the giant Vestey organisation has been forced to admit failure. So far the threat of blacking at the docks has kept hauliers away and Vestey's claim a loss of £100,000. In the usual attempt to split worker from worker the management have sacked 27 of the 51 workers at the depot, blaming their redundancy on the dockers' pickets. But the real blame for the redundancies can only lie with Lord Vestey and Edmund Vestey who are so determined not to employ men at dockers' wages and conditions that they are prepared to throw £100,000 away to destroy the principle of 'dockers' work'.

Not that one can believe the figures for losses - for months Vestey's even lied about the fact that they owned Midland Cold Storage. Not that Vestey's consider the money thrown away - they doubtless consider it an investment in weakening the organised working class. Not that the money was theirs anyway - a good part was sweated out of the dockers by Vestey wearing the port employer hat.

triumph

Triumph's Coventry plant was closed following picketing by 50 security men. They have rejected an offer of £3 and £1 in January, and are demanding £3.50 and £2.50.

rolls-royce

All over the country, workers have been showing in action that they were not prepared simply to sit back and wait for some Government-CBI-TUC deal. Among the first to take action have been Rolls Royce workers. At the aero-engine plant in Coventry, 250 foremen and 50 service engineers and systems analysts staged a one-day token strike in protest against 'procrastination'.

over their £5-£6 claim. The

management had been refusing to talk cash until the results of the Chequers talks were known.

In the turbine department 62 workers have been on a piecework pay strike since the end of August. The Coventry workers have sent a demand that the TUC breaks off talks with the government. Again, at Bristol, 2,000 Rolls Royce draughtsmen staged a walkout when their £3.50 claim was met by management insistence that 'Two pounds is your limit'. The draughtsmen at Patcham, Bristol, are already angry over proposed redundancies and are banning overtime and blacking all work done by sub-contracted labour.

lucas

A strike of 230 maintenance electricians at twelve Lucas factories hit production severely. The men insist on a £5.25 increase, as against a management offer of £4.45.

liverpool docks

Liverpool dockers were blacking two connected Bootle transport companies, Howitt Brothers and Howitt Transport. The blacking followed the sacking of two Howitt workers including a shop steward. Howitt's replied by calling in the NIRC. Will the government have to drag the Tipstaff and the Official Solicitor out of mothballs again? Very embarrassing if they are making deals with the TUC at the same time. The telephone wires between Downing Street, Bootle and Liverpool must be getting red hot, as people try and cook up settlements.

basinstoke

Workers, sitting-in at the Thornycroft British-Leyland transmission deals in protest against redundancies caused by its sale to the American Eaton Corporation voted 400 to 300 to continue the occupation, on October 19th.

struggle of the Irish people to expel British imperialism is complicated by many factors. It must never be forgotten however, that it is imperialism which is the main enemy. It can never serve any purpose to attack the running dog instead.

In hiring U.S. veterans of the war in Vietnam to train and bolster up their ranks, the U.D.A. has acquired the services of the most demoralised force in the world, that force which has been overwhelmingly defeated by the workers and peasants of Vietnam.

PALESTINE

On October 14th, Palestinian students, supported by Iranian, Iraqi, Kurdish and Turkish students went on hunger strike in London in protest against the banning by the West German Government of the Palestine students and workers' unions in that country, and the deportation and imprisonment of their members. The West German government used as its excuse for these measures, the Munich killings. In fact as we all know the Israeli athletes were killed by the trigger-happy neo-Nazis of the West German police force. The fascists of Israeli Zionism have never needed excuses to launch their savage and wanton attacks on the Palestinian people.

When they were given excuses of course they used them, but they have never waited for them to come along before acting. They needed few excuses when creating Israel, to uproot millions of Palestinians from the land on which they had lived for hundreds of years and to drive them into exile. They needed few excuses for their feverish expansion, and none for their vicious terrorism. The Israeli Zionists are the aggressors in Palestine. They need no excuses for their aggression. And so they smash into Syria and Lebanon and once again blast the refugee camps which they created and filled through their terror. Again they try to crush the Fedayeen, the armed might of the Palestinian people, which stands alone against Zionist aggression. Where is the excuse, where is the infantile and adventurist act of terrorism which has brought about this latest 'retaliation'?

UDA NOT THE MAIN ENEMY

Last month's short lived declaration of war by the U. D. A. on the British Army must be seen for what it was - the result of contradictions between two groups of bandits. It did not mean that the U. D. A. sees the army as its main enemy. It does not mean that they will join with the Republican movement to destroy that enemy.

The true nature of the U. D. A. is known to all. It is the mouth-piece of slaves in spirit who, by supporting the oppression of their fellow Irishmen are in the same category as strikebreakers who take the boss's pay to crush their fellow workers. (even though they be workers themselves). It is absolutely false to suggest, as the British Press has done, that the U. D. A. has been forced into its 'present militancy' by the actions of the I. R. A.. It is absolutely false to suggest that they are apeing the I. R. A. with their uniforms, military formation, terror etc.. The thugs of the Orange Order have never needed to be taught the use of military methods or terror by anybody. Like the Israeli Zionists, they practically invented terror.

But the U. D. A. is not the main enemy. In this respect nothing has changed; British imperialism is the main enemy and will so remain until it is driven from Ireland, a land where it has never had any right to be. Nobody should be fooled that the British government is now doing its best to assume a harmless look, to set itself up as the champion of moderation and reason. The Irish people cannot afford to take heed of 'liberals' who advise them to accept the 'generous peace' being offered by imperialism. Once in ancient Greece a farmhand found a snake, frozen by the cold of a winter's day and placed it to his bosom. The snake was revived by the warmth, its natural instincts returned and it gave the farmhand a fatal bite. People who trust imperialism, even if only for a moment, can expect a similar fate.

The tortuous and protracted



MILITANT MODERATES

'sectional interests'.

Harold Wilson once said that a week was a long time in politics. Maybe, but the week after the Labour Party Conference at Blackpool came the Tory Conference and very little real difference could be seen. With the policies launched so bravely in 1970 having foundered on the rocks of working class resistance, Skipper Ted and his crew were scrambling back aboard the old S.S. Social Democracy, bound for the Corporate State. Heath called for 'employers and unions to share fully with the Government the benefits and obligations involved in running the 'national economy' and for these 'social partners' to forget their

And since when has it been the business of the working class or its organisations to bail out the sinking capitalist ship? Is not the prototype of this 'social partnership' the Nazi Labour Front? But behind all the talk of the 'wider common interests' of the classes could be heard anxious murmurings. Just as the tongue always returns to the aching tooth, so the ruling class always returns to its greatest fear, to the only thing that can get rid of parasite class - working class revolutionary violence. So practically every speech mentioned 'violence' and how to stop it. Only working class violence of course!

To throw workers out of their jobs, to starve old-age pensioners, to force people to live in slums - that isn't 'violence'. That is 'the civilised, tolerant, and sane society which Britain has shaped for herself down the centuries'. Wee Willie Whitewash can say he intends to carry on as before in Ulster. With policies that have already left hundreds dead, But that isn't 'violence'. That is 'tolerance'. Heath at the U. N. can predict 'civil war'. British army officers in Ulster can predict it. But for British consumption the Minister of Defence talks about 'militancy in defence of moderation'. Show a British politician a culture and he'll swear blind it's a dove of peace.

YOUTH the long struggle

There's a rumour going round that Hammer Films are going to stand at the next election. They'd have a good chance of winning. At a time when the American Dream turned into a nightmare we see that Britain is getting to look more like a set for a horror film with each passing year. To be born in Britain 1972 is bad news.

The choice now is between fascism and revolution. To deny that is to say there is some middle ground, some haven which will protect us. Perhaps we can get a seat in the stands and watch the battle. But life is not a football match. The choice is not between supporting Spurs or West Ham.

Five years ago the Daily Sketch said that the class war was finished, old hat. As time went on it was seen that the Daily Sketch was going to finish well before the class war did. The struggle goes on drawing more and more millions in. What started as a pub fight looks like burning down the Town Hall. But what are we doing in all this? We must lead to produce results for our class. Otherwise, how are we different from the street fighter who fights for the sake of it?

Our class is made up of various people who have a common class interest but also particular problems. We, the young, are one such section. Youth has energy and idealism; it can be aim-

less and cynical. It can be arrogant and impatient drawing up battle-lines against another generation which is not its real enemy. But the scapegoats were always easier to hate. Youth culture, so called, is not a short cut to Utopia but a blind alley. The 'hip' capitalists of Kensington Market and Kings Road, Chelsea, are laughing all the way to the bank.

Young people can, if they wish, stand aside and watch their class fight or they can get involved. If they choose to opt out of struggle, so be it. They'll spend the rest of their lives moaning. The youth of the last decade did not opt out. They built the CND - and destroyed it when struggle taught them that pacifism was not the answer. They marched for Vietnam - and then they took the struggle home into the colleges and the factories.

Those who see the need to get involved in the class war must note the importance of developing correct strategy and tactics. When to attack and when to bide one's time can be crucial in determining the success of the struggle. To struggle effectively means to do so in an organised way, learning what Marxism-Leninism has to teach and contributing to its development. It is not a dogma but a living thing. You can be 'young and foolish' for so long; when you grow up you will realise you have a world to win or a dignity to lose.

Caviar for Capitalists

With the Russians desperate for U.S. wheat - so desperate that a Soviet Minister has to assure the population 'there will be no starvation', the Americans have been able to reach an extremely favourable trade deal. Abandoning the concept of self-reliance, the Soviet Union will import manufactured goods and export raw materials just like a neo-colonial country. The

agreement also allows for the establishment of American companies in the U.S.S.R.

Once again the two super-powers are bailing one another out. At a time when the dollar is coming under increasing pressure, the Russians will be pouring gold back into the much depleted coffers of Fort Knox. According to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the deal should help the U.S. balance of payments deficit by 'a few hundred millions'. The agreement includes a settlement of the wartime lend-lease debt. The Soviet debt was only half the size of Britain's, but they will have to pay a slightly larger sum in overall repayments. An indication of how the U.S. has now got Russia over a barrel.

No doubt we can expect similar Russian concessions in the international political arena. The Soviet revisionist leaders can of course blame it all on another of Stalin's 'crimes' - he only left enough grain reserves for ten years of revisionist rule when he died.

Fat Mice?

Khrushchev once made fun of Albania's grain production saying: 'All that you consume in a year is eaten by mice in our country.' Now apparently the joke is no longer funny. Grain production has increased phenomenally in People's Albania but not so in Revisionist Russia. They have just signed an agreement with the United States for the purchase of 17,000,000 tons of grain. Obviously the mice are eating more than usual in Russia these days.

In October 1972 we are celebrating the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution of the U.S.S.R., 1917. Why? We celebrate because in 1917 the revolutionary proletariat of Russia, from the break-up of Imperialist Europe, created Socialism for the first time. It was born of Marx, fathered by Lenin, guarded by Stalin, eternal in integrity. It was the revolutionary Russian proletariat who destroyed the erstwhile enemies now come to the U.S.S.R. as allies to destroy the new Socialist state. It was the Russian proletariat under the leadership of the Communist Party led by Lenin and Stalin who fought disease and famine and built an industry to arm the Red Army which smashed the greatest war machine the world had ever seen, the Nazis. It will be the Revolutionary Proletariat that will destroy Revisionism and bring back Socialism to the U.S.S.R.

Before the successful October Revolution was the February uprising and before February the 1905 epic. We celebrate these because we are approaching Britain's '1905'. But as events move ever more quickly so our February will come faster than the Russian. It will not take a decade. Why do we state this? Because revolution is the main trend in the world, in all continents, because of the noble sacrifices of Vietnam, because of China the great rear and because of Albania, the only socialist state in Europe.

revolution the main trend

In Britain the contradictions sharpen and become more clear to the whole people. British Imperialism is dying. British capitalism is so bankrupt that it is trying to buy into Europe with the blood of the working class. The dream of reviving Europe as a world power is a myth. It is a legend because capitalism is cannibal. Their 'Congress of Europe' means their destruction, probably British capitalism first, and we the working class will help the capitalists to destroy each other. Social Democracy, upholder of capitalism, and all its running dogs, Revisionism and Trotskyism, seeks to destroy the British working class, but it is as bankrupt as its master, capitalism. The Tory Party, the Labour Party - what's the difference? It is clear that both hate the working class. The last election showed the contempt of the working class for Social Democracy - servant of the ruling class.

The parliamentary parlour game is a fraud. Unemployment, war and hunger can only be eliminated by the working class, led by Marxist-Leninists from among its own ranks. The slogan of the Bolsheviks in the Imperialist War of 1914-1918 was - "Bread, Peace, Land!".

Our slogan, the slogan of the working class is - Prepare for the Day! Be Ready!

JAPAN — land of the rising yen



Did you think that Japan was the perfect example of capitalism being made to work, a land with an expanding economy, free from industrial unrest, unemployment, inflation and all the other manifestations of all the more orthodox capitalisms?

Well if you did you were wrong. Japan is no longer the shining capitalist pearl of the east - that is if it ever was. Its economy isn't free from the blight of capitalism after all! Governor Tadeshi Sasaki of the Bank of Japan has announced that Japan may have to consider introducing an 'incomes policy'. The Bank of Japan economists are now announcing that the nation's economic development is steadily approaching the pattern in the industrially advanced countries of Western Europe.

EEC - 'WORKERS CONTROL' OR CONTROLLED WORKERS?

At the E.E.C. summit held on 19th October, the representatives of the bourgeoisie of the nine member countries committed themselves 'irreversibly' to economic and monetary union. Lest a cynical observer might conclude that this was merely another meeting of the rich man's club, the final communiqué also expressed concern for the quality of life, and committed members to draft programmes for environmental and social policy. Truly we can look forward to a 'Europe for the people' as that Champion of the Working Class, Edward Heath, stated.

Chancellor Brandt of W. Germany also demonstrated his deep concern for the workers by advocating a system of worker participation in

industry. No doubt Brandt is so fired with enthusiasm for 'industrial democracy' in Germany, based on the Co-Determination Law of 1952, that he wishes us all to share in the benefits. He was also supported by the European Commission - the Community's policy forming body - which has proposed that workers' representatives should have a say in many important managerial decisions.

Who would have thought that the bureaucrats of Brussels would legislate the working class into power? It is clear that these proposals have nothing to do with Socialism. Nor are they a step towards Socialism, but rather a lurch to Corporatism. As has been shown in Germany, capita-

lism is quite able to accommodate participation in some decision making, as long as the profits go to the bosses. There has been no appreciable redistribution of wealth and the German working class are as far away as ever from Socialism. 'Participation' is the outcome of the weakness of the working class and an inability to accomplish independent mass action.

The essence of this is that no matter how many workers' representatives there are, or even what forms of profit sharing schemes are devised, the Capitalist class will never allow itself to be manipulated out of power. It will be the workers' representatives who will be manipulated to operate the system for the bosses.

There are no grounds for co-operation by workers in the running of the economy, whether by participation or by incomes policy. There is no identity of interest

between bosses and workers, and we don't have to make their rotten system work for them when they can't do it themselves.

EEC — Window Dressing

When Heath went off to join his European cronies at the Paris Summit meeting, it was a good chance to proclaim the future plans. Regional policy is to be a top priority which means that depressed areas of Britain can henceforth be labelled 'depressed areas of Europe'. Capitalism has never succeeded in eliminating unemployment but only in creating it.

And Heath revealed bombastically his plans for creating more. For, it is important, he said, to encourage the formation of giant European companies, all barriers to mergers and free operation throughout the Community are to be abolished. Thousands of redundant British workers know the implications of such plans.

NO!

Television viewers must be used by now to seeing Vic Feather exchanging jokes with Barber and Adamaon of the CBI as they speak of their hopes for the future. The lengthy meetings at Chequers have resulted in common attitudes and agreement between them. That, however, was never a problem.

The problem for them has always been how to sell their deal to the workers. Hence the talk of 'helping the lower paid', 'special cases', control of dividends, raising the 'ceiling', and so on. The most detestable of these is the idea that in return for price 'restraint', wages should be curtailed. This idea peddled by the CBI for almost two years with no avail is today being put forward by some union leaders. Prices should not keep going up anyway. They do so because employers put them up to increase their profits. Now we are expected to pay the employers with our wages to stop what they began in the first place. Such blackmail will not work.

Workers everywhere have given their answer to the TUC's attempts to conjure up a deal with the government and the CBI. And their answer has been a resounding NO. No from the local authority manual workers, no from the miners, no from the teachers, the engineers, the electricity workers and others. It is not that any of them is a special case. If anything they are the average case.

The package deal attempts to take away from the rank and file the control over their own wage negotiations. This no worker is prepared to forfeit.

Occupational Therapy for Merseyside Workers

The Rule of Law

At CAV Lucas and at Manesty Machines the workers have occupied their factories within a few weeks of each other. 'Sit-ins' in Liverpool have had a chequered history, starting with the proposal for a work-in at the English Electric factories to combat the threatened closure in 1969. This collapsed due to reasons detailed in the October 1969 issue of The Worker.

After this, completely altering the picture, came the Fisher-Bendix occupation which saved all their jobs and recently the workers there actually gained a 35 hour week.

By now of course the situation had changed. Mass unemployment was obviously here to stay and the successful Fisher-Bendix occupation taught lessons which have been quickly learnt elsewhere.

At CAV as soon as the stewards had extracted from the management the grudging disclosure that the plant

was to close and an even more grudging promise that full production would be maintained until April next year, the stewards and men, as convenor Dave Martin said, 'had no option. There was no other way out.' They occupied - all 1,200 of them.

In the week leading up to the occupation a hundred men had accepted the firm's severance pay and left, this just being one of many indications that the bosses were far from sincere in promising full production till April.

With the news of the occupation no less than 40% of those who had left the week before returned to join the occupation, as a week later did TASS and APEX, the white collar unions there.

The workers are in a specially fortunate position at CAV. Management cannot cut off electricity, water etc, without affecting another plant on the site which is not due to close. They are also playing a trump card by requesting the dockers

to black Lucas products. This plus projected nationwide action by the Lucas Combine workers could produce a 'happy ending' shortly.

Manesty is a pharmaceutical-machinery making plant with about 200 workers, mostly AEF members. They have now been on strike for 18 weeks, originally merging their claim with the national engineers' claim and enthusiastically embracing the idea of guerilla strikes.

The Worker was the first and for long months the only publicity the strike had. After 16 weeks picketing on the gates the strikers heard of staff scabbing, and, with winter coming along, decided that the best place for striking workers was inside the factory.

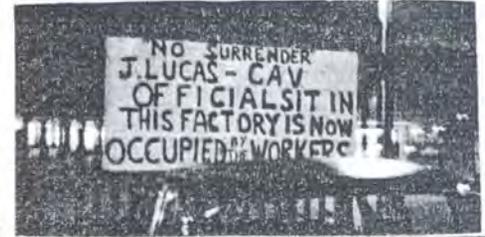
So in they went, persuading the management that a return-to-work vote was unanimous and thus gaining the use of the canteen. In the canteen they voted to occupy and did so to the not inconsiderable

chagrin of the management.

Management displayed their annoyance by switching off the electricity and water with an escort of well over 20 police. The water was soon switched on but, as the men were quick to point out, the lack of heating will cause the boss's machinery to rust, so who will suffer most?

Morale is high - the cooking in the new workers' canteen is superb. The Manesty workers will certainly win.

Just compare the case of the Lincoln Bus Conductor imprisoned for 9 months for stealing 6p, with the decision of Wolverhampton Magistrates in June in the case of a worker who had been crushed to death when he was dragged into an unsecured conveyor belt. The firm, Goodyears Ltd., had been warned twice that it was unsafe and had already been prosecuted in 1971. They were fined £100.



War criminal Nixon talks 'peace' as an election stunt while still trying to bomb the U.S. out of its hopeless situation in Vietnam. Mrs. Nguyen-thi-Ba, shown in this photograph, mourns the loss of her family, murdered by U.S. bombing on the residential section of Hongkahn June 7.

The U.S. imperialists having failed in their 'pacification campaign', having failed in their policy of 'Vietnamisation' of the war, having in fact been thoroughly defeated by the heroic people of Vietnam, can only carry out brutally wanton acts of murder and destruction from the air.

continued from page one

There have been defeats. A departure from the Marxist-Leninist line and the corruption of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union, the home of the great October Revolution, has resulted in the loss of state power by the working class and the passing over to the ranks of the imperialists of the revisionist government which has usurped that power. But this defeat has been turned into victory by the people of China and Albania who have adhered more strongly than ever to Marxism-Leninism, strengthened the links between the Communist Party and the working people and made their countries bastions of socialism.

In Britain, the birthplace of capitalism and the home of the oldest proletariat in the world, the workers have demonstrated in continuous class struggle those very qualities of courage, solidarity and tactical inventiveness in their own defence. At this time those qualities have carried industrial action to levels which strike terror into the hearts of the ruling class.

But the influence of an alien ideology, social democracy, has hitherto diverted those struggles into an effort to live with the capitalist system on less onerous terms rather than to smash it. At this very moment the TUC, which is supposed to speak for the working class, sits down with the capitalist Government and representatives of the employing class to devise means of hamstringing the workers' fight against their class enemies. Certain trade union leaders, including some described as 'left', whenever a crunch situation develops, devote themselves to bailing out the employers and their Labour or Tory government. The trade unions belong only to the working people who founded them in their own class interest against the most brutal opposition.

The workers of Britain have never till the emergence of the CPB(ML) had their own Marxist-Leninist communist party. Even though the factory organisation of workers in defence of their interests provided the model for Lenin's workers' party of a new type, in industrial Britain the party which has called itself 'communist', the 'CPGB', has always in fact been social democratic - not Marxist-Leninist, not revolutionary, not proletarian. In advocating peaceful transition by parliamentary means, in replacing factory branches with electoral branches, in seeking accommodation with the capitalist Labour Party, the 'CPGB' has treacherously tried to disarm the working class in the face of its class enemies.

In the world today revolution is the main trend. The world climate for revolutionary advance in Britain is excellent. The question is will the workers of Britain go on labouring under an ideology not their own setting reformist limits to their efforts while the corporate state closes around them like a maximum security prison; or will they break away from social democratic illusions with their own revolutionary perspective, with their own Marxist-Leninist vanguard party and smash their way through to state power and socialism? These are the only alternatives.

SAME FIGHT

More and more white-collar workers are fighting the same battle as their comrades on the shop floor.

Recently, 900 Technical and Supervisory Staff at Plessey Telecommunications Ltd., Liverpool, held a one day token strike. The workers, members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) were striking in support of a pay claim that has been under negotiations for 4 months. The token strike was a result of the worker frustration with the delaying tactics adopted by the company in handling their claim;

Further action is planned if a more reasonable offer is not made.

In the same company, draughtsmen, members of TASS, and clerical workers, members of APEX (formerly the Clerical Workers Union) are also planning to apply sanctions in support of their own wage claims.

Read 'The Worker'

A paper written by workers for workers, published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

SUBSCRIPTION £1 (12 issues post free)
Send to: "The Worker"
155 Fortress Road, London N.W.5.

4 OUT OF 5 CAN'T TELL HEATH FROM A LUMP OF MARGARINE

And now, for anyone still waiting anxiously for The Second Coming of Harold Wilson. For anyone who still believes that Labour is in any way better than "the wicked Tories". For anyone who thinks of Labour as "the lesser evil". We present the Party Conference Quiz. Work out which quotation comes from which Blackpool Party Conference this year. (All quotes come from speakers for the Party executive.) First prize is a volume of Harold Wilson's speeches. Second prize is two volumes of Harold Wilson's speeches.

- (a) 'the path of working out together how to create and share the nation's wealth for the benefit of all the people'.
- (b) 'There can be no road to national agreement, national unity and on a policy adequate for dealing with inflation and unemployment, except on the basis of social justice.'
- (c) 'Control of inflation must be our overriding consideration.'
- (d) 'The central problem is inflation'.
- (e) 'Creating sufficient confidence between government, workers, and management'
- (f) 'Offer to employers and unions to share fully with the government the benefits and obligations involved in running the national economy'.
- (g) 'It is high time that the latter-day laissez-faire liberal theorists... recognised that the Chequers proposals were in the interest of the whole country'.
- (h) 'A policy based on jungle law and on laissez-faire has no chance of succeeding'.
- (i) 'make the national more prosperous and give an increasing share of that prosperity to the needy and the weak'.
- (j) 'To combine in equal measure freedom, fairness and prosperity'.
- (k) 'let there be no doubt what is at stake... It is our whole system of parliamentary democracy, our whole free democratic way of life'.
- (l) 'Not only is the democratic process on trial but democracy in the United Kingdom is staked on a desperate race between the rule of reason and the rule of the gunman'.
- (m) 'The party has to show it cares for all the people, whatever, whoever or wherever they are'.
- (n) 'A party of the whole people'.
- (o) 'Restore the strength of Britain'
- (p) 'Get Britain moving again'.

Answers (a) Tory (b) Labour (c) Tory (d) Labour (e) Labour (f) Tory (g) Labour (h) Tory (i) Tory (j) Tory (k) Tory (l) Labour (m) Tory (n) Ooops! Sorry! That one's from the late unlamented N.S. Krushchev. (o) Labour (p) Tory.

Announcements

- FRI NOV 3: Public Meeting - 'October Revolution', Speaker & Film, 7.30 p.m. Bellman Bookshop.
- FRI NOV 17: Public Meeting - 'Ireland Today', 7.30 p.m. Bellman Bookshop.
- FRI NOV 24: ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY, Public Meeting. Film plus speaker recently returned from Youth Conference in Albania. 7.30 p.m. Central Collegiate Theatre, 15, Gordon St., W.C.1. (off Euston Square)

BELLMAN 155 FORTRESS ROAD BOOKSHOP LONDON N.W.5.

Marxist-Leninist works and CPB(ML) publications. Also available at:

BRIGHTON WORKERS' BOOKSHOP
37, Gloucester Road,
Brighton.

Hours of opening: Weekdays 2 - 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 - 6 p.m.

MAIN TREND BOOKS

17, Midland Road,
Old Market, Bristol.

Hours of opening: Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
2 - 6 p.m.