

THE WORKER



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Referendum and Revolution

A SHAMEFUL VOTE!

We have described the situation in Britain today as revolutionary -- the capitalist class unable to rule in the old way, the working class un-willing to be ruled as before.

Britain's entry into the European Common Market was a sign of this inability of the capitalist class, through successive Tory and Labour governments, to smash the defensive organisation of the working class and render it impotent. British capitalism had to combine with European monopoly-capitalism in a desperate attempt to suppress British workers.

British workers were given no say in this decision of the ruling class to go on ruling British workers by liquidating Britain. What Hitler could not force on the British, their absorption in a vast European political and economic cartel, the British capitalists have treacherously brought about themselves.

The working class was only allowed to vote when the ruling class was confident that, with the backing of all three major political parties and the entire weight of the press and media, a sufficient number of workers could be deceived into ratifying their enslavement to international monopoly-capitalism by voting for Britain's continued membership of EEC.

But the working class in their united understanding ought to have voted NO. If their class political consciousness had been developed enough, they would have rejected the Common Market by an overwhelming majority, thus snatching from the ruling class any pretence that "going into Europe" had been anything but a frantic gamble to save British capitalism.

IT'S STILL 'NO'

The shameful confirmation by popular vote of the capitalist class's anti-British manoeuvres highlights a new situation in Britain. The attack on the working class has been given a new form. It has been internationalised. The response of the workers of Britain must also be raised to a new level. The class struggle which has to go on if the working class is to survive at all now takes on a national character. In fighting for themselves workers are also fighting for Britain as a political entity which the ruling class has abandoned.

Everytime a section of British industry is to be closed down because it suits international monopoly-capitalism to have it somewhere else: every time British workers under threat of unemployment are to be hounded to this part of Europe or that: every time some EEC authority attempts to alter the principles of British trade unionism, fought for and established by generations of British workers, we, the working class, will have to vote again, and vote in the right way with a resounding NO: -- backed by our united industrial strength.

And that struggle, now that the ruling class has surrendered Britain into the hands of international monopoly-capitalism dominated by the US, begins to be a struggle for national liberation. It has to be recognised as such by the working class and fought out as such.

CONTINUED OPPOSITION

Continued opposition to Britain's membership of EEC does not mean advocating some reconstituted form of imperial preferences. We denounce all forms of British imperialism past and present -- in Ireland, Rhodesia and southern Africa, Oman and southern Arabia, Malaysia or anywhere else. It is the EEC with its close links with NATO which is a union of the older imperialist powers seeking in combination to revive their imperial might.

We insist, as the only custodians of Britain's good name and best interests, that Britain must rely absolutely on her own efforts, belonging to no capitalist federation and to no imperialist league, either first or second division, which are all combinations for exploiting and oppressing working people. Since it has been proved that Britain cannot be self-reliant under capitalism, our demand is for a socialist Britain. Only socialism under working class rule can save Britain's national integrity.

To the question of how Britain, or indeed any country wishing to develop independently by its own efforts, can be protected from the capitalist superpowers, the US and the USSR, Mao Tse-tung gave the answer five years ago in his May 20th Statement. The only defence is people's war waged by the people of any country under attack -- the kind of war fought by the people of China against Japanese imperialism, the kind of war the people of Albania would have fought against the Soviet Union if invaded in the early Sixties, the kind of war the Vietnamese and the other people of Indo-China have waged so successfully against US imperialism.

In the most solemn realisation of all that is involved our Party with all our fellow workers in this country sets itself the task of turning the class war into a revolutionary war for the liberation, economic development and defence of Britain.

GOVT. CUTS

WAGES WELFARE EDUCATION

"There are still many employers who are looking to the Common Market primarily as a means of strengthening their hand in a showdown with labour... When one looks at the whole sorry, miserable history of the pay pause over the last year, I wonder whether there is not some reason for thinking that there are some ministers at least who regard Europe as a means of enforcing a general wage freeze". This was said by Harold Wilson in June 1962.

What conditions are associated with the Common Market that would curtail wage increases?

"I do not believe, comrade chairman, that anybody who has looked at those facts can argue that we could survive entry (into the Common Market) without devaluation, which would lead to a tremendous increase in prices, a fall in our standard of life, and unemployment on a larger scale than we have known it since the thirties". So said Denis Healey at Labour's special conference on the Common Market in 1971.

Unemployment is the avowed wages policy of the Labour Government.

Between January and November 1974 there were 75,000 redundancies. Already this year there has been a further massive 140,000.

THE TIMES: "Unemployment will reach a million in October or even in September. It is already at its highest level since May 1972 and only 60,000 below the post-war peak of 876,000 reached in March 1972." THE TIMES sees unemployment averaging between

1 1/2 and 1 1/4 million throughout 1976.

According to columnist Jay: "... It is unmistakably changing the climate of bargaining and despite the high rate of inflation likely to be reported over the next two or three months, it will produce marked easing in settlement levels in the autumn and thereafter..."

The struggle for wages becomes one with the struggle for the right to work.

Government policy

THE TIMES, champion of unemployment, advises "that the Chancellor should not now be induced to surrender the substance of a policy which has a chance, as continued fiscal and monetary restraint does, for the shadow of some incomes policy formula which cannot be enforced and which therefore has no chance."

Nevertheless, all are conspiring to tame the untameable. Some

Union 'leaders' would do the work of capitalism. Jack Jones proposes a flat rate increase beggarly linked to living costs. This would 'ensure uniformity of application and would avoid the jealousies and leapfrogging.'

Clive Jenkins proposes a two-tier policy; a cost of living element applied to all and a second element based on the notorious job evaluation. The TUC has given the nod to both proposals. It is preparing for the September Congress.

Another proposal would have the TUC, CBI and Government agree to a target rate of inflation and on the maximum average wage increase compatible with it.

Others are prepared to call a spade a spade. The call for a statutory wage freeze.

Workers will be wise to reject all such proposals. They need to enter the wages jungle unfettered.



A warm welcome for the South Vietnam Liberation Army

New Life in Ho Chi Minh City

Social order has been stabilized, people's life returned to normal and production restored gradually in heroic Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) over the past three weeks since its liberation. The people in the city are determined to consolidate the Revolutionary Regime and build a new life under the leadership of the Municipal Military Control Commission.

With a glorious revolutionary tradition, the Saigon working class has played a major role and made positive contributions. Truong Van Nga, an old sanitation worker, was excited when he said after liberation: "From now on we labouring people will no longer be bullied. Although I am old, I am full of energy. Like everyone of us, I will do my best to serve the revolution and build our homeland."

Workers of the transport and communications department are working hard day and night to ensure smooth road traffic between

the city and various provinces. Railway workers have made great efforts to speed up the repair of railways and engines and remove mines laid by the enemy.

Playing a vanguard role, the youth in the city are resolved to make new contributions to the revolution. Huynh Tan Man, former chairman of the Saigon Students' General Association, now a member of the Saigon-Gia Dinh Youth Union for Liberation bitterly denounced the fascist rule of the US-puppet clique and expressed his determination to build the country. Since liberation, many youths have enrolled for revolutionary work.

On May 13, when a North Vietnamese freighter "Song Huong" arrived at Saigon bringing rice presented by the North Vietnamese people to their fellow countrymen in the South, over 3,000 representatives of various circles of Saigon, holding high the portraits of President Ho Chi Minh, waving golden star red and blue flags and

beating drums and gongs, gathered at the dock to welcome their comrades from the North.

President Ho Chi Minh, the great leader of the Vietnamese people said in his testament: "The US imperialists will certainly have to quit. Our Fatherland will certainly be reunified. Our fellow countrymen in the South and in the North will certainly be reunited under the same roof." Today, on the beautiful and rich land of Vietnam, many families have been reunited under the same roof and many friends and relations have met again. Many cadres who had gone to the North during the war, have met their parents, wives and children whom they had left for over 20 years.

When celebrating the victory, the people in Saigon are cherishing a profound memory of President Ho Chi Minh. Following his instructions, they are striding forward full of confidence to build Vietnam into a more beautiful country.

Loss of Jobs in London

Official Government figures admit of nearly one million unemployed, with over a quarter of a million on short-time. These are the casualty figures of the latest capitalist onslaught on the working class.

Our ruling class have given up on Britain. They invest abroad and seek to keep us embroiled in their Common Market because they are not interested in exploiting British workers who will not lay down meek and mild and submit to their dictate. Rather they seek to find a more amenable working class, through the submerging of British workers in a European labour force.

Hence the current rise in unemployment, a rise so fast as to be equalled only by the fall in the value of sterling and the rush of money abroad. The tragedy is not only present in the fact that workers are declared useless, but whole industries and skills too. We are losing skills which will return only under Socialism.

We have seen the destruction of the British motor-cycle industry and its related skills, and now witness the sad attempt to catch up with the Japanese who initially learnt from us. But this wholesale destruction of knowledge and ability is most apparent in the nationalised industries. Finiston surveys the steel industry and proclaims 20,000 must go. We remember Robens, who closed pits, and sacked miners, but now the cry is for more pits, more miners. Beeching too, who murdered our railway system, tore up track, closed stations and gave thousands of railway workers the boot, when now we need more railways to keep traffic off the roads.

Not just skills and industries, but whole communities and areas fall victim to the designs of Capital. Between 1961 and 1971 the number of industrial jobs in London fell by 25 per cent (compared to a national decline of 4 per cent). Areas like Canning town have lost 12,000 out of 40,000 jobs between 1966 and 1972. Our forbears were driven off the land by enclosures, and formed the proletariat. Now factory closures are to uproot us too and send us to wander the highways of Europe seeking work.

We have the Secretary for Trade calling for an extension of tourism the sort of activity which would reduce us to a nation of beggars. Is the tragedy of the Highland Clearances to be repeated in England, with the countryside made beautiful for outsiders, the population

forced to emigrate?

The employers would make a desert out of Britain and call it industrial peace. Workers must know and grasp this fact. In London, where industrial jobs are disappearing at a rate in excess of 40,000 a year, the struggle at Crosfields for the right to work has highlighted the issue. Like the men and women at Crosfields, others must take up the running, as the London North District committee is urging its members to do.

Recent 'increases' in the social security payments show how the government is deliberately forcing down the living standards of people not in a position to resist. The proposed changes amount to increases in cash payments of 14 per cent for pensioners and 13 per cent for the unemployed - following a year when prices rose by 21 per cent! The end result - a reduction in the living standards of these people of nearly 10 per cent!

THE DESERTED CITY

'Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay:
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.'

These lines, from "The Deserted Village", were written two hundred years ago by Oliver Goldsmith. The industrial revolution, which began with the enclosures of land, ends today with closures of factories. Capitalism did destroy a peasantry; will we let it destroy a working class? Some modern Goldsmith must write of "The Deserted City".

'Even now the devastation is begun,
And half the business of destruction done.'

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

ANNIVERSARY OF FLIXBOROUGH DISASTER

Every year hundreds of British workers die and many thousands are injured due to industrial accidents. This even with government safety legislation, fought for by workers, yet still inadequate and often not complied with. Last year at Flixborough on June 1st, the mass slaughter of 28 workers took place, 150 people were injured and many more cut by flying glass up to four miles away.

The explosion at the Nypro caprolactum plant demolished the houses of Flixborough and caused extensive damage over a wide area. Workers at the plant had known it was extremely dangerous but the management in its lust for profit did nothing. The hugeness of the explosion was mainly due to the illegal storage of a quarter of a million gallons more of highly inflammable cyclohexane than the firm was licensed to hold. Back in March this year the Nypro Company got £14 million in compensation, in addition to a considerable but secret amount received earlier on.

The report that came in May says the explosion was caused by a 'coincidence of unlikely errors' in design construction and organization, and refuses to apportion blame. However, if the new Health and Safety Act had been in force last year, Nypro's management would have risked going to jail, which would have been embarrassing since the joint owners of Nypro are the National Coal Board and a Dutch firm, DSM, both state-owned. Whatever the report may say, we do apportion blame, fairly and squarely with a capitalist class which profits from workers' blood.

by the end of March because of the cutback in recruitment.

So, in agriculture, as in education, the NHS and North Sea oil, capitalism is willing to exchange our future for its present profit.

Crisis in the Car Industry

This crisis in production is having an additive effect on supporting industries. At Birmid Qualcast (West Bromwich) 1000 workers were laid off for one week and then worked a 3 day week for the next week.

We are facing the worse threats of unemployment in a long time. The Birmingham figure for short time working is now over 30,000 with 10,000 redundant in the last 3 months.

CHRYSLER

Chrysler management are still playing ducks and drakes, and trying to evade the issue of the £15 a week claim by the workers at Coventry.

Although the workers believe the company's offer of £10 a week across the board to all 26,500 employees form the basis for a possible resumption of work, they are insisting that their two days' holiday pay be restored. Senior stewards at Linwood have rejected the offer and were expected to meet local management for local negotiations.

It becomes obvious that after trying to sell the workers a dummy in the form of workers' participation, the management is now trying to have national negotiations on pay and have instructed local management to break off all plant bargaining. Workers should insist on local plant bargaining where they can extract the maximum from local management, based on their knowledge of their local plant, and at the same time maintain contact with workers in other plants within the Chrysler empire.



RAILWAYS

Railway Unions have been offered basic pay rises of 27½ per cent by the Railway Staffs National Tribunal coupled with the introduction of a £36.70 guaranteed weekly minimum wage.

The strings attached to the offer are: there should be no threshold-style arrangements giving further cost of living rises during the coming year; and that British Rail should seek agreement with the Unions on productivity and efficiency.

Although ASLEF and TSSA have accepted the offer the NUR has had second thoughts.

We have always said no group of workers should accept settlements that put a standstill on wages in the inflationary situation in which we find ourselves. The British Rail Board are no different. Neither is the Tribunal any different to the Employers in offering to pay increased wages by decreasing the number of workers employed.

On Monday, June 2nd the NUR rejected the offer and called for a national strike from June 23rd if their demand for increases of between 30 and 35 per cent were not met.

MACHINE TOOLS

On May 22nd a newspaper reported that the President of the Machine Tool Trades Association at the annual meeting proclaimed that the UK machine tool industry will be unable to cope with the demand produced by the massive capital investment programme proposed for British Leyland. He went on: "It's beyond the resources of the world's machine tool industries, let alone our own, to meet the time scale which will be required by the users."

Once again the Machine Tool Industry will be castigated for failure to supply the very items which for so long the MTTA has been urging as the true need of British Engineering and which should and could have been supplied in a planned and orderly fashion over many years.

Five days later another report by the Department of Industry confirmed that the Machine Tool industry was well on the way to a recession, and the New President of the MTTA gave a warning that the industry was running out of work!

The Machine Tool Industry is basic to the needs of Britain. What more proof is needed of the inability of capitalism to run its affairs in a sane and orderly manner? If it is unable to do the job, it means that the work, our work, will go into the Common Market and be done there. In a socialist workers state, workers would decide in a planned economy how to overcome problems such as these and thereby contribute to their own prosperity.

HOTEL RESTAURANT STAFF

A 50 per cent wage increase in the statutory minimum wage is proposed by the catering industry's wages council. The industry is notorious for the poor wages and conditions that operate.

What is even more notorious is the fact that the Government Job Centre in London is advertising vacancies in London at below the minimum statutory wage. The Government Low Pay Unit which was investigating the position found that over 500,000 employees in the hotel and catering trade are being paid less than the minimum wage.

It is an absurd situation to say the least that on the one hand there are Government inspectors to enforce the statutory minimum wage, and at the same time a Government department is advertising jobs at less than the required minimum.

The real answer to the problem is for an intensive drive within the hotel industry to recruit and organise workers into a strong working class organisation to defeat the employers.



Occupation as a working class weapon. Workers during the Crosfields seizure.

IMPERIAL TYPEWRITERS

OCCUPATION

Saturday 31st May marked the one-hundredth day of the occupation at the Imperial Typewriters' plant in Hull. Since the announcement of the closure in January, there have been many reports, both by the unions and management consultants, and many promises from successively higher ministers. But these delaying tactics, designed to give the workers time to tire, relent and capitulate, have failed. The workers at Imperial Typewriters are determined that they will stay in and the gates will remain locked until they win back all the jobs stolen from them.

ITV

Attempts by the employers to humiliate ACTT members in Independent Television have failed. The employers' lockout of members striking in support of a £231 back-pay claim has been withdrawn, having badly overestimated the divisions within the union ranks over the legitimacy of the strike - divisions which were predictably given much gleeful coverage in the media.

Meanwhile the ACTT are unshaken, and the claim for back-pay lost during the Conservative Government freezes in 1973 goes forward.

Agricultural Research Cuts

In Britain, we import more than 50 per cent of our foodstuffs; with a trade deficit of £5000 million last year (a 100 per cent increase on the 1973 deficit) you might think that the government would be anxious to do all it could to raise the level of home grown foods. But the scientific research that has doubled British farming efficiency in the last 20 years is now being cut back. In 1967 the Agricultural Research Council's share of the Science Budget was 12.2 per cent. This year it is 4 per cent. That's about £25 million out of a budget of £550 million. The New Scientist reckons that 200 of the 2000 agricultural researchers will have been lost

WHO'S SPINNING A YARN?

The British textile and clothing industry is now in the throes of its worst crisis since the 1930s. During the last two years 58,000 jobs have disappeared and short-time working is now normal throughout the industry. In the East Midlands alone, over half of the 80,000 hosiery and knitwear workers are now on reduced working.

What is the cause of the crisis? The employers claim that it has been brought about by rising imports of textiles and clothing, especially from Portugal, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea, cutting into the market for home-produced goods. This is only partly true, and by only telling part of the truth the employers have obscured the real cause of the crisis, which is the massive increases in profits that they have made in the last few years.

Imports

But what about the increases in imports? Is it just from Portugal and the Far East that the increases have come? Official trade figures show that the employers have presented the situation in a one-sided and misleading way. In fact between 1972 and 1974 the value of textile and clothing imports increased by £502.1m, of which only £139.6m came from Portugal and the three Far East countries while £221.6m worth came from the EEC and EFTA countries! Imports have increased but not just from the four countries singled out by the employers.

So why have the employers kept quiet about the imports from Western European countries, especially their beloved Common Market? Perhaps it has got something to do with the fact that the big British textile and clothing firms own many subsidiaries in these countries but not in Portugal and the Far East countries. For example, Courtaulds

Ltd. have subsidiaries in France, Belgium, Denmark, Elre, West Germany, Holland, Italy, Finland, Norway and Switzerland. Of course the employers don't mind large import increases from these countries because they have a share in the profits!

Prices and profits

However, the really important question is why have these increases in textile and clothing imports come about, regardless of from where they have come? The answer is to be found in our own backyards, or more accurately our own employers' boardrooms.

In recent years the textile employers have increased the prices of their yarns and fibres much more than was justified by either rises in the cost of raw materials and fuel or wage and salary bills. This has led to clothing firms buying smaller quantities of textile products and thus a decrease in the number of textile employees. Even so, the amount of money textile firms received from sales of yarns and fibres rose by 13.6 per cent in 1973-4. So, although the textile employers reduced their workforce and sold less goods, they increased their prices enough to ensure vast increases in profits.

Given this situation, it is not surprising that many clothing firms turned to supplies of cheaper yarns and fibres from abroad. Likewise, clothing retailers were faced with a fall in quantity of goods sold brought about by the rise in price of home-produced clothing, and so have also turned to cheaper goods from abroad.

This is how capitalism works. Workers are thrown out of jobs, consumers cannot afford the clothes they want but the multinational textile and clothing firms make enormous profits.

CPBML STATEMENT

Today we witness an onslaught on education.

For decades, education has been a target for government attack. The attack today, however, is fundamentally different from that of old. Running down education is no longer a short term expediency; now it has been adopted as a long term strategy.

Prentice is implementing a policy worked out by his predecessor, Thatcher.

In 1972 a Government White Paper laid out the ruling-class strategy: a 30 per cent cutback in the increase in education spending; a 45 per cent cut in teacher training places by 1981; a severe cutback in building programmes and reduction in post-graduate places.

A year later, a massive cut of £182 million in education spending was announced. Throughout the country, all aspects of the education service - from staffing and books to meals and school trips - were subject to economy.

MORE AUSTERITY

In February 1974, the Labour Government took over. Thatcher was replaced by Prentice.

The Labour budgets have dealt successive blows to education. Prentice has intensified the cuts outlined by Thatcher; all pretence of expansion is dropped; declining standards are openly proclaimed.

Crosland says "the party's over."

Healey cuts a further £76 million from education.

Prentice says "Next year will be much more austere. There may not be full employment for all new teachers in 1976-77, there may be higher school meal charges, there may be cuts in non-teaching jobs."

Lord Crowther-Hunt, Minister of State for Higher Education, tells university teachers to work harder, do more teaching and less research, and take larger classes. Grants to universities are to be cut further next year.

A Cabinet Paper on a Joint Approach to Social Policy declares: "The economic situation... will mean cutting back on some plans in the social field."

A NEW RESPONSE

Never before has education been so attacked. The qualitative change in ruling-class strategy must find a qualitative change in our response.

No longer is the Government prepared to tolerate an educated, a dignified working class. Attacks on education are more pernicious and permanent than those on wages.

Attacks on education, along with attacks on health, housing and employment will produce a new generation - an illiterate, homeless, unhealthy generation that has grown up and never been in any kind of employment.

The situation is urgent: The whole working class, the trade unions must respond to meet this new challenge to their future and the future of their children.

Nail Prentice and his Labour Government! Fight all cuts!

(A statement issued by the Secretariat of the CPB-ML)

Student Fight Continues

Another year of student struggle on an unprecedented level has been given an answer in the recently announced twenty per cent rise in student grants 'awarded' by the government, bringing the main rate to £740 (with a miserly £70 London allowance). Once again students face a cut in their standard of living and since new hall fee increases of up to fifty per cent have already been announced, students can use their skills to calculate by exactly how much their living standards will fall.

One bright spot was the abolition of discrimination against married women in the grants system (although their husbands still have to pay in some measure). But overall students will see the award as a part of the continued attack on education which will be met with a continuation of the protracted fight for full grants for all.

Homes Destroyed

Workers in Yeovil who chose to remain uninvolved in growing local housing problems are now paying the cost. They had chosen instead to leave housing problems to the local councillors.

Yeovil is already suffering what must be one of the worst housing situations in the South West. In a town where 3700 people are already on the council waiting list, 200 homes are now to be demolished in order to build a ring road. After months of debate, all alternative routes for the road have been abandoned. This week the bulldozers begin.

In *Everton Road* a Westlands night-shiftworker and his family stayed till the last, displaying a 'Homes not Roads' banner in his window. Now the family is squatting in another house due to come down for the road at a later date.

Oppose this Court

The Labour Party's manifesto in the February 1974 election stated "A Labour government will... repeal the Industrial Relations Act as a matter of extreme urgency and then bring in an Employment Protection Act..." It did not mention however that this new legislation would resurrect under a new name the NIRC the ersatz political court which imprisoned workers, fined unions and eventually tried to take over the entire assets of the AUEW.

The temerity and impudence of the industrial relations legislators seems to know no bounds. After the bitter but victorious fight against the Industrial Relations Act and its court, another industrial court is to be smuggled into existence under the guise of 'Employment Protection'.

Under part 1 section 78 of the Employment Protection Bill a new body called the Employment Appeal Tribunal is to be established. It is to be composed of judges nominated by the Lord Chancellor from the High Court and Court of Appeal, at least one judge from the Court of Session and "... such other members as may be appointed from time to time by Her Majesty on the joint recommendation of the Lord Chancellor and the Secretary of State..." These lay members will include "... some persons whose experience

is as representatives of employers and some persons whose experience is as representatives of workers."

The Appeal Tribunal will consider appeals against any decision of an industrial tribunal relating to any of the following acts: The Redundancy Payments Act 1974 and The Employment Protection Act itself.

Although called a tribunal, this body will have the powers of a High Court, thus Schedule 5 paragraph 20 states that: "The Appeal Tribunal shall in relation to the attendance and examination of witnesses, the production and inspection of documents and all other matters incidental to its jurisdiction have the like powers, rights, privileges and authority (a) in England and Wales, as the High Court, (b) in Scotland, as the Court of Session." It also empowers a judge to punish persons for contempt of the Tribunal and gives the Tribunal power to fine and imprison people. In this respect it is to be given the same powers as a Crown Court.

Free collective bargaining, which in reality is never free but dearly paid for in struggle, is again under attack barely 12 months after the national strike of the AUEW which finally demolished the authority of the NIRC.

This new court and its powers must be opposed in principle. The

argument that it has only been set up to enforce 'workers rights' under the new legislation must be exposed - so must the idea that the affairs of this body will be limited to minor and relatively non-controversial industrial matters.

Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the law operates against the interests of the people it purports to protect. We cannot tolerate any special 'courts' with powers to fine and imprison workers who are engaged in struggle.

Special Status for Cowley Workers

The fight waged by Reg Birch before the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to make Leylands concede skilled status to the engine tuners at their Cowley factory has been largely successful. Leylands has accepted the ACAS's proposal that these engineers should be in a special category of production workers.

This is an important development because it raises the whole question of skill in an industry where the tendency has been to



CPB(M-L) meeting to hear the report of their delegate to May Day celebrations in Albania

turn workers into automata who could be fitted into a single comprehensive wage structure to managements' satisfaction.

It may be that the T & GWU will resist this new classification of workers because it challenges the unified wage structure the T & GWU has collaborated with management in fastening on all Leyland workers.

It is this which helps explain the wages plan put forward by the T & GWU's General Secretary. A flat-rate increase right across

the whole incomes board, serves the Government's purpose of wage restraint and at the same time suits what Jones thinks is in the interest of the unskilled members of his union of scaling down differentials.

It is never in the interests of the working class to downgrade the dignity of workers skilled at their jobs nor to hamstring some of the best fighters in the ranks of the working class in the name of a false equality that makes all advance at the rate of the slowest.

NATO- Alliance of Capitalists

As the US is kicked out of Vietnam and Cambodia with its policies of intervention defeated throughout the world, here in western Europe such interference is positively encouraged by the heads of governments who attended the NATO summit conference at the end of May. It is no coincidence that such a high level meeting of the NATO alliance should take place at this time. It reflects the present turmoil that exists in Europe. The bourgeoisie of western Europe see the spectre of revolution once again looming over Europe.

US penetration

NATO was founded in 1949 to counter the growing revolutionary movement in western Europe following the defeat of fascism in 1945. NATO was to Europe in the military sense what the Marshall Plan was in the economic sense - a direct interference by the US in the affairs of Europe to save western Europe for the bourgeoisie

It is pathetic how Wilson and the other heads of governments ingratiate themselves to "maintain" US commitment to the alliance. So much for talk of independence from the super-powers.

Wilson in his speech to the conference said that reassurances of US commitment were unnecessary. US solidarity had never been in doubt. In an open invitation for the US to increase its economic penetration he went on: "It is no good having credible defence if the economic framework upon which we all depend lies in ruins."

Self-reliance

That the countries of western Europe are today threatened by Soviet imperialism is beyond question. What is also beyond question is that defence against such a threat cannot be achieved through NATO, an alliance that was only ostensibly for defence against foreign aggression, but was really directed against internal threats to capitalism and liberation movements like Portugal's African colonies. In 1949 when the NATO treaty was signed, there was no threat from the then socialist Soviet Union.

Defence can only be achieved through self-reliance. Albania, the only truly independent country in Europe maintains its independence not through military alliances under the auspices of this or that big power but through reliance on their own strength.

Civil War

It is significant that Heath, who remains one of the main spokesmen of the British bourgeoisie, when 'begging' the US not to 'give up Europe' reassured them that western Europe is not the same as Vietnam. Heath is back to his 'civil war' speech in the United Nations. It is such a war, a revolutionary war, that NATO exists to suppress. Today the British ruling class see such a war as the main danger.

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP 155 FORTRESS ROAD LONDON NW5

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Fri June 13th 7.30 pm: Women are only Free Under Socialism
- Fri June 20th 7.30 pm: From National Liberation to Socialism
- Fri June 27th 7.30 pm: Exposure of Social Democracy.
- Fri July 4th 7.30 pm: The British Revolution

OCTOBER BOOKS IS MOVING

From: 99, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. To: 4B, Temple Court, Liverpool. (opp. Liverpool Collectors Centre)

The new Merseyside premises of the CPB(M-L) will be larger and better situated than the present bookshop. Our normal stock of books by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, etc., will be enlarged, as will our extensive collection of books, papers and pamphlets about the struggle for socialism in every part of the world - especially in Britain.

Hours of opening: Monday - Friday 12 noon to 6 p.m. Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The new premises will open on June 14th, 1975

'THE WORKER'

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Middle Class Dead: Official

The Middle Class Association is changing its name, Mr John Gorst, Tory MP for Hendon North and founder member, said yesterday, because the title had proved a hindrance to recruiting. In future it will be known as the Voice of the Independent Centre.

"We have recognised a fundamental social change that has taken place. In short, the British middle classes are dead," he told a London Press conference.

The Boom Goes Bust

There is no escape now from the crisis. Even in 'boom-town' Bracknell there is more unemployment than vacancies, and one of the largest local employers, Ferrante, has had to go begging for government cash. Promises of a new upsurge if we remain inside the EEC will soon prove hollow.

Common Market Benefits?

Since 1973 the housewife has been forced to meet increases of: 50% in bacon up to 35p per pkt. eggs up to 35p per doz. butter up to 30p per lb. coffee up to 65p per jar. 100% in cooking oil up to 80p per lit. toilet paper up to 21p per pkt. bread up to 16p per loaf washing up liquid up to 19p per bot. 200%+ in sugar up to 29p per 2lbs.

There is little security of employment for anyone; over 67,000 had lost their previous jobs in March alone, and the school-leavers still without a job number nearly 3,000 in this 'prosperous' South East Planning Region. Any system that cannot promise a future for its children deserves no future for itself, it stands self-condemned.

Cambodia restores production

The Cambodian people are doing their utmost to heal war wounds, restore and develop production in the spirit of independence and self-reliance, says a broadcast of the "voice of the National United Front of Cambodia".

Aggression by US imperialism caused serious damage to the country of Cambodia. Almost all its factories were reduced to ruins. After winning victory in the people's revolutionary war for national liberation the Cambodian people have developed the spirit of hard struggle to overcome difficulties and restore production.

They take agriculture as the foundation, encouraging themselves with the slogan "Rely on man instead of nature in farming"; they have vigorously engaged in building irrigation works. Meanwhile they have worked against time in gathering

In the dry-season rice and transplanting the rainy-season rice.

Great efforts are being made to restore the damaged factories. The power plant and water tower in Sihanoukville have resumed operation. At the same time, priority is given to the development of hand weaving and farm-tool making to meet the demand in production and the people's daily life.

In one month since liberation, the road section from Phnompenh to Neak Luong of highway 1, and major parts of highways 6 and 7 have reopened to traffic. Repair of highways 2, 3, 4, 5, the Phnompenh-Sihanoukville railway, Pocheaong airport and the port of Sihanoukville are in full swing. Sunk vessels are being cleared from rivers so as to restore navigation as soon as possible.



Fighters of the Cambodian Peoples' Armed Forces defending Ang Kor in the final stages of the liberation war.

HISTORIC STATEMENT

Five years ago on May 20th, 1970, at a time when the US aggressors were flagrantly escalating their war against the people of Indo-China, Mao Tsetung made a solemn statement in support of revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

Chairman Mao said: "A just cause enjoys abundant support while an unjust cause finds little support. A weak nation can defeat a strong, a small nation can defeat a big. The people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country. This is a law of history."

This understanding of the invincibility of people's war has been completely vindicated by the final defeat of US imperialism in Indo-China by the people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM

Recent developments in Czechoslovakia give further proof of Russian domination over that unhappy country. The news that Dr. Gustav Husak, General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party since the ousting of Dubcek six years ago, is also to be the country's President, replacing the ailing General Svoboda, is not simply a minor detail but reveals, yet again, the mess the country is in and the difficulties facing the Russians to get Czechoslovakia out of its economic and social malaise. Russia hopes Husak's elevation to the Presidency and dual role will make him as reliable a stooge as Novotny was.

Russia's record in Eastern Europe is naked for all to see - how exploitation is carried out through brute force. The military might of the Warsaw Pact backs up Russia's empire manipulated through the intricacies of Comecon, Russia's counterpart of the Common Market. Brezhnev has never made any secret of the basic principles of present-day Russian policy relative to its East European satellites - limited sovereignty, international division of labour and specialisation so that some countries will just provide a few raw materials while others will be little more than resorts for the Russian ruling class.

Completely tied to Russia the economy of Czechoslovakia, once the most developed in Eastern Europe, is dominated by the military needs of the Kremlin. Its heavy industrial factories manufacture tanks and guns to be used where? Constant disruptions and changes in targets and priorities make for fluctuations in job opportunities and some one-third of the labour force is continuously on the move, having been forced to change jobs. Prices keep on going up despite the much-vaunted Comecon practice of five-yearly agreements, and in April this year Russia really tightened the screws on its satellites by unilaterally breaking its agreements after one year and demanding much higher prices for the raw materials and other commodities bought from her. Socialism has been discarded in all but name and consumer-economics is sought to be built on a stagnant semi-colonial base.

Is it any wonder that other bad things have crept into the picture? The constant exhortations to Party cadres to clean up society and more police measures cannot stem the tide of corruption. Last year there were 52 prosecutions for major cases of bribery in the health service of Czechoslovakia and the "outstretched hand" of the bureaucrat has become as ubiquitous in Prague as the Russian soldier.

In our Party's statement on Czechoslovakia in August 1968 we had said that there was only one way open to the working people of Czechoslovakia to regain their independence - to learn from Albania and China. That lesson has been given new vigour by the great victories of the peoples of Indochina. The people must rise up and throw the Russian aggressors out.