



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

WITH even official figures of unemployment only 30,000 short of a million, workers are finding new forms of struggle around the basic question of the right to work. Every real struggle is a stage in the protracted class war which will finally answer this question - by forcefully expropriating, the employers and depriving them forever of their right to hire and fire. The threat of unemployment will end when workers sack the bosses - for good!

As unemployment crept up beyond the 400,000 mark the politicians and economists were full of glee, and why not. They had tried hard enough to bring this about and were talking in terms of "acceptable levels of unemployment." Consider now all the talk of strenuous efforts to reduce the unemployment figures against the fact that even more strenuous efforts were made by governments, the Labour government in particular, to create unemployment "at an acceptable level" of course. The Redundancy Payment Act of the Labour government had only one purpose and that was to buy off workers from the struggle for the right to work. The slogan of the "right to work" was raised by it not forgotten, not at a time of high unemployment but when the term automation was coined.

The creation of unemployment was intended to serve as a disciplinary measure against the workers.

The creation of unemployment was intended to secure a better bargaining position for the employers against the workers. After the Redundancy Payments Act came the Selective Employment Tax which did two things at once, or attempted to. It put a tax on the employer for each non-productive worker and at the same time permitted him to pass the tax on to the consumer in the form of higher prices. We know from experience that the cost of this tax was passed on to the workers with plenty added. And so much for the argument that inflation price rises were caused by wage demands. The alternative to the employer if he did not wish to carry the tax or pass it on to the consumer was to get rid of the labour. This was proclaimed by the Labour government to be the reason for the tax, it was, as they so charmingly put it, a "shake out." Never forget this when the ex-spokesmen for the government, now spokesmen for the opposition, posture as the champions of the right to work.

It never was any satisfaction for an unemployed Welsh miner to know that there were vacancies in Greater London for plastic moulders at 7-6 per hour, but according to the great brains who guided government policy and aspire to do so again if we are foolish enough to let them, the one equates exactly with the others and that is not unemployment. Of course the pundits protested that they were only trying to get the economy right. The workers were in the wrong jobs. The exporting industries were short of labour and "the service industries were carrying more labour than the good of the economy required." Hence the "shake out" - out of the service industries and into export industries and of course training centres to train displaced workers for new jobs. This process of "shake out" was intensified in a climate in which crackpot economists and politicians were preaching larger cake economics. In every industry, private as well as nationalised, schemes were peddled whereby less workers would produce more. It never did produce beneficial effect to the workers. Every worker who sold a tea break, washing time, gave up his mate for a higher wage packet saw the higher wage eroded by higher prices.

The right to work, correct enough as a slogan for struggle, can not be wished into realisation. Neither can we expect those who created the problem to now solve it. Those who entreat you to lobby your M.P. should reflect. The M.P.'s are divided between those who pleaded for your votes and promised all kinds of miracles and then when unable to deliver the goods howled about the inheritance of "thirteen years of Tory misrule" and the other kind who promised likewise "at a stroke" and now wall about the legacy of inflation left behind by an "irresponsible Labour government." What then is the difference, and why would we waste time lobbying these creatures.

The answer is not short and simple, such as slides off the tongue of Labour and Tory politicians. The right to work is going to be won. It will be won to the extent workers are no longer prepared to leave their fortunes to the tender mercies of political opportunists, careerists and adventurers. The struggle for the right to work as it grows in intensity and brings us up against the realities of State power will and must be transformed into a struggle for the right to rule.



Workers in their thousands support Plesseys fight for the right to work (see page 3)

STUDENTS FIGHT GOVERNMENT

THE biggest student demonstration ever held in Britain was organised by the unions of London colleges on Nov. 17th to protest against the governments recent proposals that attack student unions. Though organised on extremely short notice students responded in their thousands to the calls of their unions, from colleges of education, universities, polytechnics and technical colleges. This demonstration was not a last dramatic gesture, but only the beginning of a struggle which will develop over the coming year in all the different institutions. It marks a new level in student struggle.

NO NEGOTIATIONS - OUT WITH THE LOT!

THE Government is trying to smash student unions. As all their various proposals aim to do this, students will not have to concern themselves with the details and get drawn into discussions aimed at "compromise" negotiations. As the demonstration showed, students will not tolerate any interference with their unions - whether from Government, registrar or college authorities. No negotiations, out with the lot!

WHY THE ATTACK?

It comes, not as the Government would have

us believe because of misuse of public funds, that is the smokescreen they use to veil their attack. The money is not public money, but part of the total grant allocation that goes straight to the union. It is not their money to interfere with, it is the students.

The attack comes because student unions are developing from purely social clubs into organisations that fight for the rights and interests of their members. As living standards decline and graduate unemployment soars, illusions of middle class privilege disappear and their real class position becomes clear as part of the working class, apprentices in educational training. Political understanding has grown, and student unions have begun to fight. The Government, scared by this development, belatedly attempts to stifle it, hence their proposals.

In their colleges, students are learning the way to fight is not to adapt a defensive position

or appeal for a continuation of the status quo, but to launch their own offensive.

ON TO THE OFFENSIVE

By fighting to remove already existing controls over constitutions and finances - students cannot engage in battle with the opposing sides generals dictating the terms. And by, at the same time, the unions developing in each and every institution the fight against declining conditions when and where the authorities are weak and students are strong, for the Government attack both economic and political is only just beginning. Each college will have its particular problems necessary to fight on, calling for students to consider and unite on around the union. These battles need to be fought, for only through them will the strength and confidence to win autonomy of the unions be gained, and its importance be shown.

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ENGINEERS' CLAIM

ON 16th November the Engineering Employers' Federation, the most powerful single body in industry and the political custodians of private ownership in Britain, replied to the claim of the Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions for improvement in manual workers' wages and working conditions. The case for the workers had been stated as long ago as 26th August. The delay of the employers to reply is truly an indication of their estimate of the lack of interest of the great mass of workers affected.

REJECTION

THE claim contained 13 separate items. Of these the employers rejected 12 outright and considered only the demand for a substantial wage increase for all categories of workers and an increase on all minimum rates to apply from 1st January 1972. In their reply to this demand they rejected the general increase and the date of change. They said: "We therefore propose that next July (1972) there should be an increase of £1.50 in our skilled minimum time rate and appropriate lesser amounts for other grades". Ostensibly an increase of £1.50, but since the increase applies only to the lowest paid craftsmen, and since hardly any workers among the 3 million affected by the claim are on the lowest payments, the offer does not represent an increase in earnings but an adjustment in minimum rates and a new calculation over all. In effect the employers have completely rejected the application for a straight general increase.

STRUGGLE

WE would never wish to say "I told you so", but in the November "Worker" we demanded, and we have the right, that workers must single out those issues on which they will conduct the struggle. The shopping list of 13 items may have sounded terrifyingly militant. But sound and fury alone don't frighten the employing class. They have made the measure and have put their fingers to their noses, to this essential working class section. They have gauged we are not serious, that there will be no fight, but struggle there will have to be.

The struggle does not rest in the national claim. For us it is a fight on two fronts: to expedite the national struggle concentrating on the most salient features of the claim calculated to rouse national united action, and to maintain the daily struggle within the factory; the two are inseparable, flesh and bone of whole body.

SALMON LEAP

THE employers say: "Bide your time till we, the capitalist system in Britain, restore our might, economic and political". They make it so clear that workers have nothing in common with employers, that indeed the state is the employers' state, that their reply is all that they have insisted their government shall impose on the working class. But we the workers shall not wait and see; this is a basic law.

FOR us the task is to accelerate this struggle, to sharpen it to its highest point of crisis. We must explain that demands aimed to keep up in a descending economy just do not work; that to struggle for the whole, i.e. replacement of capitalism with the dictatorship of the proletariat, is not only the correct solution but the less painful, the more positive, and that it does not require more effort than endeavouring to hold one's own, to tread water against a fast current. We have now (for we must) to take the salmon leap and swim on to Socialism. Down the enemy!

VIETNAM

NIXON started his 1972 election campaign a long time ago and as part of his global strategy of world domination, talks peace whilst waging war. By peace is meant installing fascist dictatorships, willing to oppress their own people, such as those in Saigon and Phnom Penh. By war is meant an unpublicised "special war" in Laos and Cambodia.

This autumn has seen cowardly and indiscriminate bombing raids by U.S. aircraft over the populated areas of North Vietnam. Neither the Government or the Capitalist press in this Country thought anything of it. We conclude that they support this "special war" waged in the name of freedom. That is, freedom for international big business to steal the oil reserves, minerals and surplus labour from the people of Indo-China which it will need in order to attack and annex China itself.

The recent Vietnamese proposal of peace, as

well as those of Laos and Cambodia have been ignored. In this way world opinion and that of the American working class is treated by the Nixon administration with the same arrogant contempt. We in Britain, who must fight for the right to work, admire the courage and determination of the Vietnamese people to rid their Country of aggressors.

The broken U.S. military machine is slowly pulling out of South Vietnam. Peoples War is now winning historic victories in Cambodia, where 80% of the Country is liberated. In Malaya workers and peasants have taken up arms against British, Australian and New Zealand troops and have liberated areas in the north.

Thus the storm of Peoples Revolutionary War has smashed every attempt of the Nixon administration to dominate S.E. Asia and this autumn is close to bringing about its utter defeat.

BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS IN CHINA

WHEN it was announced that the traditional Chinese National Day parade in Peking would not be taking place this year the "China-watchers" dragged out all the old rumours. But a delegation of trades unionists from the CPB(ML) was in China for a month and was in Peking for the National Day celebrations—unlike the "China-watchers"—and saw how the celebrations now do not just mean a march-past with most people watching. Instead workers, peasants, students, schoolchildren were acting, singing, dancing and generally enjoying themselves in parks all over the place. And this is typical: especially since the cultural revolution.

Everybody involved

Everybody is involved in making the decisions and everybody works to carry them out—and is happy doing the work because it has a purpose. The delegation visited the February 7th Loco Plant in Peking, named after the day in 1923 when the warlords killed over 200 workers in suppressing a strike. The plant has a long revolutionary history—Mao visited it in 1948 and there were Communist

groups among the workers by 1921 as well as a strong trade union movement disguised as workers clubs. But now it is still making history. Until the cultural revolution the factory management—which included former Kuomintang members as well as revisionists—said the plant could only do repair work. But then these people were slung out by the workers, who decided to start building diesel locos. A design team of workers and technicians—all of whom spend most of their time working on the shop floor—designed a 3,000 horsepower loco in only 25 days and the first one was built in only one year. Also the repair capacity has been increased from 4 small locos a month to 44 large ones.

Mass Initiative

This is just one sign of what can happen when the initiative and energy of the mass of the people is released as is the building of the Yangtze River Bridge at Nanking (shown in the picture). As the chief maintenance engineer told the delegation "This could never have happened in old China". And the same could be said of the modern all-Chinese oil refineries, the precision



machine tools, or on a different, but no less important level, the rice planting machine designed and built on a commune that cuts the time taken to one-fortieth of what it used to be. In a capitalist country like Britain any labour-saving invention like this would be threat to jobs. But in China under socialism, such advances are used to make the life of the people easier and to free people for other socially useful work. And as decisions on all such questions are taken only with the workers agreement, after endless discussions, there is a great air of freedom among the workers and peasants. They know they control the country. With the extremely high political level among the masses—factory workers

have an hour of political study each day—and their great enthusiasm they can move mountains—literally! The delegation saw administrative workers, teachers and other cadres tearing down a hillside with the simplest of tools as part of their regular stint of manual labour to stop them becoming separated from the masses. And the lesson for Britain is that when the mass of the people grasp Marxism-Leninism (which is not regarded as something only for an elite, for "leaders" (whether anybody follows them or not) then nothing is impossible and a mountain of solid rock or a capitalist system of solid rubbish can be swept away, as were Liu Shao Chi and Chiang Kai Shek.



THE redundancies roll on British Steel has announced plans to close down a £5 million 20-inch pipe mill at Hartlepool employing about 250 people which was opened only 4 years ago. At this rate BSC will be left with only the officials in charge of declaring redundancies. But at Westland Helicopters, Hayes, where the management want to close the plant employing 1,800 men by next June, the workers fought people trying to take equipment away while the men were still working. They managed to win a temporary pledge from the management not to transfer equipment to the South-West. In their different ways, Plesseys, UCS and Westlands all point to the same lesson about redundancies—you have to fight, and don't pull the punches.

HEATHROW

London Airport was closed for four days by the 15,000 ground staff fighting for the right to work. The introduction of the Canadian company General Aviation Services to deal with baggage handling means a threat to jobs. And when the Spanish airline Iberia gave GAS a contract to do this work at Heathrow (formerly done by KLM) it was seen by the workers as the thin edge of a remarkably nasty wedge. GAS had recently won contracts with Afghan and Saudi Arabian airlines and also does ground handling not covered by any specific airline and no action had been taken but when the Iberia contract came into effect on Monday 1st November a mass meeting decided to "black" this work. The workers were attacked by police and police dogs when they attempted to enforce this decision and they were arrested. The fighting only

stiffened the resolve of the workers, as shown in their mass meetings. They defied court injunctions and soon Iberia got a bit nervous. But the British Airports Authority, supported by BOAC and BEA wanted to assert its absolute authority over Heathrow. A "peace plan" was devised under which GAS would continue to do ground handling for Iberia in return for a BAA pledge that there would be no redundancies and a three-month freeze on GAS getting any new contracts while the whole position of GAS at Heathrow was looked into. This was rejected by the men, then accepted a day later. This leaves an uneasy truce in which each side is aware of the others determination. The employers will pounce if they sense any weakness among the workers. The workers must be just as ready to make sure "high-speed GAS" blows up in the employer's face.

BUSES

Lighting has struck Birmingham, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton—Lighting strikes of West Midlands bus drivers and conductors in support of a claim for a £2.50 interim weekly pay rise. They have rejected an offer of £1. Meanwhile municipal bus employers rejected a claim on behalf of 70,000 employees for a shift allowance of £2.62 a week for drivers and £2.55 for conductors—the equivalent of 15% on basic rates. Similar claims are in hand for 100,000 provincial company busmen and 23,000 London Transport busmen. The provincial and municipal busmen receive £17.50 for drivers and £17 for conductors. London Transport drivers get £24 and conductors £23.15. And the employers have the nerve to

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

say that they want pay shift allowances because the need to work shifts is compensated for in these precisely basic rates.

MINERS

Since November 1st 280,000 miners have been operating an overtime ban in support of their claim for increases of up to 47%. The claim is for an increase of £8 on the £18 a week basic for surface workers, an increase from £19 to £28 for underground workers and an increase of £35 in the national power-loading rate. The National Coal Board reply was a miserly 7.2%. So far the overtime ban has cut production by about 15-20% or about half-a-million tons a week. At present stocks are high (the CEBG has 10 1/2 weeks supply) but a prolonged overtime ban or a strike—with or without the 55% majority now required by union rules—would change this situation and the attitude of the NCB. This of course is propaganda and inevitable propaganda about "holding the nation to ransom" is fought off.

AUSTIN-MORRIS

All production of MGB and 1800 models was halted from early October by the strike of 120 engine assemblers at the Longbridge plant, Birmingham. The demand was for parity with workers on the Marina engine assembly line. The men rejected and then accepted an offer of £37.25 for a 40-hour week. As a result of the strike men were laid off at other Austin-Morris plants, the car body plant in Swindon where 325 men were laid off, 700 men walked out for one day. For nearly a year now they have been holding 24-hour strikes in protest every time men are laid off, demanding a guarantee of a full 40-hour

week irrespective of what happens to supplies. To say that if the employer can't provide work that is his problem for the workers to say "We're turning up-so pay us or else" is an extension of the right to work. It is far different from the dangerous idea of 60 or 70% lay off pay which would leave the workers weak, away from the factory, at the mercy of the employers whoever they decide to cut off the "guarantee" lay-off pay. Like redundancy pay, "guaranteed layoff pay" is superficially attractive ("After all, its better than nothing") and it offers an easy way out—an easy way out to the dole queue.

ROLLS-ROYCE

6000 manual workers at the aero-engine plant at Bristol continued their strike for a 25% cost of living increase—about £5. One offer made was for £1 a week for skilled men, £90 for semi-skilled and £80 for unskilled. A later offer, also rejected was of £1.50 all round with 50p offset against any settlement in the national engineering claim. 12 Rolls-Royce service fitters at the British Aircraft Corporation factory at Fairford, Gloucester joined the strike after it had started. Edward Heath and all Common Market supporters should be feeling very proud of the Rolls-Royce workers. This is a very "European" strike, 4 of the 5 engine projects affected by the Bristol dispute, including Concorde, are joint projects with European companies. And not only that, Rolls-Royce service fitters for Concorde at Toulouse, France also came out. So now were even supporting strikes to Europe!

IRELAND

THE British people know that there is no solution to the present crisis of British Imperialism in Ireland other than the complete withdrawal of all British Troops and no amount of propaganda will convince them otherwise.

Workers recognise that internment does not work, that you cannot imprison workers without charge or trial and not expect a back lash from a people who have been fighting oppression for 800 years.

What is being witnessed in Northern Ireland today is the beginning of the last chapter of British Rule in Ireland. Since the partition of Ireland in 1921 the six North Eastern Counties have continued to be forcibly ruled by Britain through their puppet Government at Stormont.

These six counties of Ireland have some of the highest unemployment figures in the British Isles; they have one of the worst housing problems and some of the lowest wages for all sections of the working class. It is because of this and the fact that Britain has wished in the past to maintain her rule that she has, through her puppets in Stormont, to some degree successfully kept divided the working people of Northern Ireland by means of religious bigotry, in the same manner that they endeavour to divide workers at home in Britain on the question of race, black versus white.

In spite of all attempts to divide them large sections of the population have fought against British Rule and have gained strength in doing so.

BANKRUPT POLICY

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

In fact the workers in this Country know that you do not have to be taken into a concentration camp to be beaten up. One has only to look at what happens on their own picket lines when they are on strike at Robert's Arundel or B.O.A.C. where workers were beaten up unmercifully by the police and albatian dogs set upon them. NO, when workers are in struggle they expect all of this, the difference between Britain and Ireland is that the B Specials and the British Troops found that they did not have a monopoly of violence and that reactionary violence begets Revolutionary violence.

The liberal press have reinforced to write about the torture of civilians and the brutalities in the prisons and concentration camps of Northern Ireland.

The British Government, in turn, were forced by public opinion, the mass demonstrations organised by our Party and the Anti-Internment League

to set up an inquiry into these brutalities. The white wash report that the Compton inquiry brought back, that there was no brutality in the prisons and concentration camps but there was ill-treatment of the internees, is what we can expect from servants of the aggressors.

While the Compton report was being produced poor Edward Heath was suffering from indigestion trying to justify his Government's actions at the Lord Mayor's Banquet. Mr. Heath said "If at some future date the majority of people in Northern Ireland want

unification and express that desire in the appropriate constitutional manner, I do not believe any British Government would stand in the way". This came after his expression of admiration and gratitude to the services for their fortitude in the war against the gunmen "for war it is", said he.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

But then Mr. Heath of the Conservative Party, representative of the employing class, was not alone in talking about Ireland for at the revisionist 'Communist' Party conference in Camden Town Hall an emergency Executive Committee resolution was put forward which read, and we quote, "The British Labour and progressive movement must therefore insist that the British

Government revise its policy and introduce essential and long delayed democratic reforms". It did not call for the withdrawal of all British Troops from Ireland, only that they be withdrawn from the non-unionist areas.

There seems to be a similarity in what Mr. Heath and the Revisionists are both saying.

They should bear in mind that that which was seized by the sword will also be taken back by the sword.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN REINTEGRATES ITS POLICY ON IRELAND. WE DEMAND BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND NOW! END INTERNMENT, RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

STUDENTS FIGHT GOVT.

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Strength is in the mass of students, who must be fully involved. Writing to M.P.s appealing to others of the justice of the student cause, or any other shadow boxing will get nowhere.

SEE THIS STRUGGLE IN ITS FULL SIZE

Students, those in the forefront in the colleges, see this struggle in its full size. One battle in an ongoing protracted war; a class war against an increasingly corporate state - for you are not alone as students in

facing Government attack on your organisations, witness the legislation against trade unions. In the knowledge that you are a part of the working class so engaged in this class war, join the whole battle. Do not stop halfway: for in Britain the die is cast. Either the working class seizes power in a revolutionary way or the capitalist class institutes fascism.

LAUNCH THE OFFENSIVE FOR UNIONS AUTONOMY BUILD STRONG FIGHTING UNIONS NO TO THE CORPORATE STATE.

PLESSEY WORKERS DIG IN



Interview with Eddie McLafferty, convenor of shop-stewards at occupied Plesseys, Dumbartonshire.

A QUICK KILL

LET'S begin in January 1970. Representations to stop the closure of the R.N. Torpedo factory to Mr. Healey (Labour Defence Minister) were in vain—it was a "Cabinet decision". Then Plesseys, as rumoured, stepped in with flowery language, proclaiming they would create a boom area, employing 2,000-3,000 men. From May to September, starting with the toolroom section, Plessey completed their takeover; but now we found the fine promises were just not materialising. There was no program, no organisation, the management were like a troop of boy-scouts. When confronted, the promises kept coming, and the plea was "Give us a chance". A look at the money involved shows the nature of the transaction. The whole plant was sold off to Plesseys for £650,000 (govt. estimate valued metal stock alone 5 years ago at £250,000)—but the estimate we got from an independent source was £1 million! There's a scandal at the bottom of this ridiculously low selling price. A quick kill to sell off the assets!

We had the most modern "clean area" in Europe here for the testing of the Mark 24 torpedo. Then a "fault" was stated to have developed (not on the mechanical side which we were responsible for and Plessey, far from the earlier "eager desire" to use it, virtually destroyed it. The Machine Shop, all laid out for processing torpedo casings by modern flow-production, was attacked first.

THE RUNDOWN

OCTOBER saw machines cleared out under cover of promises of "Once cleared, we'll modernise it and employ over 300" The twist in this con came from the Defence Procurement Minister—"Now you have no facilities for such work". The government and employers had been one step ahead.

With 1971 we began to realise the extent of the deceit. We discovered buyers inspecting machinery, this supposedly to replace obsolete machines with modern designs—but workers noted the latest types were being looked at. If there's going to be a rundown, the toolroom is the first place to show it—a lack of orders and tooling up, no program, no system in the "progress" section, the simplest equipment not renewed. By March we had had enough and demanded a concrete statement covering the next year. Again bluff was tried: more promises and excuses of a "recession".

DIVIDE AND RULE

ALL this time we fought on a wage claim and procedure. As basis for negotiations an agreement was reached. 7 replaced 42 wage rates, e.g., skilled machinists 11/- p.h. (formerly a fantastic 9/- p.h.). The membership accepted it as a fair basis for beginning and it was signed on 14 May. THE CLOSURE OF THE MACHINE DIVISION WAS ANNOUNCED ON 18 (440 men). The Numerical Control division (210 men) was "a viable concern". So the work force was divided—the redundant and those with so-called "intact jobs". Our Shop Stewards joint committee speaking for the whole body, and having to cope with a divided workforce, got down to formulating a policy of resistance. We fought to show how the promises and statements were, as before, an empty con. They used foremen and managers to spread the false hopes among the ranks.

RESISTANCE GROWS

THAT Friday, asking no one, we staged a march and sit-down, blocking a crossroads for 45 minutes. Our campaign developed with press statements, deputations and 9 local demonstrations. When redundancy notices came in August they were burnt in a bonfire. The Iford Stewards showed solidarity by their presence. Then, ON THE VERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS, the full closure was announced. You know what the mood is like on the eve of the holidays—this was a calculated move to enrage the men so much that the police would have to be called in and so clear the factory. We found out the police had been alerted to stand by. They gave us written instructions to walk out like sheep.

OCCUPIED

JACK Green and myself initiated a plan and contacted as many possible. Pay-off day came—stewards lined the gate; a mass meeting accepted occupation to stop the stripping of the factory. Right away we marched to the administration, captured the keys, locked up, tossed out the Security Police and pulled down the Plessey flag.

Now its our 10th week of occupation and the membership is more determined than ever. Not a single item will leave. A manager, caught trying to smuggle goods out to the Poole factory was told (among other things) he'd be suspended for 3 days. He hasn't returned. We have here over 1,000 of the best most advanced specialised machines, 60% only 2 years old. This is a most important aspect of the occupation, and the equipment, worth millions, is kept in perfect condition by a maintenance crew in Plessey pay, but men chosen by us, under our orders. Only last week a squad of 70 of us inspected the machines, giving the lie to Plessey eviction threats on this. This is the last outlet for skilled men in the area; where regularly over 100 apprentices would become skilled. We are fully behind the U.C.S. demand "the right to work" but it should go further the right to work where you were born, with the skills you've learned.

NO COMPROMISE

THEY'VE tried to get us out by solutions on their conditions and other tactics, including two bomb scares. There will be no retreat on our basic conditions. The guarantees would have to be very strong indeed if Plessey re-opened, including a five year work basis—the same applies if the so-called government or even a genuine engineering employer took over. National and international support is coming in for our stand. The local people give great help; U.C.S. and A.E.P. have sent donations of £250; help comes from many individuals and sources, as far away as unions in Wales. An "alert system" whereby over 2,000 men can be mobilised at a moments need, was fully supported at a meeting of all Scottish shop stewards last month. We've been instrumental in instigating a joint Shop Stewards committee of convenors and chairmen of all the Plessey establishments in Britain, with all that this means for united support against actions of the employers or government in the future. Our moral is very high. Out of 250 on the terminal date, over 200 come regularly, we can rely on 180 a day on a shift system and a core of us are here round the clock with few hours break. If we ever have to, we'll walk out of those gates, heads high, as proud men—but we're determined to fight on until our demands are realised.

COVENTRY TOOL ROOM

The cause of the dispute is the arbitrary action of the Coventry engineering employers to break an agreement dating from 1930.

The agreement in question, usually referred to as the Toolroom Operatives Agreement, came about due to the urgent need to staff Toolrooms in the early years of the war. The shortage of Toolmakers followed the years of unemployment in the 1930's when skilled toolmakers left the trade and apprenticeship training had declined. There were many men in engineering production with the necessary skill to be employed in Toolrooms who were reluctant to switch from production on piece work to tool-making on plain timework with a loss of earnings as skilled production workers for the accolade of a toolmaker if it was to cost them wages.

Hence the Toolroom Operatives Agreement which assured Toolroom operatives a wage at least as high as skilled production workers.

For all the country except Coventry this earnings figure was and still is worked out on a single factory basis. The Toolroom earnings being based on the average of skilled time workers within a

particular factory.

For a number of years this agreement had obvious advantages to the employers. In a period when skilled men were changing jobs to get the highest rates in the district the employers gained by the stability of the labour force. Overall it suited them.

Overall now the Coventry agreement suits the workers. There is nothing special about this agreement and never was. The Toolroom agreement overall is questionable in its ethic in that it enables one section of workers to profit from the gains won by the struggle of other sections without themselves necessarily being involved in struggle.

The point at issue however at this point in time is not the merits or demerits of the Toolroom Operatives Agreement, local or national. If a large body of employers can at will break an agreement according to how it suits them at any particular time then it becomes wide open to other bodies of employers to follow suit.

By their strike action the Coventry workers have forced the employers to re-new the toolroom agreement.

A.U.E.W. RESOLUTION

"This London North District Committee, consistent with our Union's longstanding policy, congratulates the 'People's Republic of China' on their rightful entry into the United Nations Organisation.

China entry and the expulsion of the Chiang-Kai-Shek's regime, is a victory for all progressive people throughout the world, and represents yet another serious defeat for the reactionary policies of the United States Imperialism and will

serve to hasten the day when the workers of Taiwan become united with the rest of the Chinese people by means of Taiwan being rightfully restored to the 'People's Republic of China'.

This Committee further extends sincere fraternal greetings to the Chinese working class for even greater victories in the future, in opposing imperialism and oppression and for every success in building socialism in China."



THE whole population of Tirana comes out on the streets to hear the summing up of the conclusions of the Sixth Party Congress by Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania.

6TH CONGRESS OF THE PARTY LABOUR OF ALBANIA

A GREAT SOCIALIST EVENT

THE Sixth Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, convened at Tirana on November 1st, marked an important stage in the all round socialist advance of the Albanian people. The targets of the Fourth Five Year Plan for industrial production were achieved in 4 years and 7 months and the workers in the factories and the countryside have already begun their task of realising the new levels of production set by the Fifth Five Year Plan.

Matching these great successes in material production has gone a further revolutionising of every sphere of life since the Fifth Congress, a raising of the ideological level of the working masses in continued class struggle against all remnants of the old exploitative society and a deepening of socialist culture throughout the country.

In the Report on the Activity of the Central Committee, submitted by the great Marxist-Leninist leader Enver Hoxha, the major contradictions in

the world today were analysed and lessons for the international proletariat drawn.

"The forces of imperialism, revisionism and reaction stand on one side of the barricade, while the forces of socialism, the people's front headed by the international working class, stand on the other. The line of demarcation between them is becoming more and more distinct in all fields... The tendency of the present world development is revolution and the triumph of socialism."

Enver Hoxha pointed out that "an important event in the revolutionary movement of recent years is the growth of new Marxist-Leninist parties. Today, in almost all countries of the world Marxist-Leninist parties or organisations have been created, which are arraying themselves in the front ranks of the liberation struggle with increasing success."

Delegations from more than 30 Marxist-Leninist parties in Latin America, Western Europe, Africa and Asia participated in the Congress and joined with their Albanian comrades in celebrating

the 30th Anniversary of the Party of Labour of Albania.

At the very time when the people of Albania were rejoicing in their socialist advances "the big imperialist countries, not to mention the smaller ones, are at present passing through a stage when the phenomena of crisis have become chronic and have created new difficulties for the entire economy. The crisis of the monetary financial system has become an incurable disease. Inflation and cost of living are increasing rapidly, while the unemployed are counted in millions." There could be no sharper contrast between the proletarian world of socialism as is being developed in China and Albania and the bourgeois world of exploitation. Albania is the only country in the world where people pay no taxes or levies whatsoever!

ANOTHER CONGRESS
AT about the same time as the Sixth Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania was taking place the Congress of the 'Communist' Party of Great Britain was being held here in London. What did this revisionist rump have to offer to the working class in comparison with the glorious perspective for the workers of the world presented by the Albanian Congress? Only unity with the Labour Party, whatever concessions that might entail. Since the Labour Party is a capitalist party that means that workers must learn to live with capitalism the system that exploits them.

"Our task is to compel a general election and Tory defeat", was the 'great rallying cry' of this pitiful revisionist assembly. We must get Labour in again—Labour which provided the blue print for

the attack on the Unions, which began the escalation to one million unemployed, which sent the troops into Ireland (who 'CPGB' agrees must stay there to protect British imperialist interests). The message of this revisionist Congress to British workers is lie down with the lions who are devouring you. British workers proved at the last general election that they are not such sheep.

The 'CPGB' in its ever smaller way reflects the world role of revisionism, capitalism's second front opened against socialism with the Soviet leadership's betrayal of the proletariat after Stalin's death. Soviet revisionism which the Party of Labour of Albania was the first to expose, now shares with U.S. imperialism the position of enemy of the world's people and of revolution.

OUR PARTY

THE Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) in his address to the Sixth Congress in Tirana pointed out that in Britain capitalism had completed a vicious circle—"from land enclosures to factory closures". By the first act was the working class created. By the second it is being deprived of the right even to be exploited at work.

But from the moment the bourgeoisie created the working class it brought into being those who would bury capitalism.

At the Second Congress of the CPB(ML) during April of this year the unanimously agreed Party Statement, "The British Working Class and its Party" outlined the tasks for building the revolutionary movement among the workers of Britain which will smash the rotten capitalist system once and for all.



CPB(ML) Chairman, Reg Birch, addresses Albanian Congress

Dear Comrades, The Communist Party of Britain (M-L) wishes success and greater victories for you from this congress.

In this great report from your Central Committee bearing the marks of Comrade Enver Hoxha you take another giant stride in socialist construction, but more you assist us in Britain, too.

We go away strengthened. Thank you, for there is much here for us at least in Britain to apply, not mechanically, but objectively to the conditions within Britain. It is possible that you who grew with Comrade Enver as he with you are not able to appreciate fully how we esteem and value his great stature in the world as a leading theoretician of Marxism-Leninism.

We acknowledge this, come to learn and are grateful. In Britain today the contradictions of imperialism, of capitalism grow sharper. Born from the industrial revolution pressaged by the vicious land enclosure, capitalism is coming full circle from the land enclosure to industrial closure.

The situation within Britain is highly volatile, full of revolutionary promise, but very dangerous also.

Witness imperial aggression in Ireland, once again waging war on our Irish brothers.

Capitalism's main prop is social-democracy and revisionism. These have held the mask of chloroform across the mouth of the British working class. Nevertheless, they the workers fight valiantly.

It is the task of our party to tear away the mask and let the true revolutionary breath of the working class through.

We, the Party are ever conscious that in such environment with such a task, we enshle the vapour too. Here in Albania we breathe the pure oxygen of revolution. It is important for the British working class, particularly since the betrayal of the proletariat by the soviet revisionists, to know that in this European country - Albania - the working class, led by the Party of Labour headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha, not only showed that they could seize power but they could retain it.

Thank you dear comrades. Long live Albania. Long live the Party of Labour of Albania. Long live Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Workers of the world unite.

COMMON MARKET

IN opposition to the wishes of the majority of the people Parliament voted for Britain to join the Common Market. A "historic decision?" Not at all. Parliament could vote that the earth was flat, but that wouldn't make it so. The aim of Common Market entry is to prop up a sagging capitalist system in Britain by joining it to the capitalist systems of Western Europe, the better to try to break the resistance of the workers. But this is not done by votes in that museum at Westminster or by signatures on the Rome Treaty. The battles are still to come as the employers lay

plans for forcing the British working class into the strait jacket of the corporate state. Under the pretext of "bringing Britain in line with the Common Market countries" the employers will try to import all the worst features of industrial relations in Europe, to attack everything the workers have won through struggle. "Bringing into line" certainly will not mean getting as many public holidays as the Italians. So the battle is on—a protracted war against Britain's capitalists and their European allies—a battle that should turn Heath's "European dream" into a nightmare.

RATES AND RENTS INCREASES

ON January 1st, 1972, the Housing Finance Bill will become law. Like so much anti-working class law-making, the Labour Party created the monster and the Tories gave it life.

The Bill kills stone-dead any last illusions that new homes should be provided as a "social service". Eight million families can expect rent increase, 50p a week upwards. Rent controls on 1½ million unfurnished dwellings will be abolished. Eviction will dog those who cannot pay or will not pay. New houses, built by local authorities, will continue to fall in numbers.

Unemployment, low wages and the killing-off of "lame duck" industries all serve to make the social problem of slums and high rents more sharply felt. Facing up squarely to the housing problem means under-

standing that no inroads into bad housing can be made whilst redundancy, poor pay, and industrial decline turn large areas of Britain into economic and social deserts. It is no coincidence that Europe's worst slums are to be found in Glasgow where 1 in 10 workers are on the dole; nor the "D" for decaying villages in places like Durham where the mining force has been reduced from 900,000 to 300,000 in ten years.

The fight for better homes and rents which families can afford must be welded to the fight for work and wages. Nothing else will do, no other course of action is better. Tenants' associations must identify the boardroom rats with the king who inhabits the slums. Workers should see to it that both types of rat are put where conditions suit them best—in the sewers!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEC. 3rd. 'CONDITIONS IN FASCIST GREECE' CPB(ML) PUBLIC MEETING. Speaker from the Organisation of Greek Marxist-Leninists. Friday Dec. 3rd, 7.30pm at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5

DEC. 3rd. MEETING ON IRELAND "BRITISH TROOPS OUT NOW!" Organised by Brighton Branch CPB(ML) Friday, Dec. 3rd 7.30pm at Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.

DEC. 11th SOCIAL EVENING organised by South London Branch. Saturday Dec. 11th 7.30pm at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5

DEC. 11th PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE, Gifts and Useful Articles cheap organised by Central Branch. All day Saturday Dec. 11th at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5

DEC. 11th PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE, Gifts and Useful Articles cheap. Organised by West London Branch, Saturday Dec. 11th 10.30am on St. Marks Church Hall Blenheim Crescent, W.11 (near Ladbroke Grove Station)

DEC. 17th MEETING ON UNEMPLOYMENT "The Fight for the Right to Work". Organised by Brighton Branch, Friday Dec. 17th 7.30pm at Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.

DEC. 18th PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE, Gifts and Useful Articles at bargain prices, organised by South London Branch, Saturday afternoon Dec. 11th at Old People's Hall, London Road, Mitcham, Surrey.

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP now open all day

MON. 10.30am-4.30pm
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New pamphlets published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist):
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STUDENTS INTO CLASS STRUGGLE 3p
TEACHERS TO THE FRONT LINE 5p (please add 3p for Post Orders)
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SELECTED READINGS MAO TSETUNG 25p

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