



AN END FOR TRADE UNIONISM?

The question in front of the TUC Special Congress is none other than the very survival, the existence of the trade union movement. Such an issue cannot be settled by a vote.

The report entitled 'The Social Contract 1976-77' to be debated at the Congress attempts to turn the trade unions into willing collaborators with the Government - a Government that is not just the biggest employer in the country but the representative of the whole capitalist class - the managing director of capitalism.

The report reviews the miserable record of the Labour government over the past couple of years with exceptional praise. What has been won by workers through fierce struggle, the

defeat of the Industrial Relations Act, the Sex Discrimination Act, etc., are taken as achievements of the Labour Government. The cuts in public expenditure, the destruction of the social services the report reviews with 'concern'.

On industrial strategy, the report calls not for the end of the destruction of skill, the closure of factories, the destruction of the basic tool and other craft industries. It calls instead for the creation of 'new jobs'. In what? Making candy floss?

On pay, inflation is taken to mean rises in wages, for the Price Code is to be modified (meaning 'lawful price increases') to reduce unemployment.

For the future, it is to be 'a continuing process based on mutual trust and understanding between the TUC and the Government'. A corporate state where the unions become part of the state machine, may the policemen of the working class.

Those who will vote for the General Council report will be voting an end to trade unionism as it has been fought for and established over two centuries of struggle. They no longer belong to the trade union movement. There cannot be a Pope that is not a believer. The bishops, and the priests in their parish must claim that kingdom for themselves. That that kingdom must be revolutionary, only the believers can bring about.

SEIZE THE ASSETS

Events have daily confirmed the judgement of our Party's Fourth Congress, of 'unions having begun to outlive their usefulness as a defensive weapon and having adopted the role of collaborators or policemen to the bourgeois state'.

The first social expression of working class consciousness was the defensive organisation of trade unions by British workers in the teeth of class and state hostility. In creating the unions they not only brought into being an entirely new social organisation which has been copied all over the world by friends and foes alike but they also began to create a new proletarian morality and the pattern for the proletarian political party of a new type.

Against the bourgeois creed of individual self-interest they asserted the socialist morality of collective interest, the individual realising his own interest within the general good of his work mates and the collective, regarding an attack on one as an attack on all. This was the birth of socialism within the womb of capitalism.

The form of industrial action, maximum discussion prior to a strike decision but all hesitancy or opposition afterwards condemned as strike-breaking, provided the pattern of democratic centralism characterising a proletarian party like the CPB(M-L), the Leninist party of a new type dedicated entirely to the interests of the working class and therefore dedicated to revolution.

After making every effort to smash the unions the capitalist ruling class was forced to accept them and even came to boast of the existence of unions and collective bargaining as part of bourgeois democracy. The right to strike was proclaimed as one of the freedoms of the 'free world' though every actual strike always proved to be for the wrong reasons or the wrong ends!

But now capitalism in Britain can no longer afford collective bargaining nor the unions whose role depends on it. With the connivance of those 'leaders' who subscribe to a 'social contract' between the labour movement and a capitalist state it seeks to destroy the very basis of unionism.

We workers will have to occupy unions, their premises and seize the assets, material and human, for a struggle which can no longer be defensive but must become the offensive against capitalism itself. The same kind of courageous, class conscious vanguard which took the lead in forming trade unions for defence is beginning to reshape old and forge new weapons for attack.

The Right to Education The Right to Work

The unprecedented level of struggle among students continues. The lead given by student teachers has been taken up by others and a number of polytechnics are being occupied. These protests are against the entire state strategy of cut backs and unemployment and show students anger at the criminal consequences of it. The situation in regard to teacher unemployment has provided the focal point in this struggle.

Everyone knows that, in educational terms there is a shortage rather than a glut of teachers. Only capitalism turns it on its head.

No part of the country has been left untouched by student action.

In SUSSEX some colleges have been in struggle for their first time. Chelsea College has massive support for a one day strike, followed by one of the first major student demonstrations in Eastbourne ever seen in that town. Bognor Regis followed by an occupation. At Brighton College of Education, students occupied, and then went on to demonstrate at the

County Council and occupy some offices there for a short period of time. At Sussex University, teacher trainees just back from teaching practice, are mobilising for action.

Trainee teachers in the WEST MIDLANDS' 10 remaining colleges of education have taken up the fight to defend education.

Cuts in the region have already caused the cancellation of school building programmes and in some areas the non replacement of staff who leave. In some colleges as many as 2 of those trainee teachers who will qualify this year do not have jobs to go to.

The student teachers have occupied their colleges, held discussions with people in the street and held demonstrations.

At Westhill College of Education in Birmingham students and lecturers agreed to abandon all lectures for two days to hold discussions on the campaign to save education. Speakers from NUS, NUT, the local education authority and rate-payers associations were invited.

The student teachers at Redland College in BRISTOL have taken a brave stand, those occupying a block in the building. On Thursday May 27th they held an open meeting on unemployment.

The students have raised the banner for education. It is for the whole class to carry it forward.



Zimbabwe Women Fight for Equality

FROM A SPEECH BY A WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL AT A MEETING IN THE HAGUE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

"Apologists for the continuation of discrimination against the education of women refer to African traditional systems or to Victorian family values where women carried out specific tasks in the home. This exposes the women of Southern Africa to a double-pronged struggle for their education and status. They have to fight for equality with males within their own community and, further, they have to join hands with their men to fight against foreign domination.

"The fight for equality with men is being made easy by the nature of the revolution that is sweeping through Southern Africa. The revolutionary war that is being waged against forces of reaction in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa makes it imperative for men to accept women fighters as their equals, fighting side by side with them. This is a new phenomenon and the experience will go a very long way towards awakening the consciousness of women about their role and the useful contributions they can make towards the well-being of their society.

"This is by no means a novel

development peculiar to Zimbabwe, but is a path that has been trodden by our fore-runners in Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Vietnam. Cadres in these countries shared the same experiences regardless of sex and our cadres are going through the same experiences. Those who are not in combat against the Smith regime are being concentrated in what are euphemistically called 'protected villages' when in fact they are

concentration camps where the standard of life leaves a great deal to be desired.

"Education for these suffering souls is to learn how to survive and in the process of doing so learn of others who are also on the receiving end of the brute force of the white minority regime. The consciousness thus created is constantly being re-inforced by further punitive measures taken by the regime in its fight against guerrillas."



China Deals with Pollution

The Chinese have found that industrial 'waste' can be put to good use. They have learned to process it to open up new sources of raw material for industry, to expand production and social wealth, instead of allowing the scourge of pollution so widespread in the capitalist world

The massive Peking General Petrochemical works, which turns out every kind of oil that China needs, had always burnt off large quantities of gas in its refining process. This had polluted the surroundings and endangered the health of the people who lived nearby.

In 1973 workers decided to change this: they threw scorn on those who said that pollution

was inevitable. And after a careful investigation they laid 900 metres of pipe to form a system for gas recovery and utilisation, converting their furnaces to gas too. This not only did away with the burn-off and eliminated pollution, it also saved 500,000 tons of fuel oil a year.

In China - a socialist country - it is the people who are thought of first. New anti-pollution measures are put into practice simultaneously with the design, construction and commission of new projects. "How can we combat pollution?" is the question asked at the outset of any project.

Unlike capitalist Britain, where our industrial process

LIVERPOOL WORKERS DISCUSS ALBANIA

The first public meeting of the New Albania Society, Liverpool branch, was held on May 14th at October Books in Temple Court. This branch, like those in a number of other British towns, was formed recently to meet the growing interest in Albania of workers outside the capital.

The speaker pointed out that in Albania, a small country about the size of Wales with a population of only about two million and a half, there was no inflation, no unemployment and people pay no taxes at all. Prices are falling and real wages are rising and year by year Albania has the highest economic growth rate of any country in Europe.

How has this been done? The answer could be given in one word - socialism. The heroic war of liberation which the Albanian people fought against both the Italian fascists and the German nazis, freeing their country of foreign invaders entirely by their own efforts, had also been a revolutionary war.

The people under the leadership of the Communist Party decided that when they had thrown out the external enemy they would not allow internal enemies, landlords and capitalists, once more to resume control of the country.

Their great leader, Enver Hoxha, said that the Albanian people in their wisdom have decided that they would advance along the road of socialism. The working people themselves seized state power at the successful conclusion of the war and have governed their country ever since in the interests of the people, not in the interests of profit.

The people of Albania have had to show the same unity and determination and fighting spirit to defend socialism as to liberate their country. They have been threatened by revisionist regimes in Yugoslavia and in Russia itself. They have had to ward off threats by British and US imperialism. Only the People's Republic of China, because of their shared confidence in Marxism-Leninism as the only true way forward for the working masses, has entered into mutually beneficial fraternal relations with Albania.

As a mark of the great achievements of the Albanian people in agriculture and industry and in building a genuine socialist society a new constitution is in the democratic process of being adopted - a constitution which proclaims Albania a People's Socialist Republic.

In the discussion which followed the main speech many workers in the audience wanted to know how relevant to Britain was the experience of the heroic people of Albania. It was felt that the main lesson for us here in Britain was that of self-reliance. Our people have the skill and energy and ingenuity to save Britain from the destruction of capitalism and to build a prosperous socialist society if, like Albanian people, we take our destiny in our own hands.

In taking state power and turning Britain into a socialist country, we not only serve our own working class but we also make the world a safer place for the Albanian people to continue the development of their country too.

In Brief

Whitehall Farce

We can understand Harold Wilson's 'honouring' of the big money boys of the media and entertainment world now that we know he is to do a major TV stint himself - a sort of Upstairs Downstairs of the two Houses of Parliament. For our money, another of his 'Honourees', Mike Yarwood, should have been obtained for the series. He does a rather better impersonation of a socialist politician.

New Horizons

American reaction to Reagan's threat of US military intervention in Rhodesia: "Reagan refused to send schoolchildren half way across town to achieve racial integration. Now he is prepared to send American soldiers half way round the world in an attempt to deny it."

Labour's Priorities

"If there are no profits, there will be no jobs" - the Rt. Hon. James Callaghan.

NATFHE

Against Cuts

Eight important resolutions were passed at the first National Conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (formerly the ATTI and ATCDE). The most important was the implacable opposition to all education cuts. This opposition was embodied in two separate resolutions. One called for an extension of further education to the 16-19 age group and to retain the 60,000 teacher-training places which once again are threatened by the government. The other spelled out the details for a campaign against the cuts. The conference instructed the Executive to encourage regional and local action and to authorise sanctions wherever possible.

Typical of the rest of the class, the Conference knew what has to be done but stopped short of doing it. It gave full support to the NUS and the actions of students in teacher training colleges yet accepted the concept of voluntary redundancies.

This attitude was most clearly demonstrated in the debate on the TUC-Government wage policy. An emergency resolution supporting wage restraint was adopted by a majority vote and immediately amended to subject such acceptance to price control, sustained investment and maintained level of spending on social services. A significant gesture, but a gesture nonetheless.

The Conference laid the foundation for the struggle against government attacks on education. NATFHE members must now build upon it.

Turning Luxuries into Necessities

Under the banner of 'Long Live the Friendship of the Chinese and British People' a 'Daily Necessities Fair of the People's Republic of China' was held in Birmingham Bull Ring Shopping Centre from 17th May to 4th June 1976. This beautiful exhibition illustrated the great progress which has been made under socialism in China, which thirty years ago was still a country of poverty, disease

and exploitation.

The exhibition, which aroused much interest among Birmingham people, included household and electrical goods, toys, food, porcelain, linen, and the special national arts, showing beautiful design and fine workmanship - carpets, wall tapestries, silk woven pictures, ivory and jade carvings. A friendly welcome was given to all.



The Lessons of UNCTAD

Self-Reliance or Colonialism

The UN Conference on Trade and Development in Nairobi has ended in deadlock, which shows clearly that the world's capitalist class can no longer rule in the old way: this is due to the growing strength and ideological influence of the socialist countries.

The workers and peasants of the world's countries have continually enforced the absolute decline of capitalism, and ever since the 1941-1945 Anti-Fascist World War they have been in a position to make capitalism's crisis final. What has prolonged the existence of capitalism, an anachronistic system, has been the backwardness of the opposing force, the proletariat. A key misconception is that the basic divisive force in the world is not class but nation. Hence, for example, the empiricist notion of 'rich nations and poor nations' which, ignoring the question of class exploitation, gives rise to such confused concepts as the 'Third World'.

But UNCTAD was not the scene of a 'rich/poor', 'East/West' conflict. In UNCTAD, reflecting the conflict within every revolutionary class, ran the two lines: the socialist line, of self-reliance in development, controlling one's own resources, land reform and industrialisation - exemplified, and spoken to, by China; and the capitalist line, of relying on foreign investment, aid, trade and technology, which depends on foreign commodity deals and foreign industry. This second line means adapting to a system in absolute decline, means anti-industrialisation and the destruction of agriculture, means in finality counter-revolution.

The capitalist classes of the so-called developing countries, with the connivance of the various European and other imperialisms, are preventing agricultural and industrial progress, preventing the use of the natural and human resources of those countries, in order to maintain their own role. The idea of the 'New International Economic Order' is part of their programme: it is a device which confuses and tries to 'reconcile' the two lines by subordinating the line of self-reliance and development to the line of slavery and destruction. It is a slogan akin to 'a socialist EEC' and to the revisionist notions of 'interdependence' and 'an international division of labour'. In opposition, the workers and peasants of every country must impose their revolutionary order on their own country.

Revolution the Answer

The UNCTAD Conference showed that there can be no economic advance in the people's interest without political liberation and no true liberation can be achieved without the strong development of Marxist forces. It is precisely to the extent that the backwardness of the working peoples in China and Albania has been overcome under Marxist leadership as a condition for building socialism that they have not only been capable of the most tremendous social and economic advance but have also contributed largely to the absolute decline of capitalism.

The victims of imperialist exploitation can no more end that exploitation through imperialist or, for that matter, UN-sponsored 'aid schemes' than the workers of Britain can end their own wage slavery in a capitalist state by Parliamentary means.

Indeed, the problems of the workers and peasants of the capitalist world discussed at Nairobi under such headings as "remittance of debt charges", "indexation of commodities" and the "transfer of technology" are the same as the problems facing the working class in Britain.

Just as all so-called 'aid schemes' have foundered in enormous debt charges which the imperialist creditor governments refuse to remit or reschedule, so funds raised by taxing the working class here and poured into housing and the 'nationalised' industries are largely eaten up by debt charges which are simply capitalism's profits of the past we are still paying off.

Just as representatives of the imperialist countries at UNCTAD refused to consider "indexation" - the principle of linking commodity prices to the prices of manufactured goods imported from the industrialised countries, so we workers of Britain have to pay the cost of the rise in the price of food as a result of a falling pound at the same time that we are expected to accept swingeing cuts in wages as the cure for the pound falling (which, like inflation generally, we are absurdly accused of causing).

Just as so-called exchanges in technology between industrialised and developing capitalist countries never seem to benefit the peoples of the developing countries, so we find in Britain that our own technological achievements are being transferred elsewhere or wasted by a capitalist class that makes profits out of the destruction of Britain.

The problems are the same, so is the answer. It is an answer that has to be found in each country, as it has been found in China and Albania - the dictatorship of the proletariat. The dictatorship of the proletariat is the stern, rock-like face which the working class, having seized state power, turns on all those who rob the masses for their own selfish profit.

French Communists Jailed

Following the present growth of the mass movement in France against the cutbacks (especially the so-called 'educational reforms') the ruling class has again clamped down on the PCF (ML) - our brother party in France.

Several comrades have been arrested under the charge of belonging to an illegal organisation - the PCF (ML) has been illegal for eight years.

Workers in France are answering these attacks with a

UCATT Rejects Wage Deal

"No chance" was the reply given to Len Murray when he tried to persuade the delegates at the annual conference of the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians to accept the government's pay policy. Their decision, to vote against the government and for the working class, adds to the ever-growing ranks of those against outside interference in workers' business.

Given the opportunity, those building workers organised in the TGWU could also be added to that number. With over 200,000 building workers on the dole, Des Warren still in jail, the "lump" as strong as ever and the Latings and McAlpines off to the Middle East, workers in the building industry owe no allegiance to any capitalist government.

The pre-election promises that a Labour government would

take care of these 'problems' can now be seen for what they were.

That George Smith and the executive should override the conference decision makes no odds. His remark that the delegates do not represent the membership means nothing. Those delegates are leaders elected by the membership because they are prepared to work for the union, because they have been judged at their places of work and branches and have shown their leadership. Time will tell who represents whom.

That Smith should remark "If the conference persists in carrying 'improper' resolutions that could not be acted on, there would have to be serious consideration on whether this delegate conference was capable of representing the members" reflects his

arrogance and contempt for all those present. It also brings into the open the question of democracy in UCATT. This threat must not be taken lightly, for it is a threat to do away with the very fragile democracy that exists in this union and an attempt to take our class a step closer to fascism.

The growing number of building workers saying no to the fixing of wages by the government is a reflection of a movement within our class. It is a movement that will grow in strength. The role of the vanguard of our class is to lead the way in taking this movement to its conclusion, to the day when building workers and indeed all workers can use their skills and intelligence to the benefit of all.

Building Workers Ban Overtime

Throughout the last 12 months or so resolutions have been coming in from branches of the two main construction unions, UCATT and TGWU, calling for an overtime ban. With one in three construction workers out of a job, the news that as far as the SE England region goes no further overtime permits are being issued as and from June 1st comes as welcome news to the many trade unionists on the dole.

This situation has been brought about as a direct result of pressure from the membership. Organised building workers are not willing to let a situation continue where some are working Saturday and Sunday plus evening overtime whilst in the London area alone 26,000 construction workers are looking for jobs.

The Building Employers Federation meanwhile has been holding talks with the Board of Trade to discuss ways of increasing the number of contracts that British companies can gain overseas. Already the big companies are carrying out extensive work in the Middle East, Europe and Africa, and with the industry working at three-quarter capacity in the main, and 50 per cent in some cases, this trend must continue. Danish building workers recently took strike action to remove British workers who were working below the rate.

The overtime ban in itself will probably not create that many jobs, but what is significant about this ban is that it shows that building workers are not prepared to turn their backs on the unemployed. It can only lead to a strengthening of the class consciousness of all those in the industry, employed and unemployed.

growing movement for the liberation of their imprisoned comrades. Support committees, petitions and demonstrations have been organised.

As fellow workers in Britain we extend our solidarity in their struggle.

Industrial Front



Fight for Equal Pay

On May 24th the women workers at Trico-Folberth decided to withdraw their labour and put an end to cheap rates for women. Negotiations for equal pay started last September and had come to nothing. Trico-Folberth, makers of windscreen wipers and car accessories, had whittled away the workforce over the years and were hoping that the unemployment they helped to create would stifle all demands for improved conditions. The women, members of AUEW, have shown the way in this situation. Their action demands the support of all the men still in, toolroom workers, maintenance workers and others. Workers will force equal pay on employers when we rely on our own strength rather than hoping a new law will magically free us from struggle.



Transport Drivers Strike

Transport drivers in the T & G around Avonmouth on May 22nd took the initiative by strike action and picketing the docks and neighbouring firms, in their struggle against their officials' acceptance of Inland Revenue plans to tax 'nights away' allowances over £4.50. It was a new departure for these traditional loners to stand together in direct action: it is the first national strike with working memory.

It is right to fight this new attack upon wages: in carrying it through, transport drivers are recognising the contradiction between their demands and their union's commitment to the Social Contract. Struggle for wages now is a blow for collective bargaining.

Copper Pass Works

At Copper Pass smelting works at Melton, North Humber-side, women cleaning and canteen staff recently claimed equal pay on the grounds that their work is broadly similar, though not identical, to the men's. But their case was thrown out of an Industrial Tribunal because, so it was said, the men received regular medical tests, while the women didn't. The Tribunal adjourned the case until 13th July, presumably so the management will have time to cook up another terrific excuse.

This should be an object lesson in what happens when workers rely on legislation, like the Equal Pay Act, designed supposedly in their interests, but in fact designed to divert their struggle onto the enemy's territory - the courts.

How to trust your Boss

A group claiming to 'put Britain first' is launching a 'working together campaign' onto workers and schoolchildren in the West Midlands. It is no surprise that the campaign is financed by employers to the tune of £25,000 pa. The West Midlands Engineering Employers' Association has seen a preview and expressed support. Putting all the latest mod cons of persuasion at the employers' disposal, the campaign will use cartoons, films, slides, tapes, and discussion documents to put across such themes as 'job satisfaction' and 'industrial trust' in factories and schools.

In a deteriorating climate of job insecurity and wage cuts the employers are grasping at every straw to "reassure" workers that the jobs they won't have tomorrow are satisfying, and that the employers who make them redundant are to be trusted!

Iceland Out of NATO

Backed by the working people of Iceland the government has successfully established against British imperialism its rights in its own territorial waters, allowing British trawlers only limited fishing facilities.

It has been this growing campaign of the Icelandic people which has enabled the government to defend its 200 mile stand.

Iceland itself overfishes. Its government's own studies show that cod and other spawning stocks are dwindling year by year. The size and weight of codling caught off Iceland are falling all the time, and the overall catch is declining in relation to a greatly increased fishing effort. The brave struggle of the Icelandic working class goes on however, to save the precious resources of the ocean upon which their national life depends.

Not least in importance in determining the outcome of the present 'talks' and ending the absurd posturing of the British government, has been fear by capitalists in all countries of the growing campaign in Iceland against Nato.

The United States has a large military base at Keflavik which is not only of strategic importance for its reconnaissance and control of the North Atlantic and Polar regions, but also in

maintaining its control of Iceland itself. With the development of the 'cold war', far from 'protecting' Iceland the US has encouraged Britain and refused gunboats and credits to Iceland. This has resulted in a wide-spread and growing demand from all sections of the working population there, that Iceland should quit Nato and the base should be withdrawn.

This movement culminated on May 15th in a massive march from the gates of Keflavik to Reykjavik - over 50 km. away. The march ended in a mass meeting of almost 15,000 (out of a total population of only 200,000). In the words of the newly formed Communist Party of Iceland (M-L): This march "showed clearly that the masses are arisen to struggle for national self determination and against Nato membership. It showed that opposition against British aggression is growing and more people are understanding the imperialist nature of Nato, through the fishing dispute."

Although small in number the struggle of the Icelandic working class is of great significance. Above all it demonstrates clearly to all the world that today, it is the working class and not the United States or the Soviet Union which is the real super-power! Workers of the world unite! Nato out!



£ .. Where Art Thou

Once, the gurus of the world were the alchemists who promised the philosopher's stone to make men immortal and turn dross to gold. Today it is the economists. They may disagree with each other on trifles but agree on the essentials, that workers are the cause of all the trouble and should be quietly eliminated - especially British workers.

A miners union official is "worried" about the wage settlement and the £ goes down. "Public spending must be cut" pronounces the government and all the economists. "This does not mean MP's salaries or the £4m deficit on their canteen, or the cost of the war against Iceland or the USA bases in E. Anglia, but hospitals, schools, teachers, social workers. The red indians were better economists; they did not kill off all the buffalo but kept some for the morrow: it was the clever white man who destroyed the herder. "Inflation", it is stated, "is caused by too much money chasing too few goods, we need a pool of unemployed to halt the plague." There are 1 1/2 million

unemployed, including many of the future, the school leavers, but at all ontons are 18p a pound and the pound goes down.

We were promised that entry into the Common Market would bring peace, prosperity and put roast beef on every table. Now the Editor of the "Financial Times" wonders whether the question of EEC entry should not be re-opened. Brave man! It could be, that, like Galleo, he be brought before the Inquisition for heresy. Workers, even the minority of selfish, cowardly ones who voted "yes", and many industrialists, who know that it has been an expensive, destructive failure bringing unemployment, a rising cost of living without any of the benefits, financial, industrial or social promised. "We" would participate in a £250m market. Have "we"? Or have "we" seen the running down of British industry and an attack on British agriculture? There may be a mountain of beef in Europe but little appears on the tables of British workers.

However, in spite of the gloom of the newspapers there are still some prosperous British people.

Bank deposits in Jersey are £1.1bn and in Guernsey £500m, ensuring that in these minimum tax havens (20p in the £ and no extras) so many British rich still continue to flourish. Every now and again there is a newspaper headline about illegal currency smuggling to happy little Switzerland or prosperous little Jersey but no one expects anything to be about it, and indeed, no one is disappointed.

Enough is Enough

It is time for the labour movement to say enough is enough; or are British workers expected to work for nothing and to eat grass to enable the capitalists to continue to exploit them? Do the ruling class really expect to bring back the bob a week twopenny in the kitchen and the choirs of unemployed in Oxford Street? The days of forelock pulling to the master at t' mill and a curtsy to the gentry are long gone. It is time that the unions say so instead of harking back to that misbegotten failure, the strike of 1926.

Trespassing against us

The reactionary proposals of the Law Commissioners on changes in the law on criminal trespass have surfaced in the form of a Government-sponsored Bill on Conspiracy and Criminal Trespass. The idea behind it is to give the police wide new powers to intervene to break up occupations - of factories, colleges, public buildings or empty houses - and to arrest the occupiers. The plan is to introduce the Bill at the beginning of the next session of Parliament in November.

This is the response of a Labour government to the growing wave of struggle against unemployment, cuts and home-

lessness. They have found that the old laws - some dating back to the 14th century - which bound a million serfs - are insufficient when it comes to controlling the millions of organised workers.

The legal technicality being employed is to make offences which once were "civil" - where the employer or landlord had to take the case to a court himself before the police could act - into "criminal" offences, where the police can intervene if they think one of these new "crimes" is being committed.

These new offences include using "violence for securing entry" - which can mean simply outnumbering the security guards

or even carrying placards in an occupation which the authorities consider to be "dangerous weapons". Also planned are measures to evict squatters without a court order.

Like all anti-working class legislation, it will only be passed and implemented to the extent that we allow it. And like all such legislation, it comes from the ruling class as an expression of their weakness and as an attempt to turn that weakness into strength. Hence the obligation on the whole trade union movement to combat it, not only through resolutions, but also in the practice of the revolutionary struggle against capitalism.

Anti Social Work Encouraged

In Devon the welfare state, so called, is rapidly becoming nothing more than a disguise for neglect. While referrals to the social services are rising by 17 per cent in Devon as a whole, and by an incredible 100 per cent in Exeter, the budget of the social services increased this year by only 2 per cent.

The cutback implied by these figures is dressed up in fancy names. Thus Devon has become the first county to introduce a "good neighbour" scheme. In fact, the scheme is nothing more than an admission that the social

services are no longer going to carry out their function. The chairman of the county social services committee said "The social services could not do without the voluntary organisations. We cannot do anything like the work we know needs doing." The "good neighbour" scheme goes beyond even this, by relying not even on voluntary organisations, but on any usual aid that might be available. The working class fought for the social services, not for the aid of passing milkmen or friendly housewives.

The Council fears that an "emergency situation" will arise next winter, a situation in which pensioners are without fuel. For the working class the emergency is upon us now. Last winter in Exeter two men were found rotting, two months dead. Many Devon pensioners died of cold, some with fires that they could not afford to turn on. The emergency for us is - how many deaths before we judge capitalism bad enough for us to sweep away?

The slogan of the Devon "good neighbour" scheme is "People need people." That is true; but people do not need capitalism.

Employers Encouraged to Kill

While the law allows for unlimited fines on employers who have workers working in dangerous conditions, the only real meaning for that law is in its application - and the fines imposed on the employers are derisory, being nominal.

Consider these recent examples: Wheeler and Pearsall (Market Drayton) were fined £200 with £40 costs for failing

to prevent inhalation of dangerous arsenic fumes. One man had died and six more sustained severe injuries which left them with permanently damaged nerves in their arms and legs, so that they do not have normal sensations or normal control over movement. The Southern Water Authority was fined £100 after the death of a worker. Sidney Flavell and Co.

(Leamington) were fined £200 after the death of a cleaner. The Smethwick, Staffordshire, Company Ionic Plating was fined £200 after 52 people were taken to hospital suffering from the effects of chlorine gas.

It is clear that capitalism places very little value on the lives and health of workers. In many cases the fines are less than the cost of proper protective measures.

CPBML Bookshops

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON, NW5.
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol 2.
October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool 2.
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, off Great George Street, Leeds.

Meetings

To be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Queen's Hotel, Queen St., Exeter.
JUNE 16: Smash the Labour Government.
JUNE 23: Direct all struggle to revolution.

To be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Park Hotel, Beverley Road, Hull.
JUNE 27: Seize Britain to save Britain.

To be held on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5. Nearest Tube - Tufnell Park.

FILMS:

JUNE 18: Fiery Years (steelworks) China.
JUNE 25: Sparking Red Star. 1920's.
JULY 2: Reconnaissance Across the Yangtze (liberation war).
JULY 9: Crimson Rain (barefoot doctors).

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