



PUBLIC SECTOR SUCCESS

HOSPITAL ancillary workers and local authority workers who have forced the government to break its pay guidelines are returning to work united and strengthened by their struggle.

The lessons learned from this struggle will not only encourage others to show the same determination but also provide inspiration for the continuing struggles these workers face to save their industries from destruction.

The legal requirement of Government and Councils to provide services, a reform forced on capitalism by the strength of the working class, has now become just so much hypocrisy as governments and councils compete to impose cuts and closures in their rush to destroy.

The only force in Britain that is civilised enough to insist on civilisation is the working class. As workers protect living standards through

basic trade union struggle, so also do they protect industries from the barbarians of the ruling class.

Ambulance drivers considering continuing their struggle deserve to be supported by the whole working class. Like the firemen before them, they have shown clearly the depressed state of their service, which the Government now grudgingly concedes to be an emergency service. People who had found that when they called for an ambulance they were picked up by a minicab would not have been surprised by the drivers' revelations about how far ambulances has been cut back.

For a Government intent on destroying the ambulance service there is no incentive to pay for drivers. Conversely, the drivers by fighting the Government for wages are concerned to keep themselves employed and insist on an effective ambulance service.



NUPE workers showing the unity which in their campaign alongside the TGWU, COHSE and GMWU has forced the government to abandon, first its 5 per cent, and then its 8 per cent. The face-saving 'comparability' offer has forced the government to give far more than it ever intended. So much for wage restraint. Photo: North-East Photo Co-op.

OXFORD COUNCIL WORKERS CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS

OXFORDSHIRE road workers have now lifted their ban on gritting the A34, action they were taking in support of NUPE's national pay campaign. The action undoubtedly played its part in forcing an offer well above the government guidelines, and as is the case with any effective strike, it has drawn accusations of "irresponsibility" and "immorality". When accused by the Rt. Hon. Airey Neave of causing road injuries, the NUPE divisional organiser replied that

during his career one in three roadworkers had been injured at work, and he didn't see any MPs complaining about that.

This action provides yet another example of the sham self-righteousness of those that defend capitalism. It is the Government that plainly undervalues our essential services. Until forced to do better, they were content to pay council employees, school caretakers and hospital workers a basic rate of less than £45 per week. Two sewerage workers in Thame were recently forced back to work by people protesting that their action could harm their families' health. One of these workers was on a basic of £36, and had never been able to take his family on holiday - his conscience should have been quite clear.

If we examine the facts, we must see that those that control our economy for their own ends are not interested whether vital services, or anything of value exists at all. The road gritting which so concerned Mr. Neave is of no interest to ICI, the company that provides local authorities with gritting salt. Last year they laid off workers and closed down machinery at their Cheshire

salt mines. They said this was because the "demand" for sale had declined, but this winter they were unable to fulfill even the normal demand for salt. Oxfordshire had to settle for only 13,000 tons rather than its usual order of 15,000. The bad winter has meant their stocks are running low, and any more unexpected cold spells could leave them with a shortage. The truth is that capitalist industry does not think of demand in terms of what people need.

All its "productivity" deals are about reducing the workforce, to produce less goods with even less workers. If this creates an artificial scarcity which forces up the price, all well and good!

This is just one example of what is happening throughout British industry. Whilst destroying productive capacity, ICI's profits have increased three-fold over the last ten years. Like the other capitalists that are running down our steel, textile, shipbuilding and all our industries, they are only concerned with wringing the last profits out of us by destroying our country's capacity to fulfill our needs.

Vietnam fights off invaders: China enters arms market

BRITAIN'S £8 to £9 billion economic agreement with China is another step towards China's integration in the capitalist world. Like the Soviet Union's defection from socialism, China's destruction of socialism to join the capitalist camp will be an immediate shot in the arm for world capitalism, paid for by the Chinese people. In fact, capitalism in its absolute decline depends more and more, like a drug addict, on such fixes from the betrayal of socialism.

Another aspect of China's integration in the capitalist world is its demand for the weapons of aggressive war backed up by its armed invasion of Vietnam. Not only do the present rulers of China want Harriers and other military equipment from Britain, they are also seeking to reverse the US ruling, left over from the time China was still Socialist, of not selling arms to Peking.

China's aggression against Vietnam is to show its new allies in NATO that it is willing to use Chinese soldiers as cannon fodder against any country which might get out of

line and that the 'modernisation' of the Chinese army will be in the interests of world capitalism.

The people of Vietnam are not being taken in by Chinese claims about the nature of the invasion. The arrogant boast of the Chinese rulers 'to have exploded the myth of Vietnamese invincibility' and to have won an important victory over "swell-headed" Vietnam is the language of aggressive imperialism and the Vietnamese have had too much experience of fighting aggressive imperialists not to know that they will never voluntarily change their but-

cher knives for olive branches in an appeal to patriots and combatants throughout Vietnam. The Communist Party of Vietnam states: "Our armed forces and people have fought heroically against the aggressors, intercepting their drives, and wiping out tens of thousands of them, setting afire hundreds of tanks and destroying many weapons. Though sustaining heavy losses, the enemy are recklessly widening the war. Fierce fighting is continuing. Our armed forces and people are resolved to defend every inch of our country's land."

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The Week

THE PRESS in reporting the current hospital struggles has so blatantly lied that NUPE has had to circularise its own members to inform them of the truth. Three examples: the Assistant General Secretary was falsely represented saying that NUPE members would stop children crossing picket lines, this in spite of protests and public denial by the Union. Then Merseyside ambulancemen were alleged to have refused to give emergency cover. No mention was made of the management who insisted that the men either worked normally or the keys to ambulances would be removed. Then patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham were 'sent home to die', they said without a word about the hospital Specialist who insisted that patients need not be sent home at all as a result of the strike.

NUPE, fighting the introduction of Saturday opening, have had the support of the European Section of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical and Technical Employees (Euro-Fiet), which represents 550 000 bank staff in 22 European countries. The Federation is pledged to support any unions fighting changes in banking hours.

A SARACEN armoured car was seen in Tooting High Street by a group of primary school children being taken to the swimming baths by their teacher. An Iranian child (whose father is studying in London) turned to his teacher and asked, 'Are they getting ready in case what happened in Iran happens here?' The reply, 'Here they are always ready'.

BRITAIN has had to apologise to the UN Commission on Human Rights for forcing an Indian woman to undergo virginity tests at Heathrow airport.

IT TOOK two hours and ten minutes for the judge to rule that the police had not broken the law in tapping telephones, since there was nothing in law to prevent it. On the question that there was nothing in law to permit it, he said, 'that the matter "cried out for legislation", presumably to set the whole thing up on a more satisfactory legal footing. The plaintiff who objected to his phone being tapped was ordered to pay costs put at £10 000.

THE SECRETARY General of NATO, it has been reported, has been shown documents of the Dutch Nazi Party, where his name figured as a member for 1933-36. Meanwhile the new C-in-C for NATO in Europe has been appointed. He is the 12th British officer to take this command and seems eminently qualified. According to the press, he was awarded an MC for suppressing the communist uprising in Greece, then serving in Korea and subsequently in northern Ireland.

Historic Notes Women hold up half the Sky

TODAY Iranian women are demonstrating against the edict that they must wear the chador, a black tent covering a woman from head to toe, a symbol of the degradation of women, the main aim of any religion, and exercised with ferocity by the disgusting Moslem religion.

Members of the Suffragette movement would have understood the importance of such a demand: they would have packed valises and enquired at Victoria Station for the time of the next boat train.

Foolish people have and will sneer at the Iranian and British women as 'middle' or 'upper' class. The critics are misguided. Both Iranian and British women had the same aim, the freeing of women from a prejudiced society, from fathers, brothers, even sons. At the beginning of the twentieth century British women, like any today in a moslem country, had no rights over their bodies, their children or their possessions. All belonged to the husband. In fighting for the right to have a profession, to be educated, comfortably-off women assisted their working class sisters who were struggling for bread.

Today we would hardly consider it worth fighting for a vote. The suffragettes, some with naive innocence and some with a healthy cynicism declared that with the vote and in the long term women in the House of Commons, legislation would be passed that would remove the myriad abuses that all women, rich and poor, suffered.

From 1850, the women's movement, formerly fragmented, became organised, partly as an upsurge of radicalism and trade union battles, the writings of philosophers such as John Stuart Mill, but also because of such women as Florence Nightingale or Elizabeth Garret Anderson, the nurse and the doctor. In 1867 the London National Society for

Women's Suffrage was established. others in Manchester, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Bristol. One of their first tasks was to organise higher education for women, assisted by sympathetic men. Ribald rhymes were chanted about Miss Buss and Miss Beale but their excellent schools remain to this day.

Imperial Britain was a land of misery, hunger and degradation for a large part of its population. The suffragettes fought against the abuses of women and children economically and sexually by the 'nobs'. They battled with the police on the assertion that prostitutes were human beings. Their reward was vituperation and obscenity from the press, 'gentlemen' of the clubs and government, the clergy and even some women - Queen Victoria was not amused. The aim was to pass a Suffrage Bill through parliament with the help of some Liberal MPs. They were defeated and by 1870 the bill was blocked.

In 1903, Mrs. Pankhurst, who had been working with Manchester factory women and obviously listened to them founded the Women's Social and Political Union. The aim now was direct action. As one speaker put it, "Sisters forget we are ladies". At a Liberal Party meeting with Sir Edward Grey about to form a new government, Annie Kenney asked a question and receiving no answer, stood on a chair to repeat it. Men rushed from all sides of the hall and hit and scratched her, then dragged her out where she was promptly arrested by the police.

Peaceful means had brought little success so from then every method of annoying the government, smashing ministry windows, chaining themselves to the railings at number 10, Downing Street, showering theatres, plush restaurants with leaflets and sadly, Emily Davidson flinging herself in front of the king's horse, killing



the horse and herself.

The Liberal government retaliated in the most vicious way. Women were given sentences of three years hard labour, and when they went on hunger strike were force fed. When they were arriving at death's door, they were released on tickets-of-leave to regain their strength to return to prison. This was the infamous 'Cat and Mouse' Act.

The 1914-18 war started. The Women's Suffrage Movement ceased as an organisation, and many members used the same energy to help win the war. The battle was now taken up by working class women in the munitions factories, who joined trade unions, fought for a decent wage and conditions. Their struggle could have more success, there were more of them, they were needed for the war effort, and working class men usually showed sympathetic support.

In 1917 a Bill was passed extending the franchise to women over 30, occupiers or wives of occupiers of land or premises of not less than £5 annual value.

The fight has not ceased. In Britain the average of women's pay is half that of men. Women

can have professions but the jobs of responsibility in trade, profession or government are kept for men. This is so in every country in the world. The little group who seized power in China were particularly brutal to comrade Chang-Chiang because she is a woman and one who speaks her mind.

Books on
women's suffrage

published by

Virago Press

available from:

Bellman Bookshop

155 Fortress Road

London NW5

French steelworkers bulldoze Government plans of destruction

THE FRENCH government has been forced into humiliating - if only temporary - retreat over the Davignon and EEC-backed proposals to cut 22 000 jobs in the steel industry. The government has suspended the threat of redundancies for all workers as it enters into consultation with those whom it must now bitterly regret having ignored - the French trade union movement.

This victory outstrips in significance May 68. Now action and discontent has been expressed from the outset through the trade union movement itself, bringing

a new unity to the CGT and CFDT unions, forcing even the Catholic attempt at a union, FO, into a more militant stance in an effort to deny that it tried to sell the employer's line.

A founder member of the EEC the French government has always tried to push the policy of decentralisation and regionalism. Like the dead duck Devolution, the words must stink in the nostrils of the French working class. Denial in the North-East and Longwy in Lorraine, both towns of importance to their regions, were threatened with virtual extinction

under the plans, which, were they to go through, would wreck the economy of both regions, whose life-blood is the 100-year tradition of steelmaking.

The workers' answer has been unity through national trade union action, which alone has forced the employer to negotiate. No longer will the steel barons be able to control 'their' workers in the way the nameless employer in 'Germinal' tried to control 'his' miners. French workers have their national organisations, and have succeeded because of the support throughout France.

Now workers in the railways and elsewhere are taking up the lead, in industrial action so generalised that the bourgeoisie has had to consider a recall of Parliament in an effort to resolve the 'crisis'.

The campaign has been guerrilla, not just in the sense of tactics where all means fair and foul have been used to bring the employers to reason. The creation by workers of different tactics more or less peaceful as suited their demands has achieved the essence of guerrilla struggle, a struggle which can be sustained and developed into protracted war against the employer.

More than ever in France, as everywhere in Europe, is such tenacity necessary. In OECD countries there are 7 million unemployed who are aged under 25, and two million of these in the EEC. In France alone one in every seven aged between 16 and 25 is unemployed. This immense attack on the young is specifically to weaken and divide, to encourage the tactics of desperation and uncoordinated action as in May 68. What augurs ill for capitalism is the progress now in the single-mindedness with which the French trade unions have given coherence to the movement and united all against the capitalist state.

Catalogue of destruction from British Steel

SIX major British steelworks have closed in the last year, with a loss of 17,000 jobs. British Steel wants to cut a further 20 or 30,000 jobs. One of the latest proposals is that 1,700 jobs should go in Wales, at Port Talbot and Ebbw Vale. These are white collar workers to be made redundant now that the numbers of production workers has so declined. No wonder the Welsh working class saw Devolution as the farce it was as if it would have saved steel under capitalism. 40,000 jobs have been lost to British steel overall in the last four years.

What it means is closing down whole towns, as in Corby, where

6,000 jobs might go. An industry or an area where closures have already taken place is to that extent weakened, and the employer, vulture-like will seek such a prey. Hence their battering on to Bilston, which was saved only by the threat of a national strike last year. Unemployment in this part of the West Midlands, already running at 6.1 per cent would rise to 7.4 per cent if the 2,300 jobs went.

That their motives are more than purely economic is shown by a report from Aston University arguing that, even in capitalist figures, it might be as costly to close Bilston down as keep it open. The £45 million they might pay

in redundancy and other payments, while with new investment the plant could actually contribute to profitability.

That the needs of profit are now - ludicrous though this may seem - served by closing down industries from which profit derives is shown in British Steel's latest plan to increase its prices. In so doing they are deliberately encouraging the import of foreign, cheaper steel (import controls? out of the question!) so that Britain, until recently self-sufficient in steel, is now reliant on imports for over a quarter of its production. In getting rid of steel they are getting rid of the workers who make it.

For two hundred years the level of class struggle in Britain between the working class and the capitalist class has varied according to the varying strength of the two opposed classes in their own organisation and according to the ups and downs of the capitalist system with its recurrent crises. Working class advance has been followed by working class retreat, to be followed in turn by regrouping for yet another assault. But through all this ebb and flow the British working class has never given up the perpetual struggle against the employer and has always been the despair of capitalists and the inspiration of workers everywhere.

Since the war there has been the same ebb and flow of struggle. Acceptance of wage restraint has been followed by struggle against it, successive freezes of wages have erupted in fresh wage demands which have then been won in struggle. The concerted movement of workers led by the engineers to free their trade unions from the Industrial Relations Act was followed by the Social Contract, which was the same threat to the unions in a different and more insidious form, and this in turn has been rejected. The attempt to revive it as the Concordat has had no effect on the present level of struggle as workers have brushed aside the Labour Government's "Guidelines".

Similarly, within the massive reassertion of the right to collective bargaining which has carried class struggle to new heights there has been the same advance and retreat. Public service workers, many of whom are novices in industrial action, have surged ahead on a wide front while representatives of the miners, so prominent in the battles that brought down Heath, have indicated a willingness to settle. There was absolute unity among the 57,000 Ford workers while workers at Leyland, as a result of past mistakes, still lack the unity to resist adequately the destruction of their industry.

Protracted Struggle

We should not be surprised that in the ebb and flow of class struggle there has been confusion as well as unity in our labour movement, set backs as well as advances. But we must understand that the very ebb and flow of class struggle has been changing the basic conditions in which that struggle takes place. Capitalism is in a state of absolute decline brought about by the resistance of the world wide working class to a system of worker exploitation for profit. Nowhere is this decline and consequent sharpening of class struggle more apparent than in Britain, the oldest capitalist country of all.

In Britain there is a concerted attempt by our class enemy to weaken our very capacity to struggle by destroying our trade unions. Mass unemployment is one of the weapons used in the effort to demoralise us. The capitalist ruling class here, as a condition of its survival, has to outlaw class struggle and reduce the working class to literal wage slavery.

We are in the process of winning the first battle in this class war which has now become one of annihilation - either them or us. But the class enemy has to counter attack. Our guerrilla struggle of the past, of advance and retreat, of getting it right and then getting it wrong but somehow muddling through is not going to be sufficient in the new phase we are entering.

The organised working class has to be much more politically self-conscious to cope with a new and more desperate situation. The unity of purpose advancing from guerrilla struggle has been reflected in the TUC's rebuff of Callaghan in his attack on collective bargaining. The working class needs its own political party, a revolutionary party, as an expression of this class political consciousness, not to direct the struggle but to help make that struggle a consciously organised, united and protracted struggle whose end is the overthrow of the system that exploits us.

As a necessary move in this struggle we must seize the assets we have, our trade unions which are the organisational expression of that 200 years of the ebb and flow of class struggle. This requires that communists, whose membership of the revolutionary party of the working class simply reflects their degree of working class political consciousness, should be playing a full and proper role in ever increasing numbers in the trade union movement.

Let us take heart from the victories our class has won in maintaining our basic freedom under capitalism of having a say in the price put on our labour power. We have a world to win in which we free ourselves from exploitation altogether.

Government pay policy- this does not compute

1400 MANUAL workers at the International Computers Ltd factories in Letchworth have been on strike for over a fortnight in pursuit of a 15 per cent wage claim. Six trade unions are involved including the AUEW and TGWU. The strike has stopped production of the 2903, 2904 and system 10 ranges. Workers at the packing and distribution centre at Stevenage, over 70 workers, are also out. One day stoppages have been occurring at other ICL plants throughout the country. ICL has so far offered only 5 per cent plus a productivity deal.

The effects of the Civil Service unions' guerrilla tactics against the government, the withdrawal of key sectors, is beginning to hurt the employer. The strike by over 1300 staff in computer sites has closed: the VAT site at Southend at an estimated £500 million a week of government income and £100m a week repayment to traders, closed; Ministry of Defence site in Liverpool which pays out an approximate £200m a week to government contractors; other MOD sites controlling movement of explosives, armaments and dangerous materials, closed: the

Chinese condemned

The following are excerpts from 'Zeri i Popullit', organ of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania.

With its brutal perfidious aggression against Vietnam, China has acted in the same way as the Soviet Union acted against Czechoslovakia in 1968. And the Chinese revisionists have come out openly before the world as an imperialist superpower, seeking spheres of influence and 'vital spaces'.

With the open aggression they have undertaken against Vietnam, the Chinese have exposed themselves even more. China has posed and still poses as a socialist state. But it turns out that it is a false socialist state just like the Soviet Union, a state which keeps up the socialist disguise in order to fool the peoples. It claims that it is a country of the 'third world', but it turns out that it puts itself in this 'world' in order to extend its domination there, and just as American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism act, when it cannot do this in a 'peaceful' way, it tries to do it with violence and war.

The fact that the aggressive attack on Vietnam was undertaken immediately after the return of Deng Xiaoping from the United States of America, implies that it has the blessing and support of American imperialism. China's aggression against Vietnam was planned in Peking and approved in Washington.

In his speech in the United States, Deng Xiaoping said openly, in fascist style, that China would teach Vietnam a

good lesson'. And none of his official hosts disapproved or denied this. The benevolent stand which the American imperialists are now taking towards the Chinese aggression indicates that they have given it the green light.

In Cambodia the people, the communists and the Cambodian patriots have risen against the barbarous government of Pol Pot, which was nothing but a group of provocateurs in the service of the imperialist bourgeoisie and especially of the Chinese revisionists, which had as its aim to discredit the idea of socialism in the international arena.

The Chinese aggression has all the fascist brand characteristics. The Chinese justification for the barbarous action undertaken in Vietnam could have been taken word for word from Hitler, who, in his time, claimed that he invaded Czechoslovakia because the Sudeten Germans were ill-treated, or because Poland had carried out sabotage and murder on German territory. But who can believe the leaders of Peking that it was Vietnam that has sent its people to destroy the 'peaceful life of villages and towns on the Chinese border' and that 'China is compelled to counter-attack'? The Chinese pretexts are the same pretexts which all

imperialists have used and are still using in order to start and justify their aggressions.

The people of Vietnam have proved that they are a heroic and indomitable people. They are fighting for a just cause and will triumph just as they also triumphed over the United States of America. The fate which the American imperialists suffered in Vietnam awaits the Chinese social-imperialists, too. China will become even more exposed and isolated by world public opinion. And those cliques which pose as democratic, and even as communist, which, at this juncture and in the true interests, do not defend the just cause of Vietnam, will, one day, suffer the same thing. This is what the policy of empty words about 'defence of the peoples', and the alleged non-aligned policy leads to. He who does not support Vietnam today supports the warmongers.

The aggression against Vietnam must make the Chinese people think, too. They must open their eyes and see the disaster to which their revisionist leaders are taking them. The aggression which they have undertaken against Vietnam is directed not only against the people of that country, but against the Chinese people themselves.

The following resolution was passed by the Westminster Political Staffs Branch of APEX on 5 March, 1979.

"This Branch condemns as naked and premeditated aggression China's invasion of Vietnam. We ask our Executive Council to convey this message to the Chinese ambassador in London and to call for the complete withdrawal of all Chinese forces. Further, all possible pressure must be put on the British Government not to sell war planes or other military material to China."

The NGA seek a percentage increase NUS grants claim-27 per cent

ON February 19th the National Graphical Association presented a claim to the employers' organisations for an increase in the basic rate of 20 per cent in house payments which are not related to the basic rate. Also included is a demand for the formation of machinery for negotiation of a shorter working week, restoration of differentials and the introduction of a sick benefit scheme.

The pay policy settlements of the past few years have meant that differentials between more and less skilled, more and less productive workers, have narrowed almost to nothing. Far from being a levelling up process in favour of the lower paid as the government claims, this has been a levelling down of the higher paid to the rates of the lower paid, giving the employers skilled labour at scandalously low rates.

The new claim is a new depart-

ure in that it seeks a percentage increase of all money, rather than just on basic rates as in the past. This is a necessary step in the process of restoring differentials.

At the first meeting the employers offered £4.50, consolidation of £10 supplementary payments and the formation of machinery to negotiate the shorter week and sick pay scheme, which the union immediately rejected.

In his statement on the claim the General Secretary, Joe Wade, pointed out to the membership that in common with other workers who had won reasonable settlements we will have to be prepared to fight.

The union negotiators have prepared a claim which can have the support of all the membership. It is now up to the members to cast away any remaining illusions of 'restraint' and prepare to struggle!

own forces is being maintained. There are other government computer sites yet to be moved by the unions - the reserves.

18 women, the typing pool, all NALGO members employed by Bradford Metropolitan Council are on official strike against the extension of word processors. The women and their union are very concerned about the threat to jobs of a third of the typing pool staff posed by the employer's use of word processors. Bradford Council which was the first to introduce word processors in the typing pool, reflects another example of new technology being used not for workers' interests but to attack their livelihood.

The NUS is preparing its spring campaign to fight an increase of 27 per cent on the main rate of the grant. If won this will bring it up to £1387 per annum or £42 per week during term time.

Many other issues are involved in the campaign. Students will be demanding that grants be provided for 16-19 year olds as of right. Under the present system of discretionary grants local authorities underspent their budgets by £23 million pounds last year. Even students studying important subjects like radiography cannot get these grants.

Grants are also still means tested and this means that 75 per cent of students do not have a full award. This is used by the government to keep students in poverty and limit access to education.

We have to raise the old banner in this present struggle "A Full Grant For All Full Time Students."

On 9 March, 5,000 students demonstrated in London to demand higher grants and an end to the parental means test.

Despite the fact that many more students had taken part in regional grants demonstrations 5,000 students for a national mobilisation is hardly a number the NUS can boast of but the overriding aspect of the demonstration was not enough to move a government and that any negotiation over a 26 per cent claim without extensive action in the colleges was an empty claim. Much work is necessary to achieve a unified campaign on the claim.

Dunlop fight for jobs

INTERNATIONAL trade union opposition has been declared against Dunlop's attempts to close its factory at Speke, Merseyside, and declare redundancies at Fort Dunlop, Birmingham and Inchinnan in Scotland. Of 3,100 jobs it is proposed to axe, 2,400 would be at Speke. Proof that employers cynically and calculatingly cut hardest at those areas where they have succeeded in creating high unemployment, hoping to find demoralisation.

Workers' unity will ensure their failure. On March 7, not just those affected, nor even 11,000 tyre workers, but nearly half of Dunlop's entire UK workforce of 43,000 struck in protest for the day. Action in protest is being recommended to Dunlop workers in 15 other countries by the International Chemical and Energy Feder-

ation of trade unions. The French CFDT union federation has pledged support, as has the German IG chemie union, which is itself fighting Dunlop in Germany, where a 20 per cent cut in labour is being proposed.

Certainly, the aim of the multinational employer, to base its production at many points round the globe, and so split worker against worker on national lines, has failed.

The fight will, of course, be won by the action of workers in their own place of work, but the more extensive the support both moral and practical from fellow workers, the easier can action at Speke be sustained.

If the struggle at Speke is successful, it will be a blow struck against the root cause

of unemployment in Speke and everywhere in the industrial world. Like Goodyear which proposes shedding 700 workers at its Clydebank plant (who now believes Devolution would help?) Dunlop is increasingly running down its production everywhere in Europe as it finds it more profitable to exploit workers in developing countries. Action at Speke is a blow not only for European workers, but a blow for workers across the world. For it is their products which are stolen by Dunlop and shipped to Europe in a ludicrous attempt to prove that workers in industrial countries need no longer produce their own tyres. Maintenance of production at Speke helps workers elsewhere in the world in their fight for industries which will benefit them.

TEACHERS UNITE FOR 36 PERCENT

THE TEACHERS' Claim for average increases of 36.5 per cent was considered at a meeting of the Burnham negotiating committee on March 7th. The employers are to answer the claim on March 21 - three weeks before the end of term. The claim includes substantial rises for all teachers and seeks to restore salary levels to those established by the settlement of four years ago, following an award from the Government's Houghton Committee of enquiry.

The National Union of Teachers, leading the teachers' side, has refused to concede phasing of the claim (in contrast to some hearts too faint for battle). This approach must be supported by the declared resolve of the

mass of the membership. A major achievement will be a settlement with no strings attached, the teachers emerging with integrity to fight other battles and firmly retaining the role of negotiators of their own salaries.

There are clear indications that the membership is uniting behind the claim. It is rejecting the madcaps who seek to revise the claim once decided. United action now by all teachers will ensure a unifying conclusion to the campaign.

The salaries fight is an inseparable part of the campaign for education. The value of the profession must be set by the profession itself. To undervalue teachers is to undervalue children - our future.

EEC destroys British woollen industry

THE NAME of Bradford was once synonymous with wool, not only in this country but the world over. The massively solid and sometimes grandiose Victorian buildings of the city testify to the vast fortunes created for woollen magnates by the labour of our forebears.

As these same buildings have been mutilated or destroyed in the interests of so-called development so has the woollen industry itself been run down and chopped in order to further the interests of profit.

The extent of the decline in employment in woollen textiles has been nothing short of phenomenal. In 1959 the industry employed over

70,000 people in the Bradford district. By 1974, this number had fallen by over 34,000 - nearly 50 per cent of the total. The trend is accelerating. Between 1971 and 1976 the textile industry in Bradford lost 25 per cent of its jobs. Latest projections, contained in the 1978 Report of the Wool Textile Economic Development Committee, are that 18,000 more jobs are to go by 1980.

Two of the main planks on which we are urged to base our future, the EEC, and Government aid to industry, may well have improved "profitability", but at our expense.

The WTEDC Report makes

the point that the £100m received in grants under industry aid schemes has left the industrialists with well-equipped and modern plant. At the same time, labour costs in Britain are lower than anywhere else in the EEC a combination which has led 200 textile companies to report record aggregate profits of £547m for 1978.

While we suffer the destruction of industry and the indignity of unemployment, the owners, more distant perhaps than the 19th century paternalists like Salt and Lister, still squeeze the last, not inconsiderable, drops from the industry which we built, we now pay for and which they continue to destroy.



London teachers demonstrating in 1974 for the London Allowance. This was the last mass action over wages for teachers. It brought a clarity much needed now. Photo: Press Assoc.

N-E Shipyard unions oppose closures



THE 1600 Courtaulds textile workers of Spennymore have joined 750 Vickers Scotswood Newcastle engineering workers and 250 Head Rightson's engineering workers on Teeside in a joint campaign to fight closure and redundancy.

In early February the Vickers workers and their families marched through Newcastle in protest against closure and its results - unemployment, the destruction of skills and loss of job opportunity for those apprentices to come.

Shortly afterwards, the Courtaulds workers joined Vickers in sending delegates to see the Industry Secretary. The addition last week of Head Rightson workers has greatly strengthened their action. Financial and moral support from local unions has been considerable. Trades councils and Newcastle Council have also given good support.

The issue is no longer simply redundancy, but the destruction of industry and its results on the working class of the north-east, a region which has 121,309

unemployed, 9 per cent of the national figure.

The fight taken up by these workers is heartening to those who are in danger of losing jobs now or in the future.

Haverton Hill Shipyard on Teeside is to be closed with a loss of 900 jobs in the yard and 2000 in related industry.

British Shipbuilders (BS) management has blamed the workers for industrial disputes. Meanwhile, at Harland and Wolff in Belfast, BS management has threatened 8000 workers with redundancy if they don't accept greater flexibility and more effective overtime working, and Harland and Wolff has the best order book in BS.

The 1300 shipyard workers at Falmouth Shiprepair Yard are to be made redundant. BS claimed there would be no closures or redundancies before the corporate plan was announced to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU). This it has not done, proving that they will carry out their policy of a 32 per cent cut-back with or without consultation of

the CSEU.

When Tress Engineering of Newburn closed in 1978, with the loss of 330 jobs, the AUEW District Committee adopted a policy that no closure or redundancies be accepted without the prior approval of the District Committee, and that no member volunteering for redundancy should receive priority in a job before a member who has been unemployed. It is hoped that this will ensure that the collective power of the union is brought into action to resist redundancies.

Although the Tress workers lost their fight, the ground has been prepared for the future and this has now been taken up by Vickers Courtaulds and Head Rightson workers.

The alternatives are becoming very clear - the control of industry by those who care for it, the working class, under socialism.

With the unity and resolve being shown by these workers, we surely have all that is necessary to achieve this aim.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortress Road, London NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays
Liverpool Bookstall every Thursday Liverpool University

The Worker

155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5
 6 months £2.50 (including postage)
 1 year £5.00 (including postage)

NAME
 ADDRESS

Public Meetings

Reading Industrial Decline
 Thursday 29th March at 8.00 pm
 AUEW Committee Rooms, Oxford Road.

London Public Meeting

In solidarity with Vietnam

Conway Hall Red Lion Square
 March 23rd at 7.30 pm