

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) No.13 June 27 th 1974 Price 3p

labour government's

WAGE FIXING

moves towards the

CORPORATE STATE

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

The fight against Phase III is the most crucial question before the working class today. (See Editorial)

TUC Collaboration

A TUC document will be discussed on June 24th. It proposes "an improved system of collective bargaining to improve output, services, efficiency and employment prospects and to eradicate low pay" and it further urges on behalf of the employers "co-operation... on the adoption of new techniques and on the rationalisation of outdated job and pay structures." Workers are asked to limit wage claims to the level where they just keep up with the rises in the cost of living and to observe a 12 month interval between major wage increases.

This document, despite its claims, has nothing to do with collective bargaining. Its purpose, as the conclusion frankly states, is to strengthen the development of the 'social contract' and so enable the Government to proceed with its programme in the industrial, economic and social fields - a capitalist programme of course.

Workers Struggle

The 'social contract' is a plea for class collaboration instead of class struggle. However workers, through struggle, are rejecting this social-democratic ideology.

NALGO at its annual conference in Brighton, has rejected the 'social contract' outright and has expressed the correct line on this issue for the labour movement. "The views of our members are not to be ignored in the interest of any deals which may be in mind between the TUC and the Government."

Employers and the Government that backs them can take little satisfaction in an industrial scene where a section of the working class half a million strong, who yesterday could be disregarded because of their lack of militancy, are today helping to set the pace for struggle over the whole industrial front.

Plessey and others

When the management of the Plessey telecommunication factory at Beeston, Nottinghamshire threatened to lay off workers indefinitely as a result of a series of strikes over cost of living claims, 5500 workers occupied the factory. After the failure of management-union talks on June 12th, workers decided to continue the sit-in.

At the Aveling-Barford engineering works in Grantham, Lincolnshire, the same thing happened. The company refused to pay a cost-of-living increase and announced lay-offs when workers took action in furtherance of their dispute. Thereupon the 1200 workers started a mass sit-in.

Production at the Golden Wonder crisp factory came to a stop for the second time when 80 engin-



Government employees call for rejection of "social contract"

ers walked out over a cost of living dispute.

Industrial action to force employers to concede cost-of-living rises, whether threshold agreements existed or not, have also hit British Leyland's Cowley and Abingdon factories, Pergamon Press in Oxford and Macmillan's Publishing house.

And now if workers who have pocketed their meagre £1.20 on

Nurses

Nurses in Britain are continuing their struggle for more pay and better conditions. On May 27th 75,000 nurses started selective strikes and overtime bans. This is the continuation and development of the nationwide struggle of the nurses since April this year.

The Secretary for the Social Services, Barbara Castle, who in a former Labour Government managed to sidetrack women workers' demands for equal pay,

the basis of the April index feel that their threshold agreement has been made meaningless by the advances of prices and of their fellow workers without agreements, they should have another go themselves!

Scottish miners

In spite of support for the 'social contract' by certain NUM leaders a conference of miners in the Scottish Area voted unanimously to lodge a claim for £20 a week or more, well beyond the Phase III limit. The Government will be putting its hope for moderation on an interim report on the future of the mining industry by an enquiry headed by the Secretary for Energy which is expected to offer miners job security over the next decade. Miners however will remember that it was a Labour Government that was responsible before for the running down of the industry, by the closure of pits and the laying off of miners.

Westland Helicopters

In their first strike, 53 ASTMS chargehands at Westland Helicopters' Weston Super Mare, have been out since May 19th. The strike has now spread to all 200 ASTMS members at the factory, with pickets successfully turning raw materials away.

The dispute continues over recognition of ASTMS by a pig-

headed management, against whom the chargehands have had a pay claim lodged since October 1973.

This fight hasn't been demoralised by initial support from Westland workers at Yeovil that has now lapsed. They are learning the lessons of self reliance.

Seven hospitals closed wards because of industrial actions by 600 nurses in Norfolk. At the Woodle Mental Hospital, Glasgow,

headed management, against whom the chargehands have had a pay claim lodged since October 1973.

This fight hasn't been demoralised by initial support from Westland workers at Yeovil that has now lapsed. They are learning the lessons of self reliance.

NUJ & SOGAT

Concerted action by NUJ and SOGAT members forced the management at the American owned New English Library to reinstate a sacked member NUJ member. This member had been dismissed for alleged 'incompetence' one day after management had discovered she belonged to the NUJ. The other NUJ members in the NEL came out in sympathy on official strike, and were supported by SOGAT members in NEL's warehouse, who held up distribution of such magazines as "Penthouse" and "Men Only".

Brighton

Once again workers were forced to take action in defence of their standard of living, and to demand payment of the £1.20 cost of living rise under Phase III.

Predominantly women workers of two factories were forced to take the struggle into their own hands and fight. The first, M & B Metals Wellington Road the company refused to discuss the grievance with shop stewards,



nurses started a 24 hour strike. Many more nurses fought courageously by taking part in guerrilla strikes in many hospitals all over the country and workers

cont. page 2

so all workers switched off their machines till the company gave in to the demands of the workers. The stoppage lasted 30 minutes.

The second was A. P. Besson Victoria Road, workers were told the company would not pay the £1.20 rise. So at noon the workers walked out, to this the company offered 40p the workers answered by going home. Next morning the workers demanded again the £1.20, the company said they could only afford 40p and so once again they went home. When next morning the workers representatives returned, the company conceded to the demand and paid the £1.20 in full. It's amazing what a company can afford when they are forced to.

Dirty Laundry

A mass meeting at London's West India and Millwall docks decided to go on strike for an extra £8 per shift for handling dirty cargoes. "Dirty" payments used to be paid to port workers till it was removed by the Devlin modernisation plan. The port authority are prepared to pay a shift allowance, this time called "laundry" money of 50p only.

In the previous week a vessel carrying tapoca was forced to be moved to a Continental port when 400 men refused to unload it.

No issue of THE WORKER JULY 11th Next issue July 25th

NURSES

CONT'D. from page 1

from other industries joined in demonstrations to support the nurses claim: 800 dockers in Manchester staged a one day strike in support of the nurses, textile workers in the north-west of England joined nurses' demonstrations to show their solidarity and at Leamington 4000 Automatic Products workers held a one hour stoppage in support of the nurses' campaign. Technicians at King's College, the Middlesex and Guy's hospital went out on strike for better wages, and the nurses are on an overtime ban.

The working class have fought for everything that they have got, and rising prices is an attack on their standard of living. Nurses, teachers and civil servants, as part of the working class, are no longer prepared to live under the old traditional discipline, "work satisfaction first" never mind that the standard of living is deteriorating in the process!

So nurses, take heart, the public is behind you. Stand up and fight for what is your right! "A good standard of living," so you can take care of our sick without having to worry where the next meal is coming from.

The struggle for better wages and conditions for nurses are not only confined to Britain, in Australia, New South Wales, 5000 nurses demonstrated on May 30th for the same reason. A resolution was adopted, declaring that nurses will take further action if their just claims are not recognised.

BBC workers strike

Programme Assistants in the BBC's television service whose strike three months ago was blocked by BBC management's appeal to the National Industrial Relations Court have just come out on strike again, halting production on a number of drama and light entertainment programmes. The strike is in furtherance of a two-year old dispute with management over proper payment for overtime. The management has tried to "buy off" industrial action by some 90 to 100 P.A.s in various ways but has failed to dampen the militancy or split the ranks of workers who are too wise to the BBC's brand of "paternalism" to be fobbed off any more with status changes or free TV sets when what they want is fair pay and proper compensation for the inordinant extra hours they have to work.

NALGO: One step backwards Two steps forward

The white-collar section of the working class advances in leaps and bounds. No sooner was the ink dry on a proposal by NALGO's National Executive Council to call off the struggle for increased London weighting, than the union membership, at its Conference in Brighton, rendered it obsolete.

Guerrilla Campaign

The NEC's original decision was backward in the extreme, yet as an attempt at a "sell-out" it was singularly futile. The consciousness won so far in the course of

SOGAT worker's action hits provincial press

Selective industrial action by 100,000 members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades in pursuance of a pay claim has hit production of forty-seven provincial papers. The printing and distribution of a large number of magazines and stationery have also been affected.

Worker Interview

SOGAT members at Fleetway Printers, Northfleet in Kent, which produces periodicals and other magazines, have escalated their work-to-rule - which has been national policy since May 31st. This is in solidarity with SOGAT members in provincial shops.

The action is in pursuit of a national demand for a threshold agreement; overtime rate of time and a half and the abolition of the minimum Grade 4 rate (just over £22). There has been increasing militancy at Fleetway over the past two years since it came under the control of IPC (part of Reed International). Workers locally have already won the last two demands.

We interviewed those involved in the latest action, including the Father of Chapel.

Q. How did the work to rule escalate?

A. As part of the work-to-rule, SOGAT members refused to deliver the white paper used by the night shift workers. Management pleaded with individual workers from the top grade down to do the job - even asking disabled and near-retirement employees to move the heavy load. They refused. The management declared them on strike and took them off the payroll. (Management refused to dismiss a worker who asked for his cards). This was a lock-out.

Q. What action is being taken?

A. The Union Committee met to consider strike action but decided that the only reply to a lock-out was a sit-in - to begin after the workers had collected their wage packets! The following morning, with organisation which would have shamed the Army, workers barricaded the gates with huge bales of paper and gave the management 10 minutes to leave.

Q. What support does the occupation have?

A. The 193 SOGAT members are all involved in manning the gates although the 30 women are excused the night shift. The National Executive recognise that Fleetway Printers is a test of strength in the SOGAT fight. They have promised immediate action in the event of harassment of the occupiers. Fleetway management are being forced to pay workers in other unions (NATSOPA and NGA) for doing nothing.

Q. What do the workers see as the way forward?

A. To quote the Father of Chapel: "We will have to escalate the action so that we can finish this fight and prevent demoralisation."

The print workers are proving the success of planned action, swiftly organised to knock the employers off their feet. And the tactic within the Union of using a strong shop to support (but not replace) a struggle in a weaker one. Every fight demonstrates the tactical ingenuity of the working class.



Sogat strike in Bristol

Members of SOGAT employed at the Dickinson-Robinson Group in Bristol are on strike for the first time in 20 years.

The action is in support of a national claim above Phase III limits which the other print unions have accepted. The claim also includes removal of the low-

est grade pay level and up to 100% rises for certain jobs.

The employers have retaliated by threatening to close the plants in Bristol which would result in heavy redundancies. But the workers are standing firm and calling their bluff.

members to be sold out. The important question is never what decisions so-called "leaders" may take, but what the mass are doing and thinking.

Initiative

In fact, perversely, the NEC decision has strengthened immeasurably the desire of NALGO members to fight on, and has raised the real possibility of nationwide struggle on the forthcoming pay claim. One of the main points put by conference delegates was that to call off the strike now on one front would weaken the whole

EDITORIAL

Collective Bargaining and the Corporate State

The Labour Party is the major vehicle for the advancement of the corporate state; a fascist state rule which seeks to destroy the weapon of workers' struggle and to subjugate the working class. The Labour Party's pernicious role is the attempt to secure the acquiescence of the working class to its own enslavement. Every struggle in which British workers are involved today must be seen as not only a particular fight to defend their standard of living in a situation of capitalist induced inflation, but also as part of the whole class's general fight against the imposition of the fascist measure of wages fixed by government fiat.

The substitution of a government incomes policy for collective bargaining was itself a major step in the developing of the corporate state. However there can be no doubt that the Labour Government wants something much firmer in the way of guaranteed wage restraint.

After phase III

Phase III of the last Government's wage-freeze legislation is supposed to lapse by the end of July and the present Government is seeking to replace it with an incomes policy of its own, disguised as some 'new form' of collective bargaining - what Wilson euphemistically calls "reasonable collective bargaining". In this attempt the Government asking the TUC for stronger assurances of 'voluntary' restraint. The idea of the 'social contract' is the fig leaf behind which this naked dickering between Labour Government and TUC is being carried out.

Wilson says the 'social contract' is not just 'a piece of paper but living and developing relationship' and the General Secretary of the T & GWU backs him up by insisting on curbing wage demands since "we trade unionists are not anarchists."

The TUC Policy Document, accompanied by the conference favouring of Mr Len Murray (beginning his work for the ruling class so he might follow the footsteps of Lord Vic Feather) is the pronouncement of class quelling. This Document is an open appeal for collaboration with our class enemy.

Commission on incomes distribution

Meanwhile the Employment Secretary has proposed a Commission on Incomes Distribution for the purpose of giving preference in wage negotiations to lower paid workers like nurses and local government manual employees. And the TUC General Secretary follows this up with arguing that the TUC "has the right to ask large unions to use their industrial strength to support the lower paid and hold back in all other cases." The most nauseating way in which the Labour Government tries to sell an incomes policy is by pretending that it is in the interest of poor, lower paid workers!

Pegged wages

The quarterly review of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research has come out with an alarmist forecast of contracting production and rising unemployment in order to flog a scheme of pegging all pay rises to the cost of living index with no scope whatsoever for independent negotiation of wages.

Workers were quick to denounce this complete tying of wages to a cost of living index which is cooked up by the government anyway; but ominously, the Chancellor had already said in a speech on June 1 that "it may be that even when we have scrapped the Tories' statutory incomes policy, some unions may wish to see the threshold principle in their next settlement as the most suitable protection for their living standards."

The decision on collective bargaining is ours

All these moves, TUC strengthening of the 'social contract', 'concern for the lower paid, cunningly devised threshold agreements, are just so many attempts to rob workers of a right they have to defend - the right to use their collective strength to wrest a living wage from those who exploit them. The right of collective bargaining, like emancipation of the working class, is not something which can be bestowed on us from on high. It can only be won and maintained by our own continuous struggle.

Because of the growing strength of the working class and the increasing weakening of British capitalism, collective bargaining is a right the ruling class can no longer afford to concede us if the profit system is to survive. The struggle for it, therefore, is a revolutionary struggle - a necessary phase of our protracted war to smash a system based on profits rather than on human needs.

membership in its national negotiations. Now it is up to London members to take more initiative into their own hands, for those who call upon an executive to lead a struggle have only themselves to blame if the executive calls it off. With initiative in the hands of the members no sell-out is possible.

A forerunner to the decision to carry on the London struggle was, the outright rejection by NALGO of any 'social contract'. "We are sure of one thing," said NALGO's president, "our social compact is with our members... regardless of the complexion of

the Government of the day." Conference instructed the NEC not to accept any offer on the national pay claim that was within the bounds of Phase III. Yet again, the tired forces of social democracy, in a pathetic attempt to stem the tide of workers determined to struggle, have succeeded only in releasing the flood which in time will sweep them away. NALGO at their annual conference in Brighton outlawed "lump" labour on building sites and banned co-operation with its equivalent "agency staff", in all other sectors.

Portugal

The working people of Portugal, who had suffered years of bitter repression and who had resisted, organized and struggled against fascism, rose up in united mass action and turned the military coup of the 25th April into a mass democratic movement.

When the armed forces decided to free a certain number of political prisoners, those selected refused to leave their comrades behind, forcing the release of all political prisoners. The workers made May Day their own, and when the junta was speaking of free trade unions, mass meetings all over the country had already elected factory committees and occupied the fascist controlled trade unions.

The many strikes and occupations that have taken place in mines and railways, factories,

shipyards and building sites, with demands for the immediate resignation of supporters of the Caetano regime in the board of directors, for higher wages and for control over their working conditions show the determination of the workers to oppose the employing class.

To achieve the integration of Portuguese economy with capitalist Europe it was necessary to reverse the colonial strategy. Portuguese big business was quick in recognizing and building up their man, General Spínola, who pressed for a puppet independence of the colonies to protect western interests in Africa under a federal system. So the volunteer to the fascist army in the Spanish Civil War, the military observer in the Eastern Front of Nazi Germany during the second world war, the ex-Governor of Guinea Bissau,

responsible for the invasion of Guinea-Conakry by Portuguese troops and for the murder of Amílcar Cabral, was to become, with the help of the high bourgeoisie, the new Head of State in Portugal.

The Portuguese working people know that the only way forward is to strengthen their own organisations and to force through measures that will ensure the destruction of the social and economic basis of fascism. The new trade unions have refused to be involved in government decisions through the Ministry of Labour (although it is manned by a top revisionist). They are united around the demand for an immediate end to the colonial wars and the real independence of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau. In opposing the manoeuvres to concoct a

puppet independence in the colonies they recognise that only with independence under the liberation movements can they ensure the end of the economic basis of fascism.

The struggle against fascist ideology was expressed by the print workers of the main Lisbon newspaper, who on June 6th took over the front page of the newspaper and published a joint shop-stewards communiqué:

"A true democracy is the condition of all progress. But democracy will always be exposed to reactionary dangers if its foundations will not grow from the struggle against privilege and capitalist exploitation and from the right of every man and woman to be part of the democratic process.

We call on the working masses

to be prepared to expose at all costs the attempts to pervert democracy into the big-business that fascism was before, attempts that are being carried out by silencing the voice of the people with the celestial choir of the 'grand red carnation masquerade'. ... considering that the laws have not changed and that they were created and exist to protect the privileges of the old regime against the rights of the workers, conscious that we express the spirit of true democracy and that only mass workers' mobilization can answer the reactionary manoeuvres of certain sectors of the Portuguese bourgeoisie, of capitalism and international imperialism, we are prepared to oppose those laws and take into our own hands the task to eliminate all fascist elements from positions of power in our society."

The Middle East

Whatever the day-to-day outcome of the struggle between the US and Soviet Russia for spheres of influence and control in the Middle East, the mass of the Palestinian people cannot be confused or deflected from their objective - self-determination on national soil. The urgency of the rivalry between the two superpowers is reflected in the race to be the first to strike the right bargain with the Arab countries. But inside occupied territory the guerrilla struggle pushes forward in the certain knowledge that, whatever the 'agreement'

reached, the fundamental question of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are not the issue being negotiated - such agreements are merely temporary truces in a gigantic game in which the Arab countries play hostage and it is the interests of the superpowers which are at stake.

Since the October war last year the powers have had a number of big contests of strength. The balance of influence has swung distinctly in favour of the US - a result of Kissinger's lightning visits to the Middle East - 17

trips to Israel and 13 to Syria, shutting to and fro between them 11 times. The Soviet Union has been excluded from a number of important talks, its relations with Egypt have deteriorated rapidly, and some of its vested positions in the Middle East are in danger of being replaced by the United States. Nixon's visit to Egypt - to be followed in due course by Brezhnev threatens a sharpening in the rivalry.

An agreement on the disengagement of Syrian and Israel troops has been reached, heralded as a great achievement

for lasting peace. But Israeli troops have not withdrawn from all the Arab territory seized in 1967, and the legitimate rights of the people have not been restored. In a statement and a political programme for the Palestinian Liberation Organization adopted at the 12th session of the Palestine National Council it is shown that amongst the Palestinian people there is no confusion about the significance of any such 'agreements'.

"The enemies of our nation are attempting to contain the October war achievements and to impose a political settlement to be accomplished at the expense of our Palestinian people, affecting the future of their struggle as well as that of our Arab nation.

"The PLO is to struggle against any plan for a Palestinian

entity whose price is recognition, peace, secure boundaries, giving up the national rights of our people and depriving them of their rights to the return of their homeland and to self-determination on national soil.

"The Palestinian people are determined to go on struggling, stepping up the armed struggle, standing against Zionist occupation. ... our people do also resist any settlement that will affect their rights and issues, and are fighting to maintain the achievements of their revolution."

The superpowers can continue to meet, in Geneva, Nicotia or wherever they wish, to try to determine the fate of other nations - in the end it is the struggle of the Palestinian people themselves which will determine their fate and put paid to all such interlopers.

Italy

Italy's economic crisis has brought down the thirty-sixth government since the war. Inflation is currently running at 20 per cent, unemployment is rampant, and the state electricity company, the hospital and local government services are on the verge of collapse.

This is capitalism in crisis, which means capitalism at its most vicious. To protect their profits the ruling class will go to any lengths in attacking workers who refuse to accept deteriorating standards of living. If parliamentary 'democracy' is no longer able to do this effectively, they will turn to fascism, rule by naked force.

Italian big business has financed the neo-fascist party, the MSI (Italian Social Movement) and successive governments have allowed its continued existence. Fascist terrorist groups have committed atrocities such as the bomb explosion in Milan which killed and maimed dozens, yet have escaped scot free.

Their latest crime was committed on 29th May in Brescia, when a bomb exploded during a union-organised anti-fascist rally, killing six workers and injuring more than a hundred others.

Italian workers reacted with such fury that the authorities were forced to make arrests, including two policemen.

These politics of terror can be answered only by politics of the people, marxist-leninist politics. This terrorism has been condemned by the Communist Party of Italy (marxist-leninist). The working people of Italy will follow their call to fight fascism in all its forms. Neither fascist thugs nor IMF bankers will decide Italy's future, but the Italian people themselves.

Indochina

Cambodia

69,000 puppet troops wiped out in five months.

The Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces have wiped out over 69,000 enemy troops in their repeated fierce and strong offensives on the enemy on various battlefronts during the first five months of this year.

They have captured over 18,000 weapons including 26 cannons of various calibres, destroyed 248 tanks and armoured cars, sunk or damaged 417 boats and shot down or damaged 73 planes.

During this period, the People's Armed Forces also razed to the ground or seized 415 enemy strongholds and liberated over 146,000 inhabitants.

South Vietnam

This year the People's Liberation Armed Forces have regularly succeeded in defending themselves against the numerous attacks of

the Saigon puppet troops. Contrary to the cease-fire agreement Saigon sent two divisions into eastern Nam Bo to nibble at the edges of the liberated areas, and set up various bases in areas they managed to overrun. But the Vietnamese people don't rely on agreements to win them a lasting peace, but on their own vigilance and morale which the unpopular puppet troops can never have.

Liberation Forces constantly encircled and attacked all illegal bases, and recovered liberated areas all over Vietnam. Everywhere they attacked, Saigon troops were badly mauled. In Que Ba province fourteen enemy were shot down in early April. In western Nam Bo 200 puppet strongholds were taken over and 100 villages released from enemy occupation in the first three months of 1974. 2.4 million litres of enemy petrol went up in smoke after liberated forces attacked Saigon's biggest oil depot. These and other successes are sufficient proof that there is no hope for the isolated mercenary troops of the shaky puppet regime



A contingent of the Cambodian people's armed force marching to the front.

Bombers over Kurdistan

Since April 24th waves of bombers of the Iraqi Airforce have been attacking villages in the north of Iraq. The Kurds who live in these villages are used to such attacks by successive ruling regimes in Iraq.

The Iraqi Kurds form a national minority of about one million (in a total population of over seven million). Kurdistan itself is divided between Iraq, Turkey, Iran and the Soviet Union. In Iraq it forms the northern mountainous area of that country.

The Kurds, who have been struggling for their national rights and autonomy within the Iraqi state for over a quarter of a century, have had to face the colonialist regime of the Hashemite Kingdom as well as the Ba'athist regimes that took power after the 1958 revolution.

The latest declaration of war by the Iraqi Government follows the signing of the 'peace agreement' in 1970 which was to establish the democratic and national rights of the Kurdish people by April of this year. Instead the Iraqi Government used this period to consolidate its fascist regime and prepare for another war.

As early as 1935, a year after its founding, the Communist Party

of Iraq stated that both Arabs and Kurds face a common enemy.

That only through united struggle for national liberation based on equality and brotherhood, and the recognition of the right to self-determination by the Kurdish people could the Kurdish minority achieve their national rights and aspiration.

Having lost ground in Egypt and challenged now by the US in every corner of the Middle East, the Soviet Union is trying to establish a foothold in Iraq. It has recently signed an unequal treaty with the Iraqi regime promising, among other things, to 'protect' Iraq against external aggression. It is supplying Iraq with modern weapons including poisonous gas to be used against the Kurdish villages.

This is not the first time that the Iraqi people have had to face fascist repression coupled with a war against the population in the north. Attempts to divide the people of Iraq along such national lines have not succeeded in the past. In spite of the long preparation by the Iraqi Government and the support it is receiving from the Soviet Union and the local revisionists, these tactics will fail again.



CPB(ML) meeting May 24th on "Workers in Struggle".

Strike at Fenner's

At Fenner's (Hull), a heavy engineering equipment firm, 80 engineers have ended a strike begun on May 30th over a wage claim.

The annual agreement which ended on April 13th was not succeeded by a new one. Negotiations had taken place since February with very little result.

The engineers wanted £5.18 per week more, plus threshold agreements and an improved sick scheme. As a result of the strike a meeting was called on May 6th at which the employers increased their offer to £5.00 per week but with inadequate fringe benefits.

The engineers have now accepted this offer in order to go back and continue the struggle for further benefits in other ways.

While the strike was on the engineers maintained a 24 hour picket 7 days a week to prevent any material from entering the factory. The pickets were 100 per cent successful and the strike had the support of 2000 other workers (GMWU and EPTU).

Last year Fenner's made a profit of £2,751,000 on a turnover of £21,704,000.

Doctors

Doctors at the British Medical Association Annual Conference threatened action over their low pay and expressed indignation at the gradual deterioration of the National Health Service.

Electrical contractors

55,000 workers in the electrical contracting industry settled for a 41 per cent rise in their wages together with a 2 hour cut in their working week to 38.

More army rehearsals

Following on from the State's hasty preparation against armed insurgency here, West Germany has been teaching its soldiers how to tackle a popular attack on an army barracks.

While half of them played the part of the crowd, staging a sit-down in front of the barracks, the others had to drag them away to an army vehicle one by one. When the 'crowd' attempted to storm the barracks, the defending unit pushed them back and barricaded the gates against them. This received a reprimand from the watching officers, however, who insisted the unit should retreat a short way and then fire

on the crowd as it advanced.

Good practice for the soldiers - except that in West Germany these men are conscripts who will leave the army within a few years.....

Students

On Saturday June 15th the National Union of Students held an Extraordinary National Conference to discuss the recent grants review. The decision to reject it and to continue the struggle for a better standard of living for all students was overwhelmingly supported. Conference recognised that none of their minimum demands were met. Students not on first degree courses still have no right to a grant, all grants are subject to a parental means test, married women students still suffer discrimination and the increase was insufficient.

The Conference agreed that "no reliance can be made upon the present Labour Government to act any more favourably towards students than the last Government unless forced to do so" and a move that students be called upon to vote Labour in the event of a general election was overwhelmingly defeated.

It was also recognised that "the cuts in higher education and the increased rents, catering charges etc. that the authorities will introduce as a result of the grants award can only be fought by the direct action of students" and "the only way to achieve our demands is by militant action involving the mass of students". The NUS realised that the tactics necessary to gain this involvement must be democratically decided upon at a local level in the individual Students' Unions.

The methods we should use to silence fascist and racist speakers was raised, largely as a result of provocation from the press, but the matter was correctly left in the hands of local unions as to how they would deal with it. The National Union reiterated its total opposition to fascism and racism.

A plague on Prentice

The strike ballot conducted by the NUT in pursuit of a London increase received a tremendous response. In 800 schools over two thirds of the union membership voted to strike. But the NUT generals, faint-hearted, have said that the response was insufficient and the Pay Board's June report should be awaited before strike action is again considered.

Nonetheless, the Executive has given the cue and said that sanctions will continue. Teachers will not be faint-hearted and they will not wait: Having voted for strike

action they are now invited to do it. Schools can walk out and know, when they do so, when they will walk back; no school should let it be "indefinite" so that no one school will carry an intolerable burden.

A plague on those who strike to attack the union! A plague on those who invade union headquarters because they are too cowardly to invade Prentice. A plague on those who see the union as a milch cow and will drain all funds! A plague on those who wish to be a Napoleon! A plague on Prentice's fifth column within the teaching profession!

Hirwann and

Windmill Hill

In the village of Hirwann, Glamorgan, villagers have fought against the proposal to install two 150 foot methane gas tanks only 500 yards from their doorsteps. The villagers are concerned by the size and potential danger of the tanks and that they were not consulted when the Gas Council was given the go-ahead.

Since last July a picket has been sustained, principally by housewives. Winter on the Welsh hilltop only served to increase the size and support of the picket, and so in March the Council was forced to take drastic action. An attempt to break through to the £6 million site was thwarted

when 2000 local workers sped to the scene. The would-be intruder has still to gain access to the site, and it looks as though the Wales Gas Council will have to find another place for those tanks.

The Hirwann villagers will give heart to other workers who are resisting capitalist despoliation of their living environment. At Windmill Hill, South Bristol, a major new road is to be built which will plough through a park and the centre of the residential area. Local residents have gathered together to fight the plan. For them, the price of a new road system is too high.

Albania



Workers from various countries visit the Mao Tsetung textile mill near Berat.

For a British worker to visit Albania is a wonderful experience. That which many of us talk about, theorise over, and work for we can see in practice - socialism.

It is not a country of exploitation of man by man, it is not a country of pollution or of any of the trappings of capitalism. No rat race there. Albania is a country where the people are united in purpose, working for the common good of all, the people - serving the people. Where workers can use their knowledge and experience to their fullest extent without fear of being exploited by a parasitical ruling class, as here, for the workers rule Albania, the people are the masters of their own destiny.

Albania has had 30 years of socialism. Her industry is

young, as are the majority of the people. These factors combined present a very dynamic force. The progress and development of industry, the knowledge and experience of the socialist working class grow together daily.

In Britain we hear often of 'workers control' from Tories, social democrats and revisionists alike. These are all pseudo theories. There is only one viable form of workers control, as practiced by the Albanians. That is when workers have seized state power.

Albania, transformed by socialist revolution from a semi-feudal country to a rapidly developing industrial one, led by the Party of Labour, using the science of marxism-leninism, surely shows the way forward for the British working class. Surely makes us realise our own potential, with our knowledge gained over 150 years of struggle, to take that same road, to smash this phillistine capitalism, to establish in Britain, as in Albania, working class rule, a socialist state.

WE INDICT

For the deaths of fellow workers in the explosion at Flixborough we hold British capitalism responsible. Till a system based on profits and greed rather than on human needs has been smashed, workers will continue to pay the price for the arbitrary weather and power of the ruling class!

For the death of a young man in Red Lion Square on June 15th we hold just as responsible as the Metropolitan Police those so-called 'left' organisations who, in staging phoney confrontations, serve ruling class interests. If they were sincerely concerned about racism in Britain, they would concentrate their attack on the racist immigration policy of the Government, Labour and Tory!

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP
155, FORTRESS ROAD LONDON NW5.

Literature published by the Communist Party of Britain (ML) and works of Marxist-Leninist theory by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung, obtainable from the Bellman Bookshop

June 28th "MARXISM-LENINISM AGAINST REVISIONISM"
Bellman Bookshop at 7.30 p.m.

"PICKAXE AND RIFLE"

by William Ash
The story of the Albanian People and their victorious struggles to establish what is now the only socialist country in Europe.

THE WORKER,
155, FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5.
'THE WORKER'
£2 per year (including postage)

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....