

THE WORKER



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Editorial

On June 16th a great number of organised workers allowed themselves to be paraded before the nation as rejectors of class struggle, which is the essence of trade unionism, and as acceptors of the corporate state, which is the essence of capitalism in crisis. It is on the agreement of this army not to fight that the future of capitalist exploitation in Britain depends.

But not only did some unions like ASTMS and UCATT vote against the Labour Government's pay deal, large minorities in those unions which did support it, like the AUEW, NUM and NALGO, also showed opposition. Indeed that same line between abject acceptance of a policy which is not in the nation's, but in capitalism's interest and defiant assertion of the working class's right to struggle for a decent life in the Britain we made runs through every single worker. Each of us who registered a shameful vote for the class enemy in accepting the Labour Government's arrangement of our capitulation knows that he has acted against working class interest. He will not have stifled the voice of working class defiance within - even though he still shirks the formidable battles to which it summons him.

The gaggle of non-fighters assembled by the TUC for this trooping of the colour, the colour being the white of surrender, will also be largely non-paid. Capitalism can no longer afford to employ its impressed troops at a living wage. And as those recruited into this disorganised rout of the over-controlled and underpaid begin to re-form for resistance, as they most surely will, there is nothing the sergeant majors who helped organise this ceremonial retreat can do about it. Those who have supported the Labour Government in its efforts to make trade unions part of the capitalist state cannot exert trade union discipline on those who resume class struggle.

Not strength but weakness

The Big Parade of June 16th was intended to be a demonstration of capitalism's strength before an assemblage of foreign investors and currency speculators. But to have to count heads that way was a sign of its weakness. And it failed signally. To achieve a convincing vote for corporatism, a majority of the working class is not enough. As long as a large section of the working class resists, no fascist state can be imposed.

Behind all the smug blaring of the media brass band, and all the waving of flags of capitulation, and Jones and Murray and Hesley and Lord Watkinson all collapsing in each other's arms in jubilant relief, was the real demonstration of potential power - those workers who stopped away, who say we are not to be numbered among class collaborators. We will march under our own red working class banner and no other.

We may be a minority now. So at the beginning of the capitalist era were those heroes who defied bosses and state to form the first unions. They grew to be the largest, best organised trade union movement in the world. That is why the destruction of the unions as working class centres of defence has become a condition of capitalism's survival.

We are a minority today who defy the push toward corporatism, not, as often in the past, in deferential defiance, but in revolutionary defiance. We will grow into a mighty force of class warriors who will smash capitalism and lay the foundations for a socialist society.

The fight for collective bargaining and, therefore, the struggle for and within the trade unions will go on - just as the fight for a living wage and full employment will and must go on. But that fight is not enough because we know that our basic right to these things will remain empty under capitalism. The fight for them has become the fight to change the conditions preventing their enjoyment. It has become revolution.

Our invincible strength

June 16th is an important date because there can be no going back to restricted forms of struggle according to capitalism's rules. That has been pronounced dead by the TUC vote. Out of its ashes rises revolutionary struggle in all its invincible might.

They meant to parade their strength. They have drawn attention to ours, and in their fleeting moment of vaunted triumph they look over their shoulders in fear of what is to come. The TUC vote which was supposed to have ratified industrial peace in our time was simply the conclusive proof, if we still needed it, that we can no more go on fighting in the old way than they could go on ruling in the old way. And that is a revolutionary situation.

From all who say No to class surrender

BUILD AN ARMY FOR REVOLUTION



Workers and students in unity against class surrender.

CPBML Statement on Racialism

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) condemns all manifestations of racialism in Britain. It reiterates its stand, expressed consistently ever since its formation, that all those who labour here, be they native born or migrants, irrespective of race, colour, creed or sex, are part of the British working class. They are exploited by the same capitalist class and are chained to the same imperialist system. Today, every blow directed against the working class by British monopoly capitalism through the government of the day affects all workers - not merely any one section. Rising unemployment, particularly amongst young workers, government cuts in the social services and the appalling conditions of housing and urban living make racialism an easy method of dividing workers, precisely when they should be the most united. The recent incidence of racialism is no accident, but an intentional diversion from the main task of developing the class struggle in a revolutionary way. People must resist the temptation of rushing into blind alleys of retaliation and opportunistic responses that can only exacerbate disunity. Our task is to bring all sections of the working class to understand who their real enemy is, and to fight it - not each other.

Workers of the world unite!

Trico dispute The fight for equal pay

At this moment we have an expression, in strike action, of women workers at the Trico-Folberth factory in Brentford, London, which defies all the surrender of the working class represented by the acceptance of the 4½ per cent wage cut at the TUC special conference.

For here in this factory which supplies wiper blades to all the main car manufacturers, some 400 women are demanding equal pay for doing identical work with the men who are their counterparts and they are carrying their strike for this right into the fifth week. The employer argues that they could not receive the same equal payment because the men work night shifts.

This is the original argument of employers through the CBI for opposing the Equal Pay Act. They argued, among other things, that women are not equal because they are precluded by law from engaging in any and all shifts and hours. Therefore, that law, prior to the Equal Pay Act, must be changed so as to enable the employer to demand of women that they must work nights and all other hours over and above a normal daytime workshift of not more than 40 hours a week, before it would be possible to comply with the demand for equal pay.

Now that there is a law on Equal Pay the employer, to cheat women workers, argues that men are more flexible than women because they work night shifts and that, therefore, women should receive a lower basic rate, even though night shift working carries with it a premium payment over and above the rate, and this premium women are not, of course, claiming.

In a word, once again the attempt is being made to exploit women doing identical work, albeit in the daytime, by the very argument that has always been used to evade equal payment and to hold up legislation to bring it about.

Hence the industrial action at Trico's in which the women are striking two blows for the working class at once. They are demonstrating their freedom to bargain, which the Labour Government seeks to deny, and they are insisting on equal pay, which the employers seek to evade.

Not only will the fight of the women at Trico's have its effects throughout industry in forcing the implementation of the Equal Pay Act, weak as it is, but, more immediately, it could throw into chaos the whole motor car industry which is fast running out of wiper blades.

A vote for national independence at Habitat

The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) ended on June 11th in what the bourgeois press described as "disarray".

The rumour was caused by a Cuban proposal that the Conference should oppose "... settlement planning and implementation for the purpose of prolonging and consolidating occupation and subjugation in territories and lands acquired through coercion and intimidation." In spite of attempts to block the discussion and the vote, 77 countries voted for the amendment, with only 8 votes against - including those of Britain, US, West Germany,

France and Israel.

Such an impressive vote for

the anti-imperialist line of national independence and self-reliant development can hardly be termed "disarray". It was the line of imperialist oppression and subjugation which ended the day in defeat.

The head of the US delegation complained bitterly that politics had been allowed to "shatter this fresh search for better ways of living together". As imperialism knows full well, the question of living conditions is a question of "Which class owns state power?" - not one to be solved by aid from the World Food Council. The only countries which have solved these problems are those where the workers and peasants have taken power and wield it to create a new socialist society.

Britain First

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 that make them redundant are to be trusted!

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 p.a.. 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.

Food prices and the Common Market

Fred Peart, the Agriculture Minister, has told us that food prices will rise by "only 3½ per cent" this year due to the Common Market. Mathematicians will note that this "only 3½ per cent" will mean that increases in food prices due solely to the EEC will amount to over three quarters of that 4½ per cent "increase" the Government and TUC have in store for us. But in this case Peart is giving us only the Government truth, 3½ per cent of the truth, and nothing more than that.

The fact is that even now nearly half our food imports come from the EEC. And for most of these products, including wheat, beef, pork, eggs and butter, we pay more than the current world price. And the dependence on Common Market imports is increasing. But even more disturbing is the fact, not mentioned by the Labour government, that these imports will increase in price by something approaching 20 per cent.

The truth is that when Peart talks about a 3½ per cent rise in prices, he is referring to the phased imposition on Britain of the surcharges all other EEC countries have to pay on imported food. A case in point is New Zealand lamb, due soon for a 20 per cent surcharge. What Peart "forgets" is that, even though we pay more for, even

Hands off Lebanon

The invasion of Lebanon by the Syrian army is a criminal act against the people of Lebanon. Its aim is to subjugate Lebanon to a foreign power, and in the process to destroy the Palestine liberation forces.

The roots of the civil war in Lebanon are internal. The workers and peasants have been fighting a war for democratic rights. It was only when the reactionary Falangists were threatened with defeat that Syria decided to send its troops and tanks across the border. The fact that such an act is committed not by a major imperialist power does not make it less criminal, neither must it be excused or defended. It is as naked a crime as the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and must be condemned just as strongly.

That Syria should have the

unanimous support of imperialist powers, from the US to the Soviet Union, Britain, France and others, is not surprising. They all share a common hatred for revolutionary struggle. What is surprising, however, is that the people and army of Syria, who have a magnificent record of fighting colonialism and imperialist aggression, should so far acquiesce and allow such a crime to be committed in their name.

The fighting continues in Lebanon, now against a foreign aggressor. The courage of the people of Lebanon must be admired. Together with the Palestinian liberation forces they managed to halt the advance of the highly armed Syrian army. Lebanon must not be allowed to turn into another Cyprus with foreign troops keeping the country divided.

The old "come on"

Cautious hints are being offered by Healey, in response to cautious requests from Jones and Bassett, that the Government might at least be prepared to look favourably on the vague possibility of considering some kind of a return to free collective bargaining once the new 4½ per cent policy has run its full twelve month course.

Who do you think you are fooling, Mr. Healey? The Labour Government came into power on a promise of no incomes policy, no wage freeze. The first wage freeze brought in by Labour was even less generous than that of the Heath Government the working class threw out of office. Next, though there had to be a wage freeze, there would be the maintenance of the 'social wage', that is, wage-earners would be shielded by the continuation of social services. Then came the public spending cuts and the slashing of all social services. The present incomes policy is the most savage of all.

The prosperity which wage freezes are supposed to bring, retreats farther and farther away and now even the inflation, which wages were supposed to cause and therefore wage cuts would end, will "because of the fall in the value of the pound" last well into the next year.

The fall in the value of the pound is nothing compared to the fall in the credibility of the Labour Government.

EEC food than the world price, we are still getting it 20 per cent cheaper than we "should be". The reason behind this is the Green Pound, a rate of exchange for Common Market currencies which was fixed in 1971.

The other countries in the EEC kept quiet about this 20 per cent gap between the real value of sterling and the value of the Green Pound, because they didn't want to harm the vote on Social Contract Mark 2. Now that is over the pressure is on to "adjust" things.

This leaves workers here with only two alternatives: either to buy a vast deep freeze and stock it with food for the next ten years - or take up the fight to get Britain out of the Common Market, for a self-sufficient Britain, a Britain for the working class.

Fraternal meeting

Members of the Central Committees of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Netherlands and the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) met recently in London and had warm fraternal discussions on problems of mutual concern.

The revolutionary struggles of the working class of both countries against their respective bourgeoisie, against the EEC, Nato, Russian Imperialism, modern revisionism and social democracy were among the subjects discussed. It was hoped that there might be further bilateral discussions among the fraternal Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations of Europe.

Shipbuilding scuttled

The present 'battle' in the Commons over the British shipbuilding industry is nothing but a sham, for both sides are already agreed upon the idea of destroying Britain. The action of both Conservative and Labour Governments, in past years denies their expressed 'intention' of saving the industry because both privately-owned and nationalised yards have been run down at a rapid rate. Capitalism has only one plan for

the future of the British shipping industry, and that plan is "no future at all". This may seem illogical in view of Britain's long-standing position as a major trading nation, but a further destruction is completely logical within capitalism's plans to destroy the organised working class by destroying its industrial base.

From 1958 to 1972, the volume of merchant ships completed in British shipyards fell from

1.48 million tons to 1.19 million tons. From 1963 to 1972, the volume of shipping delivered to British owners from British yards increased by 17 per cent. Over the same period, the volume of shipping delivered to British owners from foreign yards increased by over 800 per cent. In 1955, Britain produced 26 per cent of all new tonnage in the world. By 1973, this figure had fallen to just 3.6 per cent. Over the same period, world seaborne trade increased nearly fourfold.

Alongside this destruction of shipbuilding, the merchant fleet at sea has also been drastically

reduced. From 1950 to 1973, the total number of merchant ships owned and registered in Britain decreased from 3337 to 1976. As an example of the destruction of our fleet, in the year June 1972 to June 1973, 214 ships were removed from the total fleet. Of these 158 were sold abroad, and a further 49 were broken up. Each year, additions to the total fleet do not make up for the numbers sold or destroyed. The loss of jobs in this wholesale run-down has been enormous.

Not to be outdone, British shipowners have also shown an utter contempt for the wellbeing of their employees and the economy

of Britain. An export-led boom promised by Healey is denied by the continuing neglect of our merchant fleet owners. In 1962, British owned ships carried only 47 per cent of all goods exported from Britain by sea. By 1972, this figure had fallen to only 40 per cent. West German, Greek, and the so-called 'Liberian' fleets carried a continually increasing proportion of our exports.

Past experience and the present situation should tell us that, under either private ownership or under nationalisation, British shipyards have only one future: stagnation and decay.

Northern nurses

lead the fight for a better health service

The report of a public inquiry into five unnatural deaths in Darlington Memorial Hospital, blamed amongst other things the shortage of nursing staff. This has led to nurses in NUPE escalating the fight against the cuts by drawing in the whole Northern Division of NUPE to the battle which was to be launched from Darlington.

A regional conference of NUPE delegates took up the guerrilla line by instructing branches to take on each Area Health Authority in turn, demanding more nurses and taking industrial action to back up the demands. The conference demanded an expansion of nurse training, guarantees of jobs for newly-qualified staff, a halt to admissions where staffing levels were inadequate and minimum staffing levels to be enforced by the nurses themselves in those areas where the union was strong.

Already at two hospitals, nurses have taken action. At Earls House Hospital, Durham, NUPE nurses have banned all

non-emergency admissions, declared a work to rule, and are to refuse to work on wards unless there are two nurses on duty at night and three on day shift. These actions are in support of a demand for between 14 and 30 extra nurses. The case for the extra nurses was backed up by an official survey into staffing levels at the hospital.

At Aycliffe Hospital near Darlington, nurses are to ban overtime, ban all admissions and enforce their own minimum staffing levels. Some wards at Aycliffe, as at Earls House, have no nursing cover at all at night.

The fight against the cuts is the fight to destroy capitalism. Capitalism's interest in health has been to repair sick or broken workers and return them to production. Now it doesn't even need that! Capitalism is killing the health service and our class. Only socialism can save our health service and health workers fighting the cuts are contributing to revolutionary action.

Battle for transport

Rail axe sharpened

A major attack is being prepared by the Department of the Environment on the railway passenger network, despite constant official denials in the face of the growing resistance to rail cuts. Vast sections are again to be cut. Having shrunk from 17,500 miles pre-Beeching to 9000 today, the plan is to cut the network in England by 2452 miles; in Wales by 641 miles and in Scotland by 1117 miles - leaving a total rail system of 4710 route miles or less.

Calculations based on recent Parliamentary statements by Dr Gilbert, Minister for Transport, have shown that in Scotland major towns such as Aberdeen, Oban, Perth and Dundee would be without trains; while in England, towns like Middlesbrough, Blackpool, Lowestoft, Whitby, Hereford, Malvern, Shrewsbury, Telford, Falmouth and Exeter would be affected. Over 200 separate passenger services may be abolished completely.

The map of cuts which is now emerging bears an uncanny resemblance to the map first produced by the No Rail Cuts campaign, and which at the time Mr Crosland, then at the Department of the Environment, had the temerity to call 'a load of codswallop'.

Whatever official deception may be involved, it is now absolutely certain that plans exist within every region of

British Rail for a massive cut-back, including some closures in the relatively prosperous southern region.

A road lobby

This latest plan to cut rail transport follows directly from the work of the so called 'road lobby'. This family of capitalists - motor manufacturers, oil companies, construction consortia, but principally government itself, have all, ever since Beeching and before, dictated the destruction of rail in favour of the madness of over-production of motorways and private motor cars. This madness appears in the latest cuts plan. Ostensibly the aim is to transfer passengers from rail to coaches because the 'smaller lines do not pay'. Yet at the same time the Department of the Environment also admits that in the long run the proposed closures will contribute little saving in net costs, and will not necessarily bring greater 'savings' in relation to the total level of subsidy. Yet thousands of railmen and their families are under attack, whole towns and some entire regions threatened with isolation, while still one in three households in Britain has no access to a private motor car.

False economies

Last week witnessed more protests in Essex against motor-

way plans, while a new high-ways strategy was announced in which 300,000 miles of rural roads will simply be allowed to crumble quietly away. Yet also last week figures were released by the Department of the Environment which give the lie to the supposedly superior economics of road freight and the doctrine of 'making the railways pay'.

Rail freight has been ordered to phase out its subsidy (£66 million last year). On the other hand it has been revealed that the 'juggernauts' - 41,500 lorries in the 16 tons-laden and over class received an annual subsidy last year of £1710 each! In total some £71 million - £5 million more than the rail freight subsidy. This is because giant lorries cost the road system some £3770 per annum each in road building maintenance and management, yet they contribute only about 35 per cent of this in taxation. Private cars on the other hand pay twice their road costs. With the current order for the rail freight subsidy to be cut to £14 million in the coming year, the hidden but growing subsidy to road freight will hasten the destruction of rail.

Now that war has been declared on transport in the Green Paper on transport policy, the fight to save railways must be lost - it is the responsibility of the entire British working class and cannot be left just to railwaymen and the country towns.

British Gas

The British Gas Corporation has said that all gas escapes should not necessarily be dealt with immediately, contrary to practice hitherto. The gas workers oppose this on safety grounds. In Hull an incident has occurred which shows that such attacks on standards of work and the interest of the public are linked with attacks on the workers' organisations.

After men dealing with a major gas leak had finished their shift, the management refused to call in a stand-by team. The same men had therefore to continue working all night. By the early morning they had finished the job except for two holes which still

had to be filled in. The men did fill one, to allow traffic to pass, but drew the line at filling the other.

The Corporation then took disciplinary action against the senior shop steward, which brought out all 150 gas leak maintenance men in Hull. The management were forced to postpone proceedings pending a meeting with the union on classification of gas leaks. The men, in not allowing their standards of work to be eroded, are opposing a cut-back in skill and labour which threatens danger and deterioration both to the public and to themselves.

Equal pay - Employers' style

The employers at a Wolverhampton factory, Bradley and Co., Albion Works, Bilston, have told men workers to take a pay cut so that they could pay equal wages to 150 women! Some of the women were being underpaid by up to £7 a week, but the £2 a week cut in the men's wages would mean that the women's pay would increase by only £5 a week! The firm also wants to reduce the status of some of the 90 men

who are on the top grade of the pay structure from skilled to semi-skilled.

Workers' equality - unity in struggle

The workers' response has been decisive. The 250 men and women workers who are members of the General and Municipal Workers Union, have rejected these cuts and regradings and have gone on strike.

Spark that ignites a prairie fire

Capitalists are under no illusions about the nature of struggle, and so they make their plans. Recently the Institute of Personnel Management issued a guide to managing directors on how to defeat occupation by workers. It says, 'though newspapers have stopped reporting such events unless they are particularly spectacular, sit-ins have become a regular feature of industrial life and managers ought to know what to do when one starts, in much the same way as they might plan against a fire outbreak'!

I started work in engineering at a very tender age at the beginning of the war before royalty would condescend (in the person of Prince Philip) to say take your finger out in the country's interest - and said it with all the inborn arrogance of his class.

I was thrown from the idyllic pace of school life (although I didn't recognise it at the time) into the maelstrom of industrial life or strife according to which way you look at it. The first gleanings of the above philosophy became apparent to me when the foreman said: "For Christ's sake get a bleedin' move on, don't yer know there's a bloody war on!" I began to ask other workers what the war was all about but, just as one worker or another started to explain it to me, he got called up.

I never got a lot of information from the papers because they were busy talking about the greedy workers who were earning three weeks' wages in one and holding the country to ransom, which made my 24/- per week look a bit sick in spite of the fact that I was working on

A workers view of life Fight the tighten-your-belt and take-your-finger-out philosophy

Saturdays as well. I learnt enough, though, to know that my immediate foe, the foreman, was the epitome of fascism to me.

When my time came to be press ganged into HM forces, the class system that predominated within that establishment and the antics of the so-called leaders of society led me to the suspicion that fascism did not only exist in Germany.

Youth is a great time for educating the mind, especially when one could see an end to the war and a distinct possibility that one might live to draw an old-age pension, pittance that it might be. The return to civilian life and a job in the same old factory with the same old bosses was very irksome for somebody that had travelled the world, albeit not in the way that he would have wished. The

lads that had returned from the forces had high hopes of a changing society, manifested through Atlee and company and the Labour Party. We were going to throw out the old reactionary guard and herald a new dawn: a new society would be born along with the Beveridge Report.

How naive we were. It was once again a time of rationing, tighten your belt and take your finger out, as we slowly drifted back in Toryism. This led me to believe that militant trade unionism was the answer. I read all the past working-class history: of epic struggles, of heroic sacrifice by individual workers, of victimisation by employers and of workers starved into submission.

I believe that through the strength of the working class on the shop floor we are in a

much stronger position but, because of that strength, the forces of reaction present an even greater danger. Some workers say we are now better off, but are we? Any young couple trying to set up a home is bedevilled by problems. They are forced to move away from family and friends to a new town where rates are a scandal and workers are blackmailed into taking jobs because they have to survive somehow, in the private sector, young couples buy houses and put their lives in the hands of the mortgagees and, if they start a family, live on in an impoverished state.

I see skilled engineers that I once worked with working in a variety of occupations, in an effort to have a job where they are not made continually redundant. And what of the youth that

are leaving school and going straight on the dole, falling prey to the National Front and racialism? We cannot talk to them in the trade union branch because they are not eligible to join - they are on the dole.

We, of my generation, are responsible for them being out of work because we have not changed society to stop this happening, nor have we that are in work kicked up a big enough storm over those who are out of work. The English disease is not the one that foreigners talk about, of workers too lazy to work; it is that we, as a class, are bowing down to international bankers, putting ourselves in bondage by accepting a wage freeze. We are allowing ourselves to be ruled by our own capitalist class who are so busy exporting the wealth of our country abroad. I am convinced that change and government by the people can only come by revolution and that in that struggle the class will educate itself politically never to return to the situation that we are in today.

Student teachers win support

In Brighton's largest secondary school NUT members recently held a meeting to which they invited "soon-to-be-unemployed student teachers as a gesture of solidarity with their struggle for the right to a job.

This was the first of several similar meetings in the Brighton area which raised among teachers in the schools the question of taking up the fight against teacher unemployment. The discussions showed a high level of support for this as well as a realisation that moral support will not be enough.

Subsequently, Brighton Teachers Association unanimously passed a resolution calling on the NUT executive to extend nationally the implementation of the no-cover sanction, and decided to campaign among the local membership to prepare for such action.

At the London University

Institute of Education nearly 100 clerks, secretaries and administrative officers came out on strike in support of the students occupying the college. A spokesman for the staff, most of whom belong to NALGO, said that they were forfeiting a day's pay to demonstrate their support for the students' protest against lack of jobs for student teachers. They intend to carry on with a go-slow as long as the student occupation lasts.

Up and down the country college lecturers have been abandoning lectures to support the occupations. Typical of this support was the resolution of the NATFHE branch at the teacher training college at Rolle in Exmouth, Devon. They supported the occupation of the college and indicated that they would be willing to involve themselves in any future action.

Termination of a hospital

Last week saw the 'temporary' closure of the only maternity hospital where the patients are treated by an all-female staff. The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in Hampstead, North London, has for some time been on the list for the 'chop', but before anyone could raise an eyebrow the closure was put into effect.

This 'temporary' closure was claimed to be due to the loss of one of the full-time doctors on the staff, and the lack of a replacement for her; and two more doctors were due for well-earned holidays this week and next.

A campaign has been steadily growing up since the Minister of State, then Barbara Castle, gave notice of the imminent closure of many hospitals, not only those in the Camden Group. Two public meetings have been held in the last month by those workers specifically associated with the EGA Hospital - both well attended by the unions concerned, and by members of the public. Everyone is determined that not only will this maternity hospital remain permanently open, but that no other hospital will receive such treatment in the future.

The meeting on June 14th called for industrial action to save the hospital. There was, in addition, a call for as many women as possible to request to be sent to the EGA, and for all associated groups to support a picket at the hospital if a strike is called.

Infant murder rate

Britain's infant mortality rate is the highest in any industrial country. Whereas in others the rate has dropped, Britain's remains high. A major cause of death in babies is 'cot deaths' mainly occurring around three months old. An aura of mystery has always clouded this issue. Babies are found dead in their cots for apparently no reason. But now there is evidence showing that most occur in poor areas and in lower income families and that the causes are known and can be prevented. 3000 babies every year - 8 every day - die unnecessarily. The only reason is because capitalism has decided they are expendable, therefore no investment is made in the health of the next generation.

But it can be done. Finland has a programme of child care, for example, which means 'cot deaths' are now extremely rare and general infant deaths are one for every four in Britain. Sheffield is experimenting with a programme of pre- and ante-natal care of mother and baby, following up closely those considered high risks, determined by a carefully analysed questionnaire. This has led to a drop by half in the infant deaths of five years ago. It has been achieved by more staff and money being spent in this area. Yet the Government rather than following this lead is cutting both.

Ball in teachers' court

The occupation by student teachers of their colleges in protest at certain unemployment has ushered in a new phase in the struggle for education and for Britain itself.

The seizure of the colleges by the students within them has epitomised what must be done in the present situation. For, if the Labour Government has declared itself to be totally bankrupt and unable to rule, then the working class itself will have to take over. Though the action was one of protest, the form was an advanced one.

The occupations have now ceased and the key question now is whether the teachers will move, and how fast. The problem of the unemployed is principally one for the employed to solve and the students have already succeeded in precipitating many teachers into action. Light rain, however, will be ineffective and a deluge is required.

Any school can name a score of reasons why more staff should be employed, or retained despite falling rolls, and indeed the only 'argument' used to support the paring of staffs is one of 'economy'. The argu-

ment is ludicrous. The students have been trained at an average cost of £7000 each and will draw unemployment pay if assured by the employer. It has been estimated that a mere £8½ million would absorb all the prospective unemployed into the schools. But most importantly, their skills and the skills employed are crucial to the economic resurrection of Britain, a socialist Britain.

Indeed the 'economy' argument is lousy garb. The forced and calculated unemployment of newly qualified teachers is part of an attempt to deny the working class the tools and conditions to establish a socialist Britain.

So the only obstacle to the unemployed storming into the schools will be the timidity of the teachers themselves. There have been encouraging signs, however. Already teachers are endeavouring to implement those sanctions in the schools which will enable more jobs to be provided. The key question is class size, if teachers refused to take any class of over 30 the problem of the unemployed would be solved overnight. Moreover, the Government would be forced to declare, "We need more teachers".

Green revolution no substitute for red revolution

In the Document adopted by the CPB(ML) at its Fourth Congress at Easter this year, it says: "No true liberation can be achieved within this one world without the strong development of Marxist forces. Internationally it is this but even more nationally."

One of the things this means is that the so-called developing countries cannot advance on the basis of technological changes when what is really needed is a revolutionary change in the relations of production.

An example of this is the 'green revolution', the use of high-yield varieties of rice and wheat which was supposed to solve all the problems of poorer countries without the necessity of a revolution which would liberate the peasants from exploitation.

But the UN Research Institute for Social Development has discovered, as Marxists could have told them, that while these new varieties do produce higher yields they also require higher inputs of investment in such things as fertiliser and the provision of water through irrigation schemes.

Larger landowners with plenty of capital and better off farmers with access to credit are able to afford these inputs and their profits increase, while the rest suffer as the price of wheat or rice declines with greater production. If the poorer farmers do try to take advantage of the new types, they find that they are vulnerable to drought and pests which they cannot afford to remedy. The result is simply a speeding up of the failure of smaller farmers whose land is taken over by the richer, an increase in the number of landless labourers and more migration to the cities.

It is suggested that this could be remedied by the introduction of certain social measures like land reform and government control of charges made for the use of water. But a pink revolution will not do either.

The CPB(ML) Document also points out that "No emancipation and true liberation can be completed in alliances alone of shifting class forces, in finality only the peasant and proletariat can achieve liberation, for it is they who are slaves."

Two new books available in Bellman Bookshop

Mao Tsetung's poetry

MAO TSETUNG POEMS

From the Middle Ages, lyrics have been written and enjoyed by Englishmen, so that we can appreciate the joyous passion for nature, for country, for people that illuminate the poems of Mao Tsetung. Although the classical Chinese verse form differs from ours, both have music so that one could sing or dance to the rhythm.

Chairman Mao's knowledge of Chinese folk-lore gives such felicities as:

"Your three million white jade dragons in flight", for the flying snow; or the superb description of a horseman, "the sky is three feet above me"; or the terrifying images, "We ask the God of Plague: where are you bound?", "Paper barge aflame and candle light illuminate the sky."

All could enjoy the poems for the pleasure to eye and ear but the Chairman also gives a blaze of optimism and hope for his people: "The night was long and dawn came slow to the Crimson Land... For a century demons and ministers whirled in a mad dance, Now the cock has crowed and all under heaven is bright, Here is music from all our peoples...."

Chinese, like English, is a language for poets, subtle and exact so that the translations deserve commendation for a job well and faithfully done. One could perhaps wish to change one or two phrases but then, one should learn Chinese and read the original.

Albania's anti-fascist war

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STUDIES ON THE ANTI-FASCIST NATIONAL WAR OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE.

This book is a very important collection of reports presented at a national conference on the liberation war organised in Albania by several committees such as the Institute of M-L Studies of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Albanian Revolution in November 1974.

The most interesting report is that by Vehbi Hoxha and Professor Plassari on the nature of the armed uprising by the Albanian people in the anti-fascist war. How the peasants and workers were politicised in the real significance of the armed struggle through guerrilla and partisan units and finally the national liberation army should be compulsory reading for many now engaged in liberation struggles.

"... Actions were carried out in order to achieve political gains, first of all, and then military and material gains. According to this criterion combat actions, while harming the enemy, first of all established new links between the Party and the masses. Therefore only such actions were carried out as were acceptable to the masses, that fostered in them

love for and confidence in the Party that organized and led those actions. The careful choice, the perfect organisation of the combat actions of the guerrilla units and the leadership of the Party organisations gave their actions a character different from those usually carried out by anarchists, putschists, adventurers, and bandits of various types." (p. 74)

The incredible successes of the Albanian people in armed struggle against an enemy far superior to them in size and military strength was due to the politics of their anti-fascist war - politics that aimed at the establishment of workers' power right from the start. How through Enver Hoxha's brilliant leadership of the Communist Party of Albania was able to defeat the fascist powers, overthrow the domestic feudal and bourgeois class as well as the monarchy and other traitors backed by Anglo-American imperialism in the short space of 5 years and emerge with an embryonic dictatorship of the proletariat is one of the great success stories of revolution, and should be studied by all of us.

CPBML Bookshop

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON, NW5.

Films

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

JUNE 25: Reconnaissance Across the Yangtze (liberation war).
JULY 2: Crimson Rain (barefoot doctors).
JULY 9: Fiery Years (steelworks) China.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Because of increased postal charges the subscription rate for 24 issues of The Worker will be raised to £2.50 as from July '76.