

# THE WORKER



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# MORE OPPOSE NEUTRON BOMB

RESISTANCE throughout Europe to the development and deployment of the neutron bomb has forced the US President to delay the decision to go ahead with the production of this atrocious weapon. But this is only a postponement, and under cover of using the bomb as a counter in the inter-imperialist bargaining of the US and the USSR the weapon will continue to be a threat to the world's people.

What has to concern us most here in Britain is that the Labour Government, along with the Government of Western Germany and in opposition to such other NATO governments as Holland and Norway, was strongly backing the development of the neutron bomb and was, and no doubt will continue to be,

willing for it to be deployed in this country. Callaghan in the name of the oldest Imperialist power was the first to come out in support of the weapon when its existence was admitted by the US.

In the face of domestic criticism even Callaghan has had to modify his support for the bomb however. He now talks of the need to weigh "the very substantial political disadvantages against whatever military advantages may be presumed to exist."

What is more disgraceful than the encouragement the British Government gave to the neutron bomb is the absence of any protest by the trade union movement.

This, in spite of the fact that imperialism has developed a weapon that may be

used in cities on a selective basis to kill workers while leaving property completely undamaged.

Doubts about the 'value' of this weapon have been expressed even by some of the outspoken advocates of armament. Their objection to the neutron bomb does not stem from the fact that it discriminates against people in favour of tanks, carriers, buildings and property in general. Rather their concern is centred around the fact that the neutron bomb does not act as a deterrent against an 'enemy'. On the contrary it makes 'enemy attacks' more possible since the threatened holocaust has now been replaced by a controlled

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## Budgeting for capitalism

AS WAS to be expected the Labour budget is exactly like the Tory immigration policy, namely, a move to get votes at the expense of the real interests of the working class. It does not make any difference to us which of these two capitalist parties enjoys all the perks of office and the greater opportunities for self-emolument of forming the government, but it makes a lot of difference to them!

The TUC had called for a £3.5 billion boost to the economy to reduce the level of unemployment. This was to take mainly the form of increased public expenditure to restore some of the cuts in health, education and welfare generally.

But it was always obvious that Healey would opt instead for some measure of tax relief, rather than increased public expenditure on those things of which his and previous governments have deprived the working people of Britain. This was the line urged on him by the Bank of

England speaking both for capitalism in this country and for the maintenance of confidence abroad in monetary control here - a modest lowering of income tax was all that could be afforded.

The Liberal Party, which has been enabling the Labour Government to remain in power, was in favour of cuts in direct taxes too, but on a massive scale of some £4.4 billion to increase incentives. Healey said reductions of that order were not possible, the capitalist press hailed him for his courage and the Liberal Party promptly backed down and said they would probably find Healey's budget satisfactory after all. With their poll ratings they certainly do not want an election now.

Meanwhile the question of by just how much the Chancellor would reduce taxes was largely academic for those at the top of the scale

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Photo shows that even back in the 'sixties it was realised that it did not make any difference whether it was Tories or Labour resorting to such horror weapons to cow the people. The CND reflected popular protest at the use of nuclear blackmail.

## "Official" 10pc breach

CABINET Ministers have been forced to accept the settlement which the engineers negotiated with the Engineering Employers Federation, even though it means that the way is clear for claims which take no notice of either the Government's '12 month ruling' or the 10 per cent limit on wage rises.

This is the first 'official' breach in the pay guidelines since they were laid down by Government last July. The concession was announced in a letter from the Employment Secretary to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the Engineer-

ing Employers Federation which said that workers could go ahead with the national agreement providing for a raise of the minimum rates to £57 a week for skilled and £43 for others now and a further raise to £60 and £45 respectively in the autumn.

The Government was fully aware that any attempt to resist the settlement by imposing sanctions on the companies that honoured it would have brought down on their heads the kind of action the engineering workers had threatened to take against employers.

**William Walwyn's 'The Bloody Project'**

THE second Civil War, started on May Day 1648, led the British people into further fratricidal warfare. After two years of peace, this disruption was bound to cause a great questioning of motives. From the heart of the renewed horror a great revolutionary pamphlet, 'The Bloody Project' was written by one of the most pacific of the Leveller leaders, William Walwyn.

His pamphlet expresses the disillusion of the people who were becoming aware that they were fighting a bourgeois revolution - sacrificing themselves for the growing bourgeoisie. They had formed a Puritan coalition

but this had constantly broken up into self seeking factions.

Walwyn writes that the main quarrel in their kingdom is "a putting down of one tyrant to set up another." If this continued and the English people fought for one or other of the tyrants it would be they who would suffer while "the King, Parliament, great men in the City and Army" acquire "Honour, Wealth and Power".

In Walwyn's opinion to "shed blood for money or to support this or that interest" and do it "for a cause not rightly stated" is sinful as it is "to engage in war to kill and slay men, but upon a lawful call and invitation from the

Supreme Authority." This authority could only be provided by a body elected by and for all people. If this were established people could obey the orders to fight because the orders would be their own. Walwyn wants every individual to be politically aware and know that political decisions are made by everybody, from the individual conscience the "good of the Nation springs".

Many of our ancestors, like Walwyn, called for a science of Revolution. We now have that science; we have had our bourgeois revolution. Let us unite, as Walwyn advised, and make socialism in Britain.



HAVING liberated themselves from fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, the Albanian people successfully resisted attempts by Yugoslavia to incorporate them and attempts by Britain and the US to turn Albania into a Cold War base against the People's Democracies. Later, when the Soviet Union became imperialist, the Albanian people successfully resisted efforts to turn their country into a Russian colony. How have the Albanians been able to defend their socialist state against all-comers? Not by alliances; not by nuclear weapons but by every worker citizen being also a soldier ready to fight in the defence of a homeland where the working people enjoy state power. Picture shows young Albanians learning how to defend their country.

**Lest we forget the Indonesia lesson**

PERHAPS the best example of the fundamental Marxist truth expressed in the document of our 4th Party Congress of 1976 that "No emancipation and true liberation can be completed in alliances alone of shifting class forces" is provided by the experience of Indonesia since 1945. In the national-liberation war against the Dutch, the workers and peasants had made the greatest sacrifices, yet when 'Independence' was granted it was the feudal landlords and the bourgeoisie who held the realities of state power in the Republic of Indonesia. The Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) joined in the United Front, NASAKOM, and, blinded by its numerical strength with 3 million members and 10 million supporters, fell into the illusion of peaceful transition. The PKI was ill-prepared when a provocative push on September 30, 1965, led to a massacre of revolutionary and democratic forces that resulted in at least half a million dead and three quarters of a million thrown into concentration camps scattered around the many islands of the archipelago.

The PKI in its statements and self-criticism made in 1966 drew several valuable lessons from its decimation. They had ignored the class nature of the state and imagined that state power could be shared between oppressor and oppressed classes. They had followed a policy in the United Front of abrogating the indepen-

dent role of the Communist Party and allowing it to be turned into an appendage of the national-bourgeoisie. They had glorified Sukarno as the great national superman and leader of the revolution when he had been nothing more than a demagogue, a figure-head with no real power.

Their self-criticism led them to conclude that the anti-imperialist movement could not possibly be led by the bourgeoisie. "Only by overthrowing the power of the domestic reactionary classes can the overthrow of imperialism and the remnants of feudalism be concretely realised." They also saw that a revolution "to completely liquidate the domination of imperialism and the remnants of feudalism, could have achieved victory only if it was led by the proletariat and based, above all, on an alliance with the peasantry."

Today, when the apologists of the theory of the Three Worlds would have us accept the butchers of Indonesia as belonging to the 'broad united front against hegemony' and advocate the way forward for Indonesia through the reactionary grouping of ASEAN with capital provided by the USA, EEC and Japan, we would do well to remember the cost in blood that has already been paid. Any country which advocates such a policy cannot claim to be socialist if their so-called "proletarian internationalism" consists of nothing but alliances with the most reactionary forces and the

betrayal of the revolution in favour of those who would liquidate communist parties by tying them to the war chariots of their own bourgeoisie.

Today the present Suharto regime of Indonesia represents the most corrupt elements of a comprador-landlord-military alliance, tied hand and foot to the USA and ruling through aggression - externally against East Timor and internally against all those who would dare to rise up or even criticise. In February this year thousands of soldiers and tanks descended on Jakarta's university to arrest demonstrating students. Newspapers were gagged at the slightest hint of criticism of repression or scandalous examples of corruption such as within the President's own family or the 10 billion dollar debt incurred by Indonesia's prize oil company - Pertamina. The conditional release of some thousand political prisoners out of more than a hundred thousand, imprisoned in the most barbaric conditions with severe malnutrition, is one more act of tokenism.

Last year, on the occasion of the 57th anniversary of the founding of the Indonesian Communist Party, the only way forward for the people of Indonesia was spelt out: to reorganise the Party in villages and towns, to mobilise the peasantry and working class for an armed struggle to overthrow the Suharto fascist regime and win national liberation and socialism.

IN Israel at the beginning of this month, thirty thousand people demonstrated in Tel Aviv against Zionist expansion. They marched with placards declaring peace to be preferable to settlement on new land.

The demonstration, initiated according to the press by a group of military reservists, attracted mass support from the heart of Israeli society and marks the first serious opposition to Zionism from that quarter.

In proportion to population, an equivalent demonstration in London would have been half-a-million strong.

Meanwhile, Israel experienced a news and entertainment black-out because of strike action by media employees demanding wage increases. Radio and television programmes were silenced and 22 newspapers failed to appear. The Government authorized the Ministry of Defence to issue emergency regulations to ensure the proper function of the military radio station. Evidently a class struggle is being waged within Israel.

The Palestinians have traditionally said that they are fighting for a secular state where people of all religions and races can live peacefully together.

But yet the struggle has spawned a terrorist approach which has been disastrous. Not unrelated has been the temptation to search for saviours from outside, be it from neighbouring Arab countries, the United Nations, or any imperialist power that happens to be hanging around.

According to reports, the Israeli soldiers who plunged into Lebanon have been astonished at the greenery of the Lebanese countryside. They have for long been encouraged to believe that only the Israeli can make the desert bloom. What grim irony for the Zionist chieftains who can only reap disaffection from their efforts to expand!

The real way forward for peace and harmony both for the Palestinians and the people of Israel is a common struggle by the mass of the people relying on their own efforts. In so doing they will win the support of the peace-loving people of the whole world.

The demonstration in Tel Aviv heralds a new era for the historic land of Palestine.

All working people within the borders of Israel and those outside, expelled from their homeland, will eventually march together and their banners will say, "Down with Zionism! Down with Imperialism! Down with terrorism! Forward to a secular state where workers and peasants can live in peace! All foreign troops out!"

**Students protest**

PALESTINIAN students of Bradford and District recently occupied the Director's office at Bradford University in protest at the Imperialist invasion of South Lebanon by Zionist forces in March 1978. They have called for publicity and financial aid for medical supplies.

In a statement they have called for a united front of all popular and progressive forces to combat the reactionary conspiracy.

PUPILS at Golden Hillock Comprehensive in Birmingham were annoyed by the teachers' action taken in support of their pay claim. So at morning assembly teachers' representatives were invited to speak to the 600 children about their case and the pupils were then invited to counter it.

The upshot of this was that the sixth form decided instead to demonstrate in support of the teachers.

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UNITED Nations, Syrian and Israeli military forces are imposing partition on Lebanon along the line of the Litani River. The present Lebanese Government is a government of national betrayal in its feeble submission to invasion. All those living and working in Lebanon must unite in struggle to defend Lebanon's national independence and integrity, to save Lebanon.

In every country in the 'Middle East' a bourgeoisie directs its state, and each speculates on war, tension and expansion. Each bourgeoisie endangers the peoples of the region by condemning them to endless, fruitless wars. There can be no advance to security, to peace and to socialism without the overthrow of one's own bourgeoisie.

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LONDON Transport's new chairman has promised a rosier future for the bus traveller. "There will be fewer buses than timetable now but not fewer than are running now, and we shall expect them to run more to time." Presumably if there were no buses at all then this would deal with all problems.

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THE Cambridge Economic Policy Group has estimated that if things go on the way they are going now, even taking into account North Sea oil, by 1985 there will be 3 million unemployed and by 1990 4½ million. And if things are still going on then the way they are now, we will deserve it!

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AVERELL Harriman is the man who played a major role in making the Marshall Plan work for the United States after the Second World War. He also happens to be the scion of a famous American Railroad family. If anyone still believes that the Marshall Plan was an act of kindness by American capitalism then this quote by Harriman from a recent interview should dispel any illusion: "It was in our own self-interest. I think we have been paid off many-fold over. If it hadn't been for the Marshall Plan I think France and Italy would have had Communist Governments at that time and that would have led to Communist encouragement in other countries of Europe."

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THE announcement by Spillers that 8000 bread workers will be made redundant completes a week in which 5000 workers in the television, textile, steel and ship repairing industries have been told they will be out of work.

## EDITORIAL

NOTHING could more damningly indict the Labour Government as a capitalist government and the enemy of the working people of Britain than its support for the deployment in Western Europe of the neutron bomb - the enhanced radiation weapon capable of imposing a horrible lingering death on millions. In asking the US to inflict on the people of Britain and western Europe the terrible dangers of living with such weapons, the whole profit-grubbing, people-hating policy of successive capitalist governments in this country since the war is exposed.

All nuclear weapons are an abomination and all reasonable people will continue to demand their complete elimination. The neutron bomb is only worth special attention because by its nature it shows up some of the bare-faced lies of the capitalist governments which make and deploy in capitalism's interests these means of mass destruction and death.

Much has been made of the neutron bomb's capacity for killing off people while leaving property intact which has got it the name of 'the capitalist bomb'. It is the supreme weapon not so much against armed invaders as people themselves. Who, then, is supposed to be deterred by this weapon?

Are those backing the neutron bomb as a defensive weapon mad then? They are not. It suits them to make us, the working people, live under the constant threat of terror. We the working people of Britain, western Europe and the rest of the world are the objects of all the 'deterrents' in capitalism's arsenal. They are to deter us from revolution.

But there is another aspect of capitalism's weapons pile which goes right back to the original merchants of death - the enormous profits to be reaped from supplying arms all over the world, to both sides of any struggle people are stupid enough to fight against each other for the enrichment of the capitalists. And that is not the only way the capitalists profit from the arms industry. No better way has been found of taking money out of our pockets to put into theirs than the 'defence' programmes carried out by their obedient governments. The capital for this industry is pumped out of us by taxation and flows into their coffers; and the great advantage of this industry is that there is no problem about turning these commodities back into capital again. If they are not used up by equipping the so-called 'third world' countries to kill each other, they become obsolete and have to be replaced at our expense. In fact we have no way of knowing whether the weapons of mass destruction are even made or not: the whole thing could be a fraudulent transfer of funds by simply noting huge military expenditures on weapons in ledgers and then writing them all off. It would be better if that were the case, but we would be mugs for letting them rob us that way.

It is important to realise that the terrible weapons of mass murder are not a sign that the governments making them have taken leave of their senses. These weapons are necessary and profitable to capitalism. We support fully the aims of CND marchers and all other pacifists who want to lift from the backs of the world's peoples the horrible threat of these weapons; but we know that capitalism is never going to be persuaded to give up anything which makes them such profits and is so useful for terrorising people. We are going to have to smash them and take such dangerous toys away from them for ever. That is why the campaign for peace and disarmament has to be the class struggle to overthrow the capitalist ruling class and establish socialism.

## Corporatism advances

THE Price Commission, according to the Government, has a major part to play in its counter-inflationary policy and is the "housewife's friend", keeping prices down. However, the truth is completely different: it does nothing to restrain price increases and in fact is a new arm of the encroaching corporate state.

Under the Price Code and its complementary legislation, companies with an annual turnover above a certain amount have to notify the Commission of proposed price increases which can only be implemented if the Commission makes no decision to prevent or limit the increase.

This situation appears all well and good until one notices that the need for companies to earn "adequate" profits is recognised by the legislation under which the Commission functions. In reality we have a situation where all but a very small fraction of increases are implemented because the company has "suffered" increased costs which need to be covered by higher prices. The Commission was revamped in 1977: amongst its new powers being that of instituting investigations into companies which the Commission feels cannot justify their proposed price increases under the terms of the legislation (the Commission being a body of people appointed by the

Government, and not to be confused with its supportive staff).

These investigations may look worthwhile initially, with the picture conjured up of investigators delving deep into the dark cupboards of big business. Alas, this again is not reality. All companies which the Commission decides to investigate can apply for the price increase under other legislation which defines profits differently than the Price Code. Thus, in all but one case to date, the companies that have been investigated have been permitted all or a major part of their increase, leaving the actual investigation without teeth. It is also interesting to note that there are some activities over which the Commission has no jurisdiction; an important one being certain types of steel which are covered by the Treaty of Paris EEC regulations.

The Price Commission must also be seen as a corporatist body which in the future will have a major role as a part of the corporatist state - if the Labour Party has its way, though it was originally set up in a different form by the Tories. Under corporatism the state will control wages, labour and prices for the benefit of international capital. Our class must see the Price Commission for what it is: at the moment a sham; tomorrow an enemy.

## Construction kills under capitalism

TWO thousand men will be killed and a further 400,000 seriously injured in the construction industry over the next ten years unless there is a radical change in the effectiveness of accident prevention. This was how the Chief Inspector of Factories Mr Jim Hammer introduced the recently published report "Health and Safety - Construction 1976". The report, which is intended as the first of a new series of annual publications dealing with health and safety in construction, revealed that in 1976 there had been an increase in reported accidents of 450 over the previous year (34,611 in 1975 as opposed to 34,161 in 1975). Although fatal accidents were down to 154 (181 in 1975) Mr Hammer emphasised that this was due to reduced levels of employment and activity in the industry. He pointed out that if and when construction work began to expand again, so too would the accident figures.

That construction work remains much more hazardous than other types of employment can be seen from the fact that the incidence of fatal accidents in the industry is roughly five times that for normal factory work - and amongst certain construction occupations such as steel erecting twenty five times as high.

Unlike some industries in which accidents occur at the frontiers of new technology, the Chief Inspector concludes, in his foreword to the report, that some basic causes have produced a high proportion of accidents in the construction industry over the last sixty to seventy years. The blame for this situation says Mr Hammer must lie with employers who quite simply do not devote sufficient care and thought to ensuring that routine construction operations are carried out in a safe manner. The following table shows the distribution of causes of fatal accidents in construction in 1976.

Fatal accidents in construction processes 1976 (total 154)  
Source: Health and Safety Executive

Fall of persons 48. 1%

From scaffolds	11.7%
Through openings	8.4%
From ladders	1.3%
Through or from roofs	11.0%
Others	15.6%

Electricity 5.2%

Transport 11.7%

Lifting Equipment 8.4%

Excavations and Tunnelling 4.5%

Falls of Materials 11.7%

Miscellaneous 10.4%

In tackling the problem of accidents in construction the report emphasises that it is the employers' responsibility to ensure at the highest level adequate organisation and resources for site safety. There is no reason why construction cannot be made as safe if not safer than manufacturing industry says Mr Hammer. The solution lies in the hands of the employer.

In attempting to enforce statutory standards in the construction industry the Health and Safety Executive's inspectors face a daunting task. As a result of the Health and Safety at Work Act a special National Industry Group (NIG) of inspectors has been set up to coordinate enforcement of the safety law in construction on a national basis. Although they have wider powers to enforce standards on their own initiative the construction NIG only numbers some 90 field staff to cover all construction activity in Britain. Much emphasis has been placed on the effect forthcoming regulation on trade union safety representatives will have in improving safety in the indus-

try. Nevertheless, whatever watchdog role trade unionists will continue to play, this in no way removes the need for a dramatic expansion of the construction inspectorate. Effectiveness of their work however is not only undermined by their small numbers. Fines imposed by the courts on employers for offences under protective legislation remain derisory - often less than £100 in the event of a fatal accident.

If some of the 2000 lives which could be lost in construction between now and 1988 are to be saved it is trade union organisation in the industry which can make the biggest contribution. Provision by employers of a healthy and safe working environment is an elementary requirement for earning a living. Nevertheless, it takes trade union vigilance - and particularly basic knowledge about potential hazards, precautions and statutory safety standards - to ensure that employers begin to organise their activities in such a way that fewer people are killed or injured.

## COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (ML)

# MAYDAY MEETINGS

## ONE WORLD - TWO CLASSES



**WORKERS THROW OFF  
YOUR CHAINS!**



**LONDON - May 1** Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 7.30pm

**LIVERPOOL - May 2** AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant 7.30pm

**LEEDS - April 30** Swarthmore Educational Centre, Woodhouse Square, Leeds 3.00pm

**BIRMINGHAM - April 29** Dr Johnson House, Bull Street 7.30pm

**BRISTOL - May 1** Swan Hotel, Stokes Croft 7.30pm

## N-bomb (cont)

explosion over a smaller radius.

As Lord Chalfont argued in *The Times*, the neutron bomb makes no sense as a deterrent. "In the past nuclear weapons have not really been intended for use in war but only to deter a potential enemy". The neutron bomb however is intended to be used and once it is deployed at whatever scale there is no limit to the escalation in the use of nuclear weapons.

Lord Chalfont might really believe that the purpose of NATO is to protect the 'free world', 'democracy' or whatever is the current name to capitalism from attacks from the Soviet Union. Carter and Callaghan and the NATO chiefs know better.

The neutron bomb is intended for civil war, armed insurrections, revolution in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Commentators have already explained how one neutron bomb dropped in the middle of the Serpentine in Hyde Park would kill everyone in the area of the lake while leaving the surrounding buildings intact. And you can easily divide London, Manchester, Glasgow, the whole of Britain into so many Serpentine.

And just imagine what the US Generals would have done with the neutron bomb in their imperialist war of aggression against Vietnam.

The nuclear blackmail of the sixties has failed, the people of Vietnam saw to that. Today the imperialists have come out with the neutron bomb, against workers and peasants, against anyone who dares to challenge imperialist exploitation. It is intended to kill us.

## Journalists face crucial issues at their Conference

JOURNALISTS have a golden opportunity next week to regenerate their union as a fighting body. A whole package of issues will be debated at the National Union of Journalists conference in Whitley Bay, starting on April 18.

Wages policy remains the most crucial subject. But there are other matters of tremendous significance: the union's structure, the closed shop campaign, reaction to the introduction of new printing technology, and the diversionary call for a single media union.

Underlying the debates, and subsequent actions, on these issues is the question of union democracy. Indeed, it is at the heart of all that NUJ members will discuss. For instance, NUJ members seem set to bury the social contract since there are seven motions down which affirm the union's right to bargain freely on wages. However, they must keep in mind what this will entail if action is called for in future.

The past year's twists and turns by the NUJ over wages policy illustrates that all the members do not share a full understanding of democracy, in spite of the fact that all

## NUT Conference leaves much to be done

THE weeks leading up to the National Union of Teachers' Conference this Easter augured well for the determination of teachers to maintain and improve their standard of living and the standard of education. Unfortunately, this excellent opposition to the Government's pay guidelines has not been consolidated and advanced by the policy just decided by Conference.

Conference failed to assert the Union's independence from any government incomes policy and did not decide to re-establish living standards achieved by the 1975 teachers salary settlement but rather chose to cling to the restoration of external relativities so that teachers rely on the failure or success of other unions to determine their salary claim.

In accepting the memorandum "Education Standards - Action Report 1978", Conference allowed its traditional power of deciding future NUT policy to be eroded, for this memorandum only rubber stamped past action in this arena and settled for such vague promises as "the new class size criteria for action be kept under constant review".

Conference chose to axe the debate on education standards prematurely so that amendments dealing specifically with the issues of class size, falling rolls and school closure were not discussed.

Falling rolls present a great threat to the education service but they also provide a great opportunity to go on the offensive and improve the standard of education by using falling rolls to reduce class size. This can only be achieved if teachers take a principled stand on this issue

by opposing the closure of schools because of falling rolls: equally they must demand no reduction in school staffing establishments through redeployment. No such principled stand was taken by Conference but rather the Union is only demanding that we be consulted before we are redeployed.

Nonetheless, this memorandum was amended so that action can be requested against redeployment if the policies laid down in union memoranda on conditions of service and education standards have not been substantially achieved. Since the excellent memorandum on conditions of service passed by Conference in 1975 has lain dormant, conditions of service, far from being improved, have deteriorated in some areas.

In view of the need to fight for a better working life it is encouraging that a later motion on conditions of service was passed that called for a nationally uniform contract of service including security of tenure, protection from compulsory transfer, a guaranteed one-fifth of the week for preparation and marking time in all types of schools and that no teacher be required to teach a group in excess of the maximum size laid down by Union policy. Such conditions will only be won if they are fought for in the schools.

Teachers are beginning to move onto the offensive. The offensive must be strengthened. Our Party's line is improve education: no school closures; no transfers; use falling rolls to achieve smaller classes. This must become the line of all teachers.

claim to be democrats. What is the point of conference deciding wages policy if the Executive Council, Industrial Councils and a large section of the membership then ignore it? That happened after last year's conference.

Social democrats fought fiercely to keep their shabby social contract alive at conference and narrowly won the vote. Later they turned a blind eye to claims exceeding the Government's guidelines. Some who fought to smash the social contract were not bothered about the vote being lost since they ignore conference decisions anyway. That is not democracy.

Is it so surprising that many NUJ members were baffled by this turn of events? Democracy involves discipline. It requires that trades unionists accept the consequences of their policy-making bodies and therefore act accordingly. Journalists cannot afford to assert that conference is the sovereign body of their union if they act otherwise. That is the road to the union's collapse.

Even though there are no motions down 'union democracy' as such, it lies at the root of all decisions in view of the continuing prob-

lem facing the union: that of reaction by members to orders from the National Executive. There have been several worrying examples in the past year of members refusing to take industrial action when ordered to do so. Only if there is discipline at all levels of the union can the membership be expected to act in a united and disciplined fashion.

The demand for an inquiry into the workings of the NUJ offers the membership either a chance to generate a more democratic internal structure or a chance to use the present structure more democratically. It will also lead to an understanding about the need for discipline once decisions have been made.

There is a move, however, to do just the opposite: to settle the problem of anti-democratic behaviour by attempting to impose on members the discipline of other print unions. The call for a single media union is misguided in that it attempts to ignore the real problems evidenced in the NUJ membership. It is an attack on the NUJ because its fundamental premise is that the NUJ is not itself an effective unit of struggle. Unity has to stem

## BUDGET cont. from p.1

anyway. The fastest growing sector of the British economy, as the *Financial Times* pointed out on April 3, is the tax avoidance industry. Companies have been so successful in exploiting such tax avoidance schemes as 'reverse annuities', 'plant leasing', 'interest deduction' and 'commodity carry' that the Government has had to admit that the whole foundation of the tax structure is threatened. And the 'top people' themselves have plenty of private schemes, like payment in kind and the services of experts in tax dodging, to reduce the personal taxes they pay without any help from Healey.

## Success at SH

THE Swan Hunter boiler-makers on April 4 voted overwhelmingly in favour of a pay agreement which will end the inter-union pay disputes and enable the workers at Swan Hunter to concentrate their efforts on collective bargaining with the employer.

The agreement will give craftsmen £83 a week and other workers £72. But more important, it included the setting up of a joint negotiating committee to handle annual pay talks on behalf of the entire workforce at Swan Hunters.

## LETTERS COLUMN

Dear Editor,

Two of the rapidly increasing number of Britain's young unemployed have recently committed suicide. What does capitalism care? It sends out its condolences through one of its spokesmen, it advises other unemployed youngsters not to give up hope and tells their parents to give them all the support and encouragement they can. This tells us to accept youth unemployment, to bite our teeth while our children are tortured. But we will not. We must take the places of employment into our own hands and thereby show that we are not prepared to let a single one of the 800,000 and more out-of-work young be killed in the future by a system which makes them reject themselves.

One of the suicides had no qualifications and had been on the dole for eight months. The other had a university degree, but had been looking for work for three years. Our system will not allow us to develop our skills or train us for new ones. It makes us feel wasted. We must build socialist Britain and thereby abolish unemployment.

Yours fraternally,  
Oxford worker

**Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW 5**  
**Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds**  
**Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol**  
**Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton**  
**Liverpool bookstall**  
**Every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool**

## 'The Worker'

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

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

## Public Meeting

Wednesday,  
April 26th, 7.30 pm -  
'To Hell with Wage Restraint'  
Brighton Workers Bookshop,  
37 Gloucester Road, Brighton

## Glass battle

EARLIER this year a claim for a 25 per cent increase was submitted to the employers by the Furniture Timber and Allied Trades Union on behalf of workers in the Flat Glass Industry.

The employers, reluctant to break the government guidelines, offered 5.5 per cent increase plus consolidation of Phase I and II of the pay policy. But the FTAT, having never supported pay restrictions, negotiated consolidation plus 10 per cent, meaning 13-14 per cent in real terms.

The victory is not whether the original claim of 25 per cent was attained or not, but the fact that the Union negotiated the best rise for the industry and with their own union muscle.

The ground work is now laid to break away from government guideline mentality - it must not be lost.