



HANDS OFF OUR UNIONS

Capitalism hits back

THE GENERAL ELECTION is bad for us - the working class. At the time when we were getting the capitalist dog back in the kennel, nearly muzzled, comes, by design, this attempt to sow confusion in our ranks. We have been so clear and so unified: Labour stood indicted as the enemy of the working class and now it has another chance to pose as the lesser evil.

The main issue of this election is the capitalist counter-attack on the trade unions. The role of the trade unions has been obvious in the recent battles to defend our standard of living by a vindication of collective bargaining. From the hundred per cent Ford strike, right through the strikes of lorry drivers, provincial journalists, local government workers, nurses, ambulancemen, hospital workers, civil servants and down to the industrial action on which teachers are about to embark, the trade unions have been the agency used by the working class to prosecute its fight for survival against capitalism. That is why all the capitalist political parties are making an attack on the unions the core of their election campaign. Strikes by permission after duly sponsored negotiations, restricted picketing to render industrial action toothless and secret ballots to substitute their phoney democracy of the hustings for our genuine working class democracy - these are capitalism's demands on the politicians. The Tories would comply with this demand by legislating the unions into ineffectiveness, as they tried to do with the Industrial Relations Act. Labour would comply by trying to press another social contract onto us under the name of a Concordat.

We say to all these ladies and gentlemen falling all over themselves in their eagerness to do their master's bidding and expecting us to endorse their actions against us by voting for one lot or the other: hands off our unions! We made them to fight the greedy exploitative force you represent. As long as we need them we shall defend them, and none of you nor any combination of you will destroy them, because we know that it is the way you intend to destroy us.



The General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers addressing delegates to the Union's Annual Conference in Scarborough. The Conference, confronted with Government-inspired intransigence over a salary claim for rises averaging 35% has taken the decision to prepare for the withdrawal of teachers' goodwill. It's guerrilla struggle in the schools.

Victory for civil servants over government

THIS WEEK has seen civil service union members voting on the national executives' recommendation to accept the employer's latest pay offer, which averages around 16 per cent for the year.

Civil servants, many for the first time having taken industrial action, will return to work confident and united. The Society of Civil and Public Servants and the Civil and Public Services Association have declared that their pay rates rest in their hands and that comparability exercises are irrelevant; dissatisfaction with the Pay Research Unit is widespread. The other civil

service unions, new to struggle, have played their parts and must now come into the reckoning when the Government next takes on the civil servants.

The fight for this claim showed tremendous clarity in understanding and effectiveness of organisation. Despite efforts to settle cheaply by some, either because of lack of confidence in the membership or so as not to embarrass the Labour Government during the election, the membership saw through such attempts at diversion and ignored them.

Despite this, there are some who still cling to the notion of a "fair wage", as

though such a thing can exist under capitalism, and to the idea that the struggle should be waged in a genteel fashion. It is around this that the employer will hope to focus his undoubted counter-attack, which will take the form of cash limits and massive cut-backs in staffing levels, i.e., trading wages for jobs. Both major parties have intimated this, so the General Election holds no hope for civil servants, whichever party gets elected.

What the civil servants have done because of their victory is to start on that long journey - from humble acquiescence to open revolt!

NUT Conf. - modest advance

ON THE surface of it, the Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers was a calm and unruffled affair and on practically all questions a modest advance was secured without a lot of labour.

There were revealed, however, deep stirrings beneath the surface and this Conference clearly heard the views which it will come to adopt in the years ahead.

The Conference has decided that action must now proceed to remove all classes over 30, whether in primary or secondary schools. It eschewed the notion, eloquently

put, of fighting now for a maximum class size of 25. But the seeds of new thinking about oversize classes have been sown.

Falling rolls is a major question before the union and one that has failed as yet to arouse the passion that it should. The opportunity for significant advance in educational standards as the child population falls has been ruthlessly denied by Government and local authorities.

The Conference did not fully grapple with this question but did however lay down

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Communist Party of Britain
Marxist-Leninist

May Day Meeting 1979

**No peace with capitalism
One solution -
revolution**

Conway Hall
Red Lion Square
Holborn WC1
Tuesday May 1
7.30 p.m.

Other May Day venues

Swarthmore Education Centre, Woodhouse Square,
off Hanover Way, Leeds 3.
Sunday April 29, 2:30pm

International Centre, Gwydir Street, Cambridge.
Saturday April 28 8:00pm

Shepherds Hall, Old Market, Bristol.
Tuesday May 1 8:00pm

AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3.
Wednesday May 2, 7:30pm

Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham.
Saturday April 28, 8:00pm

HULL Fishing Action Committee at its latest meeting has come up with positive proposals to combat the destruction of this industry. Among these are an investigation into the cost of running a trawler co-operatively, a campaign to buy only Hull-landed fish, and to focus May Day activity on the issue. The disregard of the employers for jobs is illustrated by the announcement of J. Marr, the fish processors, that 120 more jobs would go. They were hoping to blackmail the government into subsidising them. But the redundancies were withdrawn as soon as the Election was announced, and the monies are unlikely to be paid to them.

AS THE last Concorde left the production line at Filton for its maiden flight, the latest estimate is that because it spends so little time in the air relative to other aircraft, it will have a life expectancy of at least twenty years, far more than its competitors, although properly speaking it has none. Yet British workers who created this miracle of engineering are now condemned to producing merely the wings of the EEC Airbus. And even these are fitted into the fuselage abroad.

BRITISH capital invests more abroad than foreign capital in Britain, £19 billion as opposed to £14 billion in 1977, according to the latest review for Lloyds Bank Capital, as the Bank shows, has withdrawn particularly from manufacturing industry, with foreign firms tending to import directly rather than invest in production in Britain itself. British firms have not aimed at progress within Britain, but "exploited their advantages in the less advanced industries", by leaving them that way and investing overseas.

THE POLICE and their supporters are not having it all their own way in the contribution of evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure. Police conduct at trials is such, according to the Senate of the Inns of Court, representing judges and barristers, that juries are increasingly reluctant to accept the unsubstantiated police version of events as grounds of guilt. The Legal Action Group, representing 3 500 lawyers argues that the only way to stop police abuse is to exclude evidence illegally obtained, and as a first step calls for no statements to be used in court unless obtained in the presence of a solicitor. Mistrust of the police is clearly not confined to the public alone.

IN SPITE of China's naked act of aggression against Vietnam, the Vietnamese are urging the rapid restoration of the "traditional friendship of the Vietnamese and Chinese people". They propose the establishment of a demilitarised zone across which railways, air links, postal services and so forth should be resumed. Restoration of the normal relations of peaceful co-existence responds to the desire for peace and stability of the peoples of Southeast Asia and the World. They urge agreement on peace measures to bring about an early reunion with their families of those captured by either side during the fighting.

It is obvious that unless teachers are prepared to accept a pitifully small increase this year then they will have a struggle on their hands. They would do well to examine their history as they prepare for the forthcoming battle.

TEACHERS organised in the NUT have a proud record of struggle to improve conditions in education. Successful campaigns have been fought not only on salaries but on many aspects of education in the country.

One outstanding example of the courage, discipline and determination of NUT members in conducting a campaign is that of the Lowestoft schools strike in 1923.

In 1922 a special conference of the NUT reluctantly accepted a 5 per cent cut in salaries for 1923-24. National scales were recommended by the government, but it made it clear that these scales would not be imposed on local authorities. Encouraged by this some authorities sought to

make more severe cuts than 5 per cent.

Lowestoft was one of these authorities. The authority announced a 10 per cent reduction in salaries for teachers. This was immediately challenged by the NUT. The education committee started to sack teachers. Acting as one, 167 members of the NUT withdrew their labour. The authority brought in replacement teachers but were astounded when the parents of 1600 pupils refused to send their children to school as a gesture of support for the strikers.

The authority reacted by issuing summonses on the parents and threatening to withdraw financial assistance from scholarship holders.

In the meantime the strikers opened classes in community halls for those pupils not attending schools.

Against great hostility the teachers persisted until eventually the Board of Education had to intervene. After inspecting the 'official' and 'unofficial' schools the Board withdrew financial aid from the Lowestoft authority. The 'official' schools were found to be so bad that the Board would not tolerate them.

The Lowestoft education committee quickly approached the NUT and negotiations began. An agreement which was highly favourable to the teachers was reached. Thus after 11 months of struggle the NUT members emerged triumphant.

Lowestoft was not an isolated case. Southampton, Tyneside and teachers in South Wales took on their employers in similar struggles.



There will be plenty of willing hands to repair any earthquake damage in Albania. All the railway lines have been constructed by volunteer youth. Blocks of residential flats are built by voluntary labour, the state supplying materials. Under socialism, workers can afford to contribute their labour power for the general good.

Telegram to the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania.

We send our sympathy and concern to those Albanians who have suffered in the recent earthquake. It gives us satisfaction to know that in a socialist country everything will be done for their relief and for the reconstruction of all damaged buildings.

Reg Birch, Chairman, CPB(ML).

Elections are violence in Zimbabwe

THE PRESENT campaign for so-called elections in Rhodesia has meant an unprecedented deployment of military force within and without the country. People are displaced at gunpoint to polling stations whose only guarantee is naked military force.

The increase of guerrilla activity against Smith and the internal settlement is such that 80 per cent of the territory has come under martial law in the last few months. The so-called election marks an attempt to raise military domination to 100 per cent. To no avail. So little does the US and British weaponry of Smith convince the Zimbabwe people that the regime is talking about a 50 per cent poll as a victory.

That the elections are no more than a military exercise in coercion is shown by the conditions attached to the vote itself. For

at least ten years, whites will retain 28 out of 100 seats in the House of Assembly. Elections for these have already been held, giving Smith's Rhodesia Front all 28. Cabinet posts in the new government of 'national unity' will in proportion to seats held, so that the white racist regime will hold nearly a third of the posts, while whites account for under one twentieth of the population.

Not that the Rhodesia Front need mind sharing its power, since it has no opponents in the elections, but only allies. Muzorewa and all the others have won the right to participate by being as bloodthirsty and oppressive towards the people as Smith himself, black and white bourgeoisie united under the tattered flag of Christianity.

Meanwhile the weakness of the regime is more than ever apparent. Not only is the white

population in absolute decline, but they cannot even protect vital installations. Only recently half a million gallons of oil were blown up.

The regime's response has been to lash out across the borders into the Zambian capital, Lusaka. This is yet another example of terrorism - people alone, above all civilians as in previous raids into Mozambique, and elsewhere, are the target. For all that they are so vicious, the increasing reliance on such tactics are the clearest proof of the desperation of the Smith regime and its supporters.

"Lashing out like a wild beast, crossing borders in attempts to escape, turning on its own at home" - this is what THE WORKER wrote about the US in Vietnam, and it applies as much to that creature of US and British imperialism, the Smith regime in Zimbabwe.

CHILEAN workers must first and foremost rely on themselves to rid their country from the military junta now in control of Chile, a Trade Union Conference on Chile held in London was told by delegates from the floor. The struggle of British workers is the best support their brothers in Chile can have for that weakens international capitalism from which the fascist regime in Chile receives its sustenance and support.

Despite the savage repression the Chilean people are fighting through their illegal unions and mass organisations. The 'Labour Plan' introduced by the junta stipulating who can and who cannot stand for elections have been rejected, the representative of the Chilean TUC informed the Conference.

Reports of acts of solidarity by British workers all over the country were given.

Rolls Royce successfully blacked aero engines for the Chilean Airforce for nearly five years until they were stolen away in the dead of night; they black engines for the Civil Airways now.

Shop stewards from Liverpool docks told how they blacked perishable goods and Northamptonshire drivers said that they refused to carry any loads to or from Chile. Many seamen refused to serve on ships that visited Chile and CPSA had done much work to smooth out the numerous problems that Chilean exiles face in Britain.

China crusades for capitalism

THE VICAR-GENERAL of the Jesuits in Rome, the 'black Pope' as he is known, has confirmed rumours that the Chinese Government under Deng Xiaoping is negotiating for a return of a Jesuit presence in China. The hideous nature of the Chinese gangsters is becoming clearer every day. So-called 'modernisation' has heralded the introduction of capitalist techniques in Chinese industries. In will come the western-style piece-rates and competitive aggressiveness, and out will go China's socialist record of no inflation or unemployment.

Not content with that, Deng Xiaoping is eager for a 'super alliance', with NATO and China combining against the 'Soviet threat'. To illustrate how valuable China will be in the third world war, Deng Xiaoping next tramples over the war-weary Vietnamese people at the very time when the consolidation of socialism was beginning to take form in Vietnam. And so with a return to 'balance of power' mentality, with a return to capitalism in industry, with a return to unemployment and inflation we now have the triumphant return of the Church.

Perhaps the notion is that instead of overthrowing their exploiters the Chinese workers will instead be too busy praying to God. Or perhaps the next invasion by the Chinese in S.E. Asia will be in the guise of a 'Holy War', as well as an overt attack on the working class and peasantry in those areas. And all this wretched misery and wholesale murder the British bourgeoisie has called 'progress'

Editorial

THE COMMUNIST Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) has just held its Fifth Party Congress. This Congress took place at a time when the world communist movement appears in considerable confusion and disarray. The survival of socialism and the future of communism depend on the proletariat of the advanced industrial countries moving to revolution. The British working class and our Marxist-Leninist Party must accept the responsibility which falls upon it, arising from its own particular historical development.

The abandonment of socialism in China and the aggressive assault on a neighbouring country is the same kind of setback for the world working class as the Soviet Union's defection from socialism twenty years ago.

The ability of a working class to seize power, to make a revolution, is not in doubt and has been proven many times - Russia in 1917, China, Vietnam and Albania. What has been put in doubt by the counter-revolutions in Russia and China and has not yet been proven is the capacity of a working class, having made the revolution, successfully to build and to hold onto the socialist society.

The international proletariat has witnessed failure and setback and received a devastating blow to morale, first in Soviet Russia and the Eastern European peoples' democracies, now in China. If capitalism under revisionist leadership retakes a socialist citadel, as it did after Stalin's death with Khrushchev's clique and after the death of Mao Tseung and Chou En-lai with the Hua and Teng cliques, where were the workers? Where were the independent organs of a working class capable of challenging the emerging revisionist apparatus which was seizing hold of the socialist state to transform it into capitalism?

The first and foremost precondition of the maintenance of the dictatorship of the proletariat on which the continuation of socialism rests is the active control that the working class exercises over its society and through its state. Involvement at the invitation of the party or the government is not enough. The working class must really be in command.

Up till now socialist revolutions have occurred in countries where the industrial aspect has not been dominant, where the proletariat has been in the minority and where often the tradition of autonomous working class organisations were not deep rooted. The special responsibility of the British working class and others is not only to move to revolution, but also to demonstrate conclusively that the dictatorship of the proletariat can be consolidated and retained.

Two centuries of organisation

Over 200 years of class struggle have given British workers a tradition of organisation, democracy, discipline, knowledge, an accumulated experience, all this the property of their mass organisations. Within our class we have all the abilities and skills required to run our country in a socialist way. The character of the British working class is such that if once convinced of the need to discard social democracy and embrace its own natural ideology, revolution, it will pose new questions and formulate new solutions to the whole challenge of retaining control in a workers' dictatorship.

This Congress took place at a time when British capitalism, like world capitalism, is in a state of absolute decline. But when the class enemy is in rout and retreat that is when he is most vicious, most the skulking but ravaging hyaena.

In a wave of unity and clarity the British working class has reasserted the right of collective bargaining against attempts at fixing wages by government fiat. A new wave of reaction to this upsurge has already begun. The counter-attack on the trade unions which is the agency of the workers' class struggle over wages has been launched from all sides.

We must hold onto that same unity and clarity and raise it to a higher power not just to limit the damage and destruction capitalism inflicts on us and on the country but to expel capitalism from our land for good. When can that happen? The moment of revolution is the mind of the working class that has become communist. The working class is the only revolutionary force and we have to have a revolution to stay alive. Survival itself, in capitalism's present plight, has become revolutionary.

This is also true in terms of the wars capitalism inevitably provokes with the idea of making workers do the fighting. Our Party opposes war. It stands for peace, which is the dearest wish of the world's people. Workers must not only declare themselves for peace but must organise for it and wreck the plans of the warmongers. Imperialism launches wars to redivide the world, to grab markets, land and resources, to further oppress and, particularly, to divide workers. But when workers in the midst of this abomination take up arms in civil war; when workers, unprovoked by war, overthrow with force their capitalist rulers in naked class struggle, they do so to remove the source of their oppression and gain emancipation. This is revolution and not war.

For the British working class the main enemy is British imperialism and its partners. Our Party stands for the expulsion of all foreign troops from Britain and Europe, and especially of course for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. We call on our working class, so opposed to the EEC, to wake up to the danger of NATO bases on our Island's soil and get rid of them. Toleration of NATO is toleration of imperialism, toleration of the prospect of war.

It is the duty of the proletariat to enforce peace against the wishes of capitalism. It is the aspiration of the proletariat to achieve socialism and thereby guarantee lasting world peace.

Food for the world's peoples

MOST of the world's countries are dependencies, colonies truly called: they do not rely on their own resources, but, to a greater or lesser extent, on others'. There is no 'Third World' of independent sovereign nations, each developing in its own way.

Dependent countries develop dependent agriculture, an agriculture for the profit of multi-national corporations and therefore at odds with the needs of the people. The imperatives for capitalist agriculture are: firstly, meat production which demands a 10 fold loss in human food available from any given area; and secondly, monoculture - the raising of cash-crops for luxuries like cocoa, coffee or tea which are valueless nutritionally, but whose production uses, or rather abuses, 250,000 square miles of the world's precious agricultural land. Monoculture increases the dangers of plant-disease and soil-exhaustion; it is profligate, inefficient and ends in unstable prices, and contrived glut.

British agriculture is following this pattern more and more; two thirds of our home-grown cereal goes to livestock, which squanders 90 per cent of the original vegetable protein: we import £3600 million worth of food a year.

British agriculture

Furthermore 'agribusiness' is destroying traditional skills of cooking, market gardening and husbandry, and perverting the skills of plant-breeder and scientist. Instead of using agricultural machines to serve and extend skills, the 'convenience food' industry introduces machines to destroy skills, to destroy our class. Three out of 4 agricultural jobs have been lost since 1945 - we must fight against casualisation, for skills, for an expanding

agriculture.

But the worst threat to British agriculture is the Common Agricultural Policy, the EEC's monster. It aims to fit agriculture into irrational, declining capitalism, and seeks to destroy our agriculture by specialisation into a job-lot of monocultures.

UNCTAD farce

This crisis of agricultural run-down is developing everywhere - what remedy is there? At the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), we will hear a lot of nonsense talked, that there must be remittance of debt charges, more aid, transfer of technology, a common fund for stabilising commodity prices. That capitalists must sell their plant and invest the proceeds in banks devoted to the needs of the hungry. That industries in Europe, like textiles and footwear, should be run down and abolished. Those who put faith in these misleading calls should ask why there has been no progress but only decline since the last UNCTAD in 1976, or the one before, or the one before...

Turkey, for instance, has been receiving aid for reconstruction since 1947, it has tried to develop big capital, to remit its debts, buy technology, stabilise its prices, and rely on banks - like the IMF! The result? Today 20 per cent are officially jobless, factories run at half capacity, and inflation has reached 70 per cent.

It is estimated that another \$5½ billion aid is needed in the next four years. But this will not remedy the growing trade deficit, and external debt (\$12,408 million in 1978), nor the dependence on agricultural exports, repression and martial law. The OECD and IMF remedy? Cut welfare spending, cut back industrial develop-

ment, rely on market forces and allow more direct investment!

Self-reliance

As THE WORKER, number 12 1976, pointed out about the last UNCTAD, there are "2 lines: the socialist line of self-reliance in development, controlling one's own resources, land reform and industrialisation, and the capitalist line, of relying on foreign investment, aid, trade and technology, which depends on foreign commodity deals and foreign industry. This second line means adapting to a system in absolute decline, means anti-industrialisation and the destruction of agriculture, means in finality, counter-revolution."

Dependence, which is enforced by imperialism, prevents all-round agricultural and industrial development everywhere. Capitalism in absolute decline works to destroy agriculture and industry. Kissinger at the 1974 World Food Conference spoke of "the inadequacy of the nation-state and the emerging imperative of the global community" - a transparent attack on self-reliance, and an equally transparent attempt to impose dependence.

What is misleadingly called the 'population explosion' is the mass of unemployed and under-employed in agricultural societies suffering imperialist exploitation. The masses of peasants and workers are not too many people with too few resources: they are the resource. They will and must make and be their countries' agriculture and industry. They will end poverty and hunger the only way it can be done - by ending exploitation by capital: they will end dependence they only way it can be ended - by fighting for independence, for revolution and self-reliance.

Typhoid threat as expenditure cuts hit sewers

THE CUTBACKS in capital expenditure of water authorities are resulting in serious dangers to health as well as generally disrupting our way of life. Especially worrying are the ageing sewers currently in use. Most of these were built between 60 and 100 years ago and many are now coming to the end of their lives.

It is estimated that it would cost £18 billion to replace the antiquated system but cutbacks

mean that replacement programmes become a lottery. Already Manchester has seven current major sewer collapses including one where half a street disappeared.

Other regions admit that similar disasters could happen in their areas. In the South West for instance the Water Authority planned a major investigation of Exeter's sewers and water mains involving television inspections and diving teams - but this has

now been shelved because of the cutbacks. The Federation of Engineering Contractors recently said 'we feel this to be a matter of very serious concern in view of the extremely unpleasant accident and health risks that could well be involved.'

Cutting public expenditure in this area will inevitably result in the return of typhoid and related diseases. Such is the filth and degradation that capitalism would have for us.

No reforms - out of the EEC now!

VARIOUS politicians have suddenly discovered that the EEC is a bad thing. That hopeful vision 'Jobs for the boys' has faded, and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been discovered. Callaghan is outraged at what he originally wanted us to accept - food mountains, price rises and industrial decline administered, reinforced and exacerbated by a foreign bureaucracy.

The latest round in this growing movement 'against' the EEC is the 'discovery' that Britain is the largest net contributor to the Community (though this was planned before the referendum in 1975).

It is an important step forward that the politicians be forced to reflect the growing resentment of the British people, but it is typical that they should do so in such a way as to bolster the very

organisation they pretend to oppose.

Britain's entry terms should be renegotiated, they say. CAP should be reformed. But such miseries as the food mountains and steel closures are not blemishes to be polished away, but a true representation of the nature and purposes of the EEC.

The Common Market was formed after considerable prodding from the USA; the intention was that it should help in the fight against communism internationally as well as external. Together with NATO it would legally, and therefore 'legitimately', override national boundaries in suppressing the aspirations of the workers of individual lands. The aims were capitalist - secure the means and the result. Increased exploitation, mergers, closures, waste, unemployment.

We cannot have an 'anti-EEC'

campaign directed at renegotiating terms. The horror of the EEC does not come from the fact that Britain contributes more to the coffers. It is because the coffers are filled at all - filled by our taxes to maintain a bastion of reaction and exploitation in Europe. Would we have a campaign which has its basis that though the Monster shall still feed on us, French and Germans should be fed to it first, and more of them the better it is? Besides setting the working class of one nation against another it only ensnares us further in the structure - and the oppression remains.

The EEC must be smashed because it is an enemy of the people. No cosmetics, no negotiation can change that fact. Our attack on the EEC must not be hijacked by such dishonest reformism. Out of the EEC now!

NUT conference from p.1.

a broad set of objectives which teachers throughout the country can turn to. In particular, the Conference called for no decline in curriculum breadth, sought the employment of all teachers seeking a job, and called for improvements in staffing. The Conference also called for consultation before school closure. It will be for teachers, along with parents and the trade union movement to turn consultation into conservation of the country's schools.

The union is painstakingly coming to the realisation that incomes policy must be opposed. It has called for the removal of the Government representatives from Burnham, the negotiating body for teachers' pay, and it has called for an end to the compulsory arbitration procedures.

But the union has yet to shake itself free of the incomes policy embrace.

The present claim seeks to restore the salary differentials which existed before the social contract. The divisiveness of the 'egalitarian' social contract was accepted by the union and in order to rectify the injustices a new divisiveness is adopted in favour of the higher paid. The demand of the immediate future, for a common percentage increase, was expressed but not adopted. And incomes policy has not yet been expressly condemned even though its imposition has led to a 36 per cent decline in teachers' salaries relative to comparable jobs.

The Conference, determined to declare its opposition to racialism, was warned that "positive discrimination in favour of ethnic groups" threatens the unity of a working class rather than strengthens it.

And delegates tempted by terms for early retirement were warned that the teaching profession, in the absence of proper safeguards, was in danger of serious depletion.

On both latter counts the advice was not taken. Bitter experience will be a poor alternative in proving the point.

One of the strengths of the NUT is its independence of any political party. Though attempts were made to smuggle in affinity with and even allegiance to the Labour Party, the efforts were in vain. The Conference never became a jamboree for Labour and the Conference steadfastly returned to its proper job. The interests of education were well served but new truths have yet to be squarely faced.

IN BRIEF/Home News

FORDS latest declared profits (how true to fact we don't know) were close to £250 million. Yet Beckett wished for more, profits of £400 million. He pointed to the victorious nine-week strike as a factor in the loss of profit. Did the Ford workers really share out the missing £150 million profit between themselves in higher wages? Would they did. British Leyland workers need the unity of the Ford workers, and not the break-away action of the toolroom men, in the face of government plans for destruction.

Jobs fight goes on at Speke Armed forces get 24 per cent

WITH UNEMPLOYMENT over 11 per cent in Liverpool, Dunlop has just made 2400 workers redundant at Speke. In addition, 250 workers have received redundancy notices at Inchinnan in Scotland, while 500 jobs have been cut at Fort Dunlop in Birmingham. There are also redundancies at Walton and Coventry.

The redundancies come from industrial rundown in other sectors, particularly in car production. Where there were four major vehicle manufacturers in Britain not so long ago, there is now just Leyland. Closure of vehicle plants in recent years plus the encouragement of cheap imports of tyres from Eastern Europe has meant a reduction in jobs since 1973 of over 26 per cent in tyre production

jobs alone. A fight not put up earlier in other parts of industry has forced a fight on component suppliers, like Dunlop workers, now.

Speke is presenting Dunlop with the toughest resistance so far. Closure at Speke, if carried through, will cost the taxpayers £21 million. Liverpool workers will pay a higher unquantifiable price because they are fighting to save the city, and their livelihoods and a future for their children.

Dunlop products have been blocked at ports and airports. Round-the-clock picketing and disruption of supplies to other Dunlop factories is intended to force the re-opening of Speke. Meanwhile workers at Inchinnan are threatening to strike over a

pay claim.

But management is threatening to use helicopters to fly materials into Fort Dunlop because picketing on the ground is so strong. Many lorry drivers have refused to cross picket lines, while railway workers have been contacted by Speke workers to prevent movement of products by rail.

Last year Leyland closed Speke No. 2 plant with thousands of redundancies. Dunlop workers note that for some time now at Speke investment has been low while the profitable motorcycle section has been moved elsewhere. Its got to end somewhere and Speke Dunlop workers could well turn the tide of closures. All support to save our industries.

THE ONLY section of employees exempt from the government's continued attempts at wage restraint are military personnel. While teachers and civil servants have had to take industrial action to wrest an increase on the 9 per cent originally offered, other sections such as railway workers have been unable to take on the burden of strike action and have accepted. But military personnel, without even the threat of action, are to receive a rise of 24 per cent backdated to April 1.

The government's concern is not to build up the economy, but armed forces. They squander our wealth, which they exact in taxes, on weapons of destruction and more money to the men and women they can only bribe into using them.

The need to increase their pay shows how little they can count on their loyalty.

Nor will the increase necessarily be enough to stem the flow from the forces. The government itself admits that the problems of manpower in the services are more than merely monetary, but stem from the increasing unwillingness of men and women in the services to accept the servile conditions and restrictions on individual liberty demanded.

No wonder people are refusing blind obedience, when faced with the stupidity allied to the traditional callousness of the War Office, who send their rawest recruits to their deaths in Ireland. They are so inept that British schoolchildren as young as 17, part-time cadets, are trained to be murderers and become cannon fodder on Irish streets.

No wonder, too, that civilian trade unions have recently found some response from the military personnel they have tried to recruit. The latest pay offer is a feeble offer to persuade servicemen that their grievances and demands will be met by their superiors without the necessity for independent organisation of subordinates. That cannot be, as the murderous use to which the capitalist war machine is put, places on the men who serve in it demands which they cannot in humanity accept.



Engineers' victory at Perkins

THE WORLD'S biggest diesel engine plant, Perkins of Peterborough, is working again. But the management must still be wondering what hit them.

Readers of THE WORKER will remember the strike of thousands of AUEW members at Perkins in 1973. That strike was well conducted and successful, pushing the employer back from an entrenched position. Then, as now, the highly skilled engineers were conscious of their role in making Perkins a world leader in diesel engines, 85 per cent of which are sold abroad. They demanded payment then, and got it.

More recently, the large AUEW membership put in a claim for parity with fellow engineers working at Massey Ferguson, which owns Perkins. Massey Ferguson, remember, recently forced many redundancies at its British plants while simultaneously answering that they were going to invest in plant in Pakistan, making the same agricultural machinery as was made here until the redundancies. Trade unions are not as well established in Pakistan as they are in Britain, so no AUEW member owes

Massey Ferguson (Perkins) any favours.

So when Perkins management made a meal of negotiations, the workers took the initiative. On April 6, 7000 AUEW members occupied the factory. Security staff and management were told by the engineers that they could go home early. A number of barricades were built and strong pickets were mounted on all the gates.

After five days of occupation the point had been made. A mass meeting decided to return to the negotiating table, warning the action would be repeated unless management coughed up. Having lost £10 million worth of production in five days, the company made a sensible offer which was acceptable to the workforce. On average, wages will rise by £14 per week.

This action should be a sharp warning to Massey Ferguson not to get too stropky. Multinationals have feet of clay when we decide to take them on. Ask Ford. The action at Perkins is also a warning to any new government that will 'sort out' the unions. It occurred in the middle of an election campaign when we were all supposed

to be on our best behaviour, we were told, so as not to embarrass Labour's campaign. Did somebody mention the Concordat?

And what happened to the Criminal Law Act, which was designed to prevent organised workers taking action like this? 7000 outlaws.

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Public Meetings

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Don't vote for Capitalism
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