

# THE WORKER



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## May Day 1978, battle sharpens at home and abroad

# REAL INTERNATIONALISM BEGINS AT HOME

MAYDAY 1978

AT the May Day meeting of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) in Conway Hall, the Chairman of the Party, Reg Birch, demanded of the British working class, "When are we going to stand for collective bargaining?"

"For 12 years we have had wage restraint of one kind or another. There have been diversions, deviations and evasions on the part of our working class. The first frontal against phase three, the Callaghan-Healey guidelines which ought to have been a non-starter anyway, was the Fire Brigades Union and where was the solidarity of the trade union movement?"

"We fought a long, hard, primitive, elementary struggle against the Heath mob, against the Industrial Relations Act, in defence of trade unions, in defence of the working class to earn its living and to bargain for it. We have to get that mass involved in collective bargaining, cheat that it is, that will be a great step forward. We must not believe that we can have a strike about differentials or about manning, that we can have Speke shut down after a 17 week strike. We must fight for the right to work; we must fight for wages at work; we

must end wage slavery.

"There is a great urgency about the situation in Britain, and much confusion too. The figure of 1.5 million unemployed takes no account of school leavers, no account whatsoever of many part-time workers, no account of many women who have been driven out of industry and have become resigned to the prospect of unemployment. The real figure is greater. It's no longer possible to go down the road to another factory when we are made redundant. What about making for Dover or Harwich to take our skills across the channel? In the Common Market the figure of unemployment is 6.5 million and by 1982 it is estimated that unemployment among youth alone will reach 9 million. In West Germany the doors have been slammed against guest workers. They're getting rid of the ones they have. In all the mountains that everyone talks about in Europe, of butter and of meat, the greatest mountain of all is a paper mountain of destruction of a European working class."

"In the international field I accuse those who start the hare about this imperialism being a greater enemy than that imperialism. All imperialism is the enemy of the

working class. We must destroy our own. We must destroy capitalism here. I accuse those who say, 'let's have a head count. We are one, two, three worlds. The third world shall we support because they are so oppressed. We make the mistake of distinguishing such oppression from the exploitation workers suffer here in Britain when the two things are the same. We must rise up and say to a European working class: are we going to save ourselves?'"

"There are in Europe today parties claiming to be working class who are vacating their task of attending to their national task where they live—fighting the enemy, capitalism, where it is. They want seminars in Peking or somewhere to show us the problems. You will not solve the problems of Britain by theories extracted from Peking or anywhere else. They will be solved solely by the will, the power of the British working class, its clarity and the guidance it receives from this party."

"For 10 years now the CPB(ML) has existed. Very good. But it has been a very civilised and respectable 10 years. We must not look for slogans that make us sound like respectable dogooders. We mustn't run to a Joseph and say, 'will you please sign our paper that you're not really against immigration.' We must expose him as part and parcel of the plot to destroy education. Do not use a pretext to attack the enemy. Know the enemy. Accept the work to destroy him. Cram Callaghan's throat full of guidelines and the neutron bomb which, hypocrite that he is, he first welcomes and then, when the peanut man hesitates, quickly says, 'maybe not yet.'"

"I call upon our Party to do these things. I call upon all our sympathisers to believe that this is the way for internationalists in Britain to live and act."

WE denounce Britain's Defence Chief for his remarks in China: "our two countries are coming more and more together. This must be good because we both have an enemy at our door whose capital is Moscow." We denounce Hua Kuo-feng, China's Prime minister, whose line on international policy is such that it can be summed up by the representative of an imperialist power trying to sell war planes. There could be no greater betrayal of all Mao Tsetung stood for.

If these two gentlemen want war with Russia let them make their way to the frontier and fight it out on their own. We tell them that not the British working class, not the Chinese working class, not the Soviet working class are pawns to be moved about in their vicious, idiotic, inter-imperialist war games.

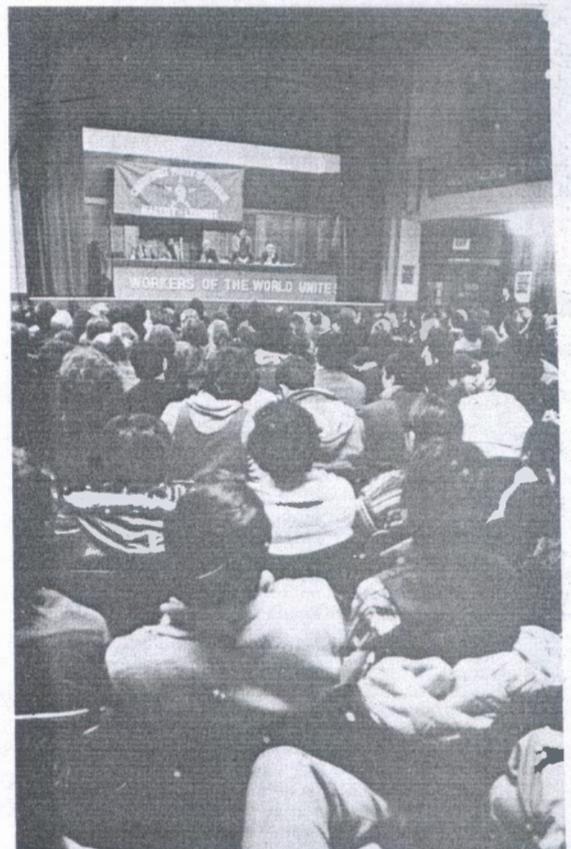
## Strike against pay policy

THE policy-making National Committee of the AUEW, concluding their meeting at Worthing, have come out in strong opposition to "any policy of wage restraint, no matter what government was in office. "A national claim must be pursued in "unfettered bargaining conditions with the full weight of industrial action used if necessary."

A target was set for the Union of an £80 minimum rate for skilled workers, five weeks holiday and moves to-

wards a 35 hour week.

The Department of Employment Gazette has pointed out that increasing the number of jobs in Britain by reducing the working week, extending annual holidays or cutting overtime, carries the risk of undermining the Government's policy of curbing inflation and maximising economic recovery. It's about time the Department of Employment honestly called itself the Department of Unemployment—which is what it is!



On May Day a packed Conway Hall listened to CPB(ML) speakers talking about Britain in a world context. (photo Nick Birch)

IN 1797 the fortunes of the British ruling class seemed to be waning; after 4 years of war Napoleon was triumphing over Europe. Britain and Ireland were on the point of rebellion and there was a run on the pound and the Bank of England. But more terrifying to the establishment was the mutiny of the fleets at Nore and Spithead.

There was discontent with food, pay, accommodation, conditions of service, punishments, leave and treatment of the sick and wounded. In a small ship 186 feet long and 52 feet wide, 1600 had to live, crowded together with only 14 inches space allowed between each man. Throughout the war press gangs raided inns, small towns and villages, knocking on the head any man they met or snatching him forcibly from his home. Free fights and riots from the victims did not stop the King's Men. Sailors returning from 3-year voyages, even before they could draw their pay, were seized and sent to war-ships for the duration. The prisons and poor-houses were scoured. It resembles the 'comb-out' of the First World

War by the army (the term illustrating the contempt of the establishment for ordinary men, a contempt which seems to be shared by a new breed of 'marxist-leninists'.)

Starved, half-frozen in leaking ships, these conscripts plus the innocents who had accepted bounties in the hope of paying their debts, began to articulate their grievances. These were many. For 150 years, pay had not increased; it was 6 shillings a week for an able-bodied seaman and 4 shillings and 9 pence for an ordinary seaman. A sailor was lucky if he got half his pay after paying into the Chatham Chest for the disabled, paying up to 2 months pay to a profiteering purser for his 'slops', his outfit. His pay was stopped if he was in sick-bay even with wounds received in battle, and his pay was always in arrears from 2 to 10 years.

The food was execrable - weavily biscuits, years-old meat as hard as mahogany and porridge so foul that even the pigs which were carried aboard refused it.

Water was flavoured with vinegar to hide the slimy taste, so scurvy was rife. To fall sick or wounded at sea was a death warrant and with little or no medical attention blood poisoning and epidemics caused more deaths than wounds. Badly wounded men were thrown alive overboard on the plea that they would die anyway. No shore leave was allowed lest the sailors did not return.

All these ills were overshadowed by the punishments, flogging which took the flesh off a man's back for the most trivial offence, up to 300 strokes. In the latter event a defaulter was given the alternative of hanging as a more merciful and just as sure a death.

Letters were sent to the Admiralty by sailors: 'We are nock about so that we do not know what to do. Every man in her would sooner be set at like a taregaite by Musketree than remain any longer in her'. 'We hope your Lordships will be kind to us and grant a new commander for the Captain is one of the most barbarous and inhuman officers that ever a sect of unfortunate men had the disagreeable misfortune of being with'. From the 'Charlotte' secretly and for months, the task of enrolling every man in the Spithead Fleet was undertaken. First they approached their admired old Admiral 'Black Dick Howe' but receiving no answer decided to petition the House of Commons and meanwhile would be 'Taking charge of the ships until we got a proper answer from the Government'.

On April 16 the Channel Fleet was ordered to sea and the sailors refused. The crew of the 'Charlotte' started by manning the shrouds and cheering. Every ship refused to sail. The leading delegates rowed from ship to ship giving news and instructions and the agreed demands, at the same time ensuring strict discipline on the crews. There was to be no drunkenness, sending messages ashore or insulting the officers. Demands were for better pay and conditions very modest ones but the Admiralty refused them all at first, later proposing a shilling for the able-bodied and nine pence for the rest, which was refused. New offers were also rejected until the King's Pardon had been

printed and rushed to Portsmouth on the seventh day of the mutiny. Sailors remembered former treachery of the Sea Lords who promised pardon to the 'Culloden' mutineers and then hanged them.

Once again the Admiralty blundered, sending secret messages to the captains to use the most stringent means to suppress any sign of mutiny. Men broke into the captain's cabin of the Duke to obtain the order. He had destroyed it but they promised to flog, duck, then hang him if he did not divulge the contents. Sensibly he did so and the news flashed round the fleet. The mutineers now seized arms and ammunition, locked up an Admiral, Captain and a Lieutenant to await court-martial by the crew, then hoisted red pennants. They brought all ships to St Helens. The sailors were now the masters. The Admiralty were adamant and the crew made the tactical error of blockading the shipping in and out of the Thames. Then the Merchants moved in.

Parliament passed a Bill punishing 'incitement to mutiny' by death; shop assistants and clerks rushed to Tilbury to man ships to attack the 'rebel navy', where no doubt they were as incompetent as the students who manned the trams in the General Strike of 1926.

The Admiralty ordered removal of all beacons and buoys from the estuary making the Thames unnavigable. Some of the ships manned by the crews ran aground, some were re-taken by officers. On June 12 the delegates decided that united action was no longer possible and 'it was every ship for itself'. The mutiny was over. One delegate committed suicide, others escaped to Europe but the leader, Parker, allowed himself to be taken and begged that he receive all the punishment and that no other should receive it. On June 30 he was hanged from the yardarm of the 'Sandwich'; 29 of his fellows were hanged. Nine were flogged, one receiving 380 lashes, and 29 imprisoned.

Reforms were made afterwards, but not enough for there was another mutiny, this time at Invergordon in 1931. The greatest gain of all was, however, that never again could the rulers of Britain rest in complacency, sure of the safety of 'The Wooden Walls of England'.

JUST how little respect the world has for the British attempt to bring in UN troops and retain South African troops in Namibia was shown when the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly against any South African role whatever in Namibia. There were 119 for, with 21 abstentions, among them the British Government.

THE cost to society of leaving about four thousand people unemployed in the London district of Tooting is estimated to be £14m a year. The calculations include neither the cost of homelessness - many unemployed in Tooting require emergency council accommodation at an annual cost per person of £2000 - nor that of increased crime.

WILLIAM Blake (1757-1827) spent his life learning and advancing the traditional art of engraving and colour printing. Since Blake's day, large scale printing companies and competitive, commercial publishers, capitalists and all, have destroyed the art and market for this form of illuminated Printing. The 'Blake Trust' have, until this year, managed to keep Blake's work alive by commissioning the reproductions from a group of highly skilled Frenchmen. These men are all now well over seventy and are at present making their last copies of the Blake originals. Will the profit motive destroy this heritage of craftsmanship?

EVIDENCE of the heavy blow well organised action can inflict on the state is illustrated by recent instructions to 20 county councils not to recognise the retained fire fighters union, which didn't strike last November.

IN 'Conditions of the Working Class in England' Engels writes that in a well-ordered society improvements in manufacture would be a matter for celebration whereas in a capitalist society they cause disruption and unemployment.

The computerisation of newspaper printing is a case in point. Yet the fashionable press would have us believe that Marxism was appropriate to the nineteenth century but is outdated now.

THE great publicity about British Rail profits should fool no-one. The railways have always made a profit for someone - just look at the interest rates they pay each year. After paying £41m interest this year, a profit of £27m for British Rail has been announced.

PRESENT figures show 4000 nurses without jobs in England. Cuts in health provision and the accompanying unemployment demonstrate vividly that the current widespread cuts in industrial and social activity are being executed by Government and employers for no good reason. After all, the amount of illness has not declined, has it? So why cut the health service?

THE CBI, Liberals, Tories and Labour have all been barking up the 'cut taxes' tree. They talk of the need to for incentives for management and skilled workers. All their schemes have one thing in common... that in no way will the employers be expected to pay for these incentives through higher wages, even though they will of course, get all the benefits. Just another way, in fact, of attempting to increase the exploitation of our class and get political support for it from us.



## May Day round the world

### Albania

THE people of Albania had very good reason to celebrate May Day this year. They have more than fulfilled all planned output for the January-April period of 1978. Industrial production has increased by 8.5 per cent and agricultural production by 28 per cent. Nearly 40 new projects in the industrial sphere and as many in the agricultural have been completed and Albanian youth have prepared the way for a joyous May Day by finishing their construction of a new section of the huge metallurgical combine in Elbasan.

### Spain

WORKERS throughout Spain officially celebrated May Day for the first time since the Civil War. In Madrid more than 150,000 workers marched to show trade union dissatisfaction with the economic policies of the Suarez Government. In Barcelona 500,000 workers demonstrated against the social contract which the revisionist, Carrillo, had a hand in devising.

### Pakistan

A MILITARY court has sentenced 12 workers to one year in jail with up to 15 lashes each for taking part in a May Day procession.

### Nigeria

DEMONSTRATIONS in Lagos by school children protesting against increases in board and lodging fees resulted in 52 people being arrested.

### Britain

CALLAGHAN took advantage of May Day to announce a permanent policy of wage restraint which could tailor workers' pay to fit in with a Labour Government's capitalist economic policies from now on. This statement was made against the background of the FT monthly survey of business opinion which shows no expectation whatsoever of any halt in the decline of industrial activity in Britain. Meanwhile, one of the main events in connection with May Day was the march of 80,000 young people against racism the day before.



TIRANA - MAY DAY 1978. Everywhere in Albania workers celebrate their successes in all spheres of work with great vigour. Delegations of workers from other countries are warmly welcomed to join in these celebrations which this year paid particular attention to the struggles of workers against the capitalist class across the world. (picture by Albanian News Agency)

## From our May Day meetings

# Britain

ALL workers, irrespective of which capitalist country they are in, are daily faced with two issues whose nature is of a fundamental importance - that is to be employed and to have the means of protecting that employment.

For us in capitalist Britain the employment of our class is dependent upon the wellbeing of our manufacturing base. If we are without industry then we are without the means to provide for ourselves.

The protection of our employment does not lie in any Act of Parliament or other form of legislation by a capitalist state but in our own organs of defence - the trade unions.

Today there exists a major distinction in the structure of capitalism. It is now in absolute decline.

Our unemployed are testimony to that decline. Capitalism has always meant unemployment. But in its ascent these workers who were displaced for whatever reason, be it the collapse due to slump in one field or to the introduction of automation, mechanised means of production, the steam engine or electronics, there were at the same time the expansion of other branches of industry or the development of new ones. But there are no such expansions in Britain today. There are no new industries of any large scale. There is only contraction and extinction.

A decade ago the more advanced workers of Britain recognised this change and that trade unionism was no longer sufficient to advance the interests of workers in a declining capitalist system.

Thus they founded our party the CPBML not to secure gains from capitalism but to abolish capitalism altogether.

There is a war being carried out in Britain in the industrial arena. It is not the overt war of bombs and paid killers but a war

that is none the less as destructive. Daily we witness the closure of factories and the demise of manufacturing.

There is not a town, city or any part of our country that is free from the decay of capitalism - there is no trade, profession or other form of work that has not suffered from the decline of capitalism.

We are guilty of assisting the sacking of industry. For we are willing to accept redundancy and be paid for it.

For too long the industrial workers have lived the lie that there is another job down the road. Down the road has now become Harwich or Dover or Folkestone. Would we have it that we now become the tinkers of Europe?

To defeat capitalism we must assert the roles of our trade unions. We must make the demands for employment and for wages. And in making those demands, that yesterday were traditional demands of workers, know that today they are revolutionary demands as capitalism in absolute decline cannot accommodate them. And with that knowledge we must be prepared to make war on the bourgeoisie.

The industrial workers bear a grave responsibility to the rest of the class. We produce for them and are the reason of their being as we are their product.

We all are the results of other workers' action. The purpose of all labour is to produce and those who defend production be it in factory or school or other place of work defend the interests of the working class.

But it is upon the factory floor, at the point where wealth is actually produced that the struggle is most crucial. It is where the fiercest blows can be dealt to capitalism and in the end it is where capitalism can only be destroyed



## In Europe

THE EEC is the attempt by the representatives of capital to preserve capitalism - to postpone the ultimate crisis. 'A huddling together in a thieves kitchen where beggar my neighbour is the game and winner takes all'. It is to our everlasting shame that we allowed British capital this reprieve. In this year we are to become full members of this illustrious body. We are supposed this year to have elected direct representatives to the European Parliament - now postponed until next June. The food subsidies will have gone already.

Our food is to be yet dearer for the green pound adjustment is to come. At the moment we pay less for our food than our

European neighbours; a concession to the British Government to ease the impact of the common agricultural policy on the consumer. And no doubt give them time to persuade us that high prices are our own doing.

Many arguments were given for joining the EEC, among them was the idea that although we would have to sacrifice our agriculture and fishing our industrial expansion would be unbounded. This of course was a lie at the time and events have proved it so.

If anyone in the meeting is in the habit of counting sheep to cure their sleeplessness they had better think of counting something else. The EEC is contemplating a policy on sheep and when the

EEC has a policy on anything it has a tendency to disappear.

There is no such thing as an acceptable level of unemployment. The idea is an insult to the working class. When the EEC has a policy on anything it has a tendency to disappear. This probably explains why there is no policy on unemployment. I read in a newspaper recently that British ministers were trying to persuade the EEC to adopt "Man Power Service type" policies. A senior official was reported to have said in response:

"What the Commission is really worried about is that the proposals make it only too clear that whatever we do will only help marginally." The only thing they could all do to help unemployment is to disappear in a puff of smoke, the smoke coming from the rifles of the working class.

The rifles of the working class of Europe have long frightened the capitalist class and will frighten them yet. After the Second World War Winston Churchill said:

"... I must give you a warning. Time may be short. At present there is a breathing space. The cannons have ceased firing. The fighting has stopped; but the dangers have not stopped. If we are to form the United States of Europe or whatever name or form it may take, we must begin now..."

The American Government felt the same way. Bolster up Europe and prevent a European conflagration that would not end until the last capitalist was destroyed. Their idea was to join with the Nazis to smash the proletariat.

## Skill saves life

RESPONSIBILITY without knowledge is dangerous in any place of work - in a hospital it can mean death. All over Britain student nurses with a few months' experience are being left in charge of wards. Trained staff on the wards are so over-worked that they have no time to teach students working there.

Students are denied a chance to learn skills whilst thousands of trained staff are unemployed. Many students are leaving nursing, exhausted and frustrated, before completion of their 'training'. Students must demand to be taught, for it is a demand for more trained staff on the wards and in the Schools of Nursing and, fundamentally, a demand to save our Health Service. Without skilled nurses there can be no Health Service.

Nurses are encouraged by the hospital to join a union so that the union can pay the legal fees when they are sued for negligence. Nurses cannot afford to learn by their mistakes - their mistakes may be corpses. Student nurses must join a union and demand to be taught. The working class fought for the Health Service - it must fight yet harder to save it. Our lives, quite literally, depend on it.

## In the world

As far as Britain is concerned there is continued occupation of Ireland by British troops. But British capitalism has its fingers in many lucrative pies - from interference in the liberation struggle of Zimbabwe, interference in Namibia, soon under the guise of the United Nations Intervention; whilst the fascist regime in South Africa is still supported by British capital. This is not all. There are many other areas where British capitalism interferes directly and indirectly.

There are some who think that we need more powerful and more destructive weapons. A good dose of cruise missiles and neutron bombs might do us some good. Propaganda in the press has failed to conceal the vicious and inhuman nature of the neutron bomb - the fact that it is a capitalist's dream come true - killing workers but leaving property unharmed, and the painful and slow death which ensues from the radiation. Whatever the propaganda, this neutron bomb is designed to be used against civilians in heavily populated areas - most particularly a revolutionary working class. The repulsion shown by the people of Europe and America

to this weapon, with large demonstrations in several cities, has forced America to shelve it for the time being - we must ensure that it stays that way.

Has Vietnam taught us nothing about how super the superpowers are? It is only three years almost to the day when the Vietnamese people finally routed the greatest military power ever. A strong and united people with Marxist-Leninist leadership was the key to this victory.

COMMUNISTS OPPOSE WAR. IT IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. THAT IS NOT PACIFISM - COMMUNISTS WILL FIGHT TO END WAR. The very nature of capitalism causes war. The lust for more profit is everything. If more markets are needed, more must be found. If more raw materials are needed, more must be found. War is the tool. After all, capitalists don't fight in the wars themselves, they send us to fight - the working class - we are expendable. You cannot oppose capitalism by fighting in their wars. Capitalism is the source of war and wars will continue as long as capitalism exists. The only way of ending wars is to end the cause.

## More destruction of Bradford jobs

NOT CONTENT with sacking 2,000 television assembly workers, Thorn's at Bradford are now offering such unsatisfactory redundancy terms that workers are threatening to withdraw 40,000 sets.

The heartlessness of capital in this instance and in the industry generally is shown in the plans drawn up by the National Economic Development Council (NEDC). Employment in the industry has fallen from 70,000 in 1973 to 49,000 in 1976, and is now to be cut more. "Capacity as a matter of urgency should be rationalised by perhaps 20 to 30 per cent."

The effect of this strategy of destruction has been the continuous rise of imports. Opposition has been shown by NEDC, management and workers to the Japanese Hitachi proposal to build a

new TV factory. But as far as the government is concerned this does not extend to the problem of imports generally. On the contrary the NEDC proposal for contraction means that government promises of import controls - demanded by workers for the protection of their industry - will not be worth the paper they are written on.

The pass to which the Bradford workers have come is a warning of the future capitalism has in store for us, wherever we work.

## In brief

ONE result of the controversy over parliamentary privilege is the suggestion by an MP that Hansard might no longer report everything said in Parliament. No comment.

THE Institute of Professional Civil Servants came out against government pay restraint in their weekly journal on May 2.



OVER 400 workers of the City of Leeds gathered on April 29th, to hold their annual May Day march and rally. March and rally had been banned under the Public Order Act by the Labour Home Secretary, the first May Day march to be banned in Britain for 28 years. Over 2,000 police gathered to prevent the march, which marched 10 yards before 2 persons were arrested, the march then disbanded. Members of the May Day March walked, not marched, into the city centre where a rally was held on the Town Hall steps. The law was flouted. The police who had dragged squads of foot and horse, helicopters, riot shields reflected the fact that they, and not the pathetic thugs and morons of the neo-Nazi National Front, the so-called excuse for the ban, are the real threat to the workers of Leeds.

### Whipps Cross

HOSPITAL staff at the maternity unit of Whipps Cross Hospital in East London have revealed that extreme staff shortages have forced doctors to carry out caesarean operations without waiting to see whether a normal birth might be possible.

Nursing staff, who are in struggle for better staffing levels (see WORKER April 27) have declared the service unsafe. A system of 'Elective Caesarean Section Times' which can cause women to undergo such major surgery as a caesarean when it might not be necessary is indeed unsafe, and a scandal in a hospital with fine traditions of service and a new maternity unit. Consultants have pointed out the very difficult decisions they are forced to make because they need 40 more nurses.



EIGHTY thousand young people declaring 'No to racialism!' at the May Day weekend carnival organised by the Anti-Nazi League. Despite overcast skies, central London was brought to a standstill by the massive March that was still leaving Trafalgar Square when the front of the march, full of the banners of youth organisations and trade unions, had reached Victoria Park in East London, five miles away. Only occasional increases in the number of police lining the march told of supposed National Front areas, for the latter were too overwhelmed by the size and enthusiasm of the demonstration to shout their obscene taunts. Once at the park, demonstrators were entertained by various styles of pop bands, thus showing the diversity of today's youth culture. British youth showed their absolute opposition to fascism and all its attempts to use racism to divide people. So much for the National Front's claim to be recruiting in schools!

picture by Mark Rusher (IFL)

## ASTMS policy Law and order

THIS weekend ASTMS is holding its 10th Annual Delegate Conference in Brighton.

As usual, the Standing Orders Committee have selected the most innocuous collection of motions from the original set submitted for the consideration of the delegates.

ASTMS can be proud of much of its policy, for example its consistent opposition to wage restraint, but too often these have remained policies on paper but not in practice.

The task is not merely to make policy on one weekend a year but to ensure that the machinery of the union is made to serve the aspirations expressed and recorded at ADC. To this end it is to be hoped that delegates will reject the NEC's proposed amendment to rule on the system of voting in National elections since it would be a move away from democratic practices. Similarly, delegates should guard against any about face proposed on the Union's attitude towards the EEC.

### Teachers fight

TEACHERS at a London Primary school, on receiving a letter requesting 'volunteers' for transfer, immediately held a union meeting of both Infant and Junior departments. Arising from this meeting a letter was written, stating quite clearly that no one 'volunteered' to transfer and that none of the staff were prepared to discuss 'who should go': no fall in roll was likely to occur and that conditions were such that the absence of a teacher caused great strain on the rest of the staff.

Now, the Authority has conceded on this matter. Through their prompt and disciplined action and correct use of the Union machinery the teachers have successfully resisted an attempt to cut the provision for education at their school.

### a problem for bosses not for us

AS part of the Labour Government's tightening - up and attack on civil liberties, the Prime Minister recently saw fit to boast that his government had greatly increased the number of policemen and would continue to do so in order that 'we' can sleep more safely in our beds.

No doubt: we are also expected to accept the idea that the police and the army are special cases when it comes to pay and that they deserve more for the dirty and dangerous work done in keeping the rest of the working class in line and protecting 'our' official secrets.

It is a common cry of chief constables that crime is the single biggest growth industry in Britain today. We need only look at the huge increases in

private security firms, new police departments such as the Special Patrol Groups (Special Picket Gangs), massive increases in the number of prisoners and youths in borstals to realise that the 'law and order', financed out of our taxes, is the really booming industry. The growth of this massive parasitic industry together with all the other attacks on our civil liberties is surely a sign that the bourgeoisie and this government are bracing themselves for the fight ahead.

It is time that the working class started to shake this parasitic weight off its shoulders so that we can all sleep soundly in our beds at night - after all have done a good day's work.

## Support for bus crews spreads through W. Yorks

BRADFORD Metro busmen have held a one-day stoppage on Monday 8th May, in support of the strike of busmen in Leeds against cuts in services, now in its third week. Buses in Ilkley and Halifax have also stopped for the day, another action of solidarity.

The action of the Bradford men is a fine riposte to those who scoff at the idea of working class solidarity and unity. Notwithstanding the lack of support in their three week struggle last year, on the same issue, the Bradford crews have been very clear on the need to defend our public transport in West Yorkshire - and defend the infrastructure of public transport we must. For since the West Yorks Passenger Transport Executive was formed to control all ex-city

transport departments, we have endured cutback after cutback with massive fare rises to boot.

This has meant an inevitable switch to private transport and even in a city like Bradford - with the lowest percentage of car owners in Britain - the problems of travelling to work, clogged in slow-moving queues, have multiplied. To cope with the cars, our city centres in Leeds, Bradford and Ilkley have provided rich pickings for the car park 'developers' and urban roadway 'construction' wide-boys.

As a Bradford bus driver put it, "they think they can do what they like. We're showing them that they can't."

Let's build on that strength. Fight to save our services for the whole working class.

## Wales TUC opts for free collective bargaining

THE Wales TUC's annual conference at Llandudno, like the Scottish TUC a week ago, has voted overwhelmingly for 'free collective bargaining' and an end to wage restraint. This is in marked contrast to the stand taken a year ago.

The conference tolerated Michael Foot who covered up the Labour Government's destruction of the steel industry with empty talk about 'plans for steel's future'; and they allowed Len Murray to propose as an alternative to either pay restraint or free collective bargaining that trade unionists 'must explore

with the government how jointly to frame a strategy for economic and social advance' - the social contract all over again! The conference even went so far as to amend its existing policy towards the Welsh assembly to bring it into line with the Labour legislation on devolution now before Parliament.

But if the workers of Wales go all out to implement in action their correct line on collective bargaining all the nonsense about collaboration with a capitalist government will be exposed for the rubbish it is.

## Steel closures and Welsh TUC

WHEN the East Moors steel plant at Cardiff was closed down, a worker who made the first billet which came out of the plant over 42 years ago was on hand to help roll the final billet.

Workers and their trade unions at the Treorchy plant of British Steel's Redpath Dorman Long subsidiary have decided to resist the

closure of the plant with the loss of 300 jobs. They will explore the possibility of keeping the Rhondda Valley plant open by running it as a workers' co-operative.

At the Wales TUC annual conference a resolution was agreed calling for support for the workers in their determination to keep the Redpath plant in operation.

## No guidelines but our own

AT the forthcoming Civil Service conferences the main issue will be pay. They will have to decide whether to continue the advance made by some towards rejecting 'fair comparison'.

The government has promised to reintroduce Pay Research for 1979 and Basnett wants it to apply to all of the public sector. Pay Research has never achieved 'fair' wages for the workers in this sector and is essentially a restricted form of the guidelines suffered by the whole of the working class in the present period. What is important

is the individual unions' attitude to Whitleyism. This is less direct than pay, but of deeper importance. By formulating their own claims CPSA and SCPS have shown the way forward. They have much to gain by extending that attitude, as have others by adopting it.

In the past the Whitley machinery has not been so much a negotiating structure as a means for determining demands at the level of the weakest. We should substitute unity in action for this paper unity, and hence no guidelines but our own.

### Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW 5  
 Basildon bookstall Tues Fri Sat Marketplace  
 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

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

YOU are invited to come to public meetings organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). All meetings will be held at 7.30pm on Friday evenings at: Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, Tufnell Park, NW5 (Tufnell Park Tube)

- May 12 Slide show about Iran
- May 19 No school closures, no transfers, save education
- May 26 Conservation: safeguard the future
- June 2 The bankruptcy of Parliament
- June 9 The Neutron Bomb - for use in Europe?
- June 16 The future of Science in Britain

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