

THE WORKER



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WORKERS GET NO CHANGE FROM ELECTIONS

As we have said all along, no election is ever going to give the working class the opportunity of voting on whether we continue to be exploited or not. The question they have the insolence to keep asking us is which party we would prefer to have governing us in the interest of our exploiters. So Labour remains in power. So what!

All it means to us is that there has not even been a change in the name of our working class struggle - the fight against the social contract, the fight against the social democratic lies on which the social contract is based.

Our Party was right to alert the working class to the nature of the general election farce by urging workers not to vote at all. The outcome of the election - which bourgeois party, Labour or Tory, is to represent the interests of our class enemy - mattered not a whit. What mattered was the extent to which we workers were distracted from our real struggle by the parliamentary charade.

The steady decline in turnout for general elections since the war, interrupted by the February election this year but strongly reconfirmed in the most recent election, is some measure of the working class's growing political consciousness and progressive rejection of social democracy.

Turnout at post-1945 elections (%)

	Feb	Oct						
1950	1951	1955	1959	1964	1966	1970	1974	1974
84.0	82.5	76.7	78.8	77.1	75.8	72.0	78.8	70.0

But this still shows that far too many of us are prepared to believe that there is a difference in the parties and that the Labour Party will fight our battles for us. Another spell of Labour Government should remedy that!

We not only said "Don't Vote", we also said "Prepare for Revolution". There has been no change in the immediate conditions of our struggle, but there has to be a change in us. The fight we wage at places of work is no longer enough. We have to wage our class war under our own political banner - revolution.

Employers and the Social Contract

Just before the election campaign began the Engineering Employers' Federation circulated a document among its 5,200 member companies supporting the social contract. Particularly welcome was the TUC's recognition "that the scope for real increases in consumption is limited and that the 12-month interval between major increases should in general continue to apply."

Somebody must have kicked the engineering employers hard and pointed out that it was going to be a lot more difficult to get workers to agree to a social contract if their bosses were hailing it as the greatest thing since sliced bread. On October 1st a joint statement by the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Confederation of British Industry denounced the social contract: "The nation should be aware that the price to be paid in return for whatever may turn out to be gained on the wages side is a series of measures which are bound to be damaging to industry and its competitiveness."

The latest episode in this farce is Harold Wilson pretending that the threat to the social contract comes from "rogue" employers who act "like philanthropists and seem not to want to make profits."

Speaking presumably of Ford management's proposed settlement, Wilson went on to say: "If they were really going to force up wages, just for the hell of it, they would lose out on their export markets and if they were going to charge more on the home market they would simply be caught by price control and would bankrupt themselves."

It may come as something of a surprise to workers to learn that the real cause of the crisis is philanthropy and indifference to profits on the part of employers!

To Hell with Social Contract! MINERS MOTOR WORKERS

After continued opposition from miners throughout the country to the divisive productivity scheme, proposed by the National Coal Board and initially recommended by NUM leaders, its death knell was finally sounded on Thursday October 3rd when the miners executive overwhelmingly rejected the deal. This attempt at bit by bit payment, based on individual pit productivity, would have set in motion a return to the more despicable features of 19th century wage structure which miners have fought so long and with such great sacrifice to destroy. The rejection of this scheme is one more triumph for the miners in their struggle to win a decent wage for all miners from what they know to be the most hardened and uncompromising of all employers - the state. In an election when the issue of 'nationalisation' has raised its erroneous head, the action of the miners, who welcomed nationalisation in 1947 but have fought bitterly against the state in recent years, lays bare the arguments of those who today blithely propose 'nationalisation' as the panacea to the ills of our crumbling capitalist society. The miners know that only their vigilance and preparedness to fight will ensure progress for them: that for too long they were the victims of a 'self-imposed social contract' with their employer and that only by fighting to destroy such truces and compromise can their jobs and standard of living be improved.

Ford's management has been prompted by a restive labour force to offer its own social contract to motor car workers - a 38 per cent rise in wages for two years of industrial peace. No such offer would have been made if Ford's management had thought it could ride out the duration of the current settlement without running into massive production losses through a rising tempo of industrial action - even though the actual initiative for a claim halfway through the period of agreement did not come spontaneously from Ford workers themselves.

Various sections of workers at Dagenham, Halewood and Swansea, like those in the press shop, have been taking strike action on their own in pursuit of their own special demands. They have now returned to work and negotiations on the general offer are proceeding. Workers will have to show a united front to screw the best possible deal out of Ford's with the most militant sections lending their willingness to take action to the mass till a favourable settlement has been arrived at - an overall settlement which can provide the different sections with a base for continuing to struggle for their own special needs.

The Labour Government was furious at the size of the offer just before an election in which they were staking everything on the social contract. In fact, with inflation running at the present rate, what looks like a reasonable

pay increase will turn out to be a pay reduction over a two-year haul. That is bound to be the ground of fierce struggles in any negotiated settlement.

SOMEONE TO KICK

The Labour Government was angry with Ford's but did not dare lash out at them. Instead they looked for someone smaller to jump on and picked the BBC. The BBC had faithfully obeyed every Government injunction on pay restraint right through Phases I, II, and III and their staff had fallen behind in the wage stakes.

The Voice of the Working Class on the Social Contract

A shop steward at Ford's in rejecting the social contract: "As for Labour's social contract, if it means we have to work longer hours for less money then it is not on. It's meant to involve us; it already does involve us; but it wasn't even discussed with us."

"We didn't sign it. Anyone can sign a bit of paper. But we are not bound to carry it out." Another shop steward but the same view on the social contract even more tersely:

"If it means less money... then to hell with it."



Miners get support from Ford workers in their last national strike.

On the industrial front

Capitalism is following its natural course in crises, sackings increase as employers try to solve their problems at the expense of the working class.

Phillips, the electrical giant, proposes to close its Blackpool factory and sack more workers at its other plants in Dunfermline and Blackburn. Thorn Electrical Industries are due to sack 1300 workers in Sunderland.

Harland and Wolff, Rolls Royce (£18 million profit but still wants to reduce workforce), Ferranti's, G. Stibbe (textile machinery) with 1500 workers and Ernest Scrugg with 500 - all are declaring workers 'redundant'.

20 brickworks have closed with 2000 workers sacked.

What an indictment of the capitalist system. This at the same time as orders for North Sea oil-rig platform construction are going abroad to Norwegian contractors.

Many workers have been made redundant two or three times in their working life but in the past always managed to find other employment. The situation is now such that this will no longer be possible. The right to work must now resume its place in every factory in the land.

Rank Pullins, Brentford

After an agreement in March 1974 when skilled workers won wage increases of £3.54 and £3.06 per week, talks on the rates for other workers broke down, with the management insisting on a £3 differential between grades whilst the AUEW members demanded a £1 separation. At a mass meeting, workers decided to operate a 'work to rule' and a ban on overtime working. The management retaliated by suspending the Shop Stewards' Convenor for a day. The response of the workers was to down tools for the rest of the day too! The next day, following a return to work, a worker was suspended for refusing to carry out work that had been 'blacked'. Again there was an instant reaction: strike. After a 7 day strike had lessened their initial stubbornness, the management accepted negotiation on the basis of the Union's proposals and after agreeing to a £1.70 differential, the dispute was successfully concluded.

ABC Bakery

Engineers and electricians employed at the ABC Bakery Camden Town, London, have just successfully concluded their four week old strike to substantially boost

their atrociously low rates of pay. The basic rate for craftsmen prior to the strike stood at 75p (£35 per week). As a result of their determined struggle this rate has been increased by 25p per hour (£10 per week) thus securing their full claim for £1 per hour, with negotiations continuing for further improvements.

The struggle was greatly assisted by means of the Executive Council of the AUEW declaring the strike official and by other sections of workers within the bakery - most notably T&GWU drivers who throughout maintained a principled position of blacking all lorries serviced by outside scab labour.

This struggle may well prove to be an important factor in the growing concern amongst bakery workers of their bread line wages. Lessons of engineers and electricians have been many, the workers fed up with the ungenerous nature of the employer to grant a decent wage decided to act on the old maxim that "those who don't struggle don't get". There still remains much trade union work to be done in the bakery industry but reports coming in from the various parts of the country clearly reveal that bakery workers are on the move, with strikes and work to rules breaking out up and down the country.

Building Workers - Time to Act

The site steward put it in a nutshell.

"For struggle" he said "they are always willing to substitute surrender".

No opinion better describes the role of social democracy in the latest building workers wage claim. The organised craftsmen and labourers in the industry are demanding a cut in working hours and a rise in basic rates of 107 per cent.

By shelving this record claim, "until the result of the election is known" the social democrats in UCATT are predictably trying to avoid any confrontation between building workers and their employers. Later, they hope to nail down militancy using a Labour government and the social contract to bury the claim.

It will not be forgotten how the same argument was used to stifle opposition to the State when the Shrewsbury building workers were jailed for conspiracy. The Shrewsbury pickets were imprisoned under the Tories and stayed there when Labour took office.

The unity of the employers remains untested. At the behest of the TUC the union executive cancelled their meeting with the employers at which the claim was to be formally presented. Yet the experiences of past struggle teach us that guerrilla tactics can weaken the contractors resolve not to pay and make them yield. In 1972, over 200 firms settled with their workers before the employers federation finally gave way and surrendered victory to the building workers.

We have been organised for a hundred years. Always, the leadership in struggle has arisen from the mass at site level, from class-conscious building workers. Once again, therefore, our struggle must begin in the regions where our site organisation is strong, active and willing to fight.

We fight both for our money and the political aspirations of our class. We must echo the call of the engineers who say "our struggle is the property of all trade unionists."



Michelin, Stoke

At Stoke, 3500 workers, members of the TGWU, gained rises of £2.40 per week rising to £3.20 in November after a ten-day overtime ban. This Phase III rise was not conceded by the employer without a struggle and even then the increase carries strings - a wages standstill for one year (originally the employer insisted on a 2 year stop).

These workers have not won a major victory. They have just made a recalcitrant employer cough up. If all that took was a ten-day overtime ban then increased struggle could easily break the limits of a Phase III agreement and prevent deals in which a years' freeze is imposed.

Hawker Siddeley, Chester

1500 workers walked out in rejection of a 'social-contract' wage offer of £3 per week. The workers are demanding £6 per week increases. This is our only response to those who seek to impose a 'voluntary' wage freeze on our wages.

Salford Electrical

After two months of picketing the mill where they work for Salford Electrical Instruments nearly 400 women are still determined to stand up for concessions towards equal pay and an equal bonus system. In answer to the company's settlement offer of 80p (which coincided with two threshold payments of 40p!) 30 of the women fooled the security guards and took control of several offices including the switchboard. Very determined the struggle continues.

Capitalism and the 'Welfare State'

Speaking of the pay award to nurses, Barbara Castle made this claim: "It is an indication of this Government's determination to revitalise the whole of our health service and give recognition to all those who work in it."

In the social services, always claimed by Labour as its province, there is no difference between the parties: their money-saving tricks are the same.

London children have been condemned to another year of part-time schooling because the Labour Government refused to boost the London Allowance in May when it could have made a difference to this year's recruitment of teachers. One way of balancing the budget - don't recruit staff.

And now Labour's 'concern for the senior citizen' - a better pension by the end of the century if you start contributing now. Growing old under capitalism is like putting to sea in a sieve!

'Comprehensive schools but no new buildings', 'higher-paid nurses but still no beds', 'security of tenure in the flat you can't find', 'a cheaper mortgage for the house beyond your income': the politicians who used to promise the earth and half the moon are reduced to offering booby prizes.

EDITORIAL

What's the Difference

This editorial is being written before an election day on which the ruling class cannot help getting a party in power which serves them and we workers cannot possibly get a party of any use to us. The outcome of this general election makes absolutely no difference whatsoever to the working class. The only thing that does make a difference is the extent to which our working class realises, and expresses in abstention, that very fact - that it makes no difference.

Them

The main issue of this election is the social contract. It is not a private invention of Harold Wilson. All three bourgeois parties advocate a social contract even if they give it slightly different names - "Government and people uniting on a national policy" the Tories describe it while the Liberals call for "the active participation of the people" in the tasks ahead. Some kind of social contract is necessary to whatever government is in power simply because it is impossible to impose any policy on the working class against their united will.

Wilson has spoken of "the danger to democracy if the social contract fails". He means the danger to social democracy which is not working class but ruling class democracy.

And if the social contract fails, all three parties are prepared to try, in spite of the failure of the Industrial Relations Act, to bring about by force what they cannot get by consent. Labour would fall back on its arbitration and consultation machinery which would suddenly sprout teeth; the Tories would have a half-hearted go at a contract and back it up quickly with a statutory freeze; the Liberals, who can afford to sound tougher, would start off with statutory wage controls immediately.

What capitalism desperately needs and what the parties serving capitalism must therefore somehow bring about is a cut in wages. These capitalist parties have no intention of ending inflation, only of manipulating it in such a way as to effect cuts in wages they dare not call for openly. In so far as wages lag behind rises in prices and the devaluation of currency, wage cuts are already being imposed.

Capitalism has no other purpose than the production of profits. A crisis in capitalism is a crisis in profits. Wages represent limits on profits. They have to be drastically cut if the profit system is to survive. All that stands in the way of such cuts is organised labour. That is the reality behind all the talk during this election of the "over-riding national need to curb inflation" and the "irresponsible power of the trade union giants."

This reality will be the same for capitalism after the election as it was before.

Us

The British working class is also facing a crisis. It has to mobilise its united strength to fight off attempts to lower the workers' standard of living by cuts in wages.

But that is not enough. To the extent that the ruling class, working through capitalist governments of whatever complexion, finds itself balked it is trying to rule in new ways. Hence the drive toward a corporate state in which the workers' fighting organisation itself can be transformed into a part of the capitalist state apparatus. That was the purpose of the Industrial Relations Act. It is the purpose of the social contract.

The social contract is the essence of social democracy which characterises all three bourgeois parties, though Labour is the most plausible and therefore the most dangerous expression of it. Social democracy depends on the working class's own unwillingness to fight in new and more decisive ways to meet the challenge of the ruling class. When a working class meets a problem, it seeks as long as possible to evade it. Our Party, the CPB(ML), cannot evade the problem. It was born out of the working class in crisis and represents the working class's revolutionary consciousness that social democratic ideas must be eradicated.

Unless the working class roots social democracy out of its theory and practice it will deliver itself over, by way of the corporate state, to fascism. Fascism cannot exist except by the consent of the working class. The only way in which that consent can be effectively withheld is by the determination to smash the whole profit system and replace it with the working class's own system - socialism.

That is the crisis of the working class - fascism or revolution. There is no middle way. We workers have left the capitalist class with no alternative but to break our will to resist and turn us into slaves. We are thus left with no alternative to that enslavement but to prepare for the revolution which will smash our bonds for good and liberate us to build our own workers' society.

Nationalisation Buttrussing Crumbling Capitalism

For all the talk, and pretended differences, all the parties share the same policy on nationalisation in practice. Shore up profit-making industries by maintaining those which make a loss (Railways to Rolls Royce); subsidise some with loans at public expense; take over others with full compensation, repressing the workers more than before.

The Labour Party has long understood this. Back in 1949, we find Wilson arguing: "Lead-

ing businessmen admit that, had it not been for the improved output since nationalisation, there would have been no basis for private enterprise to work on". (This followed the admission of the Chairman of ICI that "without coal nationalisation, the nation would be getting a million tons of coal less a week, with appalling consequences for private industry".) Nationalise to help capitalism - that is still the motive of all the parties.

CAMBODIA

It is very significant the way in which Cambodia has dropped out of the press and television while every highjack, kidnapping, and other terrorist act receive the full glare of publicity. Perhaps the reactionaries think that if they do not talk about the victories of the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces they will melt away. Or perhaps, more accurately, they had better not or else big brother America will be highly displeased. They had better remember what happened in China. Just a few days before the Communist Army marched into Peking the American Press was trying to make people believe in the growing strength of Chiang Kai-shek.

Right now the struggle in Cambodia has reached a qualitatively higher stage than at any time before in the 4-year old liberation war. Recently the Liberation forces have very nearly surrounded Phnom Penh destroying enemy outpost after enemy outpost. On Highway 4 within a period of 10 days in September more than 100 puppet troops of the Lon Nol regime were destroyed. At first the Americans had hoped that the better-trained South Vietnamese puppets would be able to shore up the Cambodian clique but the problems facing Thieu in South Vietnam made that almost impossible. The Cambodian Liberation Forces are so successful along the Mekong that supplies of food, ammunition and oil from Saigon by boat cannot reach the capital.

A new dimension of the struggle has been the greater involvement of the civilian population. The economy of the puppet government is so shaky that the Real - the Cambodian currency - has had to be devalued 3 times this year. The most recent devaluation has made the already rising cost of living shoot up with rice prices going up 300%. No wonder that students, teachers, civil servants workers have all been out in the streets despite the fiercest opposition from the troops with guns and tanks, that is the reason for the fascist suppression of the Teachers Association of Cambodia.

We in Britain can not only spread news about the victories of Cambodian Liberation but see the British Government does not continue to recognise the miserable Lon Nol puppet government. Within a few weeks the United Nations will be debating the restoration to its rightful position of the Royal Government of National Unity of Cambodia, represented by Prince Sihanouk. Last year the British Government supported the USA in having the issue shelved. This year they had better think again.

ALBANIA

30 YEARS OF SOCIALIST INDEPENDENCE THE ONLY COUNTRY IN EUROPE WHERE THERE IS:

No Inflation
No Unemployment
Rising Wages
Rising Production

PUBLIC MEETING
Friday Nov. 29th 7.30 p.m.
Holborn Assembly Rooms,
St. Johns Mews, Holborn W.C.2

The Election and the Unions

The Unions make demands on employers and sometimes on governments, whatever their complexion. One thing the unions didn't demand is a General Election, the last one or this one. It is said that it was the actions of the Unions which brought about the last one nevertheless. If so it was not by design. The last election was in the atmosphere of the three day week which was not brought about by the miners but by order of the government. The miners and the Engineers were in battle with their respective employers due to actions taken by the government to destroy the right of collective bargaining which is the very life blood of Trade Unions. It was the defence of this right and not the will to replace one government by another which motivated the Unions. That this simple and basic fact is either not understood or deliberately misrepresented and distorted is evidenced by the spate of propaganda linking the Unions with the present election.

Leadership from the mass

Whilst they who pontificate about the Trade Unions recognise the difference between what Trade Union figureheads say in their much publicised speeches and what rank and file Trade Unionists actually do, at the same time they consistently portray the Trade Unions as being the property of these figureheads to lead and direct according to their whims. All Trade Union history proves the reverse but the illusion persists in the minds of the Worst-thornes of this world. When Worst-thorne projects the image of the Trade Unions as a "government" working alongside or above the elected parliamentary government he appears to lack the slightest understanding of what the British Trade Union movement is all about. The notion that the Trade Unions are a mindless mass obediently swayed and shepherded by the Joneses and Scanlons is pure caricature. Whenever did the leaders give leadership and whenever did the mass follow it?

The biggest battle fought between the Trade Unions and the powers to defeat them was leaderless. The TUC completely opted out of the battle at every stage. One Union took on that struggle alone. Leaderless? The fact is that the first action against the Industrial Court was a spontaneous rank and file action which spread throughout the land. The action which freed the dockers from gaol was not led from Transport House or Congress House. It was only after the action had already been taken and success achieved that the TUC General Council issued a call to action. What generals to issue a call to battle after the battle was already won. The fight of the Engineers ended with the call from the Executive which achieved magnificent response. But this was after two mighty actions had been mounted by the rank and file which was assurance itself that any call would receive response.

The leader of the biggest Union, Jones the pension, can issue clarion calls for action on behalf of whom? The dockers, Transport drivers? no. The old age pensioners. But no such action has materialised or is likely. And yet the Trade Unions are still represented as the property of such people.

'Left' and 'Right' both ignorant

The fact is that left and right seem to completely miss the true

character of the Unions. The Unions collectively are the biggest mass organisation in the country. But why? It is precisely because they are not what their critics presume them to be. The Unions at factory or branch level are the most non-sectarian bodies in existence. Protestants, Catholics, Atheists, Moslems, Hindus, men, women and youth work together in harmony because the aims are such as to transcend all other considerations. They are not given to break aways, splits and schisms because they can work together effectively for limited purposes without any sacrifice of principle. But the operative term is 'limited purposes'.

How on earth therefore can such a body exercise political power? It cannot. It is not its purpose or function. A Trade Union does not delegate its power or authority even to the TUC because each union recognises that such a broadly based organisation cannot delegate its authority to remote control.

It is somewhat ironical that the right sees this huge organisation which in itself is dispersed and heterogenous as one body and a revolutionary body at that. While the Trots and other so called "lefts" see the chief weakness as the reactionary character of the Trade Unions.

Our Party and trade unions

Our Party has the question of the Trade Unions in its proper perspective. We recognise that they are not and cannot be revolutionary. They are the mass not the minority. This is not to say that they are not able to become part of a revolutionary strategy. It is in the nature of class struggle which is what Trade Unions are about that this struggle will eventually take on revolutionary forms and lead to revolution itself.

In this event the so called leaders who daily parade before the box won't be around. They will be as irrelevant as they are now.

Of course the Trade Unions have power. But that power resides in the rank and file who alone will determine how and for what purpose it will be used. If anybody believes that the mass of Trade Unionists are delegating that power to a coterie of figureheads to be used for the purpose of striking phoney bargains with the enemy they are very much mistaken. They know nothing about Trade Unions.

IN SICKNESS OR IN HEALTH

Before liberation, China was 'the sick man of Asia'. Now it has one of the best health systems in the world. By looking at the health measures of a country one can judge the worth of its economic and political system. Thirty years ago China had all the typical problems of undeveloped countries - large population, small resources, rampant disease of every kind, few traditional doctors and fewer still who knew Western medicine. No use relying on expensive drugs or equipment, nor spending six years training doctors before they could practice, especially when western-style training presupposes hospitals electricity and western style equipment over the whole country.

China's policy was therefore to be self reliant, to "make the old serve the new", put the interest of the people first and rely on the masses to develop health work. In 1965 the "barefoot doctor" system began in a drive to bring medicine to every village. "Barefoot doctors" are peasants who live and work in their villages, make medical rounds of the peasants, apply first aid, diagnose and treat common or recurrent ailments and refer difficult cases to the commune or county doctors. These barefoot doctors begin work after the minimum of training, but go on short courses, and are helped by visiting health teams from the towns so that they gradually learn on the job. The barefoot doctor is always on hand to advise on sanitation, hygiene, birth control and other preventive measures, and has the advantage of knowing the community well. There are now one million barefoot doctors in China - (In Takou Production Brigade for example the ratio is 4.1600) and the old diseases like plague, small pox, cholera, typhus, yellow fever, syphilis, gonorrhoea have virtually disappeared.

Another example of the Chinese relying on their own resources is their use of acupuncture, a very ancient art, as an anaesthetic in the most up-to-date operations. It is much cheaper than western drugs, easier to use and has no harmful side-effects. In the People's Hospital attached to Shanghai's No. 2 Medical College, 90 per cent of open-heart operations have been successful using acupuncture anaesthesia. The patient recovers faster and can eat and move about sooner after the operation. A commune peasant for example remained fully conscious while a rupture was repaired in his heart, ate some tangerines the next day, and was up and about on the 7th day.

The complacent western world has come to accept that Asian countries are riddled with disease, even though China proves that this is not inevitable. But in a European country too, only 30 years ago, half the population has malaria and only 0.04 women had any medical attendance during childbirth. In Albania now, similarly staggering advances have been made as in China. All health treatment is free, workers receive 95 per cent of pay while they are ill, and there is a health centre for every co-operative. No malaria case has been known for a year and syphilis disappeared by 1949. Prevention is better than cure, and as well as sanitary inspectors, there is now a pollution inspectorate.

The health of a people is not something isolated from social and economic conditions. Under capitalism if it is not profitable for the class which the State serves, to have an efficient Health Service, money will be spent on armaments instead. Expensive drugs cannot effect miracle cures if people cannot afford them or if their jobs and living conditions are dangerously unhealthy - capitalist countries do not compare well with China and Albania. West Germany is short of 30,000 staff in its hospitals. In some areas in America there is one doctor for as many as 50,000 people. In Britain there are ill people who wait not for months but for years to be hospitalised' as The Economist informs us. But British Medical workers are showing the whole class that they will no longer prop up a crumbling Health Service for chickenfeed and a good conscience as their reward. The paxious state of medicine in capitalist countries is not the fault of any worker. Capitalism is the disease and socialism the cure.



London teachers displaying the resolve which eventually won victory in their two year struggle for an increased Allowance. The stirring amongst teachers has meanwhile produced a national "enquiry" into teachers' pay. The teachers would be foolish to meekly await the outcome. Given the impulse of a London victory a national avalanche must now be released. Let the action begin today. Let negotiations commence.

Fight all Education Cuts

Leeds Shows the Way

In July this year, the Leeds City Council announced threatening cut-backs in local education related to teachers' pay, staffing, accommodation and other teaching matters. The teachers' response to this series of threats was a half-day strike, just at the end of term, with the matter being carried over into the new academic year.

Simultaneously, the Council had been working on plans to reduce the student population in Leeds. Massive cuts in all discretionary grants to students at Further Education colleges were announced. (An attempt to remove all such grants was even toyed with). Hoping to bulldoze these proposals through the colleges, the Council relied on the hope that the students would be too badly organised to take up the issue and fight back, and that even if they did, it would be too late, as the proposals would already have been passed.

But the City Council made grave tactical errors in their thinking and practice. The colleges returned on September 16. On Tuesday, September 17, the Students Union at Park Lane College of Further Education took the lead, threatening that if the new Council proposals were introduced (a) the new canteen prices would be boycotted until they were reduced to their previous level, and (b) that all grants cuts would be fought by strike action and other militant action.

Action and Victory

A mass meeting of over 500 students on Wednesday 18th, took the lightning decision to march on the local education authority. The Education building was occupied and held for nearly an hour while talks with officials went on. Similar demonstrations and occupations were planned for the future.

So strong were the students that within a week they had won their case. The grants cuts were reversed at a meeting of the Education Committee held against the stormy backdrop of hundreds of students, from Park Lane and other Leeds colleges, demonstrating outside.

Park Lane Students Union, which has a long tradition of militant action, is planning by use of lightning strikes, occupations and other guerrilla tactics not only to defend the grants they have, but to fight for full grants for all students. Park Lane Students Union is once more leading the student movement in Leeds in the continuing battle for decent grants and better education.

Out of Their Own Mouths

In an article in the TIMES Arnold Weinstock, head of the GEC empire, set forth the crying need of the country today:
"The maintenance and enforcement of orderly conduct in places of work ..."

Lord Robbins, the economist:
"It is clear to me that the ultimate responsibility for inflation lies with the government."

A World of Difference Elections in Albania

In Britain, bourgeois elections are irrelevant to the working class. In Albania the slogan for the elections on October 6th is: "Work to achieve a 100 per cent vote for the candidates of the Democratic Front".

Why the difference?

In Albania the working people have won economic and political power. Political study groups and discussions are regularly held in every workplace. Every adult Albanian (criminals, some ex-landlords and ex-capitalists excepted) is a member of the Democratic Front, the largest mass organisation. It is through this organisation that they express themselves politically.

The People Decide

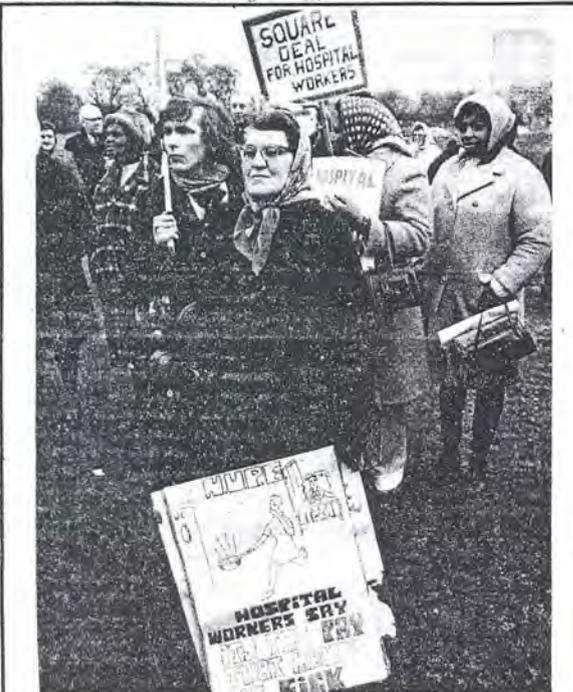
In Britain, election candidates are chosen by selection committees of rival bourgeois parties, and then 'sold' to the voters. In Albania the people themselves, where they work or live, propose the best members of their class as candidates. At mass meetings

the people examine their past work, political level, capability and willingness to serve the people. No money or electoral machine is necessary.

Proletarian Unity

The People's Assembly is composed of the best industrial workers, farmers, young people and women (now over 40 per cent of the delegates). Less than half are Party members, but the unity of the people round the Party is a striking feature of Albania expressed in slogans on street posters, walls and hillsides. This unity was forged in the national liberation war against the German and Italian invaders, when the embryo democratic councils of the people first appeared. It is a unity based on one class, the working class.

Wilson, Heath and Thorpe all cry for 'national unity'. Albania shows us what true unity is. We workers cannot unite with capitalism, let us unite to smash it.



Hospital workers who brought a whole new section of the working class into industrial action in pursuit of better wages and conditions. By refusing to subsidise the Health Service out of their own pockets they are creating conditions in which it will be possible to recruit adequate staff.

New pamphlet from the CPB (M-L) STUDENTS INTO CLASS STRUGGLE (SECOND EDITION)

Three years' experience has shown that the original *Students Into Class Struggle* fulfilled the Marxist principle of "Practice, Theory, Practice" for it is as true and accurate today as when it was first published, and has successfully been put into practice.

Yet practice is the greatest teacher, and never ceases to provide more lessons and, if considered correctly, a better understanding. So the pamphlet has been updated, strengthened and broadened to improve its value to all who are or are becoming involved in the student movement...

"Now the main lesson for us must be that our perpetual struggle to defend our standards of living and education will amount only to permanent subjection if it is not developed into the fight to destroy capitalism itself. At every stage of struggle students are being forced to face up to questions of what path to take, what tactics to adopt, what their ultimate goal is. We are faced, time and time again, with two different lines, the revolutionary one and the social democratic one...
"Guerilla struggle is the first part of the strategy of protracted war; no one rent strike can hold college charges down for ever, and no one occupation will forever stave off the threat of victimisation. The realisation of this is growing among students, and the task before us is to transform this realisation into an understanding that ultimately the working class is going to have to come to grips with the question of state power. We must convince students that only by smashing the bourgeois state and building a state of the proletariat that the long-term future of education in this country will be secured..."

Labour - Tory Imperialism

Apart from some shadow boxing over the Common Market the subject of foreign policy did not crop up once during the entire election period. That is because, even more obviously than in other fields, there is no basic difference between these two parties which both serve capitalism. The foreign policy of Labour, as of Tory, and the Liberals too for that matter, is full support for British imperialist interests with frequent glances over the shoulder to see if the United States approves.

Wilson had the effrontery to say that Labour is for decolonisation: yet during the election when heckled over Ireland he actually boasted about being the one who sent in the troops.
It is British troops in Northern Ireland that maintain British imperialism's stranglehold on a neighbour country. In the presence of those troops Britain's exploitation of Ireland continues. In their presence sectarianism, the divide-and-rule policy of imperialism has been fomented. In their presence the next phony stages of trying to fool the Irish people with some 'power-sharing' or other constitutional device will be carried out.

BRITISH TROOPS OUT! We said that the day Wilson sent them in to retrieve a crumbling imperialist situation and we go on saying it. British troops out. Let the Irish people solve their own problems in their own country in their own way. It is high time the British working class said that too in a voice the Government dare not ignore.

Cyprus Too

We say the same about Cyprus. BRITISH TROOPS OUT! Callaghan says they cannot be asked to leave because the bases are sovereign British territory. That is a purely British arrangement. There is nothing to do with the people of Cyprus - only with Britain's own interests in the Eastern Mediterranean and, of course, the interests of the US for whom Britain is always ready to be a dishonest broker.

It is all the same story as back in 1964 when Wilson in opposition asked the then Tory Government to inform the US that we would not support the bombing of North Vietnam. Two months later Wilson was Prime Minister and gave the US this country's blessing on US bombing of North Vietnam in exchange for their support for British imperialist policies in Malaya.

It is all the same and it will remain the same till the working class assumes the power to change it.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

- OCT 18th THE CUTS IN EDUCATION
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road.
- OCT 25th HEALTH WORKERS: ANOTHER SECTION INTO GUERRILLA ACTION
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop
- NOV 1st ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION - Film and speaker
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop
- NOV 8th SOCIAL CONTRACT OR CLASS STRUGGLE
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop
- NOV 15th THE SPECIAL NATURE OF TRADE UNIONISM IN BRITAIN
Speaker: Reg Birch, Chairman of the CPB(M-L)
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop
- NOV 22nd THE WAR AGAINST THE US PUPPET GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM CONTINUES - Speaker and new feature film from Hanoi: "Song of the Front".
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop
- NOV 29th CELEBRATION OF ALBANIA'S NATIONAL DAY
7.30pm; Holborn Assembly Rooms, St Johns Mews, Holborn, London W. C. 2.
- DEC 6th MAO ON THE STRATEGY OF GUERRILLA AND PROTRACTED STRUGGLE
7.30 p.m. At the Bellman Bookshop,
- DEC 13th "TUNNEL WARFARE"
Film about the guerilla war against Japanese aggression in China
7.30 p.m. the Bellman Bookshop

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