



THIS GOVT WANTS WAR

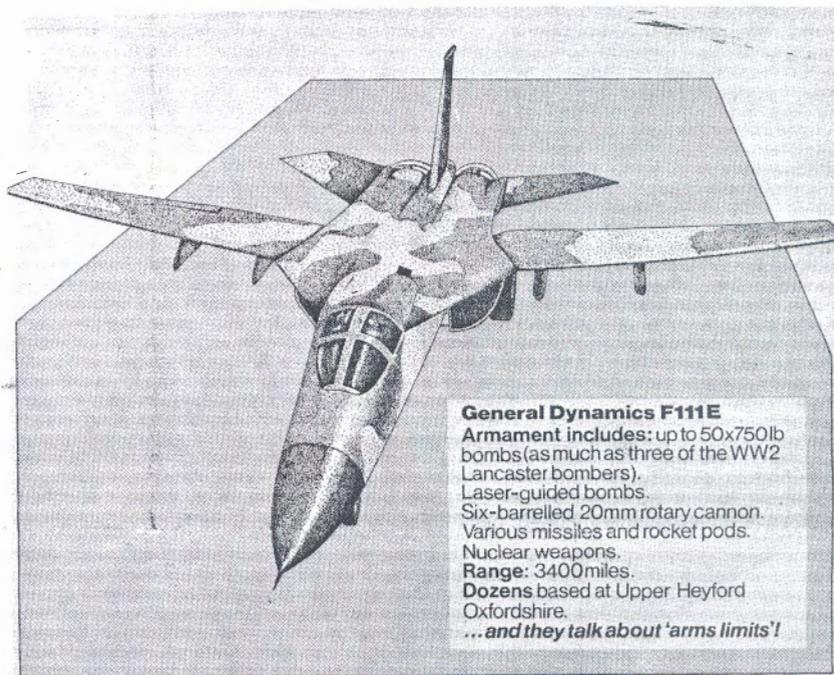
THIS GOVERNMENT is on the war path. Its first act was to raise the pay of the troops in the army and the police it needs against working people at home or abroad - while teachers, also with outstanding claims, are told to pack up their struggle and wait for whatever piffing award it may be decided to give them.

We must not be misled for a moment by the blandishments of this new 200 year-old capitalist government during its first few days in office, nor by any cloak of reasonableness with which it may try to conceal its naked attacks on the working class in defence of the profit system.

In the name of strengthening Britain's defences the country will be welded even more firmly into western imperialism's military combine against the world's people - NATO. There are already plans for increasing nuclear bases in Britain, putting the people of Britain at even more horrible risk so that capitalism may survive. What this Government calls 'defence' is the massing of forces to continue the occupation of Ireland, to throw into Africa as the people of Zimbabwe look like achieving real independence, to make up part of the bristling array of armed might to threaten people anywhere who try to throw off the capitalist yoke and particularly to be ready for emergencies here as more and more force is required to preserve this barbarous system in Britain.

The attack on the British working class under such insulting terms as 'anti-scrouring' measures, including tightening up unemployment benefits while increasing unemployment, taxing short-term employment and sickness benefits and cutting benefits to strikers' families, is being mounted. Not only are they launching such assaults against us they are going to try to see that we go into battle with one arm tied behind us by imposing rules on picketing and on how we run our own unions.

We owe it to ourselves and to workers everywhere to make sure that this capitalist Government never enjoys the peace at home to be able to make war elsewhere. Capitalism is destroying Britain's industrial base to weaken and destroy the working class. We workers must destroy capitalism's military base in Britain as our contribution to world peace and socialism.



General Dynamics F111E

Armament includes: up to 50x750lb bombs (as much as three of the WW2 Lancaster bombers).
Laser-guided bombs.
Six-barrelled 20mm rotary cannon.
Various missiles and rocket pods.
Nuclear weapons.
Range: 3400 miles.
Dozens based at Upper Heyford Oxfordshire.

...and they talk about 'arms limits'!

The effect of the Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement. Article page 2.

Engineers EEC and NATO plan destruction

want more

AT THIS year's National Committee of the AUEW delegates unanimously threw out the engineering employers' pay offer and instructed the Executive Council to demand more.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering unions have subsequently thrown out the employers' offer not only in the engineering industry but in the water industry, the gas industry and the local authorities.

The decks are now cleared for members to pursue the claim for £80 basic rate for craftsmen in all industries.

The CSEU executive has already accepted the offer for skilled workers in the health service which increases the basic rate to £77.20 and will increase wages by about 17 per cent.

THE CONSERVATIVE government seems set to join with West Germany in setting up a European nuclear force as one of its first major acts of foreign policy. The seeds were sown last week when Thatcher met Schmidt in London, and as Schmidt said at the final press conference, the fact that it was a West German social-democrat meeting a British conservative was "no problem".

The ostensible spur for the

plan is the new SS-20 missile which is currently being developed in the Soviet Union. This is to be a 'multiple warhead' missile - basically, several rockets in one, and its range will be such as to make Western Europe its main target. Hence, apparently, the need for an equally horrific response.

Another impetus comes from the fact that the West German rulers are finally becoming

fed up that everyone wants only German workers to die for the glory of world capitalism - they want everyone else to die too. And in case the USA chickens out at the last moment, they want a nuclear capability in the event of a "limited" war in Central Europe. Hence, apparently, the need for a specifically European nuclear force.

So provided everyone shares the risks, the politicians and ex-Nazi generals of West Germany want a European finger on the button of destruction. Thatcher too wants to be involved.

This marriage of warmaking minds has yet to be fully consummated, but the probable outcome is horrific, and will make the nuclear destruction of Britain an absolute certainty should war occur in Western Europe.

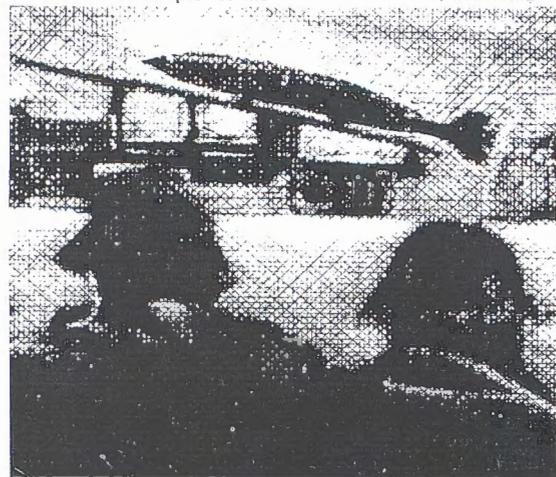
The independent deterrent would be composed of American-built Pershing and Cruise missiles, sold to us at inordinate cost by the Americans, who obviously want us to die for them and are not worried by European 'independence'. The missiles would be based in West Germany and Britain, subject to European instructions

(in reality, those of the US-dominated NATO), and destined for targets inside the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union would then be expected to have scores of its equally destructive missiles permanently aimed at Britain. Such madness is perfectly reasonable in the eyes of our rulers, who like to tell us that such an arrangement makes us secure.

The whole thing is inextricably bound up with the Common Market. There is the suggestion, more like a certainty that, in going along the nuclear road with the Germans, they would secure for Britain an easier ride than might have been expected in the EEC on fishing rights and better terms within the Common Agricultural Policy. It is as if we would permit a time bomb to be fixed to a bus with the promise that fare increases would be held down.

How much more secure we would be if there were no US or for that matter German bases on British soil, if Britain were out of NATO and the EEC, and if all nuclear weapons were destroyed. On the edge of the precipice there is no security.



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The Week

Delegates representing NALGO's 500,000 local government workers agreed last week to a pay claim of 15 per cent from July 1. Other elements in the claim include a minimum wage of £50 per week, a 35 hour week, extra holidays and consolidation of previous increases. The delegates however laid an unhealthy emphasis on the possibility of a comparability study.

Delegates almost unanimously backed a call for preparation to be made for industrial action should a satisfactory offer not be forthcoming. Any offer short of the full claim will be considered by a future delegate conference.

REMEMBER all that guff about the benefits of North Sea Oil? It certainly has benefited the Thomson Organisation, which is subsidising its attack on workers at The Times to the tune of £4 million per month. This year they announced a 33 per cent increase in profits to £136.7 million - a lot of which derives from the oil bonanza.

ON SUNDAY, May 6, Branch 10/156 of the Hull Tanker Drivers voted overwhelmingly against the introduction of the Tachograph in their trucks despite the EEC ruling. After debating the issue they thought the bad points far outweighed the good points which the device had to offer the drivers.

IN OXFORDSHIRE 15 village doctor's surgeries were closed recently, and Burford's cottage hospital is threatened with closure.

Nationally, the number of pharmacies has been declining steadily since 1955. By 1977 the number had dropped from 15,313 to 10,809. Also, the number of district nurses has dropped.

As in the fight to save education by fighting to save small schools from closure, so our class in town and country must unite to save our Health Service.

A YOUNG army captain seeking discharge from the Army last week told a public tribunal that, having served in Northern Ireland, in his view, the British military presence in Northern Ireland was "antagonistic and provoked more violence."

The Employers Federation of the German print industry is pressing charges against two officials and a convener of I.G. Druck und Papier, the German print union, for their solidarity action on behalf of "Times" workers.



(photo: Arbeit und Film)

Historic Notes

THE INTERNATIONAL Workingmen's Association, to become known as the First International, was founded at a meeting in London's St. Martin's Hall, one hundred and fifteen years ago, on September 28, 1869.

It was fitting that the foundation of an international body of the working class should take place in the birthplace of capitalism and of the working class. The British trade union movement, the most advanced in Europe, took its proper role in this historic event and those who served on the General Council of the Association included some of the leaders of the British labour movement.

The International came at a time when workers across the world followed the pioneering steps of the British to form trade unions.

Vietnam peace proposals obstructed by China

FOLLOWING ON China's war of aggression against Vietnam, the Chinese side at the negotiations in Hanoi is pursuing its imperialist aims at the conference.

On April 18 the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the first session of the negotiations between China and Vietnam, put forward very reasonable proposals as the basis for peace.

Vietnam's peace proposals

These included mutually refraining from concentrating troops close to the border line and withdrawing armed forces of all kinds to a distance of 3 to 5 kilometers behind the line of actual control prior to February 17, 1979, thus creating a demilitarised zone between the two countries. All acts of war provocation and all acts violating sovereignty and territorial integrity would stop forthwith. The two sides would exchange lists of people captured during the war so that they could be returned.

Normal relations between the two countries should be restored with the development of economic and cultural relations in a spirit of mutual benefit.

There should be a settlement of border and territorial problems on the basis of respect for the border line left by history and delineated by the 1887 and 1895 Conventions as already agreed between Vietnam and China.

Peking's response to these proposals was a demand that Vietnam withdraw its troops "from other countries" and oppose efforts by anyone else "to establish hegemonism in Asia."

WILL THE US Senate ratify Carter's Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) with the Soviet Union? Or will it fail to gain the necessary two-thirds majority? Roll up, roll up, and place your bets.

Either way, it is being billed as a momentous decision on which the hopes of the world rest. But with this treaty you don't even have to look at the small print to see that SALT has nothing to do with limitation.

Firstly, the number of multiple warhead missiles is being limited - to 1320 on each side by 1981. Neither the Soviet Union nor the United States have that many now. Nor will there be any reduction in the quantity or destructive power of the separate warheads within each missile.

Secondly, each side is restricted to 120 bombers armed with

The First International 1869

In Britain, the struggle for a shorter working week gathered momentum. The Trades Councils were being formed in the major urban centres. 1869 was to see the foundation of the Trade Union Congress.

British workers were also keenly interested in the international scene. Marx commented that it was only the action of the British working class that prevented the capitalists from intervening in the American Civil War on the side of the slave-owners.

When Garibaldi, the Italian patriot, was invited to Britain by bourgeois liberals, the celebrations were swamped by the workers, which embarrassed capitalism so much that Garibaldi's visit was cut short. The occupation and partition of Poland aroused deep

sympathy. And Ireland was discussed, the International declaring its support for the fight for Irish independence and freedom.

The International had to cope, as we do now, with the continuous threat of war between the different capitalist powers. War came to Europe in 1870 between Prussia and France. After the defeat of France, the world saw the red flag raised in the Paris Commune. In an address of the General Council to the Association, Marx pointed out that only the working class could end war, that at the same time as the French and German governments rushed headlong to destruction "the workmen of France and Germany send each other messages of peace and goodwill... this great fact opens the vista of a brighter future.

In the Commune of Paris, though it lasted but a few weeks, Marx saw the future of the world, the dictatorship of the working class and socialism. He stated: "Workingmen's Paris, with its Commune, will forever be celebrated as the glorious harbinger of a new society..."

The First International differed from those that followed, for it was based not on political parties but trade unions. Its ideas were to boomerang around the world, to revolutionary Paris, to the Soviet Union, to China, Vietnam and Albania. But a boomerang always returns to the thrower. Revolution in Britain, the birthplace of proletarian internationalism, will provide the guarantee for further advance of workers the world over.

Struggle in Peru

THE PAST year has been one of almost continual struggle by workers in Peru. This, despite a witch hunt of trade union activists by the military junta, who with 70 per cent inflation, overwhelming foreign debts and considerable IMF pressure officially named 1978 'The year of austerity'.

In May after a particularly rough ride from the IMF, food prices were doubled and petrol increased by 67 per cent.

The organised working class responded by holding a two-day general strike - the most successful in Peru's history.

In August, Peru was subjected to a state of emergency to end the 50,000 strong National Federation of Mining and Metallurgical workers' 5 week strike for the reinstatement of 5,000 members dismissed over the previous year on political grounds (e.g. trade union activities), and the repeal of a decree outlawing strikes in their industry. Similar reasons prompted the Peruvian Federation of Bank Employees to close banks on alternative days for a month. The teacher's union Sutep, won recognition after a 12 week strike and health workers were also in action to defend dismissed members. 1979 has been as active. Already a three-day general strike has been held in January despite 'shoot on sight' orders to the army.

Civilian life in Peru was ended by a coup in 1968 when the supposedly radical junta of General Juan Valesco came to power dedicated to the 'definite abandonment of capitalism'. The utopian dream of military socialism was rudely awakened by a counter coup headed by the 'right wing' General Morales Bermúdez in 1976. Now he in turn plans for a return to civilian rule next year.

Of Peru's 16 million people 45 per cent of working age are unemployed or underemployed. Illiteracy runs at 25 per cent infant mortality is 11 per cent. The US has a special interest in the suppression of the Trade Unions and trains thousands of Latin American officers at military schools in the US and Panama to keep their countrymen in check. The IMF supports this.

Now as a period of civilian rule approaches Peruvian workers are not to be confused, seeing the same employing interests at the helm with the military hovering just in case. Their fight is not for a civilian junta but for a socialist Peru free from capitalism.

A senior member of the Vietnamese Central Committee said in an interview in Hanoi at the beginning of May that there is certainly no question of forming an Indo-China federation. However, now that the Peking rulers are seeking to divide the three countries - Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea - there is more reason for them to unite against these divisive manoeuvres and encroachments." Regarding China's reference to the Soviet Union's alleged establishment of hegemony in the area, he added: we did not allow any foreign troops during the war with the Americans even though many friendly countries offered them. The same applies now."

Peking's response

The Chinese also demand the withdrawal of Vietnamese personnel from islands in the Nansha group (Spratleys) and the acceptance of China's sovereignty over these islands and also the Xisha group (Paracels) which are believed to be rich in off-shore oil and which the Chinese have already seized though their ownership is in dispute. China insists Vietnam take back Chinese refugees who crossed into southwest China last year and demands guarantees for the future rights of Chinese living in Vietnam.

This is the Hitlerite technique of laying down unacceptable ultimata and using their non-fulfilment as an excuse for armed invasion. The recent complaints made about the treatment of Chinese in Vietnam is exactly like Hitler's complaints about the

the Cruise missile, or similar, a remote-controlled, ground-hugging missile built to slip through radar defences. Neither side has any bombers at all armed with an operational Cruise missile at present.

Thirdly, there is no mention

SALT-how the imperialists plan for war

at all in the treaty of cutting back or stopping the arms race in outer space - those satellites orbiting around our heads, which can be bristling with nuclear missiles.

So what is being limited? Well, there will be a cutback in the num-

ber of single warhead missiles - but then with the multiples carrying at present about 10 missiles each, that is hardly a limitation.

So why call it limitation?

Only a fool would deny that the peoples of the world want peace, and Carter and Brezhnev are certainly not fools. And they can't claim that they are disarming, so instead they talk about "limitation".

It would be tempting to dismiss the whole thing as a sham and an irrelevancy, but unfortunately this is not the case. This is no joke, but a planned and agreed escalation of nuclear armaments, of ever-increasing stocks of mass destruction. The outcome, by no means inevitable, will be war, unless the peoples of the world act and overthrow the warmakers. SALT II is about war, not peace, and the sooner we all understand that, the better.

Editorial

The following speech is from the May Day meeting in London of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

"AS COMMUNISTS in Britain we believe the survival of socialism in the world and the future of communism depend on the workers in industrialised countries moving to revolution.

"As workers in Britain we can point to important advances since the firemen took on the Government at the beginning of last year.

"We know that the firemen's strike was not only a principled struggle for wages and conditions but also a fight to save that industry from destruction.

"The demand by the firemen and other workers was a fight by the members to get their trade unions to carry out the task they were set up for, the defence and improvement of the members' wages and conditions.

"Last year the insistence on that basic truth was reflected in the TUC decision on collective bargaining.

"Since then there was the great upsurge - the winter of discontent - Fords, the bakers, tanker drivers, hospital workers, nurses, civil servants, and still more to come.

"We should consider this experience and clarity of clinging to claims in the face of every possible attack the state machine could muster.

"And we have seen in the election a further attack - an attempt to divert us away from the tasks we had set our labour movement.

"The clarity won in recent struggles must continue and develop into the future - because it is truly our future.

"The turning back to basics in the trade unions is just beginning. Sometime we will have to finish what we began.

"Trade unions were the beginnings of dignity for our class - that dignity which looked to the future of the working class and secured for all of us the basic skills, education and health that are now under attack.

"The only dignified answer to that attack is to assert ourselves and run Britain for ourselves instead of for a decaying capitalism. That is the dignity of revolution. We need a ruling class like we need the proverbial hole in the head.

"We have made it impossible for them to rule in the old way. Now they have to close down industry to smash our organisation. They have to attack our health and education to weaken us. They have to look for support from NATO and the Common Market to shake off 'the British disease' that is us.

"Now we must make it impossible for them to rule at all. We must claim back our land, industry and sovereignty through revolution.

"In doing so we will not further waste the efforts of the millions who struggled before so that we are here together today. We will not allow ourselves to be wasted in the depression that is capitalism's reward for our work."

'Lives at risk' say firemen

BY ORDER of the Greater London Council, Londoners will be burned to death this year, when their lives could easily have been saved; this is the conclusion reached by the London Regional Committee of the Fire Brigades Union.

In 1971 the chief fire officer of London stated: "The snatching of a fellow human's life from a terrifying death may easily turn on a quarter of a minute - a matter of seconds."

The sincerity of the GLC's concern for human life can be gauged by their subsequent proposals for the London fire service: to reduce operational fire-fighting and rescue machinery by a total of 42 pumps and special appliances, to close the River station at Greenwich, and to reduce manning levels.

The employers are determined that firemen and the Londoners they serve shall pay dearly for the heroic strike of 1977-8. The fought-for reduction from a 48-hour to a 42-hour week is being implemented with new recruitment of only 350 firemen - nowhere near sufficient to maintain standards.

In 1974 firemen's hours were reduced from 56 to 48 hours a week. A new intake of 2000 firemen brought an improvement in manning levels. In one year, 1975-6, 49 fewer people died by fire - a direct consequence of the improvement. Now that service is to be massacred and lives will

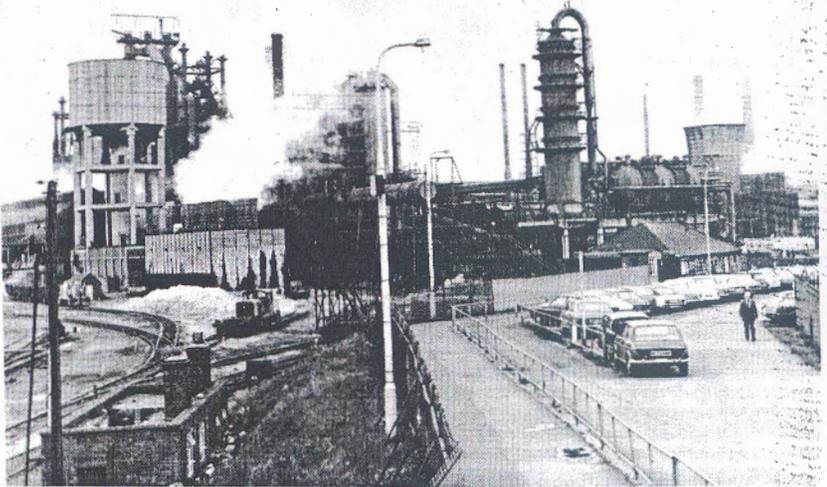
be squandered, in the brutal name of economy.

Firemen go to work every day prepared to risk their lives to rescue people from burning buildings, and face the horrors of traffic accidents. They know what it means when they are too late or too few in number. To them, figures of loss of life from fire are real people, burned bodies.

Since the GLC was formed, the number of emergency calls on the fire brigade has gone from 39,566 in 1965 to 95,904 in the last 11 months of 1978. The employers estimate that the number could be 168,000 by 1985 - that is during a normal year, not allowing for extraordinary circumstances such as drought. Fire losses and traffic congestion are increasing, huge new hotels are being built, and the London Docklands Industrial Development Scheme will place a massive burden on the fire service.

In Chingford, East London, firemen and local trade unionists recently protested outside their fire station where the number of fire engines has been halved - from two to one.

A Chingford fireman claimed that the GLC has weighed the cost of replacing burnt-out buildings against that of maintaining an efficient fire service. To the employer, to argue about the 'cost' of human lives is irrelevant. They don't cost a penny.



The threat to Corby's steelworks is a threat to a whole community.

(photo: The Worker)

Corby under threat

AS REPORTED IN THE WORKER NO 14, in February the managers of British Steel in Corby invited the unions to discuss closing down the strip making side of this integrated steel-making plant, which processes iron ore into strip and finally into tubes. The unions refused to even talk about it, but clearly cannot fail to respond to this murderous move, for the management's next tactic will be to write to individual workers about redundancy pay. Now the workers have gone onto the offensive and mounted a campaign called ROSAC - Retention of Steel at Corby - to fight this move which they see inevitably leading to the closure of the entire steel works on the site with the loss of over 11,000 jobs. Once the iron making and strip manufacture go, it will not take the management long to 'discover' that it is more economic to manufacture the tubes at the seaside steel complexes that are just coming on stream.

Corby - Jarrow all over again?

Corby is a community facing a murder as severe if not more so than that of Jarrow. There has been nothing on this scale since then. In the 1930's, Corby was a sleepy little Northamptonshire village of 1,600 people. When it was discovered that there were easily mined deposits of iron ore under the ground, some mining started before the war. During and after the war the operation really got going, to the point where Corby is now a town of 56,000, more than 11,000 of whom work in steel. With virtually no other industry it is a one industry town. In order to get people to Corby, workers were recruited, mainly from the Glasgow area, and brought to Northamptonshire on the promise of a brave new world. First they were housed in barracks reminiscent of labour camps, then in houses built by the company (the Scottish firm of Stewarts and Lloyds, which became incorporated into BSC), then later in Development Corporation houses as the government assisted the build-up of Corby. And now the labour camp image, reminiscent of employer behaviour in South Africa, seems even more

apt. For when the decision is made that steel is no longer 'economic', these people, after twenty, thirty, or forty years, are supposed to pack their bags and go.

Campaign involves everyone

The chairman of the local trades council is secretary of ROSAC, and he sees it as an important part of the campaign to involve the whole community in the fight. Corby is about the most disastrous result of government mismanagement of a New Town that one can imagine. Although official government policy was always to prevent the development of vulnerable one-industry towns, diversification has simply not happened in Corby, and firms which actually applied to come in the 1970's were refused development certificates by the government so that the last ounce of flesh could be screwed out by the steel works. Although statistically Corby has merited assistance for some time, the government has consistently withheld Assisted Area Status from it, and has consciously developed Milton Keynes, Northampton and Peterborough, while knowing that Corby's days were numbered. Although it is conveniently situated between the A1 and the M1, the planners have shown their long term confidence in Corby by persistently refusing to build the connecting roads that are so essential for any town's industrial diversification.

Destruction planned 10 years ago

The workers are aware that their bleak future was known by the employers and government as long ago as 1969, when an internal BSC document was leaked which showed that closure was planned. Although this was hotly denied by BSC, it was followed by the 1973 Ten Years Plan for the "rationalisation" of the British Steel Industry, which explicitly talked of the loss of jobs in the East Midlands. Still the Corby management denied the coming closure and accused those who tried to raise the issues of being "communist scaremongers". Is it now

also scaremongering to say that the EEC plan for European steel is that it should be confined to the Ruhr Valley?

The loss of the 11,000 jobs (in steel would inevitably mean the end of the whole community. It is in recognition of this that the NUT has become an active member of the ROSAC committee. Teachers in Corby realise that their concern for the children's education must extend itself to a concern for the town as a whole. They point out that of the 1,000 children who leave school each year, only 400 of them at the moment can expect to get a job in steel, and the unemployment rate for school leavers already is 20%. If the steel works were to close, the only skills it would be worth training these children to have would be the ability to fill in a social security form.

They point out that in many ways Corby is already a socially deprived area with an infant mortality rate of 22 per 1,000 in a county whose average is 9.

Keep all of Corby's steel - nothing less!

ROSAC is not going to be tricked into accepting offers of diversification in return for accepting closure of the steelworks: their response is that they want diversification for those already unemployed, but that the campaign's main aim is to retain the entire integrated steel plant at Corby. In making this their central objective, they are saying that they reject the logic of capitalist planning that can treat human beings in this way. They reject the logic of the European Economic Community which they suspect in the long run is out to stop steel being made in Britain at all. And they are determined to ensure that any tendency in the steel unions to say "Corby rather than us", is turned into "Corby now, us next". They are fighting to save their jobs and their industry, but also their homes and sense of community they have built up. All they have done to deserve this treatment is to work hard all their lives; they are not going to be dispersed and thrown onto the scrap heap at the whim of capital. There are no home lands for them to return to,

NATFHE in 36% pay fight

INDUSTRIAL action by college teachers began on Monday May 14 and already it is creating disruption in a number of colleges in England and Wales.

College teachers are asking for a 28 per cent increase in wages together with structural changes adding up to a total of almost 36 per cent.

When the employers on the behalf of the government suspended normal negotiations through Burnham the national executive of the college teachers' union (the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education) called on branches to take action including no cover for absent colleagues, strict adherence to personal time-tables and a half day strike on Friday May 18.

The interpretation of these-

sanctions are left to be worked out locally depending on the strength and local conditions of service of the college. And there has not been a shortage of ideas on how to make the sanctions, which in many colleges does not even involve a break of contract, bite.

At Willesden College of Technology, one of the biggest colleges in the country, teachers are refusing to undertake examination invigilation duties if they fall outside their normal teaching hours.

Those colleges who have decided to hold their fire for the time being must reconsider in the light of the changing situation, and join their colleagues in the rest of the country in taking the action most suitable to their local conditions.



The recent solidarity action by German workers which stopped production of "The Times".

(photo: Arbeit und Film)

THE STATE OF BRITAIN/Industry

Fords attack British Steel

AT A RECENT conference of the British Steel Corporation, top Ford managers outlined their reasons for not buying the steel necessary for bodywork panels from the three Welsh plants of Port Talbot, Llanwern and Shotton, in preference to foreign steel.

"The continental product was, and still is, superior in most aspects, particularly in consistency and quality. They apparently started along this road before the

BSC, introducing sophisticated gauge-control equipment, continuous casting plants and finishing lines."

Yet successive governments have deliberately chosen to decrease manning levels and increase productivity from a workforce forced to work "hand-loom", and investment like the £835 million intended for Port Talbot has been stopped.

What kind of steel industry will capitalism leave us with?

TEACHERS' ACTION BITES

THE NEW Education Secretary, Carlisle, has blundered from the first in his hopeless plea to teachers to suspend their sanctions. He has provided proof (if more were needed) of how successful the 'withdrawal of goodwill' by a quarter of a million members of the National Union of Teachers has been.

Teachers have withdrawn

from services which are voluntary and unpaid, particularly supervision of children at lunch times, with authorities closing schools for lack of ancillary staff. Teachers' action is directed against this and is forcing authorities to provide more staff.

The desperation of the employers is such that they have insulted parents by calling on them to be unpaid scabs.

But the NUT action, ensuring that children, and in particular their examinations, do not suffer, is aimed at winning parents support. At Bexley and elsewhere a campaign of leaflets to parents has already been started.

School secretaries have been forced to appeal to authorities for more secretarial time, because teachers normally handle dinner money.

Teachers are refusing to use their own cars to drive between the classrooms of schools on 'split sites'. Their demand is for the provision of authority transport.

NUT action is particularly effective because it can be continued as long as necessary, as teachers are working to and

not against contract, without loss of pay. By withdrawing from voluntary non-teaching duties, teachers are asserting the right to do properly their teaching job. After this, there can be no justification for accepting the shoddy overwork of before.

Failing a response from the employers, stronger action, called for in Birmingham, Manchester and London, will be necessary.

And the NUT decided at meetings last weekend that if progress on their claim is not made when the negotiations resume, a ballot of the membership will take place in selected areas for withdrawal of labour. The union stresses that examinations will not be affected.

Government spokesmen have repeatedly agreed that a return to the 1975 level of pay established by Houghton was just. Yet in advancing massive rises to the police and armed forces they have shown where their interests lie.

Teachers are angrier than ever and have shown this by their determination before, during, and after the election.

Questions that need answers in the North -East

THE LABOUR Government had its 'industrial strategy'. The Conservative Government champions what it calls 'private enterprise'.

Do these terms mean anything at all? Just look at the North East:

Vickers, Scotswood (750 jobs lost)

Courtaulds, Spennymoor (1600 jobs lost)

Head Rightson, Teeside (250 jobs lost)

Hylton Colliery, Sunderland (440 jobs to go)

North Sands shipyard, Sunderland (230 jobs to go)

Monsanto Chemicals (1500 jobs to go)

Apprentices at Consett Iron and Steel, County Durham, coming to the end of their 'time' have been told they have to go. This is a steel town which has lost 600 jobs this year in unemployment that resembles the thirties. 500 possible redundancies are expected at William Press of Howden on Tyneside where workers produce modules for North Sea oil platforms. So much for 'sharing in the benefits of North Sea oil.' When did capitalism share anything with anybody? And all the oil related industry we were promised?

Fact: the bulk of equipment

for oil extraction is made in Scandinavia.

Fact: the Thomson organisation (owners of Times Newspapers who locked out and then sacked 3000 print workers) made £136.7 million profit in 1978, most of it from North Sea oil investments.

Thatcher says, "back the workers not the shirkers". So could she explain the deliberate destruction of jobs, particularly in the North East? She also says, "law and order". Well, how criminal are employers who throw thousands out of work? Are these employers the "industrial wreckers" Thatcher talks about?



vickers scotswood workers on the May Day march. Save British industry from capitalism

(photo: Newcastle Trades Council)

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortress Road, London NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays
Liverpool Bookstall every Thursday Liverpool University

Public Meeting

READING "Social-democracy: the road to destruction"
 Thursday May 31st, 8:00pm
 AUEW Committee Rooms,
 Oxford Rd., Reading

The Worker

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