

# THE WORKER



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## NOT PEACE BUT WAR



Marxism - Leninism shows the way

The same leadership which consolidated the strength of the AUEW in the all out fight to smash the Industrial Relations Act has been closely involved in major action by workers at Fords to tear the social contract to shreds.

### Scotland: Industrial Battlefield

The current growth of the fight by various sectors of Scottish workers against the rocketing cost of living and virtual wage cuts has spelt out the irrelevancy of the General Election here. It is a slap in the face for those authorities who prayed the Labour Government and Social Contract would succeed in dampening down class struggle.

Notably, in the present strikes and work to rules in Scotland the impetus for action, often decisive in impact, has come from the rank and file.

Within a week 6000 lorry drivers on strike had made 100,000 jobs subject to lay offs. Immediate effects were seen in shortages of foundry sand, food, and newsprint and the closure of the Glasgow and Grangemouth container terminals had led to the cancellation of a dozen ships. The fight was over £40 for a 45 hour week. Some drivers of 21 tonners were near £8 under this level for a 45 hour week.

From October 19th 3000 transport workers striking for an immediate £5 increase brought Greater Glasgow buses and underground to a halt. At the same time bus crews of the Scottish Transport Group took strike action, then continued a ban on overtime which will affect 14 depots in the Central Belt. Just one example of militancy: car loads of pickets followed buses, coming from outside areas, through the New Town of Cumbernauld, preventing stopping and picking up or shedding passengers. An all Scotland strike will be discussed at Stirling on November 10th if £35 for a 35 hours is not forthcoming.

The effectiveness of the strike by 700 Glasgow dustmen and sewage workers is told by the 1,750,000 plastic sacks issued by their employers, piles of rubbish and 100,000 gallons of untreated sewage spewing into the Clyde. The increase required is 10%.

By October 28th teachers at almost 300 Scottish schools will be working to rule in the fourth stage of a campaign to implement minimum working conditions drawn up by their union the E.I.S. Where bad conditions exist and the teachers are strong, strike action has occurred, and parents and pupils have joined teachers in demonstrations. Meanwhile the union is presenting demands for wage increases of between 30 and 50 per cent. Now, many teachers in Glasgow and

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## Ford

After 85 hour negotiations lasting till dawn on October 19th, the best possible deal for workers was squeezed out of Ford's management, blasting a huge hole in the social contract both in terms of the size of the rises and of their timing.

Final improvements in the offer of another £4 million brought the settlement up to £68 million - an increase of between 38.9 and 41.4 per cent for 53,000 workers. The pay increases in three stages will go a considerable way toward bridging the gap between Ford wage rates and those of motor car workers in the Midlands.

While enemies of the working class were busy either deploring the Ford rises or explaining by double talk that they really fell within the social contract, Reg Birch, secretary of the union negotiators who had forced through this settlement, expressed the true feelings of all workers when he stated at the end of the marathon discussions that he "cared nothing for the social contract".

#### Leadership

What the Ford dispute and settlement have made obvious is that spontaneous actions by workers are not enough - particularly in situations where employers can exploit the uneven development of political class consciousness among workers in large industrial complexes.

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### EDITORIAL

The Labour Government calls for industrial peace in the interest of capitalism: we call for an escalation of class war in the name of socialism.

A quickening tempo of industrial action is the working class's answer to the demand for implementation of the so-called social contract.

In class conflict over the last year or so the working class, according to official statistics, has not succeeded in holding its own. Threshold payments do not protect workers from wage cuts - they merely somewhat limit the extent of those cuts.

This decline in the standard of living of workers is no reflection on their willingness and ability to fight. It is a measure of the severity of the crisis of capitalism in Britain.

The crisis is getting worse. The working class will have to mobilise itself to fight even harder, further developing the tactics of successful guerrilla struggle.

Any action the working class takes to secure and defend a decent standard of living is a struggle for the health of the whole community - just as health workers, in fighting for better working conditions are fighting for the survival of the health service.

This action by workers is not selfish. It is action on behalf of the many against the few. It is real democracy, dynamic democracy, working class democracy. This real democracy can only thrive at the expense of the profit-grubbing few who exploit and oppress the many. It can only come into its own on the ruins of the rotten system of capitalism.

Capitalism is moribund. We will not be so foolish as to sacrifice ourselves to keep it alive. Rather we will face sacrifices to finish it off. This is a fight to the death - the death of a class, them or us. They will not bury us. We will bury them. Our grave-digging proceeds with every blow we strike in the class war.

No social contract but socialism itself - that is the only worthy goal for workers. Socialism is our contract with history to liberate ourselves and all men from wage-slavery.

### Nationalisation - who wants it?

"We deplore the lack of social conscience of the British Steel Corporation... the callous attitude towards redundancy and loss of jobs and the effect on community life of the proposed closures." That was the verdict on nationalisation of the joint trade union committee of the Lanarkshire steelworks at Motherwell.

This was the same lesson the miners learned when successive governments used nationalisation of the coal mines to lull them into years of industrial 'peace' during which they slipped behind other workers in wages and a Labour Government closed down pits and "shook out" the labour force in a vicious contraction of the mining

industry.

The Labour Party tries to present nationalisation as a measure carried out in the interest of workers. Nationalisation is really a prop for capitalism in extremis. When a section of the economy ceases to be profitable, the government steps in, buys off the owners with lavish compensation; and lets the tax payers, you and me, pay to keep it going. Real nationalisation, the public ownership of the means of production, can only exist where real state power has been won by the working class. The phoney nationalisation in a bourgeois state like Britain is used by both parties to bail out industries in trouble, even if they call it different names.

During the election the reason Wilson and Foot belaboured the BBC for the rises it had given to staff was that they had urged BBC management not to grant wage increases but refused to let management explain that the wages were being withheld by Government order. This was because such a block on a wage rise would further discredit the whole idea of nationalisation which was part of the Labour Party's election programme.

Nationalisation by parties serving capitalism are merely further steps toward the corporate state. They have nothing whatsoever to do with socialism.

## EEC .. we want out

In mid-November, Foreign Minister Callaghan hopes to begin the 're-negotiation' of Britain's membership of the EEC. By spring he hopes to have cut Britain's contribution to the EEC budget and to have modified the farm price policy. In other words, Labour's pretended 'opposition' to the Common Market has been reduced to a squabble over a few coppers.

Callaghan's real concern is Labour's promise to consult the British people on the question. For despite the apparent confusion in the capitalist camp the working class is clear, "We want out!" It was this implacability which produced Wilson's bravado of the referendum promise. This would be the first time that the British working class has been

consulted on a question of policy. For those who cling to the "sovereignty of parliament" the precedent would be shattering. If the people are to decide on the EEC, why not on every other question?

So the Labour Government would hope to enmesh the referendum in another parliamentary election. Alternatively, the question could be phrased with such ambiguity that no clear answer can be given. "Heads I win, tails you lose."

No, Mr. Wilson. We want a referendum, unadulterated. We will tell you, "Out!", then, just as we tell you, "Out!", now. We will have to tell you in other ways too and with such impact that the referendum will become a formality.

## BLACK BEER

When Trumans the brewers sent the word to pubs in Northfleet that that price of the ale was to increase by 1p a pint, workers in one factory demanded to meet the representative of the 'local' that backed onto their works.

When this meeting failed to reduce the price, the union blacked the pub concerned, and took all the trade (£150 a week) down the road.

No wringing of hands and pleading 'crop failures' and 'increased overheads' has made them return. When workers are organised, capitalists can regard no income as 'safe'.

## On the industrial front



### War against the social contract

"It is quite clear that if the Civil and Public Service Association were to act in accordance with the detailed recommendations of the TUC General Council for operating the social contract, it would not be possible for the CPSA leadership at this stage to give a firm assurance to members that even the present unsatisfactory level of real incomes could be maintained."

So wrote the general secretary of the 215,000 member CPSA in their union journal Red Tape, which thus looks like living up to the political colour of its title. Arguing against the capitulationist line advocated by the TUC General Council, the general secretary of the CPSA stated that the union had no other choice but to take the difficult and unpopular course of refusing to line up with other unions in support of the social contract at the Trade Union Congress in September.

In their stand the CPSA took a lead which more and more unions will be supporting, not just in the sense that their members will take action at their places of work to prevent cuts in their real wages but also in terms of explicit political opposition which union spokesmen will be urged by their membership to declare.

In the electricity supply industry, leaders of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union have endorsed the demand of their membership that negotiations on a new agreement should begin four months before the old Phase III deal expires - in flat defiance of the social contract.

Miners have forced the rejection of the Coal Board's proposed productivity scheme, which would have set pit against pit in the interest of the social contract. They will now have to make sure that they are not trapped into some less obvious form of the contract by a "national" productivity deal.

### Wingrove and Rogers

The bosses of the electrical components factory of Wingrove and Rogers, Liverpool, have finally collapsed in their fight against 200 women assemblers who have been on strike just over three months. The firm has for many years been notorious for their anti-Trade union activities. In spite of this the girls over the last couple of years have built up a union organisation. And when they decided in June to stop work, they were united as one to fight and win their just battle.

The women have had a solid picket line at the gate every day of the strike. At last their vigilance and effort has won them a £5 rise plus thresholds and a bonus scheme to be devised by the middle of November. In an interview for THE WORKER, one of the women on the picket line said:

"Before we went on strike we had heard stories of police activities against pickets and workers which we couldn't believe. But now we have seen these activities ourselves and we know which class the police defend."

Clearly these women united in class struggle have learnt the lessons of our class.

### Propytex

Hartlepool workers at Propytex, the firm making industrial fabrics for sacks and bags used in industry, continue the work-in. The fight is not easy.

Electricity was turned off - the men hired generators.

The gas was turned off - they bought bottled gas.

The 'phones were disconnected, the TGWU stood security and now they have one line.

The workers are determined to continue their struggle, they have valuable skills and the product they make is in demand, as there is a world shortage of traditional bagging material (wood pulp for paper sacks, jute for sacking). They have had enquiries from agents wanting more than 3 million sacks immediately - about a month's production for Propytex.

### Vickers, Barrow in Furness

Workers at the Barrow yard are like workers everywhere - very suspicious of Social Contract and the possibility of another wage freeze.

4300 workers have said "no" to an offer by the management reported to have been a 25 per cent increase.

### Women halt factory

200 part-time women workers at the OP Chocolate Specialities biscuit factory at Dowlais, Merthyr, refused to carry on cleaning the conveyor belts after their evening shifts had stopped. Management expected them to do this until new cleaners were trained for the job. So the women supported by 700 day-workers stopped all work in the factory. The strike won them £1 a week rise for the cleaning and all workers got an increase in the basic rate.

This was a victory for the union (Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers).

It demonstrates that workers will fight on a matter of principle even if the monetary gain is small. The £1 rise may only last until the new cleaners arrive in 3 weeks, but even for that short time the women workers are not willing to do an extra job without recognition. They fought for their dignity and won.

### W.D. and H.O. Wills

There has been a settlement at Wills after a strike by maintenance engineers to which management reacted by laying off 4000 production workers and refusing to pay the guaranteed weekly wage. They obviously hoped to split the workers and bring added pressure on the engineers to end their strike. In fact the strike soon spread to two other Imperial Tobacco Group factories in Glasgow and Newcastle. The employers have always tried to keep negotiating rights in the hands of the Tobacco Workers Union in order to keep the level of struggle down to that of the weakest sections. But the craft unions by the way they have waged their struggle have shown a recognition of their responsibility to other sections of workers who have no doubt learned lessons in organised militancy from this action.

### Social Security, Bristol

Last week the entire staff of the Harfield Social Security Office walked out because of the coldness of their working conditions. They received immediate support from their brothers in the other Bristol social security offices. Management at Harfield has refused to deal with them and tried to get them transferred.

## THE WORKER INTERVIEW

The armistice declared by teachers on the London Allowance has been short-lived. Teachers in Gravesham (NW Kent), refused admission to the settlement by the management, have given their reply. The struggle is national in implication. Teachers have before them a national salary struggle. The Gravesham teachers are holding the bridge for teachers to say, "We all want more!" The following is an interview with a teacher involved.

### WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND TO THE PRESENT STRUGGLE IN GRAVESHAM?

For two years now, teachers in Gravesham have been fighting with some success on staffing shortage and accommodation. But, since the London Allowance decision, the struggle has gained a new dimension. Gravesham is excluded from the allowance but is surrounded on three sides by areas newly admitted to the fringe.

### HOW DO TEACHERS FEEL ABOUT IT?

Highly indignant. Union recruitment has suddenly snowballed. Meetings now burst at the seams. Teachers feel cheated. They have a right to this money and they intend to get it.

### HOW DO YOU INTEND TO WIN THE ALLOWANCE?

By well-coordinated direct action. The NUT local association called for an immediate work to rule and a number of schools withdrew support for the School Meals Service. They no longer collect dinner money or mark dinner registers. Others have stopped dinner duties and after school activities. In many cases, this is the first time the school has taken action. These actions are being directed firmly at our employers, the Kent County Council.

### HOW DO YOU SEE THE SITUATION NOW?

We had hoped that negotiations would be reopened at the next Burnham Committee. This did not happen. We realise that instead of a short sharp campaign, we will have to wage a protracted struggle, in which we use the strength at our disposal wisely. We must keep up the pressure on the employers and develop selective guerrilla tactics in our stronger schools.

### WHAT ACTION DO YOU FORSEE?

Members have voted overwhelmingly for some sort of strike action. This is indicative of the strength of feeling here. We must reject hollow calls for an all-out strike which would inevitably lead to defeat and demoralisation at this stage. We have to learn from London teachers. They won their victory by using such sanctions as non-coverage for absences and short strikes of not more than three days. This way they built up pressure on the Authority while retaining their own strength. If we learn quickly and adapt their tactics to our situation correctly, we will be victorious. The employers who thought the file on the London Allowance was firmly closed are in for a rude awakening.

### Electricity supply

Following demands by shop stewards the EETU has asked the Electricity Council to enter into fresh negotiations over the pay of 106,000 manual power workers five months before the present agreement expires.

Another case of workers not trusting a Labour Government.

This Government is the biggest employer of labour in the country. It is not likely to come across with anything unless the workers put up a fight.

### Westminster Dredging

On August 30th, at Westminster Dredging, Bromborough Dock, Birkenhead, near Liverpool, the AUEW decided to lodge a wage claim of £45 plus consolidation of bonus and threshold payments. The following day the EETU had a meeting to decide on their own wage claim, at which it was suggested that they join forces with the AUEW and also rephrase the claim to £10 across the board. The rephrasing of the claim was aimed at uniting all TUs around the banner, "Increases for all, irrespective of differentials in basic wage levels."

When lodging the claim they gave the management two weeks to reply. At the date the men had stipulated for a reply, the management inquired as to whether or not the respective TU officials could be invited in to talk about the economic and political circumstances prevailing at that time (Social Contract), not to negotiate on the wage claim. The workers reply to management was "We are not interested in political chit chat only in negotiations on the claim. To enable management to get

their politics in perspective, the workers decided on selective strikes giving management 15 minutes notice before taking strike action. The stewards were authorised to call the strike action whenever they decided it to be appropriate, thus giving an added element of surprise.

After two weeks the NUSMW and HDE joined the action followed by the T & GWU. Four weeks after management had refused to negotiate, they then decided to negotiate. The management offered the men a total of £4 and continued negotiations in April 1975. This was accepted.

### British Caledonian Airways

This airline company is to sack 827 members of its staff. Some time back, these workers voted not to belong to a trade union.

### South West

On October 11th, 2400 clerical workers at Rolls Royce, Bristol walked out in support of their claim for a 30 per cent rise and consolidation. They rejected a 12 per cent offer "within the social contract" from the company which has conveniently forgotten a pay rise held up by the last wage freeze.

At Westland Helicopters, Weston-super-Mare, 120 supervisors are continuing their action for parity with workers at the company's Yeovil factory, which would mean an extra £7 per week. Meanwhile at Yeovil, 110 draughtsmen are striking for an interim agreement to make up the £6-£9 per week discrepancy between themselves and their counterparts at British Hovercraft, Isle of Wight (owned by Westlands). The management do not want to pay anything until the present agreement expires in March.

# OCTOBER REVOLUTION

## IRELAND

On November 7th 1917 (October 25th in the old Russian style) the Bolsheviks issued the following manifesto:

**TO THE CITIZENS OF RUSSIA!**  
The Provisional Government is deposed. The State Power has passed into the hands of the organ of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies, the Military Revolutionary Committee, which stands at the head of the Petrograd proletariat and garrison.

The cause for which the people were fighting: immediate proposal of a democratic peace, abolition of landlord property-rights over the land, labour control over production, creation of a Soviet Government - that cause is securely achieved.  
**LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION OF WORKMEN, SOLDIERS, AND PEASANTS!**

Now came the test. Could the Bolsheviks retain state power? Surely this was an 'insane adventure', a futile and despairing act of defiance? The course of history was littered with occasions when the masses had risen; but only to find, bruised and bloody at the end of the day, that their masters were more firmly in the saddle than before. Surely the Bolsheviks' call that all power should pass into the hands of the Soviets (councils) was the demand of 'dreamers'. One newspaper had commented: "Stablemen, nursemaids, cooks - these are the people who, according to the Bolsheviks' ideas, are evidently destined to rule our country. Will that ever be? No! Is it possible? To that insane question History will give the Bolsheviks its authoritative reply."

What history was to show over coming decades was that it was indeed possible for ordinary people to run their own lives, to control and plan their own destiny. It was to show that Lenin and the Leninists, the Bolshevik Party of glorious memory, had been right to lead the armed workers of Petrograd in insurrection: had been right to over-

throw a capitalist government that could offer the people nothing but death, famine and despair. Here was initiated a new era in the progress of humanity; now was the work of Karl Marx vindicated in the crucible of civil war. The workers' party had not been mistaken in their judgment of their class, their faith in the masses had not been misplaced, nor their move mistimed. The news radiated from the revolutionary capital, and following the news the 'triumphant march of Soviet Power'. "We shall now," said Lenin, "proceed to construct the Socialist Order."

Thus a dream became reality. No longer a matter of hope for the distant future but a question of science and its application. For the first time in history the proletariat had become the ruling class. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat had been defended against all-comers, the expropriators had been expropriated. Now the Land of the Soviets was to be a beacon light for the whole of toiling humanity and a bastion against the gathering forces of reaction: the threadbare battalions of the young Soviet State became the mighty Red Army which was to crush the fascist juggernaut, and liberate Europe.

Today we celebrate the 57th anniversary of the most important event in history. The architects of socialism in the USSR had no precedent to guide them. All the more magnificent, therefore, their achievements. No simple task theirs, left to build the future alone as the revolutionary tide ebbed in Europe. The greater, therefore, their glory. Had there been no October, would there be Red Power in Albania? Would there be a Vietnam without a foreign occupier? And would there have been a People's China to adopt the mantle of world revolutionary leadership, so cruelly betrayed? Further, what all these examples show is that there has never been a successful revolution of the working people which did not have as its



leadership and vanguard a party after the model of the Party of Lenin and Stalin.

The example of the USSR was a springboard for higher developments in revolutionary theory and practice. Just as in the darkest hours the Bolsheviks called upon the workers to demonstrate their support for their Party - in the midst of the Civil War when 200,000 joined; on the death of Lenin when 240,000 joined; and at the Battle of Stalingrad when 832,000 joined; - so too did Mao Tse-Tung call upon the workers and peasants of China to prevent there the restoration of capitalism from within; a great advance for the science of Marxism-Leninism. In like manner we are convinced that the heroic workers of the USSR will throw off the capitalist usurpation and take once again the revolutionary path which

is their heritage.

Today, for the British Working Class, proletarian revolution is also the burning issue. We must not balk this task which destiny sets so firmly before us; we dare not hesitate lest we fall to the counter-revolution. We too have no precedent to guide us; never before has there been a revolution in an advanced capitalist country. We too must face this problem with bolshevik steadfastness and resolve it in the spirit of the Soviet pioneers. In the tradition of October the CPB(ML) calls upon the workers of Britain to make their Cultural Revolution, to expel the social democratic ideas which fetter them, and to begin the hard, protracted struggle for the Dictatorship of the Proletariat in Britain. **LONG LIVE THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION! LONG LIVE THE BRITISH REVOLUTION!**

Far from 'phasing out' the troops in Northern Ireland, the British government has increased the number to 15,600. Mr. Rees, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland made it clear that British imperialism has no intention of relinquishing its control of that part of Ireland. The present barbarous acts by the army are to continue. There will be no end to the indiscriminate arrests, detention without trial, rubber bullets and shooting and killing of Irish children in the streets.

Those who call for the creation of the right conditions for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland hide the fact that it is precisely the presence of these troops that created the present situation of terror and murder by the army and their lieutenants, the extremists of all kinds.

The troops were sent into Ireland in 1969 to create the 'right conditions' - right for sustaining British imperialist rule. The murders committed by the loyalist and Provisional terrorists are an offshoot of the terrorism practiced by the troops and so unsparingly nurtured by them. For us, British workers, there is but one cause: the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of British troops so Ireland may be one and free.

## Soviet slave trade

It has been announced by the US that in return for certain trade concessions the Soviet Union is to "allow" at least 60,000 Jews to leave their country every year. This is double the current figure of immigration. That the Soviet Union should encourage its Jewish citizens to leave the country is an extreme form of racial discrimination. With this deal, the Soviet Union has opened nothing less than a slave market for its Jewish citizens. In return for that 60,000, the Soviet bureaucracy is to receive a reward of millions of dollars.

The Soviet Jews, persecuted by the Soviet Government in the same way as other sections of the population, are now to be used as items of barter with the US. Almost without exception they are forced to go to Israel. Once out of the Soviet Union they are handled exclusively by Zionist agencies who do not allow anyone to contact them till they are safely in Israel. Increasing numbers are leaving Israel after two years. But, with the doors of their homeland firmly shut by the Soviet authority, they have no other choice but to settle in various other countries. Their position is not one of a persecuted minority that has finally been freed, but rather one of a persecuted section of humanity expelled systematically from their country and forced to settle in foreign lands.

With six million Jews and many more millions of Armenians and other minority races in the Soviet Union, this deal with the US is only the beginning of the Soviet slave trade.

## THIEU MUST GO

The United States and Thieu must go. This is the demand made in a statement issued by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam on October 8th. A massive movement for the overthrow of Thieu and the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement, signed a full 20 months ago, has been developing in the town, city and rural areas under the control of the Saigon regime.

All sections of the population have been involved and Thieu is losing even the closest of his supporters. As the statement says, "the conditions of the people in the Saigon-held areas are much more miserable than ever. Millions of people have been herded into concentration camps; hundreds of thousands of political prisoners are being detained in the US-Saigon jails; taxes and rents are much heavier; prices are on the increase; life is more difficult, unemployment more serious, and poverty and starvation are seen everywhere;



Picture shows Vietnamese youth rebuilding Bac Giang city in North Vietnam. The United States reneged on their promise to assist in the rebuilding of the country they attempted to destroy.

social crimes and a corrupt culture go unchecked." The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has supported the struggle in the South and itself has issued a statement of October 11th. The full extent of continued US involvement in Vietnam is revealed; "Tens of thousands of US military advisers in civilian guise were left behind or newly sent into South Vietnam. Billions of US dollars in aid, millions of tons of US weapons, ammunition and war

materials have been sent to South Vietnam to help the Nguyen Thieu clique in destroying peace and sabotaging the Paris Agreement. In the fiscal year of 1974 alone, the US military and economic aid for Thieu to prolong the war made up one third of the total US aid to foreign countries.

"As to North Vietnam, the US imperialists have repeatedly sent their planes and ships to violate the territorial air and sea space of the DRV, refused to carry out

US obligations in healing the war wounds of the DRV as provided by Article 21 of the Paris Agreement."

Throughout September and October, strikes and demonstrations have been mounted against the Thieu regime in the South. Trade unionists, newsmen, students, buddhists, catholics, and even members of the "national assembly" have been implementing the spirit and the letter of the two statements.

# Hawker Siddeley

The management of Hawker Siddeley led by chairman Sir Arnold Hall (anti-working class and anti-trade union) have shown the grossest mismanagement and ineptitude over the plans to build the H.S.146.

This can be contrasted with the skill and industry of the workers, design staff and skilled production workers who ever since the beginning of air travel have led the world in expertise and kept Britain in front technologically.

Capitalism operating on its own principle that only what is immediately profitable is worth pursuing, leads the management of Hawkers to go on with military aircraft like the Hawker Jump Jet and scrap the efforts of workers on a peaceful project like the H.S.146.

This quiet, short-haul airliner

with a range of up to 1200 miles at speeds of up to 500 mph with its short take off and landing runs on grass strips if necessary, is extremely versatile.

What passes for 'nationalisation' in a capitalist country like Britain is no remedy for the problems of workers in an industry like Hawkers. One has only to recall the redundancies and pit closures in the mining industry, or the thousands of railwaymen made redundant by Beeching's axe,

20,000 jobs could have been available in the aircraft industry through development of the H.S. 146. Now 250 design staff and engineers, the first of a swelling number, have received their notices. These workers are fighting this senseless loss of jobs and have begun a work-in-

## HOW TO PRESERVE WAGE SLAVERY INDEFINITELY

What is this Social Democracy that has held back the struggle of the working class for so long?

**ILLUSION NUMBER 1** That it is the responsibility of the working class to ensure the survival of the system that exploits them. Jack Jones (in a recent speech): "It is simply no use pressing actions that lead to the closure of the firms we work for."

**ILLUSION NUMBER 2** That unemployment is caused by workers resisting wage-cuts with industrial action.

Jones: "The growth of unemployment is the main danger, and we in the unions must play our part in fighting it by adhering to the social contract."

**ILLUSION NUMBER 3** That bodies set up by the Capitalist Governments are impartial and stand above the class struggle.

Jones: "... shop stewards should examine other ways than strike action to achieve social justice. I urge shop stewards and officials not to hesitate in trying to involve the new conciliation and arbitration service. It is an independent instrument and definitely not a government agency."

These illusions are dredged up by Social Democracy in the service of Capitalism. Our class has no unity of interest with the employing class.

Let us by our struggle expose these pernicious illusions once and for all.



(Cont. from page 1.)

Leadership was required to ensure that the militancy of certain sections carried the whole mass forward and did not become isolated from the rest by separate settlements short-circuiting the mass struggle. How much more is that the case when considering the vast industrial complex of the country as a whole.

We have frequently said in THE WORKER that workers cannot simply blame bad leaders when their unions fail them in struggle, since it is up to workers themselves to make their unions adequate expressions of their united will to defend their interests.

That does not mean that the working class can do without leadership. It means that they must make sure they have the right leadership. Particularly is this so as they go over to the offensive, with guerrilla actions on an ever widening front needing increasingly to be coordinated in the same overall strategy. It must be genuine working class leadership, based on the Marxist-Leninist concentration of working class experience in theory which links the tactics of day-to-day struggle with the strategy of revolution.

At this moment in the class struggle the language of the employing class enemy spoken by the CBI, the Labour and Tory Parties, the TUC and pseudo-leaders' within the labour movement is the language of the social contract. The working class leadership which has to be a revolutionary leadership speaks the language of liberation from wage-slavery through the conquest of state power. It exposes such social democratic capitulationism as the social contract and says TO HELL WITH IT!

# Students at war with education cuts

While the last few years have seen increasing involvement of students in struggle the beginning of this academic year has seen battles on the student front on an unprecedented scale. This is no coincidence. The vicious cut backs in educational expenditure are manifesting themselves in all the colleges in the country. Catering prices and hall fees have rocketed, accommodation is even scarcer than previously and attacks on student unions that much harder.

In Birmingham, the ruling class, represented by the City's Council, were bitten in the neck by Polytechnic students on Thursday October 10th. The mass of students put into practice an occupation in the Polytechnic's administration block, along with a forceful picket on the College's Academic Board on Wednesday October 18th. The Council refused to allocate £50,000 for extra accommodation to prevent cutbacks in courses.

Similarly in Portsmouth and Manchester Poly students occupied their administration blocks in reaction to catering price increases and lack of accommodation. Sheffield Poly followed suit a few days later with the same grievances.

In all Leeds Colleges students are suffering, as are students nationally, from either low grants or no grants. The student mass are in guerrilla struggle to attack the bourgeois machine, and win full grants for all who study full-time, plus decent lecturing and studying facilities. At Leeds University work has been stopped on the new buildings. Colleges that have recently moved to new buildings, such as Park Lane College of Further Education and Kitson College of Technology, both in Leeds, suffer from the 'Open Plan' design, which seemingly gives the visitor an impression of luxury, space and expanse, but in true fact is cheap, and results in appalling lecturing conditions for teachers in the colleges. Effectively, students have to walk through other lectures to get to their own.

The Warwick University authorities sought to prevent the student union from employing a full time administrative officer. They vetoed the appointment and froze the union funds. The students immediately took action to defend their union's autonomy by occupying their administration block. After three days the college backed down.

At a meeting of the country's Polytechnic student unions held on October 15th in Birmingham all agreed to engage in a campaign of lightning boycotts of refectories. Many have already begun. North London Poly authorities were forced to cut prices for an interim period due to student action. This level of militancy has been reflected throughout the country.

Central London Poly students' union went into the sixth term of rent strike in support of the National Grants Campaign. The college authorities issued an ultimatum stating that if the students' union did not stop their rent strike their funds would be frozen and the union bankrupted. A motion put to the union meeting stated that the strike would not cease and the college money held, about £45,000 accumulating interest, would not be returned until hall fees were reduced. This was carried unanimously. Offers of financial help were rejected from other student unions and plans were laid to raise funds from various activities. The union was united to defend its independence and its ability to fight for a decent standard of living. The following day the authorities, their bluff called, withdrew their threat, indeed said that they had never made it and if they had it had been made 'in confidence' to the President. Now they are planning legal action against the union executive but they face the wrath of the members. The authorities are finding less and less room for manoeuvre and are desperate. The student union, on the other hand, accepting the line of guerrilla struggle, are confident in their capability of fighting by being flexible and determined.

The State, faced with a critical economic crisis, looked and is still looking for short term expedients. Their cuts in education was such an expedient. Now they face the consequences, students are fighting harder than ever before. Yet again an example of capitalism, not only creating its own gravediggers but also encouraging them in their spade work.

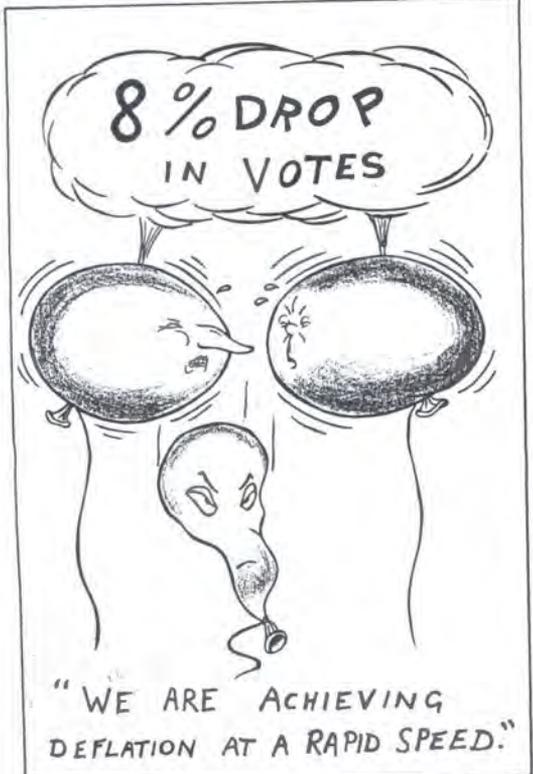
## Scotland (Cont. from page 1)

Edinburgh have taken the initiative into their own hands, with actions such as the closure of 45 eastern schools in a strike by 800 teachers and the strikes in the first week of October in Glasgow schools. They are demanding an immediate interim increase of £15 per week for all teachers instead of what they see as rather weak-kneed negotiations on a 10 per cent interim increase. Also the Musicians Union is beginning negotiations for instrumental instructors.

As the strike by 4500 Hoover engineering workers at Cambusland, near Glasgow, entered its seventh week, 4000 men at Merthyr Tydfil had been laid off. The management have refused to talk directly to the shop stewards. A £10 general increase is demanded by 6000 men at the three Rolls Royce factories near Glasgow who went on strike in mid-October; Michael Foot had demanded that Rolls Royce stick to the Social Contract.

Other disputes have included a work to rule by 250 Renfrew firemen for parity, in the wake of Glasgow firemen's strike last year; 2000 laid off during a maintenance strike at the Imperial Tobacco factory in Glasgow; 600 men on strike at the Dewar Whisky bottling plant in Perth; and the strikes by 150 Clyde tugboatmen, 150 Plessey clerical staff at Bathgate and 90 abattoir workers which affected meat supplies in Glasgow.

In the last issue we pointed to the crisis our working class is facing, "It has to mobilise its united strength to fight off attempts to lower the workers' standard of living by cuts in wages". In action the Social Contract, the legalised out, is the phoney bargain rejected by these important sectors of Scottish workers.



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