

THE WORKER



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Labour's strategy for destruction

In a typical disregard for human life the Labour government has embarked on another massive attack on workers in Britain. The unprecedented 15 per cent rate of interest is a device to speed up the de-industrialisation of Britain. It was not forced onto them by speculators or the IMF. For who in his right mind would solve an economic crisis by creating more unemployment and waste more resources? It is part of a long term strategy for the destruction of Britain and with it the working class as we know it today.

British capitalism is driven to such destructive extremes by their pathological fear of the working class. Hence Healey's statement that without the loan there would be 'riots in the streets'.

The Labour Government has declared its intentions. Any remaining illusion or loyalty to the Labour Party must now be thrown aside. The Labour Party can produce nothing other than its present government. The only difference between it and the Tories is who will introduce more 'unpopular' measures against the working class.

The labour movement has to declare its intentions.

Callaghan preaches thrift and hard work. Work, that is, if you can get it and as for thrift read survival. No alternative he says to the social contract. Only by creating 'sufficient profit for industry' can workers expect industrial regeneration. But where? In the oil states of the Gulf, South America or the continent?

SAVE BRITAIN FROM CAPITALISM

Planning unemployment Editorial

Far from planning to reduce unemployment the government is spending millions of pounds on schemes for jobs that it is busy cutting. The Manpower Services Commission with a large multi-million budget is engaged in getting as many people off the streets as possible, not into jobs but into centres for the unemployed, retraining centres and colleges and still with no prospects of employ-

Unemployment, now at its highest level since the 'thirties, will be heading towards the two million mark before the end of the year. More young people are to be told that they are not needed by society. Now they can go and gas themselves for all that capitalism cares. Mortgages are to go up with or without longer repayment periods. House-owners are fast becoming tenants of moneylenders, living in high rent accommodation. Health, education and social services are to become a thing of the past.

ment for those who successfully finish their training.

The latest scheme of the Manpower Commission is a £19m 'work-experience'. This is designed to give unemployed school leavers not work but 'work-experience'. The Commission must think that employment is so quickly becoming a thing of the past that before it completely disappears young people should have a taste of it so as to tell their children what work used to be like.

In a similar vein, the Inner London Education Authority itself engaged in vast cuts, is to spend £70,000 to help black school leavers when they go for job interviews. Such gimmicks are on the increase. Other local authorities are spending money to help young people to fill in application forms. There might be no jobs for school leavers but they will certainly be able to interview well and fill in application forms in an immaculate manner.

Save Britain! Not for the British bourgeoisie and the world capitalist system but for them.

The British bourgeoisie have scoured the world for allies in their war against the British working class. That was why Britain was pushed into the EEC. That was why at the Puerto Rican summit of world capitalist powers the British representatives got international backing for the wage cuts and cuts in the standard of living of British people which they were already carrying out anyway.

And now the IMF loan conditions are Healey's way of trying to make the so-called social contract between the British working class and the bourgeoisie look like a social contract between the British working class and the world capitalist system. The additional cuts, lower wages, higher cost of living and even higher unemployment are a continuation of the attack on the working class - with no pretence anymore that it is to aid investment in British industry.

But for all the talk about Zurich gnomes, international currency speculators or the conditions to be imposed by the IMF, the British bourgeoisie are the destroyers of Britain.

The Healeys, Thatchers, Wilsons, Heaths and all the rest of the are the apologists for the bourgeoisie in their destruction of our country. We British people must show our united wrath against the destroyers who are gambling away, undercutting, selling short and tearing down the Britain we made, of whose achievements we are justly proud.

In Britain we have everything necessary for a just and prosperous future - the natural resources and the skills and energy to use them to meet all our needs. All that is required is for us to liberate those skills by overthrowing those who deny their use. Under socialism we can build Britain. Capitalism can only destroy it.

We have to destroy the bourgeoisie who are destroying Britain in order to destroy us. The Times itself in a sober survey of capitalism's absolute crisis says: "As the short-term trade-off between unemployment and inflation becomes more unfavourable, government will compromise, accepting more and more of both . . . until the combination is so bad that the political stability of existing regimes is threatened". That is the point THE WORKER has been making for some while: the ruling bourgeoisie is no longer able to rule in the old way. We must snatch that rule from their hands and wield it to save Britain.

Because the British bourgeoisie exploits people throughout the world, because the bourgeoisie in their war against us have involved world capitalism in their support, when we overthrow the bourgeoisie in Britain it will have world wide consequences. It will be a major defeat for world capitalism and a great victory for the world proletariat.



Workers meet in London to celebrate China's National Day and to hear a report from delegates recently returned from China. See page 3.

Turning negative into positive

In a spirit of self-reliance and determination the workers of Vietnam are redeveloping their productive plant now they are free of the devastation of the B52 bombers and other horrors they suffered from the US.

In liberated south Vietnam lethal weapons once used by the US imperialists are now being revived... literally.

Wrecked US tanks etc., are being turned into ploughs, hydraulic pumps, diesel motors, soldering rods, nails and so on.

Since liberation in 1975 the revolutionary power has taken over 17 metallurgical establishments in south Vietnam.

Vicasa is one of these. Before liberation one was struck by the contrast between the backward methods of steel rolling and the cunning tricks used by the bosses to exploit their employees.

This was why the workers were so happy to greet liberation day and have taken over so enthusiastically the management of the factory. Many difficulties of reorganisation had to be overcome before it was possible to produce good steel. There is every reason to believe, with help from north Vietnam, steel output will have trebled in a few years. Many motors and tractors have been assembled with parts from the north. By the end of 1976, 1000 tractors and diesel engines will have been produced.

In Britain, steel plants are being shut down making thousands of workers redundant while steel is being imported from abroad.

A bulletin issued by the Peoples' Socialist Republic of

Vietnam lists some of the achievements, in the North and in the South, in the first half of 1976:

In the North

The 1975 agricultural output was successful. The 1976 Spring rice crop was also a good one. The campaign for perfecting the hydraulic system has been stepped up. The value of industrial output in the first half of 1976 increased by 18 per cent compared with the same period in 1975.

The communication network has been restored. The airline from North to South is now in normal function. Our ocean-going ships are operating in many places of international waters and have established contact with many countries. The Thong Nhat railway project which covers more than 1,000 km and thousands of meters of bridges will be completed this year.

In spite of the great limitations of our material strength and manufactured goods, the State has made great efforts in improving gradually our people's living conditions, adjusting step by step the price of various staple consumer goods and striving to ensure a regime of just and rational distribution. The price of the necessary goods of daily life has been stable for many years.

The revolution of our country has entered a new stage. For one year now, along with the intensive construction of socialism and perfection of socialist production relations, the North has continued to mobilise man power and material resources to help the South.

In the South

The takeover of the newly-

liberated area from the cities to the villages, from the mainland to the islands, from military bases to the production, administrative, cultural, scientific establishments etc. ... was a great success. We took over almost intact all the cities, towns, and industrial zones with significant production capacities.

The system of the people's power at all levels was set up and has gone through many stages of consolidation. Firm, constant and effective measures of repression against the reactionaries have been taken. The General Election for the Common National Assembly was a confirmation of the people's confidence in the administration, an administration of the people, by the people and for the people.

All the localities strived for agricultural production, especially food production. The people have clearly shown their determination and efforts to take part in solving the problem of food for the whole country.

Almost all industrial, small-industrial and handicraft establishments have been restored. By using the materials locally available and with the help of the North their productive capacity is fully developing. Fishing and forestry are in normal operation. Hundreds of thousands of people jammed into the cities during war-time have been helped to return to their native places and to go to new economic zones.

The propaganda, cultural educational and social activities have achieved good results. Revolutionary radio, TV and press network have served the people and revolutionary cause.

Newspaper of the people 'Zeri I Popullit'

The question of the media, the use of television, radio and the printed word is, in any society, a political one. The mass media always serve one class or another. In Albania, the only socialist country in Europe, where the working class, led by the Party of Labour of Albania, is in command, the mass media serve the people. As an example of this, consider 'Zeri I Popullit', the organ of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour.

This newspaper, in its organisation and its content is thoroughly immersed in and controlled by the working class of the country. It reflects their opinions, aspirations and needs. Such a paper as this bears very little relation indeed to the columns of lies and diversions which are posted through our letter-boxes and read on our buses and commuter trains every morning.

In Albania the newspaper not only gives news but also, more importantly, serves the real needs of the people and the country, because during this period of consolidation of socialism and revolutionisation of the people, it is doubly important that everyone is involved in constant discussion, education and decision-making. Zeri I Popullit plays an important part in this process. Eighty per cent of the contributions to the paper come from the people and not from professional journalists. There are volunteer correspondents in every district and enterprise in the country, as well as regular correspondents approved by the local Party organisations. Enver Hoxha especially advised the Editorial Board of Zeri I Popullit to take care of volunteer correspondents, because they are the ones who actually live with and make the events they write about. In these ways the content of the paper comes from the

Albanian people themselves.

The paper has five sections which cover economics including agriculture, ideological matters including education, culture and military and physical preparedness, information, international news and letters. This last section is particularly important being correspondence from workers in the town and countryside and from soldiers, who all write on all matters, at all levels. The letters are used singly verbatim or in groups or are added together in an article or as the basis of an article.

Letters are also used in other ways: for example, when a new series of school text books was recently published, Zeri I Popullit opened a campaign of letters from teachers, parents and children and so encouraged debate amongst all the people about an issue vitally important to everyone, for in the education of the children lies the future of Albania. On the same theme, a letter to the paper from a chemistry teacher in Korca convincingly criticising new text books began a series of letters and a debate which, for the paper concluded with an editorial article.

All over Albania the people and the Party hold regular meetings to discuss the paper, and any critical letters which may result are published verbatim. The paper is further monitored by surveys. The work of the press and all newspapers, including Zeri I Popullit, is carefully analysed and discussed in the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the Party. The editor in chief has daily links with the Central Committee.

In all these ways it is ensured that the newspaper not only serves the people but is theirs and is with them and of them in building socialism in Albania.

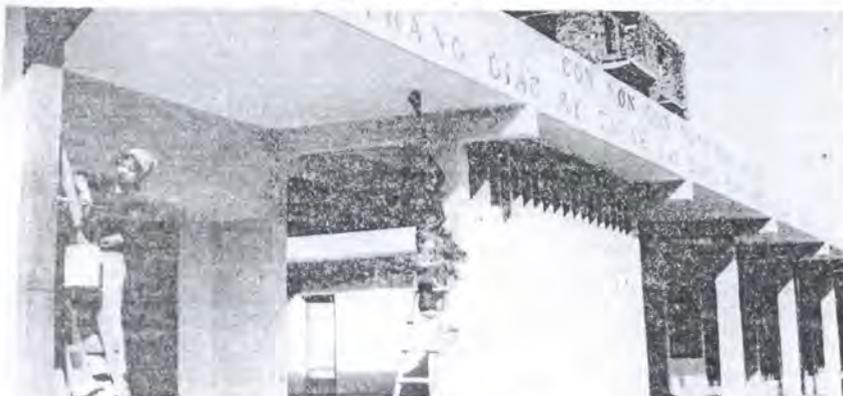
Motorcycle industry - change of gear

One of the consequences of the destruction of industry in Britain has been the change from the complete manufacture of goods in this country to the mere assembly here of products made abroad. Thus, what was once the "workshop of the world", with the proudest craftsmen, is, in many instances, being turned into an "assembly-shed" for the unskilled - with all that that implies for those involved. Nowhere is the destruction of industry - the growth of imports - and the substitution of small assembly plants more apparent than in the motor cycle industry.

Within fifteen years, Britain has gone from being the unchallenged leader in motor cycle production to being a new and very minor assembler of foreign components in this field. So, announced with a fanfare recently was the new 'British' motor cycle. It utilises mainly Polish and Italian parts! It is Norton's new 'Easy Rider' moped - the only machine this once famous firm now produces. It uses foreign cycle parts and

an engine made in Taiwan - who ever heard of a Norton engine being made in Taiwan! Similarly, the Meriden co-operative, whose brave struggle against closure could not save them from this same process, are now discussing the assembly of Italian-made Benellis. Their Bonneville model remains the only proper British bike in production, and even this is now under threat because the police are preferring to buy German BMW's at almost three times the price! Besides this, the only other companies in the field are a few very small firms, such as AJW, making one or two bikes for 16-year olds, all of which use Italian engines and other parts. Yet last year saw a record number of new registrations of motor cycles on our roads - nearly all, of course, from Japan.

The end of motor cycle production in Britain was the direct result of capitalism's criminal desire for profit without re-investment in either research or new plant and equipment. Now all that remains is the putting-together of machines which have been designed and made by others elsewhere. If we allow this story to be repeated in other industries, capitalism will ensure that we are not only the "poor men" of Europe, but we will become the "out workers" of Europe, waiting for our masters to give us materials before we can produce anything.



Picture shows two women of north Vietnam putting the finishing touches to a new building in Vinh Phu Province. Many new houses have been built in north Vietnam since the end of the US war of aggression.

October betrayed

As we come to the anniversary of the glorious Russian revolution which gave hope and dignity to struggling peoples everywhere, there is no sadder sight than that gang of thugs who now claim to be the heirs of Lenin and the Bolsheviks. The Communist Party of the USSR, that home of revisionism and capitalist restoration, has now become the vehicle of the bourgeoisie' attack upon the working class of Russia.

To preserve intact its great profits, the revisionist bourgeoisie pushes the working masses into greater poverty, a result of the re-establishment of capitalist relations and the militarisation of all the life of the country.

The Soviet official statistics show that taxes at home increased 140 per cent during the last decade. Meanwhile, the Soviet press is compelled to admit that in many regions of the Soviet

Union there is a shortage of such necessities of life as bread, meat and vegetables. Official statistics show that in 1970, only 57 pounds of meat per capita were consumed in Azerbaijan.

A quarter of the population in the Soviet Union lives under the level which is called officially "the poorest material life". Perhaps a better word is "starvation". The indictment on the corrupt revisionists is clear when a quarter of the people of Russia who heroically bore the brunt of the fight against Hitler is condemned to starvation.

In stark contrast, "Soviet News" has, throughout the summer, reported a constant stream of visitors, all bearing gifts, to the Black Sea holiday home of that dauntless fighter for capitalism, Leonid Brezhnev. Yet it is interesting that the Azerbaijan party chief, Aliyev whose countrymen eat so poorly should emphasise Brezhnev's

"wisdom and principle, boundless energy and organising talent, modesty, simplicity and selfless struggle". His life style is that of a tsar rather than a Lenin who during the civil war made a point of giving gifts of food to hospitals. All this would be as nothing except that the General Secretary's corruption emphasises the cancerous nature of the Party as a whole. This corruption is reflected in the constant reports of Party members organising black markets and accepting bribes. Similar scandals to Lockheed and Poulson indicate that such activity is a natural way of life for bourgeois politicians.

Soviet revisionism is one of the main strengths of a dying world capitalist system. It has turned a once great Party on its head. When they talk now of socialism they mean capitalism. When they talk of world peace you wonder what piece of the

world they want to colonise next. There can be no detente with the world proletariat's enemy. The class struggle goes on and recent events in the USSR and Poland show that the working class is not defeated and will come to make another revolution.

London: social democracy or education

In line with the Labour Government strictures on education spending, the Inner London Education Authority has agreed a third year of "standstill budget" and "nil-growth". The policy for the year 1977-78 is being dressed up as a very fine cut indeed!

It is said that because of a severe fall in the numbers of school children (accelerated by the exodus of job seekers from London) 600 fewer teachers will be required to maintain the same ratio of teachers to pupils overall. Instead of cutting in this manner the ILEA has agreed to "try to employ the same number of teachers next year, as in 1976-77" (our emphasis). There is no reference to the situation after 1978 nor to the Government's stated aim to rejuvenate the inner urban areas. It admits that there will be savings in capitation and other items, money that is, spent on books and other essential equipment. In fact the authority has already cut by axing jobs - 500 by 'natural wastage' in summer 1976 and only the opposition of the Inner London Teachers Association prevented a similar occurrence the preceding year.

The effect of cuts in inner London has been devastating. Here are just two examples. In Clapham a school with class size up to 40 lost one teacher because of a fall in the school role. The children are now without a remedial teacher to help poor readers and the size of the classes is still over 35. In the middle of Brixton a headmistress of an infants school commented that the fall in the school population meant that for the first time teachers were beginning to get to grips with the real educational problems in a manageable size of class. Now because of the cuts the tide has turned.

What is expected of inner London teachers in return for

this mess of potage? The authority wants freedom to deploy teachers where they are needed. (As if they are not needed where they are, and more of them besides, to perform their task). Pressed to say if any teachers would lose their jobs the leader of the ILEA said: "If a teacher in Hammersmith who has just bought a flat in Ealing is asked to move to the north-east corner of Hackney, she might say 'I can't'. Each transfer and unfilled vacancy means one more unemployed teacher prevented from exercising his skill in the great task of education.

In reality it is hoped that teachers will acquiesce in education cuts - in return for a bag of wind. It is only the present passivity and quiescence of inner London teachers that could allow such an idea to be contemplated. But it is their strength and organisation which have ensured that such an education service exists. It is unthinkable that they would shirk from their responsibility actively to defend it.

Amid the confusion some claim that acceptance of the authority policy is in defiance of Government policy. Too subtle to bother the Government, which demands acceptance of cuts in education. The Tories, conveniently and predictably, double whatever cuts are proposed by Labour, thus rendering the Labour cuts a most respectable aspect!

But what does it matter if we lose our education through the agency of the 'lesser' or the 'greater' of the two evils, if they can be so distinguished? In truth there is only one evil, a ruling class which cannot live with education or any other advance for workers. The best way to learn from the workers in Oxfordshire (see last issue of The Worker), is not by applauding from the side line but by the active defence of education against all comers. Dare to fight for education.



Four thousand people assembled in Oxford on September 21st in defence of education. The council which was discussing its education budget on the day was forced to defer its decision.

The motor industry - act together

Leylands, Fords, Chrysler's, Vauxhalls all at sometime or other have eruptions of strikes and stoppages, along with countless suppliers in the Motor Trade.

Workers strike for genuine grievances, and against outmoded procedures and bad management. An expression of this was the destruction of the senior staff canteen at Fords, Dagenham, when management tried to send home night shift workers who questioned a management ruling.

There is also a continuing process of management trying to screw the workers down. For confirmation of this one has only to read of the threat by Leylands, that unless workers conform to new work schedules they will not ask the Government for the money to invest in the new Mini.

That workers have acquiesced in order to stay in work is a natural safeguard of ones job in the present circumstances. Whether it ever works out like that remains to be seen.

In making all the above points and knowing them to be true, there is another side to this story - Capitalism corrupts.

There is also an element in the strikes in the Motor Industry

done by all at that busy time of year, with no feeling of tension or stress.

The last speaker began with a question from the poem by Mao, "Who rules over man's destiny?" and said that she saw the answer to this question on her visit to China. She described how the Chinese people exercise control over their future in industry, from the Yangtze Bridge at Nanking which was started and abandoned by Russia, leaving the Chinese to complete it themselves in a magnificent feat of engineering, to the giant Nanking petrochemical works where the deputy-director was a young girl. The speaker described how ideas for a new invention for his factory were put to the Party Committee, discussed and implemented for the good for all.

All the speakers referred to the love and regard shown towards the British working class by the workers and peasants they met in China, and they relayed messages of greeting to the meeting from the Chinese people.

that suggests that workers do not act in a fraternal and comradely manner or in unison to present a united front to the employer. There is jealousy, inter-union rivalry and sectional interests, that would be parallel with any group of employers trying to carve out their own particular interests.

One of the problems is that AUEW members allowed the Engineering Employers Federation to tear up the Coventry Toolroom Agreement years ago without putting up a fight, and are now suffering from a 'social contract' and a policy that favours the lower paid and has consequently wrecked havoc with differentials.

We have not reached that happy state of socialist society of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs", nor will we for many years to come. Therefore skill has to be paid for.

Shop stewards are basic to the working class and the Ryder participation machinery of three-tier committees are not the answer to the problem. There are also signs that the majority of workers who have not taken home a full wage packet for weeks are showing signs of discontent with the situation. All sections should come together, agree differentials, agree a plan of action against the employers and act in concert to achieve their demands.

Two party conferences: in brief

As the pound plummeted, evidence of the total failure of this government's policies, both the Labour and Tory parties competed to tell the people what sacrifices they should make. At the Labour Party Conference Chancellor Healey stressed that the only alternative strategy was a more savage Tory one - increased cuts, unemployment, and confrontation.

The 15 per cent Minimum Lending Rate puts the final nail in the coffin of industrial investment.

Devon ambulancemen make a stand

The cuts in public expenditure pose two alternatives for all workers. Either attack through active resistance the insane logic the cuts represent or adapt to the decline they portend.

Devon ambulance men have been faced with such a choice over cuts in manpower that have left both short and long term patients without transport and leave an inadequate emergency cover. An example of the effect is that up to 25 patients who are supposed to attend a Plymouth day centre are left behind daily due to lack of transport.

The Devon Health Authority claim that they have increased ambulance manpower but the ambulance men know too well that the proposed increase in manpower was cut back despite the much increased requirements. Only capitalism can call cuts expansion.

The ambulance men showed that they were unwilling to act as agents of capitalist destruction and instituted a work-to-rule with all Devon's 400 ambulance men taking part. For the first time ambulance men at all 4 Devon centres of Plymouth, Torbay, Exeter and Barnstaple have acted in a completely united way, opposing all attempts to divide them, an encouraging development born out of the realisation that a common attack requires a common response. A spokesman for the men said that they felt it was their moral obligation to bring it to the notice of the community. He added, "that is why we are making this stand. We should like to assure the public that although we know that our action is going to cause inconvenience at the present time, in the long run, if we win, the patients will benefit.

Both parties are united in their views that parliamentary democracy is not stable. Heath, playing the statesman, becomes the veritable prophet of doom, promising "drastic measures" as Britain comes to "the end of the road". Callaghan warns that if Labour fails, a totalitarian regime may follow whilst the Tories open their new policy document with the same thought.

Heath is right. The crisis is not only economic but also political, social and moral.

Successful China Meeting held in London

The room at Conway Hall, London, was packed on Friday, October 8th for a meeting held by the CPB(M-L) to celebrate China's National Day, the anniversary of the foundation of the People's Republic of China. The speakers had visited China this summer as delegates from the CPB(M-L) invited by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The chairman opened the meeting with a tribute to Mao Tse Tung, speaking of the irreparable loss and grief caused to the world's peoples by his death a month ago. The meeting stood for a minute's silence.

The first speaker then spoke about his impressions of leisure and culture in China. He described the living conditions in Shanghai where before liberation in 1949 the people had lived in "dragon's huts" (hovels); now all he saw were workers' "5-story blocks" - well-built apartments in green and spacious surroundings where the rent is just 3 per cent of the worker's income. The speaker went on to describe

the importance of culture in Chinese life, a particularly fine example being a display on a commune given by Little Red Soldiers - children of 10 and 11 - including gymnastics, which demonstrated great ability and skill by the youngsters.

Socialist organisation and achievements of agriculture in China was the topic chosen by the second speaker. In that land where hunger and starvation reigned before liberation, now the Chinese people can feed all their population of 800 million because they themselves are in control of their own affairs. He described the countryside as being full of people, busy gathering in the rice harvest and planting the new crop, and his impression of the people themselves - serene and dignified, confident in the knowledge that they are relying on their own efforts and achieving what would have been impossible without socialism. The delegation had visited homes of agricultural brigade members, finding a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, in spite of the hard work being

NW decline

It is commonly acknowledged that the North-West is a depressed region. What is sometimes overlooked is that Manchester, which arose as the principal manufacturing town during the course of the world's first industrial revolution, is still one of the largest and most advanced manufacturing centres in the country. It was built around textiles and the machinery, plant and power equipment required to make textiles, and its basic industries today remain unchanged, if technically more advanced. Yet capitalism is destroying all of this with the ruthlessness of war.

From 1955 to 1972 around 100,000 jobs disappeared completely throughout Greater Manchester. The majority of the workers concerned were 'exported' to the so-called development towns where job prospects looked more optimistic, but where in fact, just as the Liverpudlians sent to Skelmersdale found out, both the prospects and the actual employers turned out to be the same as the ones they had left behind. Clothing and textiles were cut by half, throwing over 130,000 workers out of the industry. In the mainly heavy industrial sectors of mechanical and electrical engineering and metal manufacture a further 43,000 jobs were lost, and firms that even in 1964 were producing 500 megawatt generators and transformers, today have nothing in hand for units over 60 megawatts. Mining in the South-East Lancashire coalfields has been virtually wiped out at the cost of another 30,000 jobs, and in construction, which has consistently had the highest unemployment of all industries in Greater Manchester, the numbers employed were reduced by an additional 15,000 men and women. Even in those few sectors where employment rose, it was only a reflection of the basic industrial decline, and not an antidote to it. Hence, the growth of engineering repairs to antiquated machinery, or of road haulage as railways and heavy industry are run down, and in office administration for the very banks, companies and local

authorities that preside over this chaos.

The planners have tried to adjust to the notion of a declining centre and suburban growth, but as the total number of people of working age throughout the metropolis falls drastically, it is clear that the decline itself is absolute. Peter Shore has indicated that the Central Lancashire New Town development is likely to be postponed indefinitely, so that the inner city may be re-vitalised. What he really means is so that the victims of latter-day clearances will find nowhere to go except to migrate abroad in search of work. For in every major industry throughout the area the strategy is the complete monopolisation of resources and speculation on a continuing decline. Whether by state or private enterprise, in textiles, chemicals or engineering, the aim is to exhaust the specialised skills of the working class, close down basic industry whilst importing the manufactured products of capital exported abroad, and make millions out of the European 'mountains'. This is asset-stripping on a scale that puts Slater-Walker quite in the shade, for it concerns the assets of a whole city and ultimately of an entire nation since the leading companies here are among the largest monopolies in Britain.

Against this scale of onslaught, contemporary faith in nationalisation or import controls is ultimately ineffectual. When the asset-strippers move in the only answer is to sit-in, work-in and above all fight for the right to work. The general response has failed to match up to this requirement though, for

the biggest employers have usually succeeded in gaining eventual support for voluntary redundancies, 'natural wastage' or transfers to the dole queue via government retraining schemes. Yet the recent industrial actions by student nurses and trainee teachers for the right to work with the skills they have earned, and by junior hospital doctors fighting against cuts in wages and conditions in the health service, have set an example which is beginning to rally all the public service unions into battle.

All workers in other industries must seek to learn from these examples, not least the construction workers whose weapons for struggle against the Social Contract were wrenched from their grasp. In this corner of the country alone we have the skills to generate enough electrical power to supply the whole world, resources sufficient to restore and re-equip the entire railway and underground railway systems of Britain, and the technology which could defend the nation from any form of external military attack - nuclear or otherwise. History has imbued us with a sense of proletarian discipline that is among the most extensive and intensive in the land, and we have a further advantage of knowing that capitalism is so corrupt that it would destroy all these assets in order to retain political power. It is only fitting then that we should now use our intelligence to grasp the immense potential that we have created of ourselves, and the one future that capitalism's logic has brought us to - the inevitability of revolution.



Heyday of the Industrial Revolution in the North West. A Manchester cotton mill.

From Zimbabwe

We are deeply concerned about the recent developments centered about our Zimbabwe, i.e. Smith's agreement to a negotiated settlement.

ZIPA (Zimbabwe Peoples' Army) should be seen as the only force which can be given power in any changes which are "proposed" by Smith and Kissinger. This will be admission of a serious effort to bring about peace and victory for the fighting peoples of Zimbabwe. We know that it is because of the continued successes on the battlefield and the demoralisation of the settlers and the heavy losses sustained that Smith is being forced to the negotiating table. It is an attempt to buy time in prolonging the exploitation of our masses at home.

If Smith is prepared to have majority rule, then the State power must be transferred from the so-called security forces to our peoples' army. We are not prepared to inherit the capitalist state machinery!

Comrades, we appeal to you to assist us by organising lectures, seminars, demonstrations, etc. immediately.

From a teacher

Dear Editor,

A characteristic of social democratic thinking is that the working class contents itself with trying to cure the symptoms while leaving the cause of the symptoms intact. A perverse characteristic of such thinking is illustrated by the recent action of the so-called "schoolmasters' union", the NAS/UWT.

This union claims that it is absurd to train teachers for the dole queue. The logic of this is

Policemen for the right to strike

Even the police cannot arrest British capitalism's downward slide. In fact, the boys and girls in blue are preparing to give it a good shove on the way. They have woken up to the fact that the state regulation of wages is not in the best interest of workers - even those workers paid to keep the state's law and

sound but the union's solution, which is for the cutting of teacher training places, is absurd.

Unemployed teachers are nothing more than the symptom of a sick society. The sickness is capitalism and until this is removed there can be no cure for unemployment. Cutting the intake of student teachers merely adds to the dole queue, now instead of later.

The NAS/UWT wishes to shift the problem onto someone else's patch, and has revealed its role once again as agent of the employer within the workers' ranks.

The police, having discovered that they'll miss out even on the old £6 deal, have been hit by that wages trap called the Social Contract.

Their mounting anger coincides with a growing feeling among members of their union, the 120,000-strong Police Federation, that the policeman's softly-sofely approach to wages bargaining is wrong.

Now policemen are demanding the right to strike - which is banned by law - and the right to link up with fellow workers in the TUC.

New pamphlet : For an industrial revolution

"... The industrial history of Britain in the last decade has been one of ruin - of jobs lost, of skills dispersed, industries abolished. A vast contraction in the skilled manufacturing workforce has occurred as a result of capitalism's attempt to wring the last ounce of short-term profit from fewer people and even weaker and more ramshackle industrial organisations, to get something for nothing at home while investing more and more abroad.

"If manufacturing industry is destroyed, in finality it is we who are destroyed. It falls to us to save not only our skills but the entire future and identity of our people. The alternative is unthinkable. No longer can we merely adapt to industrial decay, we have the responsibility to challenge it. No longer can we refuse to take the long term view.

It is difficult to write both objectively and inspiring of the history of one's own country.

Fudan University and Shanghai Teachers' University workers in the History Departments have succeeded brilliantly.

In the series "History of Modern China" they have combined historical precision with a clean simple prose which gives pleasure as well as much needed information about some of the blackest crimes of the British Empire Builders. "The Reform Movement", the "Opium War" and "The Taiping Revolution" have so far been received and we look forward with great interest



"The British working class (from the Introduction) must make a reconnaissance of the whole anatomy of industry, of all skill - for revolution - for an industrial future - for true progress! Hence this pamphlet."

to "The Yi Ho Tuan Movement" and "The Revolution of 1911". It is not too much to hope that the standards of accuracy, literacy and total readability they have already displayed, be carried forward.

In "The Opium War" the writers have deliberately understated the horrors. It was an Englishman who wrote of the very high ranking English lady who, caught up in the looting, snatched a bolt of silk and discovering that it was bloodstained threw it down and went back for more.

These Chinese historians know that "the truth like a good wine needs no bush."

Public Meetings

Unless otherwise stated, meetings will be held at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5 (Tufnell Park tube).

- Friday October 15th, 7.30 pm "Britain today and tomorrow." Several speakers including Reg Birch, Chairman, CPBML. Note at Bull's Eye Public House, Town Centre, Basildon, Essex.
- Friday October 22nd, 7.30 pm "National liberation through Marxism"
- Friday October 29th, 7.30 pm "Has the working class abandoned its trades unions?"
- Friday November 5th, 7.30 pm "Celebrate the anniversary of the great Bolshevik revolution." Note at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.
- Friday November 12th, 7.30 pm "The Cuts: Socialism and self-reliance or a wasteland?"

BRISTOL

Series of public meetings entitled NOW TO REVOLUTION to be held at Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, Bristol 2.

- Friday October 22nd, 7.30 pm "An end to trade unionism?"
- Friday November 12th, 7.30 pm "Revolution - To save Britain for Socialism"
- Friday December 3rd, 7.30 pm "No profits - no unemployment - in socialist Albania"

EXETER

Exeter City Library (Music Room) "Industrial revolution or industrial decay?"

Tuesday 26th October, 7.30 pm

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London, NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol 2.
October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool 2.
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, off Great George Street, Leeds.

'THE WORKER'

155 FORTESS ROAD, LONDON N.W.5.
£2.50 per year (including postage).

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