

THE WORKER



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DOWN WITH NATO!

WARMONGERS MEET IN WASHINGTON

AFTER ALL the wars of the 20th century the questions of peace and disarmament are still seen as the prerogative of the warmongers. The working classes of the world have allowed this situation to continue - they sit back and watch it develop only at their peril.

Anyone suffering under the illusion that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has anything to do with the defence of anything but capitalism must surely have been enlightened by the NATO summit meeting, held in Washington at the end of May. The discussions there centred around war, not peace. attack

not defence - nor was the discussion limited to the geographical boundaries of the North Atlantic.

Likewise, anyone believing that the USA, that 'superpower' which was humbled in Asia, is the only evil genius behind NATO's every move must also think again. For at the NATO summit we wit-

nessed yet another display of the tactical ingenuity and strategic clear-sightedness of British imperialism, ably represented by Callaghan.

The decisions taken at Washington make a complete mockery of the UN disarmament session. NATO has pledged itself to a massive increase in its European forces, in line with the guiding principle that any war fought against Soviet imperialism shall take place over the dead bodies of European workers. Having done this, NATO went on hypocritically to declare its continued interest in MBFR - mutual and balanced force reduction in Central Europe!

SWales NUM: reject Labour and productivity schemes!

DELEGATES to the annual South Wales area NUM conference at Porthcawl, have correctly laid down the twin tasks confronting the union - the fight for wages, irrespective of bonus and productivity earnings, and the democratisation of the union. These tasks must now be taken up by the National Conference in July and translated into fact.

Delegates swept aside further wage restraint and government interference whether by Labour or Tory, as detrimental to both the interests of the miners and the working class.

The need to pursue a claim of £110 per week, was agreed, within the reach and capabilities of the membership, to be backed by industrial action. The 1977-78 claim of £135 per week was seen as idealistic, serving only to pave the way for the acceptance of the present productivity scheme, the aim of which delegates accepted as being "not to increase output but to divide and weaken the NUM."

Deaths during the period 1977-78 have risen to 43, a 20 per cent increase over the previous year 1976-77. Disputes in the area since the operation of the scheme involving timekeepers and pits

at Abernant, Brynlliw and Bettws have not only hit production, but spent energies in needless and negative struggle between sections - the only winner being the NCB and the government. The production of output league tables is but the first step to closure of the less productive pits - ignoring such factors as geology.

Yet while delegates have long understood the nature of the productivity scheme, and been in the forefront of opposition to its introduction, and while they can outline with such clarity the way forward for the NUM, their slavish allegiance to the Labour Party continues to hold them back, and threatens to sabotage and disarm their fight to bring such policies to fruition.

Well might Emlyn Williams in his presidential address say: "I sometimes wonder why we have still got this tremendous affinity for the Labour Government, because they have hammered the working class since taking office." Yet pleas to the Labour Government to "re-establish its socialist priorities" were still a true reflection of the sentiments of delegates at the conference.

who wants war?

American hesitancy at military involvement anywhere in the world is being increasingly swept away by the determination of the leaders of capitalist Europe, primarily Callaghan, to have ever larger and more lethal forces stationed on the continent. There is a closing of ranks, a desire to intimidate the workers of Europe with sophisticated weaponry, and an orchestrated build-up of arms and tension, the logical outcome of which is war unless the workers of Europe act against capitalism and sweep the bourgeoisie away.

Meanwhile the full hypocrisy of the disarmament conference is seeing the light of day. Outside of socialist Albania, it seems that almost every country there has no interest in disarmament or peace whatsoever. The NATO countries are busily engaging in an arms race with the Warsaw Pact, eagerly supported by China. The speech by the Chinese representative in New York was one of the more blatant calls for armament under the cloak of call-



The consequences of imperialist wars.

ing for disarmament. He said that disarmament had to start with the 'superpowers'. Meanwhile Britain, France, Germany, Italy, etc. are supposed to build up their forces - and accept the neutron bomb.

NATO aggression

The problems of peace are too important to be left to the warmongers.

The real source of the danger of war is all too clearly visible now in Africa. France and Belgium needed no bidding by the USA to mount their military invasion of Shaba province and are trying to perpetuate it with their idea of a pan-African peace-keeping force, made up of course of precisely those states in Africa where they have troops stationed.

Callaghan was quick to scotch this idea in Washington, calling instead for a UN peace-keeping force to be studied.

Callaghan raised the issue of a UN peace-keeping force the way he did primarily as a holding action to put off the French bid to become number one imperialist in Africa. We can be sure that in the councils of NATO, the Common Market, and all those places where capitalists gather together, Britain will be in the forefront of discussions to ensure that future aggressions around the world take place in a planned and organised manner.

Down with NATO! Down with the Warsaw Pact! Down with the warmongers! Workers of the world, unite in revolution for peace and socialism!

Iran reaction develops into imperialist force

WHICH country in the world today possesses more chieftan tanks than the British Rhine Army and will eventually possess, by the 1980s, more tanks than those possessed by Britain, France and Italy together?

Which same country has the world's largest fleet of (British made) military hovercraft? The USA? The USSR? No it is that budding "super power" of the Middle East, the embryonic, self-proclaimed "Great Civilization" - Iran.

The Shah's massive arms build up goes relatively unnoticed. The Iranian airforce will become the fourth largest in the world, the third most powerful in terms of technical sophistication. The Iranian navy is buying four American destroyers more advanced than those yet possessed by the US navy itself. Iran is at the moment the largest importer of arms in the world with its military budget for 1976-77 at 27 per cent of its total budget.

All this has meant big business for American and British arms merchants, especially during the present recession.

However, there is much more,

Repression in Italy

ANYONE who believes that terrorism is progressive can study the situation in Italy after the killing of Aldo Moro, with the rush to carry new repressive "anti-terrorist" legislation.

Agnelli, the Chairman of Fiat is speaking the wishes of many of his kind in using *Time* magazine for maximum publicity: "I don't think the normal system of Parliamentary parties will be able to produce a balanced political structure." There would have to be limits on democracy, even a "Pereonist regime". And indeed if such a view prevails Italy will once again be on the road to fascism - no matter what high-sounding names the parties in power give themselves. The new legislation proposed, with increased powers of detention, telephone tapping and the like, is a beginning.

Corporatism the danger as Nalgo Conference meets

DELEGATES to NALGO's Annual Conference on 12-16 June must reject corporatism from within and resist its imposition by the government: in order to do so they must face up to the fact that harsh tactics will probably be necessary.

Holding a Special Conference on pay policy just one week before the Annual Conference has produced a cloudy picture of members' views. On the one hand, the motion passed "declares its opposition to Governments' policies of using as economic regulators the control of wages, cash limits and direct intervention in collective bargaining processes in the public sector", but on the other, delegates clearly rejected the use of industrial action to secure pay claims outside the 10 per cent 'guidelines'.

Therefore, the most important question still to be resolved at Annual Conference

to it than that. Neither Britain nor the USA sell such huge quantities of arms without government approval that they serve their strategic interests. Aside from the Shah's megalomaniac intentions to become a "super-power", Iran has been unofficially appointed as the policeman of the Gulf - a region which embraces 60 per cent of the world's known oil reserves. The British partially withdrew from the Gulf states in 1971 and Iran filled the vacuum. Iranian troops have already been in action in the Oman Civil War and recently Iran threatened to intervene actively in the war in the Horn of Africa.

This explains the lack of criticism by the bourgeois press of the savage repression of all democratic and trade union rights, criticism of which has been muted. Iran, while not in the ranks of the so-called OPEC militants has certainly not counted itself amongst the "OPEC moder-

ates" either.

As recent events in Iran have shown, the Iranian working class has had to bear the brunt of this infant militarization. In the course of the country's rapid and chaotic industrialization, peasants have crowded into unplanned and insanitary cities to form a growing proletariat. Inevitably discontent has arisen, unions have been formed and strikes broken out. The Shah's response - tanks on the streets; the army and armed police attacking and killing striking workers. Thousands of political militants have been tortured and imprisoned. No doubt more will soon follow.

The Shah, the self-styled king of kings, intends his country to become the world's fifth greatest industrial power. Amidst the pervasive inefficiency and corruption, such industrial might, if obtainable at all, can only be built on a vast pool of cheap labour, while using foreigners to provide the

necessary skilled labour. Iran's industrialization has been totally devoid of self-sufficiency. It lavishes its oil surplus, as well as borrowed money, on imported technology and components, while large-scale emigration from the country to the town has severely damaged its agricultural base.

Iran illustrates first that the west, despite its pompous talk about human rights, conveniently ignores these when the alliance of a powerful and strategic nation is required.

Secondly, it shows the fallacy of the notion that a country based on such vicious class oppression, with ambitions to find itself in the ranks of the "Second" or even "First World" powers, can be regarded as an integral part of a progressive "third world", still less a bulwark against the two "super-powers". Such a notion is cruelly deceitful to the Iranian peasantry and working class struggling for liberation.

Lecturers oppose Govt deskilling at NATFHE annual conference

AS THE thousands who descended upon Bournemouth enjoyed the sun and the sand at temperatures in the seventies, the 400 delegates - to the 3rd Conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education - spent the Spring Bank Holiday weekend debating important issues facing further and higher education and those who teach and learn in it.

The conference came out strongly against the threats of the Manpower Services Commission and its agencies in creating an inferior alternative to the existing structure of further and higher education, leading to the dilution of skills and threats to jobs. Later on in the Conference, discussing an emergency resolution, speakers attacked the Engineering Industry Training Board proposals for a new two-year apprenticeship scheme as unsatisfactory and dangerous. The conference unanimously insisted on full consultation before any new scheme is implemented.

The salary debate commenced with a serious discussion on the question of the merger of lecturer

grades I and II. This has been a union policy for a number of years which the employers have consistently refused to concede. The conference declared its intention to fight for this issue through an immediate interim claim to the Burnham Negotiating Committee. Such an unusual step confirms the determination of NATFHE to reach

a satisfactory solution of this claim on its own merits and not at the expense of other equally important issues.

The conference went on to register its opposition to any interference in collective bargaining calling for a substantial increase in the salary of all grades.



NATFHE members in action last year against education cuts. Picture by Sparham (I. F. L)

is that of wages. The choice is simple: reject further government pay policy and assert the right to determine the level of wages according to members' demands, or accept a further year of wage cuts and the loss of sovereignty to act in defence of our interests. The idea exists in NALGO that we do not have enough muscle to withstand increasing government interference and should therefore seek alternatives to free collective bargaining for settling wages. The most favoured alternatives are either pay indexation or tripartite talks - between union, employers and government, both of which are, in essence, just what the government seeks to impose on trade unions by removing the initiative on pay from their hands.

Also of importance to the independence of the union are white papers on Whitleyism and Public Service Trade

Unions, both of which were asked for by 1977 Conference. The Whitleyism document sums up that "Until both circumstances and attitudes change sufficiently to give NALGO the strength and determination to secure greater improvements, then arguments over Whitleyism will essentially be arguments over form rather than substance" - a clear answer to ultra-left clamour that the abolition of Whitleyism will lead to a new militant union, but also a call for NALGO members to look to themselves to back up demands.

The question of mergers to reduce the number of public service trade unions needs treating with caution. The argument that the larger the mass of members the stronger the union is mechanical for it overlooks the differences in development of unions, and if mergers are undertaken from the position

of huddling together for comfort in the face of the powerful enemy, then the outcome is likely to be demoralisation amongst the members when nothing is gained. The white paper is correct when it says that at this time cooperation between unions in, for example, fighting the cuts is more important.

On the fight against unemployment, NALGO members must look more to themselves to do something. Far too much emphasis is laid on advising the government how best capitalism can be run to accommodate more in employment, which is both an attempt to let our members off the hook for having permitted jobs to disappear (thousands have been lost in the NALGO services through "natural wastage"). The fight against unemployment must take place at all levels in NALGO by rejecting cutbacks and cash limits.

THE WEEK

MUCH publicity has been given to the recent disclosures of the way in which a Tory government is planning its confrontation with workers. Labour ministers, such as Henley, use these revelations to disguise the extent to which the Labour Government has robbed the Trade Unions of their traditional role far more effectively than any military confrontation ever could.

And while there is much hulla-balloo over the Carrington Report, particularly among Trade Union "leaders", there is silence when Henley says that there shall never again be free collective bargaining and that from now on the government shall decide the rate of wage increases (cuts) and the Trade Unions' only role shall be to collect the predetermined amount amount. Callaghan and his fellow social democrats have been given the caretakership of British capitalism in absolute decline.

* * *

"When you enquire into the causes of counter-revolutionary successes, there you are met on every hand with the ready reply that it was Mr This or Citizen That who "betrayed" the people. Which reply may be very true or not, according to the circumstances, but but under no circumstances does it explain anything - not even show how it came to pass that the "people" allowed themselves to be thus betrayed. And what a poor chance stands a political party whose entire stock-in-trade consists in a knowledge of the solitary fact that Citizen So-and-so is not to be trusted." - Frederick Engels in "Revolution and Counter Revolution in Germany". His book could profitably be studied by workers, both at home and abroad.

* * *

Steelmaking ended a Ebbw Vale recently after nearly a century, and thousands of workers have been made redundant. In a pathetic attempt to cover up the real nature of the closure (a further cutback in our steel industry) the British Steel Corporation is building a memorial to 'recognise the role played in steelmaking, over many years, by Ebbw Vale.' No doubt it will be of great comfort to those unemployed steelmakers as they search for a job.

* * *

Britain's barley mountain, all 200000 tonnes of it, is up for sale. Because of the EEC system the grain was taken off the market when prices were low. A lot of barley was exported to the Continent but now it is hard to find and prices are climbing. Indeed, so much barely has been exported that it now appears likely that Britain will have to import some to fulfil its needs.

Meanwhile, this week some who once opposed Britain's entry into the EEC are now bleating "Change the Common Market from within" We say, "Smash the EEC!"

* * *

The extension of a system for screening new-born babies for deafness to the detection of other disorders is being hampered by lack of research funds. The procedure for the early diagnosis of abnormalities has been devised in the departments of obstetrics and paediatrics of the Camden and Islington Health Authority, London.

But more money is needed to develop it into a routine procedure.

EDITORIAL

THE IMPERIALIST aims of the Soviet regime are clear. Yet the British and other governments in denouncing a rival imperialism hope to legitimise their own. How absurd.

Even more absurd: along with denunciation of Soviet expansion, we see indignation at repression within the USSR. The prime example, they say, is Orlov and the other dissidents.

So we are to forget that in Britain we have trials in camera, the practical suspension of habeas corpus, and increasing police control. And we should perhaps submit to a government which opposes European legality when it condemns torture, but is slavish in its acceptance as law of the fiat of unelected commissioners in Brussels.

Bourgeois allies

The British establishment picks as heroes men after their own heart. The heroes of dissent flee the struggle in their own country with bank accounts in Zurich, and seek allies in the British bourgeoisie whose contribution to history was to raise Hitler to attack the then socialist Soviet Union.

For all its absurdity, this British propaganda against a rival imperialism is sinister.

It seeks to confuse by creating the myth of a struggle not based on class. No-one talks of the Soviet working class, of their real leaders, and the struggle they have against their capitalists, as we have against ours.

Pretext for intervention

What right has the British ruling class, which has plotted against Russians from the Crimea onwards, now to tell the Soviet people how they shall act? How dare they interfere in any country in the world whatsoever? How dare they pick on repression real or imaginary the world over, as a pretext to enforce their rule?

Repudiate war propaganda

We British workers repudiate this ruling class and its interventionist, warmongering propaganda.

We will not join in any chorus of advice to others as to how they shall conduct their affairs.

We will strive to make our revolution here in Britain. This is the only way we can help workers the world over in their own task of revolution as they shall decide in their own country.

Callaghan poses as a middle-of-the-road anti-Soviet, moderating the extremism of the right. What rubbish. His sinister intent is that of the whole bourgeoisie. We should pick as enemy an imperialism abroad, and so neglect the imperialism at home. We will never do so.

Unemployment around Britain - situation in Bristol

UNTIL a few years ago Bristol was considered to be a growth area. There were even plans to build a new city on Severnside. The picture today is very different. The only thing that is growing is the rate of unemployment.

The major industrial employer is the Aerospace industry, including Rolls Royce, the newly nationalised British Aerospace and Westland Helicopters. Since nationalisation in April last year, the commercial aircraft section of British Aerospace at Filton has been reduced from 4800 workers to 4000, 2000 of whom are employed on Concorde, which has now ceased production.

The closure of the airfield at Fairford in Gloucestershire means that there is no longer a full-sized testing ground - a sign of the lack of any substantial design and development work on a new generation of commercial aircraft.

Rolls Royce employs about 11,000 workers. Since 1975 and the introduction of measured day work, 550 jobs have gone. Surprisingly, workers still volunteer to go, despite the fact that a study of those who were made redundant in 1971 showed that those who got jobs at all had to accept work at a much lower level of skill. Last year Westland Helicopters made 650 workers at Yeovil and 230 at Weston redundant. Very few of those workers had any prospect of getting a job in the area, as their skills are very specialised.

Apart from the large employers, aerospace traditionally provided much work for small engineering firms in the area, working on sub-contracts. For example, in the

Kingswood area alone, 30 per cent of engineering work was subbing for Rolls Royce and BAC. These firms, often employing under 10 people, have been very hard hit. A recent study commissioned by the Local Authority estimates that 20,000 jobs will be lost in the area due to the cancellation of Concorde alone.

Of the other large employers, the print and paper industry has declined by one third since 1971 and the docks now employ only half as many as in 1969. The construction industry, an indicator of the

Productivity schemes in S. West may mean water is dangerous to drink

MANUAL staff employed by the South-West Water Authority have recently taken various forms of action including "work to rules", overtime bans, and one-day strikes. They are furious at the intransigence of the employers who are delaying the introduction of a promised "self financing incentive bonus scheme".

The men earn as little as £37 per week and see the new scheme as a means of adding up to £13 to their wage packets. Nobody can blame workers for wanting to increase such a pittance, but is this the right way to do it?

Incentive bonus schemes should not be touched with a bargepole! If the cause of discontent is the level of basic wages, then it is to these that one should attend. If told that Government guidelines don't permit, then we'll have to say to hell with guidelines - we want a living wage. The whole point of guidelines is to deter

For the proper use of technology

THE development of microprocessors, known as 'silicon chips' has provoked considerable interest. They enable a more effective use of machinery, greater production and the abolition of much dull and repetitive work.

Where is the problem? The problem is capitalism. The 'experts' warned that microprocessors would result in 9 million unemployed. Their attitude is reflected in the statement 'if cheap electronics is to give us a higher quality of life then it will be because we will be using it to

workers from real struggle by encouraging false and detrimental trails. Such a trail is the incentive bonus scheme.

For what will workers gain out of a bonus scheme? Some more in their pay packet immediately - yes; but for how long? The basic wage remains unaltered and worse, it has been allowed to appear acceptable. What when inflation has eaten away the bonus? Then it will be back to the basic - the fight avoided now is inevitably just round the corner and all the harder for postponement.

On top of this, such schemes mean more on the dole: if not through redundancies then by so called natural wastage (unnatural in any worker's dictionary). The policy of the bosses is to shed jobs and exploit the remainder more. This doesn't help wages either, for the larger pool of cheap labour only leads to even

reduce production costs as effectively as the rest of Europe, Japan and the USA'. All is reduced to the search for the greatest profit. This means the destruction of the present means of production, and above all, the shedding of labour.

The need to defend jobs in the face of new methods of production is becoming clear to more and more workers: trade unions are increasingly taking up the fight. The fight is not against new technology but for the proper use of technology for workers.

more depressed wage levels. The hot money gets cooler all the time.

Ironically, one of the major discussion points among the unions concerned has been the responsibility of workers taking up industrial action in the water industry. To what degree should public supply be threatened? Yet in an industry where capital expenditure cuts and low wages already threaten the quality of the water service, it is the very bonus schemes themselves that will prove an additional hazard as corner-cutting in the pursuit of bonuses will certainly endanger safety.

The humanity of the workforce shines through in their concern for life and limb. But the state cares nothing for those that run the industry or those that the industry serves. If they did, would they pay £37 a week? If they did, would they encourage divisive, debilitating and dangerous bonus schemes?

Water is the basic industry. Only workers care for it - only workers will fight to save it from decline. But that fight just has to be a real one and the first battle is to win a larger basic wage. Any cheap imitation that saps our energy and morale is a criminal waste of the decency we stand for. By taking action as they have done, the water workers have shown that they realise what has to be done to win demands. They know they have the power. All that is needed is the willingness to fight for something worth fighting for.

Keep college for teacher training

PLANS for a purpose built single campus Polytechnic at Bristol have been shelved by the education cuts. The college now remains scattered over five sites in sub-standard accommodation.

When the independent teacher training College of St. Matthias in Bristol was threatened with closure, it was proposed to rehouse polytechnic students in its buildings.

A General Meeting of the Polytechnic Students' Union discussed the question on April 27th. Merger on Avon County Council's terms would involve the loss to the NUS of two hundred teacher training places.

It was suggested that there should be a guarantee of St. Matthias's continued use for teacher training. This would be possible given sufficient pressure.

But the meeting elected to accept the county's proposals instead. And so now, the moving of students from their present polytechnic sites seems a preliminary to their closure. Facilities for catering, the students' union and even examinations are restricted at St. Matthias. Town planning students may be separated from their library by six miles next year.

The lesson is clear. Student Unions should not implement education cuts by accepting the alternative use of colleges. They should present a common front against their common enemy.



Capitalist vandalism in action: Ashley Hill bakery, Bristol, gutted for profit.

Post Office Engineers' Conference

No wage restraint! No redundancy!

THE most important issue before the annual conference of the Post Office Engineering Union in the first week of June is that of pay. Indeed this has been the case for the last four or five years. As with most other sections of workers we have accepted too meekly the Labour Government's social contract and seen our standard of living rapidly fall. Having last year decided against any further acceptance of wage restraint, to accept at Blackpool the Post Office's offer of 10 per cent, plus consolidation, plus an (as yet undisclosed) productivity payment, would make a mockery of last year's step forward. To fall back on the excuse that we work in the public sector and therefore seem to have a special responsibility is meaningless. Likewise the other excuse that no large section of the working class has in the last year succeeded in getting more than 10 per cent is a mixture of the wish for other workers to do

the fighting for us and the denial of our own organisation as a union. Perhaps it is about time that the POEU gave the lead instead of lagging behind. If we want to recover our lost living standards we have to realise that no employer gives something for nothing and only the flexing of our industrial muscle will prove that point to the Post Office.

The other issue high in importance is that of the sweeping modernisation that we will all be facing in the not too distant future. This will have far-reaching consequences for every single member of the union whether he works inside or outside of an exchange. The changes are of such a sweeping nature that the job will lose many of its old characteristics. Bound up with this are the questions of redundancy and the struggle for a 35 hour week. We must lay aside any thoughts of redundancy deals, voluntary or compulsory, and go ahead determining that workers must benefit from the im-

proved technology. Nobody has the right to sell a job. Jobs belong to the working class. And if the Post Office does not agree, then they don't get the new TXE, and all that is associated with the technological advances.

Inseparably tied up with this is the fight for the shorter working week. Last year saw an increase in the enthusiasm nationally of the membership over this point, especially after the insulting productivity deal offered in December. We must go to the 1978 conference and turn this feeling into action. We would be doing a valuable service to workers throughout the country if by our determination we achieve the elusive 35.

The last year has also seen the revival of the old breakaway union EOTA. This organisation should be laid to rest at conference. It is a time when the greatest unity is needed if we are going to achieve advances in pay or conditions.

LETTER - LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago, I had to attend the casualty department of one of Liverpool's main hospitals. There was nothing seriously wrong with me and so I had plenty of time to look around. What I saw horrified me, and at the same time filled me with pride and praise for the nurses, doctors and hospital workers.

Just inside the door of the department, for everyone to see, was a large poster published by COHSE asking what would happen to patients as the NHS cut back. My own eyes showed me. Because of understaffing, I had to visit three different areas of the hospital to get the minor treatment I needed. All along the line, the staff were kind, apologizing for the distress they might be causing. In the room where I finally ended up, there were five or six beds and in the course of 30 minutes all were rapidly filled with incoming ambulance cases. A few of the patients were distressed and querulous - one old lady in particular led the ambulance staff a fine old dance. No matter: they were patient and gentle, moving her from stretcher to bed and carrying out all the relevant tests with matter of fact capability. I discovered that they had nowhere to send these incoming patients and would soon be overflowing as all available beds were full. In the face of all this, circumstances over which they had no control, yet with the consequences of which they had to cope, the staff - though obviously stretched to the limit - were unflappable.

Yours fraternally,
Liverpool worker.

Yorkshire miners fight for safety?

FOLLOWING the recent stoppage of the Doncaster engine-winding men for a larger share of the productivity bonus, we witness yet another strike for the same reason by the rescue brigades at Doncaster, Wakefield and Rotherham. The fact that 30,000 Yorkshire miners came out in two days of sympathetic action with the rescue brigades shows firstly how vital these men are to the industry and to the safety of the miners themselves and secondly yet another proof of the divisive nature of these schemes.

If the Coal Board's proposals are unsatisfactory, action will be resumed with the official support of Yorkshire miners.

What a pity that these miners in false militancy take up a struggle which is destroying their union, as a means to avoid the real struggle. All workers within this industry will shout out their case for receiving more money. The claim the miners should be pursuing has long been dropped in order to save the Labour Government. The cry from the heart about safety in the pits sounds hollow when it must be realised that the miners themselves opted for these dangerous schemes known to make the work of safety officers, firemen and ventilation officers hazardous and unpleasant because of their fellow workers' lack of cooperation for fear of losing money.

Struggle for EGA hospital goes on

THE STRUGGLE to keep the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital open has been long and arduous. In June 1976 the Health Authority imposed a 'temporary closure' and then decreed that wards should be transferred to another hospital. The workers at the hospital kept it open. Doctors still refer patients, ambulancemen bring them and patients are still treated.

The government has sought to undermine the hospital in every way. A lift has been left unrepaired for two years so that a theatre and 60 surgical beds cannot be used. The staff have been vilified as intransigent, selfish and old-fashioned. Even the patients have been attacked; they have been dismissed as a 'very small minority of elderly women'.

The attack on the hospital continues. Mr Ennals announced on May 16th that the hospital was to close by July 21st. Again the workers responded. A joint meeting of the unions at the hospital decided that "The hospital will continue to work normally, to accept patients and to make appointments for the future." Staff and patients, supported by NHS workers from the whole London area, staged a well-organised and disciplined protest in Euston Road, disrupting traffic and only breaking their ranks to allow an ambulance through.

Mr Ennals has been forced to reconsider the date of closure. But the decision to close has not been rescinded.

The dismantling of our health service by capitalism and its able administrators, the Labour Government, goes on.

'The Worker'

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WORKER INTERVIEW

ON the 9th May the North East Region of the TUC sent a delegation to the Prime Minister to protest at the level of unemployment in this region, and to request his aid to alleviate the plan. The following is an interview with the Divisional Officer of NUPE, a member of the Executive of NERTUC, and the delegation to Callaghan.

Question. What did the delegation hope to achieve?

Answer. We hoped to persuade the PM to give more Government aid to the North East, in terms of public expenditure, investment through the NEB and the siting of new public enterprises in the region, such as any North-sea Oil developments - these were the main points the delegation made.

Q. What issues did you raise?

A. We explained the rundown of a whole number of staple industries in our region - textiles, heavy engineering, construction, mining and shipbuilding. The level of public expenditure has created massive youth unemployment.

Q. What was the response of Callaghan?

A. The usual stuff - we're doing all in our power etc. etc. He said "We have had to borrow over £8bn from external sources, which is difficult to repay because of the soggy state of sterling. If we didn't have to borrow this money we could build more hospitals." Marvellous! He told us there was no prospect whatever of increasing public expenditure. If there is an acceptance amongst unions of cash limits on public expenditure, then unions attempting to get more within those limits than other unions are like people fighting for deckchairs on the Titanic.

Q. What should NERTUC do from here?

A. NERTUC will seek to oppose all redundancies, closures and cut-backs. We must realise, however, that it is pointless attempting to seek the aid of Callaghan on these issues, or to lobby MPs generally. It is in the workplaces that the battle will be won. Workers will only win by fighting every single redundancy, closure and cut. This will mean a moving away from the Government, not a move closer to it.

Govt. scientists out on strike

GOVERNMENT scientists, members of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, began a campaign to save research, when over 1000 staged a half-day strike in May.

This was in protest against a government rationalisation programme, poor promotion prospects, enforced retirement at 60, and "arbitrary changes in conditions of service which break long term agreements." This has led to a serious shortage of older, more experienced scientists and to younger scientists leaving. 150 technical and scientific staff have left in the past two years, including about 40 senior scientists from Building Research Establishments alone. The government admits savings of less than £40,000.

The use of skills determines our future. Research in building, fire, transport and road, hydraulic and other research establishments throughout Britain is endangered by the cuts.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon bookstall Tues Fri Sat Marketplace
Liverpool bookstall - every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool

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

June 16 "The Future Of Science in Britain"
June 23 "The Neutron Bomb - For Use in Europe?"

REPORT FROM ALBANIA

A trade union delegate to May Day celebrations in Albania reports on his visit to Europe's only socialist country.

CONWAY SMALL HALL, RED LION SQUARE
HOLBORN JUNE 9th 7.30 pm.