

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) No21 Nov 14th 1974 Price 3p

CONTRACT OUT!

Workers north and south of the border opt out of any deal with a capitalist government by tearing up the social contract

Scots Strike Wave Hits 'CONTRACT'



Lorry drivers at a meeting in Glasgow on October 27th were told of the likelihood of victory.

The 2 dozen or so strikes in Scotland, involving over 60,000 workers, have rudely shattered the Labour Government's calls for industrial peace. Notably, the strength of the impetus for action against virtual wage cuts came from the rank and file, especially in the strikes of 6,000 lorry drivers, 3,000 transport workers, 700 sewage and dustmen and 36,000 teachers.

Of significance was the initiative that remained in the hands of the mass, even after a settlement appeared to have been reached: the lorry drivers remained on strike using flying pickets to force certain reluctant lorry firms to sign the agreement (£40 for 40 hours, no mileage pay reductions,

extra weeks holiday) and drivers and conductors in 8 out of 11 garages caused consternation by rejecting a recommended deal.

TEACHERS TOO

As the first taste of an intensifying campaign of rotating 3-day strikes, 36,000 members of the Educational Institute of Scotland, the Scottish teachers' union, struck on October 31 closing 3000 schools thus sending home over 800,000 pupils. The EIS, already in the 3rd stage of a campaign involving work-to-rules for better conditions, are now likely to adopt the demand for a £15 interim increase wanted by a majority of its members to prevent an actual decrease in their present pay as compared with that

of 10 years ago.

This, the largest demonstration of teachers' anger in Scottish history, was accompanied by marches the biggest being in Edinburgh where over 4000 took to the streets

ripples spread

The "social contract" and any other phoney bargains were clearly broken by these workers, who have struck a blow for independence - not nationalism, but the independence of the whole working class from Social Democracy in the form of Labour Government policy. 5000 lorry drivers in the north of England gave their employers one week to equal the Scottish settlement and made clear their intention to strike without hesitation.

MINERS opting out of the deal

The importance of the call of the NUM executive to its members to reject the new pit productivity proposals should not be overlooked. After a period of indecision the Executive has given a positive call.

However, this is not the most important aspect. It will be in the forthcoming National Ballot, in

which miners will decide whether to reject or accept the Productivity Scheme, that the clarity of the mass of the membership will be expressed. Rejection of this divisive scheme is vital if miners are to maintain that unity built in the bitter battles of recent years.

The Coal Board intends to

mount a massive propaganda campaign to persuade Miners to accept the deal, but this is a vain attempt to bolster the more backward sections of the NUM.

Miners will only go forward by rejecting the deal, but presenting a new united claim for a straight across-the-board increase and embarking on the fight to secure this claim.

Labour Gov't Supports Capitalism -- Out of Our Pockets!

In the fashionable game of coining new terms to obscure the real nature of capitalism's economic crisis, "cash-flow" and "liquidity problems" are much fancied by the pundits. It was to assist industry with its "liquidity and cash-flow" problems that the Labour Government planned to set up an investment bank to make funds available.

So obvious a move to bail out capitalists in trouble would have been unpopular with Labour's so-called 'left wing'. Therefore the same thing will be done either by means of grants without the intervention of an investment bank, as in the case of the Alfred Herbert machine tool group, or by 'nationalisation' which is a form of aid to capitalism more acceptable to 'left-wingers'.

The 'science' of economics as practised by the apologists of the capitalist system consists of making quite simple acts of naked theft look like highly complicated financial arrangements for the good of the country. There are only two forms of income - profits and wages. In a stagnant or declining economy profits can only be increased at the expense of wages.

The worker is robbed at the point of production by creating

surplus value which the employer pockets without paying for. He is robbed again when what he has been paid depreciates in value as a result of inflation. (Statutory or voluntary wage freezes, Phase III or the social contract, make sure the worker stands still shivering while inflation takes its full effect.) And he is robbed a third time through taxation.

The money the Labour Government is making available as a sinking fund for capitalist enterprises, whether through direct grant by 'buying' into the company or by 'nationalisation', (which comes to the same thing), is our money. It is taken out of our wage packets as tax, to be presented to capitalists as additional profits.

All these forms of state capitalism, by which the government becomes more and more involved in the management of industry in the interests of the employing class and against the interests of the working class, are so many forms of the development of the corporate state. And the bitter joke of it is that it is our money they are using to 'buy' into this kind of control. It is like asking a man to cough up the money to pay for the gun he is to be shot with.

ALBANIA

three decades of socialism

7:30p.m. Friday 29th November

Holborn Assembly Rooms

John's Mews, London W.C.1.

Workers Can't Buy Jobs

The TUC has just 'leaked' a document in which Len Murray 'promises' to back up Government actions to tighten the reins of the social contract in return for the 'concession' that the Government should invest more in British industry, to save firms from difficulties and 'their workers' from unemployment.

Earlier, Jack Jones stated that we must be vigilant in not allowing unemployment to rise, not through fighting against it, but through moderating our wage demands. What those spokesmen of social democracy are asking the working class to do

is to subsidise capitalism to an even greater extent than we already do.

Meanwhile, men like Sir Keith Joseph are advocating an end to deficit financing whatever the consequences in terms of unemployment. Harold Wilson is telling us that the standard of living won't rise for two years and that we must all pull together as though we are all on the same side, the employer's side naturally. And British Caledonian feels no compunction about planning to lay off 827 of its 5,600 employees even though it has 'no liquidity problems.'

The working class has always

struggled to maintain and improve its standard of living and its right to work. Such struggle cannot now stop just because British capitalism faces a crisis.

The Labour Party has long been talking about finding an 'acceptable level of unemployment. Let them be told that no level of unemployment is acceptable for the working class. As long as there is an employing class there will be unemployment and we, the working class, have to struggle against it, not by giving up the fight as the social democrats are suggesting, but by preparing to end the rule of the employing class which is the only source of exploitation and unemployment.

100th Issue of THE WORKER

To look back over the 100 issues of THE WORKER since regular publication began on January 1st, 1969, is to review the development of a revolutionary line for the working class in Britain. This line is the result of the application by our Party of Marxism-Leninism, the concentrated experience of class struggle by the world proletariat, to the specific conditions of Britain today. It is deepened and strengthened as it becomes the working class's principle of action.

In this review it is possible to trace the dialectical relationship between the line as it takes on a firmer shape and a richer content and the historical events involving working class struggles over the last six years - the relationship between theory and practice.

DON'T VOTE: PREPARE FOR REVOLUTION

In the very first issue of THE WORKER it was pointed out that a Labour Government was just as much a capitalist government as a Tory Government, just as much the enemy of the working class and even more dangerous as a more plausible form of social democracy. From Labour's blueprint for new Combination Acts against the trade unions, 'In Place of Strife', to Labour's present attempt to chain workers to capitalism with the 'Social Contract' we have never ceased exposing its operations on behalf of the employing class.

In three elections our Party has distinguished itself absolutely from every other political grouping in the country with its correct line of showing up the parliamentary road as a cul-de-sac for the working class.

ONLY TWO CLASSES: ONLY TWO LINES

A line is the concentrated expression of the interests and demands of a particular class and a guide to the actions of that class. In Britain today there are only two lines because there are only two classes. There is the capitalist, reactionary line of the bourgeoisie and there is the socialist, revolutionary line of the working class. There are no ideas, beliefs or calls to action which do not belong to one or the other of these two lines. Whatever is not in the interest of the working class in its struggle to smash capitalism, even if, like revisionism or Trotskyism, it sounds 'leftish', serves the interest of the capitalist class and is part of the bourgeois line.

Because there are only two classes, capitalists and workers, the exploiters and the exploited, the working class does not have to seek allies by adopting some broad democratic programme which postpones socialism to a later stage but goes straight for its socialist goal under a dictatorship of the proletariat established by the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. Whole new sections of the working class, teachers, students, nurses, civil servants, government employees, all moving into struggle through industrial action prove the correctness of this class analysis.

GUERRILLA TACTICS AND REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY

The line of guerrilla struggle was developed by our Party as the correct tactics for workers when it is necessary to take the offensive, but also at a time when the class enemy is still too strong for outright confrontation. This was the line adopted by the engineers in their nation-wide, factory-based struggle against the engineering employers. It was the line the miners used to deny the use of coal and coke depots and force the government to concede; the line of the building workers with their flying pickets spreading their strike from site to site. It was a line workers could develop creatively in such variations of struggle as sit-ins, work-ins and occupations.

Guerrilla tactics informed the successful battles that the working class, led by the engineers, waged against the Industrial Relations Act bringing down a government in the process. But these were victories in a long protracted war.

A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION

At a time of capitalist crisis, when class war was being intensified by the ruling class's need to slash wages and by the working class's determination to fight for their lives, the Marxist-Leninist line was a lifeline for workers.

In January of this year only THE WORKER had the boldness to say that a revolutionary situation existed in Britain - a situation in which it was no longer possible for the ruling class to rule in the old way and the working class was no longer prepared to seek accommodation with capitalism. The struggle will be long and hard. And yet already can be discerned, in addition to the two great landmarks in the working class's history, the October Revolution in Russia and the Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, the outlines of a third - the first revolution in an advanced capitalist country, the taking of state power by the workers of Britain.

BY WHAT RIGHT ?

On what authority does the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) formulate a working class, revolutionary line for this country? Only in so far as it genuinely is the political party of the working class - born of the working class, indissolubly part of the working class, having no other interests but those of the working class. Only with Marxist-Leninist leadership have workers ever made a revolution. Only with Marxist-Leninist leadership have workers been able to retain state power once they have won it.

In formulating a consistent line by distilling the experience in struggle of the entire working class the CPB(ML) is distinct from all other political parties, whether of the 'left' or right, which present a grab bag of ideas, opinions and illusions. The line of the CPB(ML) is a mass line, developed through democratic centralism, in the service of the working class. In the issues of THE WORKER to come that line will continue to be developed, the thread the working class can follow through the labyrinth of crisis and chaos to the order, justice and comradeship of socialist society.

Of the 39 pay settlements since the end of Phase III, 27 of them broke the social contract because they came within a year of a previous settlement. Ford workers have received an average rise of 42% and the Scottish lorry drivers have been granted their full claim

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

FORDS

A worker in Ford's Hot-Metal Department narrowly missed fatal injuries when a heavy metal pouring ladle fell off an overhead kono-track due to skimped and poor maintenance. As soon as this occurred the shop steward ordered all work to cease and instructed safety engineers to inspect every item of equipment in the Department's five production lines - even though the incident occurred only on one of the lines.

Management tried to start up production, despite the fact that these further checks revealed more examples of penny-pinching maintenance. The men refused and work was halted for three hours whilst nearly 500 men were being paid around £1 an hour for producing no profit at all. When the job was declared 'safe' the men still refused to return until a senior safety engineer had been hauled before them to give a personal assurance that it was safe.

BUILDING WORKERS

On the 23rd October 5000 building workers, members of UCATT, marched through the streets of Birmingham.

This show of strength was to press for their demands of £1.50 per hour for craftsmen, and £1.40 for labourers.

They also demanded an end to the lump which employers use to undermine workers unity. This unity has been strengthened in the recent struggles leading up to the march. On some sites in Birmingham 100 per cent Union membership has been achieved. On others despite the management's efforts to oppose it, the men have succeeded in introducing the union.

This is only the beginning. As was stressed on the march, building workers are determined to stand firm.

BRADFORD

The empty bluffs, so often made these days, by our bosses have little effect when we are united and well-organised.

Such is the case at Bradfords bakery in Birmingham. After receiving a deputation from the union on September 16th with regard to short staffing, the increasing speed of production, and job demarcation, the management agreed in principle to accept the workers' demands.

Three days later the minutes of the meeting were made available for signing by both sides, but in the meantime management had decided not to implement the decisions. The Union refused to sign.

After further communication an ultimatum was delivered to the management on October 4th giving notice of a work-to-rule and overtime ban. Management replied with their ultimatum, threatening the men with disciplinary action in any section or department where overtime was part of the 'normal shift programme' (with due notice naturally). They would also withhold future overtime opportunities.

The men stood firm and began to prepare for action.

Unable to break this strength the management were forced to back down. All the workers' demands were accepted.

FORD SUPERVISORS

The latest converts to the line of guerrilla action are the foremen general foremen and laboratory staff at Ford Motor Company. Having seen how hourly-paid employees blasted a victorious hole in the social contract they decided to take action over holidays without pay during the Christmas shutdown. Supervisors, members of USDAW, AUEW and ASTMS began an overtime ban and 24 hour strike which management had to bow to. No matter what sort of job you have it pays to organise.

POSTMEN

The postmen are demanding that their 43 hour week should be cut by one hour without loss of pay, and that some overtime shifts should be shortend without loss of pay. More than two million letters and parcels have piled up and deliveries are delayed by up to 48 hours. A scab strike-breaking firm called International Messengers is trying to operate a private mail handling service to the detriment of Postal Workers in dispute.

LONDON BRICK CO.

This Company made £10 million last year, the best profits in a line of record-breaking years. It now plans to viciously cut back its labour force. The first cuts are

to be by 'natural wastage' then a second out of 10 per cent of its work force will mean a thousand sackings.

London Brick used its profits to buy up the smaller brick firms and now it is these firms it intends to close. Thus in a time of great housing shortage, the world's biggest brickmaking company is to make this savage cut-back. Such is the inability of capitalism to provide jobs and houses for workers.

The workers at London Brick Company have now to begin their fight and are already planning to take over the plants where mass redundancies are threatened.

WORKERS 'NO' TO EEC

Workers at the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery in East London have imposed a blockade on all deliveries from the factory in protest at the deal struck by the Government with the EEC.

The sugar deal with the EEC could cost the jobs of 9000 workers and they expressed 'no confidence' in the Government's promise to protect cane imports from the Commonwealth.

WOMEN TO THE FORE

The militancy of more than 40 women workers at Tenby Electronics, Chelmsley Wood, has stopped production in the light assembly.

The women all members of the TGWU, have been on strike for over two weeks in support of their demand for a closed shop. They took up their demand after 3 women refused to join the Union.

SUPERMARKET CAPITULATES

At the Dagenham warehouse and headquarters of the notoriously anti-trade union supermarket firm of Wallis, a driver tried to organise his fellow workers in a union. A company spy put the finger on him and he was sacked. However, his workmates promptly picketed all Wallis operations. The company backed down, re-instated the driver and recognised the union.



Glasgow buses at a standstill: Workers picket Larkfield garage



(above) Voluntarily built housing on a State farm near the Greek border



(above) Communists discuss production questions at the Elbasan Steel Mill

This month Albania celebrates the 30th anniversary of the foundation of people's state power.

ALBANIA'S 30th

All the photographs on this page were taken by a British visitor, recently returned from Albania.



Veterans of the liberation war and current members of the 17th brigade celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 30th brigade, famous for liberating Tirana from the Germans. (right)

(left)

Elbasan children join the procession to pay their respects to the veterans and to those who died in the war.

Have you a good chimney

Before the war in many districts of Albania, only landlord families were allowed brick or stone-built houses, and only they could have chimneys. Hence the expression, "He comes from a good chimney", meaning "He comes from a rich family." For the peasants there were wattle huts, four feet high, with an earth floor and no windows. So housing was a priority for the Albanian people after the revolution, especially as the population has doubled in 30 years.

Quantity and Quality

Since 1944 one million people (half the total population) have been rehoused in modern flats or houses. 15 or 20 new flats per 1000 people are built every year, though the highest average elsewhere in the world is only 12. Although new buildings are going up very fast, one can see gardens with trees, shrubs and benches appearing round the new blocks. There are no tower blocks, and most buildings are about six stories high. In towns like Berat or Gjiro kashtra where the old houses are built in a characteristic period style, all the old parts of the towns are being preserved as part of the national heritage, instead of being devastated by property speculators.

Capitalism

Meanwhile in Britain, after 200 years of industrialisation and increasing material wealth, there are at least four million homes unfit for human habitation. Everyone is familiar with the plight of homeless families in large cities, single people sleeping on park benches and students on the floors of their friends. Makeshift measures of capitalist governments merely create more problems. It was the Labour government which encouraged the regrowth of the 'Lump' in the building industry, to increase

productivity after the war - and the present measures giving security to tenants have reduced the available rented accommodation as landlords fear a fall in their returns. Britain has the wealth to provide housing for all, but it does not have the politics.

Unity of Purpose

After an earthquake on November 30th 1967, thousands of Albanians lost their homes. Yet in 29 days, without any sort of capitalist aid, all these homes were rebuilt or repaired, by workers, collective farmers and student volunteers from all over Albania. This was the beginning of a volunteers' movement to work at weekends on building more housing. For this the State gives land, materials and experts. Credits and help are given to people who build their own houses, and when a new State enterprise is set up the workers are often first employed on building the housing and amenities for the workforce, before the factory starts work. The unity of the people and their enthusiasm makes this extra building possible.

Socialism

Albanians pay between one and two days' wages for their monthly rent - or two weeks' pay for a year. Students' rent is 50n a month. The rise in standards of living in Albania depends on the Party's policy of developing a strong base in industry and agriculture, and relying on their own resources not on "aid". When the people have won economic and political power, even in a backward economy, they move from wattle hut to electricity in the remotest household, faster than any western capitalist can move from log cabin to White House.



(below) Albanians celebrate on the day of their elections to the People's Assembly



THE STATE AND THE MEDIA

The general secretary of the Labour Party has claimed that the BBC cost Labour votes and seats and was responsible for the decline generally in interest in the election, reflected in a considerably lower poll. With more justice the BBC might complain that staging the Westminster farce twice in one year with all the same tired political clowns pointing out the same old chestnuts, which they expected the electorate to pull out of the fire for them, had considerably lowered the BBC audiences.

No doubt the charge of bias in the media which Labour always uses as its excuse for losing its grip on working class voters will be invoked by the Government to try to implement various ideas on the future of the media which have been put forward. One of these

is to seek cheap popularity by abolishing the licence altogether and financing public service radio and television by a government subvention.

Workers would still be paying for the service, but out of taxes instead of by a licence fee; and the government would have tightened its grip on broadcasting.

An even more totalitarian attitude toward the media has been advanced by a Labour Party Committee. It proposes that radio, television and the press, all financed largely out of the advertising receipts of commercial television, should be lumped together under one government authority.

On behalf of BBC workers the Association of Broadcasting Staff has firmly denied the charge of bias.

EQUITY UPSTAGES

EMPLOYER

Actors in the provinces have just won an increase in wages described by their general secretary as "a revolutionary step": an increase from a minimum of £18 per week to one of £30, together with holiday pay, sickness pay and a new "low" working week of only 48 hours!

This increase applies to actors in the commercial theatre, who won the increase by the mere threat of a strike at Christmas, the threat of no pantomimes or "laughter spectaculars". This is an example of guerrilla struggle from a whole new section of our class - hitting the employer where it hurts. Theatre managers, who make their profit at Christmas, conceded an increase as soon as they saw that actors meant what they said: more money or no shows.

Actors in subsidised repertory are now prepared to press an equal claim. Despite the theatres' pleas of penury and the Arts Council's stated intention not to bail out ailing managements, actors and all theatre workers are today realising that a wages standstill while prices rise (which is what the "Social Contract" means) is a wage-cut and that they must join their class in struggle against such cuts.

Unless we reject wage-cuts in any form, the laughter of the working class will be hollow this Christmas.

LIBRARIES AREN'T BOX OFFICES

At a meeting held at Nottinghamshire, County Hall on Wednesday, 23rd October over 200 members of NALGO representing the County Library Service met to discuss two recent proposals made by the Director of Leisure Services, who is now responsible for libraries. These proposals were the intended project of keeping certain selected libraries in the County open until 9 pm and the sale of theatre tickets at all libraries in the county from November 1974 for a so-called experimental period of seven months.

After a brief and unsatisfactory speech from the Assistant Director of leisure services, members voted unanimously to reject the 9 o'clock opening hours. Also, by a large majority to reject the sale of theatre tickets.

TEACHERS WANT

INTERIM INCREASE

In Scotland, the campaign has begun in earnest for an interim salary increase for teachers. A work to rule directed against oppressive conditions of work has set the wheels of struggle turning. A one-day strike on October 31st called by the Educational Institute of Scotland closed most of Scotland's schools. Now, a series of three-day strikes has commenced on November 5th with 196 schools and colleges involved.

Meanwhile there is a deafening silence from teachers in the rest of Britain. London teachers can be excused because they have just emerged from an arduous two-year struggle for more money. Do provincial teachers demand that once more the lead must come from London? The Houghton Inquiry into teachers' pay was a ploy by the Government to muffle a rising clamour for more money. Only in Scotland have they not so far succeeded.

The Criminal Class

The great German dramatist Berthold Brecht once said "Why rob a bank when you can find a bank and rob the people?" "Security Gazette" tells us that thieves netted a bumper £81 million last year, thereby adding to inflation. The magazine warns that this figure is just the tip of the iceberg. Of course! The banks alone steal many times that amount in the form of profit.

Meanwhile Sir John "Nire" Donaldson warns of a breakdown in respect for the law. Is this prominent ex-judge talking about the robbers who stole the £81 million? Naturally not, since these people are very useful to capitalism. Long ago Marx pointed out that without thieves there would be no insurance companies, lock manufacturers or security firms. And they provide a handy rationale for the existence of the police (remember the advert "A Career in Crime? - Join the Hong Kong Police Force").

No, Sir John was referring to something else, notably those people who made him redundant - strikers against the Industrial Relations Act, and a long list of others including rent strikers, protesters against private hospital beds and so on. The real list is endless because it comprises the whole working class.

The thieves had a good year last year. Thousands of millions of pounds filched from workers in the form of profits. They have erected a battery of laws to maintain their class rule and have no right to be shocked that those laws are despised. They always have been. Now the working class is finding the strength, confidence and tactics to openly take on those laws - and win.

Good Rides Again

Labour's Secretary for Employment is setting up a legislative appeal court for union members which will hear complaints from workers who are refused employment in closed shops after they have been expelled from or denied membership in the relevant trade union.

It was this aspect of the Industrial Relations Act which got it called by workers the "scabs charter". The AUEW fought the Industrial Relations Court to a standstill over the issue of whether it would re-admit the CAV engineering worker James Goad who scabbed during strike action and flouted union discipline.

If employers or the government which represents their interests are allowed to dictate who can belong to a union and who cannot, a big stride in the direction of the corporate state will have been taken. Trade unionists will be alert to see that the Labour Government does not introduce, under some different name, new machinery for depriving unions of the fundamental right to decide on questions of their own membership.

Plessey workers win

Paintworkers at Plessey, (Liverpool) successfully won an allowance from the management, who in the face of stubborn resistance from the workers finally gave in to the demands and also agreed to backpay of £80.

OCCUPATIONS AT PETERBOROUGH

Workers at Perkins have been engaged in constant skirmishes with their employer since 1973, when there was a sharp struggle over the demand for parity with the sister company in Coventry. The latest struggle has been waged by Factory Services workers, who put in a claim for extra payment for night working at weekends. This claim has been in the pipeline for many months and the men decided to take action to speed things up. About 30 men occupied the Essential Services buildings and halted the supply of steam and compressed air, thus stopping all production. However this brought with it massive lay-offs of production men and could not be sustained. So after one week the sit-in has been called off and the management told to come up with something good within a week, or else further action will be taken.

And at Freeman's

Workers at Freeman's mail order warehouse have also made

good use of the tactic of occupation recently. The union (TGWU) put in for equal pay increases across the board of £10. The management, forever seeking ways of creating divisions amongst the workforce, made an offer which involved paying much smaller increases to the lower paid workers. The response of those on higher grades was to accept their own, relatively high, offer and then lend support to the others in a fight for bigger increases on the lower grades. 650 workers occupied the works canteen for a week and maintenance men took support action. Production was halved and the management were forced to concede an extra £1 per week on lower grades and pay the workers for 3 days of their sit-in! However, the more important gain was the tremendous development of solidarity from a well-organised struggle which was neither underestimated nor pushed too far. This was concretely reflected by an influx of new members to the union.

Class in Britain- DEFINITIVE STATEMENT

Much confusion has been sown for a long time in Britain about who is in what class, and whether there is any revolutionary class. In a new pamphlet called "The Definitive Statement on the Internal Polemic 1972-4" the CPB(ML) deals with this question.

"The question of class is the question of politics, of the party, of revolution, of struggle. Class is everything, and without clarity about it we do not know who we are or what we are doing."

Where did the proletariat come from? What relationship between the bourgeoisie and proletariat has developed? How many classes are there? We say that there are two - the bourgeoisie and proletariat. "Our line is one of great clarity, and should be put forward and defended with no hint of liberalism." No other 'left' idealogues are clear on this. The divide-and-conquer ideology which puts teachers and doctors in the 'middle class' merely holds them back from struggle. Such ideas should be dead and buried by now.

The pamphlet ends:

"Classes in Britain cannot be treated without considering the Party. We are not a third force wandering with our banners in the no-man's-land between the proletariat and bourgeoisie, to be ignored by one and picked off by the other. We are of and in the proletariat, and our task is to guide the revolutionary class in revolution."

Hull Lorry Drivers

Hull's 1200 lorry drivers have won the highest pay for drivers in Britain, as the result of a week-long strike. Their demand for £12 extra for a 40 hour week has been met in full, making Hull the first city in the country to pay drivers £40 for a 40 hour week.

TGWU official said the "great victory" had been "due to the determination of the men." The striking drivers crippled business and industry throughout the Hull area. Pickets blockaded main roads into Hull to stop maverick lorries. Goods were stranded on the docks and 20 schools were closed or put on half-time schooling due to lack of coal supplies.

The Hauliers' Association moaned that "the industry has not the reserve spare profit and spare cash" and accused the drivers of breaking recognised procedures. In other words, the drivers fought their own battle, not relying on their officials to do the job for them.

With this victory under their belts, the drivers are set to fight for their next demands - for a guaranteed working week and meals allowances.

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP 155 FORTRESS ROAD LONDON NW5

- NOV 15th THE SPECIAL NATURE OF TRADE UNIONISM IN BRITAIN
Speaker: Reg Birch, Chairman of the CPB(ML)
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop
- NOV 22nd THE WAR AGAINST THE US PUPPET GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM CONTINUES
7.30 pm, Bellman Bookshop
- NOV 29th CELEBRATION OF ALBANIA'S NATIONAL DAY
7.30 pm, Holborn Assembly Rooms, St. Johns Mews, Holborn, London, WC2.

THE WORKER,
155, FORTRESS ROAD,
LONDON NW5.

£2 per year (including postage)

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

'THE WORKER'

Health workers and the NHS

Our health service consists of one million people - ancillary workers, nurses, doctors, technicians, engineers and paramedics (radiographers, pharmacists, dieticians, physio and occupational therapists, speech therapists, etc.). Starting with ancillaries in 1973 many sections have now

moved into struggle. They are not only fighting for their own wages and conditions, they also struggle to maintain and improve the health service for their class.

Decline

But in Britain today the NHS

WORKER INTERVIEW

"Sweat-shop" conditions exist in many sectors of our "advanced" society. One such sector is the catering industry.

But with the lessons of organisation spreading to more and more workers, there is increasing union organisation and militancy amongst catering employees. This is often in isolated workplaces, with many different nationalities, and high on feudal conditions, having to grovel for customers' tips to compensate for meagre wages.

Amongst the first were the employees of the Wimpy Bars who struggled for union recognition and engaged in industrial action. And now, into the heart of London's poshest hotels (Russell's, Brown's, and Grosvenor House) has been driven a wedge of picket lines. The fight is against the meanness of the Trust House Forte Group who had banked on their workers' inability to fight and tried to withhold payment of a £2 threshold agreement.

Catering worker members of the GMWU called a 48 hour stoppage. The luxurious Grosvenor House, scene of many high society and state banquets, was completely immobilised. Guests were forced to make their own beds and carry their own luggage.

Diners at a banquet for 3000 had to make do with an 'airline snack' while management scurried about waiting on tables and clearing up!

In an interview with THE WORKER a waitress describes the growing determination amongst her workmates to hit back at their boss.

WHAT ARE CONDITIONS LIKE HERE?

The kitchen's filthy. The floor is dangerous and slippery. The ten girls are mainly part time, because that way the boss gets away with the insurance. He pays us 30n an hour if you're over 18, 20p for under 18's. Full time work would be around £12 for 42 hours. We often work 10 hours on a Sunday and get about a half hour break. On top of that you're on your feet most of the time.

HOW HAVE YOU ORGANISED?

Well, it's difficult. The boss would go spare if he knew we'd joined a union. But when he started victimising one of the longest serving staff we started supporting her against the boss. Eventually he pushed too far and two of the staff walked out. We all thought about jacking it in, but decided to refuse to work any extra hours. The boss was stuck. His wife had to come in and work the tables.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE EFFECT OF THAT FIRST STEP?

Everyone joined in and we stuck together, so we feel a lot stronger now.

'Good Will' or Good Conditions

"When we are not able to care fully for the children who need our specialised care because, on top of a shortage of trained and assistant nursing staff, there is a totally inadequate domestic staff, then it is obvious that the council is sadly lacking in its policies."

So says part of a leaflet distributed by nursery nurses in the London Borough of Southwark. The leaflet, published by the London Day Nursery Branch of NUPE, outlines the fight by

girls at Nunhead Green day nursery, who are demanding that the council provide adequate domestic staff for the borough's nurseries.

This shortage of staff has resulted in the girls being forced out of their real jobs and into "washing up, cooking and laundering at the drop of a hat."

Now the girls are refusing to be used in this way, in a fight for better conditions of work and the provision of a decent day nursery system.

The nursery has only been unlicensed for a short time, and is the first fully organised in London. Yet the girls are already willing to take on the employers, in this way showing that their "good will", so long exploited and manifested in bad pay and conditions, is drying up.

One of the girls involved told THE WORKER:

"We are determined to win. We must establish that as skilled workers we should be allowed to do our jobs. At present the council has no respect for us, simply because we have not made them have this respect. This is now changing."

is in decline. There are increasing incidences of TB, malnutrition, infectious diseases resulting from bad housing and work conditions, the reappearance of rickets, the alarming increase of maternal mortality and numbers of psychologically disturbed people attempting to live in degrading and inhumane conditions.

It is impossible to develop adequate, preventative health care under capitalism. Health workers in their struggle for a better health service for their class are inevitably struggling for the destruction of capitalism.