

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist -Leninist) No 21 Nov 11th 1975 3p

FOR THE ACTIVE DEFENCE OF BRITAIN

Editorial

The ruling class in Britain is in retreat. As it retreats into the Common Market, the cosy continent, or the oil rich states, it attacks to destroy everything. The dismantling of industry, unemployment, the run down of education, health and social services, the destruction of our skills, are actions of an enemy fleeing in desperation.

The retreat, though brought about by the working class with its tradition of struggle and militancy, is not yet matched by a desire in our class to pursue and destroy that enemy.

When the enemy retreats, our task is to pursue and harass him, leaving him no breathing space and no let out. When the government imposes a £6 pay policy, we smash it. When they cut our advances in education and health, we demand further expansion. When they create unemployment, we demand more jobs.

Active Defence

Our defence must not remain passive. Passive defence is the struggle to live with capitalism. "Passive defence is actually a spurious kind of defence, and the only real defence is active defence, defence for the purpose of counter-attacking and taking the offensive." (Mao) Active defence is the struggle to live without capitalism, to destroy capitalism.

Our weakness relative to the bourgeoisie is not physical but ideological. The purpose of our strategy is to change the balance of forces, to transform our relative weakness into relative strength. While the capitalists are clear, we remain ideologically muddled. Social democracy is yet unscathed by our class.

In Britain the contradiction between capital and labour is most acute. Events move very fast. What normally takes years or decades to develop is achieved in a matter of months. Witness the strides towards the corporate state in the last couple of years.

We have to match our class enemy and realise that ideological transformation necessary to move to the next stage of our revolution - without which we will end up mere subservient slaves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New feature film from Vietnam. First showing in Britain:

'Child of Hanoi'

- The experiences of a girl of 11 during the American bombing of December 1973.
Friday, November 21, Bellman Bookshop, 155, Fortress Road, NW5 at 7.30 p.m.

Celebrating: **Albania's National Day**

Friday, November 28, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, near Holborn Station, 7.30 p.m.



AUEW AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

Outside interference in the affairs of the AUEW is not a new tactic by the employing class and has been going on for many years. The strategic aim is always to weaken and destroy the union as a fighting force. There have always been members who have allowed themselves to be used by forces who know nothing of democracy, and are most certainly not noted for their devotion to the trade union movement. Over the last few years there has been the battle on the postal ballot, the result of which has for the moment taken the elections away from the branch, and so weakened the democracy of our union at its basic unit. This has once again given the forces hostile to our movement another opportunity for the most blatant interference in a series of important elections now taking place.

The attacks now being waged against our organisation from within - i.e. the recent court cases, which reversed decisions taken within the rules of our union - and the attacks from without by the mass media, cannot be looked at in isolation, but can only be understood as being part of the general offensive now being waged against the whole working class.

A trade union exists to maintain and improve the conditions of its members. The AUEW, since the end of the second world war, and even before that, has set an example and given a lead to the whole working class: during the wage freeze in the years of the first post-war Labour Government; the refusal of our union to accept the then new, so-called Labour policy, *In Place of Strife*; the magnificent struggle against

the Industrial Relations Act, which our union stood almost alone. Always the needs of our members have come first, regardless of what government claimed to be acting in our interest. The AUEW opposed at the TUC the government policy of the £6 pay limit. This is in keeping with our policy of no government interference in our right to free collective bargaining - a right no trade union should put aside.

So once again the AUEW stands almost alone. In December the 52-man policy-making national committee will meet. The policy of our union is clear. The task of the national committee is to implement this policy in outlining the next claim taking no cognisance of government dictate.

The Attack on the Social Services

The Labour Government is brutally cutting social services. This year the Government ordered social service spending to remain at the same level as last year, which, with the effect of inflation, is a massive hidden cut; and next year Croxland has decreed "nil growth". For example, capital spending planned for 1976/77 will be 40 per cent below the peak year of 1973/4. These cuts mean that social services departments are unable to carry out their legal duties to provide for children, the chronically sick and the handicapped. Community care services, such as meals-on-wheels and home helps, which enable people to live in their own homes, are being chopped.

But the Government is keeping quiet about the widespread cuts it is inflicting because it tries to present itself as committed to 'social justice and welfare'. Indeed, the Government has made much noise urging councils to give priority to very important services for those 'at risk' and at the same time has issued circulars ordering cut-backs. By not making the social welfare cuts public, it is hoped that social workers will do the authorities' dirty public relations work for them. Or even better, helped on by the current media campaign of 'social worker bashing', social workers could be made the scapegoats for the present cuts.

Murder Incorporated

One large south of England social services department, East Sussex, provides a good example of the present crisis. East Sussex ironically has in its Research and Development Section a "Curtailment Team" for planning cut-backs which has been named "Murder Incorporated" by East Sussex social workers. Management has tried to get social workers to participate in making cuts by arranging divisional staff meetings at which they can comment on how "to prioritise" the cuts and where cuts can be extended.

East Sussex wants to apply a policy of "total non-replacement of staff". In the first year the Council hope they will lose off £794,000, with £1,428,000 the long term aim. The Residential Care services for the elderly, children, mentally ill and handicapped are to be severely cut by enforcing stringent admission conditions. To quote from the Council's memorandum on curtailment: "It would be feasible to introduce stringent (albeit arbitrary) criteria as part of a running down campaign, the objective of which would be to reduce the total amount of residential care across the County... It is illogical to consider any additional capital building programme that incorporates facilities for the elderly." Support services are to be greatly reduced: many day centres used by the elderly, mentally ill and handicapped are to be closed and reduced in number by amalgamating centres and increasing the number of occupants. Community care is to be axed by introducing stringent criteria of eligibility for meals-on-wheels and home helps.

The results will be to end any notion of preventative work and to create more social distress and suffering. A recent meeting of the Brighton and Hove Mental Health Association protested that Council cuts would put mental health care back 25 years and lead to more suicides. It was said: 'you'll find more bodies in the sea... and more people crying in the streets'.

Elsewhere cuts in Britain are already being felt. One of the most bizarre is in Bradford where residential services were cut by £51,700 in February and three residential hostels will be left empty when completed this month.

Social Workers Fight Back

Social services workers have begun to react strongly to the cut-backs. Nationally NALGO opposes cuts as does the British Association of Social Workers. Already there have been one day strikes by social workers in Tower Hamlets and Southwark in London against under-staffing and cuts.

In East Sussex, Hove and Brighton social workers have come out firmly against cuts. At a recent meeting in Hove where management hoped to discuss how to cut, social workers instead passed a unanimous motion opposing any cuts in social services whatever. And Brighton's 53 social workers have published an open letter to East Sussex Council's Social Services Committee saying that proposed cuts in social services will make it impossible for them to fulfill their statutory and moral responsibilities and that they are totally opposed to any cuts in the services they offer the public.

Erratum

Figures in THE WORKER Issue No 20 for the percentage wage cut in real take-home pay as a result of £6 pay rise at present rate of inflation should have read as follows:

Married Man with 2 Children

Old Gross Pay = $\frac{3}{5}$ Wage Cut + £6 Increase

£30	11.26
£40	13.00
£50	14.26
£60	15.12
£70	15.35
£80	15.98
£90	16.54
£100	16.93

Years quoted for aggregate profits of top ten companies should read: 1970, 71, 72 and 73.

Boxing Day Trains

British Rail has announced its intention of withdrawing trains this Boxing Day, and has immediately met the anger of ASLEF, the train drivers' union, and other rail unions, who are adamantly opposing any curtailment of the rail service. Marah, the head of British Rail, defending the move, said railways were not a service, and should be run on motives of profit, with no consideration for people who may desire to travel around the country.

The rail network, laboriously built up over 150 years, must be conserved and developed, not reduced. It is the concern of all workers, all unions, not merely rail workers.

DOCTORS - Fighting for the Health Service

The question for junior hospital doctors is to decide upon a reasonable workload and a reasonable salary for it. The recent actions of the doctors in rejection of the terms of their new contract has caused the Government to stand down and renegotiate a new set of proposals. The doctors must now think very carefully about their reaction to this new situation.

The revised contract solves no problems at all, merely redistributing money to allow inclusion of a 'no detriment' contract until they change jobs.

But a situation which is complicated enough is being further confused by the idea of 'overtime', 'overtime', that is, which would be compulsory and, which if accepted as such would

make the idea of a basic working week meaningless. Nothing would please the Government more.

If doctors are to continue to fight for decent wages and staffing of the NHS, the idea of compulsory 'overtime' must be rejected. A proper wage for their working week - of however many hours - must first be negotiated. With this to work on, the fight for a cut in hours with no cut in pay and so for more financing and staffing of the NHS must follow.

In the forthcoming ballot on the revised contract junior doctors must vote 'no'. It is now up to them to pursue their struggle and fight against the run-down of the Health Service on their own terms.

NUT Conference

Local Associations of the NUT throughout England and Wales are at present considering what motions should be submitted to the Union's Annual Conference next Easter.

A major question is that of education cuts to which the Union has yet to declare its total opposition. The Union will have to struggle for an expansion of the education service.

With the Government seeking to impose its £6 policy the Union will have to declare its opposition to Government interference in wage negotiation.

The Conference will have to censure the NUT Executive and the NUT delegation to the TUC Congress for their acceptance of the £6 policy. The Union's current salary policy, as decided last year at Blackpool, is in complete opposition to the £6 flat rate wage cut.

But the Union's salaries position will have to be elevated too. There must be substantial rises for all teachers, not merely to maintain but to improve their standards of living.

Meanwhile, with teacher unemployment abounding, the Conference will have to affirm the right to work.

Avon's Opening Shot

On October 22nd in Bristol 100 delegates and representatives of all unions in the Avon education sector (ATT, NUT, ATCDE, TGWU, NALGO and ASTMS, as well as representatives from the Adult Education service) declared their opposition to the cuts which have been proposed for the education budget (£2½ million worth). From Adult Education to nursery schools delegates outlined the many cuts which have already taken place due to Labour and Tory policy on public expenditure. The conference recognised that the Government is hell bent on destroying education in Britain and there was a unanimous feeling that the proposed cuts must be fought at every level.

The outstanding feature of the Conference was the recognition of the need for a united attack on education cuts - not for one sector to be raised as a priority over another.

As a first step, a lobby of an Avon County Council meeting on November 8th is planned. In order to involve the whole of the Bristol working class further in this fight, a demonstration is to be held through the centre of Bristol on Saturday, November 22nd.

Let Avon and the Government be warned that these are but the first shots in the protracted and revolutionary struggle for an education service worthy of the name.

There are at present an estimated 900 buses, out of a total of 5,800, off the road. LT claims they cannot get the parts for these crippled buses. Meanwhile Leylands, their supplier, says that they are short of orders. Now LT is importing many parts from America and hiring coaches from private companies and buses from other towns including Southend. Where is the logic?

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Healey's new directive that Government, Employers and Unions must get together to find a new concept of working one with another to get the country out of its mess can only be to the detriment of the working class.

All through the centuries of working class struggle it has always been the workers that have ended up making the sacrifices.

When we take even a weeks reading in any newspaper, what do we find?

Chrysler threatening to pull out of the UK. 16,000 unemployed in Coventry, and 400 stewards meeting to see how they can solve the situation. Scottish Daily News workers seeking aid to keep their paper alive.

British Leyland sending workers home because they do not consider that productivity is high enough. Yet at the same time introducing a worker-participation programme.

Ford workers at the Halewood Plant are being attacked by their management for their failure to meet production targets, yet at the same time Ramsey, Ford industrial relations expert, is advocating their own brand of worker-participation, also saying that over-manning is one of the problems of the industry.

Container Base Ltd which has six UK bases is in dispute with the TGWU against non-union lorry drivers and security passes, this only after a 10 week strike.

These are only some of the things that have happened in one week on an industrial front apart from Civil Servants, Social Workers, Teachers and Doctors.

One would think that whoever breathed the word participation was suffering from insanity.

But this is a trick that along with all the other productivity deals they have the arrogance to perpetuate upon the working class.

At this stage we have to say the working class must have a morality that rejects the class collaboration that is being suggested.

The stewards in Coventry took the decision to limit overtime and to exercise strict control over it, and to oppose both compulsory and voluntary redundancy and to keep as many people employed as possible and to stage a mass demonstration through the city on a fixed working day.

They are to be congratulated on that activity.

Crosfields Ltd.

Management at the above firm, not satisfied with sacking 300 workers, are now making determined attempts to break down established wages and conditions agreements.

They, in an attempt to get information to speed up production, put a Production Engineer and his assistant on a tape-controlled milling machine.

Workers reacted by stopping work in the machine shop until such time as the non-manual staff were taken off.

The other shops in the factory endorsed the action taken by the machine shop and pledged support any time such incidents occur.

The management, by threats of closure, are trying to introduce a shift system on these tape-controlled milling machines and are also trying to find new premises for the sheet metal workers to divide the factory up and make unity between the various shops more difficult.

This management, which never stops telling us that it is no longer Crosfields but De La Rue, is a ruthless bunch.

Their education has been in American companies which are notorious for their anti trade union attitude. The struggle at Crosfields goes on.

London Transport

Expenditure cuts could greatly affect London Transport's modernisation according to the August issue of their paper "LT News".

The GLC claim that the average minimum expenditure on the LT system, including roads, during the period 1976-81 would need to be £139 million per year, a reduction of £52 million.

These are minimum figures. For improvements, the GLC's figure is £175 million, the government's £107 million per year.

So we can expect expenditure to be cut. Meanwhile, fares continue to rise. Fares rose by one third in April and will rise again by one quarter in November.

What are we not getting for our money? At the beginning of October LT was short of 3,000 for their bus crews. Because of government cuts these vacancies will not be filled.

The British Working Class Against Franco

There will be no tears shed by British workers when Franco goes. In the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, British workers had no doubt as to where their allegiance lay.

Those of us who lived through the thirties experienced economic and political depression, chronic unemployment and its hardship and the growth of Fascism and Nazism.

In Italy, Germany and Japan fascism was firmly established and they had allies in all countries except the Soviet Union.

Spain, rid of its monarchy and preparing to advance towards socialism stood out against the fascists like a sore thumb. Although there were divisions with Spain itself these were not of such a character as to produce fascism. Fascism and Franco came from without. Franco was not put into power by the Spaniards. 200,000 non-Spanish troops, mostly regular German and Italian and Moors, armed and equipped by Germany and Italy put Franco into power.

The League of Nations stood by and did nothing. Although this was naked war the so-called democratic nations under the guise of a policy of non-intervention only aided and abetted the fascist aggressors.

Socialists and the politically conscious and responsible saw in the fascist war on Spain the sign of things to come. Spain it was said, is the rehearsal for further fascist wars. Those who stood and watched the butchery of Spain were to pay dearly for it later. As ever in matters of foreign policy the Social Democrats lined up with reaction. In Britain the Labour Party supported "non-intervention".

The one bright feature of this period was that international working class solidarity reached the highest point ever in history.

Two thousand British workers went to Spain and took up arms alongside their Spanish brothers. Five hundred lost their lives. Twelve hundred were wounded. From France, Germany, America and other countries workers went to form the International Brigade.

This was the highest expression of solidarity but it was certainly not all.

In Britain while the ruling class and its social democratic allies were standing by, the working class were not idle. The campaign for aid for Republican Spain was the greatest political campaign this country has ever witnessed. It was a genuine grass roots campaign and involved masses. It was not just speeches at conferences. It involved a tremendous amount of activity. The workers in the factories were very much involved. In the factories it was not just a matter of collecting money to buy food and other supplies for Spain. Many engineering workers were using their labour and skill to make equipment for despatch to Spain to aid the struggle.

In every town and village in Britain there were meetings after

meetings, in halls, parks and streets. Collections of money, food and other goods were taken everywhere. But Republican Spain fell to the fascists. German and Italian arms and supplies poured into Spain without let or hindrance by the so-called peace-loving democratic powers. And the ships carrying food and medical supplies bought by British workers were bombed and shelled and sunk by the Italian navy while the British navy looked on and gave no protection to British merchant ships.

Yes, not only the Spanish but we also paid dearly for "non-intervention". As foretold, as far as the fascists were concerned Spain was but a rehearsal. Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland



The British Battalion of the International Brigade on the march in Spain

followed. To the number of killed and maimed in Spain millions more were added in the holocaust of 1939-45.

The second world war achieved the liberation of millions from the yoke of fascism. But Spain, the first to fall to fascist aggression remains unliberated to this day. Fascism put in by foreign fascists has been sustained largely by American imperialism.

With the passing of Franco some seem to see some hope of a more liberal and democratic regime in Spain. In Spain workers are not looking to a princeling but to their own strength.

The executions, jailings and tortures are a sign of continuing resistance by all the best in Spain. This struggle of the Spanish workers will triumph and in their struggle the working class of the world will be their allies once again.

Sick Man of Europe

It is over three hundred years since William Harvey - a pupil of Galileo - described the circulation of the blood. Since that time, Britain has been a world centre of medical advance. Doctors, nurses, radiographers from many countries have come here to learn. We are now seeing the end of this era.

Why Emigrate?

In the 1950s many highly skilled doctors were forced to leave Britain because there were no specialist or consultant posts here. A General Practitioner in a remote rural area advertising for a deputy for his two week holiday might expect 150 applications. The reasons for emigration today are different.

The core of medical knowledge is research. Like any venture into the dark it may not always be successful. It is here that the cuts in public spending fall. Able technical assistants are sacked. Projects discontinued. There is no money for new ones. Therefore, some doctors and scientific workers move away. The loss is ours.

Anesthetics is a scientific art most strongly developed in Britain. In 1788, Kite, a doctor in Gravesend, resuscitated a drowned sailor by passing a tube through the larynx. In 1855, John Snow anaesthetised an abscess by passing a tube into the throat, and used bellows to inflate the lungs with air. In 1937 the first Professor of Anaesthesia in Europe was appointed - in Oxford. Despite this history, and all the attendant development of technical equipment, anaesthetic machines, ventilators, electrocardiographs, it is now a commonplace in our newest hospitals to see US or Scandinavian equipment - for this is cheaper and better. What a failure of investment in our own!

Why Strike?

The strikes of the doctors, starting in Lancashire and spreading over the whole country, were precipitated by the new contract - this offered a recognition of a forty four hour week in exchange for a cut in overtime rates. Overtime, that is, paid after 80 hours of normal working, and equivalent to between 55 pence and 85 pence an hour. However, this was but the spark to the fire. In the old days, there was little to offer the badly injured, or really sick person. Now, admission to an intensive care unit after a road smash means three or four doctors up all night, checking progress, anaesthetising, operating, doing the necessary blood tests and so on.

What is being done to the NHS is sad, and concerns us all. The true boast that our health is cheaper and more efficient than any other under capitalism, made by every Government since 1948, shows how much exploitation of all health workers there has been. Now it is the doctors' turn to join in the fight against cuts in the NHS, the fight to save our health service. A new contract brought them into the arena, but there will be no getting out of that arena until the future of the NHS is assured. We are all learning.

ALBANIAN ANNIVERSARY



Young workers constructing a socialist Albania.

On November 29th, the people of Albania will celebrate the thirty-first anniversary of their country's liberation. That day in 1944 marked the final expulsion of the invading fascist armies at the end of a people's war led by the Party of Labour of Albania. It is an anniversary for workers everywhere to celebrate.

Before the Italian fascist armies invaded in 1938, Albania was the most backward corner of Europe. Travellers described it as "a country of sheep and shepherds". There were almost no hospitals, no schools, agriculture was run on feudal lines and industrial development was behind that of any country in Europe. Poverty, hunger, illiteracy, ill-health and repression were the order of the day for the Albanian people.

But when, inspired by the PLA, the people heroically took up arms against the fascist aggressors and drove them from their country, a new era dawned for the Albania people. And in 1944, having won their national freedom, weapons in hand, they kept their weapons to secure the establishment of armed workers' power.

Looking to Albania today, we see the results of real socialism in action, in the magnificent achievements of the past thirty-one years. Albania now turns out in four days the annual production of

the pre-war years. In two days it produces as much electrical power as during the whole of 1938. Housing equal to that produced in a year before liberation is now built in two days. Crude oil production is up by 72 times, minerals 106 times, machine manufacture 235 times, building materials 153 times, light industrial production 85 times and processed foods 58 times. Thirty years ago four out of five people were illiterate. Now one-third of the population is at school. Taxes on the people

have been abolished. Education and health services are free. There is no unemployment, no inflation - in fact, prices are going down. The standard of living is continuously rising.

At a time when the entire capitalist world is plunged into the 'universal' chaos of depression, unemployment and inflation, socialist Albania is reaping the benefit of thirty-one years of struggle to make herself independent and self-reliant. The light of the only socialist country in Europe is

He was quite clear where this would lead. "They say we must punish ourselves for being greedy and lazy. They cut our wages and create an army of unemployed to exploit us more! "Our thinking is like a blunt axe, it needs sharpening. We've got to see that we have reached

a beacon for workers everywhere. The choice is before us - either capitalist barbarity and decay or the dignity of a real workers' civilisation which is socialism. The Albanian message comes to us with the clarity of thirty-one years' experience.

"Without your own State power, without reliance on your own efforts, without unshaken confidence in the course you take and hold to conscientiously and with courage, you cannot forge ahead, weathering the storms as the Albania people have done."

our present standards through our own militancy. We've used our strength before. We must do it again."

"Nothing will get us out of this situation short of putting an end to the exploiters" was another comment. "We must organise to do so!"

Workers on the £6 Limit

"Workers at my site" a boiler-maker told THE WORKER, "realise that the £6 limit is not so much to curb inflation as to cut down our living standards." One Indian worker summed it up

like this: "It is obviously an attempt to increase profits. But it won't increase investment. Instead of putting money into industry they are stashing it away, speculating, exporting it."

Rundown

of British Telecommunications

The Telecommunications Industry in Britain faces a massive axe. Some 20,000 of the industry's 70,000 workers are to be sacrificed in the name of profitability. The skills involved are varied but it is significant that a large proportion of the redundancies announced so far fall in the highly skilled sections of the workforce. This is the sector which will be building up the next generation of electronic telephone equipment; but if Plessey, GEC, Standard Telephone and Cables and Pye have their way will this equipment be developed and made by British workers?

Currently, a Common Market commission is drawing up the specifications for a standardised telephone system for Europe. It is envisaged that such a network will be in operation by 1985. If it is intended that British manufacturing is to play a major role in this development, would the industry be cutting back jobs by 20,000 with all that such cuts mean in terms of research and experiment in new techniques? But there is one little firm that is taking an increased interest in the telecommunications industry in Britain - the small

Private Automatic Board Exchange (PABX) which is being installed in Derbyshire. Who is this firm? None other than IBM, the American giant. Is it too much of a coincidence to note that the future technology in communications will require computer control? And alongside IBM are the notorious American ITT who via their subsidiary, Standard Telephone and Cables, are marketing one type of semi-electronic system, TXE4, for the Post Office already. Plessey are also supposed to be expanding in this field, making TXE4 equipment under licence to STC but, strangely enough, Plessey are experiencing great difficulty in obtaining the information they need from STC.

It does not take a financial wizard to realise that IBM and ITT are sharpening their knives for a huge carve up of the British and European telecommunications industries.

Workers in the industry, in taking their stand against redundancy, are not only fighting for their jobs but are fighting to preserve the skills which British capitalists are willing to bargain away for profits.

Health Threats on Humberside

For the first five months of the financial year, Humberside Area Health Authority (HAHA) have "overspent" by £0.7 million out of a £15.8 million budget and been reprimanded by the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority to 'keep its house in order'. Despite an extra allowance of £0.2 million, the £4 million deficit will worsen the already swinging cuts in services planned for the future.

These may include the closing down of a third of Withernsea Hospital (and the whole of its Maternity Wing), the closure of two Hull Maternity Hospitals and several small hospitals in the Bridlington area, to 'bring them under one roof.'

It is claimed that the shutting of the Maternity Hospitals and Wing is justified by many of the beds not being continuously occupied. But the workers at the hospital say they are always full. The closures will mean that some women will have to travel 30 miles to the nearest maternity ward.

As a result there will be an

increase in the number of induced births, and more babies will be born at home without the modern care, both for mother and child, that is given in hospital. Five years ago when Withernsea Maternity Wing was threatened, it was saved by protest from health workers and local public. NUPE has organised a petition against the present cuts, and declared their opposition to the policy of not filling all staff vacancies.

The chairman of HAHA said that the closure of 'small uneconomical hospitals' is probably inevitable, and that it would be better to have more community nurses. This would mean nurses without a base, and localities without hospitals, leaving the way open for a reduction in health care, and the destruction of union organisation among health workers who, in the past, have fought so hard for the advancement of the Health Service. These workers will be the most important factor in preserving and improving what has already been won by our class.

Who are the Terrorists?

In a written reply to a parliamentary question last week, Mr. Jenkins, Home Secretary, announced that new and amended legislation is to be introduced to continue the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1974. The new bill will undoubtedly strengthen the powers of the present law under which not only the IRA is proscribed, but also any other organisation that the Home Secretary thinks fit. Suspending, as it does, rights of Habeas Corpus and the right to trial, Mr. Jenkins' measures are supposedly designed to combat terrorism.

During the twelve months in which the present law has been in operation, it has become clear that the term "terrorism" must now not only be applied to the savage and cowardly acts of those who place bombs in public places, killing and injuring

members of the working class, but also to these new powers under which hundreds of people have been arrested and detained - ball refused and houses searched without warrant. 946 people have been arrested under the Act so far. Of these only 44 have been charged and only one under the Act itself.

Mr. Jenkins, who last November described the measures as "draconian", added that they were unprecedented in peace time. They are indeed war-time measures. The war, however, is not against bombers and kidnapers - these have merely provided the pretext - the panic atmosphere, in which traditional freedoms and liberties won by the people over centuries, can now at a stroke, be taken away. The war is in reality against the working class.

Lobby Versus MP

During the recent lobby of parliament on the attack on education, one 'Honourable Gentleman' found himself face to face with a delegation of teachers, lecturers and students who have sent us a report of their interview.

Lobby: We don't feel you understand the dire effect that these cuts are having on education in your constituency.

MP: This is the result of the financial crisis which the Labour Government has brought about.

Lobby: But it's having disastrous consequences on educational standards. What would your party do?

MP: If you only understood the extent of the current economic crisis, you would be asking us to cut twice as much. I am beset by one lobby after another these days, each as selfish as the rest. One day mental health, the next invalid tricycles, then Shelter, today education. You don't understand the situation, you just claim your cause should get more than its fair share.

Lobby: We are here on the question of education cuts - that doesn't mean we believe you should cut other social services. Firstly, the cuts in expenditure have resulted in teacher unemployment. Our quotas have been cut, and fewer teachers are expected to teach the same number of children.

MP: But I am assured this will be done by natural wastage - this is not redundancies.

Lobby: Of course a cut in teacher employment means teacher unemployment!

MP: But don't you see, if you don't agree to cuts, the Borough will have to close schools. There would be twice as much unemployment if we didn't create unemployment.

Lobby: Children are now leaving school, being refused employment because, they are told, they aren't sufficiently qualified. If you cut back on teachers' jobs, this will cause unemployment in other industries as well.

MP: We must all be prepared to make sacrifices. One thing we are not prepared to let go though is defence - you do understand the need for your Government to defend you.

Lobby: The Government is attacking us, not defending us. That is why we are here.

MP: The economic recession is purely temporary - we are waiting for the upturn in the economy.

Lobby: That is something I don't fully understand. What sort of turning point are we to expect?

Are we waiting for 1939 - a World War? (MP shuffles uncomfortably).

Are we living through another Weimar Republic? (MP shuffles even more).

Or are we to cease being an industrial nation, and to plant cabbages and chase rabbits up the side of the M4?

What sort of recovery are you anticipating?

MP: I don't want socialism. I want reforms.

Lobby: What reforms?

MP: Participation all round, especially worker-participation in industry. A better paid police force. A reformed prison-service. But I can see it would take a few more hours to convince you of my case.

Oxford Unemployment

There are now 7,600 people out of work in Oxford and its six surrounding towns.

The workforce has gone down at British Leyland by about 2,000 over the last year. Notices were posted at Cowley (where Leyland employs 17,500 workers) at the beginning of September warning

of future redundancies, and since then threats of redundancies have been held over the workers heads from month to month. Numbers became known this month when Leyland stated that it wants to get rid of 1,300 workers (10% of manual workers, 16% of staff). Unions state that they will oppose compulsory redundancy.

'THE WORKER'

155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5.
£2 per year (including postage)
NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

Students Fight

for

Education

As students prepare for their NUS winter conference, they face one of the most vicious attacks upon their past victories.

Since 1972 the state has cut £463 million from the education budget and plans a further £520 million by 1980. It has closed fifteen colleges of education and cut the projected number of teachers in training by 1981 from 117,000 to 60,000. Some inner London schools now give only short time education. In Devon alone six nursery centres have been scrapped and £600,000 slashed from the county's education building programme. Typical of the accelerating rate of the cuts is St. Luke's Teacher Training College in Exeter. Originally planned to merge with Exeter University in 1981 with no reduction in student numbers, the merger will now take place in 1977-78. Student numbers have already been reduced by 20 per cent and the authorities intend to cut this to 50 per cent by the time of the merger. Temporarily appointed staff and those over 60 are to be sacked (almost 50 per cent of staff) and the remainder may apply for the 'new' jobs in the University.

However students this year have fought with determined energy. On October 21st 15,000 workers demonstrated their opposition to cuts at a rally in London. The Polytechnic of Central London and Leicester Polytechnic are both on rent strike against increases in hall fees, as are Polys at Lancaster, Liverpool, Sunderland, Leeds and Huddersfield; and universities at Liverpool, Bangor and Warwick. At Oxford, Wadham and Magdalen Colleges are organising action against hall fee increases. South Bank Poly occupied the offices of its Assistant Director for twenty-four hours as part of a campaign against education cuts in general and their hall fees and refectory prices in particular. Thames Poly has occupied offices on three sites to show its opposition to education cuts.

For students as for workers, the need to take up new battles does not preclude fighting the old ones again. Exeter University Guild of Students has just completed a successful defence by occupation of its control over its own union buildings. The university authorities built two new offices in a union building over the summer without even a pretence of consulting students, intending to place their own administrative staff in them. The response of the students was swift and unequivocal. First an occupation established control over the offices. The Vice Chancellor conceded negotiations and under took not to move in staff and equipment, hoping that in time the issue of the offices would become overripe and the offices would drop into his lap. The students once more seized the initiative, ended the occupation and took the offices into use, warning the Vice Chancellor that all future threats to the union's control over its buildings would likewise be resisted.