

THE WORKER



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**Our children neglected...
To be unskilled, unhealthy and unemployed...
Industry destroyed, our country despoiled...
Just to preserve capitalism**

SHALL WE PERMIT IT

Speech on the current prospect for Britain delivered by Reg Birch, Chairman of the CPB(ML) in Basildon on October 15th:

"Of today, while we make reference to what is happening, you know it because you suffer it. Of tomorrow, we do not just preach and prophesy but practise and perform.

Capitalism for tomorrow plans the enslavement of the working class. The crisis is the crisis of capitalism, not of the working class. It is a world crisis.

British capitalism being a leading force and, indeed, the oldest force in world capitalism leads in a new direction. They have not lost their acumen nor their cunning. They are still strong.

It is important to remember that Britain's foreign holdings are second only to the US and it is the largest investor in the US in the world. Of the national product, 21.5 per cent is exported and not even Germany matches this. In terms of actual earnings compared with Germany in 1975 ours were more than half as much again.

What is this lead in a new direction which British capitalism is giving for tomorrow? They propose to embark on the breaking down of all that has been won by the working class over the years. At one time they were forced to pass laws against making a child work 18 hours a day. Now they seek to get back to those conditions.

They cannot do this while there is a healthy, organised working class. Hence the destruction of industry. Industry is people. To denude industry is to beggar people.

Tomorrow is the question. Shall they set back the clock? Shall they render people unhealthy, illiterate and unemployed? To bring it about they have declared an end of the reformist struggle and have wooed and won over much of what the working class itself has set up. You cannot talk about a healthy capitalism without the 'social contract' which is the willingness of the working class to let it survive.

If British capitalism is still strong, let there be no doubt that capitalism is in trouble. Take the leading capitalist power, the US, where millions live below the poverty line, or Britain where unemployment is 2.2 million.

The morrow for us is not one of choice. For our children there is nothing but the utmost impoverishment and degradation if we let it happen. We have talked about a revolutionary situation in Britain. It must be remembered that a counter-revolution has already begun here, with the consent of the mass of the people, led by social democracy and the Labour Government.

Does such a process have some kind of natural stopping point? Will capitalism eventually be kind to us and give us back what it is taking away? The answer to that can be found in Germany between the wars when capitalism's disaster produced the Nazis. That is the prospect here if we deny our duty and our birthright. Shall we permit it?

It is no longer a question of change by degree. We cannot run up and down shouting about the right to work or lobby Parliament about cuts in education and believe that we are dealing with the problem.

Today the necessity for us is the seizure of those weapons, the unions, and the ousting from them of those elements seeking to blunt and pervert them into instruments of class collaboration and capitulation. We made trade unionism. We shall take it and use it as the force to destroy capitalism.



Reg Birch, Chairman of the CPB(ML), addressing a meeting of workers in the centre of the Essex Industrial complex on October 15th.

We cannot do this by creating some parallel force, by trying to make something else. We have to be in the existing unions in order to make them ours.

A trade union attitude is not enough if it allows the unions themselves to be perverted. We never made that machine for the purpose of accepting that we would have no more wage claims, that we would agree to reduction. Are the British working class such gluttons for sacrifice? Do we believe that if we volunteer to work one year without any wages at all then all our problems will disappear?

If unionism is misdirected, we take it over. And we say: unless you go with us, get out of our way! We reclaim our own. We denounce bogus participation in their organisations. We must put down the notion that if we get enough left people in Parliament someone might seize the mace!

Struggle has to be at the point of production. Unemployed and employed must be united. We will take to work with us our mate who is unemployed. Let it be seen that we accept no division in our ranks imposed by their slashing redundancies.

It is going to be a fierce and dangerous struggle. Heath some years ago in the United Nations announced that the danger is civil war. Healey says today that if we do not put ourselves in the hands of the international money-lenders, there will be riots in the streets. Let us see to it that those "riots in the streets" make it impossible for them to go on exploiting us. Let us remember that we are the ones who made the guns. We must make sure that they are pointed in the right direction. The army consists of "squaddies" too. Callaghan can be seen as Kerensky and we know what answer was given when the men of the Putilov Works were ordered to hand over their guns.

It is no longer enough just to work in the great mass movement. You have to have the understanding that capitalism is finished. You have to be alive to the great revolutionary impetus throughout the world, first in the USSR, in China and in Albania. What they could do, it is for us to do. Everything will be used against us but it is the people who count."

Callaghan's destructive framework

Delivered amidst a backdrop of rising protests against cuts in the educational budget, the Prime Minister's long-heralded speech on education must rank as the most insulting attack ever on teachers and the children. The heart of the matter is the government's belief, not that education is too important to be left to teachers, but that education is too important to be given to our children! Insults streamed: school leavers, and the 20,000 unemployed teachers, are themselves to blame for having no work; all teachers are guilty of not equipping their children for 'jobs in industry'; 'progressive' methods are to blame for illiteracy; academic life is a comfortable soft-option. Rickets is re-emerging in many parts of the country. Are teachers to be blamed for this too? Or maybe it's the fault of doctors and nurses. What nonsense!

Callaghan's speech heralds a new Dark Age in education. The idea is that education should be linked ever more closely and narrowly to the demands of a moribund and contracting industry and the result will be the death of education. Hence this new 'rational' anti-intellectualism. A proper, all-round education is to become the preserve of an elite, for the remainder the only worthwhile training and pursuits are those that prepare them for wage-slavery - and the dole queue! The aim is to discredit teachers and the whole of the educational system as a means of securing acceptance of the destruction of education.

Teachers should be very wary of entering into long and involved arguments with the Department of Education and Science about the suitability of this method of teaching as opposed to that method. The government is plainly not concerned about educational standards: it refuses to implement the Bullock Report which outlined ways of combating poor literacy; it will not provide adequate resources for scientific and technical education; all its policies are designed to increase unemployment.

True, education is too important to be left to teachers alone. Communities and trade unions up and down the country must slough off their indolence and range themselves alongside the teachers and their unions in the fight for a decent education for our children, jobs for them to go to, skills to use in a society which works for them.

Defend education, take the offensive against capitalism!

Earthy and fascinating reading provided by the Selected Works of Enver Hoxha

(Book Review reprinted from The Bulletin of the New Albania Society).

It seems almost impertinent to attempt such a summary review of the first two volumes of the English translation of the Selected Works of Enver Hoxha. The material covered deals with the most important part of Albanian history - its independence from fascism and colonial exploitation and then the exciting road to socialist advance. Being written by the architect of much of Albania's revolutionary planning and its implementation it bears a special significance. Hoxha writes clearly and his exposition is always easy to follow. He also has a lovely habit of combining high Marxist analysis with the most down-to-earth remarks about people - Party cadres, bigwigs or humble people.

Volume 1 is divided into two parts, the first part dealing with Hoxha's many reports about the conduct of the national liberation war against fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. Mobilising the peasantry, fighting the reactionary nationalists who were being backed by Britain and also trying to root out disruptive pseudo-revolutionaries who 'parrot communist slogans' but are more dangerous than the overt enemy (p. 93). Hoxha's report to the Central Committee of the Albanian Communist Party in February 1943 is an important contribution for all those anxious to apply Marxism-Leninism to problems of national liberation.

The second part deals with the seizure of power and the establishment of the Democratic Government of Albania, later the People's Republic of Albania. For British readers, particular interest will surely lie in the way in which the Albanians had to fight the manoeuvres of British imperialism and then Anglo-American imperialism which used



military means and intrigue against the revolutionary forces. Later the debacle of the then Labour Government's attempt to force warships into Albanian waters, ships which sank after hitting mines placed by the fascist forces, are interesting side-shows to the main story of an infant socialist state having to fight enemies on all fronts, including the defection of an erstwhile ally, Yugoslavia, when the latter degenerated into an anti-communist, Trotskyite base for US imperialism. Hoxha's speech to Tirana activists in October 1948 is one of the fullest analyses of Tito's revisionism.

Volume 2 deals with the fascinating story of building socialism in a semi-feudal land and transforming "a backward agrarian country into an agrarian industrial one" (p. 507) with industry as its base. Hoxha's Reports to the first and second Party Congresses in 1948 and 1952 are interesting accounts of socialist construction in all spheres of life - agriculture, industrialisation, education, culture. But what is more

remarkable than the plans for changing the very face of a tiny country into a modern thriving workers' state is the political prescience shown by Hoxha and the Albanian Party.

The Report made at the third Party Congress is particularly good on this and not surprising, as it came shortly after the 20th Party Congress of the CPSU where Khrushchev and his fellow renegades had begun the process of dismantling the Bolshevik state erected by Lenin and Stalin. Ideas which today have received much prominence because of the proletarian cultural revolution initiated in China by Mao in 1966 were being discussed by Enver in these early days - the need to revitalise the Party, get rid of its bad features such as bureaucratisation, all kinds of personal weaknesses of cadres, the need to forge links between the masses and the Party by making leaders give up their comfortable jobs and do the hard tasks in the countryside, the need to develop socialist consciousness and ideals through socialist and not capitalist emulation among workers and the peasantry.

Reading Hoxha enables one to realise why Albania did not follow the road of its east European neighbours, which today are in the morass of revisionism and firmly in Russia's clutches. Hoxha can take much of the credit for saving Albania from such a fate. It is therefore no surprise to find that it was he who took up the challenge of Russia's defection from Marxism and made that brave and brilliant speech attacking Khrushchevite revisionism right in the lion's den, in Moscow during the World Conference of Communist Parties, 1960.

(Vols 1 and 2 of Enver Hoxha's Selected Works are available from the Bellman Bookshop).

Multinationals desert

Whether foreign or indigenous in origin, capitalism knows no national loyalty to Britain. This point has been re-emphasised recently not only by estimated figures for the export of capital in 1976, but by the massive shift of funds abroad (particularly into Europe) that has occurred since the EEC referendum, in June 1975.

If we compare the 1972-73 activities of the top 30 British 'multinationals' with their 1974-75 accounts, some startling facts emerge. The aggregate value of their total 'home' production rose from £12,787m in 1972-73 to £18,007m in 1974-75; while the total value of their overseas operations, in the same period rose from £6,320m to £16,284m (i.e. 158 per cent)! In other words, overseas production as a percentage of home production rose from 50 per cent in 1972-73 to 90 per cent in 1974-75! Yet the value of exports from Britain by the same companies over this period rose by a miserly 1.5 per cent - in fact a reduction in 'real' terms.

What all this indicates is that since the referendum, British multinational companies have been concentrating not on increasing exports of manufactured goods, but capital itself - abandoning Britain and seeking shelter elsewhere, particularly in the heartland of the EEC.

A fairly simple calculation shows that the total amount of production established abroad by these thirty companies alone

would have represented some 300,000 jobs at home.

The same picture emerges from a study of American multinationals in Britain by Prof. Dunning of Reading University. Their operations here in 1973-74 accounted for 12 per cent of manufacturing output - totalling over £8000m. However, in the last five years the rate of return on US investments in the continental EEC countries has increased by more than 50 per cent, and is now more than double the rate of return on US investments in Britain. Thus, total distribution of US capital in Western Europe has shifted from a position of 33 per cent in Britain, 87 per cent in the rest of Europe in 1958-70, to a new position of 22 per cent in Britain, 78 per cent in Europe 1974-75. This shift is now speeding up.

A further study of US owned subsidiaries in Britain has scotched the traditional imperialist argument that US multinationals provide an inflow of capital into this country. Some 90 per cent of funds used to finance their expansion in Britain come from either retained profits or finance raised here. The outflow of profits, interest and royalties far exceeds any initial inflow of US dollars.

These examples represent but a few illustrations of the fact that capitalism, wherever its head office may be, knows only one world to exploit and finally destroy - if we let it!

China's bomb: "We will not use it first"

On October 17th the Chinese nation held an underground test of their latest nuclear device. However, unlike the US and Russia, who also held a nuclear test this week, the Chinese regard this form of 'power' with aversion, and state that they will never be the first to use such a weapon.

They were forced to manufacture this weapon only because capitalism still exists. They are, indeed, dedicated to work, together with all other peace-loving peoples, towards the ultimate and total abolition of all such weapons.

Mao Tsetung said that the US

atom bomb was only a paper tiger. "All reactionaries are paper tigers. The revisionist Soviet Union is a paper tiger too." The real weapon for changing the world today is the working class itself. Only the people can ensure peace and freedom in our world, and only through socialism. Every day of peace increasingly serves to weaken imperialism - and to strengthen revolution.

The Chinese are against war - nuclear blackmail and terrorism. War, as such, is not inevitable; it only occurs if the people allow it to. The only war that is inevitable is class war.

Rule Britannia?

At a time when Britain should be asserting our rightful sovereignty over a 200-mile maritime zone around our coasts, the EEC Commission has decided that we are entitled to only 12 miles, which we already have. Yet even this is qualified; foreign fleets from EEC countries must be allowed to maintain their 'historic fishing rights' within the 12 miles. That this arrogant nonsense should be dredged up again after the Icelandic fishermen demonstrated to British capitalism the bankruptcy of such petty imperialism! Are we so despised that we can be led by the nose while the Icelanders, having upheld their dignity, command respect?

Marxism must lead nations

October 22nd's meeting at the Bellman Bookshop on National Liberation through Marxism led to interesting discussion on the necessity for Marxist leadership if any national liberation movement is to have lasting meaning in freeing its people from exploitation whether it be that of an imperialist power or of a nation's own bourgeoisie. For nationalism in capitalist terms has nothing to do with the needs and interests of the people within a nation but only with profit.

Contributors reaffirmed the fact that the only meaningful support that this country can give to the national liberation struggles of other countries is by making our revolution here. We have the skills and ability to solve our nation's problems.

Decline of Army image in Ireland

In spite of the wall of secrecy surrounding the activities of the British army in northern Ireland examples of some of the atrocities break through from time to time. Recently the British authorities had to admit to the murder of a thirteen year old boy in the Turf Lodge district and to the shooting of a pregnant woman. This was followed by the admission of a British soldier that his fabricated story three years ago led to the imprisonment of an innocent man.

The press has begun to get anxious about the deteriorating image of the British army in Ireland. Even the so called 'Peace Movement' had to express some protestation.

The incidents are by no means isolated cases or the most atrocious ones. On the contrary such incidents are of such daily occurrence that in spite of efforts to hush them up some are bound to break through to the public at large.



Andrew Wiard (Report)

The workers at the Grunwick colour film processing plant held a solidarity demonstration last week after 9 weeks of their strike for union recognition. The employers refuse even to discuss the matter. The workers have succeeded in getting some 80 per cent of the products blocked.

HONOUR THE GREAT BOLSHEVIKS

Public meeting organised by the CPB(ML) on Friday November 5th at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, W.C.1. 7.30 p.m. Remember the first successful workers' state in the world, the greatness of Lenin and Stalin and the subsequent betrayal of the revolution by the present revisionist regime that is exploiting the Russian working class and the workers of Eastern Europe. Speaker: a veteran worker who has seen the greatness and the decline.

The political attack on our National Health Service

As long as the ruling class needed healthy workers, the NHS, paid for and operated by the working class, was convenient. But the ruling class is fast deserting Britain for quicker profits elsewhere. With industries everywhere shedding manpower, a healthy working class is no longer required. Moreover, a dignified working class that claims the right to a free, available and effective health service is anathema to the class who seeks to destroy our skills and our industry, and with those our very being. The attack is political.

The arguments presented by the Government in favour of dismantling the Health Service are not of course in this vein. The theme is economics, as in the rest of the social services, because 'we' can no longer afford these luxuries. A new system of budgeting has been introduced, that of 'cash limits'. This means that if a Region, Area or District 'overspends' one year that sum will be deducted from the following year's budget. Long term planning has thus been discarded at a stroke in the frenzy of balancing the books for the end of the year. No new hospitals with over 400 beds will be built: 'nucleus' hospitals are an attractive name for economy.

The expensive acute services are to be hit most - a few of the publications recommended for study in Appendix A of the Consultative Document suggest the trend: 'Economical use of hospital beds', 'Unnecessary X-rays', 'Major out-patient surgery' and 'Out-patient gynaecology'. Accident and Emergency Units are being closed in many of the small hospitals on the grounds that a 'better' service can be provided when all the facilities are concentrated on the District General Hospital site. How can this service be better when an ambulance may have to travel many more miles to reach the care that a desperately ill patient needs within minutes? Britain's declining birth rate is used as the flimsy excuse for the drastic curtailment of maternity services. The peri-natal mortality rate - the clearest index of a nation's health - has remained at the

same level since 1958, yet this opportunity for real improvement in maternity care is to be ignored.

What are the arguments in favour of these cuts? 'Redistribution of resources! The reasoning is, on the surface, seductive. The 'poor relations' of acute medicine have been too long ignored, and scarce resources must be diverted to improving care for the young, the elderly, the mentally handicapped, the psychiatric services and to 'preventative care'. Fine words, but the funds allocated

to the Health Service will not cover a fraction of these needs. One London Health District plans to reduce its medical and surgical beds by 200 but the improvement to other services will be derisory. The long waiting lists will grow, and who will tell the people not to have accidents or fall ill?

New 'priority areas' in health have suddenly been discovered. Did any health worker or patient in the metropolitan regions know that they were privileged and over-provided with health services before the government pronounced this to be so? There will be no increase in health service provision in the 'priority' areas; only decline at a slower rate.

The real future planned for the health service is already clear. A memorable phrase in the Consultative Document declares, 'People not buildings'. It could have been phrased equally well as 'People not transport, or catering facilities, or equipment, or supplies, or laboratories, or portering and domestic facilities, or medical and nursing staff!'. An impressive vision of future health care in Britain - plenty of patients but no health service!

In concrete terms the cuts mean that the level of services is being reduced in every possible way. Vacancies are frozen so that portering and domestic services are run on a skeletal staff. Clerical and administrative posts are regraded at a lower level or combined so that one person can do the work previously undertaken by two or more.

The hospital secretary responsible for the running of a single unit is fast disappearing. One administrator may have to travel between two or three sites, with a resulting lack of efficiency. Transport between the different hospitals in a District is being cut back. Catering budgets are cut so that both the quality of the meals is poorer and staff may be unable to get meals when they are working at night or at weekends. Maintenance programmes are shelved so

that wards and buildings remain in a dilapidated or even dangerous condition.

The attack on the working class as a whole in terms of health care is equally an attack on those sections of the working class employed in the health sector. In every area of the health service the cuts are greatest in terms of staffing levels. Like all the assaults on the class it strikes at the root of our existence, our skills and our knowledge; it is a political attack, masked by the ridiculous excuse that since 78 per cent of the health service budget is spent on staffing it is there that the greatest economies must be made. Those who remain must work harder.

The British ruling class are past masters of the divide and rule policy and nowhere more so than in the health service. The idea of scapegoats for the state of the service has been ardently fostered in the bourgeois press and media - a few years ago the doctors, now the administrators. We and our fellow workers must have no truck with this. There is now, and always has been only one enemy, the ruling class. No section of our class is unnecessary and an attack on one is an attack on all. To those of our fellow workers who accept and try to implement the cuts, we must say No, we will not be a party to the destruction of our health service. We must take full responsibility now only by saying "no" to all cuts, in whatever form they may take. And by saying no to that, we are saying no to capitalism.

Weston counters

On the 12th October, 400 people lobbied the meeting of the Avon Area Health Authority at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol. The meeting was discussing the proposed merger of Weston-super-Mare Health District with one of the Bristol Health Districts. At the same time over 4000 people marched through the streets of Weston protesting against the proposed closure of their hospital.

This was the biggest demonstration ever seen in Weston. Factories closed as workers came to join in and on the route people left shops and offices to join the march. Local trade unions sent delegations, including one from the Westlands helicopter factory nearby.

The march was led by local health service workers whose Joint Shop Stewards' Committee has pledged to take 'effective industrial action' to save the hospital.

The proposals at first seemed to be for an administrative merger but it soon became evident that this was just a screen behind which there was a vicious and deliberate plan to close the medical facilities in the district so that in some cases patients will have to travel 25 miles for treatment. The facilities in the area have long been inadequate; plans for a new general hospital were shelved in the first round of cuts 2 years ago.

Equal pay jam today

Robertson's Preserves, makers of Golden Shred and other jams are being challenged at their Bristol factory over their reluctance to pay their women workers equal pay with their male colleagues.

For years the women have been put on a special grade, separate from the male workers doing the same job, but the job description is identical. Since 1st January 1976, 'Equal Pay Day' this has been illegal and negotiations have been dragging on for the last 10 months.

The union (T & GWU) is demanding nearly £12 per week to bring the women up to the lowest male grade backdated to 1st January. The claim is also for the part-time and temporary rates to be increased in line with the full time staff.

The breakdown of negotiations on the 4th October was the final straw. Some sections of the factory stopped work immediately and the same day a mass meeting decided to strike. The women were supported by the transport drivers (T & GWU), the electricians (EPTU), and the maintenance engineers (AUEW), who all came out in sympathy strike.

Within two days management had agreed to go to the Central Committee of Arbitration of the Equal Pay Commission. The workers have gone back to work until 18th November when the decision is expected.

Success at Isle of Grain

When the CEBG planned Europe's largest power station on the Thames Estuary, they hoped also for a new discipline of the workforce. The many small contractors would be replaced by five major ones, a combination to defeat the strength of workers organising locally for improved wages and conditions. Their bid to achieve "European status" in the field of labour relations has failed.

After nearly twenty weeks of strike action by scaffolders,

supported by 1000 other workers, mainly AUEW, one of the major contractors, Babcock & Wilcox, has relinquished part of its contract. The employers are reported to be anxious for a return to work on a basis similar to that preceding their unfortunate attempt at "improved management".

The non-utilisation of small contractors meant that specialist firms were not called in for certain jobs. More importantly, it was a conscious attempt to devalue the skill of the workforce by demanding more flexibility, and by not employing all the skilled workers necessary. At its most odious it took the form of directly attacking conditions, for example, denying men on contact with asbestos dust protective clothing - and this in spite of the unequivocal judgment of the Factory Inspectorate that protection was necessary.

The strike shows - as with the Trico women - that the determination of a small number of workers can force the retreat of employers even when everything seems to be in the employers' favour. When power stations are already being closed in Britain, the threat that the project for a new station could be cancelled is a real one. However, it is precisely the struggle of the workers which has denied them this option.

Whatever the conditions negotiated in a return to work, it is clear the return to the status quo ante preached by the employers is worthless. The struggle against their conscious attempt to destroy safe conditions of work is already part of the greater struggle to prevent their destroying the electrical power industry altogether.

The "road to recovery" is the road to ruin

It is not surprising that the Confederation of British Industry in its policy statement, "The Road to Recovery", should recommend a massive transfer of money from the pockets of the working people to the pockets of capitalists by a £3500m income tax concession in the latter's favour, and a £3000m cut in public expenditure. What may still surprise some people is that this scheme for recovery by robbing the poor to give to the rich, which is exactly like the IMF loan conditions, is also no different in principle and only slightly different in degree from what the Labour Government has already been doing and will continue to do.

Healey's moratorium on the payment of Corporation Tax, by the device of allowing an increase in the value of stocks to be used to reduce taxable profits, is just such a tax concession as proposed by the CBI. It means that the payment of Corporation Tax, retrospective to 1973, has practically been made a matter of choice. And the proposed cuts in public expenditure, both national and local, together with those already

imposed, are of the same order as those advised by the CBI, the IMF administrators and, in a statement on October 21st, the Governor of the Bank of England.

The justification given by the CBI for this transference of funds from the working people to the capitalists is that it will create a million jobs. This is precisely Callaghan's argument when challenged about the intolerable level of unemployment: "Profits have to come first before there can be any jobs." The idea is that if sufficient money is taken from the people and given to the capitalists, they may invest some of it in British industry, thus creating jobs. And then, again, if profit opportunities are greater elsewhere, they may not. It is rather like handing cash to an excessive gambler in a casino in the hope that he might save a bit of it for the collection plate on Sunday.

Indeed, in spite of all the sacrifices already exacted from the working people of Britain on the premise that things are about to get better, industrial output fell during the June-August period,

before the collapse of sterling, and economists at the EEC Commission predict the lowest growth rate for Britain of any member of the Community. The dilemma of the Labour Government as the spokesman for capitalist interests is that it has to say at the very same time that things are so bad that many more sacrifices are required and that things are about to be so good that all the sacrifices demanded are worthwhile. What they need is a carrot to beat the people with, or a stick who can eat - and with the predicted rise in food prices this winter may soon be reduced to such a diet.

Since the capitalists have failed, why, as those on the left of the Labour Party keep suggesting, cannot the state take over the responsibility of investment in industry for the benefit of the working people? For the same reason that you cannot have workers' participation in industry while the capitalists own and control the means of production. The state belongs to the capitalists and can only express their inter-

ests. Britain is a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. Only when the state belongs to the working people in a dictatorship of the proletariat will it be possible for the people themselves, through their own state, to invest directly in their country's economic growth for the benefit of themselves and their children. This is what socialism is. This is how countries like China and Albania achieve such phenomenal rates of growth with no unemployment at all.

But we working people of Britain will not be able to take over the state without fighting for it. And that brings us to the real reason for the rundown of British industry, which is political rather than economic. The capitalists must destroy the organised working class to maintain their grip on the state. But the working class, the vast majority of the people, the people who made this country, really are Britain and their destruction is the destruction of Britain.

The counter-revolution has begun. We had better be getting on with the revolution!

Increased activity throughout country greets "Education Week"

The "Education Week", which is organised by the Council for Educational Advance and will run from November 7th-13th, will provide a national focus for the growing activity against the cuts in educational expenditure.

The action has been broad and is developing. On Wednesday, 20th October, schools were closed early in Merton as teachers assembled with parents to deliver their verdict on proposals to cut current education spending by £600,000. On the day, the local council approved the cuts. But hundreds of parents and teachers from all unions at a mass meeting before the council passed a motion "utterly rejecting" them.

In action at present undertaken throughout the country, the NUT is tackling the scandal of teacher unemployment. In Lancashire, teachers are fighting for 38 jobs axed when the county cut its education budget. Action in refusing to cover for absent colleagues has resulted in a speedy supply of teachers to fill in, though some pupils have had to be sent home. The authority has still not bowed to the teachers' demands and so the action will be extended from the present 37 schools to 281 Lancashire schools.

Surrey teachers are also expected to extend their action while four outer London borough associations of the NUT will undertake it for the first time in the present campaign. Enfield teachers in 45 schools will ban cover for absences of more than one day and in 37 schools they will refuse to teach oversize classes. Sutton teachers will also operate sanctions in 29 schools. Merton and Redbridge schools are also poised to take action.

Members of the NUT in Avon are being balloted on whether action should be taken against cuts of £2m in the county's education budget for the next year.

The NUT executive will be approaching other associations regarding the possibility of action. In addition, the executive has

agreed to support primary schools who try to get supply teachers in to cover absences. When a primary teacher is absent there is usually no one to fill in so the class is distributed among others creating intolerably large classes.

In Oxford, where 4000 teachers and supporters recently met in a huge demonstration against cuts in education, the NUT is refusing to cover for unfilled vacancies or teachers absent for more than one day known in advance and to teach classes of over 35, or 30 if they contain children of reception age.

It is in this healthy climate that education week will be held.

South London:

In Merton the plan is to slice another £500,000 off education spending, which would result not only in a massive reduction in the numbers of books and the amount of equipment (even down to desks and chairs) available in the schools, but would also freeze school building, maintenance and repairs, and would also threaten over 30 teachers' jobs. The teachers replied to this plan with a strike, giving 6000 pupils an unexpected holiday, and attended a "call to arms" rally at which one speaker made the position quite clear. "We are facing the most dangerous threat to teaching Merton has ever seen. We will do everything in our power to stop the cuts."

The NUT branch secretary said later that he was pleased with the action and that it marked the beginning of a long fight - "The future of Merton's children is at stake," he said.

Meanwhile, nearby in the London Borough of Sutton, the NUT has conducted a poll of its members in all Sutton's schools and has found an overwhelming determination to fight plans to hack another £200,000 from the education budget. From the beginning of November, NUT members will refuse cover. They are giving the authority a choice:

employ more teachers (there are at present at least 20,000 unemployed nationally) or send the pupils home, thus demonstrating to their parents the effects of the attack on the education of their children. Moreover the teachers have pledged not to allow the cuts to result in oversized classes - they will simply refuse to teach them.

South Wales:

The decision of the Dyfed County Council in Western Wales to cut by half the allocation for school building, to withdraw all the nursery school facilities in the county and to end free school transport in this predominantly rural area, has met with opposition from the NUT.

A NUT survey revealed that only half the usual number of newly-qualified teachers had been recruited by Dyfed and the local NUT branch threatened that unless the cuts were stopped, industrial action would be taken in the form of refusal to cover for absent colleagues and refusal to teach classes of over 35 pupils.

The real pressure, though, has come from groups of parents throughout the County.

In Aberystwyth 100 parents took over the County Hall in a sit-in against the closure of a nursery school.

At Burry Port Infants' School, parents kept children from school and picketed until a teacher vacancy was filled.

At Carmarthen County Hall, while teachers argued with the Education Committee over the cuts, 200 parents lobbied and picketed against the withdrawal of nursery school facilities.

In Tenby parents marched and threatened to keep children from schools until the free school transport was restored.

This joint action by teachers and parents has brought about the shelving of the plans to cut school transport and nursery facilities until there can be a re-assessment in April 1977.

Electricians issue a call

The following resolution was passed overwhelmingly by Brighton branch of the EPTU and sent to Brighton, Hove and District Trades Council: "We the Brighton Branch of the EPTU reaffirm our opposition to cuts, wage restraint and unemployment. We will not be intimidated by the tin gods of the 'Labour Party' who are attempting to impose such Tory policies on the labour movement.

Above all we will not accept the waste of skill and energy of 1½ million unemployed.

We urge this Trades Council to mobilise within the Trades Unions a struggle for the right to work. The unemployed cannot be left to fight alone. Our industrial strength lies with those organised at work and it is from there that the struggle must pivot."

Civil servants oppose cuts in Brighton

A mass meeting was held in Brighton recently, organised by the CPSA and SCPS, to take forward their campaign locally against cuts in civil service expenditure. At the meeting many myths about the British economy were destroyed. For example, Britain's Public Sector Deficit is smaller than that of Japan or West Germany, who, we are told, are models of well-run economies. It was also pointed out that of the increase in the Public Sector Deficit between 1973/4 and 1974/5, £2.5 billion arose from tax concessions to industry in such things as stock relief.

The meeting received that the message of opposition to the government and its policies would be taken back to the offices and union branches. That the struggle was not over: far from it, it was growing.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Friday Nov 5th, 7.30p.m. "Celebrate the Anniversary of the Great Bolshevik Revolution"

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WCI

At the Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortress Road, London NW5

Friday Nov 12th, 7.30p.m. "The Cuts: Socialism and Self-reliance or a Wasteland?"

Friday Nov 19th, 7.30p.m. "Capitalism, a dying system."

Friday Nov 26th, 7.30p.m. "One World, One Enemy"

Friday Dec 3rd, 7.30p.m. "What are We To Do?"

Gravesend, Kent

Monday Nov 8th, 7.30p.m. "True socialism in Britain" Anglo Saxon Hall, Berkeley Rd, Gravesend, Kent.

Bristol

Friday Nov 12th, 7.30p.m. "Revolution - to save Britain for Socialism". Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Rd, Old Market, Bristol.

Friday Dec 3rd, 7.30p.m. "No Profits - No Unemployment in Socialist Albania". Main Trend Books.

Brighton

Wednes. Nov 10th, 8pm "Fight for Better Education, Health and Social Service". Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Rd, Brighton.

Wednes. Nov 24th, 8pm "For a Self-Reliant Britain". Brighton Workers' Bookshop.

Wednes. Dec 8th, 8pm "The Working Class in Control". Brighton Workers' Bookshop.

Two report-back meetings by members of a CPB(ML) delegation to Albania in summer 1976.

Bradford

Friday Nov 26th, 7.30p.m. Communal Building, Room 2, Bradford University.

Leeds

Friday Dec 11th, 7.30p.m. Park Lane College of F.E., Room 102 (off entrance hall), Hanover Way, Leeds.

Ambulancemen in Devon win

Devon ambulancemen (see Worker no. 20) have won their dispute over cuts in available manpower. Their work-to-rule has forced the local health authority to spend more money by making provision for full cover of ambulancemen absent on training,

through sickness or holidays. They were united until the end. "We will not be back to normal working until all are happy," was the union spokesman's comment. All the workers have now returned to work as they came out - united and determined.



Chris Davies (Report)

The smiling women workers of Trico-Folberth returning to their factory triumphantly after their 21 week strike for equal pay.

When the management of the Brentford factory, which supplies windscreen wipers to the motor car industry, refused to accede to the demand that equal work should receive equal pay, 400 women and 150 men stopped work.

They received the full support of their union, the AUEW, and boycotted a tribunal on the grounds that such tribunals most often helped employers find loop holes in the Equal Pay Act.

The determination and solidarity of these workers have won a considerable victory for the principle of equal pay which will have its consequences throughout industry.