

THE WORKER



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PREPARE FOR REVOLUTION THE WAR IN THE MIND

Capitalism cannot be destroyed until the working class, by an intellectual revolution, has broken the grip of social democracy on its own thinking.

MINERS' 'NO'

The miners have soundly defeated the Government productivity scheme, put forward by the Coal Board, for solving the country's fuel problems at the miners' expense. Not only would the productivity plan pit pit against pit and area against area, it would also have endangered the safety of miners by encouraging them to compete against each other for money rewards.

Not only was the productivity scheme a device for getting more coal without having to pay a fair rate for it, it was just as much an attempt to split the solidarity of miners which had enabled them to win victories in 1972 and 1974. The Labour Government no doubt hoped to weaken the miners before finding itself in the same kind of confrontation which was the immediate cause of the Tory Government's down fall.

By their massive vote against the scheme the miners have preserved their unity, smashed the Government's divisive tactics and prepared themselves for fighting for a claim related not to some discredited "contract", which is just as anti-working class as the productivity deal itself, but, to their own needs.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Let the miners speak for themselves on the reasons for this rejection of the Labour Government's attempt to impose the dirty, dog-eat-dog ethics of capitalism on workers who have learned through struggle that their cooperation and unity are their strength:

"A productivity deal like that would take us back a hundred years."

"They want to split us. They are attacking the unity we established in '72 and '74. It's a question of who makes up the team at the face. We won't let them take that right away from us."

"They'd like to see us taking risks for a few bob more. We miners know the ground, what we

ROLLS ROYCE WORKERS SMASH CONTRACT

6000 engineering workers at the three Rolls Royce plants in Scotland, by their four week strike, have forced a settlement of an £8 a week across-the-board rise. This is a substantial proportion of their £10 claim and will give skilled workers over £50 a week.

This settlement, only six months after the last settlement, is in flat defiance of the social contract's twelve-month rule which the TUC has just been frantically urging all affiliated unions to observe.

The workers at Rolls Royce persisted with their strike in spite of two calls from the Executive Council of the AUEW urging them to go back to work. There is no doubt that this successful action will have an influ-

ence on workers in other Rolls Royce factories who also have lodged claims.

Foot's Department of Employment has announced its disapproval of this flouting of the contract: "The Government does not condone this breach. The fact that the company has received in the past Government financial support makes the breach more serious."

This threat, that funds supplied to industries in difficulty will be used to impose the Government's will, would make nonsense of any pretence at collective bargaining. Nothing could show more clearly how Government financing, either by grant or 'nationalisation', is an extension of the corporate state for the purpose of trying to smother workers' struggle altogether.



The other vote in February 1974 :
miners voted a strike in and the Tory Government out.

can do and where we can go. We won't be deprived of our incentive by letting them put a price on our own necks."

"We fight for a living day wage. That's all it's about. The NCB has never given the miners anything. They're no different from the owners. They may even be worse."

So ends a big advertising campaign by the Government and by the Coal Board to get the miners to vote against their own interests - a campaign paid for, of course, out of our pockets. We are delighted that our money has been wasted! We must mount our own advertising campaign, out of our own pockets, against capitalism.

EDITORIAL

If people are not honest about what they are doing, what they are doing will itself become dishonest. For workers to say that it does not matter if they accept the social contract in words, or allow it to be accepted on their behalf, because they will some how scrub around it at their place of work is a prescription for ultimate failure - even in that limited arena in which they have chosen to act.

When the working class declared its forthright opposition to the Industrial Relations Bill, when, under correct leadership, the strongest section went right on fighting it openly, both the Act and the Tory Government which introduced it were thrown out.

Social contract - class capitulation

When the working class allows the TUC at Brighton to marshal the bulk of the unions under the banner of class capitulation, which is what the social contract is; when the engineers, who took the brunt of the battle against the Industrial Relations Act, are silent on the equally nefarious social contract, it is a victory won by the Labour Government for the employing class. It is a defeat for the working class.

"But what does it matter?" some may ask. "We don't believe in the social contract. It can't really work."

As long as there is even passive acceptance of a compromise with the class enemy, which prevents the open rallying of our own class forces in struggle, the social contract is, in fact, working - whether or not a particular group of workers get a new settlement in six months or a slightly higher rise than the admitted rise in the cost of living would warrant.

Intellectual denunciation

Until the working class has the will and political understanding to reject the social contract, not only by action at places of work but intellectually by denouncing it as collaboration with the class enemy, until we shut the mouths of the traitors within our own ranks who call for that kind of ideological surrender, we cannot hope to carry our struggle forward to new heights in that protracted war to liberate ourselves completely.

The social contract is not simply a political expedient which enabled the Labour Party to creep back into office. It is submission to capitalism in crisis and therefore at its most vicious. It is an abject surrender which is being presented as preferable to industrial conflict - just as the false 'national unity' of fascism was presented to the workers of Italy and Germany as preferable to class struggle. They would turn Britain into a wage-slave labour camp and call it industrial peace!

Second 'Second International'

The social contract is the present day version of the Second Internationale, that sordid compromise between imperialism and the working class, brought about by social democracy who supported the first World War. Under that disgusting deal millions of workers died in the wrong war.

The right war for workers in Britain today is class war, without compromise, till final victory.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



METAL BOX

Workers of a branch of the Metal Box Company at Westhoughton have taken action in support of their claim for a top skilled rate of £1.25 per hour. This action consisted of thirteen sanctions, the main one being the refusal by workers to use their own tools, which they themselves had to buy.

At a meeting the next day, workers still refused to open their tool boxes. The management retorted by breaking all so-called procedure agreements and locked out 60 workers. In answer to this 600 workers came out in support, and later workers at a second Metal Box factory nearby walked out also.

While the workers were peacefully picketing the factory gates, the management called for police intervention to force the picket lines. The police did so with the aid of dogs and allowed several lorries to leave the factory. In retaliation to this outrage the workers occupied the factory and locked out the management.

More and more workers today are realising that the only way to preserve their standard of living, is not by any Social Con-trick but by fighting and fighting hard.

COURTAULDS

As a world-wide recession begins to bite, capitalism will be up to its old trick of trying to beat the workers with a big stick to maintain their profits.

The future of the new £7 million weaving factory at Skelmersdale, Lancashire, is in the balance because of a dispute between management and workers over new working arrangements. Production at the plant has been at a stand-still for ten days. Shop stewards and members of the Amalgamated Textile Trade Union, are insisting on the status quo being maintained while fresh discussions on working arrangements take place.

Courtauld refused, and insisted that re-organisation must take place and are threatening once again to close the plant.

BRIGHTON BUSWORKERS

After a series of strikes and other industrial actions in July over pay and operating conditions, and the implementation by the management of a fifteen point Busmen's Charter, Brighton busworkers, members of the TGWU, are now applying guerrilla tactics with a series of one-day lightning strikes which will cause the maximum damage to the management with the minimum loss to the workers.

This strike action was supported 100 per cent by workers of the Conway Street and Whitehawk garages. They are confident, in future action, of the support from other National Bus Company garages including Eastbourne and Portsmouth.

LLANWREN STEELWORKS, SOUTH WALES

1600 craftsmen, who have been on strike for eight days, have won rises of up to £10.14p a week, but will not return to work.

They are supporting 120 striking draughtsmen, members of TASS, who have been on strike for six weeks in support of a wage claim. This solidarity in action is the sort of stuff the working class are made of. The draughtsmen have just rejected a new pay offer giving rises of up to £1 a week, which the men called "a slap in the face."

POWER SUPPLY

Leaders of 106,000 electricity supply manual workers covering the AUEW, EEPFU, GMWU and TGWU are seeking further increases following their £14 a week interim award, received last March.

Pressure from the rank and file has been building up since the miners smashed their way through Phase III.

In seeking interim increases they are trying to keep up with other groups in the industry such as the 30,000 power engineers and the 55,000 white collar workers who have negotiated increases of 10 per cent.

ASTON TECHNICIANS - ON THE GO

Aston University offered a 9 per cent increase in wages to technicians, members of ASTMS, who had demanded 30 per cent. Three weeks of work-to-rule achieved an acceptable offer: 30 per cent for the lower grades decreasing on a sliding scale for higher grades.

The claim was fought for by a go-slow which hampered the smooth running of the university. In most departments all experiments had to be interrupted and left unfinished, and machines remained idle part of the day. "We were determined to slow down the pace until we were satisfied," explained one of the technicians.

This successful struggle strengthened the Union which has increased its ranks in Aston.

MANAGERS WORK TO RULE

Managers of the British Steel Corporation have begun a campaign of non-cooperation and work-to-rule over a pay claim.

10,500 managers are in SIMA (Steel Industry Management Association), which only recently was recognised by the Corporation.

The industrial action is the result of an offer by the Employer within the Social Contract.

SIMA's claim is for a 25 per cent increase and a wage restructuring deal from October 1st, three months before the present agreement expires.

PROVINCIAL JOURNALISTS CAMPAIGN

Journalists and printers throughout the country have been applying various kinds of sanctions as part of a national NUJ campaign in support of a wage claim for 9000 provincial journalists. The NUJ is seeking increases of up to £13.13 per week on basic rates and has rejected the Newspaper Society (representing provincial paper managements) offer of £5.40.

On the "Kentish Times", part of the profitable Westminster Press Group whose owners also have The Financial Times and Penguin Books as part of their gigantic empire, 66 journalists

SCOTTISH WORKERS RESIST CLOSURES

The first to feel the screws in this crisis are the workers as capitalism desperately tries to exploit more effectively, tries to wring more profit from less men. The designs of the British Steel Corporation were to raise Scottish production by 25 per cent to over 4.2 million tons a year while 6,500 men were made redundant, mainly through the closure of open hearth furnaces and rolling mills and all concentrated in Lanarkshire. Workers fear the "virtual eclipse of the Scottish steel industry".

LORRY DRIVERS

After the magnificent struggle of Scottish lorry drivers in winning a £1 an hour and smashing the social contract, 1000 lorry drivers in the North-East have also won parity with them.

Workers of the National Freight Corporation are now in dispute for the same claim.

Workers at Liverpool and in London, Southampton, Slough and Watford are all out for the claim.

SIT IN BY

GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Government social research workers, members of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, held a "sit-in" outside the Registrar General's office on November 18th in protest against the arbitrary transfer of one of their branches to another department.

TERRYS, ROWNTREE -

MACKINTOSH, YORK

At a mass meeting, production workers at Joseph Terry and Sons, York, accepted an offer of a £30 a week basic rate plus bonus. The agreement came well in advance of the normal date and represented an increase from a basic of £21.45p. Earlier in the week, 150 GMWU workers had struck in support of the claim which demanded parity with Rowntree workers.

However, at Rowntree-Mackintosh a strike by 3000 workers continues after the rejection of a £3 interim offer.

HOOVER

All production has finally stopped after being hit for nine weeks.

Some 11,000 workers are either on strike or laid off because of strikes at two factories.

4600 AUEW members have been on strike for nine weeks at Cambuslang.

In the second strike at Perivale, 150 craftsmen, also AUEW members, are demanding parity with craftsmen doing comparable work in the locality.

have been dismissed for blacking material from non-union journalists.

Late editions of the "Chronicle and Echo", the Northampton Evening paper, appeared with a front page blank except for an apology. The printers had refused to set up an article prepared by the non-union editor. On the "Birmingham Post" The NUJ has also been given full support by members of the NGA. At the request of the NUJ, an article by a non-union city editor was blacked and the newspaper failed to appear.

Meanwhile, layoffs at Chrysler's Linwood car plant were averted by the 6500 workers who threatened immediate strike action. The example to follow is the new-found confidence in resisting closures and unemployment, developed over 3 years ago by the workers of Plesseys and UCS. Sit-in and blacking actions have been taken by workers at the US owned Honeywell computer plant near Glasgow in resistance to the threat of 1150 redundancies.

BUILDING WORKERS CLAIM

The present claim now under discussion between UCATT and the Building Employers Federation is the most important struggle by organised building workers since 1947. The present claim means the ending of the Bonus System, and the return to a decent rate.

In 1947 the Labour Government of the day made a deal with the construction trade unions for the introduction of a Bonus system in an effort to build more houses. This move was strongly resisted by building workers, the wood workers in particular, who twice rejected it through their branches. Building workers saw many reasons for caution over this proposal. On the building sites and in our trade union branches the question was asked, would this

mean a shift of power from the trade union branch to the sites, the growth of sub-contractors, lump working, more accidents? These and many more questions were asked. We were told time and time again, by the Labour Government and our officials, that none of these things would happen. As any building worker will now know, our fears were more than justified. Our organisation has now been so weakened, that the employing class can arrest and imprison building workers for picketing during a strike.

The successful fight of Fords and Scottish workers along with other members of our class against the attacks of the employing class, can only strengthen the building workers resolve to win this claim.

TOO MANY BRICKS, TOO FEW HOUSES

Thousands of brick workers have been laid off by London Brick and other firms in the East Midlands. During September the stockpile of bricks rose nearly 10 per cent to 735 million and at the end of the month nearly one third of the brick works in the country were idle, due to lack of "demand". Yet only a year or two ago the waiting time for bricks was something like one year. The reason for the drop in demand for bricks is quite simple - the British working class can no longer afford to buy houses, although they are needed badly.

Here we see a glaring example of one of the basic contradictions of capitalism, the contradiction between capitalist production and consumption, becoming very obvious as the crisis develops. Each factory-owner attempts to increase the price of his products, at the same time paying effectively low wages, to the point where workers can no longer afford to buy what the factories are producing. When housing is desperately needed, it cannot be bought. The lay-offs, in turn, lower the people's purchasing power still further.

USING THEIR LOAF

Bakery workers at the Bakers Union National Conference earlier this year passed a resolution demanding a basic £40 for a 40 hour week instead of the £24 they were getting. But employers only offered a £2.60 increase plus a £3.60 threshold payment which would have brought their pay up to about £30.

In spite of a recommendation by the Union's Executive Council to settle, the workers organised for industrial action. The lead was taken by several bakeries and soon strikes flared up all over the country. In Bradford Bakery, West Bromwich, the biggest in the Midlands, 400 men and women have

halted production behind a strong picket line and ignored management's threat to call in the police.

T&GWU members in the area have given assurance that they would not load or carry bread and engineers have agreed to do no maintenance.

Strikes have spread to bakeries in Liverpool, Nottingham, Manchester, Preston, Oldham, London, Derby, Stoke, Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Bakery workers say they don't give a damn for any social contract. They have learned that they have only their own strength and determination to rely on.

SCOTS TEACHERS CARRY THE TORCH

The continuing strike and work-to-rule actions by Scottish teachers sustains a rebirth of teachers' struggle all over the country. The Scots action was not an isolated beginning; the determination of the meeting of 4000 of Glasgow's 6000 teachers at the Apollo Centre several months ago was in the knowledge that a year of mounting struggle had been conducted in London. Today, as their determination is turning into action, Scottish teachers can gain confidence from the recent victory of their colleagues in London. Teachers in the rest of the country should dispense with timidity and follow suit.

The Scots actions have been solid and effective. Spurred on by long and persistent mass pressure their union, The Educational In-

stitute of Scotland is now demanding a £300 lump sum interim payment. Compared with 10 years ago their wages now are effectively about £15 less. Three-day strikes (on full pay) rotating to different areas each week plus a work-to-rule over conditions are being conducted with high morale. Coupled with this are one-day strikes organised by action committees.

There have been instances of some schools adopting guerrilla tactics; a rotating one-third of teachers would go on strike each day, causing all the pupils to be sent home while the other two-thirds continued collecting full pay - operating the work-to-rule. They would not handle oversize classes!

Palestine Victory at the U.N.

The victorious reception accorded Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, at the United Nations in New York followed 10 years of unremitting struggle by the Palestinian people to regain their homeland.

In his speech Arafat made it clear that the Palestinian demand is the same as it has always been - for a democratic secular state of Palestine in which Palestinians and Israelis would share equal rights in which Jews, Muslims, and Christians would be free to practice their respective religions.

The international recognition

gained by the PLO reflects the recent rapid changes on the world scene. The UN used to be the implacable enemy of the Palestinians. In the name of peace it would intervene following each new phase of Israeli aggression to justify the aggression and preserve the new status quo. The Palestinians were regarded not as a dispossessed nation but as 'displaced people', refugees deserving some international charity.

The Palestinians refuse to accept this role, refuse to forget their rights as a nation. Their spirit inspired some other Arab countries to take a bolder stand against oil imperialism and Zionist aggression. The October War of 1973 marked a new stage in the military balance between Egypt and Syria on the one hand and Israel on the other. At the same time the UN itself was changing; a new qualitative stage was reached when China received her rightful place in the Security Council.

Within Israel itself the situation is deteriorating for the Zionist. The most subsidised country in the world, with the biggest military establishment in proportion to population to be found anywhere is feeling the pinch of the world capitalist crisis. The labour movement formerly completely slavish to Zionism is beginning to speak with an independent voice.

The Palestinian people still face a long and arduous struggle but the victory at the UN marks an important stage in their advance.

Britain and Cyprus

When the UN recently demanded that all foreign troops should leave the island, Callaghan said that this did not apply to Britain's sovereign bases because they were not part of Cyprus. Throughout the recent invasion of the island, there has been a deliberate attempt to ignore Britain's presence or to present it as impartial and benevolent.

Turkey had to lease Cyprus to Britain in 1878 for services rendered during the war against Tsarist Russia. In 1923 she was forced to renounce all rights to Cyprus which became part of the British Empire. Because of the opposition of the Cypriot people to British rule, Greek reaction was used to curb protest and Britain even "promised" to hand over Cyprus to Greece. To juggle the "claims" of Greece and Turkey was Britain's divide and rule policy.

When the republic of Cyprus was proclaimed in 1960, Britain still retained 100 square miles for sovereign bases and also a hold on the economic life of the island.

Today, British troops are presented as angels of mercy and no doubt British capital will be hailed as saviour of a ravished economy.

Let us declare: British bases out of Cyprus!

Back From the Grave

The middle class exists and, according to the London Evening Standard, is alive and well at the home of a Tory MP. This brave man and an ex-Ulster Unionist MP are the founders and so far the only members of the Middle Class Association, formed to protect the interests of the 'middle class'. This should prove a complex task, rather akin to saving a corpse from death.

The 'middle class' no longer exists. History and the development of capitalism have turned the old professional classes into hired labourers, who have no alternative but to sell their labour in order to live. Those who try to turn back the wheel of history do so at the peril of being run over by it.

Where Has All the Food Gone ?

Capitalism in its rise was ruthless, but brought great technological advance. It has never ceased to be ruthless; but now, in the days of its decline, it is a dam to progress.

This is nowhere so clear as on the land. The 'gentleman farmers' of the 18th century, evicting peasants from their land in thousands, successfully bred our modern herds of cattle and sheep, developed machinery, built up a science of agriculture. Britain led the world in food production, whilst her peasants and labourers became landless beggars, left to starve or find work in the hell of the factory towns.

Now capitalism is underdeveloping our countryside. Whilst agriculture experts are showing the way forward, with new grasses, better animals, even domesticating deer, with the aim of making Britain self-sufficient in meat by 1980, Welsh hill farmers are struggling to survive. They can't employ the new techniques, because prices

are shooting up and down chaotically. "If I develop my land for sheep for three years, I might end by selling up completely, because lamb has lost its price. The same if you're farming pigs or cattle. We just work from day to day." Just like their forefathers in the lowlands centuries ago these family farmers are now being squeezed out of their independence and into the working class. Already, they have begun to share a revolutionary future.

In recent weeks these farmers have held protest marches, picketed meat imports at docks, blocked railway tracks. "Why did you block the railway line?" "I didn't. The wheels of my tractors just happened to fall off on the crossing, and now I can't get out because of the queues of tractors on the road either side who happened to be trying to get through at the time."

Farmers up and down the country are killing off livestock young, because it's cheaper to cut losses than to feed them ill

fully grown. Nor is it so just in Britain. American small farmers have been publicly shooting calves and lambs in protest. As one said during a television interview:

"We're squeezed between the grain companies and the meat market. We can't survive in farming any more. How can this happen in a land of plenty?"

Lowland farmers, setting up for the first time, in a futile attempt to join the ruling class, to gain independence, are having such difficulty paying for the mortgage on the land that many have even stopped rotating crops, relying entirely on fertilizers to grow wheat permanently for immediate profit. Fine farmland is being laid waste.

Capitalism can no longer even feed its workers decently. It is not, as some claim, the population which must be cut to save our future. It is not young calves who ought to be slaughtered. Capitalism itself must go to the slaughter-house.

A Grain of Good Sense

At the recent UN 'food conference' in Rome, the imperialist countries spread the usual confusion about the real reasons why so many people can't get enough to eat. One reason given was the well-known "too many people". This hardly stands up as an argument when the most populous country in the world, China, can adequately feed 800 million people, though it was poorer than India only 25 years ago. Other "reasons" put forward were "the weather", or "the cost of fertiliser and pesticide" or "the rise in oil prices". No imperialist country mentioned grain dumped

in the sea, beef mountains bursting out of Europe's freezers, crops burned to keep prices high, or the latest threat to use grain as a blackmail weapon against developing countries' demands for reasonable prices for their products.

The three latest UN conferences on the Law of the Sea, on Population and now food have all shown the increasing determination of the third world countries to refuse to swallow the arguments of the USA and USSR, and to unite on the consistent line put forward by China and Albania. Both these countries say that the peoples of the world can solve the problem of food and resources only by a political and economic struggle against the interference by the superpowers in the affairs of developing countries, against capitalist speculation in food, against foreign exploitation of their natural resources and against the grip of feudal landlords and reactionaries on their economies.

Hao Chung-Shih, the Chinese delegate, said on November 7th that self-sufficiency in food was vital to the independence of a country. "To depend on food imports is no long-term policy". He welcomed aid to hungry countries, but aid must be timely and effective, with strict respect for

the sovereignty of the receiving country and without blackmail or demands for interest. "No international food measures should be imposed on any country" from outside.

The Chinese provide a good example of the way to solve these problems. Before liberation the peasants were forced to hand over much of their harvest to landlords and often mortgaged the crops for several years in advanced when they got in debt. Serious droughts or flood happened almost every year.

However since the founding of the People's Republic, China's population has increased 60 per cent yet grain production has gone up from 100 to 250 million tons. At present the cultivated area is only about 10 per cent of China's territory. With increasing mechanisation, land reclamation etc. production can increase enormously. China imports grain (mainly wheat) and exports rice to the same value; there is a balance at the moment but China will soon be able to contribute more in aid to others. State planning, the overthrow of landlords and capitalists and the peasants' co-operation in the communes are essential ingredients of China's achievement. "Revolution plus production can solve the problem of feeding the people."

OUT OF THEIR OWN MOUTHS

The Prime Minister speaking at the Lord Mayor's banquet assured the City that the Government was aware of the need for a 'prosperous industry' and a 'strong stock market'. "For this," he said, "investors must have confidence in the viability of industry and that means its profitability." For workers though, he had nothing to offer. There would be no rise in the standard of living for several years and they would only barely hold their own if they dedicated themselves to 'hard work'.

This is exactly the message of Brezhnev to the workers of the Soviet Union. During a visit to Uzbek last month he said: "To maintain the welfare of the soviets the only reliable way is through labour, labour and labour."

It's Impossible...

The simultaneous fulfillment of the related objectives of full employment, price stability and external balance, seems to be virtually impossible, according to the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

Meanwhile, a notice at the London Business School reads: "The dole - are you eligible? How to get it. Where to get it. The problems and solutions. Sign on now, before this term's exams."

The Concentration Camp Again

A return to the days of the 'Slough Concentration Camp' as a means of dealing with growing unemployment has been proposed to the Government by the Manpower Services Commission. The Commission suggests a job creation programme employing more than 100,000 adults in community work, linked to another 100,000 in special training schemes.

Unemployment is rising fastest in the 16-20 and 20-24 age groups. The Commission reports: "This development has resulted in these two youngest age groups having more than their proportional share of total unemployment and means that they can now be added to the 60-64 year olds in a definition of the 'outer' labour market."

"Were unemployment to rise to 1 million in 1974, there would be over 370,000 people unemployed aged 24 or under or between 60 and 64 years."

The relative naivete of youth and the physical weakness of the aged makes these two sectors of the working class particularly vulnerable to fascism. Meanwhile the report's suggestions evoke bitter memories of the thirties when the Government set up Training Centres peopled mostly from the North and Wales. At Slough, husbands and wives met at the boundary of the camp.



Every one of China's 800 million people receive a guaranteed amount of grain even after a bad harvest. Grain prices have not gone up in 24 years

The 'Social Contract' Budget

The capitalist class in crisis knows but one solution - to make the working class pay. Its ingenuity lies only in the constant invention of new ways to achieve this aim - an ingenuity forced on it by the working class.

With the balance of payments deficit now running at £2900 million and industrial production down one per cent on last year (what bourgeois economists call a "negative growth rate") the crisis is already very deep. What makes it deeper is the unreality of the working class to be ruled in the same old ways.

In the face of all this, their response is a massive economic attack on the working class. The lifting of all price-restraints, the abolition of subsidies to nationalised industries, coupled with a direct £1500 million handout to the capitalist class ("industry"), will all lead to unprecedented price rises and so to a cut in real wages.

Yet this Budget is more than just a handout to "industry". It would be wrong to think that the Labour Party, any more than the Tory Party, has any long-term ideas about what to do with the economy. They have their short-term methods, as always involving a worsening of our standards of living, and this time including the blatant threat that unless we agree to this we will have massive unemployment. Yet their overriding concern is how to tame the working class.

The bourgeoisie recognises the essentially political nature of its economic problems, and the need for a political solution to them. Indeed they are unable to present a thorough economic solution. Great as the attacks on our class presented in this budget are, they still represent only one aspect of the attack on workers.

In this lies the true lesson for us. It is not enough to think solely about the size of our wage packets. All the intellect and tactical

skill involved in the noble struggle for decent wages and dignity under capitalism, must apply itself to the political problem of whether we will live forever under the capitalist wages system. The abolition of capitalism is a difficult task, yet infinitely less arduous than the eternal defensive struggle.

WHAT A T.U.C.!

The TUC's economic committee is preparing a strong reminder to affiliated organisations that the 12-month gap between wage settlements must be adhered to. At the same time the TUC approved the budget for siphoning money out of workers' pockets into the pockets of capitalists. "The Chancellor's measures will be generally seen as a courageous endeavour to protect employment, stimulate investment and promote social fairness."

DOUBLETHINK

According to the budget, employers are entitled to pass on to the public in higher prices 80 per cent of any wage rises forced upon them by militant workers.

But according to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, employers who grant wage increases outside the social contract will be penalised by a Government veto on price rises!

Whether employers are allowed or forbidden to meet higher wage bills out of higher prices, will, therefore, depend entirely on the quality of the fight they have put up before giving in. Perhaps a new Ministry of Psychological Attitudes of Capitalists should be set up to test degrees of resistance on the part of employers, so that the most obdurate can be rewarded with the privilege of raising prices and all those softies who like to give money away to their workers can be driven into bankruptcy by price freezes.

STUDENTS ON THE MARCH

The level of activity during the NUS Week of Action (November 11th-15th) reflected students' appreciation of the crisis in education. While this was an integral part of the National Grants Campaign the issues raised and the demands made were wide-ranging; against expenditure cuts, for provision of such facilities as nurseries, for reduction in hall of residence fees and catering prices. One of the most positive developments

witnessed was the increased support and participation of other unions in the colleges like the ATTU and NUPE. All these workers are showing their determination to fight and their defiance of the state in its attempts to find short term expedients to ameliorate the economic crisis.

The tactics used have been flexible and wide-ranging. The uniform factor being the unity to fight itself. Throughout the country there have been occupations, canteen boycotts, teach-ins and strikes at college and area level. From Hull to Cardiff and Bradford to Bristol students have involved themselves in struggle.

An estimated 40,000 students marched through London on November 15th as a culmination of a week long demonstration in support of higher grants, and in opposition to the cuts in education.

This student year has seen a proliferation of regional struggle.

HULL

In Hull, against a background of rising student opposition to government expenditure cutbacks which are causing huge increases in catering prices and rents in halls of residence, 800 students

have just been involved in a two day occupation of Hull University administration block. It arose when the university reversed a decision to guarantee loans negotiated by the union to build an extension to the new university building. Current accommodation is completely inadequate for students' needs.

The campaign continues with a picket of a University committee meeting, catering boycotts and action over rents - for example, refusal to pay rent increases and taking the university to court under the Rent Freeze.

SWANSEA

At Swansea, after a day of occupation, an emergency general meeting of the Union was called in an attempt to call it off. This was attended by over 2,000 students who voted overwhelmingly to not only continue but to extend it.

SUSSEX

At Sussex University, the Guest House Tenants Association led all students in calling for an occupation to win their demands of subsidies of rents to campus levels (a subsidy of about £3).

The call was followed by the campus tenants. The occupation began on the ground floor of the administration building. This was used as a base for mass meetings, sleeping, and excursions upstairs to the administrators floor, to the duplicating room and to the telephone exchange.

There were over 500 students at the first meeting. Since then morale, organisation and support has grown. Those occupying have been careful not to allow themselves to be separated from the rest of the student body or the

campus workers. There will be no overnight victory. The demands of the students total £75,000.

FASHION SCHOOL

Occupations are not limited to the University and Polytechnic sectors. An encouraging feature of the recent period has been the involvement of technical colleges and Colleges of Further Education traditionally regarded as the "weak" area of the NUS.

The London School of Fashions' 1,100 students were on strike for the whole week. These students, most of whom receive no grant at all, have given the National Campaign new stimulus and energy.

LEEDS COLLEGES

The nationwide pattern of student defiance to education cuts has been holding forth in Leeds. Wednesday 13th November saw Park Lane College of Further Education paralysed by a student strike. Pickets who arrived at the College at 5 a.m. stayed and were reinforced all day until late evening. The main College and its annexes were closed - success was total.

On Thursday 14th November, a mass of Park Lane students were supported by students from Kitson College, Thomas Danby College, the Building College, the Music College and Jacob Kramer College in a demonstration at the Civic Hall and an occupation at the Education Offices. Park Lane College is leading the line of struggle in the fight to defy the Government's Council's attempts to crush education in Leeds. Students have now got their boots on and are kicking - not only in Further Education but also in the Higher Education fields.

Students at the City of Leeds and Carnegie College, James Graham and Leeds Polytechnic are engaged in the fight against the Government's Education re-organisation plans, which are in fact cover up plans for unprecedented Education cuts. Many resources in these Colleges have already been decreased; student intake has been cut; canteen prices have been increased etc. An attempt has been made to leave both students and staff in the dark but both have quickly come to the mark and are preparing to continue the fight and smash the Government's plans for the College mergers and reorganisation. Lightning demonstrations in the City have already been held by these students; a strike closed the Colleges on Friday 15th November.

THE FUTURE...

The campaign has not altered with a change of government. Students quickly realised that a change of faces at the Department of Education and Science meant no change in policies. The vicious attacks on education continue. The use of the police to break up the occupation at the City of London Polytechnic indicates the states attitude to student unions. The drastic education cuts put students in the front line of the State's attack. As never before, we must unite to resist the attack upon education and our living standards. We must not only have a week of action but a year of action, resulting in a year of victories.



Part of the students march on November 15th.

No roofs for students

The contraction of education is taking diverse forms. Orthodox cuts are not enough for Gloucester Education Authority. They are not content with enforcing the Government's cutbacks in education; they are in fact denying students the right of roofs over their heads. The saga of the local council continues - "There is no money

in the kitty to build halls of residence". Students' action against the council has begun with an occupation of a house in Cheltenham. The planners have now given permission for the students to keep the house for twelve months. Further action like this is required by students to win the right for somewhere to live.

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