

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist - Leninist)

No 23 Nov 12th 1977 5p

LABOUR GOVT DECLARES WAR ON WORKERS

In a declaration of war against the working class the Prime Minister, replying to the debate on the Queen's speech, warned the British people of a 'winter of dislocation and inconvenience'. In a clear reference to workers who dare challenge the dictat of the Government he announced that the Government is determined to enforce its guidelines on wage restraint.

Callaghan's speech was followed almost immediately by Heath, who as Tory Prime Minister attempted to impose the Industrial Relations Act together with an incomes policy. "It may be that the question was not answered in 1974" said Heath at a Conservative Party rally at Lambeth, "and that it is now being posed again. It remains to be seen whether it is going to be answered or not." Whatever question Heath has in mind for us, the real question is whether the outcome of the war declared by Callaghan in 1977 will be different from that declared by Heath in 1974.

In 1974 the outcome of the miners' strike and the engineers' struggle against the Industrial Relations Act was the replacement of the Tory government by a Labour one. Three years after that event this very same Labour government is grinding its teeth in preparation for its own version of the war against the working class.

'Heath out' was the cry by many workers in 1974. Will it be 'Callaghan out' this time round or have we learnt to shout 'capitalism out'?

THE WORKERS' ANSWER

Air traffic workers

break through the guidelines

AIR traffic control assistants, members of the Civil and Public Services Association, voted on November 1st to accept a pay offer which would give them a 14 per cent increase, well above the Government's restrictive guidelines, and a lump sum of £315.

The same discipline which had enabled the traffic controllers to orchestrate their withdrawal of labour in such a way as to keep up constant pressure on their employers was also shown in their orderly return to work when they had got all they could out of this particular battle, basing their demands on their own needs rather than on figures produced in Whitehall and based on what capitalism wants.

British Oxygen

MANUAL workers at British Oxygen belonging to the T&GWU and the G&MWU went on strike when BOC made an offer which was within the Government's pay recommendations.

The strike starved tens of thousands of companies of

industrial gases vital for manufacturing and hit shipbuilding particularly hard. Now BOC have had to make a much larger offer which is still said to be within the Government's lines!

At this stage of the battle the Government is claiming every settlement, however much it may smash through their guidelines, as a victory for them in hopes that it will persuade others to submit. Workers will sensibly continue to ignore guidelines set in the interests of their class enemy.

Miners

BY a substantial majority the miners have rejected the Government-proposed productivity deal. This clears the decks for a pay claim that will be related to the needs of the miners and not to the demands of capitalism.

The hysteria of Labour Government spokesmen reflected in the mass media at this result would make one think that the miners had committed some act of outrage against society. They merely exercised their democratic right to vote against a Government plot to make them fight each other for wage rises to the danger and detriment of their work-mates.



Exactly four years ago Reg Birch spoke at Tower Hill in the AUEW's fight against the Industrial Relations Act which was completely defeated. "This is class war," he said. "We shall have class law - our law. They try to impose their law on us but we shall destroy them. They believe we shall sue for peace but our end is the end of the employing class."

AUEW NATIONAL C'TTEE Reject agenda for corporatism

WAGES will be the main issue for the AUEW National Committee meeting on November 14. This policy-making body will formulate the next claim to be submitted to the Engineering Employer's Federation. At present the national minimum rate for skilled tradesmen is £42 plus £6 plus 5 per cent (£50.40). If the £6 is consolidated into the minimum rate it is still £20 below the minimum rate the National Committee proposed in May 1976, as we can see from the following resolution:

"This National Committee instructs Executive Council to pursue a claim with the engineering employers for £70 minimum rate for skilled engineers pro rata for other grades." For trade unionists in Britain the acceptance of the social contract was a political error and it would be compounding that error to get involved in great argument about such details as

the 12-month "rule". The only rules which we adhere to are the ones which we have in our rule book. This is fundamental when unions are under attack from the enemies who would pervert them into part of the state machine of capitalism.

The National Committee must remain awake to this danger of corporatism and never again abrogate its responsibility as policy-maker. It is not in the power of the TUC nor any delegation we send to the TUC to make union policy for our members: it is for the National Committee. If we are to continue to smash the limits set by the Government we must guard our democratic machinery.

The only guidelines we will honour will be those we agree amongst ourselves in carrying out the basic task of our union - to maintain and improve the wages and conditions of our members.

AT THE opening of Parliament the ruling capitalist class utilised the larynx of their servant Queen Elizabeth to announce what their other servant the Labour Government, intends to do this year on their behalf. Top of the agenda were devolution bills and a bill for direct elections to the EEC parliament. Although a certain amount of parliamentary shadow-boxing is necessary, for appearances, the intended outcome is predetermined and gullotines, whips and other parliamentary paraphernalia will ensure it.

Workers owe nothing either to parliament or any other component of the capitalists' apparatus of state nor do we expect to gain anything through them in the future. But these constitutional changes are no mere

continued on page 4

THE WEEK

A BELGIAN millionaire who applied to settle in New Zealand has been ordered to leave because he does not possess a skill. The gentleman does possess a lime kiln near Mons, forests in France and West Germany, and insurance interests. But a Government spokesman said that the occupation "millionaire" was not on the list of occupations needed in New Zealand. The truth is terrible in its simplicity.

REVISIONIST chieftain Brezhnev has revealed that grain production in the Soviet Union this year will be 19 million tonnes below target and 30 million tonnes below last year's harvest. Imports from the United States are expected to increase. The 'superpower' is not so 'super' after all.

THE forthcoming session of Parliament will concentrate on the Devolution Bill and the Bill for Direct Elections to the European Parliament, a double thrust at the political and territorial integrity of Britain.

Peace Movement back Army

HAVING received the Nobel prize for peace the 'Peace Movement' in the north of Ireland announced



its intention to join the British army in its raids on the homes of Irish workers. That announcement came less than two months after the 'Peace Movement' complained about the 'harsh measures' employed by the troops in making investigations and arrests.

Ostensibly to monitor the behaviour of the troops the 'Peace Movement' has in fact torn aside its last veil by declaring itself fully behind the alien army of occupation. Irish workers who complain against the atrocities of the British army will in the future be faced with 'Independent' witnesses from the 'Peace Movement' who will declare to the world the impartiality and kindness of the Special Air Service squads and the rest of the British army.

Always a defender of law and order imperialist law and occupation order the 'Peace Movement' is now to participate in the enforcement of the law, a first step to the creation of yet another arm of law enforcement and oppression in northern Ireland a civilian gang who cry peace as they shoot workers in the back.

SAVE BROADCASTING FROM CAPITALISM

THE ASSOCIATION of Broadcasting Staff has launched its industrial action against the BBC Board of Management with a one day strike in Glasgow and blacking out the opening of Parliament. The ABS claim of a 30 per cent rise in wages to bring the BBC into line with comparable organisations like commercial radio and television was met by BBC management with a derisory offer of under 10 per cent heavily weighted in favour of senior staff.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the BBC who, ever since Wilson's appointment of the 'radio doctor' in that position, has acted as the Government's man in Broadcasting House, sent a letter to every member of staff a few months ago in which he explained why the BBC was going to have to help Callaghan set a precedent on wages in keeping with the Labour Government's under-the-counter wages policy. He pointed out that there was nothing BBC staff could do about it anyway because no one would go hungry or freeze to death if there were no BBC at all. As Vice Chancellor of a university he had probably dealt with higher education in the same way - as a luxury the country could easily do without if students or faculty began making demands.

Central London Programme Branch of the ABS promptly countered this by calling for a Campaign for the Defence of Public Service Broadcasting in Britain, the core of which had to be wages and conditions of service adequate to attract, train and keep staff of sufficient quantity and quality to provide the public with the best possible broadcasting. This Campaign was unanimously adopted by the ABS at a meeting of 1000 members of BBC staff at RIBA Hall on October 13 and many other unions and bodies like Actors

Equity, the Musicians Union, and the Writers Guild have pledged enthusiastic support.

Tactically the Campaign is designed to make those who oppose the wage claim, the BBC management, appear to be against public service broadcasting, as in fact, they are as long as they get paid handsomely to preside over the BBC's run-down. It also means that those who do support public service broadcasting have to be associated with the union of organised workers in broadcasting, the ABS. Strategically the Campaign is an appeal to the public over the heads of BBC management and Government to recognise what a valuable asset they have in public service broadcasting, which they themselves can make better by their own pressure, and to defend it from gradual erosion or from falling under direct Government control through its grip on the purse strings.

There are problems in connection with fighting for the ABS claim. Other unions in broadcasting like the NUJ, representing mainly higher grade staff, are not supporting the ABS in industrial action, though they have agreed not to black-leg. Furthermore, it would probably have been better tactics for the ABS to put forward a specific claim the majority of members recognised as just all round and take action when the BBC management turned it down than to expect members to go to war over management's unsatisfactory offer which is so confusing and divisive no one can make out what it means. But such is the frustration of staff, particularly in television, that industrial action can be made to bite - even if, as always in public service industries it does not always appear to be biting the right people.

Public meeting report- Britain in the World 1977

AT the recent public meeting held at the Bellman Bookshop entitled "Britain in the World 1977", it was significant that the speaker commenced the meeting by describing the situation in Britain today where the working class, led by workers at Mackies and Ford, are no longer tolerating destruction and are fighting back with an upsurge of militancy

The speaker then proceeded to show how struggle in Britain related to the world situation. The question of 'superpowers' was quickly dealt with: how could the USA, for example, beaten by the peasants of Vietnam, be considered in this category? The only

superpower in the world is the proletariat.

The speaker quoted Marx to refute the confusing "Three Worlds" theory. Marx talked of one world consisting of exploiters and exploited. Where otherwise do we place Albania? And Tito - is he in all three worlds?

Finally the speaker considered the question of war and was highly critical of the casual attitude of those who urge war against imperialist USSR. By describing some of the horrors of the world wars, the speaker emphasised that the question of war should not be treated lightly. Both Mao and Stalin clearly stated that it was the

people of their countries who defeated fascism - indeed it is civilians that fight in any war and the peoples of the world will not easily be pushed into war.

In conclusion the speaker quoted the CPB(ML) pamphlet, "Britain in the World 1977": "A great clarity of mind and purpose of Marxist-Leninist direction and purity is beginning. There must be no turning away now, no casualties in the war for Revolution and Peace for world working class unity, for closer unity with all forces of workers throughout the world. Then we shall at last achieve our great and historic purpose endowed to us through the great master, Marx."

Albania's socialist stance explained by UN delegate

IT IS a dangerous deception to think that the big powers are concerned with the well-being of smaller countries said Nesti Nase, head of the Albanian delegation to the United Nations at the 23rd session of the General Assembly.

Assessing the present situation Nesti Nase said "In the world today there is no room for complacency, and even less for euphoria. Events are showing that the international situation continues to be turbulent and fraught with dangers to peace and security.

"The imperialist powers, the USA and the Soviet Union, are persistently continuing their policy of war and aggression, threatening the freedom and independence of peoples, trying to put down national liberation struggles to divide peoples and sovereign states and to abet them against each other. In particular this is being done to the detriment of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The imperialists are seeking to preserve at all costs the privileges they have secured through violence, plunder and exploitation and to hamper

independent economic development.

"The PSR of Albania unreservedly supports the revolutionary and national liberation struggles of the people, the efforts of the democratic and progressive states to defend and affirm their national independence, to exercise their complete sovereignty over their national assets.

"Situations arise because there exist exploiting classes which fight against exploited ones and on a national and international plane there are conflicting and irreconcilable interests confronting one another. The attempts to ignore these essential differences among the political forces in the world and to reduce them to the question of unity to heterogeneous groupings of states expressed in algebraic and arithmetical figures with the most varied political regimes, leave the imperialist powers and reactionary regimes a free field of activity to speculate on the aspirations of progressive people and to weaken the genuine anti-imperialist unity of the people.

"Here at the General Assembly the big powers spoke a great



Enver Hoxha in discussion with comrades during the evening stroll which is a feature of Albanian life.

deal about the small countries. All this 'care' is a dangerous deception. The big powers want to take the small countries by the hand as if they do not know how to advance themselves. In fact, what they want to do is put them under their umbrella or protection in order to suffocate them.

"They attack socialist Albania

because it speaks the truth. It is true that we are small in number but we are not afraid of the attacks of our enemies, for we know that today the true words of a small people are listened to with sympathy and respect by all honourable men.

"The strength of small peoples lies in their militant spiritual

unity with all who fight for justice and not for intrigues. Every people big or small render their contribution to the cause of freedom and progress of mankind. Life itself practice and struggle make things clear, distinguish people, sort out who is on the side of the masses and who is against them.

Editorial

CAPITALISM'S policy in decline of "take the money and run" continues to use up Britain's assets at an alarming rate. The Labour Government has proved itself the most obedient steward in carrying out this policy to the detriment of Britain and the British working class.

Steel and Britain's industrial base

In an operation laughingly called "options for rescuing British steel" senior Government ministers have proposed drastically cutting the 208,000 workforce with thousands of jobs being lost, bringing forward the closure of old steel plants including those in areas of high unemployment and abandoning steel industry investment plans. Machine tool production also goes on falling. In the very industrial sectors where Britain once led the world we are being overtaken and passed by even the newest capitalist countries.

Energy

Instead of conserving North Sea oil to meet Britain's needs over many years to come, the Government is allowing the big multinational oil companies to reap huge profits pouring the oil down the sump of the wastrel capitalist countries like the US. Then to compound this crime of waste the Government cuts back the scientific research programme which might have discovered new sources of energy before the oil runs out. Meanwhile coal production, because of pay and conditions in the pits, continues to fall.

Transport

Britain's railways continue to be contracted and motor transport expanded because there are greater profits to be made when you and I, through taxes on our wages, provide a right of way free of charge. Comparing the safety records of the two forms of transport this is like condemning thousands of men, women and children to death and injury. It is also the way, since road transport more and more means the giant juggernauts, to jar lovely villages and magnificent monuments to pieces - to say nothing of covering land we need to grow food on with an ever thickening poison spider's web of macadam.

Housing

The ideal we shared at the end of the War of well-designed, well-built houses for workers surrounded by green belts and close to places of work has been thrown overboard altogether. Out of the sum of money the GLC is to spend on housing over the next four years only 13,000 new homes are to be built, whilst 18,000 GLC properties are to be sold by them to pass on the public sector to the private sector. Over the next decade resources will have to be concentrated "on improving the existing stock of homes instead of building new ones." Thus the housing field is being made safe for the speculator and gerry-builder.

Skills

But worst of all these various kinds of destruction is the destruction of our skills. Buildings, factories, port facilities, machine tools can all be replaced, rebuilt and even improved when we get the spoliators and wasters off our backs - but only if we have kept our skills. This is their most despicable form of robbery - stealing from us our skills. Two million workers denied any chance of keeping their expertise in practice: hundreds of thousands of young people refused a chance to use the skills they have just acquired; many more millions of workers losing their skills through their mis-employment in making the wrong things in the wrong way because it nets somebody a profit.

Any regime which denies workers, particularly young workers, the right to employ their energies and skills in the interest of their fellow men deserves nothing but to be smashed.

LETTER FROM READER MEDICAL MASSACRE

Dear Editor,

I have been reading The Worker articles on the cuts and would like to give you an example I have experienced of their effects on the NHS at present. I am a medical student, but before this, I trained as a nurse, and during the summer vacations I was employed as a staff nurse on night duty at a renal ward of one of London's largest teaching hospitals. Many of the patients here are seriously ill, and need very careful and frequent monitoring of their condition, which can deteriorate rapidly. Once a patient has had a kidney transplant, the hospital used to employ "specials", agency nurses, to watch one transplant patient as closely as in intensive care units for the first 12 hour post-operative period, which is

a critical time. However, this summer this was no longer done, and the ward nurses, of whom there are 2 have to watch these transplant patients who are in separate rooms, as well as attend to the rest of the ward. It is impossible to do this properly, and it is only a matter of time before someone dies because it wasn't noticed they were haemorrhaging, or needed a transfusion, in time.

Your articles have pointed out how skills and education are being wasted, and not passed on to the next generation. This seems to me to be another example of this. Performing the transplant is itself an operation of great surgical skill, but the post-operative management is extremely delicate, involving the latest knowledge of bio-

URBAN DERILICTION WHITEWASH

THE Government has recently issued a White Paper for the Local Authorities, "Policy for the Inner Cities", which in its dramatic description of Britain today reads like something out of the 18th century. "The centres of our cities suffer to an unacceptable extent from economic decline, physical decay and adverse social conditions"

We know that We look at our cities on the way to work. Hundreds of buildings have been taken down since 1974 and little has been put back Hoardings and fences have become prominent elements in the British townscapes.

"The decline in the economy is at the heart of the problem," says the Government. We have always said that the reduction in Britain's economic performance is deliberate, matched with deliberate cuts in public sector activities.

The Government argues that Local Authorities should concentrate their efforts into the central areas where the problem of decay and deprivation is gravest, and efforts should be withdrawn from other areas. It further tells the Local Authorities to identify "new sites and premises with good access to communications and with prospects of trained labour supply to attract manufacturing, office and service firms..."

Social democracy is the philosophy of trading with capitalism; trading used to be the one way of achieving benefits for the community as one could press a developer of a site to do up a couple of old houses, or provide a bit of open space or just a couple of trees.

This kind of trading has now turned into prostitution. Local Authority staff are supposed to drop all other work when a capitalist comes in wanting to build a new warehouse. This kind of thing is now a cause of general major excitement. Things have got out of proportion.

Britain is full of underused and vacant land, neglected and boarded up buildings, in the proximity of unfinished motorways and underutilised railway



Capitalism is taking our cities and making out of them "inserts of desolation and dereliction amidst housing need. (Picture: Nick Birch)

lines. That and the amount of wasted skills is not the root but the result of the problem of living with capitalism.

Council staff have a lot of work to do over the whole land and it would be wise for them to be quite clear about whom they are doing their work for. Immense pressure will be on those who do not work on those political toys, housing, short-term employment creation and "special priority areas." And they will be expected to volunteer for redundancies when their jobs have been changed. The hysteria in the White Paper will not

reverse the trend of Britain's economic decline but our unions will have to realise that we must protect not only our jobs but the type of work that goes with the job as well.

"Priority for Inner Cities" does not begin to direct capitalism (which is what it pretends to do), but only divides the staff and proposes more cuts in services. The actual money that the Government has allocated for clearing up the urban mess at a rate of £100,000 per city would not even pay for the rehabilitation of five houses! Some cosmetic!

The big lie in housing for all

THE Government's publication "Housing for All", compiled by the Little Noddy follows the line of the Green Paper on housing, that if you tell people a big enough lie about there no longer being a housing problem some of them may believe it - or at least they may begin to think that they are the only ones who are suffering. Even on the figures used it is admitted that there may be a mere 11 per cent or so who are badly or inadequately housed. But that is some 6 million people. It is like saying

chemistry and pharmacology to control the immunological reactions following the transplant. All this jeopardised for want of employing an extra nurse. This is not the logic of money saving - a principle is involved here. The NHS is to be destroyed - this can only be the purpose behind the total illogicality and irrationality of these cuts, and they will do this by emasculating the whole purpose of an NHS to cure people. I am training to be a doctor yet I can see already the ways in which my extra skill and training is likely to be wasted.

Yours faithfully,
SRN

that, after all, there are only a few millions out of work. And this Government whitewash document makes out that those who are, in fact, badly housed are really those whose income is too low - as though it were somehow their fault and if they would just work harder they too would see that there is no housing problem - there is only a problem with people!

The purpose of all this big scale lying is to cover up the fact that this Government like any capitalist government is trying to move away from any provision of housing as a public service and leave the whole field to private enterprise. This is the reality behind the declaration that there is no housing problem so there no longer need be any public concern or public effort on this issue. What remains in the way of bad housing is really a localised problem of the very poor, the black or those who are burdened with families they are too poor to support; and it is a mistake to try to work out general housing policies to deal with these cases which should be handled on the basis of local charity of some kind. Hence the conclusion that there should no longer be "policies which involve grand plan-

ning controls, compulsory purchase or wholesale redevelopment" but instead "local, piecemeal, housing plans for those seen to be in need in particular areas".

Already the Government has been moving in this direction with leaving the field of mortgage loans entirely to the building societies, cutting council house building in favour of privately-acquired housing, selling off council housing, encouraging the removal of housing from the public to the private sector by such schemes as "hopsteading" and so forth. And even that housing which does still remain in the public sector can be shown to have become an increasing private burden on tenants with respect to repairs. Evidence supplied by the National Consumer Council shows that "whereas the average expenditure per dwelling by local authorities was £67.20 for the year 1975-76, on average council tenants in 1976-77 spent £86 a year on repair, maintenance and improvement".

What is really meant by there no longer being a housing problem is that it is no longer going to be a problem for governments - only for the private citizen!

Destructive management in Oxford



One of the lively demonstrations which were part of the Oxford teachers' struggle against cuts.

AT THE TIME of the County Council Elections in May, the leader of the Oxfordshire County Council assured the electorate that any new money which might become available would be spent on restoring the pupil/teacher ratio in the county's schools. Since then money has been found because of the vigorous action taken by teachers. The Council has been compelled to employ more than a hundred teachers in excess of its planned budget. Now it has been announced that

the Council "saved" £1 million during the financial year 1976/77 and the teachers and others concerned to defend education are demanding the fulfilment of the election promises made in May. Such demands mean nothing to this Council. One leading spokesman has proudly stated that this saving was no accident but the result of careful management. The Chairman of the Education Committee's retort was that, "If we spend this money on education we shall have the best educated

unemployed in the world." Rarely is such an explicit statement of the real intentions of the ruling class made by its own spokesmen.

For the teachers in dispute with the County Council, the lessons should be clear. Only vigorous organised action will defend education in the county: no confidence can be placed in the election promises of the Councillors. Already moves are afoot to escalate the action being taken by teachers to achieve a complete victory

Nalگو options

NALGO's annual conference this year supported the social contract and further abrogated its responsibility by leaving it up to the TUC to settle a figure for next year's salaries claim. The social contract is now dead and NALGO is left without a policy on pay.

November and December is the time of year when many branches have their annual general meetings, and for some members this is the only real chance to influence their individual branch policy or to submit motions for the following year's annual conference. This opportunity must be taken to oppose any more Government interference in pay policy and many branches will be considering motions calling for a special conference or group meeting to establish guidelines for the 1978 increase. Several different approaches are being considered throughout the country, including a flat rate £1000 or a 20 per cent increase with the consolidation of past increases. The important thing is to defeat Government interference not to squabble over whether a flat rate or a percentage increase is more "equitable" as if capitalism could ever be equitable.

This is also the time of year when the Government announces its allocation of cash for local government expenditure for the forthcoming financial year. To date NALGO's opposition to the cuts has taken the form of much noise but little action. We will have to modify our image as "ladies and gentlemen" if we are to stop the Government's scorched earth policy.

BUDGET BLACKOUT

INLAND Revenue staff throughout the country are mustering their forces for struggle against the extra work that Healey's gimmick budget will bring them. Unused to struggle, they are learning fast. In one provincial office (which will remain nameless to protect those involved) trainees were told to address envelopes ready for budget information to employers five minutes after the union representative had left the building.

The trainees approached her next day, and she stormed into the office of the inspector, who claimed to know nothing about it, but would "see into it". She replied: "While you are seeing into it, more envelopes are being addressed. This weakens our union strength, and you'd be ready to send out the budget by getting a clerical assistant who's not in the union to post them." The representative threatened a union meeting which would last all the morning. The inspector's claim that she needed his permission to hold a union meeting was thrown back: "So we'll meet in the car park."

Finally, several members walked into the office where the blackleg work had been done, seized the envelopes and locked them away.

Meanwhile, to unite their union, the Inland Revenue Staff Federation in its refusal to implement the budget without either extra pay or time off in lieu, the union office meeting sent a letter of support to the national executive saying they backed the stand taken and were ready for action.

AUEW election

LES Elliot, who has long served the working class both as an elected officer of the AUEW and as a skilled engineer working at his trade, has just been elected by a substantial majority to the post of Assistant Divisional Organiser, District 25.

ACTION SPREADS

A WAVE of industrial action is spreading throughout Britain, challenging the Government's attempts to coerce us into greater poverty.

Following the Ford 15 percent pay settlement, 50,000 lorry drivers in Scotland have set their own guidelines and won a 40-60 per cent pay increase. 1,200 engineers and technicians at Plessey's Communications (Beeston) have begun a work to rule and overtime ban in support of a 47 per cent claim. In Avon, firemen are working to rule after rejection of a 30 per cent pay claim. 600 vehicle inspectors at Longbridge have halted 'Mini' production, to force a further £3 a week, and work on the Queen's new £80,000 Rolls Royce has been stopped by workers at Mulliner Park Ward factory (London).

From ferry operators in Portsmouth to Tax Inspectors in London, the call is growing louder - to reject state interference in wage bargaining, and to reassert the independence and strength of our unions. This is the task of wage struggle. To wrench our unions from those who would place us in the hands of Tribunals, Commissions and independent arbitrator, by seizing the right to decide union policy for ourselves.

NATFHE prepares pay claim

THE 65,000 members of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education are in the process of formulating their salary claim for 1977. Having rejected wage restraint at their last Annual Conference at Harrogate, the path is now clear for a substantial salary increase based on gaining the ground lost since 1975. The size of the claim will determine the unity and support of the members and their willingness to fight for it.

Talk of priorities and helping the lower grades at the expense of the higher is divisive and dangerous. The union is not a charitable club where wages are shared out equitably between the members. The union is an organisation that fights on behalf of all its members against the employers. The claim should include

adequate increases for all grades, not at the expense of each other but helping each other for a united stand.

Changes in what is by now an outdated grading structure must form a major part of the claim, to be fought for as strongly as the direct increase in money wages. However, structural changes must not be made of such primary importance to be pursued at the expense of the other items of the claim.

For the first time in two years NATFHE is able to submit a claim that corresponds to the needs of lecturers and the requirements of further and higher education. A comprehensive claim based on Conference resolutions must be formulated around which the members can unite and fight.

Reject agenda for corporatism

Cont'd from p.1

linkings with the machine that need not concern us. They represent a change of gear, from 'control' to 'destroy'.

The purpose of devolution is to create division between the English, Scottish and Welsh members of the British working class. Fantastic lies such as those told to Scottish workers about what they might gain from North Sea oil, are used to try to con the working class into welcoming this dismemberment.

Direct elections to the European parliament herald the next logical step in the preparations for fascism being made by the European monopoly capitalists. Already the economic softening-up is in full swing with the destruction of member countries' industries and the uprooting and migration of workers with various skills. Now, on our behalf, traitors intend to accept the 'democracy' of direct elections in exchange for acceptance of the political authority of the EEC decision-making bodies. The EEC is a more efficient

gendarme than our own ruling class could provide.

The division of the British working class and our subjugation to a "higher" state power are a sound strategy for a ruling class which will soon need to resort to naked oppression. But they depend for their success on our acquiescence.

If we are silent the 640 traitors will speak on our behalf and two more shackles will be welded into place. We could, we must, raise a shout of protest that will draw out their bleeding betrayal.

Against their policy of divide and rule, we say unite and defy. Strengthen the unity of English, Scottish and Welsh members of the British working class by a concerted fight to destroy the EEC!

Let the real democracy of our Trades Unions and our revolutionary Party countermand the sham democracy of parliament.

No devolution.
No direct elections.
Destroy the EEC!

Public Meetings

LONDON At Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N. W. 5.
7.30 pm:

- Fri November 11 The erosion of civil liberties.
- Fri November 18 NATO, capitalism's policeman.
- Fri December 2 Capitalism's destruction of the fishing industry.
- Fri December 9 The changing role of the police and the armed forces.
- Fri December 16 "The world is yours as well as ours, but in the last analysis it is yours." -The Role of Youth in Britain.

At Small Hall, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. 7.30
Fri November 25 Albania, an example to the world.
(organised by the New Albania Soc.)

BRIGHTON At Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Rd., 8 pm
Thur November 24 Socialism - people not profit.
Thur December 8 Britain in the World 1977.

BRISTOL At Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, 7.30pm:
Fri November 25 One world divided by class.
Wed December 14 For an independent Britain: No to devolution, No to the EEC.

"ALBANIA TODAY" - the theoretical magazine from Albania - is now available on subscription from the Bellman Bookshop. The subscription is £2.40 a year for six issues, including p.p.

'The Worker' 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5
6 months £2.50 (including postage)
1 year £5.00 (including postage)

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