

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist - Leninist) No.23 June 29th. 1978 5p

While Labour directs capitalism's attack . . .

THE GOVERNMENT'S Bank of England has cooked up figures to show that wages are rising by some 15 per cent instead of the 10 per cent fixed by the Government's guidelines. The purpose of this is to strengthen the Government's hand in demanding that wage rises must now be kept even lower than 10 per cent - to 8 or even 6'.

This use of figures to prove capitalism's case against the working class is exactly like the juggling of unemployment statistics, leaving out school leavers for example, to make increases in unemployment look like decreases. In both cases the capitalist lie which the Labour Government is peddling is that increases in wages cause inflation and inflation causes unemployment.

Sometimes Callaghan argues that the Government has kept wages in check and has thus reduced inflation with the result that unemployment is decreasing. Sometimes he argues that wage rises have been too high and must be cut back more if anything is to be done about unemployment. This is because he is sometimes justifying his stewardship to his capitalist masters and he is sometimes wheedling

DON'T SHIRK CLASS WAR

workers to vote for Labour (and capitalism) again.

But even if there has been a larger increase in wages than the Government bargained for, we workers can take little credit for it. The Government might like us to think that because an arbitrary 10 per cent limit has been breached we have won a victory.

It is no such thing. No more for wages than against EEC membership have we fought hard enough. Symptomatic of our weakness are the calls for new deals and

bargains with the Labour Government, 'economic contract', moderation over wages in exchange for a 38-hour working week and so forth.

When the struggle does not go forward, it moves back. Miners, instead of uniting for a national wage improvement for all, bicker over competitive productivity deals. Toolmakers threaten to desert their national union, the AUEW, for not supporting a wage increase for them alone.

Some union conferences

have overtly committed themselves to all-out support for the capitalist Labour Government. Even those calling for higher wages and shorter hours, in the face of the Government policy of wage restraint have not followed it up with action.

We do not have to wait for an election to vote. Let us vote now, for our class, and against the enemy, whoever's mouth he speaks through, by joining in a concerted, organised, all-out struggle for the wages we have a right to.

35 hr. week upsets CBI

IN THE continuous struggle between workers and the capitalist class the same old issues keep coming up; and Marx's eloquent analysis of the fight for the shorter working day can be applied to the fight the unions are gathering themselves to put up for the 35-hour week.

The Confederation of British Industry has already, predictably, begun firing off warning shots about the damage a cut in working hours would do to industry's unit costs and competitiveness. Callaghan has quickly weighed in on the side of the capitalists saying that the shorter working week some unions are already demanding would not solve the unemployment problem. Employers were afraid that Healey might be tempted to use the shorter working week as a bribe to try to get workers to agree to another round of the Government's wage policy, but he soon reassured them on that score.

The Director General of the Engineering Employers Federation said that any reduction in the working week would only result in a loss of business and a rise in unemployment. He pointed out that while "it was argued that a 35-hour week would mean jobs for one eighth more people, the engineering industry was already unable to find enough skilled workers."

This last argument points up the kind of contradiction which is shaking the whole capitalist system. In pursuit of higher profits capitalism makes two million workers redundant and then finds itself short of the skilled workers who produce the surplus value out of which profits come.

Price of EEC membership is a price we will not pay

THE controversy over fish which is now raging among the nine member states of the EEC ought not to be controversial at all. The British government is only asking for a share of its own territorial waters. The EEC's fishing pool consists of half of Britain's former waters and intense fishing in the area will further deplete fishing stocks.

Unemployment in Grimsby and Hull and other fishing areas is disgraceful. Silkin pretends to care and seeks a compromise with the other member states. Compromise is not good enough; we should have nothing to do with the EEC policies on fish. Neither should we have anything to do with any EEC policies. They have brought us nothing but unemployment and destruction.

The now infamous Common Agricultural Policy has caused our food to rise to prohibitive prices while we watch the food mountains grow bigger and our agriculture cut back. The Milk Marketing Board are even prepared to say that every drop of butter produced in

Britain goes into store.

Not content with destroying our pig industry the EEC seems to be preparing to demolish our potato industry too with yet another policy designed to curtail production and keep profits high.

Perhaps we have no need to worry about food. We can always buy it with the increased industrial productivity we are supposed to have as a result of our membership. But no! Our industry has been cut also. Our steel industry is being destroyed because the EEC feel that too much steel is being made. Thousands are thrown out of work and vital skills are lost.

Perhaps oil will be able to help us out of this position but again the EEC commission has put a ban on oil refining within the Community and has already curtailed the capacity of the industry by 82 million tons. The plans the British Labour Government have to expand oil refining in Britain will be against the rules of the EEC.

Even if we could after all this find something to export in exchange for all these essential goods we probably

couldn't find the ships in Britain to carry them because again the EEC commission prohibits investment and improvement in shipbuilding.

This chronicle of stupidity is our own doing; we should never have said yes to such a cartel of capitalists who

care nothing for Britain or people.

It is time to call a halt! We have had enough of the EEC. It does not work in our interests and no amount of 'reform from within' will make it.

No to the EEC.



Fishermen's demonstration in London last year. Only the determination of British workers can ensure the future of a fishing industry. (Photo Nick Birch).

HISTORIC NOTES

The 1902 Education Act

IN 1870 W.E. Forster, the Vice-President of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, told the Commons that "Upon the speedy provision of elementary education depends our industrial prosperity.... If we leave our workfolk any longer unskilled, notwithstanding their strong stews and determined energy, they will become overmatched in the competition of the world."

This realisation of the need for a better Education System was part of a wider view-point which can be summed up as the quest for "National Efficiency", this developing in the 1890s as a response to the failings of Britain in competition with other nations, economically, socially and politically. Britain's failings were attributed generally to her outdated methods of political

economy, laissez-faire, and the complete lack of central organisation.

The solution to the problem was seen as creating a 'National Minimum' in all areas of social organisation, in factory legislation, sanitation, housing, local government and the Poor Law. This 'National Minimum' was not a philanthropic gesture but was necessary for the creation of a successful and economically sound state. Sidney Webb called for 'the formulation and rigid enforcement in all spheres of social activity, of a National Minimum below which the individual, whether he likes it or not, cannot, in the interests of the well-being of the whole, ever be allowed to fall'. Their concern always lay with what was best for the country as a

whole, a common refrain to-day, when we are asked to maintain the social contract for just one more year - in the interests of all.

The formulators of the concept of 'National Efficiency', the Fabians under the leadership of Sidney Webb, felt that an organised education system that could both give a limited education to the majority of the working class and yet offer opportunities to the 'gifted' was needed, for the success of Britain, in industry, management and Government. Thus an extended education system was needed. This improved system however would not offer better education for all, the aim was to offer opportunities of improved education for the individual, the exception, while maintaining poorer levels of education for the rest of the working class. The task according to Sidney Webb, was to separate the job "of educating the mass of ordinary average children for the ordinary average life", from the "other (educational)

function, that of preparing the exceptionally clever boy or girl for exceptional work."

Thus the Fabians promoted the creation of a system of education which offered the possibility of advanced education to the working class but only through the means of competition and expertise. The failings of this education system, which became a reality with the passing of the 1902 Education Act, were that it did not offer to the working class as a whole the possibility of secondary or advanced schooling, but only to a privileged few. The 1902 Education Act might have broken down some of the barriers which prevented the working class from acquiring an adequate education, and enabled some of them to advance themselves within the social structure, however for the broad majority of the working class the situation was unchanged, the class boundaries were still very clearly outlined and their opportunities for advanced education were still limited to their own endeavour.

THE WEEK

THE ADULT unemployment figure, seasonally adjusted, has fallen this month for the ninth consecutive month according to the Department of "Employment."

Meanwhile, the unadjusted unemployment total in the U.K. increased by 59,251 to 1,446,061, now 6.1 per cent of all workers.

The unemployment total is artificially depressed by the various job creation measures which involve 310,000 people and which keep an estimated 225,000 off the register.

The D of E is demonstrating how to bring down unemployment while unemployment goes on rising.

THE Department of Education and Science admitted this week almost a complete uncertainty about the size of the school population in the 1990's.

On the one hand, numbers could rise from 7,000,000 in the late 1980's to 9,000,000 by the middle 1990's as rapidly as they will fall in the next ten years, say the DES. On the other hand there could be as few as 6,500,000, 6,500,000 pupils in 1991 they add.

The report confirmed that the department should pay less attention to statistical forecasts and concentrate instead on reducing class sizes, said the National Union of Teachers.

WHILE the British Government continues to try to find ways of supporting the racist Smith regime in Zimbabwe and making it look like something else, the real liberation war mounts in intensity. The patriotic liberation forces in the period of April and May carried out hundreds of actions resulting in the killing of over 900 of the racist troops and the wounding of more than a 1,000. They have destroyed 18 strategic bases and, in an attack on an airport, blown up several aircraft.

COMMUNICATION Control Systems of the U.S., which is to introduce the Voice Stress Analyzer to the British market at a London seminar next Tuesday, expects to find growing use not only in criminal investigations, but also in more normal inquiries including job interview.

The new machine possesses the virtue of being able to be used without the knowledge of the subject.

Apparently, the stress in one's voice is supposed to be a measure of whether you are telling the truth or not.

DETECTIVES were called in to an Australian factory to investigate lavatory graffiti uncomplimentary to the foreman. They claimed to have discovered the culprit by the handwriting on a sick-leave form and the guilty worker was sacked. The whole workforce promptly went on strike in support of their favourite poet.

THE POWER of organised workers was clearly shown in the case of the Lulworth crab fishermen. By demanding their right to work or be suitably compensated, they forced the international show of British arms salesmen to a compromise. The only successful industry in Britain - the arms industry - was forced to take account of the real world where the requirements for life are work, food and other basics that dying capitalism would destroy.



Spanish Marxist-Leninists leading the struggle against the 'Social Contract', Spanish-style. The picture was taken at the 500,000 strong May Day demonstration in Madrid this year. Red flags mingled with the flags of the republic.

Independent women under socialism

GREAT enthusiasm greeted the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania held recently in the beautiful city of Durres. There was added reason for celebration because this year is the 35th anniversary of the organisation which was founded during the National Liberation War.

Before liberation the Albanian women suffered under medieval and religious traditions which confined them to the home, but now they are involved in all aspects of life.

The building of socialism in Albania has gone hand in hand with the emancipation of the women. Indeed it is said that socialism is successful only to the extent that the women are emancipated.

The 8th Congress was welcomed enthusiastically throughout the whole country and followed with great interest on television and in the newspapers.

Enver Hoxha and the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania in greeting the congress said "the Party calls on the women to work, otherwise production would not make head-

way, it calls upon her to keep a firm grip on weapons, for without them, the Homeland could not be defended. It calls on them to raise their educational, cultural and technical-professional Marxist-Leninist level, otherwise they will not be uplifted. It calls on them to take part in running the country, for without their participation there could be no development of socialist democracy."

The report to the Congress from the President of the general Council of the W.U.A. and the delegates who spoke told of the enormous strides forward in meeting these calls and in fulfilling the tasks set by the 7th Congress of the Party. We heard of increased production in agriculture and industry, great improvements in health care for women and children and in the provision of creches. Women talked of their great determination to defend their country from attack and of their participation in military training. And there were many reports of increases in the numbers attending middle school and going on to higher edu-

cation.

The importance of the task of bringing up the children who will build the future, of making homes 'nests for eagles' was shown when the Pioneers greeted the Congress. Part of their greeting was a criticism of their mothers who they said were often guilty of doing too much in the home when the work should be shared by all members of the family.

Above all the delegates expressed their great love and respect for the P.L.A. with whose Marxist-Leninist leadership the women of Albania are looking forward to and helping to build a great future.

The enormous gains made by the Albanian women confirm some lessons for us here. We know that an economic system that provides for the minority at the expense of the vast majority can never be the basis for the emancipation of women. The fight for that emancipation is part of the fight for the dignity of the working class and it will only be won through revolution and the building of socialism.

N.Z. communists declare a marxist-leninist line

On May 22, 1978 the national committee of the Communist Party of New Zealand issued a statement entitled "Communist Party reaffirms its basic line and policy." The statement reads in part:

"The Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of New Zealand once again affirms its view that the basic contradiction in New Zealand, a developed capitalist country, is that between the working class and the capitalist class headed by the monopoly capitalist section. Consequently the working class faces a direct socialist revolution.

"Any attempt to try to insert an intermediate stage between capitalism and the dictatorship of the proletariat is opportunism and revisionism. The adoption of a line of an intermediate stage of national democratic, people's democratic, or anti-imperialist revolution, however correct for many countries of Africa, Asia

and Latin America, is nothing but class collaboration in regard to developed New Zealand. It means collaborating with one's "own" capitalist class, uniting with this class - who are thoroughly pro-imperialist - and sowing the illusion among the working class and the masses that their exploiters and class enemy are really their friend and ally, willing to fight under the leadership of the working class and its party for liberation from imperialism! And this when New Zealand history shows that the national capitalists back imperialism to the hilt! Such a line in relation to New Zealand is reactionary bourgeois nationalism, pure and simple, it is a thoroughgoing betrayal of the basic interests of the working class.

"The Communist Party of New Zealand follows a consistent line of revolutionary class struggle in New Zealand for the aim of establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat.

"Internationally it unites with the working class of the developed capitalist countries in the revolutionary struggle for socialism and against imperialism and capitalism, particularly, against the two imperialist superpowers, the biggest world exploiters, U.S. Imperialism and Soviet social imperialism. It fights both in theory and practice to unite the working class of New Zealand with the struggle of the oppressed people for liberation from imperialism and their internal reactionaries. It fights also for the widest unity between all peoples against superpower domination and drive to world war.

"The Communist Party of New Zealand develops its line in conformity with proletarian internationalism and its own practice in revolutionary class struggle. It wages consistent struggle for strict adherence to the basic principles of Marxism and the correct relations between fraternal parties which includes non-interference in the internal affairs of other parties. We hold that the solutions to the problems of the revolution in each country have to be solved by the revolutionary workers of that country."

EDITORIAL

THE BRITISH working class has had to struggle ever since it came into being at the dawn of the capitalist era. Nothing the working class has ever gained, including its very survival, has come without struggle. That same life and death struggle goes on today and will continue as long as we live under a system whose basic premiss is the exploitation of workers. Indeed, the struggle must become sharper as we move on from the struggle just to stay alive to the struggle to change that exploitative system.

The essence of that struggle is to know the class enemy and direct all effort against him. The class enemy at the same time does everything possible to split our ranks and get us squabbling among ourselves. The enemy is the capitalist class. Every day of our lives we do battle with that enemy over wages and, increasingly, we are having to combine all those battles into the class war to overthrow capitalism itself.

The Leyland tool makers who allowed their differentials to be whittled away and then turned on their own union for not making their plight a special case show that they do not know who their enemy is. What they should have done was to combine with all other Leyland workers to keep the employing class from closing down Speke No. 2.

Diverted

When the demonstrators outside the Grunwick factory allowed themselves to be diverted into attacks on the police cordon protecting scabs instead of combining their forces to close down the wretched little union-baiter's factory, they were acting as though the police were the enemy instead of the servants of the enemy. It is one of the contradictions of capitalism that capitalists have to depend for their defence and for their offensive operations on those who are not capitalists but recruits from our own class. We must always be in a position to exploit that weakness while never allowing the servants of the capitalist class to act against the legitimate rights and interests of our class. We will not organise attacks on the police when the Government provocatively deposes hundreds of them to protect National Front rabble, but neither will we allow the police to harass fellow workers because they are black.

There is only one working class party in Britain, the CPB(ML), because it is the only party with the working class ideology of Marxism-Leninism, the only party with the working class revolutionary perspective of ending exploitation and establishing socialism and peace. All other parties, whatever they profess, are capitalist parties operating in the capitalist arena of parliamentary, that is to say, bourgeois institutions. It is obvious from the way they work that even the most radical sounding of these parties only envisage reformist changes within the system rather than its overthrow.

These parties are parties of the enemy, but the bulk of the members of these parties, even the Conservative Party, are members of the working class. They are not the enemy but are in ideological thrall to the enemy. We must liberate them from that thrall as part of the struggle to liberate our whole class from the exploitation of man by man.

POEU programme of action

THE RECENT annual conference of the Post Office Engineering Union has taken some very important steps forward, and the forthcoming year will certainly be full of incident. It has, in fact, already started.

Conference accepted the truly miserable and insulting offer from the Post Office of a pay deal within the government 'guidelines'. The pittance of an addition from the 'ongoing' productivity scheme of £1.23 if we lifted the action for the 35 hour week, £1.05 if not, showed the value that the Post Office puts on those who have been creating all the millions in profits whilst the numbers employed have been rapidly falling. The irony of the situation was further compounded by the almost simultaneous publication of 'thank you' letters from the local general managers.

If we didn't go as far as we should have over pay, we are now committed to no further type of wage restraint, and giant strides were certainly made in the campaign for the shorter working week, which in our case is the fight for jobs. The Post Office management's attitude to this issue can only be described as one of utter and complete contempt. They are going to introduce the new equipment and they are not in the least bit concerned about the conse-

quences to the workforce.

Similar technological developments in other industries and countries show that the introduction of electronic equipment under capitalism can decimate the numbers employed faster even than the plague. Just witness what is happening to workers at Plessey's, workers in the cash register business, and an ever closer analogy the fate of the US American telecommunication workers. We cannot say that it will not happen here, it already has.

The attainment of a shorter working week will not solve all the problems but it is a declaration by workers that they do not intend technological development to be used as a weapon against them. The programme of action at present being instituted nationally is one with a mixture of democratic centralism and guerrilla struggle. The action being co-ordinated nationally with ample scope for the development of local initiative. The position is changing daily as the course of action becomes more effective and the Post Office turns their threats of reprisals into action and begin sending men home. However, the POEU membership are no longer prepared to sit back and accept what the management say and do, and are determined to attain their aims.

Children need safe supervised play areas

PLAY is essential to any child's development, mental and physical. The provision of playgrounds and play spaces must be an essential part of any community.

Adventure playgrounds were originally intended to replace the street in inner city areas, to provide excitement and adventure in well supervised surroundings. The staff were to be well trained, experienced youth leaders whose job was to guide and help children learn through play.

With government cut-backs

many of these playgrounds are closing or are made dangerous by lack of staff. The authorities' idea of a playground doesn't include the idea of supervision and the necessary staff are not being employed.

The local authorities don't put safety as a high priority either. A recent report from the 'Fair Play for Children' group states that in the more traditional playgrounds 150,000 children are maimed and killed every year. Much of the equipment is old and particular items are known

killers. More imaginative design and some money could make playgrounds just as much fun but not so lethal. Hard ground is another cause of serious injury; this could easily be substituted by other surfaces.

The British Safety Council claim that "about 90 per cent of the playgrounds in this country have something wrong with them" and no money is forthcoming to make them better.

We are supposed to be living in a civilised society! What kind of a society is it that allows children to be killed?



The Charlton adventure playground. Notice reads: "This playground is now closed owing to the temporary lack of funds, C.A.P.A. cannot accept any responsibility for persons entering." (Picture the WORKER)

Workers resist Sham of Shareholding

THE GMWU is only the latest union to warn its members to shun Healey's scheme, introduced in the last budget, for getting workers to take part of their wages in shares in the company they work for. The British working class was never likely to be taken in by the ploy that instead of fighting for wages they could get paid off in shares and then work harder to make more money for their company so that they could then share in the profits.

Some members of the TUC and the Labour Party have been telling Healey that there has

been hostility to the profit-sharing scheme because he set it up wrongly in linking workers' stakes in British industry so directly with the companies they happened to work for. There should be a national pool into which companies contributed a fixed percentage of profits. Workers' shares and dividends would be allocated and paid out of this pool - rather like the unit trusts in which so many small private investors have managed to lose life savings.

Of course one can see the advantages of Healey's "share-owning democracy" fraud from

British capitalism's point of view. If workers would provide even more of the investment in British industry, that would enable capitalists to export even more of their own capital to reap richer profits elsewhere.

The Labour Government's "Industrial democracy plan", basically the Bullock scheme, means that by sitting on the Board we rubber-stamp the closing down of our own factories, making ourselves redundant. The "share-owning democracy plan" is as empty as that originally popularised by the Tories as "property-owning democracy".

Avon-falling rolls must mean smaller classes

AT A stormy meeting called by Avon LEA to 'discuss' the future of infant and junior schools in the Hartcliffe-Withywood area of Avon, parents unanimously rejected the Assistant Director of Education's suggestions that falling rolls should mean fewer schools.

The meeting was told that by 1982 there would be 2000 children in the area to fill Government estimates of 5000 places, too mean even by authority standards.

In answer to suggestions that resources would be 'organised wastefully' and that 'overspending' would take place with resultant 'unnecessary cuts in other

areas' numerous parents pointed to the tremendous opportunities afforded by falling rolls to improve the quality of education.

Many parents spoke of the benefits their children were already experiencing due to smaller classes - they were happier, and achieving better results. Was this to cease just when the opportunity to improve provision presented itself? There was much anger at the Authority's blatant disregard of the children's educational needs.

The positive opposition shown by the parents is evident too amongst teachers. Bristol Teachers' Associa-

tion of the NUT has already pledged itself to oppose school closures and Avon Division's commitment to improve class size throughout the county must be used to stop schools closing.

Only by united action against the Government and the Authority's plans will the people of Avon save education from yet another crippling blow. Already protests have succeeded in delaying decisions until autumn '78, instead of July '78. We must use this time to organise ourselves in the schools, through the unions and in community organisations for an effective fight against Avon's callous proposals.

NALGO brings itself to the precipice

DELEGATES at this year's Conference of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) cast their votes by a large majority for a major step along the road to corporatism. In both major debates of the week, on unemployment and pay, Conference rejected the opportunity to declare outright opposition to pay restraint and to increasing unemployment.

The White Paper on Unemployment prepared by the National Executive Committee offered illusions of another escape from the hard task of combatting unemployment: no blame was laid on the government-backed employers for withdrawing investment from Britain, or on the government itself for viciously cutting all the public services where NALGO members are employed. The only role proposed for NALGO as a union was that of adviser to the government, and the only advice offered was for employers to introduce longer holidays, early retirement and a shorter working week, with no suggestion that there should be any expansion of jobs.

Let us hope that in the actions during the coming year NALGO members will belie those votes cast for a policy of opting out, and carry on the fight where it really matters, at our place of work, to keep jobs and to bring in the unemployed.

Despite NALGO's continued non-affiliation to any political party, Conference accepted too the White Paper on Pay Policy which totally rejects free collective bargaining, and instead proposes "a more rational approach to pay... this could be achieved... through periodic discussions between the Government, employers and unions leading to the establishment of guidelines on pay and other service conditions issues". To our shame NALGO have adopted the most vicious policy on pay of any trade union in the country. Such a policy goes further than merely passively accepting pay restraint, but positively denies the fundamental tenets of trade unionism - it is an abrogation of all responsibility for determining our pay and conditions of employment.

Despite such bleak moments some excellent motions

were carried overwhelmingly. A rules revision motion re-asserting the sovereignty of Conference in matters of policy and a motion instructing the NEC to confirm the expulsion of three members who blacklegged during the Scottish gas strike were among these. There was also a resolution calling on members to black the use of public halls for any meetings organised for the purpose of fomenting racial hatred. Conference did not sit quiet and meek while the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his condescending speech, and it was only by a very narrow margin that the representatives to the TUC escaped censure for their votes which tipped the scales in the TUC decision not to support the firemen's gallant struggle.

NALGO delegates were clear and strong on these issues. We must have the courage to bring clarity and strength to those major issues which we have retreated from so dismally, otherwise we will destroy our own union.

Meek and mild Trade Unionism brings only small change!

Industrial democracy lie -

THE recent promise to put workers in the boardroom represents a downright sham. It is a reinforcement for voluntary wage restraint, seeing corporatism as the only means to prolong capitalism and curb working class aspirations.

This new Government White Paper on Industrial Democracy, based on Bullock, shifts the emphasis on to voluntary submission by the working class to the interests of their companies. Legal backing to encourage the adoption of the scheme would be given to companies with more than 5000 employees.

The plan is to introduce Joint Representation Committees (JRCs) which would be the exclusive organs of consultation on company strategy. After three or four years of the JRCs, by which time the trade unions should be defunct and workers' attitudes

in line with the employers', workers would get one third of the seats on the board. Further reinforcement for the scheme would come from a new body - the Industrial Democracy Commission - intended to complement ACAS in advice and conciliation. Each as independent as the other, of course, both being appointed by the Government.

As with wage restraint the excuse used for 'industrial democracy' is that it is in the workers' own best interests. What lies! Workers can never have the same interests as capitalism. Both profits and wages come from the value that labour creates: profit rises only in proportion to the fall in wages. The interests of worker and capitalist are always in direct opposition and can never be reconciled.

So the attempt to get more workers interested in the

running of their employer's business comes down to nothing more than subjecting wages and jobs to the good of capitalists' profit.

The White Paper recognises our unions as one of the biggest threats to the functioning of capitalism. Trade unions arose to protect wages and jobs irrespective of profit, and have seen 200 years of struggle against employers for better conditions, never given freely. It suggests as an alternative company unions, so that all actions will take account of the profitability of the firm. Working class skills, so severely threatened with the run-down of industry and the public services and only able to be defended by the correct use of the union organisation, will themselves be given over to the complete whim of the employer.

The White Paper is a blueprint for fascism,

German workers 'participate' in decline

CALLAGHAN cites Germany's 'economic miracle' in praise of industrial democracy, but capitalist Germany has all the problems Britain has and they are developing rapidly. A million people are estimated to live below the poverty line, including half of the registered unemployed (standing at over 1 million). Graduate and teacher unemployment is rising. The decline in German industry as in Britain is in progress. Crude steel output fell in 1977. There has been no growth in the chemical industry in 1977, and while chemical exports grew only 2 per cent imports rose 15 per cent. Plastics plants are operating at only 70 per cent capacity.

A wage limit of 5.5 per cent was urged for 1978 and inflation increased 3 fold

from 1967-1976 (1.6 per cent - 4.5 per cent) compared to a 4 fold increase in Britain (4.5 per cent - 17.1 per cent). And the unions in Germany are specially constructed to suit industrial democracy. Strikes in sympathy with other workers, and picketing are illegal, and at least 75 per cent of the membership must vote in favour in a secret ballot to make any strike legal. In addition the state uses severe measures to prevent organisation, and operates the 'berufsverbot' to make sure that communists are not in government employment. Even so, the real extent of the crisis is hidden because a substantial portion of the German workforce is made up of migrant workers from Turkey and Yugoslavia whose work-permits are simply

withdrawn when they are not needed. German workers are resorting more and more to open struggle with their bourgeoisie, such is their satisfaction with industrial democracy.

As "The Worker" pointed out on May 1st, 1975:

"Volkswagen, which has just made 25,000 workers' redundant, is one of the west German firms where 'Workers Participation' has been instituted. Now we see that this gives workers real influence, they can sack themselves!"

Industrial democracy may have been easy to foist on a defeated and disillusioned German working class after the war, but we in Britain must have none of it. It's an insult to our intelligence. Joint management? We can do it all ourselves!

NEDC rationalise

THE National Economic Development Council recently revealed a major factor in British capitalism's decline. A report from the Electronic Consumer Goods Sector Working Party reckons that the industry's fixed assets are currently being operated at only 50 per cent of their capacity; thus making each item produced more expensive.

The obvious solution would be to expand production, using up the excess capacity, creating employment and therefore a more prosperous market for the cheaper consumer goods. This however will not happen since profits thus made could not satisfy the demands of finance capital.

The NEDC recommendations make chill reading for

anyone employed in the manufacture of televisions, tape recorders, etc:

"As a matter of urgency, the industry's capacity should be rationalised by perhaps 20 - 30 per cent... Further jobs will be lost in the short term."

No figures are given for expected job losses, but it should be remembered that employment has already fallen by 30 per cent from 70,000 in 1973 to 49,000 in 1976.

Once again it has been clearly shown that production does not satisfy the insatiable demands of finance capital; it prefers to cut its losses by selling off capital, leaving only a bare skeleton of industry. How long before that, too, goes?

Smokescreen for cuts

THE GOVERNMENT have been interfering in health from the inception of the NHS since they control the size of the budget. However with the recent cuts their interference is becoming more obvious and spreading into areas that were previously strictly the realms of clinical judgements by doctors.

The smokescreen for the recent cuts has been the work of the Resources Allocation Working Party (RAWP), which found that generally there were under-provided areas in the North, over-provided areas in the South, and therefore money should be shifted to correct this. There has been much debate in the NHS on this report, and much criticism, especially on the way RAWP made these judgements. However, the technicalities of RAWP are secondary. The main criticism is that it is purely a smokescreen for the massive attack on our health service. An example of how RAWP works would be Guy's Hospital, which was designed to serve a community of 250,000 people. The population of London has left only 180,000 people in its area, and RAWP would therefore have part of Guy's close, which would be of no help to anyone in the "less provided" areas and directly threaten the health of the people left in Bermondsey.

A similar concept is that of "community care" where pa-

tients should be looked after at home, and not in hospital. It is an attractive idea, especially to those of us in psychiatry trying to progress from the out-moded "bins" which some of our hospitals still are. However it is yet another attempt to shuffle round resources rather than tackling the health cuts head on. To set up a true community health programme requires more staff, more community nurses with appropriate training, more hostels and workshops, etc. This cannot be done at the expense of those people who need hospital admission and care.

The Government is especially trying to cut back on hospitals. One area which they are just beginning their attack on is the length of stay of hospital patients. Their argument is that since some doctors keep a patient with a certain condition in hospital for so many days, all doctors should do the same. This of course negates the value of training doctors, since it is exactly their training which enables them to judge these things. The reply to such cheeky interference should be a firm and rude one. The Annual Representatives' Meeting of the British Medical Association next month will discuss motions rejecting RAWP and pressure for more money for the NHS, not the reshuffling of less money. Backing for such motions must be strong.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon bookstall Tues Fri Sat Marketplace
Liverpool bookstall - every Saturday at Paddies
Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool

PUBLIC MEETINGS

LIVER POOL

4 July 7.30 pm "Real Internationalism begins at Home".
To be held at the AUEW, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

CROYDON

3 July 8.00 pm "No End to Unemployment under Capitalism".
Study Room, Croydon Central Library, Katherine Street, Croydon.

'The Worker'

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

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