

THE WORKER

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EDITORIAL

Growth of the Corporate State MERGERS

AMONG the "mergers" which have received public notice has been, of course, the G.E.C./A.E.I. takeover.

It should be remembered that the A.E.I. was itself an amalgam of dozens of companies, all allegedly so brought together in the interest of rationalisation, of economic combination and efficiency. Yet, when G.E.C. 'took over' A.E.I., its chief spokesman was most uncomplimentary about the state of A.E.I.

Workers directly involved in this massacre had no reason to believe that such a merger was in their interest, for immediately A.E.I. Woolwich was closed with the loss of thousands of jobs. Witton, too, was savaged, and many others.

Now again, of course, in the interests of 'efficiency' G.E.C. demand further redundancies at Witton and Rugby, closure at Willemsden and dismemberment of Newton-le-Willows, the latter being the old Vulcan Works. This will have a disastrous effect on a whole town, historically developed around the Vulcan. Shades of Jarrow!

After 150 years of building locomotives at Vulcan in this small town, the remaining 1,100 workers, who once numbered 3,000, will lose their jobs. A poor regard for historical achievement, since it was in this town, in the works founded by George Stephenson that the first loco's were made for the Liverpool-Manchester Line. Something like 30,000 steam loco's were made here, and later some 3,000 diesels. So much for efficiency! We are beginning to see what "rationalisation" really is. As the 1966 Geddes Report on shipping demonstrated, it is simply the way shipbuilders and yardowners 'rationalise away' competition among themselves for orders and for labour.

Rolls Royce, another giant and today the last remaining aero-engine manufacturers in Britain, carries on its merry way of rationalisation and having already carried out large-scale redundancies at Patchway. Bristol, returns again threatening to dismiss 700 more there. They are insatiable. Having closed Napier, they now turn back on London and attempt to close the Stag Lane Works with its 500 workers - the Works that was formerly de Havillands, then Bristol Siddeley, now Rolls-Royce and, if they get their way, soon to be discarded altogether.

(See articles in this issue on Rolls-Royce, Bristol, and Rolls Royce, Stag Lane, by workers who know these two plants thoroughly from long years of working class struggle in them.)

The combining of all these companies, the measures taken so far, have all received the encouragement of the Government. In each case of closure the Government has invariably said that "commercial" reasons for such acts are the business of the owners and best left with them to decide.

The A.E.F. have called for an overtime ban throughout the entire country to defeat these attacks on workers. More must be done, and by all Unions.



The picket line during the strike at Vauxhall Motors last year. The same solidarity and determination was to be seen at Ford's Halewood and Dagenham.



STRIKE SPREADS

FORD workers are on the march - having forced a wage demand anew before the expiration of their last wage agreement (not due to end of July), they extracted a wage increase of 5%; changes in a Sick Pay Scheme; in pensions and an offer of two-thirds basic wage.

This they rejected and extracted a 7 and a half/10% wage increase to operate March 1st, an equal pay offer, which is a devastating breakthrough to all other employers; an offer of £20 holiday bonus, making £25 per year plus, all of which is a decided gain and makes nonsense of the Department of Employment and Productivity and its incomes policy limit and the magisterial utterances of 'statesmen' about equal pay, (but not yet!)

However, this was accompanied by demands from Fords that there shall be no unconstitutional actions. By this is meant - no doubt - that workers are only right to strike when the employer approves - thus, we suppose making such action "constitutional".

In spite of the gains, Ford workers reject such attempts to stifle and take or buy away the basic weapon of all workers - strike - nor will they lend themselves to a miniature "White Paper" precursor to Government White Paper legislation against strikes.

The position, of course, is not simple - as

usual, divisions exist among trade union officials. Some unions accepted the agreement and, by majority vote, did so on behalf of all. The AEF rejected it, as do some others. The T&GWU called for it to be suspended and re-examined - and this was subsequently agreed to by all unions. Halewood workers have already taken action.

Neither the gains already obtained nor the courage of the workers' struggle can be ignored. They strike a blow for all. But still the difficulties are acute and, therefore, all workers must seek to understand and to support.

The AEU executive endorse the actions of its members, dispute official. The TGWU soon took the same course, followed by the NUVB. The UPA has also now endorsed the workers' action, even though originally in favour of the deal proposed by Ford's management.

The injunction obtained by the management has had the effect of solidifying the workers in their angry resistance to what they regard as a precursor to the Government's White Paper. It has also thrown into such disarray the leaders of unions involved, that some who favoured the proposals have reversed their decisions, leaving the ETU in relative isolation.

The Changing Scene

MOSCOW, February 13 (UPI). - The waltz of the world have united and the Russians have nothing to lose but their change.

After 51 years of campaigning against that capitalistic evil, the Soviet establishment acknowledged yesterday that tipping may not be so bad - and that it may also be necessary.

The Literaturnaya Gazeta (Literary Gazette), one of the Soviet Union's most influential newspapers, suggested that tipping be "officially recognised".

Since the Bolshevik Revolution, Communists have denounced the practice as "demoralising people and breeding lackey psychology," the newspaper said. As a result, it said, "there exists a shortage of baby-sitters, nursemaids and other service personnel".

Poor service is a national complaint, not only among foreign visitors, but also among Russians. The Kremlin has been waging a valiant but almost vain campaign to eliminate such things as waiting an hour for a waiter in a hotel restaurant.

The Gazeta gave the new thinking: "Tipping is a personal bonus you pay for good service, you are getting". It added that since factory workers get bonuses for good work, "why shouldn't tipping be a personal bonus to service personnel"?

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"MORE than any other mode of production (capitalism) squanders human energy living labour, and not only blood and sweat, but also nerve and brain. Indeed it is only through the most enormous waste of the individual development that the development of mankind is at all preserved and maintained in the epoch of history immediately preceding the conscious reorganisation of society. - Karl Marx, Capital, Vol. III.

ULSTER After the Elections

THE general election in Ulster has come and gone, with its predictable outcome of victory to the forces of reaction. O'Neill, the sheep in sheep's clothing, barely keeping his seat in Bannside, against the Ulster apostle of Powellism, Mr Ian Paisley, the representative of the most bigoted and reactionary conservatism in Northern Ireland, has shown quite clearly how deeply rooted are the fascist elements within this police state.

It has exposed, once and for all, that the nationalist voters are not to be deceived by appeals of voting for the lesser of two evils, it has also shown that nationalists are no longer satisfied with the "pie in the sky", offered by such leaders as Eddie McAteer or Harry Diamond. It shows also that the NI Labour Party has no trust whatever among the voters, despite their claims in the past that they would capture many more seats in the working-class areas of Ulster.

Instead, these voters have turned to Civil Rights candidates - where they stood as the alternative - to the extent of capturing two seats. The question for all workers in Ulster is, what is the next move? When Michael Farrell (who stood against O'Neill and Paisley) was asked this question, after the count had been declared, he said: "... back to the streets...". This would appear the obvious next step. There is a danger, though, that many among the Civil Rights movement may fall into the trap of: "Well, we've got two MPs in, let's give them a chance to see what they can do...". This would, of course, suit the book of Mr O'Neill and give him time to regroup his forces and dig himself in, while the Civil Rights movement lost its impetus.

The next step is obvious; the struggle must be stepped up to win the minds of all workers - Protestant and Catholic alike - for the urgent need of a socialist movement dedicated to the smashing and overthrow of the forces of both fascism and reformism in Ulster.

To do this, it will mean taking again to the streets - this time, on much clearer policies than the restrictive ones of the past struggles. In any event, as soon as the workers take to the streets, the Special

Powers Act will be enforced to ban marches and proscribe the organisations concerned. It is certain that the thugs of Paisley will again attack these demonstrations, with the object that even if they, themselves, are banned from holding demonstrations, they will have achieved their aim in stopping their opponents from marching and holding meetings, while at the same time forcing O'Neill out into the open.

Irish workers must be prepared for this and organised to carry on whatever actions may be taken against the movement - attempts will be made by agent provocateurs to create chaos and smash the movement. The only way to resist this is an organisation embracing all sections of the working class in Ireland - both North and South, the political and economic problems that confront them are the same - why accept the artificial boundary of partitionism, and its imposed British imperialism, and its still financed and guarded by these forces. Unite, and smash and guard for all these divisions. In these coming struggles in Ireland, the role of Marxist-Leninist ideology is vital - if the dream of James Connolly and other Irish socialists are to be realised, and an Irish Workers' State is to be established.

Two Sides of the Coin— BRITISH IMPERIALISM

Correspondence

COLONIAL exploitation abroad is racialism at home. They are both essential to the ruthless exploitation that is the essence of British imperialism — the final stage of monopoly capitalism. What happens in distant Southern Rhodesia, which we prefer to call by its real African name — Zimbabwe — is closely related to the growth of racialism inside Britain.

British Imperialism Exploits Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, there are contradictions between the British Government and the white settlers. But the power behind both these parties is British monopoly capitalism, which today is being heavily infiltrated by US imperialism. Hence, the continuous flow of negotiations, compromises and the naked concessions by Wilson, first, after the Tiger, and then the Fearless meeting. The wealth of Zimbabwe — mainly minerals but also the big tobacco industry — is intended for British shareholders who feel frustrated with the so-called sanctions policy, which Wilson feels obliged to maintain to placate the rather easily satisfied conscience of the United Nations. Since 1965, the unpaid dividends of major Rhodesian Government stock are in the region of over seven million pounds. The Greater London Council, for example, has some £1.6 million worth of this in its superannuation fund. So, despite the naked fascism of the settler government of Ian Smith (his new constitution proposals have outright apartheid proposals), the Wilson Government is preparing further deals. George Thomson, the Minister who was dealing with Southern Rhodesian affairs, has been got rid of, presumably because not even he was prepared for the kind of sell-out that is in the offing, by Wilson.

In such a situation, is it surprising that the

mockery of a trial of the Zimbabwe nationalist leader — Nkomo Sithole — head of ZANU, that is leading the guerrilla struggle, and his imprisonment for six years on a palpably made-up charge of incitement to murder of Smith and two others, should not arouse any protest from the Labour Government? After all, Sithole's original restriction order, made in 1964, was on the orders of the British Government. Sithole has asked his lawyers not to "appeal", since he knows the kind of justice he is going to get in imperialist law courts. No, the Sitholes, and hundreds of others detained, waiting for execution, etc, and the six million Africans of Zimbabwe will be freed only through their own liberation struggle, which is now gaining strength. We, on our part, extend our revolutionary solidarity to them, as we, too, are fighting the same enemy.

British Imperialism Promotes Racialism in Britain

The same system that oppresses the people of Zimbabwe operates inside Britain. One of the most naked forms it takes is racialism. The British ruling class has, since 1962, been using immigration control as its major racist policy. The Commonwealth Immigrants Act of that year was quite openly directed against black people from the Asian, African and Caribbean parts of the British Empire (Commonwealth) since it excluded the Irish, who form the largest number of immigrants. Since the actual numbers entering was never an issue, the major use of the law was to legalise racialism. Since then, the Tories and Labour Party have vied with each other in their use of racialism, ostensibly to win votes, but in reality to divide the working class at the very time it is getting restive and angry.

The usual pattern is for the Tories to express new racist demands, which the Labour Government will verbally criticise, but within the shortest possible time will actually implement. We saw this over the 1965 White Paper on Immigration, which the Labour Government hurriedly produced to counter Tory charges that they were pro-blacks. We saw this, last year, over the equally hurried Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1968, which denied entry to Kenyan Asians who are British passport holders, and we have only recently seen it again in the latest curbs imposed by the Government on Commonwealth citizens.

Towards the end of January, Heath, who is now being challenged by Powell, made an outrageously racist speech in Walsall, in which he advocated the treatment of Commonwealth citizens not simply as aliens but as second-class aliens, at that. They would no longer have the right to stay in this country, even after obtaining a labour voucher, but would need to have their permits renewed yearly; they would not have the right to bring in their wives and young children, etc. Inevitably, Wilson and Callaghan went through the motions of criticising the speech. "Inflammatory and dangerous," said Wilson; "shifty" and "slick" said Callaghan. But, within days, on January 30, Callaghan had a new restriction ready for Parliament. Under this, wives and fiancées will not be allowed to sponsor their husbands and fiancées to enter this country from the Commonwealth. Further, if students, visitors, etc, from the Commonwealth marry or get engaged to British people during their stay in this country, they will not be allowed to stay except in special circumstances. Therefore, because of the racist tactics of the ruling class, even indigenous British citizens will have their fundamental right of freedom to marry abrogated!



Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, Deputy Commander of the South Vietnam Liberation Front, with a detachment of guerrilla fighters. She is presently representing the Liberation Front at the talks in Paris.

AN OPEN LETTER TO INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATIONS, TO TRADE UNIONS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND TO WORKERS EVERYWHERE

FROM:
THE FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
FOR THE LIBERATION OF
SOUTH VIETNAM

C/o Dazimina Henoi
21 Hai Ba Trung

Dear Comrades and friends,
... All during this last year, workers, together with the people and the armed forces of South Vietnam, completely united; have overcome innumerable difficulties and privations. They have fought resolutely, attacking always and maintaining continuous pressure. They have struck crippling blows at the American imperialists and their lackeys, even in their fortified bases, achieving unprecedented success in all fields of battle. They have changed the whole character of the war by driving the American aggressors and their lackeys into a corner and reducing them to a state of passivity, entrenched within the shrinking areas they still hold.

In the march toward final victory, the workers and people of South Vietnam, borne up by the victories they have already won, are resolved to fight on till the last aggressor has been chased out of South Vietnam. At this time, we appeal to you to contribute to our struggle, to demand that the American aggressors put an end to their war against Vietnam, withdraw from South Vietnam all their own troops and the troops of their satellites, cease entirely all violent acts against the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic and leave the people of South Vietnam to settle their own affairs in accord with the political programme of the FNL without foreign interference.

Dear friends, in the name of the working class and the working masses of South Vietnam, we address to you our sincere thanks for your sympathy, your support and your help on all these issues, thus contributing to the encouragement of our people and their armed forces in our struggle against the Americans for national liberation.

Our struggle has never been so determined and implacable. It demands of us a supreme effort in surmounting all difficulties, all privations and sacrifices, in order to conquer our enemies; and at the same time, it demands also the firm support and assistance of our friends in five continents, including progressive people in the US itself. We are convinced that with their feelings of proletarian internationalism, our dear friends and comrades will warmly approve the declaration by the Front for National Liberation of South Vietnam of November 23, 1968, will support the just stand on the five points of the Front for the political solution to the Vietnamese problem and the principled position we have taken at the Paris conference.

We are sure that your actions of solidarity will be a great encouragement to the people of South Vietnam who are in the process of carrying on the battle night and day to force the Americans by heavier and heavier defeats to recognise our objectives: the independence, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity and peaceful reunification of our country.

Yet, once more, we express our sincere thanks for your support and our best wishes for your success in the struggle for independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

With comradely greetings and confidence in victory,
Phan Xuan Thai, President
Federation of Trade Unions for the
Liberation of South Vietnam

FIGHT RACIALISM

THE vast majority of black people who have come to live in Britain are workers. Many have already proved themselves militant working class fighters. They are part of the working class in its conflict with the imperialist ruling class of Britain — a class which exploits workers in this country and in the countries from which these black people came.

Powell is only one of the more blatantly vocal of British racists. Under cover of criticising Powell's outspokenness, Wilson and Heath have led their parties along the same racist road.

Restriction on Commonwealth immigration is a racist measure. Racialism in Britain has increased ever since the passage of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962 by the Tories and the further severe limitations by Labour in the Acts of 1965, and 1968. These Acts are the racists' charter — OUT WITH THEM!

While there are British firms operating in India, Pakistan, southern Africa, and the Caribbean, which in no way serve the interests of the indigenous people, such people must not be denied the right to work in Britain. The black people who have

come to work and live in Britain have every right to be here.

We express our solidarity with the Black Peoples' Alliance, which they have formed in their own defence.

We shall fight to ensure that the poison of racialism does not divide the working class. Racialism is a major-working class weapon in the hands of the ruling class.

**"STOP RACIALISM."
"DON'T DIVIDE THE WORKING CLASS."
"ALL WORKERS MUST FIGHT THE
COMMON ENEMY . . . CAPITALISM."**

From 'What Is To Be Done' by V.I. Lenin.

CLASS POLITICAL consciousness can be brought to the workers only from without, that is, only from outside of the economic struggle, from outside of the sphere of relations between workers and employers. The sphere from which alone it is possible to obtain this knowledge is the sphere of relationships between ALL the classes and strata and the state and the government, the sphere of the interrelations between ALL the classes. For that reason, the reply to the question: what must be done in order to bring political knowledge to the workers? cannot be merely the one which, in the majority of cases, the practical workers, especially those who are inclined toward economism, mostly content themselves with.

For the trade union secretary of any, say, British trade union, always helps the workers to conduct the economic struggle, helps to oppose factory abuses, explains the injustice of the laws and of measures which hamper the freedom to strike and the freedom to picket . . . explains the partiality of arbitration court judges who belong to the bourgeois classes, etc, etc. In a word, every trade union secretary conducts and helps to conduct "the economic struggle against the employers and the Government". It cannot be too strongly insisted that THIS IS NOT YET Social Democracy (Marxism-Leninism). The Social-Democrat's (Marxist-Leninist's) ideal should not be a trade union secretary, but A TRIBUNE OF THE PEOPLE, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it takes place, no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; he must be able to generalise all these manifestations to produce a single picture of police violence and of capitalist exploitation; he must be able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to explain his socialist convictions and his democratic demands to ALL, in order to explain to ALL and everyone the world-historic significance of the proletariat's struggle for emancipation.

TEACHER'S PAY

TEACHERS have taken a cut in wages. They asked for £900 to £1,700, but have received only £1,600 over 14 years. In what other job does a worker have to wait 14 years to get the skilled rate? A rise of seven per cent for two years brings the claim into line with the Prices and Incomes Board's three-and-a-half per cent ceiling. As the cost of living has risen nine per cent since the last claim, the offer is a reduction.

More teachers voted against the National Union of Teachers' Executive than on any previous occasion; London and the North were particularly militant. The Extra Metropolitan District showed solidarity with their Executive members, who were three of the 10 who voted against acceptance. There was solidarity amongst the rank and file. NUT members loyally supported National Association of Schoolmasters members who had a half day stoppage in spite of the fact that NAS has played a splitting role, walking out of the Burnham negotiations, constantly striving to get better terms for men in a profession where the majority are women where equal pay has been established.

Teachers' living standards are falling steadily. This Government, as did the Tories, are on the idealistic approach of any teacher, particularly of young children, that direct action would harm the children. But blackmail cannot go on for ever. British teachers are among the worst paid in the so-called developed countries and there is growing militancy among all sections of teachers. They are beginning to not just their employer — the Local Education Authorities — but the Government.

All workers should support them in their struggle for wages and against the iniquitous education cuts. This means fewer buildings, books and facilities that teachers have suffered for. It is workers' children who will suffer from a lowering of educational standards, the prime necessity of which is a highly trained, well educated teaching staff. The upper class send its children to Public Schools or Direct Grant Schools where salaries and capitation allowances are all higher. Trade unionists are part of the battle; they will ignore the Press and television propaganda against teachers. The old jibe that "anyone can teach" is one of the weapons of capitalism, to keep workers from development. A hundred years ago, a "gentleman" said: "we must educate the mob to be useful, to serve God and the King, but not sufficiently that they become our masters". Education is one of the weapons of workers against capitalism.

WIN FOR ELLIOTT WORKERS

ELLIOTT Milling Machines Ltd. of North Acton reported recently large financial loss on the year's trade. How any firm making machine tools (imports of machine tools last year cost £45 million) can come up with a loss takes some understanding.

The firm's losses may have had no connection with its attempted attack on workers' piece work earnings, but neither did it influence the response of the workers. The employer refused to restore the original piece work price, or to withdraw the disputed job, pending negotiation. The workers' response was swift and decisive, immediate 100 per cent strike. The AEF officials insisted on the job being withdrawn, pending mutual agreement on the price, as a condition for resumption of work. The action of the workers won the day, the price was restored.

This was the first strike at Elliott's for many years.

The noose

'US imperialism has over-reached itself. Wherever it commits aggression, it puts a new noose around its neck. It is besieged ring upon ring by the people of the whole world.'

(Chairman Mao Tse-tung)

Burma: In the last quarter of 1968, the Burmese Peoples Armed Forces scored many victories in the three areas of Pegu, Irrawaddy and Magwe. The so-called "socialist" government which is really a military junta under the dictator, Ne Win, received a severe setback when the guerrilla units were able to capture several villages, get rid of tyrannical landlords and village headmen replacing the reactionary state apparatus such as "security committees" and "cooperatives" by committees of red power composed of poor peasants.

Palestine: There has been a tremendous upsurge in the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people. The affiliated organisations of P.L.O. (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and especially Al Fatah and the Popular Front have been

engaged in many daring acts of sabotage, commando raids and mass mobilisation. Spectacular raids on El Al, the Israeli air lines have been matched by many guerrilla attacks on Israeli military outposts, government buildings and economic plants. This is a liberation struggle for the recovery of their land by not only men but women and children of Palestine. In Gaza school girls fought valiantly against imprisonment of some Arab girls. In Nablus little boys took over building barricades of tar barrels and iron mattresses. As Yasser Arafat, the newly elected chairman of P.L.O. has stated they will fight to the end to liberate Palestine and eliminate Israel but not the Jews, who will be permitted to live in Palestine as they did for centuries in the past.

Spain: Despite the state of emergency the struggle against fascism continues by thousands of workers, students and professional men. Hundreds have already been arrested in Madrid, Barcelona and throughout the Basque. There are allegations of the death of militant workers' leaders of the secret "workers' commissions". But the strikes continue. February witnessed huge strikes in the industrial centres especially Bilbao. At one time some 26,000 workers were out. It started with some 10,000 workers at Spain's largest steel plant the British-equipped Altos Hornos mill in Bilbao who came out when their leader was dismissed. The strike is now in its fourth week. In sympathy and to protest the emergency thousands more stopped work. At one time some 6000 workers at Bilbao shipbuilding yards, 500 from the Babcock and Wilcox railway equipment plant and another 5000 from General Electric Espanols, a subsidiary of the U.S. monopoly were out despite police repression, and many arrests.

Vietnam: Once again, another spring festival has launched a new

offensive by the South Vietnam National Liberation Front. Not that they have been quiet. The Paris talks are no substitute for action on the battle field which has continued non-stop. Towards the end of January the biggest American airfield in the Mekong delta at Can Tho, the nerve centre for US military operations, was attacked. 15 helicopters were destroyed, many more damaged and many U.S. troops killed. In early February rocket attacks on Hue coincided with a spectacular military success by the Liberation Armed Forces which battered 3 US and satellite units in an ambush near Saigon. However it is in the new Tet offensive which began a few days ago that the US will once again realise to its cost that there is only one alternative left to get out of Vietnam. Within a few hours for the offensive some 50 towns and bases have been attacked by heavy rockets. The Vietnamese people are following President Ho's recent message that the fight would continue until the United States and its lackeys left and until the puppet government was overthrown.

ROLLS ROYCE ATTACK ON WORKERS

STAG LANE

In the early 1920's, Geoffrey de Havilland closed with the licence to Stag Lane, a small farm in those days, it was farmland, the countryside, before the spread of suburbia made it part of Greater London. The de Havilland airfield at Stag Lane was one of the pioneering centres of the British aircraft industry, steeped in the history of what is surely the greatest marvel of the 20th century - man's conquest of the air.

The field is now covered by a housing estate, except for the Stag Lane factory, which is on the site of the original hangars. Mollison Way, the main road bisecting the Aerodrome Estate, runs as straight and true as a runway, as indeed it once was! Amy Johnson Court, a block of flats, where there was once a hangar - all recall the history of Stag Lane, de Havilland's.

Since de Havilland's moved their flying operations to Hatfield in the early 1930's and sold the airfield for development, the Stag Lane factory has been engaged in the manufacture of aero engines and propellers. During the course of the Second World War, with the expansion of the aircraft industry to meet production demands, the Company was split into three separate units - Aircraft, Propeller and the de Havilland Engine Company, Stag Lane being the headquarters of the Engine Company. After the war, with the closing of all the "shadow" factories which had been opened, Stag Lane became the aero engine development site.

After Sanders' disastrous White Paper on the aircraft industry, in 1957, and the resultant Government dictates to the industry to "rationalise", the mergers began. First, de Havilland was merged with Hawker Siddeley. Then Hawker's hived off the de Havilland Engine Company into the Bristol Siddeley Engine Company. Stag Lane was lucky only to lose its identity. Blackburn Engine Company was wiped out during the formation of Bristol Siddeley, out of the Bristol Aeroplane Company and Hawker Siddeley on a 50-50 basis. No shares were ever quoted for Bristol Siddeley. Finally, Rolls-Royce bought Bristol Siddeley, its only remaining competitor, for some £60 million, the majority of which sum was raised in the "City" at a time when the pundits were saying money was "tight".

Rolls-Royce now enjoyed a complete monopoly of aero engine manufacture in Britain. Such concerns are very exclusive clubs throughout the world, far more select than the motor car people whose stranglehold on the economies of the West is a real worry to all workers.

The "rationalisation" went on. During 1968, Rolls-Royce closed what had been the Bristol Siddeley factory at Bentham, Gloucestershire, and at Cardiff, involving some 12,000 workers. A gallant fight was waged. All workers in the old Bristol Siddeley combine banned overtime for some 30,000 workers, spread over the country at Bristol, London, Coventry, Sunderland, and, of course, Bentham and Cardiff. MPs were lobbied; but all to no avail. The factories were closed.

On January 8, 1969, Rolls-Royce hit out again. They declared 700 workers at Bristol redundant, and said they would close Stag Lane, Edgware, which meant another 585 jobs gone.

The workers rallied once again to the defence of the AEF policy of the right to work, to resist redundancy, to stop closure. MPs were lobbied and written to - with the same result as before, condolences, the wish to help without really getting involved as, for example, by marching with the workers, their constituents, the glib assurance that one would not be unemployed too long (he had made enquiries!) Government ministers refused to intervene in these closures, saying that where a private company got its work done was not its concern. How many millions of pounds of public money have been poured into the coffers of the capitalist aircraft industry since the war, how much has the Concorde (whose engines Stag Lane was scheduled to help produce) cost the tax-payer that what happens to this industry is a private matter of no concern to the Government!

Having learnt that the road of social democracy did not work to save Bentham and Cardiff in 1968, they are this time calling on workers to fight for workers, relying on the "bastion of iron" - the working masses.

After pressure from the shop stewards, the AEF Executive Council called a meeting of delegates of all Rolls-Royce work-places in Britain, which, by an overwhelming majority, called on the EC to ban overtime throughout Rolls-Royce and its subcontractors, and to reconvene the delegate conference if this proved insufficient to stop this attack on the workers.

The EC of the AEF endorsed and implemented this ban. Many other Union ECs have held delegate conferences and endorsed this action, but not the ETU. There must surely be a lesson here for the members of the ETU.

The workers at Stag Lane and Bristol have no illusions that this will be an easy fight. They have taken on monopoly capitalism, supported by its Government. They

realise that if the masses of their class brothers, the workers in Rolls-Royce and elsewhere, do not fight alongside of them, they are lost. Will the workers realise that united they stand, divided they fall, or will they think "I'm all right", and when it happens to them find that their class has been subjugated?

"What is a bastion of iron? It is the masses, the millions upon million of people who genuinely and sincerely support the revolution. That is the real iron bastion which it is impossible, and absolutely impossible, for any force on earth to smash."

- Mao Tse-tung.

BRISTOL ENGINE DIVISION

The workers of Rolls-Royce (Bristol) Engine Division and Stag Lane, following the closures at Cardiff and Bentham, are the latest victims of monopoly capitalism.

Mergers and takeover such as that of Bristol Siddeleys by Rolls-Royce, leading to "rationalisation" can only act in a detrimental way to workers in a capitalist society.

In some of the factories, high wages (Rolls-Royce in Bristol pay a far higher rate for 40 hours than any of the factories in other general shops) have been achieved and maintained over the years as a result of militant trade union organisation. Piece work rates and waiting time have been increased, even during the pay-freeze, by active stewards and convenors; and piece work bonuses have been improved, thanks to the stewards' efforts in educating the membership to argue and negotiate for themselves the highest price for the job. This has benefitted non-productive shops such as development and tool room, a sore point to the management.

Holiday payments have also been improved after direct action of workers, such as refusing to do bonus work and doing every job at time allowed, a very effective form of action where the workers can draw the basic rate. There have also been walk-outs and strikes.

Now it seems the Company would like to reduce wages in the higher-rated factories, in line with those earned at other establishments within the Rolls-Royce group, such as the Derby factory where workers get anything from £2 to £3 a week less than at Bristol. In fact, the workers in one Bristol factory of Rolls-Royce, Rodney Works, were told by their management that if it did not reduce its wage bill, the plant was in danger of being closed down.

P. & A. consultants have been at work at the Bristol Rolls-Royce factory and there is

no doubt that they have attempted to break down workers' unions in these factories, as is always their aim. It has become more and more obvious that the system of capitalism must be avoided like the plague! These plans for introducing measured day work techniques such as synthetic times (scientifically worked out times from "proven data" which workers cannot challenge), methods time measurement and other niceties of modern wage slavery, rationalisation and the "best use of skilled labour"; in short, the various management aids mostly imported from America to be used as crutches propping up the crippled capitalist system, all lead to just one thing in the end, as far as workers are concerned - redundancy.

Of course, with the redundancy payment scheme, the system of calculating the payment that has to be paid out to buy off the worker from fighting to retain his job, some form of "voluntary" separation scheme" may be suggested. The workers at Rolls-Royce are resisting this path so far and are fighting for the right to work.

Their policy so far has been a complete banning of overtime right throughout the Rolls-Royce group, also the stopping of sub-contract work being sent out that can be done inside the factory. Often this work is sent out to small general engineering factories where there is little or no trade union organisation and hence no control over excessive overtime. Where work has to be sent out that cannot be done inside the factory, the places where it is sent are contacted and asked not to do overtime on that work. Unity has been achieved on this and support has been 100%.

But it is the old, old story. The industry has been featherbedded as far as development goes by public money; but when planes went into production it was the Company that gained the profit. Last year profits were up 40%. Remember the scandal that surrounded Vernon Smith!

Of course it has been the AEF's policy for many years that for all the above reasons the aircraft industry should be nationalised. But as Marxist-Leninists we know that this is not the answer, not nationalisation within a capitalist society. Not until workers wake up to the fact that there is no security and no good life under this system of society, only when we change it for a socialist society can we hope to know what real security and purposeful living can mean.

This lesson must be learned, no matter how slowly, by the workers of Rolls-Royce. Let us hope they draw the correct conclusions from their experiences.

RADIO

DAILY Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking: 9.30 pm-10.30 pm, 47, 45, 32 metre bands; 10.30 pm-11.30 pm, 47, 45, 42, 32 metre bands.

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Tirana: 6.30 am-7.00 am, 31, 42 metre bands; 4.30 pm-5.00 pm, 31, 42 metre bands; 5.30 pm-7.00 pm, 31, 42 metre bands; 8.30 pm-9.00 pm, 31, 42 metre bands; 10.00 pm-10.30 pm, 31, 42 metre bands.

Daily Broadcast in English from Hanoi: 9.00 pm-9.30 pm, 19 metre band.

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The Nine Months
Strike Continues
— And Still Solid

STRIKE at a garage in Treforest (Pontypridd) which began on May 16, 1968, approved by the AEF, is in defence of craftsmanship and is against non-unionism.

LSE AND THE STUDENT MOVEMENT IN BRITAIN

FOUNDED by the Fabian, Sydney Webb, and for long the academic base of such social democratic apologists as Harold Laski, the London School of Economics has been the scene, over the past few years, of the failure of social democracy to channel education into the docile service of imperialism. Three years ago, an anti-imperialist struggle was waged against Walter Adams, who was imported from Rhodesia to take up the post of Director of LSE. In October, last year, the School was occupied in support of the pro Vietnam Liberation Front march to the US Embassy.

Since October, 1968, a number of LSE students and staff, with several Marxist-Leninists in the vanguard, have conducted a campaign to expose LSE's ties with British Imperialism. The governing body of LSE includes a director of the Bank of England and the chairman of Barclay's Bank, which last year reaped a 25 per cent increase in profits out of the people of the neo-colonial countries and the British working people. LSE Chairman, Lord Robbins, is a director of the "Financial Times" and of corporations with large investments in Rhodesia and Southern Africa. Part of this campaign was the plan of student militants to demonstrate against recruitment at LSE by Elliot Automation, which holds US Vietnam War contracts.

Faced with this anti-imperialist student-staff vanguard, Adams acted to protect the interests of the ruling class who control the state, and thus, the educational system. Exposing the real nature of the bourgeois dictatorship to the middle section of students, Adams ordered large steel gates to be set up inside the university to control the movements of students, and instituted a system of internal discipline to keep students engaged in progressive political activity.

By a narrow vote, the LSE students union passed a motion protesting against the gates and the internal disciplinary system. The militant vanguard decided to take direct action—a policy opposed by the International Socialists, a Trotskyist group with a large faction at LSE. The militants sought the assistance of several building workers, who told them how to pry the gates loose, and set to work with crowbars to tear them down.

Adams called in the police, thus further exposing the university's links with the imperialist state machine. The students fought back, and a number were arrested. Three instructors have been summoned for trial by the imperialist-minded Board of Governors—hardly an impartial tribunal! To prevent further political activity, Adams closed LSE for a month.

When Adams closed LSE, the middle sections of students swung overwhelmingly in support of the militant vanguard, but for a number of conflicting reasons. At this point the Trotskyists took over the leadership and depoliticised the struggle, so that the petty bourgeois ideology of the middle sections displaced the anti-racist, anti-imperialist line of the vanguard. The militancy and fighting spirit of the students was misdirected against so-called encroachments on academic freedom from outside sources in line with mistaken "red base" and "student power" theories—as if the university were not an integral part of the state which the ruling class controls. The demands became merely student and defensive: no victimisation, re-open LSE. In taking the case of the LSE students outside the university, these Trotskyists appealed only to young workers, opportunistically proclaimed that a Paris-type insurrection was on the cards, and called for physical support from workers.

When no such support was forthcoming,

For a Proletarian Culture

The Big Flame

MANY readers will have seen BBC 1's television play about revolt in dockland—'The Big Flame'. In terms of production, it was a good example of the semi-documentary style seen in other works of this group, such as 'The Lump' and 'Cathy Come Home'. In terms of subject matter, it was a real pleasure to see recognisable workers, instead of the dreary or demoralised stereotypes of workers the mass media usually give us. Not only did these characters have the dignity and humour of real workers, but they were also revolutionary. The whole point of the play was that the struggle over economic issues is not enough. What workers need to fight the class enemy effectively is politics. Good! Only, in this play, it was the wrong politics.

Here we had the old syndicalist illusion that it is possible to win workers' control in this or that section of the economy without winning workers' control of the state. Perhaps the author, Jim Allen, genuinely believes it would be correct to advance in an adventurous way, industry by industry; but all that would happen would be that the militant vanguard would be continuously chopped down. It is like students wanting socialist education without socialist control of the state.

The most entertaining aspect of this venture was the follow-up of the play on Late Night Line-up, that same evening. A representative of the dock employers, a senior trade union official and a dock leader belonging to the revisionist CPGB were invited to the studio to give their views on 'The Big Flame', and in each case they spoke so characteristically that their lines might have been written for them by a playwright with absolutely no imagination. Here were stereotypes in the flesh!

The dock employer was shocked because the play suggested that workers would be capable of managing anything so complex as a modern dock area. The author did not seem to be aware of this: mystique of special managerial skill, which is quite beyond workers, who can only hump loads from one place to another!

The trade union official was shocked at the portrayal of trade union officials as corrupted by bourgeois ideology. The very idea that any trade union leader should ever be motivated by anything but the purest conception of serving the working class!

The revisionist dock leader did realise that revolutionising the docks in isolation was not on; but he was shocked at the suggestion that organised workers would ever want to wreck anything by force—even the exploitative system. Just keep on with economic demands, and no doubt we will all wake up one fine day and find that, somehow, painlessly, without a fight, socialism will have dawned!

These comments made a play too—a Comedy of Errors.

The White and The Pink

TAKE a stretch of grassland, a crowd of opaque-looking soldiers, some cornfields, a slow, winding river, some modern film techniques and a couple of nude scenes thrown in for good measure, and you have 'The White and the Red', showing at Academy Two, Oxford Street.

This Hungarian film was directed by Miklos Jancso. The film was not unlike his last one, 'The Roundup'. Both were set in the same slow-moving summer atmosphere. 'The White and the Red' is about some Hungarian ex-prisoners of war, fighting on the Red Army side in the Civil War following the 1917 Revolution. The whole film seems to be based on a game of leapfrog, with the Reds capturing the Whites and Whites capturing the Reds, and so on. On each occasion executions are carried out. On the whole, the Reds tend to be a little less brutal than the Whites, although the Whites are also merciful on a couple of occasions. And all of this with the minimum of words. There is not an inkling of the world-shattering events taking place. The point is not that there may have been acts of mercy by some Whites; nor that the Reds were sometimes "not nice" to the enemy. On taking power, hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants had answered the call to defend the Revolution with little more than their bare hands. They were fighting an army that was, largely, made up of thousands of Czarist Officers, the actual capitalists and landlords, who had exploited them for so long. THAT is the point. And that was completely absent from the film.

It could not even be said that this film was about the horrors of war. Both sides have clean faces. They do not scream when they are shot, nor do they bleed. So what, in fact, was the message of this film? The message was: "It all happened a long time ago". An interesting time in history, a perfect backdrop for modern cinema techniques. In other words, a perfect example of modern revisionism, and the betrayal of the working class and all that working men and women have fought and died for.

In complete contrast was the trilogy 'My Life'. These three films have been showing at the Everyman Cinema, Hampstead, during January and February. 'My Life' is a Soviet film, depicting the early years in the life of Maxim Gorky. It was made in 1935 and directed by M. Donasky. The three parts were called 'Childhood', 'My Apprenticeship', and 'My Universities'. It shows the struggles of a boy, brought up by poverty-stricken grandparents, to educate himself. Gorky's training was life itself, and his teachers were the ordinary workers and peasants he lived and worked with. This film is a tribute to a champion of his class, the great Soviet writer Maxim Gorky. Most of all, it is a tribute to the working people, who are depicted with warmth and feeling.

and when Adams announced the re-opening of LSE on his terms, with gates restored, the students were too confused by the incorrect IS line to unite in resistance to this move. However, the issues of the gates, investigations of staff, court trials, control in the interests of imperialism and job recruitment all remain. The LSE struggle will surely begin again.

The primary lesson of this struggle is that power is vested in the monopoly-capitalist, imperialist state, and this is no mere abstraction. We engage in struggle within the university: the administration is pressured by the ruling class and their representatives to set up a system of internal discipline and call in the police. That is real power. As long as the universities are controlled and financed by the capitalist class, backed by the state power of their police, courts, laws, grants, committees, etc. they will be reactionary, will

serve imperialism, will teach self-interest and careerism, will deny higher education to the working class, will perpetuate bourgeois ideology and culture, will divorce education from class struggle and the needs of the working people.

Not until state power is in the hands of the working class can the university become really revolutionary and serve the working people under their direction. This can only be brought about by waging struggles aimed at forging a worker-student alliance on a correct basis.

If struggles are conducted in this way, we will begin to integrate ourselves with the working masses and take up their standpoint, so that, after we leave the university, at which we spend only three years, we will not become weekend revolutionaries, but will continue the fight to smash capitalism and establish workers state power to build socialism.

NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Professor Cyril Offord, F.R.S. (London University).
Secretary: Joanna Seymour.

AIMS: "To encourage friendship between the Albanian and British people."
"To disseminate knowledge about the country, its history, people and socialist development."
"To encourage personal scientific and cultural contacts."
"To study the political, economic and cultural policy of Albania."

We have formed the NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY to ensure that knowledge of and news from Albania should be available to those who wish to know about its development. ALBANIA, a country the size of Wales, has a population of about two million. This country, enslaved for centuries, liberated itself in 1945 by heroic warfare against the Italian and German fascists.

Once they had cleared the fascists from their country they set about rebuilding and developing it under the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour led by ENVER HOXHA who had been a great guerrilla leader.

This country colonially dominated and underdeveloped is well on the way to becoming entirely self supporting, agriculturally and in industrial development.

There is much to learn from their self reliance and development of their own socialist construction. We can help ourselves by studying their successes.

Our problems may be very different from those of the Albanian people, but we have one thing in common, our desire to apply it to find solutions of some of our pressing problems and to end imperialism for all time and achieve peace.

Anyone wishing to become a member of the New Albania Society (annual subscription 10/-) should write to the Secretary, Miss Joanna Seymour, 217 Westbourne Grove, London, W.11.

KIDOLC Big Business

LORD Hill of Television has poured scorn on the idea that Television has any real effect on public thinking and behaviour. Money talks otherwise. That industry concerned in conning the masses into spending their money, which they can ill afford, on things they don't want and are not what they are cracked up to be, anyway, is really booming according to recent reports.

Last year, Procter and Gamble and Lever Brothers (soap ads. etc.) spent over £5-million each on television and press advertisements. Other notable advertising spendings were Cadbury Group £3,800,000, Mars £4 million, the Banks spent £3,600,000, Unit Trusts £3,200,000, two of the main advertising agencies between them accounted for £3,800,000.

Of course, Lord Hill may be right, and the consumer may be quite oblivious to the blurb, but the advertisers don't agree—and back their judgement in millions of pounds, annually. They should worry, the consumer pays—not them.

A Trade Unionist's View of Albania

Colour Slides—Refreshments
7.30 pm March 15
Bellman Bookshop
155 Portico Road, Tufnell Park, N.W.5
Admission 1/-

Albania

A Recent Visitor Speaks about the People and the Country
7.30 pm March 14
The Black Horse, West Street, Bristol 2
Questions & Discussion—Admission free

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Students march in protest at the closing of LSE