

# THE WORKER

## WORKERS WIN AT MAGNAVOX!

Six hundred workers, 90% women and girls, employed at American-owned Magnavox Ltd. Barking, Essex, walked out over a new pay deal. On Friday, February 20th, after a tough 17-day strike the employers had to come up with a new pay offer which was accepted by a mass meeting of workers.

This firm makes record changers for its parent company in the USA and on 31st December last year a two-year contract expired. It gave workers 4% in 1968 and 3% in 1969. Negotiations for a straight pay increase without strings became deadlocked with a final pay offer of 14/- for the majority of the women and varying offers for others.

The offers were rejected at a mass meeting of workers on February 3rd with a decision for immediate strike action, the first ever at these works. In most appalling weather conditions over the next 17 days men, women and girls picketed the gates from 7.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The strike was total and united. This fact has significance in the light of a kind of built-in disunity that has characterised this firm for years.

Among the women there are two distinct bonus systems operating, and some women are on no bonus at all. The men are divided into skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. It has in the past been almost impossible even to formulate a claim acceptable to all, leave alone fight unitedly for an acceptable settlement.

On February 20th, after negotiations with the employers, an acceptable new pay offer was won. The gains in monetary terms are 30/- to 35/- per week for women and 1/- to 1/8 per hour for men - the biggest increases ever obtained at this firm, back-dated to January 1st.

The gains to be achieved from the unity forged in action are there to be realised.



A mass meeting of strikers at Magnavox being addressed by Ted Roycraft, AEF Divisional official

## Women Workers in Revolt

### Equal pay is not enough

THE CPB(ML) has always concerned itself with the question of equal pay and fully realises that this must be seen in the context of the whole issue of the complete emancipation of women. The following statement was prepared as a contribution of our Party to public meetings and discussions on the subject. As Mao Tse-tung says: "Men and women must receive equal pay for equal work in production. Genuine equality between the sexes can only be realised in the process of the socialist transformation of society as a whole."

No group in Britain suffers worse exploitation and discrimination than women workers. What are the facts?

**Low Earnings:** Tax figures show that women workers earn about half what men do. 4 million women (half of all working women) earn less than 5/- an hour!

**Unequal Jobs:** Women are concentrated in low-paying types of jobs, or 'women's jobs' that men seldom or never do. There is no equality of job opportunity.

**Discrimination in Training and Education:** Women do not get training for skilled jobs and suffer discrimination in all higher education.

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ducts of their labour? 'Democracy' in Britain is simply the way the ruling class fools the people into thinking they have some say in government. 'Democracy' in Britain is letting the people vote freely on which of the boss's stooges Wilson or Heath, will live at No. Ten. 'Democracy' in Britain is letting the people pay freely in taxes for the upkeep of a Government serving the interests of the ruling class and an army and police force which protect its property.

Every time there is the threat of a strike, the call goes up from the bosses and their stooges in Whitehall and elsewhere "Let's have a secret ballot. Secret ballots are so democratic!" The bosses know that the strength of the working class is its unity. That is why they are always trying to split the working class—into black and white, men and women, skilled and unskilled, young and old. And the best means of all for splitting them is the secret ballot. It splits workers into private individuals, each one separated from his mates and feeling completely on his own against the management with the whole power of the state behind it. This is boss democracy.

Workers democracy is any open meeting where the mass of workers with leaders they can trust freely express their class interests with a full sense of their own solidarity and strength in unity against the class enemy. When workers on the basis of this kind of gathering start to march it is democratic. In Lenin's phrase "they are voting with their feet."

But if the majority of workers, as at Fords, vote not to strike it is not

democratic for a minority, as at Swansea, to go it alone? Only if you use 'democracy' in the Ramsey-Castle boss sense. Democracy is the rule of the working masses. It can only be achieved when the working masses under revolutionary leadership throw out the rule of the bosses and establish their own rule.

Therefore any action workers take in fighting the class enemy instead of collaborating with him is a step in the direction of true working class democracy. Which workers then are acting democratically in this true sense, those who in the name of their fellow-workers are prepared to take on management in a head-on struggle or those who are willing to accept any advance someone else's strike may win but are not prepared to make sacrifices themselves?

The working class will not be able to advance in an absolutely even line. Those with the courage and determination to take the lead are not an "unrepresentative minority". They are the forces farthest along the road to true democracy and real working class rule.

The two main democracies in the world today are China and Albania. Because real democracy is socialism, the ending of exploitation through working class rule. In China and Albania the vast majority, the working masses, exercise real control. They take the lead in every field, cultural as well as economic, because they are politically in command. That is the standard of democracy which the workers of Britain will use in judging whether something is democratic or not.

## FORDS

THE MEN at the Swansea axle factory have gone back and the strike threat at Fords is over - for the time being. While it lasted, Ford management and the Government's Department of Employment and Productivity grew quite hysterical in their denunciations of the workers who dared to come out and the leaders who really took a vanguard position.

The strike threat is over; but let no one think that the £4 to £5.15.0 rise was granted by management for any other reason than a healthy respect for what the workers, united on the question of parity, could have done to Ford profits. The Ford bosses have got away this time with their bluff that it was a final offer; but the wage increase and the agreement on equal pay by 1971 makes nonsense of the Government's income policy and delaying tactics on women's pay.

Perhaps no question of industrial action as serious as this, involving so many workers, has ever been left so much to the workers themselves to decide. When the bosses thought strike action on a wide-scale might take place, they called this a fatal refusal of the two main unions to take a lead. When the workers decided against strike action, the bosses congratulated themselves on knowing the men better than their shop stewards did.

It is true that grave mistakes were made but since they were made by workers, workers themselves can learn from them. They cannot blame consequences on somebody else who took decisions on their behalf. They have also had a chance never before to see who was prepared to lead them into struggle and who washed their hands of the whole thing. Anyone who showed himself ready to go the limit if the men wanted it that way, naturally got smeared by the bosses, their press and their Government. One man in particular was singled out by the Sunday papers in their Ford post-mortem. But as Mao says, to be attacked by the enemy is not a bad thing but a good thing.

Reg Birch, Secretary of the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee, warned AEF stewards at the end of January that they were making a very serious mistake in postponing the date for strike action from the 2nd to the 16th of February if they did not mean what they said. In any case, he explained, it is bad tactics to keep men waiting a whole fortnight to go over the top - quite apart from the silliness of letting the boss know so far in advance what you're planning to do to him.

What really confused the negotiations was rejecting Ford management's offer of £4 without recognising that the only logical form such rejection could possibly take was strike action - not in two week's time but immediately. When it didn't happen, the bosses began to realize that an empty gun was being held to their heads. The last has not been heard of this mistake. The bosses will never hesitate to take advantage of any sign of weakness on the part of workers. The fight dodged today will have to be fought tomorrow, even if the conditions for it are not so favourable.

But worst of all, workers discarded their trump card - solidarity. They were prepared to let a few thousand militants go it alone, accepting any gains that might come of fellow-workers' sacrifices but opting out of struggle themselves. In a situation like that, resolutions of support or votes of congratulation are empty gestures. The only support worth anything is withdrawal of labour in complete unity.

So there it is. But at least the workers of Fords have not tried to fool themselves about their motives or the consequences of their actions. That is why they can learn from their mistakes and carry on the fight - not just for parity but for control of their own destiny. They will yet be in action which will wipe the smiles off the faces of the Ford bosses.

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**'INDUSTRIAL  
FRONT'**

## Editorial

Mr. Bob Ramsey, spokesman for the Ford bosses, and Mrs. Barbara Castle, typical mouthpiece for the bosses in the Labour Government, have been screaming their heads off about the undemocratic behaviour of the Swansea militants and those who backed their strike.

Comrade Reg Birch, Secretary of the Ford Joint Negotiating Committee and chairman of the CPB (ML), speaking on television news of the AEF stewards' decision to congratulate the Swansea strikers described it as democratic.

Obviously when Bob Ramsey or Barbara Castle use the word 'democratic' they mean something very different by it than Reg Birch means.

'Democracy' literally means rule of the people, rule of the masses. But at no time where society has been divided into antagonistic classes have the masses of people ever ruled. In ancient Greece, where the word originated, the people of Athens did rule briefly; but the slaves, servants and foreigners who did all the work did not count as people.

No one can suppose that the masses of working people in 'democratic' Britain rule the country. If they did, why would they be making themselves redundant, slashing their own wages by letting prices soar and cheating themselves out of the pro-

With a firm belief in the great truth "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun", the Palestinian people oppose the scheme of "peaceful solution" of the Middle East problem contrived by U.S. imperialism and modern revisionism and are determined to carry the armed struggle through to the end. Photo shows fighters of "Al Assifa" Commando units under the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Al Fatah) pressing toward the west bank of the Jordan River occupied by the Israeli aggressors, ready to attack the enemy.



## US-Soviet Collusion in Middle East!

ENCOURAGED by the US with Nixon's pledge of further deliveries of arms, including more Phantom bombers, Israel has been feeling stroppy in recent weeks. Bomb attacks are carried out daily against neighbouring Arab countries. The latest and most notorious act was the bombing of a scrap metal processing factory near Cairo, murdering eighty Arab workers. These acts of barbarism by Israel have led to increasing indignation by millions of Arab masses. Tens of thousands demonstrated in the streets of Cairo following the attack on the processing factory demanding arms to fight the Israeli aggressors.

The UAR, which has depended on the Soviet Union for arms ever since the Suez war in 1956, is now faced with the virtual breakdown of air defences against Israeli aircraft. The Soviet Union has used its supply of arms to attempt to enforce a settlement in the Middle East. Since the 1967 war, the so-called "making good the losses of the UAR" has consisted of inadequate defensive weapons and a chronic lack of offensive ones - this in spite of the repeated requests of the UAR for these weapons the latest of which was the request for the new Migs

so far denied by the Soviet Union.

It is no coincidence that at the time when the US is arming Israel to the teeth, permitting US citizens to serve in the Israeli army and giving full support to Israeli aggressive acts, the Soviet Union is holding back from meeting the request of the UAR for adequate weapons. It is part of the strategy worked out by the US and the Soviet Union in their "super powers" talks on the Middle East where maximum pressure is now being applied against the Arab countries to achieve a speedy "settlement" in that part of the world.

A "settlement" is now seen to be more urgent than ever with the daily victories achieved by the Palestinian guerrillas, the future of many stooges like Hussein hanging in the balance and with Israel facing a most intense crisis suffering heavier losses every day. The Israeli intensive aerial attacks supported fully by the US and the increasing blackmail used by the Soviet Union against the UAR is part of an attempt to intimidate the Arab peoples and force a settlement against the Arab and Palestinian masses.

## N.IRELAND - paradise for British Imperialism

A COLONY like Northern Ireland is Paradise for British capitalists. 1) It is a captive market in which they can sell the goods produced elsewhere - 90% of Northern Ireland's imports come from or through Britain and their value each year is about £500m. 2) It is a source of cheap labour for British investors - three quarters of all Irish families take home less than £20 a week. 3) When a British capitalist invests in Northern Ireland he gets over half his investment in the form of a grant from the government, which in turn got it as a "gift" from tax-paying workers. 4) The pampering of British capitalists (with workers' money) goes so far that both the original investment and the profits are insured by the government - in one recent case the Armagh County Council was compelled to pay the Balmawear Company £587,033 for plant destroyed in last year's riots and £256,500 in compensation for lost profits.

Obviously Britain's big capitalists are not going to let this Paradise go without a fight. Last summer's uprisings in Belfast, Derry and other towns threatened to take Northern Ireland right out of British imperialism's grasp. The Labour Government, always the obedient servant of the capitalist class, promptly despatched 10,000 troops to keep the people in check. To assist the troops they created two new police forces to take the place of the notorious 'B-Specials'

and announced the expansion of the Royal Ulster Constabulary from 3,000 to 5,000 men. With these three forces Northern Ireland is literally becoming a 'police state' with nearly four times as many per head of population as in Britain. Right on our doorstep we see living proof that British capitalists will resort to fascist violence when workers threaten their profits.

But the workers of Northern Ireland will not be intimidated. Unemployment, already affecting 7-1/2% of the workforce, is officially expected to get worse. The workers, united as never before under the barrels of British guns, will not tolerate this oppression and exploitation; no amount of troops and police will hold back their just rebellion.

## BRISTOL FIRM SHUT DOWN

THE old established engineering firm of W.H. Bird and Sons, well known in the Bristol area, employing skilled workers producing high quality gears, was suddenly shut down in the middle of February by a bank foreclosure.

The employees were well-organised and the stewards had just arranged a works conference on increased wages. Things seemed to be going well with £57,000 worth of work on the shop floor and the firm had recently been making a profit. The AEF district secretary had just reached an understanding with shop stewards and company officials in respect to wages and redundancy payments. But in spite of all this the bank foreclosed and that was that!

As our Bristol correspondent writes: "We may believe that we are in control of the situation at any given time and that the issue as to whether the firm continues doing business is a matter between organised labour and management; but the people who made the final decision in this particular case were the money lenders, the controllers of capital, whom the unions were not even negotiating with!"

"The lesson these workers must learn from this experience is that there is no security under capitalism and no matter how well they may think they have the situation in their hands, it is forces beyond their control that determine their future."

"It is ironic that the stewards in this firm had always shown a lot of misplaced loyalty to it. Though they were poorly paid even by Bristol area standards, they were reluctant to ask for more money as they said it might break the company!"

March 21, 1970 is the tenth anniversary of one of the most hideous atrocities of the century - the Sharpeville massacre. An unarmed group of Africans had gathered in a peaceful demonstration against the racist pass laws when the police opened fire, killing 69 men women and children and injuring 180 more. Many were shot in the back as they fled.

This blood debt the African people will surely rise up and pay in full. The forces of people's war which will smash the fascist white-minority governments of southern Africa are gathering strength. Those of us in Britain who feel a great bond of solidarity with the people of Africa fighting for their liberation will never allow the representatives of any form of Apartheid to strut about this country with impunity!

## Radio

(Note: All times of broadcasts are given in British Time)

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Pakistan:  
9.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. 32,45,47 metre bands  
10.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 32,42,45,47 metre bands

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Times:  
7.30 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. 31,42 metre bands  
7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. 31,42 metre bands  
9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. 31,42 metre bands  
11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 31,42 metre bands  
(The 9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium waves, 215 metre band)

Daily Broadcast from Menlo:  
9.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band

Come and hear the latest  
**POLITICAL SONGS**  
and the best of our  
**TRADITIONAL MUSIC**

at the  
**CROYDON COME ALL-YE FOLK CLUB**  
Sundays 7.30 p.m.  
**THE BLUE ANCHOR**  
Brighton Road, South Croydon

**CURRENT PROGRAMME:**  
8 March Residents + Geoff Lowe  
15 March COME ALL YE! Residents, Floor singers, etc.  
22 March Betty Cairns from Scotland  
29 March Residents + Dick Snell  
5 April COLD IRON (Graham Nelmes, Grev Butler, Gadsfan Edwards) from Swansea

the club exists to promote traditional and contemporary song in the folk-style and to help the development of a popular culture

## NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Professor Cyril Offord, F.R.S. (London University.)  
Secretary: Joanne 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."

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

## MASSACRES

THE recent reports in the capitalist press of the massacre by British troops of unarmed civilians in Malaya in 1948, brings home to British workers yet another example of the barbarity of imperialism in its attempts to suppress the struggles of peoples throughout the world for national liberation. This massacre ranks with those carried out by the Nazis at Lidice and the American imperialists at Son My.

The Army, the Government and the Imperialist companies with big investments in Malaya would have us believe that it was some isolated incident quite out of character with the "benign" nature of British rule overseas. However, it must be understood that this massacre was part of the standard tactics of terror, murder, and suppression used by British imperialism in Africa, India, Malaya and other parts of the world for over a century. Why? Because the imperialist companies with investments in these countries want to continue exploiting the labour of the peoples there to obtain vast profits.

Faced with such intense exploitation and overt oppression the people of the countries dominated by imperialism are bound to rise up and fight for independence, as they did in Malaya, yet they are described as "Terrorists" while the real terrorists are lauded as heroes. It is interesting to note that Brigadier Thompson who conducted the campaign of suppression in Malaya is now adviser to Nixon on Vietnam.

## MALAYA

### BRITISH IMPERIALISM

MALAYA remains a very juicy plum for British monopoly capitalism. Although on the decline and being forced out by US, Japanese and Russian imperialism, British imperialism is still strongly entrenched in Singapore and the mainland, to the tune of some 800 million pounds in rubber, palm oil, tin, all of which produce colossal super profits.

Heath, during his recent trip to Australia as well as Roy Mason, President of the Board of Trade during his recent visit to Singapore, both commented on British profits past, present and future. If figures of British enterprises like London Tin Mining Company or Klang Rubber Estates Company which had a 400% increase in its net profits for 1969 over 1968 are anything to go by, then one can understand why, despite all the talk of the withdrawal of a British military presence East of Suez by 1971, some 25,000 British troops from all three services will be taking part in military exercises, along with puppet troops and those from Australia and New Zealand in Malaya between May and June.

Two battalions are to fly out from Britain in May for six weeks training at the jungle warfare school where British instructors have for years been training US imperialist troops to conduct aggression against the peoples of Vietnam and other countries of

Southeast Asia. The main exercise will be held in Northeast Malaya where the Malayan National Liberation forces under the leadership of the Communist Party of Malaya have been very active over the last few years.

### PEOPLES' WAR

The substitution of direct British rule by the puppet government of the "Federation of Malaya" only means that Malaya remains as a neo-colony of British, with British imperialism still exploiting the people as ruthlessly as ever. The struggle of the Malayan people continues. Recently the Malayan National Liberation Army has begun to carry out extensive and successful military operations against the puppet troops. British imperialism and its puppets are now faced with the threat of a full scale peoples' war.

The imperialist bosses that exploit the Malayan people are the same bosses that exploit the British workers here at home. Therefore, it is in the direct interest of the workers here to oppose any use of the British troops still stationed in Malaya to oppress Malayan peoples struggle, and to call for their recall. There should be no illusions, however, that a Labour Government would be more amenable to this than a Tory one, remember Labour was in power in 1948. It carried out an imperialist policy in Malaya then, and it carries out an imperialist policy there now.

# SPIES

Warwick students have seized political files on staff and students. It has been reported that letters from Enoch Powell, the Chief Education Officer of Warwickshire, and industrialists from Rootes and Courtaulds have been discovered, which report on student and staff political activities. It appears from the disclosures that students appearing to Warwick have been rejected because of their activities in S.A.U., that pressure has been placed on a visiting American lecturer because he had a "bias against employers," that there has been close surveillance of students' on and off campus political activity, including distribution of "subversive literature." Warwick, like all universities, is closely tied to imperialist interests - Rootes, British Leyland, Barclays Bank etc.

## Sussex.

It is also said that there was a letter from "liberal" Asa Briggs, Vice Chancellor of Sussex University, giving advice on how to best politically discipline students. Two years ago, Briggs advocated political screening of foreign post-graduate students, following rustications after a Vietnam demonstration at Sussex. Last month the Sussex Union under CPBML student leadership, again nullified the University disciplinary scheme, which includes political files and the right of the University to suspend and expel for political activity.

## Expose and Fight the University.

These revelations show the corporate state bourgeois dictatorship at work in one more area - for the university is an integral part of the imperialist system. As students and teachers bring progressive politics into the universities, as we face worsening



# ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

AS A regular feature THE WORKER will include short factual items about the main industrial struggles of the workers of Britain month by month. Contributions to help us make this coverage as complete as possible will be appreciated.

"If you proceed from production, you necessarily concern yourself with the real conditions of production and the productive activity of men. But if you proceed from consumption... you can afford to ignore the real living conditions and the activity of men."

- Marx, The German Ideology

## FORDS

Strike action in furtherance of the £10 claim on behalf of 48,000 Ford workers for parity with Rootes workers at Ryton, Coventry was postponed from February 2nd until February 16th in the hope of an improvement on the inadequate £4 offer. At meetings on the 15th at Dagonium, Halewood, and other plants, workers voted against strike action. But at the key Swansea axle plant 1500 workers went on strike and 3,500 Halewood workers came out rather than handle axles from Swansea, thus forcing Fords to agree that parity would be discussed in the National Joint Negotiating Committee. The Swansea strikers returned after a week in which Fords claimed a loss of £3.7 million of production.

## CLOTHING INDUSTRY

Average 1969 wages were £20 19s 4d for men £11 18s 10d for women, while some men are taking home only £12 4s 10d for a 40 hour week, and women only £8 4s 7d for 31 hours. The National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers negotiated a national agreement covering 350,000 workers, 85% of whom are women, with the Clothing Manufacturer's Federation effective from January 1st which increased the basic rate by 9-1/2d an hour, with 4d for women and 5d for men earning more than the new basic rate. In an unofficial strike which started at the Leeds factory of John Collier in early February and spread throughout Leeds and S. Yorkshire the workers have been rejecting the agreement and demanding an all-round 1s an hour increase. Union officials who recommended a return to work were shouted down and the militancy of the usually quiet women workers forced the head of the local clothing manufacturers to moan "What have we come to? Our factory was picketed last week. They banged at the windows and shouted until our workers came out. And most of them, you know, were women."

## HULL TRAWLERS

Trawlermen have been refusing to sail since Friday 13th February, following a mass meeting which decided on a strike

conditions and unemployment (as teachers) because of DES proposals for the future, the ruling class uses not only the glove (the illusion of participatory democracy) but the fist (exclusion of left-wing students and staff). As more files are revealed, as in Warwick, and more disciplinary systems nullified, as in Sussex, the contradictions facing the ruling class and their academic agents will be intensified.

## Workers black-listed.

What the students are protesting about in universities and training colleges has always been the case with workers. Employers keep full files on the political views and affiliations of workers which they make available to each other. A worker who for his militancy gets black-listed by one employer will find it almost impossible to get a job of the same nature anywhere in the country.

## BLACK S.A. CRICKET TEAM

MEN at the Pressed Steel Fisher car body plant at Oxford have called on their union, the Transport and General Workers, to boycott the South African cricket tour this summer.

At a meeting on February 1st the Pressed Steel branch of the TGWU, Britain's largest Union, passed by an overwhelming majority a resolution calling on the National Executive Committee to black the 1970 tour of the cricket team from fascist South Africa.

This could paralyse public transport to cricket matches, cut essential services at places where the Springboks are playing, tie up airport ground staff and result in a refusal of hotel staff to look after the

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## Women Workers in Revolt

### Receiving Higher Education

Men 22%  
Women 8%  
On Day Release

Boys under 20 - 47% of those who pay stamp.  
Girls under 20 - 9 of those who pay stamp.  
The proportion of skilled workers who are women has actually dropped since 1911!  
**National Insurance Inequalities:** Pensions for women are paid at a lower rate for the same contributions. Married women get less sickness and unemployment benefits if they pay the full stamp (none otherwise). These are just two of many examples.  
**Domestic Responsibilities - The Second Job:** Social custom says that housework and child care must be done by women even if they work full-time. 2/3 of working women

racialist touring team.  
The resolution which has been endorsed by the clerical section at the same factory reads as follows:  
"This 5/60 Branch requests the National Executive to call on all TGWU members to completely black at all levels the 1970 tour of the apartheid-selected South African cricket team from the earliest possible moment to prove our solidarity with African trade unionists who because of the apartheid policy face a three year term of imprisonment or a £500 fine if they attempt to strike to improve their conditions, as stated in the 'Record' (Jan. 1970 p.14)."

Why?  
a) "Women's work" is already designated by employers as "different work," not "equal work," which means that most jobs won't be affected at all by the bill. In engineering, for example, a great degree of segregation of the sexes already exists, and more can be introduced. Some industries developed on the basis of female labour, e.g. Weinstock's electronics empire. Men have never done these jobs. No matter how skilled the job done by a woman she won't get equal pay unless the same job is actually done by a man.  
b) Jobs done by women that are the same can be slightly changed so that they aren't exactly equal. This was done during the WFT to get round the rule that women put on men's jobs had to be given equal pay. The bill becomes nothing but a joke when you consider it provides no penalties for employers who ignore it! And of course it doesn't even touch upon the bigger question of equal job opportunity. In a nutshell, this bill is a phoney, designed to fool women workers.

**MAGNAVOX**  
600 workers, mostly women, claiming a £2 a week increase came out on strike against this American owned firm for two weeks.  
**SINGER**  
106 maintenance workers in the AEF struck when a supervisor did manual work. The strike cut off the power supply and closed the factory, one of the biggest in Scotland.  
**GIRLING'S**  
71 engineers at the disc brake factory at Bromborough, Cheshire went on strike for higher piecework rates (from 160% to 250% higher) on certain machines.

**NALGO**  
The National and Local Government Officers Association was involved in an official strike for the first time in its 65 year lifetime when 21 administrative and clerical staff in Leeds Corporation cleansing department stopped work in support of a 25s a week productivity payment already being made to supervisory staff and manual workers.

**POST OFFICE**  
Clerks in the Civil and Public Services Association were staging guerrilla strikes after the Post Office offered increases averaging 8.8% to clerks in the Union of Post Office Workers, which accepted the offer. The Association which was demanding 12%, has not only been refused full negotiating rights but has had the 8.8% offer withdrawn.

**TEACHERS**  
After an 85% vote in favour of strike action, 4,850 members of the National Union of Teachers began an indefinite strike in Birmingham, and were joined by members of the Assistant Masters Association. The National Association of Schoolmasters which is also carrying out local strike actions thinks that the demand should not be for an interim increase of £135 but for £200 and that the government's Burnham committee on teachers salaries is not a genuinely impartial arbitrator. The NUT is increasing its strike levy from £1 a month to £2 - £6 depending on income. The NUT executive has decided to increase the pressure by banning supervision of GCE and CSE examinations this summer.

**GODFREY DAVIS**  
Fitters and apprentices successfully struck to ensure that car repair work not covered in the original specification should be covered by a docket. Foremen had been victimising workers by making them do extra work, then refusing them the money for it by claiming it had not been authorised.

get some help from husbands, according to a recent Government survey, but this help is mainly limited to washing up. Very few get any help with heavy housework, washing, shopping and care of children. 1/5 of all working women are responsible for children, yet the Ministry of Health admit they are doing nothing to meet the demand of these women for child-care facilities.

## Roots of Inequality.

Money is supposed to be the root of all evil, and money is clearly the root of all inequality for women. Unequal pay and unequal jobs, which line the pockets of employers with over £1000 million a year in extra profits, are the economic basis for discrimination in education, in the law and in the home. The same employers who grow rich by exploiting cheap female labour are the same "influential people" who control the Government (whether "Labour" or Tory), make the laws, run the education system, etc. They recognise that the outbreak of struggle by women workers (Fords, Plessey, BSR, Lucas, Magnavox, the nurses, etc.) is extremely important. It strikes at the economic roots of women's oppression and therefore it strikes terror into their hearts.

## Barbara Castle's Bill - a Phoney.

It is only due to the rise of militant action among women workers that the Government have suddenly got so concerned about equal pay. By promising equal pay they hope to head off the movement on the job for equal pay and transfer it to the bosses' talking shop - Parliament. Barbara Castle is posing as the great crusader for women workers, but really only for the purpose of misleading them. In fact her bill will benefit very few women workers.

Why?  
a) "Women's work" is already designated by employers as "different work," not "equal work," which means that most jobs won't be affected at all by the bill. In engineering, for example, a great degree of segregation of the sexes already exists, and more can be introduced. Some industries developed on the basis of female labour, e.g. Weinstock's electronics empire. Men have never done these jobs. No matter how skilled the job done by a woman she won't get equal pay unless the same job is actually done by a man.  
b) Jobs done by women that are the same can be slightly changed so that they aren't exactly equal. This was done during the WFT to get round the rule that women put on men's jobs had to be given equal pay. The bill becomes nothing but a joke when you consider it provides no penalties for employers who ignore it! And of course it doesn't even touch upon the bigger question of equal job opportunity. In a nutshell, this bill is a phoney, designed to fool women workers.

**Bosses' Stake in Inequality.**  
Women workers will never get equality handed them on a plate. They will only get it through long and bitter struggle. The bosses have too much at stake on this issue:  
1) They are making a fortune out of unequal pay and unequal jobs. The £1000 million they admit they are stealing from women only counts part of the theft. It doesn't count what they steal through low-paying "women's jobs" that aren't done by men.  
2) They always divide workers into categories so as to prevent united action against themselves, for example white collars against blue collar, black against white, youth against adult, men against women. This "divide and rule" is a favourite tactic of bosses all around the world, whether in Ireland where they set Protestant against Catholic, or in Cyprus where they set Greek against Turk, or Nigeria where they set Yoruba against Ibo. Every trade unionist knows how division and lack of unity destroys the fight against the bosses.  
3) By denying their equality and keeping them in a separate "feminine" category, employers want to dampen down the fighting spirit of women and promote "ladylike" submissiveness to the bosses. If women can be kept passive and docile, superprofits will continue to roll in.

**The Strength of Women Workers.**  
Isn't it ironic that today when Britain would grind to a halt without women workers they still remain underpaid drudges financially dependent on their husbands to make ends meet! Today in Britain most jobs can be done equally well by both sexes - women have equal ability to do highly skilled and scientific work. Some difficult jobs can be done more easily by women. Nowadays few women spend their whole lives at home raising children and doing housework - more and more of them are working throughout their lives except for a few years when their children are small.

But profit rules everything in capitalist Britain. Women's equality will be sacrificed to the pound sterling. No bills in Parliament will change this situation. The fight has to be shouldered by women workers themselves, who have shown they have a great ability to fight.  
In fact there is a revolutionary fight, a part of the struggle of the whole working class against the capitalist system of exploitation which is geared entirely to squeezing out maximum profits wherever it can. Only with the overthrow of the profit system, only when workers take control of the state themselves, as in socialist China and Albania, can women and men workers hope to share equally in the benefits of society.

## C.P.B.M.L. Secretariat statement on intensification of racialism by the British ruling class

ALMOST two years ago, on February 24, 1968, the Secretariat of our Party issued a statement condemning the Labour Government's amendment to the 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act - to restrict Kenyan Asians, holding British passports, from entering Britain. The Labour Government's racist policy of excluding British citizens simply on the grounds of race was then incorporated in the 1968 Commonwealth Immigrants Act. Our Party's Programme, adopted at the first Congress in April 1968, in the section attacking racialism in Britain, included total opposition to the Government's racist immigration policy. (Section 49) Since then the ruling class has stepped up its use of racialism through official policy including intimidation of black people through the police and judiciary, and propaganda through the press, radio and television. Every alleged infringement of the immigration laws is so played up as to make the supposed "illegal immigrant" whether from India, Jamaica or Kenya a dire threat to the rights and liberty of British people.

In our 1968 Statement we had called the Labour Government "indistinguishable from the fascists of the Tory Party when it comes to racist legislation. Today, the deliberate use of the poisonous tool of racialism which has been an important weapon in the armoury of all imperialist powers - Britain, USA, Germany, Russia etc. - ever since the growth of capitalism, is assuming dangerous proportions. As British capitalism sees the writing on the wall both in its overseas empire and within the ranks of the working class of Britain, as it contemplates the growth of fierce resistance to imperialism in country after country of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the beginnings of a Marxist revolutionary movement among the working class of Europe, it is determined to use every weapon to smash the spectre of revolution and delay its own overthrow.

Therefore, the present intensification of racialism in Britain by the spokesmen of British monopoly capitalism (be they the Labour Government or Conservative opposition) must be taken seriously. This is so even when the immediate victims happen to be a handful of Kenyan Asians like Miss Ranjan Vaid who was shunted from country to country although she is a legal British citizen holding a British passport. The

same exclusion on racist grounds of East African Asians, now stranded in France and Switzerland, although all of them are British passport holders and not stateless persons, must be condemned as a deliberate attempt by the British ruling class to propagate racialism in Britain today. Each and every exclusion of British citizens from Britain on the basis of ethnic origin, dubbing black people guilty so that it is they who have to prove their innocence rather than making the state prove their guilt are deliberate violations of fundamental principles of British bourgeois democracy. We who are Marxists do not wish to preserve bourgeois democracy but neither will we allow the growth of fascism for the sake of intensifying capitalist exploitation of all sections of the working class. The exclusion of black people through the racist immigration laws of Britain is part and parcel of the growth of the new form of bourgeois state in Britain - the corporate state - in which the working class will be further oppressed and forbidden its fundamental rights e.g. the right to strike. Wherever capitalism has resorted to fascism it has had to intensify racialism. The British ruling class is no exception.

The CPBM-L condemns all forms of racist oppression in Britain whether practised by Wolverhampton City Council or the Labour Government, employers or landlords. It recognises that the doctrines of racist supremacy, which have been an inherent part of British colonialism, for centuries, will require a long struggle for their overthrow. It knows that such a struggle can only be led by the working class with Marxist-Leninist leadership. It calls upon all members, sympathisers and allies: take the initiative in combatting every form of racist deed and propaganda; strengthen the Black Peoples Alliance by working with it; oppose all divisive, disruptive and diversionary tactics by the ruling class anxious to weaken working class solidarity; combat the revisionist-reformist approach which would like to restrict the struggle to conciliation and legal change. Racialism is part of imperialism. It can only be smashed by the revolutionary struggle of the working class of Britain - white and black - guided by Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse Tung thought. Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!

**South Vietnam in Continuous Offensive and Uprising**  
A.U.S. tank destroyed by N.F.L. guerrillas in Gio Linh district, Quang Tri province, during a counter attack against an enemy sweep.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday March 20th 7.30 p.m.  
155 Fortress Road (Tufnell Park) N.W.5.

Films from China: "China's H Bomb" and "The New Tars" admission 2/6.

Friday April 3rd 7.30 p.m.  
155 Fortress Road (Tufnell Park) N.W.5

Films from Vietnam admission 2/6

# TEACHERS' STRIKE

THE teachers' strike continues. Close to 1,500 schools have been involved in the protracted strikes in support of the £135 interim wage claim, on which the teachers quite rightly refuse arbitration. The resistance of the Government to this modest demand, the strength of the strike, the welcoming of aid from industrial workers and the falling away of the elitist and reactionary concept of "professionalism" have all merited attention.

### Towards a Teacher-Parent-Student Alliance in the Schools.

As the strike has continued more working class parents and their children (pupils) have expressed their support, as well as future teachers in education colleges throughout the country. The struggle in the

final sense is both for better pay for the teachers and for better education for the students. Thus the basis for a teacher-parent-student alliance has been created, and as in all militant alliances, each participant stands to gain from his support of the demands of the other!

The support of the parents and students for the teachers will help ensure that their claim against the Corporate State (the employer) will be met. The support of teachers for the progressive demands of working class students and parents will mean better education: more money allocated, a modification of streaming in comprehensives, lessening of victimisation of progressive students, courses relevant to the needs of the students. Teachers must also have the support of the parents and students against victimisation.

### AN OPEN MEETING ON

### "WOMEN- THEIR LIBERATION FROM EXPLOITATION"

will be held at

THE BELLMAN BOOKSHOP  
155 Fortress Road, N.W.5

ON THURSDAY 12th MARCH  
at 7.30 p.m.

organised by the Central Branch of the C.P.B.M.L.

"Everyone agrees that it is necessary to develop the political consciousness of the working class. The question is, how that is to be done and what is required to do it. The economic struggle merely impels the workers to realise the government's attitude towards the working class. Consequently, however much we may try to lend the economic struggle itself a political character, we shall never be able to develop the political consciousness of the workers... by keeping within the framework

of the economic struggle, for that framework is too narrow... Class political consciousness can be brought to workers only from without, that is, only from outside the economic struggle, from outside 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 of all classes and strata to the state and the government, the sphere of the interrelations between all classes." (Lenin: What is To Be Done.)

## Book Review "Away With All Pests"

Dr. J.S. Horn's book "Away With All Pests..." (Paul Hamlyn) is a fascinating description of the development of medicine in Peoples' China told by a British doctor who has had the exciting experience of taking some of the steps in building the structure of a socialist society in China side by side with the Chinese people, and has been able to help them with his expert knowledge and skill as a surgeon.

One of the most important things this book shows us is that steps really are taken by the masses, through discussion and open battle between the two lines - reactionary and revolutionary. As Dr. Horn says, many of the details of the society still need to be worked out - an example he gives is of the financing of the rural clinics. But the reader has every confidence that these problems will be solved because all problems are "Placed on the table," as Mao says, and tackled with revolutionary enthusiasm, and the weapon of Mao Tse Tung thought.

The sections on the campaigns against Schistosomiasis and Venereal Disease, and the description of the development of rural clinics and peasant doctors, and the policy of bringing health services to the countryside stand out particularly because they show how, by involving the whole people, and relying on the masses with correct political leadership great feats can be achieved.

To say any more would be to spoil readers' enjoyment of this book, which is an extremely valuable, and vivid portrayal - in a particular field, and in a concrete way - of the ideas that made the Cultural Revolution such a triumphant success.

History of the Party of Labour of Albania 3/6

(The English translation of this important ideological work which every Marxist-Leninist will want to read is now available but in limited numbers. Order early to prevent disappointment.)

Collection of Enver Hoxha's Recent Speeches 3/6  
Complete sets of Mao Tse Tung's Selected Works Vols 1 to IV (Soft backed £1; hard backed (in boxes) 30/- including postage)

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**BELLMAN BOOKSHOP 155 FORTRESS ROAD TUFNELL PARK NW5**

## GLC TENANTS LED UP THE GARDEN

ON SUNDAY, February 15th, eight hundred Greater London Council tenants marched to Trafalgar Square to attend a meeting organised by the United Tenants' Action Committee.

The purpose of the meeting was to affirm the tenants' determination to fight on, in spite of the recent legal defeat in court.

The National Association of Tenants & Residents, a plaything of the revisionists, which in fact, does not represent much more than its own committee members, persuaded the GLC Tenants Associations to enter into a costly & time consuming court case, challenging the "legal validity" of rent increases, etc. Rather than pose the legal question as a small part of the wider struggle the revisionists successfully marched the majority of the active tenants up a cul-de-sac.

It was with this past treachery in mind that the UTAC called the Trafalgar Square meeting and allowed only rank and file tenants leaders to speak. A resolution was also passed in which full support was pledged to those tenants still withholding the 1968 increase and those threatened with eviction. Complete opposition to the proposed March 1970 increases. And the call for a National Conference to organise a national rent strike of Council Tenants for a 40% reduction in Council rents.

It was also with the knowledge that the tenants had ignored the NATR in calling the demonstration, that the "Morning Star," the next day, instead of reporting one thousand tenants in Trafalgar Square reported there being only 200 present.

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