



KILL THE BILL-SMASH CAPITALISM! CLASS WAR MOUNTS

REVOLUTIONARY TIDE

The demonstration of the 21st February in Trafalgar Square marks the change in the historical passivity of the General Council of the T.U.C. The call of the A.U.E.W. for strikes on 1st March and 18th March marks the break-out from this dead hand. The strikes affect all industry wherever there are workers and must not be diminished by nature of their short duration. Never before have the engineers called on all their members to participate. It requires that all in industry must welcome this decision and embrace in action all who work.

The demonstration called by the T.U.C. stems of course from the proper anger of the Trade Union membership as a whole. The previous essay of education concerning the need to preserve the Trade Unions as free and unfettered was as unnecessary as it was delaying.

Our forefathers had already passed through such an education so unique as to present to us this united strength which is the Trade Union's in Britain today. Because of their knowledge, they who hewed out this mighty movement against the law of the land and against the state, the capitalist state, our present anger is not enough.

If all this struggle would produce now would be in the nature of the status quo, then it will be as sand beneath our feet. We have passed the time when workers, led by the Trade Unions, can live with the capitalist class. They, the employing class and their Government, recognise this themselves. To attempt to revert to the condition prior to the proposed introduction of the Bill is tantamount to seeking to live with a Weimar Republic under Hindenberg, as opposed to settling for the Nazis in a corporate state. The former produces the latter. There is no turning back.

When the developing strength of the Trade Unions in the years past produced sufficient flexibility within the employing class and their state as to cozen us to lie down with the capitalist lion, it denied the irreconcilable class conflict between these two classes, the capitalist class and the working class, and denied the very force within our own class which produced the Trade Union movement.

The employing class recognise this fact too clearly and in their extremity, attack. The capitalist lion is a mangy, ageing lion in Britain today. Nevertheless, decayed as are its teeth they are the more poisonous. But the working class is not a mouse that lies down with a senile lion.

Our Party, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) calls upon all the working class to reflect on the qualitative change between these two powerful forces. We say "all the working class" for the Trade Unions of Britain by their agreements and decisions affect 75 per cent of the workers of our country, the highest proportion in any country in the world. This is not a fight of the Trade Unions alone but of the working class against the capitalist class and their state, the Government.

Throughout the world today "revolution is the main trend" which has summed up the counter-revolutionary force of the capitalist class in its extremity. No status quo. No question of 'defence not defiance'. We workers with the Trade Union vanguard must accept our historical role and move forward to the coming revolutionary situation.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea we are now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures."

C.P.B. (M.L.) MEETING AGAINST THE BILL

To a large audience in Conway Hall on Friday, 19th February, spokesmen of the C.P.B. (M.L.) received an enthusiastic response for their call for all-out opposition to the Industrial Relations Bill and the whole capitalist system. We report extracts from the speakers:

From a political point of view the Industrial Relations Bill must be seen as an indication of the workers' strength and the weakness of the employing class. Its introduction highlights the contradictions within Britain. The Industrial Relations Bill is directed against the whole working class by rendering the Trade Unions impotent. But the real battle will be to destroy not just this Bill but those who brought it in. We as a Party, along with the working class, set ourselves the task of not just killing the Bill but smashing capitalism. We can get 99% of workers on the shopfloor to oppose the Bill. It is more difficult to make them see the Bill

as a development towards the corporate State or recognise that Labour provided its blueprint, which demonstrates that fascism can come in many forms and not just as in Hitler's Germany.

There can be no compromise over this Bill. It's them or us. They are throwing a net around the working class and unity of purpose must be developed to break through it. The struggle will be protracted and we must make it both defensive to defeat the Bill and offensive—building a revolutionary movement to bring down capitalism. So it is with the other side, the capitalists who are on the offensive to



150,000 WORKERS MARCH AGAINST THE BILL

On Sunday, February 21st, 150,000 workers expressed their determination to kill the Industrial Relations Bill by marching to Trafalgar Square under their union banners.

They had come from all over Britain—but not simply to listen to pious social democratic whining about the injustice of this legislation. They had come because they are ready to fight this bill and those who have produced it to a standstill.

With Trafalgar Square packed as far as the eye could see with militant workers what an opportunity to have outlined a programme of action which would have defeated the bill and the class in whose interests it has been launched! In fact as the speeches from the platform droned on, most workers lost interest and began to drift away. This is not what they came for. They will not get their leadership from the T.U.C. General Council. They will have to find their own leaders in struggle.

All the same the employing class and its government must have had a foretaste of the united strength of the workers of Britain which will certainly smash the attempt to turn trade unions into obedient instruments of the capitalist state.

SOLID AT FORDS

Mr. Ramsey of Fords was reported widely in the press as complaining that since he made the wage offer to the Ford Trade Union negotiators, they had not gone back to him with a reply to the offer. The Ford wage offer was met with an immediate walk out from all Ford factories and within less than a week all factories were at a standstill with about 50,000 workers involved. If this is not a reply, what is?

It would seem that the negotiators were expected to run to the employer and plead for a few more shillings as the price of getting the workers back. The employer with an eye on the past was also expecting no doubt that the workers would be meeting continuously hoping for such overtures from the leadership to bring an offer to be reported and voted upon.

This is not the way things have gone this time. The workers have taken Fords at their word and meetings have been few. The value of regular meetings of workers on strike needs to be seen in a tactical sense. Certainly large meetings to discuss the issue are of value, but this at

times needs to be assessed against the effect on the employer of a very large meeting voting solidly to maintain their stand until the employer gives way and then agreeing to meet again in a fortnight. This has been the tactic employed with factory meetings and meetings of large departments. The message that goes from these meetings to the employer is very clear, it is "you call us, we won't call you". The employer is made aware that the strike is on for at least another two weeks unless he makes a move in the direction of satisfying the workers' claim.

It is clearly evident that the Ford workers are not at all inhibited by the government

stand against the Postmen and Power Workers. This government attitude was supposed to instill a spirit of defeatism in all workers persisting and fighting for wage claims in this period. That is not coming off. The determined stand of the Ford Workers, Postmen and the decision of the AEUW to call all its members out against the Industrial Relations Bill must be the signal for all other workers to accept the challenge of Heath and the employers.

When the big battalions of the working class join in action together instead of allowing themselves to be picked off one at a time no power can withstand them. The government and employers they represent have no strength except what they can gather from weakness and divisions in the ranks of the workers. Its time now to close the ranks and join the separate struggles into a united struggle which thus becomes all that much stronger. Fords and the Postmen set all workers a magnificent example. Workers will fail to follow this example at their present and future peril.

defend their crumbling class position.

Workshop democracy is a threat to the system and hence the T.U. Rule Books are under attack. Wilson said in 1964 that the finest service the A.E.U., the most democratic Union, could do was to tear up their rule book.

The ruling class are attempting to divide the working class. They attack the unemployed (now 3.1%) as not wanting to work—and yet there are 5 jobless per vacancy in the South, 11 in the North-East and 14 in Scotland. Racism is another diversion, but unity of workers in struggle transcends such divisions.

The young are playing an increasing role in the struggle. Their activities in the Post Office strike are a glimpse of the potential of youth. By 1975 half the world's population will be under 25. At the last election votes at 18 were introduced in order to try and involve 3 million new people in the electoral fray.

The T.U.C. are a complete

contrast to the youth. The line of the senile General Council is that there must be no class opposition to this Bill. They denounced the actions on December 8th and organised lunch hour meetings only on January 12th. Their march on February 21st is organised so that only 40,000 will be allowed into the square, the rest will be marched back to Hyde Park. Our Party position is that 140,000 have fitted in before and can do so again. The T.U.C. are a collection of the worst elements in the Trades Unions who have completely lost touch with the shop floor.

What is needed in Britain today is real leadership, the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Party, our Party, the Communist Party of Britain (M.L.)

The second speaker pointed out: Recently the Government brought in a Trades Description Act which required that a label had to bear some relationship to

the contents of the package. In the "Industrial Relations" Bill, however, is the most vicious attack on the working class, a Bill to smash Trade Unions, which the Tories hope to get through under the label of "reform of industrial relations", because much of the T.U. movement backed Labour's attempts at the same in 1969. If they had called this bill the "Trade Union Smashing Bill" they would have found immediate and universal opposition from all sections of the movement.

They claim to be preventing "Unfair Industrial Action" and "Irregular Practices", appealing to the English sense of Fair Play.

"RUTHLESS USE OF POWER" They say the T.U.s have too much power and exercise it ruthlessly. I say, if the Trade Union movement had used the power they have, there'd be no Bill and no Employers' Government either. How can they, who in

ROLLS-ROYCE CON-TRICK OF CAPITALISM

We hear a lot about the special expertise of management. Those who receive enormous rewards for running businesses and industrial firms are supposed to have special abilities which justify the huge salaries and salary rises no capitalist Chancellor of the Exchequer, Labour or Tory, ever complains about. We say no worker at any Rolls-Royce plant certainly no shop steward, could have handled the affairs of this monopoly concern with the stupid incompetence shown by both management and the advisers of the Labour and Tory governments who were involved in its international contracts. It is not even as though Rolls-Royce, like an industrial complex in a socialist country, had to operate in the interests of the entire community which might involve complicated considerations. It only had to make profits and it could not even do that.

Below is an analysis of this financial catastrophe written by workers long associated with the aerospace industry. They express indignation at the sacrifice of workers' skill and initiative by managerial greed and stupidity which will be shared by every worker in Britain.

Ever since Rolls-Royce was declared insolvent, on February 4th, the national capitalist press and the financial wizards who write for it have had a field day. What went wrong? Why did it go wrong? What should be done about it?

Articles have been published proving we should go into the Common Market so it cannot happen again, and articles have been published showing why we should stay out so it does not happen again. (Daily Telegraph, February 8th, Sunday Telegraph, February 14th. Take your pick!)

The truth is it was bound to happen. No private company could afford the vast sums of money involved in financing the development of modern, advanced technology and engineering, or come to that, aircraft. The case for a state takeover of the aerospace industry, under our present system of society, has been beyond doubt or argument for decades.

No private aero company since the war has drawn, let alone made, a major aircraft or engine without a government contract involving public money running into millions of pounds. The take-over by the state would not have been taking on a lame duck or a dead loss but reaping for the state the profits from contracts while paying for research, development, etc., and writing off losses on unsuccessful designs. What we have had instead is the state financing development of civil or military aircraft, as with armaments development generally, while private capitalist companies have taken the profits on the production runs of successful models.

The Rolls-Royce shares may be looking sick now, but for the last 30 years or so they have been making fat profits from the state for the capitalist class. **AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, POLITICAL TOY**

The aerospace industry, which is the most technologically advanced industry in the world, has always been mishandled by politicians. The Government White Paper of 1957 which envisaged no more manned (piloted) military aircraft (how wrong could they be!) put the designers and the technicians on their ends. (Whatever happened to those proposed missiles?)

The Government cancellation of the TSR2 advanced bomber was a ruinous decision, technology-wise — not to mention the

American Skybolt missile which was to replace it. What a fiasco! At the same time the P1154 military jump jet was cancelled with the loss of all the experience of this futuristic mode of transport.

Any shop stewards committee in the aircraft industry could see the futility of these decisions and many made their protest at the time, only to be fobbed off by the politicians.

The decision by the Government to amalgamate the various private aero companies into two airframe companies and one aero engine company, Rolls-Royce, during the early 1960s has undoubtedly landed Heath and Co. in the present mockery of nationalisation.

When the RB211 engine order was first announced, to much blowing of trumpets, any worker in the industry could have told the bosses that a fixed price development order was suicide, just by their own experience of the industry and its high standard of craftsmanship.

It is a fair bet that when the price went rocketing up due to technical snags during development and Lockheed in America ran into serious financial problems, some people hoped Lockheed would crash and give Rolls-Royce the out on an unprofitable contract, but Lockheed did not crash. The Nixon administration bailed them out because they are too valuable defence contractors to be allowed to go to the wall. So Rolls-Royce faced financial disaster and crashed.

The Heath philosophy of make your own profits or go out of business, which is no new idea but one of the fundamental principles of capitalism and has always been applied to a greater or lesser degree by all our governments whichever party, was up against it. One of the great flag bearers of private enterprise had let capitalism down. After being the monopoly aero engine company for the whole country it went broke. The capitalist masters told their Government it could not be allowed to stop trading — hence the official receiver, but no liquidator who would wrap it all up. Hence also the bill through Parliament in a hurry to nationalise Rolls-Royce until it is a profit-making concern again — despite all the previous naked "profit or die" capitalist talk of Heath and Co.

Rolls Royce aero engine factories are split into three main divisions.

Aero Engine Division, based on Derby, the original Rolls Royce empire, producing Spey, Tyne, Dart and other engines besides the RB.211 for Lockheed and the European Airbus engine.

Bristol Engine Division, based on Bristol and Coventry, the old Bristol Siddeley Company empire, producing Olympus 593 engines for Concorde and Pegasus.

Small Engine Division, based on Leamington, the old De Havilland Engine Company, producing the 360 Anglo-French helicopter engine; the ex-Blackburn Engine Company's Pallast and Artust engine, and old D.H. engines.

So taking into account that Small Engine is engaged on Anglo-French military helicopter engines and Bristol is engaged on Anglo-French Concorde engines, quite apart from our own defence position, the capitalist establishment could not allow a collapse of Rolls Royce to upset the French and jeopardise their chance of dragging up into the Common Market. So, instead of the normal course of capitalism with the vultures diving in to pick the bones of their late brother, the capitalist Government moves in and 'nationalises' to save the system.

EFFECTS OF THE CRASH
The repercussions of the crash of Rolls-Royce will go on for many, many months, whether the RB.211 engine is continued or not. As workers we are not bothered that many small business men will lose their little empires, have to sell their possessions and may even become honest workers. But we do sympathise with our fellow workers who will be put out of jobs, who will become that other statistic of day's production lost, which the capitalist press does not howl about as it does with strikers, the ever growing army of unemployed. Not because of any fault of theirs but due to pure management incompetence.

The lesson to be learnt from the Rolls Royce failure is simple. When are we the working class of this nation going to stop being messed about by capitalist manipulators and take this country, take the industries which we make work and run them for the benefit of the working class!



OIL COMPANIES MEET OIL RULERS PRIVATE CONSUMER PAYS

Once again the big oil monopolies are passing the increases in the cost of oil production on to the consumer in full. When the Suez Canal was closed in 1967 and the oil tankers had to go round the Cape, the extra costs were born by the consumer while the sacrosanct profits of Shell and BP actually went up.

Last month, following the agreement with the six Gulf producing countries, the price of car petrol is going to increase by up to 24p (6d) in the next six months reaching a total increase of 7p (1/2d) in five years time. This increase is taking place because the feudal sheiks of the Gulf states and the autocratic Shah of Iran decided to pocket a larger share of the oil profits for themselves to buy a new fleet of Cadillacs or to spend it on new weapons to suppress their peoples. The oil monopolies (upon discussions with the government) are, as everybody seems sure of, going to pass the whole extra cost on to the ordinary customer and none on the numerous firms using oil products.

These increased royalties to the regimes of the Gulf countries does not change the basic relationship between them and imperialism; one of basic dependence (though with varying degrees) on imperialism. As a recently published pamphlet by the CPB-ML* show, some of the Gulf sheikdoms are still under the complete control of British imperialism. What is changing, however, is the monopolisation of the region's resources by Britain and the US. In recent years British and American monopolies had to contend with Soviet imperialism which has spread its tentacles into some Arab countries and even into the previously exclusive Iran. The threat of Soviet penetration in the economy of these countries forced the oil monopolies to concede some bribes to the sheiks, the Shah and the colonels.

* OIL IMPERIALISM: BRITAIN AND THE MIDDLE EAST. 5p from THE BELMAN BOOKSHOP.

THE GNOMES OF MOSCOW

The Soviet Union intends to enter the world of international finance on a grand scale with "Soviet interest-bearing loans" floated on the international money market.

This is the main object of the newly established International Investment Bank with headquarters in Moscow. The Bank will take Soviet-Western financial co-operation a stage further with more borrowings from Western banks etc. This by itself is not a new development in the Soviet economy. Large Western monopolies are currently involved in financing and building some of the biggest projects in the Soviet Union. Fiat are building a large car plant; Japanese firms are constructing a port in the far east of the Soviet Union and the massive truck factory project on the Kama River is currently being offered to Western monopolies to finance and build.

For some time now Soviet capital has mingled happily with Western capital for the common exploitation of developing countries. The Soviet Union together with Britain and the U.S., and others are presently involved in building a 700 mile long pipeline across Iran. Last year a Soviet bank joined a syndicate of Western banks in supporting finance for Soviet equipment exports to Brazil.

The International Investment Bank of Moscow has a further important function: to provide credit for East European countries to promote the Kremlin policy of "international division of labour" — Adam Smith's "workshop of the world" brought to being in the 20th Century — whereby the developing coun-

tries remain under-developed, unindustrialised dependents on industrialised countries and thus easy prey to exploitation.

For many years the Soviet Union has been travelling merrily along the road of capitalist restoration. Now it is entering the world of imperialist finance proper.

STUDENTS AND THE BILL

Student Unions are not and cannot be as effective as trades unions because they do not have the economic power which workers have. But this must not be used by students as an excuse to shy away from struggle — this would be defeatist whereas we must be realistic. Also student Unions developed with the approval of the State and are controlled through finances by the State. If the Industrial Relations Bill is passed then students are witness to the way in which the State will control trade unions also.

Thus students must join with workers in opposing State control of trades unions. Not in a patronising way as support for "the exploited workers" but as part of their own struggle for autonomy of their own unions from state control.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) calls on students to fight internally to develop support for the struggle against the Bill and also to institute action on March 1st and 18th when millions of workers in heavy industry will take part in all-out stoppages and demonstrations against the Bill.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



The February unemployment figures have reached 3.1% of the labour force, 721,000, without counting those temporarily stopped and about 30,000 on short-time. At least 20,000 redundancies have been officially announced already this year (and many employers try to avoid such publicity) and the effects of the Rolls-Royce collapse have still to be felt. Unemployment in East Anglia is 54% up on that of six months ago, in the South-West 40% up, in Scotland 37% up, and 28% up in Wales. But workers are fighting back against this and against an 8 1/2% rise in the cost of living over the last year. Wage rates are up 14% on those of last year. But of course the only real answer to unemployment, redundancies and rising prices is to fight and defeat the system that makes them inevitable.

VAUXHALL
Following on from the Ford claim, 27,000 hourly-paid workers employed by Vauxhall at Luton, Dunblair and Ellesmere Port put in a claim for parity with the Midlands. This would mean an extra 30p to 35p an hour, an extra £12-14 a week.

SCOTT LITHGOW
Two thousand boilermakers at Scott Lithgow's lower Clyde shipyards went on strike on Feb. 13th after rejecting an offer of

a 7 1/2p an hour or 12.9% increase by a two-to-one majority.

GEC-AEI
1,400 clerical workers went on strike in mid-January at five factories of GEC-AEI Telecommunications in Coventry. They rejected an offer of £2 a week or 10%, demanding at least £3. After the first few weeks of the strike the management refused to give figures of how many of the 15,000 production workers (mainly on telephone switchgear) had been laid off because they did not want to admit how badly the strike had been hitting them. In fact at least half of the work force has been laid off due to the strike.

ANTI-T.U. BILL
The Boilermakers and the Sheet-metal Workers Unions followed the lead given by the A.U.E.W. in calling for strikes against the Bill. Also in the London docks work stopped on February 19th for mass meetings against the Bill.

DUMBARTON DISTILLERY
A sobering tale comes from the Hiran Walker distillery, Dumbarton. A manager, Mr. Harry Craig, sacked one of the shop stewards for smoking in a prohibited area, breaking the safety rules. A short time later, the safety-conscious Mr. Craig was found wreathed in smoke in a prohibited area. The 1,100 work-

ers demanded his dismissal. No prizes are offered for guessing what happened. The management issued a statement saying "Mr. McLaughlin was found smoking a cigarette in flagrant disregard of the regulations. Mr. Craig, on the other hand, lit his pipe in an office and made a genuine mistake." This is the double standard of "fairness" behind the Industrial Relations Bill. Unfortunately, the distillery workers seem to have accepted some of these ideas and only propose to appeal to the courts to get an injunction forcing the company to sack Craig on the grounds that he is a threat to their safety. No prizes are offered for guessing how successful this is likely to be.

TEACHERS
Teachers in England and Wales learned some nasty facts about division when their 37% pay claim was cut to 15% by union negotiators at the beginning of their Burnham Committee negotiations with the employers. The employers made a change in their offer too. They increased it from 8.8% to 9.7% but said that the extra 0.9% would only be "officially" offered if it was agreed that the other side would accept it. The unions replied that they were rejecting the 9.7% whether it was offered or not.

POST OFFICE

The postal strike which began in mid-January continued through February with the 230,000 strikers showing magnificent solidarity and determination. The knowledge that the government wants to smash their struggle and make an example of them as they did with the power workers only strengthened the postal workers. This knowledge also led to donations from other unions and collections in factories and wherever workers respect other workers in struggle. The original claim of £3 to £4 a week extra or 15 to 20% was reduced to 13%, but the Post Office stuck to its 8% offer and only after nearly a month did it make the "concession" of an extra 1% which the postal workers would end up paying for many times over in productivity agreements, agreements to use more part-time workers, etc. On the evening when this pathetic offer was rejected the Post Office and the Press made yet another attempt to crack the strikers' morale. A tiny trickle back to work in a few isolated villages was presented so as to look like a headlong rush. But this did not fool the postal workers who know that in the towns where it matters, in some cases the number of blacklegs can be counted on the fingers of one finger. The Press and the government have also tried to play down the effect of the strike on industry. All over the country, firms have been hit because no orders have been coming in, and no money has been coming in either but hardly a word of this has been allowed to leak out. But the postal workers have proved that they are not taken in by such tricks, nor by those old favourites, "arbitration" and "courts of inquiry". Even if the government appointed Santa Claus as an arbitrator nothing would come out of arbitration unless the Post Office had already been defeated. And Harold Wilson's proposal for the three Parliamentary Party Leaders to pick an arbitrator is an attempt to combine the two great frauds—Parliament and arbitration.

CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

721,000 UNEMPLOYED
With well over 3% of the working population out of jobs, and this figure does not include school leavers coming onto the labour market, unemployment has soared to the highest point since the depression years of the Thirties when the world capitalist system was on the verge of collapsing.

5,000 BANKRUPTCIES
Bankruptcies have reached the highest level for ten years. Along with the giant Rolls Royce thousands of firms, including such well known companies as Handley Page, Beagle Aircraft, Dansett Products, L a w e s Chemicals, Thos Whitney, etc., have folded up and gone into receivership — throwing more thousands of workers out of jobs in the process.

81% RISE IN COST OF LIVING
For the first time in years the retail prices index rose two points in a single month. Among the main increases recorded are the cost of tomatoes, meat, beer and petrol.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?
Heath blames all this on workers' wage demands. This is not only a demonstrable lie. It is a declaration of class war. What Heath is saying on behalf of the capitalist class is just this: Whatever calamities befall the capitalist system anywhere in the world, whatever mistakes are made by employers or government here in Britain, the cost is going to be taken out of the hides of the workers. Furthermore, he threatens, a Bill will be rammed through which will prevent workers from doing anything about it.

LOOK AT THE FACTS
Blaming inflation on workers' wage claims is like accusing someone who raises an alarm when his house is on fire of causing the trouble. Our economic system is not run by workers. It is run by capitalists. Deficit financing and other tricks the capitalist governments use to stave off crises cause inflation. Some degree of inflation which lowers the value of the money

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND



Irish people in New Lodge Road, Belfast demonstrate their anger after a five year old girl was killed by a British Armoured car

WILBERFORCE AND WAGE SLAVERY

Two months after the power workers' work-to-rule the Wilberforce Committee produced the 'Report that never was'. Although many groups of workers, like gas workers, railwaymen, water supply, etc., had been holding back their pay claims until the report came out, it was obvious afterwards, as it should have been before, that wage increases are not handed out all round by a noble lord, but have to be fought for. When an inquiry is relatively "generous" like the Scamp report on the council workers' claim it is because the battle has already been won. Chrysler workers did not get their 18% by waiting for Wilberforce. Waiting to see what the latest settlement was only plays into the hands of the government with its incomes policy of taking on sections of workers

one at a time, instead of all together.

Apart from an extra three days a year holiday, the report recommended that most power workers should only get the £2 a week increase originally offered by the employers, and not the £5 claim. Foremen and some highly skilled workers get a little bit more, but for all the power workers the only way of getting a bigger increase than the £2 is to stick their heads further into the noose of productivity agreements, meaning less men having to do more work. The effects of the new agreement on top of the experiences of this winter for the power workers will mean that you'd better remember not to throw away those candles.

paid out in wages suits the capitalist class anyway. If inflation gets out of hand, that merely shows their incompetence.

The main cause of bankruptcies is a problem of liquidity — that means a firm may have a full order book but if it is owed money and can't get a loan to tide it over it may go out of business. But does anyone blame this on a tight money policy or on interest rates at 10%? No, it is the workers again who are to blame by trying to keep up with soaring prices. That this is true is proved by the increase in absolute poverty among the working class.

The rise in the cost of living for January is mainly in items which cannot possibly have been affected by any recent strike action — meat, beer and petrol. These rises bring out what is perfectly obvious — price rises are simply the employers' way of passing every charge on his profits, whether brought about by world price changes, competition or their own stupidity, onto the consumer — who also in most cases is a worker. Even when necessary wage rises may marginally affect costs, what the employer passes on to the consumer is much greater — so that wage increases are often an excuse for increasing profits. The very simple proof of this is that in spite of all these economic phenomena, rocketing unemployment, bankruptcies and soaring cost of living, profits remain high. Because that is what the capitalist system is all about — profits. Everything else can go to hell!

That is why we, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), say to all the workers of Britain: Kill the Bill; but don't stop there. Smash capitalism, too!

This has been the consistent demand of our Party from the moment British troops were sent in to prop up British imperialism's incompetent puppet government in Stormont. It was said that these troops were necessary to keep Irish people from fighting Irish people. This is a lie. They are there to stir up trouble and have never failed to do so. British imperialism can only continue to exploit a divided Ireland.

STOP MURDER OF IRISH WORKERS

This we have continued to urge in this country on the British people — particularly the workers of Britain who are the only force in this country capable of calling a halt to British capitalism's brutal repression of the Irish people. It is with regret and anger that we point out how right we were to predict the actions of the British occupying army which has killed at least a dozen people in Northern Ireland since August, 1969.

BRITISH IMPERIALISM'S CRIMES AGAINST IRELAND

British imperialism is finding the task of suppressing the Irish people a lot more difficult than it had at first anticipated. The army has found that it cannot hold down the population of the Six Counties alone unless more troops are diverted there from other imperialist commitments. Since this is not possible the administrators of Britain's Northern Irish colony have abandoned

reforms and are relying more and more on Protestant extremists as allies. Ex B-Specials are being permitted to stockpile arms and form para-military organisations that masquerade as "gun clubs" while the U.V.F., nominally illegal but in fact an unofficial arm of the Unionist state machine, is being allowed to build up its strength unhindered.

Chichester-Clarke has described recent riots as a "trial of strength between the Crown forces and extreme Republicans". This courting of a show-down has been used as the pretext for even more savage repression of the Irish people. But all this is not a sign of British imperialism's strength but of its weakness and points to its ultimate defeat.

At the beginning of February the struggle in Ireland reached new heights. For several weeks soldiers had been rampaging through workers' homes on the excuse that they were searching for arms. Such actions by the military could have no other result than to provoke counter-action in defence of the people under attack. Casualties were inflicted on the British army of occupation and two soldiers were killed. This has to be seen as small enough retribution for the people who have been killed by British troops.

There is only one way to prevent British troops in Northern Ireland from killing and being killed. GET THEM OUT OF A PLACE WHERE THEY HAVE NO BUSINESS TO BE!

LABORATORY FOR NEW WEAPONS

British imperialism is using Northern Ireland as a laboratory for trying out new weapons which could be used against British workers.

Just as Kennedy used South Vietnam to test "anti-subversive" weapons like gas bombs and various anti-personnel devices which could be used against students on campuses and protesting blacks in the ghettos of the United States, so Lord Carrington, Tory Secretary of State for Defence, boasts of a whole new secret armory of "anti-riot" weapons which the British occupation army is testing on the people of Northern Ireland — and which could be used also against workers in this country as working class indignation against capitalist repression mounts.

The "new equipment" which he carefully refrained from defining may include catapults for launching bigger CS grenades, exploding canisters of dye which would enable troops to hunt down demonstrators later, rocket-assisted nets which would entangle protesters and perhaps even chemical sprays which could be directed at the faces

of rioters since the head of the company marketing these sprays visited Belfast.

Since these weapons are being used against workers in Belfast, they will be used against workers here.

The Sunday Times of February 7th reported that "a secret committee to co-ordinate the use of police and troops in the event of civil disorder in Britain has started meeting in London. Its members are Mr Robert Mark, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who was a member of the advisory body concerned with the reorganisation of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and Home Office and Ministry of Defence representatives."

It must not be forgotten that Heath chose the world forum of the U.N. to announce that the main danger "is a face pot con between nations but civil war". That is the context in which the training of British troops in the use of new weapons and new methods against civilians in the streets of Belfast and Derry must be seen.

LARICOL AND THE LAW

effective picketing?

The Shop Steward was served with a High Court injunction which has had the effect of preventing him carrying out picket duties. This was very damaging to the workers efforts as the Steward has a good command of English which most of the other strikers have not. Whenever the pickets approached scabs entering the works or lorry drivers about to enter the works they were pushed aside by members of the Laricol management in full view of the Police whose harassing tactics were confined to the pickets while the boss and his cronies were permitted to do as they pleased. The Police quite arbitrarily ordered the strikers to limit the pickets to two though there is no limitation laid down in law. The co-operation between the employer and the police is further illustrated by the fact that though the strikers studiously avoided any conduct which the police might construe as "obstruction" twelve were arrested for obstruction on one go even though nobody was known to have been obstructed. Those arrested had simply stood opposite the factory gate in a single line so as to avoid any possible charge of obstruction and displayed posters to show that they were engaged in an official strike.

One of the strikers not involved in this incident went along to the police station later to enquire about his mates and he was promptly put in the cells with the others and he was added to the list of those charged. He was discharged at the court hearing but this incident illustrates only too clearly the role of the police in this

strike. The others charged were fined five pounds with two guineas costs. The strikers ask why us? how is it that workers are involved in tens of thousands, demonstrating on the streets and picketing in large numbers all over the country with not a single arrest? There are only 12 of us and twelve were arrested for obstruction. This is part of course of the answer. Were there greater numbers involved the police would not be so brave. It nevertheless illustrates again in case some workers forget, the real nature of the forces of the State and what is their real function. It makes no difference to them whether the boss concerned is a big one or like Laricol, a little one. The concern who openly admit that their very solvency is dependant on long hours and starvation wages. This firm produces plastic moulded household goods like buckets, dustbins, lampshades bowls etc. their goods are obtainable from Tesco and other supermarkets and in exchange for Green Shield stamps. The strike goes on with much courage against very difficult conditions. When enough people raise their voice against the use of the police in defence of sweated labour, police who have much more important things to do but complain that they are unable to cope due to shortage of manpower, and when people refuse to buy goods from shops who are supplied by sweaters and scabs, the odds will turn in favour of the workers in struggle. Let no-one charge immigrant workers with undermining wages and conditions if they will not give full backing to those immigrant workers who are prepared to struggle.

LAOS INVASION

Resolution unanimously passed at a public meeting at Conway Hall, Friday, 19th February.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) condemns the government of the U.S.A. for invading Laos. This is the most recent act of American violence against the people of the three countries of Indo-China—Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. It denounces the brutal war U.S. imperialism has waged and continues to wage in Vietnam and pledges its full support for all peoples fighting to free themselves from U.S. aggression in Asia, Africa, Latin America and now, inside the U.S.A. itself. The invasion of Laos gives the lie to alleged U.S. victories in Vietnam and to Nixon's statements about the supposed withdrawal of U.S. troops from South-East Asia.

The shameful support extended to the U.S. by the British Government does not implicate the people of Britain—the British working class. The servility of Heath, and of Wilson before him, in supporting U.S. aggression in Indo-China is but the view of a tiny majority—the voice of the British capitalist class which is becoming increasingly dependent on U.S. dollars. Not so the workers of Britain who have nothing to lose and everything to gain by getting rid of this minority and its U.S. backers.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) reminds the government of the U.S.A. of the defeat it suffered at the hands of the Chinese during the Korean War. Should Nixon dare to attack the People's Republic of China today in the course of extending the war to Laos, U.S. imperialism will get the biggest defeat it has ever received from the 700 million workers and peasants of China whose socialist strength is invincible.

The victories scored by the heroic people of Vietnam against the power and might of the U.S.A. have inspired people all over the world to stand up and fight their enemies. The working class of Britain, like the working class of America, are not going to lag behind.



C.P.B. (M.L.) MEETING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the 1930s kept millions unemployed to control the workers by threatening any worker who complained about his conditions that there were ten waiting outside to fill his place; who, while there were millions of working class kids starving at home and abroad, used to turn back fish-laden ships to dump it, who stoked their trains with coffee, and ploughed crops back into the ground to keep the prices and therefore their profits up, how can this class accuse the working class of ruthless use of power! The capitalists say forget the depression, I say never forget it! Never forget how ruthless the Capitalist class can be.

The Unions were made on the shop floor. The Bureaucracy which took over at the top taught the workers about good and bad leaders. New leaders were made on the workshop level, under the control of the rank and file, to replace the Bevins and Citrines of the day. The Bosses ask the Union leaders—why can't you control your rank and file? In fact the rank and file have learnt to control themselves. This Bill is an attempt to control this movement because other methods have failed. I remember talking to some women shop stewards who had been sent on a week's free course on "good industrial relations" by their company, who commented "Well, it was better than working", and the next week there was the first strike at that factory for many years! Also unemployment is not effective enough as a control any more.

CONFIDENCE TRICK

I'm tired of hearing workers say, what's the point of having a wage rise if it only pushes up prices and we end up in the same place. This is a result of the biggest lie and confidence trick by the Capitalist class of the present time: that it is the "greedy" workers who are responsible for inflation. Wage rises have a negligible effect on wages. Let me illustrate—if you take your car to be serviced, you may be charged for materials plus £2 an hour for labour. Of this the mechanic gets 50p an hour and the employer gets the other £1.50 for rent, overheads and profit. Now if the mechanic gets a 10% wage rise, that's 5p more, of 2½% overall. But your bill will be 10% up, the employer will get 15p more and will blame it on the workers. There are examples of this all

over the place. I can remember being told that our £1 wage claim would put the company in financial ruin. We settled for 75p, but the company made an even bigger profit over the next year because what they'd done was to raise their prices as if they'd awarded the whole pound. Petrol goes into the pump at 61p a gallon. The wages in the oil industry are amongst the highest in the South-East, but of the 35p or so you pay nearly all goes to the Government, hardly any to the workers.

Like when you're buying a packet of cornflakes, for instance, you're paying for the fancy packing and the advert that assures you that you'll be able to vault over pillar boxes, so the proportion of labour costs is very low compared with the final selling price.

Well, some people will say to you, "What's wrong with the Capitalist system, at least it works". The Government says don't build houses, we need more office blocks, while the biggest office block in London, 50 yards from my office has been standing empty for the last 5 years. There have been more closures, bankruptcies and redundancies in the last 6 months than at any time since the war. And if this is how the Capitalist system works, well the sooner we get a system that don't work the better.

I'd like to talk about some of the proposals of this Bill.

WHAT'S "FAIR"

It gives the workers the right not to work. However, it will be illegal to refuse to work. Unemployment will be fair and legal of course. Workers will now have the right to join a Union—that's nothing new. But they will also have the right not to join a Union—the right to pounce on the others. Non-Unionists are like those who will drink the beer bought for them in the pub, but won't pay when it's their turn to buy a round.

According to the dictate of the new law there will be no way of stopping sackings. If a worker is sacked, to strike for his reinstatement is "unfair industrial action", and it is decreed that reinstatement can only be got through a tribunal.

By the order of the Secretary of State any individual can be sacked as a threat to "National Security" without any other reason given, or any right of appeal.

The Bill not only proposes Secret Ballots but also the Em-

ployers can choose in what area they should take place. So it not only includes the ones who want to go on strike but the ones who may be laid off as a result of it. The Secret Ballot is of no service to workers as it shows their divided strength and encourages the employers to stick it out and wait for the strike to collapse.

The cooling-off period of 60 days enables the employer to prepare by stockpiling and subcontracting, and prevents the workers from choosing the best time to strike. Legally-binding contracts are also to be introduced.

The proposers of this Bill have made a concentrated study of the strategy and tactics of shopfloor workers and stewards in fighting the boss and it is an attempt to find an answer to every one. By this Bill, every strategy of the working class becomes illegal and every strategy of the employing class which is not already legal is subject to only negligible penalties.

SMASH IT NOW

There is a dangerous line of thought in relation to this Bill, which is—let them bring it in and then we'll fight it. They say the jails aren't big enough to hold us all. This completely underestimates the class enemy. Do they think they will implement the Bill where it does not suit them, where its use will provoke massive resistance? The Bill will be used discriminatorily to produce the idea that the Bill isn't so bad after all, and that where workers are prosecuted they must have done something out of the ordinary. Take the obstruction law now. At a strike I'm involved in, out of 28 workers on strike, 14 have been arrested for obstruction. But hardly any postal workers and no Ford workers have been arrested, even though there are nearly 300,000 workers there to obstruct, not 30. They choose the time when advantageous to apply a law or not apply it.

This Bill must be smashed NOW before it gets going for the very provisions of the Act protects it from being smashed once it is law.

ACTION

We must mobilise the maximum action. We support the Engineers' strike which is the start to the action. Our Party has played an important part in getting the movement to the present situation. Much credit for the organising of these strikes must go to the Chairman of our Party, Reg Birch, an Executive Council member of the A.U.E.W. These strikes are not the end in themselves they are the start, the start to the snowball which must gain in strength as it goes on.

This Bill claims to be promoting good industrial relations. But it won't develop peace between the class which works and doesn't own and the class which owns but doesn't work. There will never be peace between these classes, only armistices which will be torn up the next day as the struggle continues. We will never give the Capitalist class a moment's peace.

Calling all workers!

PUBLIC MEETING on SATURDAY, MAY 1st
CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, W.C.1
7.30 p.m.

Help build your revolutionary party
Organised by the Communist Party of Britain
(Marxist-Leninist)

CLASS STRUGGLE AND NATIONALISATION

One of the many lessons that can be learnt from the Post Office workers' strike is how spurious reformist demands for nationalisation are. The Post Office and Government have shown that they are prepared to take on the Post Office workers for a long and bitter strike. Under the prevailing conditions ordinary capitalist companies have been surrendering to wage demands with much less of a fight than has been the case in those industries directly or indirectly under government control, as we have seen in the recent struggles of the power workers and council workers.

The reason for this is not that the capitalists are more benevolent than the state, but that they are scared of what will happen to their profits if their factories are closed down by a strike with the resulting idle plant and lost orders. Individually the capitalist class has shown itself to be weak when faced with the organised strength of the working class. Consequently at a time of economic crisis for British imperialism, and faced with the working class making inroads through struggle, the capitalist class has had to resort to its own collective organ—the state in order to launch a vicious offensive against the working class.

The most obvious manifestation of this offensive is the Industrial Relations Bill, but another important aspect of this attack has been the use of the nationalised industries as cats-paws of the capitalist state in the attempt to hold down wages. The capitalists who individually are not prepared to take the financial losses involved in an attempt to fight the working class to a standstill, are quite prepared to have their state do it instead and thrust the financial loss back on the workers as taxpayers.

In such circumstances the incessant demands for more nationalisation by all species of fake "lefts" is a diversion that directly serves the ruling class. It spreads the illusion that socialism can be achieved by strengthening the state, not by smashing it. Industries nationalised by a capitalist state can never be socialist industries until the workers have built their own state on the shattered ruins of the old.

DOUBLE TALK ON THE BILL

The Minister of State in the Employment Department, Paul Bryan, speaking for the Tory Government, publicly expressed their feelings about the first militant industrial action to be taken against the Industrial Relations Bill by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Addressing a London conference on the Bill on February 19th he said that the 1,400,000 strong Union was "wasting its time with its one-day strikes."

But he also went on to say that it was "nothing more and nothing less than an attempt to overturn the whole democratic process" and was "a bid to change the Government's mind by means of economic and industrial sabotage."

We urge all Unions and all workers generally to "waste their time" in this way till this Bill and its perpetrators are thrown on the rubbish heap of history where they belong.

The one-day strikes are just the first step of course. The struggle must be extended thereafter. Workers in their hundreds of thousands will have to show Mr Bryan what real democracy is.

TRUTH WILL OUT

When the present struggles in Northern Ireland began, the Labour government tried to justify the sending-in of thousands of troops by saying that this was necessary to "keep the peace" and to stop people slaughtering one another and launching programs on religious grounds. In this the Labour Party was loyally supported by the Tories and by most of the so-called "Left" who saw the conflicts simply in religious terms. But now, with British troops being killed, British armoured cars crushing five-year-old girls to death and the threat of internment without trial being used, even the British ruling class is being forced to admit some of the truth. On television, Robin Chichester-Clark, a Westminster M.P. and clerk of the Stormont Prime Minister admitted that "The issue is not one between Protestants and Catholics, it is between those who wish to remain part of the United Kingdom... and those who wish to become part of a United Irish Republic... We are up against a force which does not accept the government in Westminster, nor that in Stormont, nor in fact does it accept the Dublin government". At last even the ruling class cannot deny the fact that the people in working class areas of Belfast who are taking on the British Army are not doing so out of religious fanaticism but as part of a struggle to throw British imperialism, and its troops and puppets, out of Britain's oldest colony.

FILM SHOWS

"Mother", Pudovkin, March 13th.
"Strike", Eisenstein, March 27th.
Belman Bookshop 7.30 p.m.

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Organised by East London and South Essex Branch,
Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)
LAINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE
ASTON ROAD, LAINDON, ESSEX
MONDAY, MARCH 22nd, 7.30 p.m.
Speaker: TED ROYCRAFT

ACTON TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBER
UXBRIDGE ROAD, LONDON W.3
Speakers: LES ELLIOT and FINTAN O'SHEA
FRIDAY, MARCH 12th, 7.30 p.m.
Organised by West London Branch
Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)