

# THE WORKER



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## WAKE UP WORKERS FIGHT FOR WAGES WHERE YOU ARE

THE orderly return to 'free collective bargaining' advocated by Mr. Jones and the rest has been so orderly that it is as unheard as a church mouse. Outside of Mackey's, Ford's and Metal Box you wouldn't know it had begun.

Mr. Basnett's fulminations about the public sector plans for wage bargaining for the workers therein employed are all designed to avoid frontal conflict with the Government and its perfidious 10 per cent, masking the fact that it is the largest employer in the land. This amounts to turning his back on the gallant firemen.

Meanwhile we have the silly mutterings and bleatings of Healey and Callaghan who now dare to speak of a phase four - 5 per cent for '79'. We have a TUC General Council split down the middle refusing to reject honestly and unequivocally the so-called Government guidelines and to assert clearly Congress policy. Still Mr. Murray was so pushed into a corner by the 21 to 17 vote that he becomes demagogically militant and by a slip of the tongue even dares to suggest: "We do not accept the guidelines of 10 per cent that someone dreamed up."

And now all the engineering unions conversing with the Engineering Employers Federation in collective bargaining which, if conceded, directly changes very little the take-home wage packets of engineering workers.

Where then is the collective bargaining? Where is the rejection of 10 per cent? Come in all the factories now! Discuss your claims, base them realistically and go forward in the factory all together. Stop the silly box and cox antics at Swan Hunter. Have the wit to secure the work first then slap in the demand and be prepared to struggle for united wage claims taking care of all sectors and trades in the single establishment.

The time to end passivity is now. Let there be no repeat of the aimless squandering of workers' courage and tenacity as in '77, a survey of which cannot but cause us rueful reflection.

Plan and act now with purpose to win the maximum gain for the minimum effort. No more little Napoleons to direct collective leadership where we work but our own united struggle in the simple, uncomplicated task of setting the balance sheet to rights after all our stupidities of 'restraints' and voluntary masochism.

'78 should be the cleansing year. Fewer clever dick statesmen; more primitive struggle to improve wages and working conditions. Arise from your slumbers! Hibernate no more!

### Varley, Villiers et al stealing the limelight

PARLIAMENT and MPs really will have to be preserved once we have achieved socialism - as a museum of the ridiculous!

Huff, puff, fuss! Following on from Edward du Cann's astounding revelation that Parliament had no power over the finances of the country and that the executive was merely an 'elected dictatorship', Parliament has sent the 'sergeant-at-arms' to demand information about the financial position of the British

Steel Corporation from its Chairman, Sir Charles Villiers.

What for we may ask? To have papers about events which have already passed, and decisions which have already been made. Oh, how principled and admirable! And if they succeed in the manoeuvres against Villiers and Varley, what would their solution to the problems of British steel be? We quote

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British Leyland mass meeting.

Picture by Peter Harrap (Report)

### Leyland exhumed! Leyland dismembered? No to Edwardes!

AT last God's gift to man and industry, Mr Michael Edwardes, to the rescue with a second hand Weinstock wizardry of destruction, of living off and stealing for the private section of capitalism the little fat juicy bits of Leyland BLMC, leaving the low profit core, the foundation centre to state capitalism for you to pay to sustain till its ultimate erosion and decay.

Beware then, fellow work-mates; end then your fratricidal squabbles, your strategys and tactically inane ventures and close ranks. All unions are required now to unite to prevent this dismembering. All those local 'leaders' so full of declarations, so good at unfulfilled battles begun and waged without root preparation, pack it up and say in one voice:

touch us not!

Yes, go all chauvinist. A British motor manufacturer.

The T&GWU, so deviously quiet now, must cease its incessant and insensate poaching and membership grabbing and, since it claims the largest membership, it can then lead the struggle.

No closures. No redundancies.

At last the member workers there must show some sense in central control - central bargaining and central direction of a strategy which refuses to give a present to Ford's and Vauxhall's by the sapping and weakening of Leyland's on the specious plea of commercial efficiency. From 'bigger is better', the slow liquidation of the many badge names of former British car marques to the great complex of BLMC and

back now to keep your place.

Don't get too big for your britches. Don't believe that humble little Britain could have the gall and temerity to challenge the mighty multinational Yankee General Motors and Ford's. Perish the thought!

So brothers and sisters, bring your mountain stronghold 'leaders' together. Demand they face the responsibility of leadership. No closure of Speke.

Let Longbridge, Oxford and the rest erect the barricades now.

No to Edwardes!

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# HISTORIC NOTES 1889

## The Dockers' Tanner

THERE is a myth, still widespread today, that trade unionism is merely about getting more money for less work. 'Greed' capitalist propaganda calls it, in its hypocrisy. A moment's thought leads you to the opposite conclusion. In a society where everything - from food to culture, even health, life and death is reduced to a question of 'how much money', the fight for wages is the fight for our humanity.

### 1889 strike

This was the lesson of the dock strike of 1889. The dockers were the lowest of the low. The manager of the Millwall docks told a Lords Committee on Sweating in 1888 about their conditions: "(they) come to work without a farthing in their pockets; they have not anything to eat in the middle of the day... and by four o'clock their strength is utterly gone; they pay themselves off; it is necessity which compels them to pay themselves off...". Often they had to fight each other at the dock gates merely for the job ticket. And yet it was from the fight of these same men, and their spirited example, that

trade unionism made great advances.

When some walked out over a minor dispute very few people noticed. When, inspired by the success of the gas workers, demands were formulated (the most famous being for the 'dockers' tanner') and dock after dock pulled out. The employers were quite unconcerned. Starvation would force the men back to work. It did not. They had stood up for their rights - and for weeks held out against all odds, and in doing so won the admiration and support of workers the world over. (In fact, it was financial contributions from Australia in the last weeks which kept them going to victory).

### More than a penny

When they went back they had won far more than a penny on the wages. As a history of the newly formed dockers union put it: "We had established a new spirit; the bully and the thief, for a time at least were squelched; no more would the old man be driven and cursed by the younger man... The whole tone and conduct of work, of management of the men was altered for the best.

"The god of the sack was not

so fearful... (the men) grew in self-respect. The docker had in fact become a man. The man became greater in the happiness of a better supplied larder and home; the women folk, with the children, shared in the sense of security and peace the victory at the docks had wrought."

### Setting an example

Hundreds and thousands of other unskilled and previously unorganised workers followed the example of the dockers. True, many of these new unions collapsed in the face of a vicious counter attack by the employers. But the real advance in ideas and attitude had already been made. "Economic ignorance has in times past caused us to believe that our duty lay in the direction of producing much and consuming little; this is a fatal error. Those who consume least are the most ignorant, most useless, the most animal like of all. A large consuming capacity on the part of every section of workers is fully justified by sound economics" one of the leaders argued.

The dockers strike was neither defensive, nor apologetic, but was an honest fight for an improved life. "Unionism is social salvation. All workers should recognise it and act upon it" was the message of the Leith dockers, as they joined the new union.



Ben Tillett, leader of the 1889 Dockers' Strike, seen here addressing a mass meeting of the Transport Workers' Federation in 1912.

## No hiding Govt torture in Ireland

THERE have always been apologists for torture and oppression, whether in South Africa or Hitler's Germany. So we have today's apologists for British oppressive rule in Northern Ireland with none more obnoxious than the men in robes and wigs.

With an eye on what is or might soon be going on in their own individual countries, the seventeen judges of the European Court of Human Rights decided that internment imposed by the British Government in Northern Ireland was permissible and that interrogation techniques condemned as torture by the European Human Rights Commission only six months ago was merely ill-treatment - inhuman and degrading, but not torture. Thus torture EEC style is made res-

pectable and detention without trial justifiable by governments 'at a time of public emergency threatening the life of the nation.'

So concerned were the judges that Britain be absolved that they took no notice of the fact that the British Government did not even contest the original findings of the Commission. Neither did the Court find it necessary to ask for those responsible to be brought to trial. Their reluctance in this respect is shared by the British Government who know that such trials will place in the dock the Government itself who ordered and sanctioned those techniques. The interrogation methods used by army and police included prolonged mass standing, subjugation to loud white noise, hooding, and deprivation of food,

drink and sleep for long periods. Witnesses told of how they were forced to stand spreadeagled against a wall with their legs spread apart and their weight forced onto their fingertips for as long as 29 hours.

The five techniques pronounced upon by the Court not only inflicted pain at the time of application but in some cases inflicted long lasting damage, so much so that the British Government has so far paid compensation to the tune of £18,000. In this respect, and irrespective of what the apologists of British imperialism say, these sophisticated methods are no different from what THE TIMES and others are prepared to call torture, namely beating, electric shock or the rack.

## Ireland will be reunited THE WEEK

A NEW book describing itself as a scenario of Europe at the end of the century has appeared on the bookshelves. The press has hailed it as "an advanced piece of research" using some of "the most sophisticated methods today" by "200 experts from all over Europe." The conclusion of 5 years and almost £2 million worth of research is that unemployment "is a natural part of twentieth century life". And we're supposed to believe it.

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According to newspaper reports, Saudi Arabia has offered to buy the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel for a Palestinian homeland. Since he who pays the piper calls the tune the Palestinians will not be eager to take up the offer.

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The people of South Africa continue their struggle against apartheid. It was the Labour Government which last October welcomed the EEC into alliance with the apartheid regime through agreement on a new code of conduct for companies operating there.

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The engineers' claim for a £70 minimum for skilled men and £55 for unskilled has been met by a 'derisory' offer from the employers. The President of the engineers was said to be "surprised and utterly dismayed". Let engineers tell him that £70 is needed and not a penny less.

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The two biggest Civil Service unions have set off on a course that will take them into confrontation with the Government. The SCPS and the CPSA are pressing for pay rises in the region of 18-20 per cent.

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The Association of University Teachers, at the half-yearly council in Edinburgh in December decided to abandon its long-standing claim for a substantial pay rise at the present. Instead, it was decided to accept 10 per cent now and in October to claim a cost of living increase plus whatever rise NATFHE negotiate this April. Amelioration in pensions was agreed as a target that may prove easier to attain than a straight pay increase. University teachers must realise that they cannot base their wage increases on the backs of others. How much they get-out depends on how much they put in in terms of struggle.

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Heard in a bus queue: "I wonder if the brain surgeons went on strike they'd call the soldiers in."

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lies has been answered. The lead has been given; it remains for ambulance men throughout the country to follow the example in support of the national pay claim.

THE BRITISH Government and the bourgeois press have given a hostile reception to the recent statement on Northern Ireland by Jack Lynch, the Irish Prime Minister. This hostility was directed not so much towards what he said, but towards the fact that he saw fit to comment on the subject at all. Somewhat strange that the leader of an Irish Government should be so reviled for speaking about a part of his own country.

What has upset the British Government is that Lynch has departed from the overtly collaborationist policy of the previous Irish Government. In fact, he had to.

The former Coalition Government suffered the worst electoral defeat of any Irish Government when it went to the polls last year - and this was especially true of ministers who had actively promoted its policy on Northern Ireland, who lost their seats in the Dail, the Irish Parliament.

Now, no Irish Government will feel so free to help Britain police the occupation of the six counties in the North.

Lynch's party, Fianna Fail, included in its election manifesto the demand for British withdrawal from the North. This, combined with the craven stance of the Coalition, was sufficient to ensure the largest majority in the Dail against British occupation since the Free State was established in the South.

The Irish people have firmly rejected the previous administration's acceptance of partition. Fianna Fail's new-found patriotism is a result of this pressure from the people.

No matter what any British Government says or does, ultimately it must bow to a simple truth: Ireland is one and indivisible. Generations of Irish men and women have fought to uphold this and they will never accept partition.

Ireland will be reunited: it is only a question of time. Already union is long overdue. The relative silence of the British labour movement on this issue is, in part, to blame.

This must not be allowed to continue. The British working class must accept their responsibility in this matter.

The demand for the complete withdrawal of British troops and the renunciation of any claim by Britain to any part of Ireland must be made louder and louder and continue to be made until it is met in full.

Only then will the Irish people be free to decide their own future.

### Ambulancemen go

AT a meeting on the 12th January 130 West Glamorgan ambulance men voted unanimously to begin industrial action in support of 'substantial wage increases'. This is in response to the Department of Health and Social Security's 'miserable' offer of between 5-8 per cent. The action which began immediately includes a boycott of all portering duties, retraining courses and paperwork, as well as a return to depots for meal breaks, at present being taken at hospitals while remaining on call. All emergen-

# Editorial

HAVING REJECTED further wage control just over four months ago at the TUC conference we have as yet to reject the ideology of wage control, the social contract. Hence the justifications workers feel it necessary to make whenever they present their wage claims to the employer, be it the government or a private company.

Some argue that they are a special case. They accept wage control provided that it does not apply to them. To say that every worker is a special case may sound clever but it tries to turn the self-centred philosophy of the bourgeoisie into the general outlook of the working class.

Some go for productivity deals as a diversion from struggle for outright wage rises. Whether 'genuine' or not productivity deals contain the poison of wage control within them. Others go for sick pay, increased holidays or bonus schemes, bartering away their wages for some candy floss which they are entitled to anyway.

Others cite parity as their justification for an increase on their pay packet, as if to day that if others are as badly paid as they are, they will ask for nought. British capitalism, the first and oldest, is a master of deception, yet they never deceive the working class for the working class have mastered self-deception - originally so as to survive under capitalism but today as a way of life, a philosophy.

Capitalism exploits workers to the maximum rate we permit it to. By this exploitation they make all workers equal, having the same interest - no special cases. That we the workers demand more money, high wages, higher wages, needs no further justification than that we do so demand. After all we produce the wealth of this country and we are entitled to it.

The significance of Mackey and Fords where the employer was forced to cough up what the workers thought to be a satisfactory rise is not just that they were the first but that no specious justifications were put forward to excuse the increase. The workers wanted more money, and they used their strength to get it.

Only when we are clear and honest enough to demand wage rises because we want and have the right to higher pay will we begin to make further progress.

And progress has been made since the last TUC conference. Trade unions who in the past fought against Tory industrial legislation and income policies but who shied away from the task when Labour was in office are today defying Labour's dictat and demanding more. That the government will stick even more firmly to its policy of limiting wage rises and depressing living standards is only too obvious. They never adopted wage control because of agreement with the trade unions. They adopted this policy because it is the surest way of protecting and increasing profits and that is even more urgent today than yesterday. Therefore it is more urgent for us, having ended voluntary wage control, to smash enforced wage control.

# Who's polluting the Med?

The conference in Monaco on stopping the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea ended on January 14 without any agreement on what could be done.

The 17 out of 18 countries with a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea broke up inconclusively when it was realised that the cost of cleaning up the Sea would come to something like £2,500 million. Since these 17 countries are all capitalist countries where great profits are made out of dumping industrial waste straight into the Mediterranean and no profits are to be made out of cleaning up the mess, the failure to reach any agreement on any proposals to do something about it was entirely expected.

The 18th country, not represented at the conference, Albania the only socialist country in Europe is, ironically, the only country where profits are not made out of polluting land or sea and where industrial production is geared to people's needs, not to capitalists' greed.

Once, many years ago, Albania was left out of a conference of powers with interests in the Mediterranean - a conference on clearing the mines, left over from the War, out of the Adriatic. As an indirect result of this exclusion Britain lost two battleships.

### US and USSR filth

One of the worst forms of 'pollution' in the Mediterranean today is the presence of the US

# Expenditure smokescreen

THE publication of the Government's public spending estimates prompts some thoughts. All these financial crises, the supposed necessity of making cuts because of 'lack of money', inflation and so forth are all a bit like that mythical emperor's clothes. They only fool the innocent and uninitiated.

Now, overall spending is to go up, they say. The stock exchange is 'nervous' and we are supposed to sit back in relief as the 'cuts' have stopped. Of course, we never were just fighting 'cuts' - but their effects on our living conditions, and White Paper or no White Paper nothing has changed... except the cosmetics.

Of the £2,772 million increase in spending planned in the years 1978 and 1981, £1,250 million will go into a newly invented category, the 'reserve'. In other words, there are no plans to spend it at all. £539 million extra is to be spent on social security (planning for unemployment?), and £371 million on 'Defence'. Another £240 million extra is to be spent on the usually highly profitable business of overseas aid. Thus workers will see less than one sixth of this 'increase' - that is, unless they are on the dole!

Which is quite likely when we see that the estimates 'forecast' a decline in spending on agriculture, food, and fishing, as well as on trade and employment and subsidies to nationalised industries. The 'increases' in housing and education do not bring the level of spending up to the 1975 level, and in health the increase is designed solely to offset the increased 'burden' of the two extremes of ages in our society.

Capital spending, the investment in the future, is to drop, and of course no provision is made for any wage increases for public sector employees.

If this is not farcical enough, readers should be reminded of two other things. First, that each of these estimates are

revised upwards or downwards according to political climate and expediency, and that the present 'increase' in spending is based upon what THE TIMES calls a 'growth prospectus, which if not actually fraudulent, is certainly seen as being very doubtful...'

It is clear that the overall

strategy of decline and attack on the working class is not changed - and the less attention workers pay to such prospective cavortings and the quicker we get down to the real task of saving Britain by seizing the resources of the country and political power from the capitalist class, the better.

# Nurses for health!

IT has long been the practice in the Health Service for health workers to lay down the standards of medical and nursing care. Nurses especially are in intimate contact with patients, and involved in the running of hospitals and health centres. It is now vital that we assert this autonomous activity in the face of a Government which is aiming to dismantle the NHS. They forfeit all responsibility and we, above all, must say no to any decline in standards. Now is the time to be dedicated, not blindly like our forebears, but in the struggle to gain control of the Health Service that belongs to our class.

Nurses have a difficult job to do, often unpleasant, requiring skill and high morale. Yet we are in no way a special case, immune to attack; we cannot opt out of struggle. The most debilitating attack has been the cut in real wages, with our acceptance,

under the Social Contract. Also, partly as a result, there is high unemployment among nurses. Approximately 8600 are registered out of work, with many more unregistered. For those lucky enough to have a job there is a constant shortage of staff, lack of equipment and facilities.

So far we have responded defensively. The fight for the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Hounslow Hospital and others have been hard battles with grim lessons for us all of the ruthlessness of our employers. We have no choice but to take our own initiative. The first step in the fight for a Health Service must be a determined struggle for a decent wage. Our unions must be made to assert their independence from any Government pay policy. We cannot expect others to do the running for us: we can expect support, for we have the respect of our working class.

# NHS lab techs pay claim fight

THE biggest blow dealt to the NHS has been deteriorating living standards for those providing the service and consequent loss of morale. In such a labour-intensive industry (70 per cent of NHS money goes on wages) the wages issue is the main battle in defending health.

The following motion has been passed unanimously by Central London Medical Branch of ASTMS: "The matter of negotiating a salary increase is an urgency as we cannot nor are prepared to tolerate indefinitely... our living standards being constantly eroded. Thus we demand that the Medical Laboratory Technicians National Advisory Committee be immediately convened to discuss submission of a 33 per cent pay increase, backdated to expiry

date of the social contract, August 1st 1977, and consequently that our Medical Laboratory Technicians negotiators on the staff side Whitley Council urgently press for a meeting with management side on this crucial matter."

A similar motion in August was deferred and delayed. The Medical Laboratory Technicians must insist that they and only they can decide their claim - as in all other matters relating to medical laboratory technology no-one else is qualified to judge.

The ASTMS medical branches have tended to be organised primarily on the industry their membership is employed in, no matter what their occupation. Autonomy of professional sections is essential to obtaining maximum strength through unity of those in the same trade or occupation - only they are capable of defending their own skills and living standards - to preserve them for socialism.



BACK TO SCHOOL



On the first day of the new school year, more than 700 thousand pupils and students sat at their various desks in schools of various categories. Albania ranks with the leading countries in the world as regards the number of pupils attending school in comparison to the population. In Albania the eight-year school of general culture is compulsory. Secondary schooling in Albania is for 4 years. The State plans the contingents of qualified workers and technicians of medium training that will be needed in the future, on the basis of the economy and culture. In comparison with its population Albania ranks among the first countries in the world as regards the number of graduates and other higher schools. Every student completing his higher studies is appointed to a job even before he has received his diploma.

# Teachers take rap for Govt sabotage

IN October 1976 Prime Minister Callaghan, in a much heckled speech at Ruskin College, initiated the so-called Great Debate on education to provide a smoke screen for the Government's slashing cuts. Following several regional conferences (which could talk about any irrelevant thing they liked, but not touch upon matters of expenditure) a very putrid looking Green Paper was produced entitled 'Education in Schools'. It is an attempt by the government to examine the aims and content of education, and also to review the way in which control over education is shared out. It is the first such attempt since 1944, and its significance is that in the same way that Butler's Education Act was an expression of the strength of our class, this new Green Paper is an indication of our weakness in allowing the enemies of education to interfere in matters vital to the future of skill and academic achievement in this country.

The National Union of Teachers has taken up an honourable stand in refusing to accept that the Regional Conferences reached any agreement on what the needs to be

done in schools, and does not even accept that the arguments used in the Green Paper accurately reflect the actual situation in, or the needs of, the schools in Britain. Against this, the TUC's comments on the Green Paper indicate a disgusting attempt to apply a corporatist philosophy to the control of education. It applauds the government's proposal to encourage 'interested organisations' to interfere in the curriculum of the schools, so allowing the employers and their governments control over what subjects should be taught in schools and even over how they should be taught. In the light of stringency shown towards educational expenditure this could only result in a narrow utilitarian training for the majority of the nation's children, allowing them to become easily expendable cogs in the ever fickle capitalist machine. The TUC's approval of the Government's offensive to 'monitor' the schools completely ignores the professional competence of teachers, educational administrators, and especially that of the Schools Inspectorate which has a long history

of concern for education.

Throughout the Green Paper there is a readiness to blame inexperienced and less able teachers for some of our educational problems which are really the result of the policies followed by various governments. The intention seems to be to promote a witch-hunt against all those who do not, or will not, fit into the new criteria for educational standards, relying on the existence of the thousands of unemployed teachers to step in and gradually fill any gaps created by this decimation of the educational sector. The whole Great Debate should be seen as an attempt to make teachers the scapegoat for the lack of resources and of all the effects of industrial and social decline that are a result of capitalism's attempt to destroy Britain. The whole class must reject this latest attack upon education, now mounting to an awful crescendo from all quarters as Callaghan conducts this cacophonous symphony in a wild dance of destructive frenzy. Shirley Williams' statement that an "awful lot of schools will have to be closed and we will support local authorities who decide this is necessary" must be controlled by a determined effort by teachers and parents to keep our schools open and fully staffed by properly trained teachers and competent clerical workers and caretakers.

## One step forward, one step back

PROFESSOR A. H. Halsey, in the second Reith Lecture on Radio 4 (18/1/78) was forced to make some embarrassing admissions. The theme was 'the persistence of social inequalities', despite the myth that claims the trend is to the contrary. Halsey, an academic who closely identified with the post-war Atlee administration and its version of a land fit for heroes (mark II) has admitted his lectures have an overall theme of 'where did we go wrong' (the we meaning social democratic reformism).

The economic basis determines social relationships and wealth held disproportionately as it is, clearly prevents man from dealing with man on an equal footing. The continued

growth of trade union membership (now 12m) bears witness to that, as more workers understand that they have to use their collective bargaining power against a small number of individuals on the other side of the negotiating table.

Put in political terms, there has been no significant redistribution of wealth in Britain for the entire 77 years of the Labour Party's existence. The working class has forced certain improvements in education and health, now victims of public expenditure cuts, but property ownership, in proportion has remained intact. In 1960, for example, 1 per cent of the population owned 42 per cent of personal wealth, 5 per cent owned 75 per cent, and

10 per cent owned 83 per cent. Today, that top 1 per cent receives the same share of personal income as does the poorest third of the population. Yet in 1972, Roy Jenkins argued "the comfortable majority will have to make their contribution. It is an illusion to imagine that the gap between rich and poor and the rest of us can be closed solely at the expense of the rich... we have to persuade motor car workers... that they have an obligation to low paid workers..."

In other words, after 77 years of promising redistribution between rich and poor, all social democratic reformism can promise today is redistribution between the more and the less poor! and Co. have been attempting to do anyway.

Sending Villiers to the Tower may be quite a good idea but it is a sad commentary on the state of present bourgeois politics that the issue of the future of one of our most essential industries should turn into such a 'constitutional' farce. Meanwhile since the crisis is used as an excuse to beat down the wages of steel workers, they might well be justified in asking why BSC exists anyway. Is it to make steel, or to incur a paper profit/loss? Are we really to believe that the end result of all the workers' sweat, labour and skill is a drain on the resources of the country?

## NUPE defend 10,000 jobs

THE Greater London division of the National Union of Public Employees called on all its members in County Hall to refuse to cooperate with any policy aimed at either reducing the manpower at County Hall or limiting its services. This was NUPE's response to the plan by the Greater London Council to cut 10,000 jobs in five years.

Cutler, the leader of the GLC stated that what is needed is 'a streamlined and efficient organisation, staffed by highly skilled people... ready and willing to accept changes...' Changes will of course include redundancy and going on the dole for, with selling council-owned houses and the transfer of the estates from the GLC to the boroughs, thousands of jobs will be lost.

## Stealing the limelight

Continued from p1

from their recent report: "the Corporation, in its present difficulties, should place the greater part of its efforts on raising the productivity of existing works through the achievement of rational manning levels rather than incurring higher overall costs through the introduction of new facilities..."

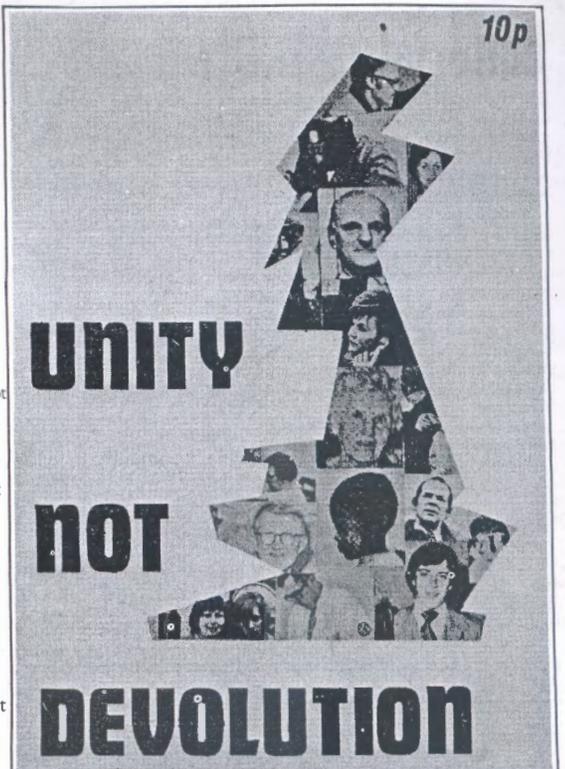
In other words, screw the workers for as much as you can... and then run. Which is exactly what Villiers, Varley

NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY EXHIBITION

"ALBANIA TODAY"

Town Gate Theatre, Basildon.  
Saturday 28 January 1978 - Saturday 11th February 1978  
10.30 am to 8 pm

Organised by Basildon Branch of New Albania Society.



A NEW CPB(ML) pamphlet entitled 'Unity not Devolution' exposes the myth of devolution as a 'national' salvation for the Scots and Welsh. It shows that the breaking up of Britain would be in the interests of the bourgeoisie at home and abroad. The working class of Britain must fight this attempt, for it is only through their unity that they can protect their national industry and culture.

Wales and England came out of feudalism together in a State forged by the Tudors. Infant capitalism developed here without discriminating between the workers it exploited. The Scottish bourgeoisie developed for a while on its own. During the 17th century it allied itself with the rest of Britain. By 1707 the Parliaments had united and there was one British nation and one ruling class.

Since then the working class has fought division amongst itself. Working class unity prevents the capitalist dividing and ruling and so it is revolutionary.

Revolution not Devolution.

Available from Bellman Bookshop, price 10p plus 7p postage.

## Books, pamphlets

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW 5

Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds

Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol

Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton

LIVERPOOL BOOKSTALL Every Saturday at Paddies Market,  
Great Homer Street, Liverpool

Now available: Volume V Selected Works of Mao Tsetung

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

WORKER readers are invited to the CPB(ML)'s new series of London meetings, listed below. The meetings will take place on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5.

Friday, January 27th	The Worst Employer in Britain
Friday, February 3rd	Morality in Politics
Friday, February 10th	Meeting organised by the New Albania Society

## 'The Worker'

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