

# THE WORKER



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# UNEMPLOYMENT IS UNACCEPTABLE

LAST week saw the announcement of unemployment figures of 1,608,316 - the jobless total becoming 6.7 per cent of all employees. Predictions of the unemployment rate into the 1980s run at the level of at least 1 million (from the Commons Expenditure Committee), and possibly as high as 2 million plus (from the Centre for Industrial, Economic and Business Research at Warwick University). With the forecast of an autumn general election, and the TUC meeting this week in Brighton, the scenario is now set for the Labour Party's annual ritual of pleas for various forms of contract between the government and the unions, in order to preserve a Labour Government in power.

One by one we will hear the familiar arguments - restraint on pay and conditions to reduce inflation, general restraint by the unions so as "not to antagonise the electorate" and a new bargain will be attempted - a pledge on cooperation over pay from the unions in exchange for the promise of a reduction in the working week to shorten the dole queues.

We will be asked to believe that by such tinkering the economy will be set on the road to recovery, that Britain will be saved.

But unemployment is not a temporary aberration of a capitalism unhappily out of control. It is in capitalism's very nature. It is a product of the deliberate de-industrialisation of this country - a result of its structural decay.

The Labour Government has neither the intention for the ability to deal with unemployment at its roots and no "job creation schemes", "seasonal adjustments" to figures or other sleight of hand can hide this fundamental truth.

The demand for a 35-hour week must not be used as a diversion away from the basic struggle for the right to work,

nor must we allow ourselves to be drawn in any way into the hypocrisy of bargains over pay restraint and a reduction in the working week.

Pay restraint has never been about the control of inflation - it is about the dilution and control of unions' independence and sovereignty. The fight for jobs is only as strong as workers' sovereignty and preparedness to continue that fight. It is on this and this alone that the salvation of Britain, and the working class, rests.

## Chrysler bolts

CHRYSLER'S intention to sell plants in Britain, France and Spain to Peugeot-Citroen has done more than add a dollar fifty on shares in New York. It has made clear once again capitalism's attitude to manufacture.

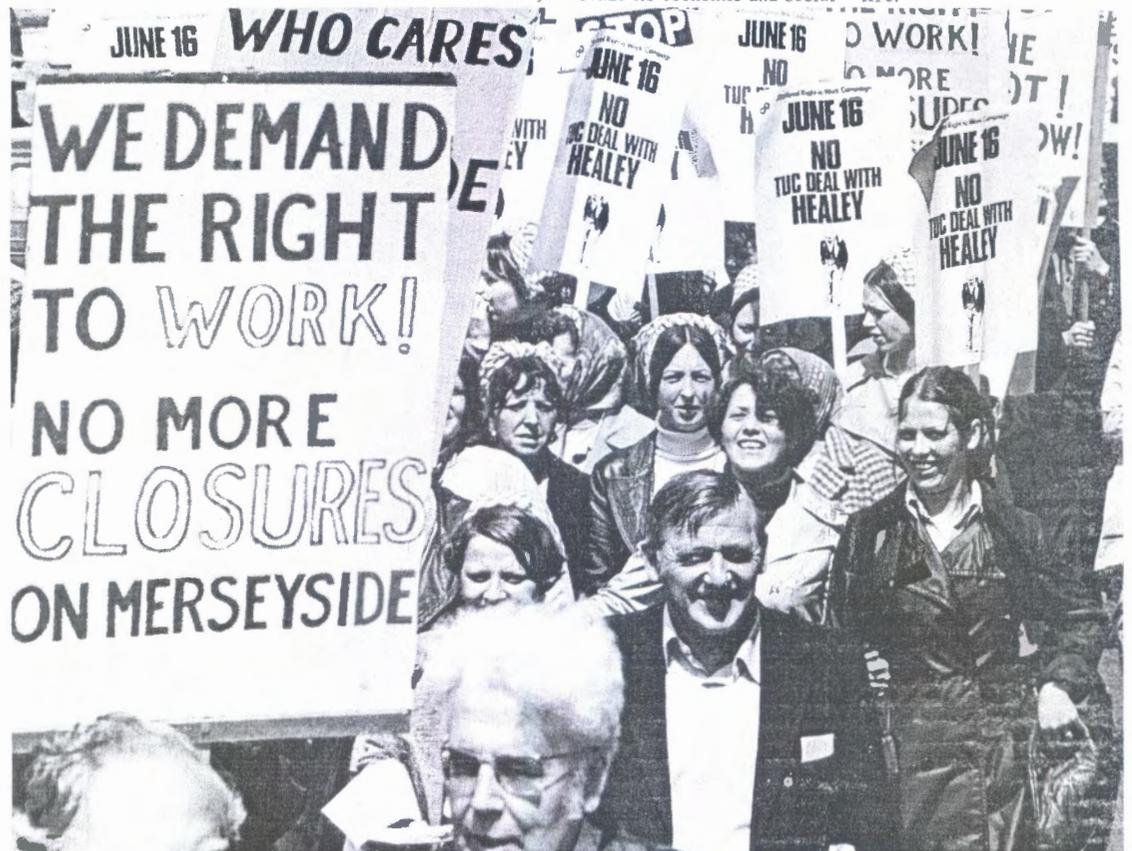
Certainly it is clear that these people are not mad about making cars nor have they any great interest in engineering. It is money that motivates them whether they

are buying or selling other people's jobs.

The attitude of Chrysler workers has been made clear through the meetings of the International Metalworkers Federation. Union leaders from several countries have launched a campaign to protect jobs and the future of the industry. They have declared that it is intolerable that a multinational company such as Chrysler, deeply in debt to its host Government in the UK, should be allowed to evade its economic and social

responsibilities to workers by selling out and running away." The Federation demands that the British, French and Spanish Governments secure guarantees for the jobs and ensure that the plants are not run down to become assembly points for kits from France.

If Chrysler workers really work on these demands, the echoes will put the wind up every speculator and whizzkid who will find that playing with people's jobs is playing with fire.



Workers in Liverpool march against unemployment. A Labour Government promised to reduce unemployment in exchange for wage restraint. We've had wage restraint but unemployment has gone up to two million! (John Sturrock, Report)

# HISTORIC NOTES Unemployment and Parliament THE WEEK

THE 1906 General Election increased Labour strength to over 50 MPs. Of these, however, only 5 had been opposed by Liberals, and over 20 were official Lib-Lab candidates. But soon there would be one MP who would not be a tail to the Liberals.

In 1907 the young Victor Grayson stood in the Colne Valley Bye-election as a socialist. He refused to fight the election on issues of wages and hours alone, but on the issue of socialism itself. "We are not divinely destined to be drudges," his manifesto read, "the time for emancipation has come. We must break the rule of the rich and take our destinies into our own hands. A VOTE FOR THE LANDOWNER OR THE CAPITALIST IS TREACHERY TO YOUR CLASS." He was elected, despite the continued official opposition of the Labour Party.

1907 was a year of mounting unemployment and distress. Demonstrations around the country were broken up by the police. Grayson raised the issue with the

Labour members and was told that it was not in the 'legislative programme'. So he raised the issue himself. The Labour members were embarrassed - he was disrupting the passage of a Bill to stop the poor drinking too much. Eventually Grayson resorted to 'Irish tactics' and after six weeks was ejected from Parliament shouting to the Labour members, "You are traitors, traitors to your class! I feel that no man who likes his kind would sit here another moment. I leave this house feeling that I gain in dignity in doing so."

His action created a storm. Asked why he did not form a socialist opposition within Parliament, Grayson just laughed and continued his speakers tour of the country. Labour's first real electoral victory had already shown the fundamental weakness of a parliamentary road to socialism. At the Labour Party Conference, Ramsey MacDonald was brought to account for his action against Grayson. His argument

was telling. "The opposition between parliamentary procedure and the question of how to deal with the unemployed is a purely fictitious one. The unemployed can never be treated by any parliament except one which has rules of procedure... To protect the conditions and the existence of democratic government is just as essential to the building up of a Socialist State as is the solution of the problem of unemployment. The Party which proposes to strike at the heart of democratic government in order to make a show of earnestness about unemployment will not only not be tolerated by the country but does not deserve to be."

The niceties and practicalities of running a capitalist state had already taken precedence over the needs of the labour movement. As Robert Blatchford stormed, "They have hauled down the Socialist flag to get their men into Parliament... The Socialist movement does not exist solely for the return of Labour members to the House of

Commons. The purpose of the Socialist movement is to arouse people, to uplift the souls of the people, to reorganise society, to establish collective ownership of the means of life... This can never be done until the people understand. You cannot make them understand by silencing your prophets in the interest of political expediency."

Though MacDonald and others had to resign from the executive for a year their 'practical' policies won through. Two years later a Labour Party Bill was passed - not to help solve the problem of unemployment, but to set up Labour exchanges to organise the Labour market better. One disillusioned Labour supporter wrote to Keir Hardie, "Labour exchanges are based upon and cannot exist without unemployment, a condition impossible under socialism and damnable under anything else... Labour exchanges will do more to perpetuate it than to destroy it." Solving unemployment had been dropped.

THE British press are trying very hard to reform the Shah of Iran as the reformer who is coming up against the reactionary religious Imams who desire nothing but a return to the dark days of rule under Islamic laws. Hence the confrontations, the shootings and arrests in the streets of Teheran and other cities.

When public meetings, gatherings and demonstrations are banned, prayers at the local mosque become a protest rally. When leading religious figures cannot speak out without being thrown into prison to join the thousands detained at his Imperial Highness pleasure, they become the beacon of the people. When the religious leaders call for freedom of expression and the release of political prisoners, even the most hardened atheist becomes a Muslim. Allah be praised!

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THE recent case of a shepherd in West Wales who was only paid £7 per week and had wages arrears of £15000, illustrates a problem facing many agricultural workers. Farmers are anxious to exploit, and many farm workers simply tolerate their miserable conditions.

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THE Manpower Services Commission's Executive and Professional Register has, according to its chairman, achieved 'commercial self-sufficiency'. In fact, last year it made a profit out of its trading of the unemployed.

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IN a recent investigation, it was discovered that the average worker wasted a scandalous three hours each week in looking out the window, talking with his mates, thinking, and other such idle activities. The same report told company directors not to feel guilty if they stared out of the window at nine o'clock, and only came round from deep contemplation three hours later; this was important as they were 'ideas men'!

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AS YOU may remember, British Rail is chuffed about its profit of £28m. "Since 1962," they boasted, "we've reduced our wagon fleet by six hundred and eighty thousand vehicles, and the number of locomotives by over nine thousand." Despite this obscene boasting, Parliament is not satisfied. Its Select Committee on Nationalised Industries has decided that BR cannot reach its final targets "simply by continuing existing trends." Even though staffing levels fell by 6 per cent between 1975 and 1977, and earnings per member of staff by 4 per cent, the Committee want a "reduced labour force with higher productivity." British Rail's proposal of a cut of 40,000 workers between 1975 and 1981 is not enough; 50,000 is 'more desirable.' Such a 'difference of opinion' would quickly become a joke if the railway unions really stood up for their industry.

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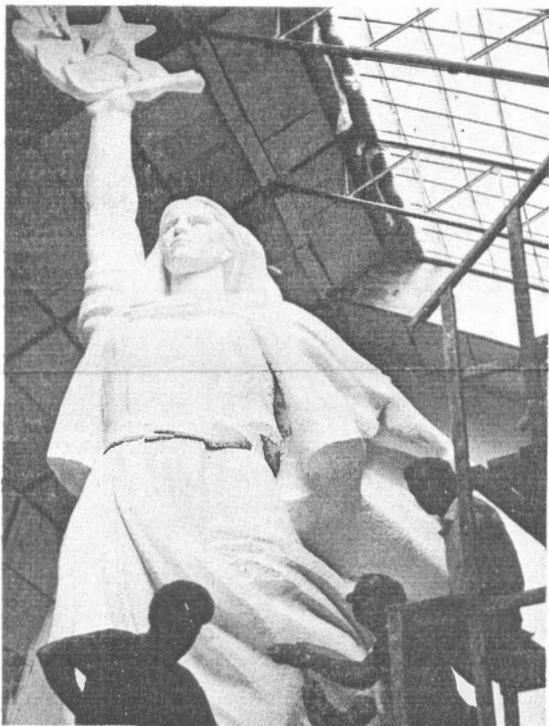
South Africa's secret police, until now aptly called BOSS has changed its name to DONS. A skunk by any other name would smell as foul!

## The Arts in Socialist Albania

PEOPLE involved in literature and the arts in Britain can learn a great deal from the Albanians. First, the Albanians have abolished the main contradiction that still exists in Britain, namely, that the working class creates literature and the arts but it is the bourgeoisie that profits from it. As this antagonism no longer exists in Albania, the role of the arts has changed.

The idea that is encouraged in bourgeois society, that artists, writers, composers are 'better' than other workers, is dispensed with in Socialist Albania. To have studied in a school is only part of the qualifications needed to become an artist or writer. The most important part is to be constantly amongst the rest of the working people so that the artist or writer can reflect accurately in his work the reality of life.

Realism is the dominant idea in the works of art in Albania and it is not hard to understand why. For hundreds of years the people fought for their independence from any foreign power and when they finally achieved liberation in 1944 they had a great deal to celebrate. This celebration



can be seen in all the artistic works in Albania, and their happiness in achieving independence and socialism has no reason not to be emphasized in every aspect of their lives.

The one sentence that sums up their ideas on the arts came in

1966 from Enver Hoxha: "Our socialist art should be firmly based on our native soil, on our wonderful people, arising from the people and serving them to the full."

What a good example they set for us in Britain.

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A UNITED NATIONS working party on slavery and child labour estimates that 53,000,000 children under the age of 14 are working throughout the world. The group heard of girls of 13 and under being sold into prostitution by poverty stricken parents in Brazil; of Thailand police rescuing 60 children from the age of eight from a factory in Bangkok, where they had been making paper chains 18 hours a day, seven days a week; of five-year-olds working 72 hours a week without pay in Moroccan carpet factories, in spite of government legislation; and of roughly seven million rural wage-earners in India who have pledged themselves and their families as security against debts to landlords. Unfortunately, the pronouncements of this United Nations working party will not liberate these workers, but only class struggle. Far from these 'third-world' countries being a bastion against capitalist 'superpowers', it would seem that workers there have still to fight some of the basic battles won elsewhere a century ago.

## Long live Socialist Republic of Vietnam!

IT WAS on the 2nd of September, 1945, that President Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the independence of the Vietnamese nation and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Unfortunately it took the heroic people of Vietnam thirty years of bloody fighting to defeat imperialism.

France was defeated in 1954 when the USA decided to launch the most savage war the world has ever seen against the people of Indochina. But in April 1975 they had to concede defeat at the hands of peasants, ill-fed and ill-clad.

The people of Vietnam, victorious and united, were

determined to build socialism. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam they are trying to overcome tremendous problems - the devastation of war, massive unemployment and the distortions of an economy tied to the needs of US imperialism's war-plans.

At the 4th Congress of the Communist Party in December, 1976 the general line for building socialism in Vietnam was expressed as follows:-

"We shall stick to the principle of proletarian dictatorship and promote the working people's right to collective mastery..."

The working people of Vietnam have many obstacles in the path of building socialism not the least being the new hostility of the present government of China, which has not only stopped all aid but given help and encouragement to Kampuchea to start provocations over disputed boundaries and has also begun to use the ethnic Chinese minority as an excuse for creating new problems for Vietnam. But the people who could defeat US bombers and napalm are not likely to let the machinations of either China or Russia destroy their determination to master their own destiny.

## EDITORIAL

NOTHING could be more cynical and unprincipled than Hua's cordial embrace of Tito and Tito's policies on his recent visit to Yugoslavia. He stood on Yugoslav soil, less than a hundred miles from the frontier of China's erstwhile friend and ally, Albania, and beamed his approval on Europe's premier revisionist and betrayer of Marxism-Leninism.

The way for this extraordinary performance was prepared by a greeting from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to the 11th Congress of the Yugoslav League of Communists on June 19, 1978, which described Yugoslavia's "socialist self-management system" as having "roused the socialist initiative of the working class and other working people and promoted the rapid development of the national economy."

In an article "Is Yugoslavia a Socialist Country?", written by the Editorial Departments of Renmin Ribao (People's Daily) and Hongqi (Red Flag), the leading newspapers of the Party and people of China on September 26, 1963, Tito's "workers' self-government" is described as "state capitalism", "a system of ruthless exploitation of workers under the domination of bureaucrat-comprador capital". In the enterprises under this so-called workers' self-management "the relations between managers and workers are actually relations between employers and employees, between the exploiters and the exploited". Moreover, "the managers of the enterprises use their privileges to make a lot of money. Bribery, embezzlement and theft are still bigger sources of income for the managers." No wonder Yugoslavia was described in the bourgeois press of the time as the main transmission belt for western ideas to Eastern Europe. A Yugoslav spokesman recently remarked "You see, we have a special problem other socialist countries may not have had to deal with - a great number of millionaires!"

### Tito has not changed

Tito has certainly not changed the system of "self-management socialism" which, without a dictatorship of the proletariat long ago abandoned by Yugoslavia, is as phoney as "worker participation" schemes in capitalist Britain. So this endorsement by the present Chinese "leadership" is as different from the line of the Chinese leadership in 1963 as the "self-management system" is from real socialism.

And what of the billions of dollars of so-called 'aid' from the US amounting in 1961 to nearly 50 per cent of Yugoslavia's total budgetary income, in exchange for which Yugoslavia joined the US-backed anti-communist Treaty of Alliance with Greece and Turkey, both members of NATO? Does Hua also believe that US 'aid' and joining anti-communist pacts is the way to build socialism?

In July, 1949, Tito closed the border between Yugoslavia and Greece, thereby cutting off the Greek liberation fighters from a rear area for refuge and regrouping, and at the same time allowed Greek fascist royalist troops to pass through Yugoslav territory to attack the Greek liberation forces from behind. In 1950 Tito attacked China for its "active intervention in the Korean War" and voted in the UN for an embargo on China. In 1954 the Tito clique slandered the struggle of the Vietnamese people against imperialism and said the struggle was simply being used by Moscow and Peking "as a card in their post-war policy of cold war." From the time of the attempt even before the end of the War to take over Albania and incorporate it as the sixth province of Yugoslavia, the Tito regime continued subversive activities and armed provocation against socialist Albania and in 1960 planned an all-out attack on Albania in co-ordination with the US Sixth Fleet in Mediterranean waters and the Greek reactionary government. In 1959 Tito slandered China for "revising its border with India by force and committing aggression against India."

Tito has never repudiated any of these acts on behalf of imperialism against socialism. Are they to be endorsed now by Hua and the Communist Party of China?

### Sino-Albanian fraternal alliance

In the Joint Statement of China and Albania, issued in 1966, to show their mutual determination "to further strengthen their friendship and unity and resolutely oppose US imperialism and Soviet modern revisionism" appears this paragraph: "no matter what storms may arise in the world, the Communist Party of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese people will resolutely stand by the Albanian Party of Labour, the Government of the People's Republic of Albania and the Albanian people who adhere to the line of fighting against imperialism headed by the United States, against modern revisionism, whose centre is the leading group of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and against all reactionaries, and will give them all possible support and assistance." One of those on the Chinese side taking part in the talks which led up to this solemn declaration was Teng Hsiao-ping.

When Khrushchev went to Yugoslavia in 1955 and embraced Tito, in spite of the condemnation of Tito's brand of phoney socialism by the world communist movement, it signalled to the alert Albanians and their leaders, all too familiar from their own experience with Tito's crimes against socialism, that the Khrushchev clique must be turning revisionist and moving away from Marxism-Leninism. They were thus able to warn their Chinese comrades of what was happening and together they were able to resist the wave of revisionism which swept over the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe temporarily obliterating socialism in those lands.

What are we to make of Hua's visit to Yugoslavia and embracing of Tito in 1978?



The scramble for profit kills wild life to promote tourism. Since the banning of big game hunting by the Kenyan Government the profiteers rely on poaching. (picture by Nick Birch)

## Capitalism is a threat to life forms

NOT hundreds but hundreds of thousands of unique, irreplaceable life forms may vanish by the century's end; says Erik Eckholm, author of a Worldwatch report entitled "Disappearing Species: the Social Challenge". The report points to single-minded resource exploitation, particularly in the tropics, and pollution with toxic wastes as the principal culprits.

Eckholm claims that: 'If current patterns of human activity continue, a good share of the unrecorded majority of species will vanish before their existence, much less their biological importance or economic utility is established.' The existing scientific literature contains details of about one and a half million species of plants, insects and animals. This is at most only 50 per cent of the species that exist, and is more likely a mere 15 per cent.

Some experts estimate that in tropical forests alone one species a day slips into extinction, a figure that could rise to one an hour within a decade. Eckholm

cites Norman Myers, a wildlife specialist, who says that by the year 2000, upwards of one million species will have vanished because of human activity. The rate of extinction is rising exponentially: more than half the known animal extinctions during the past 2000 years - since the first recorded extinction, which was of the European lion around 80 AD - have occurred since 1900.

Concern for the erosion of plant and animal life is not just a nature-lover's preoccupation. Eckholm points out that: 'Forty per cent of modern drugs originated in nature, yet only a small fraction of the earth's plants have been screened for medically useful ingredients.' Moreover, 'Nearly all the foods humans eat come from only about 20 crops, but thousands of plants are edible and some will undoubtedly prove useful in providing food needs. It is certain that socially significant uses will be discovered for many tropical plants as more are studied.'

The crucial issue in protecting the biosphere is genetic vari-

ation, both in plants and animals. Such variation can be the key to future developments. The overriding conservation need of the next few decades is the protection of as many varied habitats as possible. Eckholm acknowledges that conservation strategies cannot be pursued in isolation from broader economic development programmes. Because of capitalist domination of the less developed nations of the world, and the thirst for quick profits at any cost, vast areas of the earth will be transformed into mining and agricultural developments.

How much we could do with control of our own lands and their resources, to allow people to co-exist with the animal and plant life of our earth in a way that will benefit all. How much we could do with an economy in the service not of profit but of human need and the preservation and development of the land's resources. Under socialism there need be no destruction of the ecostructure of the planet, which is the only course capitalism, in its insane quest for profit, knows.

## The archaic Official Secrets Act used as a repressive measure in 1978

VERY shortly, the trial is due to begin of three journalists - Aubrey, Berry and Campbell, charged with infringements of the Official Secrets Act (OSA). It was, of course, a plank of the Labour Party Manifesto (1974) 'to replace the Official Secrets Act by a measure to put the burden on the public authorities to justify withholding information.' The recent Official Secrets White Paper, when introduced in Parliament by the Home Secretary, caused an uproar even at Government benches, because of proposed minor alterations rather than sweeping reform of a catch-all law.

Sub-judice limits what can be said about the forthcoming trial, but at the committal proceedings in 1977 the prosecution conceded that although the information which one of the journalists had gathered was openly published, in

newspaper clippings and telephone books, and not classified, when it was all put together the result was a 'dangerous interest', thus infringing the OSA.

It is still an offence in this country not to practice archery every Sunday morning for readiness in defence of the kingdom, just as you can be arrested for wearing fancy dress within a mile of Charing Cross Road. Large chunks of the OSA maintain this glorious tradition.

Information about the dangerous handling characteristics of vehicles for the disabled infringes OSA. In 1938, a journalist refused to divulge his source of information for an article published in the Daily Dispatch in terms nearly identical with a police circular concerning a man charged with fraudulent conversion of £5. State security was not involved and

there was evidence that such circulars were often displayed on police notice-boards. The journalist was convicted. The Sunday Telegraph in 1970 was accused under the OSA because of an article on the Nigerian war. In summing up the judge wondered, "whether or not Section 2 of this Act has reached retirement age and should be pensioned off..." A provincial journalist was threatened with prosecution under the OSA by the police for obtaining and publishing their hot weather dress regulations, which revealed under what conditions they might go about in shirtsleeves. A Post Office worker was recently threatened with prosecution after he wrote a letter to his local newspaper, in which there had appeared complaints about the slow service, to explain that the Office was undermanned.

# Social workers strike for local negotiations

SOCIAL workers in two "Labour-controlled" areas, Southwark and Newcastle upon Tyne, have gone on strike - and other areas may join them. They are demanding the right to negotiate, through their union NALGO, with their own local authority as distinct from the employers as a whole at national level. This way they hope to improve on the pay offer accepted by NALGO this summer.

The strike is well supported by social workers - despite the disgusting propaganda put out by their employers about the suffering it will cause. What hypocrisy! Social workers have taken for long enough the mental and physical strain of regular overtime and impossibly high case loads caused by Labour's sa-

vage expenditure cuts which have hit Social Services particularly hard.

If improvements are won by the social workers, the result will be a better service to the needy and must be seen as a move to help save Social Services from the employers and their Government.

This demand is a move away from the Whitley system of negotiating, which NALGO Conference finds unsatisfactory. By removing negotiations away from the "shop floor", Whitleyism has the effect of dampening down struggles, particularly in well organised areas. Strong NALGO members are beginning to reject this corporatist scheme and seek negotiations on their terms, and on their territory.

# NUPE should have 'more pay' not 'low pay'

THE ENCOURAGING stand taken by NUPE at its May conference - "We want nothing to do with wage restraint from any government" - has now found expression in the 'Low pay campaign', which in fact has all the appearance of a campaign for low pay.

It is true that "wage policies since the early 1960s have not been of help to NUPE members": the insultingly low level of pay of public sector workers testifies to that. But the union insults itself when it sets as its main aim the TUC goal of a minimum wage, 2/3 of average earnings.

In the first place, a minimum wage is no goal for any body of workers to set itself. The idea that service workers are worthy only of earnings just above the poverty level comes from the contempt of

capitalism for their work.

Unfortunately, the campaign is shot through with this very attitude. In pursuit of their goal the membership is called upon to lobby Parliament and public opinion like a charity begging for greater consideration.

The methods are those a charity would use - meetings, lobbies, leaflets. Nobody would guess that this was a united organised body of thousands of the country's most essential workers.

The Government itself is quite willing to use the concept of a minimum wage to keep wages at a minimum: they calculate the present minimum by taking the TUC's 1974 figure (£30) and adding the percentages allowed under succeeding stages of incomes policy - and arrive at the magnificent sum of £44.50,

which will surely abolish poverty at a stroke!

The campaign for a minimum wage represents the refusal to struggle openly and proudly for better wages, and by this the whole class is harmed. NUPE must answer this to fellow workers who is to fight to maintain the 'average wage' on which they parasitically base their claim?

This refusal is partly explained by the belief that "Our campaign against low pay is tied to the fight to commit the Labour government to implement its manifesto policies... and for the return of a Labour government at the next election." NUPE is attempting to serve both the interests of its members and of their most immediate and direct enemy at one and the same time.



(picture The Worker)

## Fish workers in battle for jobs

AFTER receiving 90 days notice of redundancy during their summer holiday, 300 workers of Ross Fish immediately took the initiative and laid plans for the saving of their jobs.

Plans which involve the whole of the threatened workforce, from process workers, members of the GMWU, to managers, members of MATSA, in the forming of an action committee, distribution of petitions, lobbying of local MP's, and letters of protest to the local press.

While public support is overwhelming, the workers realise that the real fight, which will be decisive for the saving of Hull's traditional fish processing industry, is at their place of work, with everyone involved willing to occupy if necessary. As one worker stated, "We will not be closed down, we demand the right to work".

the reputation of the NHS itself."

Shirley Williams addressing the annual conference of the Council of Local Education authorities spoke of the damage teachers were inflicting on children by using disruptive tactics to win demands. She said teachers should give up that sort of militancy and "behave more professionally in line with their status as skilled and professional people."

What disgusting hypocrisy! The very Government which has done more than any government before to hinder the care and cure of patients and to damage school children dares to try to shift the blame on to the workers in these vital industries. Only the twisted voice of a desperate capitalism could say that workers' sacrifices to defend the services they work in were the cause of all the suffering brought about by the deliberate destruction of those services. If doctors and nurses allowed hospitals to close, if teachers allowed class sizes to grow and schools to deteriorate, would that be "professional and responsible" conduct?

## Victory against sackings at SW Water Authority

THE VALUE of strong and independent unions was underlined in a recent dispute in the South West Water Authority. The issue was a basic one of taking a stand against the sacking of a NALGO member and warnings given to several members of both NALGO and NUPE. The unions were incensed at the methods that were used in the investigations leading to the disciplinary proceedings and also at the substance of the charges and the sentences meted out.

NUPE went on all-out strike, and, after 24 hours with the town of Tiverton running out of water, the

management caved in and cleared the NUPE members of all charges. When the NALGO members met, they passed a motion giving the Authority until the following luncheon to withdraw all proceedings, adjourning their meeting, to be reconvened in works time, should this not happen.

The Authority, fast learning of the unity of feeling that existed among staff, dropped all charges.

All good simple and effective trade unionism. Always possible as long as the unions are in the hands of the workers and when the workers are willing to use their undoubted strength.

## 'Welfare state' dismantled by Labour Government

THE LABOUR Government in the fields of education and health has carried out faithfully the instructions of British capitalism that it no longer needs in anything like the same numbers a well-educated, healthy working class. What is the point of a well-educated, healthy worker on the dole!

It is obvious that private education is not in the interest of the working class and this Labour Government has shouted as loudly as anyone about the withdrawal of support from direct-grant schools and boasted of what it was going to do about educational privilege. What it has done is to increase it all along the line! It has stimulated the creation of the largest number of fee-paying schools at any time since the Reformation.

This was bound to be the case. Only an expanding, improving national educational system could sap the foundations of private schooling. The same thing has been happening with respect to the health service. The Labour

Government has viciously cut back this essential service pushing the NHS to the brink of crisis and collapse. Hospital after hospital has been closed, the curable are dying and the ill are left to suffer on interminable waiting lists. Health workers are stretched to breaking point and doctors will soon be joining the dole queue. At the same time the Government has brought about a thriving, expanding private sector in health care for the privileged whose rate of development is directly complementary to the running down of the NHS.

Recent speeches by Labour Government leaders have shown their contempt for and fear of health and education sector workers who are fighting to protect standards. Callaghan speaking on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the NHS did not attack the growth of private medicine: he called for urgent action to end strikes and stoppages in the health service, saying that these actions "can harm the care and cure of your patients and damage

## Bookshops

**Belman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW5**  
**Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol**  
**Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton**  
**Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds**  
**Basildon bookstall Tues Fri Sat Marketplace**  
**Liverpool bookstall - every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool**  
**Hull Bookstall - Old Town Market, Saturdays 9.30-4.00**

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## Public Meetings

THE autumn series of public meetings in London organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), will commence on September 22nd, 1978. The venue of the meetings will alternate between BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 Fortess Rd, NW5 and CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square, WCI

Sept 22	Bellman Bookshop	If you vote, you vote for Capitalism
Oct 6	Conway Hall	Albania - Beacon of Marxism-Leninism
Oct 20	Bellman Bookshop	British troops out of Ireland; US Bases out of Britain
Nov 3	Conway Hall	Britain in the World, 1978