

THE WORKER



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HITTING MR 5% FOR SIX

Ford workers bargain

FORD Motor Company has started to climb down from its previous intransigence but is trying to save face at the same time. This great multinational has been stopped in its tracks by 57,000 workers who are finished with the Labour Government's income policy and are ignoring any guidelines.

Under duress, Ford promised to reopen negotiations in "an environment of free collective bargaining". But arrogance dies hard, even when punctured by a solid strike. An offer of 8 per cent has been rejected by union negotiators, although it breaks Government pay guidelines. The notion that union leaders ignore the aspirations of workers is juvenile, as shown by these negotiations. Workers in Ford are in deadly earnest, a mood respected by those in negotiation.

ENGINEERS AND MINERS PREPARE FOR ACTION

IMPLEMENTING the line agreed on at their National Committee annual meeting, the AUEW has put in a claim for a 33 per cent increase on basic rates.

After the meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at York the AUEW executive said: "We do not recognise Phase Four. Individual unions are being recommended to proceed at the appropriate time with domestic claims on the basis of free collective

the strike, like that threatened at BOC, is of political importance for it shows that workers have grasped the nettle of incomes policy dictated by a Government ruling in the interests of capitalism, a Labour Government to boot, which workers in the past have felt reluctant to fight, out of false loyalty.

Support for the strike has come from all sections intending to reject the incomes policy. Dockers have refused to handle Ford vehicles or spare parts going in or out of Britain. The CPSA has done all it can to help strikers' families. Picket lines are being respected by lorry drivers. Support from the International Metalworkers Federation and European Ford workers, in particular, has added that international dimension of working class solidarity for those in struggle.

bargaining."

The engineers' claim calls for a basic scale increase from £60 to £80, a reduction in the working week to 35 hours, and 5 weeks holiday a year.

The Engineering Employers Federation has sent letters to 6,000 member firms urging acceptance of the Government's 5 per cent guide line. Shop stewards in individual companies are already lodging plant-level claims of 20 per cent or more up and down the country.



BOC workers - wages not percentages

THE 76-MAN delegate conference representing 3,000 fillers handlers and drivers has clearly rejected the latest offer of an 8 per cent pay increase from British Oxygen Company. The workers involved, all of whom work in the Gases Division, are prepared to press their case with industrial action to emphasize the seriousness of their demands. The main TGWU negotiator said, "Our members are in a tough mood and, unless further negotiations are successful, another delegate conference could make certain recommendations."

In order to clarify the claim, the same delegate conference decided to trim their original eleven-point list of demands. They decided to drop six items in return for an eight-month agreement bringing the 3,000 workers back to their traditional pay settlement date in spring. So much for the twelve-month 'rule'. The employer has not yet agreed to this but if the workers are

The National Union of Mineworkers have decided to press for a 40 per cent claim "in the spirit of free collective bargaining".

The NUM wants to raise the rate of coalface workers from £78.44 to £110 a week with proportional increases for the rest of the 240,000 miners.

The president of the NUM said that if the National Coal Board tried to take the line first adopted by Ford Motors of sticking to the 5 per cent limit "they would be bloody daft."

solid enough they will be able to call the tune on that approach anyway.

The items that would be left in the current claim, in return for an eight-month agreement, are an improvement in basic pay rates and shift allowances, improvements in pay differentials for skilled workers, consolidation of all supplements, and a commitment to a shorter working week. The delegate conference that decided upon this type of claim now realises that a whole list of demands, while indicative of the scope of dissatisfaction in working under capitalism, only serves to cloud the main issue. In the present struggle. To some extent the present claim from workers at Ford is guilty of this. The fight for the 'bits and pieces' must not confuse the issue; the fight against iniquitous pay guidelines is the main issue at present and must have priority.

In the event of industrial action at BOC, the effect would

be felt very soon. BOC dominates the UK's supply of industrial gases. Oxygen, nitrogen and argon are gases essential to modern industry. BOC workers carry supplies to 180,000 other companies. Companies involved in mechanical and electrical engineering, oil refineries, shipbuilding and ship-repairing, glass, textiles, construction and food production would all be knocked sideways. When the same workers went on strike last year, for three weeks, 30,000 companies were affected. Had the strike continued, 100,000 companies would have been forced to stop production.

So let BOC mull over seriously the implications of putting forward silly offers that antagonise workers. BOC workers, represented by GMWU and TGWU, are not concerned with pay guidelines. Any fight they get into now, with employer and Government, will see them victorious, very quickly.

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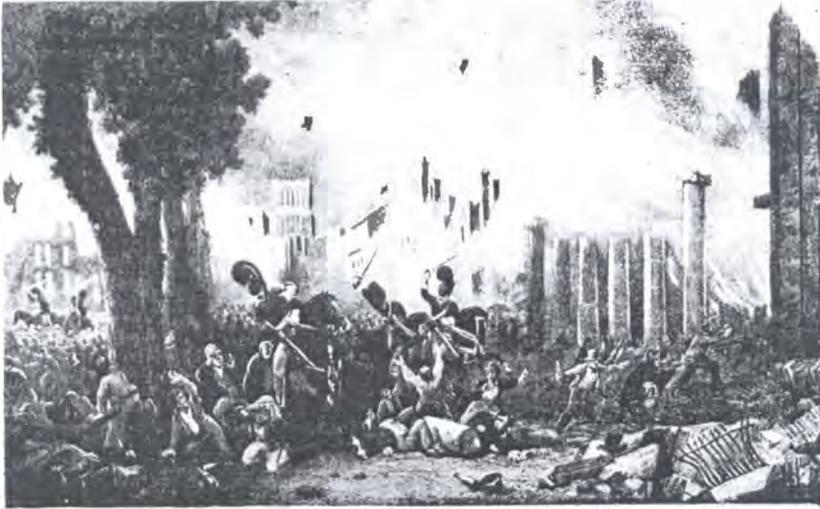
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HISTORIC NOTES Working Class Union 1831

'Rights of Property are the Wrongs of the Poor'

THE British working class has waged war on capitalism for over one hundred and fifty years. The capitalist development of the factory system in the early decades of the nineteenth century with all the accompanying exploitation and misery was a stimulus to working-class organisation and unity. During the formative period in the history of the working class it was already obvious to workers that, as the producers of all wealth, their birthright was nothing less than the complete control of the means of production and the state. It was quickly realised that capitalism was a system of exploitation which could only survive at the expense of the well being of workers. In 1831 the 'National Union of the Working Class' identified political oppression with social injustice. A statement from its congress said: "Why were the laws not made to protect industry, but property or capital? Because the lawmakers were compounded of fund and landowners, possessors of property, and the laws were made to suit their own purposes. Had the producers of wealth been the makers of law, would they have left those who made the country rich to perish by starvation?" The delegates at the congress discussed the contradictions that had been caused by the rise of capitalist industries. Many pointed out that whilst constituting a majority in society the working-class was victim of the new industrial system and expanding economy, developments which should have brought material benefits for all. "The rights of property are the wrongs of the



Soldiers attacking working people in Queens Square, Bristol, 1831

poor," declared one member.

At the third Co-operative Society Congress of 1832, several speakers described operators and employers as separate and hostile forces. In 'Pioneer', which appeared in 1833, Morrison criticised Owen's paternalism and claimed that the working class was an independent class: "Orphans we are and bastards of society." As Morrison pointed out, "The capitalist merely as a property man has no power at all, and labour... regulated by intelligence, will in a very few years be the only existent power in this and in all civilised countries."

There were different strands

of working class organisation springing up in the 1830s but Bronterre O'Brien, who is identified with three of the main movements, the struggle for reform, Trade Unionism and Chartism, described the common element of working class consciousness: "A spirit of combination has grown up among the working classes of which there has been no example in former times... The object of it is the sublime that can be conceived, namely to establish for the productive classes a complete domination over the fruits of their own industry."

Workers have struggled to free themselves from the capitalist

yoke for over a century and a half. Even in 1830 the workers were forming their own ideology, a Marxist-Leninist ideology. Workers fought to end exploitation and in their day-to-day class struggles they aspired to the control of society by the productive class itself. They saw unity and combination in the Trade Unions as their strength against capitalism. They realised that their potential power was boundless. Today the working class has the experience of a century and a half of struggle behind it and capitalism in decline shows the aggression of weakness.

THE WEEK

UNLESS a shorter working week is agreed, the Fire Brigades Union will reconvene its conference on November 28th to consider a call for action from the Executive.

FROM France, news of a guerilla but not ineffective, series of struggles by French parents to obtain teaching for their children. Authorities have been prevented from redeploying teachers by parents holding them hostage in their classrooms. They are provided with all necessaries, and above all, protection from police snatch gangs. The teachers have not complained.

THE Supplementary Benefits system is in danger of collapse, according to its chairman, because it cannot meet the demands made upon it. Over half the 1½ million unemployed are dependent on Supplementary net Unemployment benefit. Direct payment of rates has risen four-fold in as many years to 100,000. Direct payment of fuel bills, only introduced two years ago, total 120,000.

THE NUJ has rejected the pay policy in seeking a £20 a week rise for 9000 provincial journalists.

ALTHOUGH the government allocated £40 million for additional teachers to allow in-service training to take place, local authorities have underspent by £5 million, and only employed 5000 more instead of 9000. A grateful government is revising its plans downwards next year.

Zimbabwe Liberation Panics Racists, Imperialists

ALL NEWS currently coming out of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is subject to the military censor: "yes of course we've got the terrorists on the run" or "we suffered only light casualties" are heard very often. As Goebbels said, if you tell a lie often enough people start to think it's true.

However, the perpetrators of the big lie do not seem to believe it themselves and after all, how could they? For the battle reports from the most intensely fought over areas being sent to Salisbury must have to tell the bitter truth. Why else would the much weakened regime have to participate in the frenzy of international diplomacy currently overshadowing the struggle going on in Zimbabwe itself?

Before considering the international to-ing and fro-ing, we should keep clear in our minds certain key facts germane to our understanding. One sixth of Zimbabwe is living under martial law which means that for the occupiers of the Smith regime, anything goes. This area is known for its strong support for the liberation movement and consequently is being punished. And 'being punished' means exactly what you know it means. But to resort to martial law, as the Shah knows, means that occupying force is losing its grip of the struggle.

Throughout Zimbabwe, 900 miles of road are unsafe from guerilla attacks and so military convoys accompany civilians in their movements along those roads.

Three weeks ago the main bridge between Zimbabwe and South Africa, crucial to their relationship in adversity, was blown up and apparently will take weeks to repair. That it was heavily guarded seems to have made little difference in a land where the racist regime, with Uncle Toms in train, is surrounded by enemies.

However the people of Zimbabwe have enemies outside of their own country. Britain and the USA in particular are doing their utmost to ensure the transition to a capitalist Zimbabwe, Whites and Black capitalists in command. The handsome Messers. Owen and Young are merely prettifying imperialism. Their proposal for UN troops to oversee election of a government in capitalism's

interest is typical of their version of honest brokerage. Remember Korea.

Carter's refusal to meet Smith and Sithole, his black valet, should fool nobody. British and US investments in Africa cannot be risked with an open welcome, although dialogue continues privately. Behind-the-scenes pressure on weak-minded governments like that in Zambia, whose capitalist economic interest precedes the well-being of Zimbabwe's people, will in turn be pressed on those claiming to speak for the liberation fighters. The diplomatic charade and unreliable allies show that the people in Zimbabwe must look to themselves to guarantee the future control of their country.

Foreign Troops In Lebanon - Not Peace But a Sword

TWO years after the introduction of the Arab 'peace keeping' force, of whom Syrian forces formed the main part, there is today more killing, more shelling and more ruins in Lebanon. No wonder the presence of Syrian troops is being compared to that of British troops in Northern Ireland. The similarity does not end there. In 1976 Syria went into Lebanon purporting to protect the very people it now shells mercilessly, the followers of Shamoun and other reactionaries.

The Syrian army was to form 'a buffer zone between the warring factions' in Syria. Today we are treated to the spectacle of the newly formed Lebanese army acting as a buffer zone between Syrian troops and who? With friends like that Lebanon does not need enemies.

The imperialists who insist on presenting the war in Lebanon as one of christian against muslim are only trying to strengthen the very situation they created in Lebanon while

that part of the Middle East was under British and French colonial rule. The facts belie the imperialist propaganda. There are christians on both sides. Syria itself has a sizeable christian population, many of whom are in the armed forces killing Lebanese christians and muslims alike.

The people in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon have to endure not only the artillery bombardment of the Soviet-made guns but also naval shelling by Israel's navy,

armed by the US. Obviously the peace of Begin does not extend beyond the perimeters of Camp David.

Lebanon has armed forces from over ten different nations. There are the UN peace-keeping force, the 'Arab peace-keeping force' and the Israeli forces who consider themselves the overlords, interfering whenever and however they like.

All foreign troops out of Lebanon. Lebanon is not a battlefield in a wargame.

600 workers, members of GMWU, have been locked out of their workplace, Fenner's Hull, after banning overtime and working to agreed minimum piecework rates in support of a pay claim for £8 on the basic rates of £44.50.

Over the last three weeks a well organized round-the-clock picket has been maintained, preventing anything leaving the factory, also in an act of solidarity, Hull dockers are refusing to handle Fenner goods through the port. Further offers from the company such as self-financing productivity, where workers pay for their pay increase through lost jobs, have all been rejected.

The dispute for a decent living wage, as one picket put it, continues.

OXFORD university will receive half a million pounds less annually than is necessary to maintain its research. Meanwhile, the 19,000 strong Association of Professional Scientists and Technologists have put in a claim in excess of government guidelines.

WITH FIVE areas and 1200 members already out for a local pay scheme for social workers, NALGO is now balloting for action in 5 new areas.

EDITORIAL

MOST OF our fellow workers have not yet taken in the full implications of the fight for collective bargaining. The true political significance of what we, the working class, are doing when we defy Callaghan, Healey, Thatcher, Heath, Steel and Joseph is to recognise the whole lot as capitalist stooges.

The one political issue which is exercising the leaders of all three capitalist parties is how to keep wages low and profits high. It could be said that such has always been their concern but not so desperately as now when capitalism is in absolute decline. Callaghan, Heath and Steel are convinced that it has to be done by a fixed wage limit backed by the threat of monetary measures to increase unemployment if necessary. Thatcher and Joseph are convinced that, while this is true of the public sector, in the private sector employers should be allowed to bargain against each other for the labour they find it profitable to hire, leaving the rest unemployed to keep the market price of labour low.

For the working class to get involved in this discussion is like the Christmas turkey chipping in on an argument about whether an axe or a hatchet is the best way of dealing with the economics of providing a Christmas dinner.

What all the disputants are agreed on is that whatever form of wage restraint is used, it must be justified on the grounds of the need to keep down inflation. There must be no mention of profits. Just when certain Labour leaders have been boasting that they have got certain trade union leaders to realise that "profits" are respectable and can be mentioned in polite society, the capitalists themselves have decided that a euphemism is needed for the "fight for profits". It should be called instead "the fight against inflation".

Sometimes there are slip ups. Recently a TIMES headline writer dealing with an attempt to make people think that they are not as badly off as they are, headed an article: "Living Standards Up by 3 per cent as Company Profits Fall". What he should have said, of course, was: "Living Standards Up by Tiny Fraction as Inflation Rockets".

The bourgeois economic hacks have had to work overtime at this wage-inflation thesis because it is so patently false. Does anybody really believe that the worst inflation of recent history in the time of the Weimar Republic was caused by German workers in the midst of a world depression getting too high wages? It was caused by the capitalist class who wanted to create chaos out of which Hitler could rise to smash the trade unions.

We workers make a great mistake if we think the ills that befall us in a capitalist society are in spite of and not because of the capitalist ruling class. Capitalism is in a state of crisis and the capitalists are determined that what is going to suffer is the working class and not profits. That is the key to everything that any government in Britain is doing whether it is Labour or Tory or any cooked-up coalition.

This shows how badly the working class needs its own party. In fact the vote at Blackpool against government pay-fixing was a vote of no confidence in all the capitalist parties. By implication it was a vote for a working class party which by its very nature can entertain no political plans for the country which are not in the interest of the working class. That vote was, in fact, a vote for the kind of radical change in the British economy and society that can only be revolutionary - a vote, therefore, for a revolutionary working class party. And there is only one.

Motorways To Chaos

GREAT TRACTS of central London, Kings Cross, the East-on Road, Islington, may be destroyed by motorway. There is a new scheme to link the West Way - that ugly incision through the streets of Ladbroke Grove - with the East End docks. Yet at the same time they are trying to close those same docks. So much for the claim that increased Dock traffic requires more roads!

Motorway building has little to do with the movement of goods, but a great deal to do with the destruction of the environment, natural or manmade. In the areas under threat property has been allowed to fall and stand vacant in preparation of its final crushing under the wheels of Juggernaut.

And these ribbons of concrete sterility are financed out of our pockets and the exorbitant taxes we pay. At the same time a viable rail network falls into disrepair. So scared is the GLC

of public reaction, that it is releasing plans for road 'improvements' only piecemeal. In this way it hopes to avoid the public enquiries which, as at Archway and elsewhere, have successfully opposed their plans. Public antagonism against these charades of consultation has on occasion flared into a legitimate violence which has both surprised and embarrassed the authorities. The ex-Admiral trying to chair the Leatherhead M25 enquiry can hardly have faced any worse mutiny than that of the normally peaceful citizens. As one mother said: "I'm doing this not just for myself but for my children. No-one seems to take any notice of us. We feel this whole motorway scheme has been arranged already!"

"The children are the ones who will suffer from the noxious fumes and lead poisoning from all the vehicles going past our houses. We plan to fight the end."



Demonstration by the catering workers of Garners' Steak Houses who are on strike for union recognition.

Uneven Development - Exploitation

MUCH has been heard of Britain's declining industries. Little has been heard of Japan's, yet these too exist in areas such as metals, textiles, ceramics and chemicals. Maybe in Japan, workers in these industries are accused of being under-productive or lazy, just as British workers are accustomed to. In reality, however, this is a reflection of the chaotic development of capitalism.

Investment in Western economies has stagnated - OECD studies show that there has been a shift in emphasis away from the construction of new plant towards 'rationalization' and 'replacement' investment. In other parts of the globe, however, there has been dynamic growth. Such growth, of the order of 7-10 per cent, relatively unnoticed prior to the recession, has occurred in several far eastern countries - South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong - several countries fringing the Mediterranean, plus Brazil and Mexico.

We should not be misled into thinking that this has occurred as the result of balanced, self-sufficient economies, built up by diligent peoples, now exporting their surplus products and deservedly earning their rewards. It has resulted from a deliberate policy, originally mapped out by Japan herself, of export-led growth in labour intensive industries, concentrating on relatively few product lines and on selling to the rich markets of Western Europe and the USA. In the main these products consist of clothing, textiles, footwear, luggage, furniture, cutlery, wood products and jewellery, and consequently there has been a corresponding decline in these industries in the West.

Some of these industrializing countries have moved a stage higher into the light engineering field producing consumer electrical goods, watches, clocks, electrical components and telecommunications equipment. Here too the West has felt the competitive pinch. This trend towards light engineering will increase as these countries are already looking over their shoulders at even lower low-wage competition such as from Malaysia or the Philippines. The more advanced of the group, South Korea is already poised to move into the heavy and high technology industries and hopes to in-

crease its car exports from the present 10000 a year to 160000 by 1981. What this illustrates is the unequal development so typical of capitalism. Previously limited on a geographical scale to within national boundaries or within Europe, this is now happening on a global scale. Many of us will remember that one argument for Britain's entry into the EEC was that Europe's growth would rub off on Britain. Now, alas, the EEC is designated a stagnant area. The centre of capitalism has moved to the Pacific basin.

The role of international capital in this process is crucial. Without massive injections of foreign capital, from the international banks and multi-national corporations drawn by the prospect of low taxes and cheap and docile labour forces, these newly industrializing countries could not have achieved their present position, however hard they worked and saved. This of course has not been a charitable role - the development of under-developed countries has been only of secondary concern, if of concern at all - and these funds would soon move on to greener pastures should the opportunity arise.

For proponents of free trade capitalism this anarchic economic development almost assumes the status of an economic theory - an international specialization of production, by which older industrial economies are supposed to abandon labour intensive industries in favour of more sophisticated products needing the skill, research and capital which is lacking in lesser developed countries. This sounds fine,

but it does not seem as if our own capitalists have caught on. Investment overall in Britain has only begun to recover from very low levels and Britain's annual R and D expenditure standing between one and two billion pounds annually, compares poorly with the seven billion spent by Japan in 1977. Furthermore it takes no economist to see that some research-based industries, notably electronics and machine tools, are faring badly, not to mention the capital intensive steel and shipbuilding industries. In fact British electronic firms are lagging so far behind in the allegedly revolutionary developments in microprocessor, that it needed the National Enterprise Board to take any initiative in this direction, at all.

Little comfort, too, can be gained from protectionists. Aside from the intricacies of international capitalism which would render protectionism a self-destructive course for any capitalist economy to follow, it would mean scarce and expensive products benefitting only the pockets of British capitalists.

The only answer to this world situation of uneven development, which benefits neither the working people of the industrialised nor the industrialising countries but only the capitalists, is for workers to take their country right out of the capitalist complex altogether - as the Soviet Union and China did at the time of their revolutions. And having escaped from the capitalist world and begun to build socialism, the working class has to see that their country does not get sucked back into the capitalist international scene again.

TRADE UNIONISM VERSUS RACISM

"SPREADING the ideals and practices of trade unionism among ethnic minority communities to help them organise and help themselves is a goal to which the trade union movement is fully committed." So said the general secretary of the TUC in a speech made near Brick Lane, which has recently seen racists and fascists engaging in violent attacks on ethnic minority groups.

In the East End of London

we are calling together officers of our unions to consider how to build effective union organisation among ethnic minorities to enable them to defend themselves against racial discrimination.

Literature is to be disseminated in the languages of the Bengalis and others to explain what unions are and how they work. There will be discussions on how to deal with racial discrimination, either direct or indirect, which shows its head inside workplaces.

'The Worker'

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NAME

ADDRESS

WORKER INTERVIEW Bristol Polytechnic

Due to recent staff changes in the School of Special Education at the Redland site of Bristol Polytechnic, students returned to find their worst fears of last term confirmed. Despite a large increase in student numbers over the past few years, no increase has been made in staff numbers - in fact the school is at least three full-time lecturers short. The WORKER interviewed a student teacher for the severely educationally sub-normal.

Q. What has the Poly been doing to ensure your course operates this term?

A. The Poly was aware of the decrease in staffing levels in the middle of June and, despite negotiations by the head of the Special School at committee level, no authority was given to replace staff.

Q. How is the students' union preparing to resist these staffing cuts?

A. We have formulated a motion to go to an emergency meeting, in full support of our staff, which calls for a boycott of lectures.

Q. How has the Poly responded to this initiative?

A. The mere threat of a boycott forced the Poly to reopen negotiations, and to make funds available to bring in replacement staff. However, we do not consider this has met our demands. We believe that only full-time appointments will solve the situation in the long term.

Q. I hear the Director has promised a staff review in January?

A. Yes, but that is far too late; we want it now. Furthermore, we were told that the Poly cannot appoint full-time staff, yet we found that they were advertising for such posts in last week's GUARDIAN.

Q. How are you ensuring that the Poly provides proper educational provision?

A. The only way to ensure this is through our union, in consultation with NATFHE (the Poly lecturers' union).

Q. What do you reckon are your chances of success in this dispute?

A. The threat of Students' Union action has succeeded where negotiations have failed. However, we will not settle for mere palliatives and will move on to the offensive for extra staff and research facilities, convinced that we have the power as a union to ensure our demands are met.

Albania Meeting

A CROWDED meeting at Conway Hall last Friday called on the labour movement to campaign for the British government to recognise the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. The meeting, called by the CPBML, and entitled "Albania - beacon of Marxism-Leninism", heard a wide-ranging and thought-provoking talk before passing the resolution.

Sticking to the policies of economic and political independence, coupled with the determination to end the exploitation of man by man is the foundation of the strength of Albania. Keeping basic principles in mind, the Albanians had been able to foresee, expose and survive the treachery of former allies in the struggle for socialism - first of all Yugoslavia at the end of the war, then Russia in the '60s and now China. None of this

could have been achieved without the dictatorship of the proletariat, something which "sounds terrible to the bourgeois... which should sound terrible to the bourgeois."

But, the speaker pointed out, it is not enough to praise the Albanians for their achievements. We have many questions to answer and much to do ourselves in support of our common struggle. Does the defence of socialism depend solely on the line taken by a Communist Party? Can we simply blame "the leadership" when socialism is defeated in a country? These are problems for Britain and Albania as well as for the Chinese and Russian people - problems that have to be solved if the fight against capitalism is to end in the liberation of the world's peoples.

Government - Seals Fate

FOURTEEN thousand Orkney seals are a greater danger to fish stocks than the combined fleets of the EEC and the USSR which plunder the seas - so says the government. Yet even the government admits that the seals may eat between 50 and 100,000 tons, while commercial fishing accounts for at least 10 or 20 times as much. The government solution: slaughter the seals and allow the EEC and other capitalists to run down fish stocks to extinction.

Ignorance is no justification for the private citizen in the eyes of the law. Yet, the government has the gall to say that because they don't know what effect seals have, they should be shot nevertheless. The capitalist mentality. Meanwhile the voluntary Greenpeace conservationist organisation has to finance research out of charitable gifts and to the modest scale of a few thousand pounds. Any but a capitalist government would willingly pay this in the interests of science. The conservationists are not opposed to culling as such. They merely do not accept the capitalist view that seals cause a decline in fish stocks - until there is evidence. After all, fish stocks are declining, but the seal population is expanding.

The government in its cowardice does not hire hunters from Britain but Norway. The enterprise is capitalist. The contract is worth £20,000 (is it really that little?) and the company can keep all the profits from the sale of the pelt and blubber of the baby seals.

In Brief

SINCE 1970 imports of finished manufactured goods into Britain have more than doubled, while at the same time imports of raw materials fell, according to the latest report of the National Economic Development Council. Another pointer to capitalism's campaign to destroy our industry.

WHO can disagree with Sir Robert Mark when he writes that "those classes most immune from the criminal law are lawyers and the police"?

Defend Education - Defend Small Schools

IN THE last decade, more than 2,000 primary schools in England and Wales have been closed. Since January 1977, 102 primary schools have ceased to exist. The Government, if it has its way, is ready to step up the rate at which schools are being closed.

To date, it is the small schools in rural areas which have suffered most from the attacks of the Government. Now, throughout England and Wales, in both rural and urban areas, small schools are desperately struggling to remain open in the face of the savage attacks being made upon them. Teachers, parents, communities and children are saying: "No! You will not close our schools. You will not destroy our education."

Those who wish to do away with small schools ignore the role played by these schools in containing a community and in supporting the relationships that contribute to the quality of life for community residents. Schools are a vital part of a community. This applies as much to Battersea (where the ILEA is threatening to close Lavender Hill School) and East London (where

Robert Montefiore School has already been doomed to close) as it does to the smallest community in the Lake District.

We know that there are positive benefits to small schools as well as to small class size. In several studies the performance levels of students in both small schools and small classes have been found better than those of students in larger schools and classes.

Our Party says: "In truth a single child can constitute a school. Education is not limited by pupil number but by the input of resources human and physical. Some say if numbers fall, schools will have to close because options cannot be provided, specialisms covered. This is nonsense. Adequate coverage of subjects depends on the number of teachers not pupils. We say NO to school closure. Falling rolls must mean smaller classes not fewer."

The recently formed National Association for the Support of Small Schools thus deserve every support in their attempts to keep our schools open.

Hospital Closures

WHEN the Health Service was reorganised in 1974, engineers and building supervisors took on new responsibilities. Yet when the structure was agreed, the Department of Health refused to finance it unless the money came out of the next pay award.

The employers must have thought this small group of 3,500 in different unions could never effectively organise. Events have proved them wrong. What has galled the employers, apart from the unity of the five unions involved, has been the ability to pursue industrial action of extraordinary effectiveness, with least detriment to them-

selves or to patients, as the engineers report to work daily. Throughout their refusal to maintain essential equipment, the men have continued to service ten per cent of the machines for emergency use. This, in addition, has ensured communication with other health unions, so that in spite of the authorities' callous closing of parts of dozens of hospitals, no effective campaign, (except the increasingly shrill one in the media) can be mounted against the engineers. The Health Minister made matters worse by proposing a settlement that had been rejected two weeks earlier. They now hide behind the 5 per cent.

Bookshops



Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress 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

Public Meetings

The autumn series of public meetings held in London and organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) will be continued at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5, October 20th, 7.30pm.

"BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND: US BASES OUT OF BRITAIN"

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, November 3rd, 7.30 p.m.:

"BRITAIN IN THE WORLD 1978"

Croydon, Tuesday, October 31st, 8.00 p.m.
Study Room, Central Library, Katherine Street:

"NO CUTS, NO CLOSURES - SAVE BRITAIN"

