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of Britain
(Marxist-Leninist)

THE WORKER

LENIN CENTENARY

Lenin in Britain

Workers of Britain will be joining with workers the world over to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Lenin's birth on April 22nd. It was Lenin at the head of the working masses of Russia who demonstrated for all time that revolutionary workers could smash a reactionary state machine and take power in their own right. The glorious October Revolution of which he was the architect marked the beginning of the end of the rule of exploiting classes over exploited workers, the beginning of the hard-fought transition to a world from which every form of exploitation of man by man will have been eliminated.

No wonder the name of Lenin is hated in Britain by all the enemies of the working class. But these enemies of the workers are not only to be found in the ruling class and among their stooge officials. They have penetrated the workers' movement itself. They can be recognised by their attempt to deflect workers from Lenin's line of revolutionary class struggle to a reformist line of class compromise, by their efforts to persuade workers to play the game by the boss's rules—so that the boss is bound to win.

The most dangerous misleaders of the workers are those who pretend to speak in Lenin's name but distort his words to serve the interests of the class enemy. These are the revisionists — traitors who 'revise' Marxism in such a way as to make it no longer a revolutionary weapon in the hands of workers. Revisionists pretend to support workers but are really for the bourgeoisie; they pretend to be for socialism but are really for capitalism.

There can be no more nauseating spectacle on this hundredth anniversary of Lenin the great proletarian revolutionary than empty ceremonies to mark the occasion by the revisionist leadership in the Soviet Union which, in betraying everything he stood for, has betrayed workers all over the world. In the very country where workers' state power was first established and socialism was being built, revisionism has enabled the bourgeoisie to creep back into office and capitalism to be restored; and yet revisionists there and in the C.P.G.B. here dare raise their voices in praise of the man whose revolutionary ideas they have rejected!

When the Chinese Marxist-Leninists under Mao Tsetung's leadership first drew the workers' attention to this betrayal by the revisionists, it was in a publication called "Long Live Leninism" brought out on the 90th Anniversary of Lenin's birth. Now, ten years later, workers are grateful to their Chinese comrades for preserving the pure revolutionary content of Leninism and developing it in the further consolidation of socialism.

Lenin lived for some time in London and, like Marx, studied in the British Museum. He could read English though he spoke and wrote it with some difficulty. From London were published issues of Lenin's revolutionary newspaper *Iskra* (Spark). Before and after the October Revolution. Lenin kept in close touch with the labour movement in Britain. He often wrote about the specific problems of developing a revolutionary movement in this country.



In 1920 on the occasion of a visit to the Soviet Union of a delegation of workers from Britain Lenin sent by them a letter to British workers in general. In this letter he dealt with the criticisms of members of the delegation who had been influenced by petty bourgeois, reformist and pacifist ideas.

"Our Red terror," he wrote, "is a means of protecting the working class from the exploiters, a means of suppressing the resistance of the exploiters. Freedom of the press and assembly under bourgeois democracy is freedom to conspire against the toilers, freedom for the capitalists to corrupt and buy up the press."

In an article dealing with Ramsay MacDonald's betrayal of the working class Lenin stated: "It is not voting, but civil war that decides all serious questions of politics when history has placed the dictatorship of the proletariat (the rule of the working class) on the order of the day."

One of Lenin's great contributions to workers' struggle is his demonstration of the class nature of the state and the necessity of destroying the bourgeois state in order to establish a workers' state, the necessity of overthrowing the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat.

An equally important contribution is his exposure of the nature of imperialism. Unlike Kautsky and all the revisionists since, Lenin knew that as long as imperialism exists wars are inevitable. Imperialism can be fought

and defeated; it cannot be tamed and humanised. Lenin also understood profoundly the nature of class struggle under imperialist conditions. What he wrote in 1908 continues to have lessons for us today:

"The English bourgeoisie obtains larger revenues from the tens and hundreds of millions of the population of India and of her other colonies than from the English workers. In these conditions, a certain material and economic basis is created for infecting the proletariat of this or that country with colonial chauvinism. Of course, this can only be a passing phenomenon; nevertheless, we must clearly recognise the evil and understand its causes in order to be able to rally the proletariat of all countries for the fight against such opportunism. And this fight will inevitably lead to victory".

Long live Leninism! Victory to the workers of Britain who, as Lenin taught, cannot separate their own emancipation from the emancipation of others!

LABOUR'S PHONEY MIRACLE

THE MAIN asset with which Wilson is going to try to win the election is the economic upturn he and Jenkins have been boasting about. It is true that there has been a carefully-organised improvement in the balance of payments; but somebody has had to pay for it. Now we know who has had to pay.

Using the Labour government's own figures experts have been able to prove that under this government those out of jobs are considerably worse off than before and the lower paid workers with jobs are worse off too. When challenged on this, Crossman, as Minister for Social Security, had to admit that the unemployed probably were worse off. (Earlier he had made remarks about the unemployed being "work shy"!)

Moreover, under the Labour government pledged to a policy of full employment the number of unemployed has steadily climbed. The March level was the highest for seven years at 624,383. That is 2.7% of workers out of jobs. Another Labour spokesman tried to explain the soaring unemployment figures by saying that workers "had become more selective about the jobs they were willing to do".

So there we have it. The Labour government's economic 'miracle' is nothing but an attack on the standard of living of the working class. It is paid for by the poor

Cont. Page 3

US DEFEATS IN INDO-CHINA

US Imperialist aggression in Asia was rebuffed by the Chinese people when they succeeded in overthrowing US imperialism's puppet — Chiang Kai shek. Then it tried to destroy North Korea but was once again foiled by the Korean people and their Chinese allies. Then it turned its attention to Vietnam with results known to all. Nixon cannot do anything to save US imperialism from ignominious defeat at the hands of the people of Vietnam despite the most barbaric and savage war being waged by the US aggressors.

Now US imperialism has tried to turn to Vietnam's neighbours — Cambodia and Laos. In Cambodia neutralism appears to have received a setback with the deposition of Prince Sihanouk. Almost immediately the USA, it was reported, had agreed to send "advisers" from Saigon to flush out possible trouble from either Vietnamese who are said to have infiltrated into Cambodia or indigenous Cambodians who are determined to fight for their country's independence.

In Laos, however, it is another story. Here the US imperialists, especially under that arch champion of US expansionism — Kennedy — tried to oust a pretty milk-and-water type of neutralist government under Souvanna Phouma in 1961 and to install in his place a typical American puppet — General Phoumi Nosavan. But the attempt failed because the Laotian progressives, under their united front for liberation — the Pathet Lao which like the N.L.F., has been guided by communists, refused to be liquidated.

PATHE LAO FIGHTS BACK

They fought back and defeated US plans. In 1962 the Geneva Agreement on Laos established a tri-partite coalition in which the Pathet Lao was represented along with the neutralists and right wingers. But US imperialists, never bothered by pieces of paper, immediately set about to subvert the 1962 agreement just as they had violated the 1954 agreement on Vietnam.

From 1962-63 the USA has been conducting a "secret war" against the people of Laos. Through the CIA, under a variety of pretty-thinly veiled disguises American military men, military equipment and the usual puppet mercenary forces have been used to try to destroy the Pathet Lao. Because of the spotlight on Vietnam the war in Laos did not receive much publicity until recently. In 1963 the US advisers and their puppets tried through the assassination of the Laotian Foreign Minister, a patriotic neutralist, to get rid of the coalition. Then, through the usual subservience of India and Canada on

the International Control Commission they violated the 1962 Agreement with impunity by attacking the Pathet Lao-held territories. For a time it seemed as if they were succeeding but only temporarily.

Since 1966 the Pathet Lao began to develop its resistance and consolidate its forces. Through the application of the correct principles of conducting a peoples war they won victory after victory so that by the end of last year suddenly US imperialism woke up to the fact that it had trouble on its hands. The so-called neutralist Souvanna Phouma, had not dared to raise a single protest at the continued violation of the 1962 Agreement or the violation of his country's supposed neutrality, nothing was said when US bombers began to use Laotian bases for bombing North Vietnam, especially the supposed forest route — named the Ho Chi Minh trail — alleged to be used by North Vietnam to send men and equipment to the south. But when the Pathet Lao victories began to appear ominous, then suddenly he and his US masters began to shout about preserving Laotian "neutrality".

U.S. IMPERIALISM IN TROUBLE

And today because the Pathet Lao have intensified their struggle and inflicted severe defeats on US mercenaries and their supposed "advisers" the British Government has suddenly decided to appeal to the 10 signatories of the 1962 Agreement; and the Soviet Union, alarmed no doubt at the success of the Laotian people's armed struggle, has asked Nixon "for talks among the various Laotian factions and a halt to American bombing . . ." (Times, March 10).

As always US imperialism refuses to recognise the strength of the people but keeps on talking of North Vietnamese infiltration of Laos and even of Peking "volunteers." Because of the defeats it has suffered at the hands of the Pathet Lao, it is now bringing in Thai troops since Laotian mercenaries are obviously not willing to be cannon fodder. But if US imperialism cannot learn from events and thinks that Thai puppets can do the trick in Laos where all kinds of puppets have failed in Vietnam, it will once again be taught a lesson by the people of Laos.

"Hence, imperialism and all reactionaries, looked at in essence, from a long-term point of view, from a strategic point of view, must be seen for what they are — paper tigers. On this we should build our strategic thinking. On the other hand, they are also living tigers, iron tigers, real tigers which can devour people. On this we should build our tactical thinking." (Mao).

SHARPEVILLE!

THE Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) associates itself fully with the determination of the Pan Africanist Congress never to let the hideous atrocity of the Sharpeville massacre be forgotten. The murder of 69 unarmed men, women and children and the grave injury of 130 more by the savage police of the minority white fascist government of South Africa just ten years ago on March 21, 1960, is a blood debt the African people will surely rise up in their armed might to pay off in full.

The CPB(M-L) speaks for the revolutionary workers of Britain in pledging unstinting support to the liberation movement of southern Africa. British imperialism has played and continues to play a leading role in the brutal exploitation and suppression of the African people. The fight of the workers of Britain against the imperialist ruling class makes them comrades with their African brothers in a common struggle against the same enemy.

To the Pan Africanist Congress in its leadership of people's war to free Azania, particularly to those of its members who have suffered punishment and detention at the hands of the fascist South African government, we send warmest revolutionary greetings. Your struggle will certainly prove victorious.

Workers and oppressed peoples of all lands unite and defeat the common imperialist enemy! Smash the imperialist-supported racist rulers of southern Africa! Freedom for the African people of Azania and Zimbabwe!



A disgusting spectacle

THE revisionist-backed Anti-Apartheid, A.N.C., and other liberal, reformist organisations have really outdone themselves this time in political ineptitude and bad taste. Their staging in Trafalgar Square of a mock enactment of the Sharpeville massacre, which the bourgeois press loved so much that pictures of it appeared on every Sunday front page the day after, was the poorest possible commemoration of this atrocity perpetrated by the white fascist minority government of South Africa.

Perhaps the whites taking the part of S.A. police got a kick out of pointing their prop guns at blacks and saying "Bang! You're dead." Perhaps the black people who took part in this humiliating re-enactment of their black brother's real tragedy got some sort of masochistic pleasure out of "falling" under the guns of the white actors.

The truth of Sharpeville was that this mass, non-violent protest against the pass laws marked the last time that any faith would be put by the African people in Gandhian methods — the end in fact of just such displays as that in Trafalgar Square. Henceforth the leadership of the African people by such organisations as the Pan Africanist Congress would be in armed struggle, people's war. It is not by tears wrung from liberals at the vulgarisation of African suffering that the African people will free themselves but by their own fighting efforts. If charades are to be staged in Trafalgar Square, let them be of Africans and their allies taking up weapons and driving the white fascist imperialist stooges of southern Africa out of their land for all time!

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND!

WHILE ALL sorts of manoeuvring is going on in Stormont to try to give the Unionist government in Ulster a slightly more democratic look; while the Labour Party holds meetings with Bernadette Devlin and social democratic representatives from Eire to try to bamboozle the Irish people, the reality of the situation is brought out by British imperialist troops occupying the North and maintaining "law and order" in the interest of British monopoly capitalism.

On March 22 the imperialist occupying forces were out in Londonderry carrying out baton charges against young people demonstrating against conditions in Ulster.

The test of true friends of Ireland is whether they understand the role of British imperialism and its direct colonialism in Ulster and utterly condemn it, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the occupying troops. Those who say or imply that the British soldiers are there to keep "Irish from fighting Irish" are the friends of British imperialism and condone the division and exploitation of Ireland.

The CPB(M-L) condemns the savage sentences passed at Leeds Assizes on Jerry Doherty and Eamonn Smullen. This punishment is in line with the whole history of the use of "legal" means to preserve imperial interests.



BLACK PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE DEMONSTRATES

ON March 2nd a demonstration was held outside the US Embassy and in Oxford Street to protest against the savage attempt of the U.S. state police to destroy the militant Black Panther Party by murdering or locking up its members. Most particularly the protest was directed against the murder charge framed against Bobby Seale, Chairman of the B.P.P.

The demonstrators were attacked by the police who charged into their ranks swinging their truncheons. Sixteen were arrested and five of those detained were refused bail, thus proving that the police who serve the monopoly capitalist state react in the same way to a militant fight against racialism whether here or in the U.S.!

On March 15th the Black Peoples Alliance called a second demonstration to combine the attack on racialism in the U.S. and in this country. Hundreds of protesters black and white joined together in a march to the U.S. Embassy where a statement condemning "U.S. imperialism's butchering of black militants" was delivered to the U.S. Ambassador. The statement concluded:

"Just as the people of China got rid of your attempts to dominate them, just as the people of Vietnam are at this very moment forcing you to withdraw, so will the black people of the U.S.A., along with their white allies, overthrow the system

of oppression, exploitation and war that the U.S. government upholds. Bobby Seale, Huey Newton and all other black revolutionaries will be liberated! U.S. imperialism and its puppets will be crushed! The oppressed peoples of the world will triumph!"

The demonstration was directed just as much against racialism in Britain. As was pointed out:

"Racialism in Britain is very necessary so that the authorities can use the oppression of black people as a lever to introduce all kinds of fascist measures. Already the erosion of civil liberties for which the British fought valiantly for centuries is quite obvious. The persecution of Asians from East Africa through the passage of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1968 which refuses them entry into Britain although they are British citizens holding British passports is perhaps the clearest example of this. If the Labour Government could overnight, create two kinds of citizens in law simply on the basis of race, then what is to prevent any future government from deporting British citizens born and bred in Britain but who are black? Enoch Powell is merely stating what has already been begun by the Labour Government. It is quite conceivable that one day even white Britishers might have their passports confiscated and their citizenship revoked if they are a threat to the established order!"

AL KARAMEH REMEMBERED

THE Free Palestine organisation has been celebrating the second anniversary of the Al Karameh victory of the Palestinian liberation forces over a strong contingent of the Israeli army with an exhibition of photographs at the Indian Student's Centre. The exhibition ended on March 26th; but the photographs are to be made available by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, c/o 4 Chesterfield Gardens, W1.

On March 21st, 1968, an invading Israeli force supported by air power launched a punitive attack on the Palestine refugee town of Al Karameh. The intention was to make an example of the Jordanian town as a warning to the Fedayeen. But Palestinian guerrilla forces massed and counter attacked inflicting a severe defeat on the Israelis who were driven back with heavy losses in men and equipment.

The historic defence of Al Karameh is of considerable political as well as military

importance. For the first time the myth of Israeli invincibility was exploded and after the victory the ranks of the Palestinian Liberation forces were increased by many hundreds of fighters eager to free their land from the grip of the puppets of U.S. imperialism.

April 22nd, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.

In celebration of Lenin's 100th Birthday the film

"LENIN IN OCTOBER"

will be shown

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THE SECRETARIAT of CPB(M-L) sends its warmest fraternal greetings on the first anniversary of its foundation to CPI (M-L). When, on Lenin's birthday — April 22 — last year was announced the birth of the first real Marxist-Leninist Party to lead the revolution of the Indian workers and peasants it was a historic occasion not only for the workers and peasants of India but for the entire international proletariat Indian people been betrayed by traitors to Marxism who managed to assume the leadership of the Communist Party of India. Throughout the period of direct colonial exploitation by British imperialism these renegades betrayed the heroic attempts to liberate themselves by Indian peasants and workers just as their partners in crime in this country — CPGB — were responsible for the betrayal of revolutionary principles in the struggle of British workers against monopoly capitalism. Today these same traitors to Marxism-Leninism support the nominally independent Government of India which represents the interests of the big landlords and big bourgeoisie who are the two main props of neo-colonialism, of the imperialist camp, headed by USA and including Britain, West Germany etc and the social-imperialist camp, headed by the Soviet Union. Their betrayal of the revolution has gone so far that in 1962 when the Indian Government, following the evil designs of both USA and Soviet Union, launched a border attack against the Peoples Republic of China, the bastion of world socialism, these traitors supported the Indian Government against socialism, against the Indian people. Since then another brand of revisionists have come to the fore trying to divert the revolutionary struggles of the Indian people to the false road of parliamentary elections and bourgeois democracy.

The deception practised by these so-called communist parties did not however take in the heroic peasants of Naxalbari when, in 1967 under the leadership of genuine communists, they rose up in armed revolt against the entire oppressive semi-feudal and semi-colonial system oppressing the Indian people. The flames of guerrilla warfare spread rapidly to hundreds of villages to that within two years was formed the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), the only communist party in India.

In the one year since its formation the guerrilla struggle of the most oppressed sections of the Indian peasantry, supported by Indian workers, and under the leadership of CPI(M-L) has spread to 9 states in all corners of the country. We salute the heroism of thousands of Indians who are giving up their lives in combat against the soldiers and police of the reactionary government.

We in Britain look forward to the further development of the Indian revolution whose success will be the result of the correct application of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse-tung thought, to the concrete realities of India. We know the struggle will be protracted. We know also the danger of war which the imperialists, headed by the Soviet Union and USA, are trying to develop against China and the peoples of the world fighting for socialism. To prevent such a world war all of us in five continents must begin immediately the task of mobilising the people to smash these aggressive plans.

Long Live the fraternal alliance of our two parties!
Long Live the revolutionary unity of the international working class!
Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Radio

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

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking:
9.30 p.m. — 10.30 p.m. 32,45,47 metre bands
10.30 p.m. — 11.30 p.m. 32,42,46,47 metre bands

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Tientsin:
7.30 a.m. — 8.00 a.m. 31,42 metre bands
8.30 a.m. — 9.00 p.m. 31,42 metre bands
9.30 p.m. — 10.00 p.m. 31,42 metre bands
11.00 p.m. — 11.30 p.m. 31,42 metre bands
(The 9.30 p.m. — 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium wave, 215 metre band)

Daily Broadcast from Hanoi:
9.00 p.m. — 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band

Cont'd from P.1.

who are getting even poorer. Those out of work are worse off than ever before and under Labour more and more are out of work. If wages are forced up a bit by the concerted struggle of workers, the government "plans" a bigger proportion of them out of their jobs.

Let workers tell Wilson what they think of these tactics when he begs for their votes come the election. Let them show that they can no longer be bribed with the phoney argument that "at least we are better than the Tories." Let workers say No to Wilson! No to Heath! No to any kind of government which serves capitalist interests at the expense of workers. Let them finish for all time with the fraud of these heads-the-bosses-win, tails-the-workers-lose elections.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) pledges itself to help the working class see through the rigged con game of general elections. If no party for which workers can vote represents the interests of workers, then they have been disenfranchised. They must not pretend that they still have the vote when it has become useless and meaningless as far as their real interests are concerned. Let workers vote with their feet - by kicking all the enemies of the working class out of the seats of power in Westminster!

Returned Unopposed

LES ELLIOTT, Assistant Divisional Organiser (Division 25) AEF, was returned unopposed for a further period of office, from October 1970 to October 1975.

That no one wished to stand against him is a tribute to Les Elliott's record as a staunch fighter for workers' interests.

MEETING ON EQUAL PAY

FIVE HUNDRED engineering workers in a militant mood, mostly women, attended a rally on equal pay for women at Friends Meeting House on February 25th. They heard two opposing lines on how to get equal pay. One line was to rely on legislation and top-level trade union negotiations. This was advocated by a number of speakers, notably Baroness Summerskill who spoke enthusiastically about legislation and Hugh Scanlon who spoke about top-level negotiations. The other line of workers' self-reliance, was put by Reg Birch, member of the AEF Executive Council, and was clearly approved by the workers present. Significantly, Birch was enthusiastically applauded when he said "You think you're going to get by legislation? You think wages in this country are determined by legislation? No! If you want more money you get the governor down with your knee on his chest and take it out of his pocket. That's how it's done." He went on to say that in fact the legislation is an obstruction to the fight developing on the factory floor, for equal pay. It is a way of putting off the issue and cooling it down, which is just what the employers and their Government want. It is time to be done with all the philosophizing about equal pay - in the end it just comes down to stopping the job. As for all the trade union officials who talk so much about equal pay, let them back you when you stop the job.

Judging from the feeling of this meeting, where women workers from many factories in the London area were represented, we can expect to see much more action on the equal pay front in the coming months.

In fact, a national strike over equal pay for women in the engineering industry has been called for by the A.E.F. women's conference.

Farcical election manoeuvres

INSIDE and outside parliament the pre-election manoeuvres of the capitalist political parties are underway. The Labour Government now feels that with the so-called "economic recovery" and the sharp decrease in the swing to conservative in the recent by-election result at South Ayrshire, a general election some time this year would be advantageous to them. A strong factor in determining the date of the elections will be the results of the G.L.C. elections to be held on the 9th of April.

All this has meant that over the past few months both the Labour and Tory parties have been beginning to adopt political positions designed as part of their election campaigns. The Tories main offensive has been their hysterical "law and order" bandwagon. This campaign has been designed to gain the votes of the reactionary sections of the suburban petty bourgeoisie (a numerically quite significant social strata) many of whom voted Labour at the last elections. The Labour party perceiving this strata to be the key to their majority, and always ready to please their capitalist masters by taking a step to the right, quickly jumped on the law and order bandwagon themselves.

The Tory "law and order" campaign has in fact served the Labour party quite well. By joining in the law and order hysteria they have reminded the monopoly-capitalist ruling class that they are in a better position to develop the corporate state, in order to suppress any working class militancy, than are the Tories. While on the other hand, since the Tories started

the "law and order" campaign, the "threat" of the Tories can be used to mobilise the Labour "lefts" for the election campaign. This is important since most of the hard election leg work in the constituencies is done by the Labour "lefts" (mostly trotskyites, and revisionist sympathisers). In fact it has not been unknown for the majority of Labour canvassers in some constituencies in past elections to be members of the revisionist "Communist" party of King Street.

Consequently we see in conjunction with an overall political shift to the right, a further strengthening of the social-democratic political machine, and the objective use by the ruling class of the social-democratic, trotskyite, and revisionist "left" to further the development of the corporate state. All once again demonstrating the essential role of social democracy (the Labour Party) in the development of the fascist corporate state, and showing the use made by the ruling class of a "left" that is really "left" in appearance but right in essence (Mao).

What then can be the position of the working class? They are offered a strengthening of "law and order" by both Labour and Tories, the same "law and order" that we have seen brutally attacking picket lines and arresting strike pickets, the same "law and order" that is viciously carrying out a campaign of intimidation against black people, the same "law and order" that ruthlessly attacks political demonstrators. The Labour Government says Britain is on the road to "economic recovery" but with over 600,000 unemployed it looks like the "recovery" is for the bosses only, not for the working class.

The whole history of this Labour Government and the preceding ones has been a deliberate policy of attacking the working class in order to serve the monopoly capitalist ruling class. Yet as usual the Labour Party will expect the British working class to faithfully troop to the ballot box for it. The time has now come to say NO! we don't want either the Labour Party or the Tories - BOYCOTT ELECTIONS!



On the INDUSTRIAL FRONT

THE increasing level of economic struggle by British workers is shown in government figures stating that in Jan. 1970 there were 279 strikes, in Jan. 1969, 215 and in Jan. 1968, 170. More and more workers are rejecting productivity "bargains" and are simply going out to get the maximum their strength can obtain from the bosses. The President of the Engineering Employers Federation has complained that "In many cases the workpeople are contributing nothing but the prospect of chaos if their demands are not met." The workers produce all the wealth, but what have the employers ever contributed?

HULL TRAWLERS

Following a 42% increase won by Aberdeen trawlermen after a long strike last year, 1,500 Hull trawlermen have been refusing to sail since 13th February. They are demanding an increase in the basic weekly wage from £14 10s to £20, increased shore and holiday pay, seagoing shop stewards and 100% union membership before a ship sails - the key issue, on which the shipowners have refused to budge. Some ships have managed to sail with non-union crews, but fuel supplies to the dock were cut off, dock gates were closed so scab ships could not leave or return, and 150 "bobbars" refused to unload catches. When the "Macbeth" returned to port, the police had to take the crew out of the dock in a cattle truck. The President of the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners Association has described the strikers as "gutter rats" which only shows how frantic the employers got when, as they admitted "The strike was beginning to hurt."

Police, many brought in from other towns have been harassing and arresting pickets, and the employers have also used their state and their legal system to get injunctions against the unions involved in blacking the ships, in an attempt to save a total catch alleged to be worth £250,000.

VAUXHALL

12 component checkers, known as batch viewers, at Ellesmere Port, Merseyside struck for an immediate regrading, while on a company-wide basis the unions have put in a claim for an increase of 2s 9d on the 10s 9d per hour rate for production workers, to reach parity with Rootes workers. In the press shop at Luton male workers walked out for a short time complaining that supervisory staff were violating an equal pay agreement by not putting women on the awkward job of fixing up the dash panels. Any worker, male or female, on a tougher job should be fighting for more money for that job, not complaining that someone else is getting the same rate. Workers should use their power to control what happens on the shop floor and not let supervisors divide and harass them.

CENTRAX

At a 1,000 strong mass meeting on March

9th workers rejected a management offer of a 4-stage increase of 1.6d per hour, spread over 18 months and mandated stewards to press for "a substantial increase." The unions put in a claim for a £4 per week all round increase in July 1969 and the strike at this S.Devon precision engineering group began in October. The strike has been one of the most bitter ever known in the area and there has been considerable solidarity shown by other workers. After 20 weeks of the strike the employers caved in and on March 13th a mass meeting of workers from the three plants accepted terms which they said gave "98%" of their demands.

SCOTTISH PROVINCIAL BUSES

Provincial bus workers went on strike for an £13 per week minimum, rejecting an offer of increases of 27s 2d per week for drivers and 26s 2d for conductors, as this would leave them at least £2 per week short of the average earnings of municipal busmen.

SCOTTISH RAILWAYS

Railway guards in the West of Scotland were staging one-day token strikes over a claim for a 44s per week pay increase and parity with footplate men in assessing productivity bonuses.

HEATHROW

90 airport firemen went on strike claiming disturbance money of 12s 6d a shift meaning increases of £2 to £2 10s per week. This produced an offer of 13s 9d per week which was rejected. After a return to work (pending negotiations) firemen working to rule were locked out by the British Airports Authority. Blackleg fire officers allowed the airport to operate from 8am to 8pm. 15,000 airport workers voted on March 16th to strike if the Canadian firm General Aviation Services was allowed to handle carozes at Heathrow. The replacement of existing firms by GAS would mean an attack on airport workers jobs and conditions. The firemen finally voted 35-34 to return to normal working with nothing extra gained but an "inquiry".

DOCKS

On March 17th nearly 30,000 dockers held a one-day strike to press demands for widening the scope of the governments Ports Nationalisation Bill. Work came to a standstill at London (95 ships idle), Liverpool (78), Hull (30) and Southampton. Many other ports were also hit. Transport Minister Marsh in the sort of phrase often used by people afraid of the strength of the organised working class called the dockers' action "a negation of democracy."

BRITISH LEYLAND

6,000 men at Cowley and 4,800 at Swindon staged 24-hour token strikes as part of a pay claim at Pressed Steel Fisher car body factories.

SHORT BROS

34 designers from the aircraft factory at Belfast struck on behalf of a girl designer at present getting £1 per week less than the men. The company correctly interprets the governments policy on equal pay as giving them at least 6 years to do nothing about the question - unless workers take action.

LONDON TRANSPORT

On 23rd February over 2,500 workers of all trades in London Transport workshops stopped work for the day and filled Central Hall to demand £5 per week without strings, and improvements in holidays, holiday pay etc. On the two following Mondays they met at Central Hall again in full strength to call their negotiators to account on the progress of their claims.

The significance of this lies in that no such thing ever happened before. All previous negotiations had been wrapped up without prior approval of the rank and file. This time the rank and file tabled their own claim and demanded and got reference back to them for their approval or otherwise before agreement was reached. In this respect the nature of the settlement was more significant than the settlement itself. In fact the settlement in terms of money was the highest (£3 per week for craftsmen) ever secured in this industry. The fact is that mass pressure from the factory floor was asserted.

Efforts to divide and weaken failed in face of pressure from the workers, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled and embracing all the Unions. This pattern has now been set and workers have established a unity never before seen in these works.

It is worth recalling that when this paper hailed the victory of the AEF members' after 13 weeks on strike there were those who could see only disunity and not a hard won victory over the employer. The victory over the employer had its lesson for all the workers, whatever issues divided them, and there were few workers who were in fact opposed to the stand taken by AEF members, they saw that the determination of the AEF won out against the odds. Since the strike they have been a unity among all the workers such has never existed before. It was this unity which stopped a deal with the employers over their heads. The strike of the AEF was not in fact a strike directed against the interests of other workers, it did not sow disunity, it developed unity based on an understanding that if 400 workers standing their ground can win against a monopoly employer then 3,000 must be in with a chance. Final settlement has not yet been reached in all details. The workers will ensure that whatever that settlement is will be only with their consent.

Correspondence

Extracts from a letter written to the CPB (ML) by a worker at Kearney & Trecker's, a machine tools firm in Brighton where 1,200 workers have been on strike for a 2/- an hour wage increase.

At a mass meeting on Sunday, March 15th, the question was considered of continuing the strike or going back while negotiations began. "First we were told by the Chairman convenor that owing to the unexpectedly high attendance of our members (AEF) the meeting would be held in TWO separate sections and they would have to bolt the doors because there were just as many waiting outside as there were in. This statement was completely false... there were at least 800 inside and only about 130 outside. These 130 could have been accommodated and we would have had ONE session lasting till 11 p.m.

"Next we were informed that the dispute would be resolved by ballot. The question of a ballot has never been discussed at any of the works' union meetings. As you know and fully realise these "secret ballots" are not the real reflection of a man's principles but are designed and aimed at the weaker union members whose only aim in life is "to get back to work at all costs." (See Editorial in the March WORKER).

"The general feeling among many members I spoke to afterwards was that the meeting was a complete waste of time and served only to provide an "easy way out" for the stewards involved..."

"The result of the ballot was 69% in favour of a return to work and 31% for continuing the strike indefinitely.

It is, of course, not possible for the WORKER to comment on this letter beyond stating the principle that it is not being a shop steward that automatically makes one a militant workers' leader serving only their interests. It is being a militant workers' leader serving only their interests that makes one a good shop steward. That is why the Trotskyist slogan - "All power to shop stewards" is wrong politics, the error Lenin described as spontaneity. There is no substitute for having a correct theory of working class struggle and all workers' leaders will be judged by the extent to which they implement it. As Lenin says again: "Without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement" and all working class struggle is ultimately revolutionary.

On the other hand, workers themselves can never delegate their struggle to leaders, however good they may be. Good leaders do not win victories on behalf of workers; they lead workers in struggle. From the working masses to the working masses is the principle of leadership which must never be overlooked.

POLITICAL FILES — STUDENTS HIT BACK

STUDENTS INTEGRATE WITH WORKERS

JOHN HANNINGTON instruments maker, shop stewards convenor, AEF, founding member of Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), speaking at a conference of the London Revolutionary Socialist Students Federation.

TO begin at the beginning, there is no such thing as a student/worker alliance. It is but a hollow slogan similar in origin and objective to that of the other great non-starter "unity of the left." Both sound very nice, very positive and constructive, both can and do muster enthusiastic meetings, but when these half-baked theories are put into practice they lead the working class not forward but backwards and leave it confused and defenceless in the face of the class enemy.

We need as students and as workers to understand the meaning of these false slogans/policies, their origins and those responsible for them — those people and their political parties who have made a life-long study and practice of misinforming and misleading the British working class, i.e. Social Democracy in the form of the Labour Party and its faithful ally Revisionism in the form of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

The working class now are standing on the threshold of the greatest potential for real advance. They have the organisational experience, and they have proven in countless thousands of battles with the employing class that they are not lacking in courage. What is lacking and what has never existed is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist leadership. History has proven that no working class has ever won its freedom without such a leadership.

On the other side, I'm sure we would all agree that the British Ruling Class are the oldest, cleverest, most cunning, ruthless and barbaric ruling class in the world. They will spare no effort in this period of growing class contradictions to make sure that workers don't travel along the road which is the road of revolution, the road that is going to end exploitation once and for all in this country.

Just because the possibilities exist for real advance it would be absolute folly for any worker or student to believe that there is not going to be the most concentrated of all attacks on the working class that this country has ever witnessed. These attacks are being carried out by the crisis party of Capitalism, the social democratic Labour Party.

Time is running short if we are to fulfil this task. If we don't determine at meetings such as this one today where we are going, then the Ruling Class will decide for us.

How then can meetings such as this assist the working class in the coming struggles? First let us replace the false slogan of student/worker alliance with that of worker/student integration. How then can we bring this integration about? Should students talk to workers at factory gates, in the pubs and clubs, in their homes; should workers do as I am doing today? I would say yes to all these, but something more fundamental is called for: integration is not just an organisational question but a political one also. Such integration must have a common aim for workers and students, both sections must be subject to a common discipline. This can only be achieved by both workers and students integrating within a Marxist-Leninist party. Such a party does exist. Small as it may be, it is the party of which I am proud to be a member alongside many other active workers. Our party, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) has set itself the task of building a revolutionary party embracing workers and students.

One thing you can be sure of — the British working class will not be led by students. I've had occasion to hear students expounding a theory that they, the students, were going to trash out the policy in the universities in their little cells and when the "revolutionary" theory is ready for the workers then they, the students, will trot along to the factory gates and say to the

workers, "There you are, lads, we've worked it all out for you, get busy and make revolution." The worker's reply to such an approach would be similar to the one he would give to the employer: "Get Stuffed."

I hope the meeting does not think, based on what I have said, that I am against intellectuals, but rather that I'm very much in favour of worker intellectuals.

I say this because I and many others are convinced that one of the greatest single mistakes that has consistently been made generations of workers is that they tend to leave the political thinking and theorising to those "who are better equipped." It is this error that has led the British working class into the political jungle of social democracy, it is also this error that has blunted the workers' struggle and given rise to revisionism in Britain.

The very word 'alliance' strikes me as something which is of only a temporary nature.

Can the student struggles, whether for a democratic control of universities or colleges, for improved grants, against social injustice, capitalism and imperialism, be apart or separate from the struggles of the working class?

At this moment in history we are witnessing most concentrated attacks against workers wherever they labour by the reactionary triple alliance of the Labour Government, the employers and the General Council of the T.U.C. Workers' resistance to these attacks is growing, but it has a spontaneous nature, there is no political cohesion, no fundamental objective; it is in short a brave and necessary struggle, but it remains nevertheless a defensive struggle.

What workers and students alike need to understand is that no real lasting freedom or democratic rights can be achieved, unless political power is seized by the working class, and that power held by means of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In closing I would like to stress the urgent task that confronts us all, workers and students alike — the development of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

We are all agreed, I'm sure, that the existence of our party will prove to be the all-decisive factor in the coming struggles.

Our party and its monthly paper THE WORKER is firmly based on experienced working class comrades, who have learned the hard way on the blind alley politics of revisionism.

We are indeed fortunate to have such able comrades as our party's Chairman, Comrade Reg Birch, and others whose long records in combatting social democracy, economism and revisionism have given our party a firm ideological base on which to build.

Of course our party has its critics, but whilst they talk endlessly of the need for a Marxist-Leninist party in Britain — we have done it! Action speaks louder than words.

If we politically conscious people fail in our task the working class will never forgive us, for it is they who will pay the price for our failure.

You as students have much to contribute to a Marxist-Leninist party. You have qualities which are of vital importance in our historic task. You have youth and youth will always hold a very special place in our party, for it is the youth that is least corrupted by capitalist ideology. You have special abilities which will prove to be invaluable in the development of our party theory and practice. May I then in closing, on behalf of the Central Committee of our Party, wish you well in your coming struggles.

THE FILES

The issue of political files has spread like wildfire through the Universities and other educational institutions. There have been occupations or mass meetings at Warwick, Nottingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Oxford, Kent, Regent Street Polytechnic, Sussex, to name only a few.

THE BOURGEOIS DICTATORSHIP

The ruling class keeps files on left-wing students who are fighting the common enemy of students, middle strata in general, and of the working class: imperialism. These files, sometimes sworn to be non-existent, sometimes disguised as "academic" or "proctorial" records, form the basis for discipline during the period of schooling, and function as a blacklist when job applications are made, be it with the state or a firm. This will especially affect teachers, as DES proposals will bring about a situation of many potential teachers but few available jobs, hence an easy situation for victimising the teacher who serves the needs of his working class students by giving them knowledge about the exploitation they will soon face. In fact, rejection of qualified teachers, victimisation of left wing students on the pretext of "academic grounds" is becoming more and more common.

This is not news to workers, for every worker knows that the blacklist is a most commonly used weapon of the employer and his agents. As we move more and more toward the Corporate State, defensive struggles against victimisation, discipline and blacklisting of militants (and devices such as files which serve as the basis for victimisation) will become increasingly important insofar as they lay the organisational and ideological foundations for offensives against the rule of monopoly capital.

THE STICK

The ruling class and their overseers in the Universities and Polytechnics have responded in two ways to student demands to see all the files: the carrot and the stick. At Liverpool there have been threats to cut student grants, at Oxford the University has undertaken political discipline. In some cases as in Manchester the police and courts have been asked to issue and enforce injunctions against students who are exposing the private files of imperialism. This has produced even stronger unity amongst the students and their supporters. But in this area we must continue to be vigilant; the Corporate State will increase its use of coercive repression; misleaders will attempt to depoliticize struggles against this repression by severing them from our fight against imperialism.

PHONEY COMPROMISE OFFERS

More often, as at Salford, Nottingham and Sussex the University has offered to open certain of its files on students — "non-confidential" files on individual students

and various strings and conditions shroud the proposals. The "concessions," are not the University's gift, but are only a response to the militant solidarity of the students. Most often however, very little if anything has been conceded, and only as a diversion, to confuse students into concentrating upon their own academic and medical records and not on the key ruling class files in the offices of the vice-chancellors.

In some cases 'compromise' offers about opening personal files have succeeded in temporarily confusing students. For as the recent Ford strike shows, a militant movement can be sidetracked by compromise offers if it is lacking in correct political consciousness. Although the students' actions have been militant and aggressive, at times the actual demands of the mass have been liberal and reformist. This is in part because of the class basis of the participants, but much of the blame must be placed at the door of the NUS and various Trotskyite misleaders who have tried to develop the regressive liberal aspects of petty bourgeois student spontaneity; a populist naive belief that the University can be detached from business interests and capitalist society, an individualist concern with personal files, an apolitical "libertarian" inclusion of demands for freedom and protection to be granted to right wing (e.g. Monday Club) elements.

CLASS STRUGGLE

The major issue is clear. Education is part and parcel of the imperialist system, of the Corporate State. The ruling class wish to train the future managers, overseers and ideologists of capitalism, as well as technicians and skilled working people, and to use educational institutions to do research to increase profit from exploitation and war. The files in Vice-Chancellors' ofices are akin to those in Whitehall or in the office of the head of Barclays Bank or Shell (who is sometimes also the Chancellor of the University!) Here the data on the inter-connections of the university with imperialism is deposited, the correspondence with big businessmen, the Government, bankers, the military, the police, secret service etc.

These files will continue to be opened and publicized!

OUR FILES ON IMPERIALISM AND ITS CRIMES

But we need now await this process to be completed. In recent issues of THE WORKER and in the CPBML Student Programme (1/- from Bellman Bookshop) we have documented these links and the effects in detail. Students should continue to research and to amass more data: these are our files by which we condemn imperialism — which involves not only exposure of the exploitation of people in neo-colonial lands, or contact with racialist regimes, but also the day in day out exploitation of the British working class at home by the bosses aided by the Corporate State!

MAY DAY MEETING

In celebration of Lenin's 100th Birthday and May Day the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) is holding a public meeting

Friday, May 1st, 7.30 p.m.

CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, W.C.1

Come and take part in a meeting dedicated to

"BUILDING A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN BRITAIN"

LENIN ON IRELAND

NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

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"To disseminate knowledge about the country, its history, people and socialist development."
"To encourage personal scientific and cultural contacts."
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Anyone wishing to become a member of the New Albania Society (annual subscription 10/-), should write to the Secretary, Miss Joanne Seymour, 217 Westbourne Grove, London W.11.

April 17th, Friday, 7.30 p.m.

First public showing of a film from China on building the Yangtze Bridge and talk by someone who spent 15 years in China on

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