



AWAY WITH THE CONTRACT

All over Britain workers act against Pay Code

As Callaghan calls frantically for a third year of wage restraint while unemployment and prices continue to soar, the first cracks in the pay policy dam, behind which the capitalists have been piling up enormous profits, are beginning to appear.

It is not surprising that some of the most outspoken opposition to another year of wage restraint in the interest of capitalism should come from the motor car industry. Here the side-effects of Jones' flat rate freeze in terms of the erosion of skills have been most obvious. The chairman of the Leyland shop stewards has pointed out that prices are not restrained, profits are not restrained - only wages. Workers' representatives at Fords and Vauxhalls are also calling for an end to a pay 'contract' which is so punitive on the working class.

The AUEW Executive has used a report by NEDO on shortages of skilled engineers to emphasise the effects of a reduction of pay differentials to their narrowest for 60 years and this is bound to affect the engineers' attitude to another year of the same sort of pay policy.

Resolutions from engineering workers all over the country calling on the AUEW policy-making body, the National Committee, to 'and any support for the Government's line on pay are pouring in. The joint shop stewards committee of Crossfield Electronics in North London, for example, urged on January 26th that in view of 'the present situation of rising prices, rising unemployment while real wages are falling, pressure be brought on the National Committee to end the Social Contract forthwith.'

Among the resolutions passed by AUEW London North Division

are those calling on the National Committee to instruct the Executive Council 'to oppose any future attempts to place any restrictions on free collective bargaining on wages and conditions or indeed anything that interferes with the function of our Union to protect and improve the living standards of our members.'

The busmen have drawn up a motion for the TGWU conference opposing any extension of the social contract and the miners, at their Nottinghamshire conference, 'deploring the abysmal failure of Government economic policy', have demanded free collective bargaining. They have been joined by aircraft workers and London underground workers.

Among the public sector unions campaigns against Government cuts are escalating into a flat rejection of the whole policy of making workers pay for the health of capitalism at the expense of their own health. At a conference to be held in March, trade unions representing more than two and a half million workers, NALGO, CPSA, NUPE, SCPS, NUPE, COHSE, NUT, ASTMS and NATFHE, are meeting to co-ordinate action against the cuts which is part of the 'social contract' concept.

To still this growing roar of resistance to the continuance of their pay policy, the Government is tossing out such sops as the Bullock proposals for 'worker-directors' and the Healey promises of tax concessions to the lowest paid so that they will be a little better off than if they were on the dole. To threaten workers, as Callaghan is doing, with unemployment and higher prices if they do not accept another year of wage cuts is like threatening a drowning man with spitting in his face.



Workers at Leyland's Longbridge plant, Liverpool, say: away with the social contract!

(Report)

Leylands- the State as employer

British Leyland stands in a unique position in Britain. As a car factory it is based totally on the principle of the moving production line, the brainchild of Ford, which destroys skills and makes the work repetitive and soul-destroying. Leylands is also a nationalised industry, 95 per cent government owned. All disputes bring workers into conflict with the state.

The workers at Leylands are subject to some of the most vicious and slanderous attacks from the media. Important issues are depicted as sabotage of the company, and any action taken by workers as the work of spoilt children. The foreign car worker is held up as a model for all, and it is suggested that no lazier worker exists than the man on the Leyland production

line at, say, Longbridge or Speke.

Continued p.4

Editorial

There is a contract out on the organised working class. It is called the social contract and the gangsters who are behind it are British capitalists. Their hit men in this attempt to murder the skilled, organised workers of Britain are the Labour Government.

On one side of this contract there are all the means of weakening and destroying the working class - massive unemployment, slashed wages, higher prices and the cutting off of the social services. On the workers' side there is acceptance of these attacks on its standard of living with the lowest rate of industrial protest in more than a decade.

Why would British workers keep such a one-sided bargain? They cannot possibly believe in Healey's imaginary carrots - that a 'booming British industry' in which the capitalists have shown they have no intention of investing will one day provide jobs for all or that we will all somehow share in the oil bonanza the multinationals have no intention of exploiting for anyone's benefit but their own.

They have acquiesced so far because there is only one alternative - to smash the social contract which means smashing social democracy because the contract simply spells out the working class's agreement, in exchange for promises never kept, to refrain from class struggle, because capitalism cannot survive except on the sufferance of the working class as expressed on the social democratic social contract.

Capitalism cannot count on that sufferance, particularly in Britain, and is already moving toward naked fascism which is restraint of the working class by brute force. The working class cannot allow the social contract to be the chains on its wrists as it is led away into fascist slavery. It must smash those chains of paper - not to go back. The bourgeois democracy which capitalism can no longer afford was never a paradise for workers. We must smash the social contract to go forward to the genuinely free bargain for the working class of socialism. To smash the social contract on which capitalism depends is more than just a question of wages and differentials. It is revolution!

Enver Hoxha speaks on imperialist aggression

Extracts from Speech at VIIth Party Congress

"The superpowers, the US and the USSR, are making preparations for a world war, and to this end, apart from their unrestrained arms race, they are also trying to create the circumstances which they judge suitable, by playing the bourgeois cliques in various countries off against one another, by stirring up nationalist sentiments to set the peoples at loggerheads with each other, and so on. The important thing is that people should not fall into fatalism, become passive observers and be caught unaware. They must be prepared for the worst and fight to prevent it.

In any country, its freedom and independence are dependent mainly on the stand adopted, whether you decide to live free and on your feet, or on your knees as slaves. When people are determined to live free and ready to fight, then the blackmail is knocked back, strength is revived, the people's courage mounts, and it is difficult for the aggressor to attack you. This is how our people think, and they put this view bluntly to any enemy who may imagine that he would have a "walkover" in Albania.

Marxism-Leninism teaches us that imperialism and the warmongers must be weakened through the revolutionary and liberation struggles of the peoples. If an aggressive imperialist war cannot be prevented, then it is the task of the revolutionaries and the proletariat to turn it into a liberation war.

It should be driven home to the peoples that the enemies of the revolution and the world proletariat, the enemies of freedom and the oppressed peoples, the instigators and the cause of war, are US imperialism, Soviet social imperialism and the reactionary bourgeoisie of each country. These powers constitute and represent the savage world capitalism, which has its source in, and draws its strength from, the inhuman exploitation of the peoples. A Stern, consistent, and determined struggle must be organised against these savage powers, against their ideology and various forms of organisation.

The present conditions demand that this merciless and all-round struggle is waged by all the peoples of the world, by all progressive people who have the true and complete interests of their nations at heart and have made them the aim of their struggle and life. If this struggle is led by the world proletariat and its vanguard, the communist party, which is guided by the unerring theory of Marxism-Leninism, it will be more resolute, unceasing and ever mounting.

The imperialists and the social-imperialists have as their close allies the reactionary bourgeoisie of each country where they exercise their influence. They use these allies to do their dirty work and wield the whip on their behalf, so they feed and arm them to have them ready as a striking force in a world conflagration and

against peoples who rise in revolution against their internal and external oppressors. Therefore, these two forces cannot be separated from one another. Without combating the one, you cannot combat the other, without combating the internal reactionary force until you have overthrown it, you cannot combat the external enemy, you cannot prevent war.

Our socialist state does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country with which it has various political, economic and cultural relations. But this does not mean that, for the sake of these relations, or of good neighbourliness with the bordering states or of the policy of non-interference in internal affairs, the Albanian state should not air its views on international policy.

Isolated country?

The Albanians are a people who fear no one, who do not fear the attacks of enemies, let alone slanders, for we are convinced of the correctness of our line and determined to defend it. In case of war, if we are attacked, we have the rifle ready, likewise we have a ready tongue to reply to enemy slanders.

The bourgeois and revisionist world think that we are an isolated country. This is the capitalist-revisionist view of things. The imperialists and revisionists consider that country which has closed its doors to the invasion through enslaving credits, through tourists and spies, through decadent culture and degeneration as isolated. From this point of view we really are, and intend to remain, an isolated country. But this is all to the good of our people. Our country is progressing and flourishing.

Man triumphs over nature in Tangshan



The people of the earthquake-devastated area of Tangshan in northern China are rebuilding a new Tangshan at high speed. Two months after the earthquake on July 28th 1976, over 70 per cent of the factories and mines had gone back into production. Crop harvests had been gathered in, 266,000 hectares of land sown to winter wheat, road and rail transport restored, homeless people were housed, new shops set up, newspapers resumed publication and schools reopened. The first lesson for the children in their temporary tent schools was "Man can triumph over Nature".

Capitalism-the destroyer

In the last decade imports into Britain as a percentage of output have risen from 23 per cent in 1966 to 35 per cent in 1975. As an industrial country Britain imports mainly food, fuels and basic raw materials. In 1975 these totalled 47 per cent of the visible import bill. However, in the same period 26 per cent of imports comprised semi-manufactures and 27 per cent were finished manufactures and these, not basic materials, have accounted for the recent rise in imports.

These facts spell out not only large scale redundancy but the extinction of whole branches of industry with the waste or permanent loss of the skills of the workers involved. The 1976 edition of the TUC Economic Review showed that between 1973 and 1975 13,300 jobs had been lost in radio and electronic components, 50,000 in electrical goods, 75,000 in textiles and 31,000 in clothing and footwear. It is this that has led those throughout the trade union movement to call for selective import control.

Discussions which have taken place in Brussels on the prohibition of cheap Japanese imports show the fact that Britain's overall visible trade deficit is with the EEC itself. The difference between what Britain imports and exports to EEC countries has grown from £702 million in 1972 to £3,200 million in 1975. On

top of this the Brussels Commission are ordering cutbacks in one sector of British industry after another, shipbuilding and steel for instance, to deal "with problems of Britain's overcapacity" - overcapacity with two million unemployed!

While British capitalism is prepared to destroy industry in Britain, it has not lost its appetite for exploiting the workers of other lands. This is how we must see the export of capital.

British capitalism is a world leader in this field. Britain's direct investment overseas, estimated at some 20 billion dollars, represents more than a fifth of the world total, roughly half that not attributable to the USA and four or five times as much as our nearest competitors. Britain leads the world in the ownership of industrial assets in the USA, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Of the top companies in Europe, 128 are British owned compared to 113 West German and 78 French.

But in Britain itself since 1960 industry's percentage of production has dropped from 38.4 to 33, construction from 6.5 to 5.6 and mining from 3.5 to 1.6 with the loss of nearly a million jobs.

Thus British capitalism reveals its two faces of destroyer and exploiter. Unable to exploit British workers to its hearts content it destroys industry here to look for easier pickings elsewhere, leaving us with no choice ourselves but to destroy or be destroyed.

U.S quits Korea

The announcement by the USA that ground forces are to be withdrawn from South Korea has sent fear shuddering through that puppet government which will have to face the wrath of the people of Korea without the aid of American troops.

This withdrawal has been brought about first by the heroic resistance of the Korean people to the original US invasion and then by the complete and utter defeat of US forces in Indo China.

It has always been the aim of the North Koreans to reunite their country so that all its people may enjoy the fruits of socialism. That this can soon be brought about peacefully is a tribute to the invincibility of people's war.

Housing is subversive

The leader of the Conservatives in the GLC has charged the Association of London Housing Estates (ALHE) with being a subversive body for resisting the sale of council houses by calling on local authority staff to black or go slow on all connected work.

As the ALHE points out, "Nobody on the housing lists is going to be rehoused as a result of council house sales". Indeed it can be shown that these sales are completely counter-productive in terms of housing workers. "Public housing is an asset

Ford Spain

Workers at the Ford Valencia factory in Spain have been on strike since January 10th. Having forced Ford to recognise a negotiating team of their own elected members instead of the imposed fascist union they presented their demands which included a 40 hour week and improved social conditions.

Ford rejected the demand and the workers went on strike. Ford Security Service men and riot police have cruelly and brutally attacked the strikers. However their resolution remains strong and recently with building and metal workers a mass demonstration of 150,000 workers was held which was again attacked by riot police.

The strikers are sure that British workers will show them support and solidarity in their heroic struggle.

The word of a torturer

The British Government has admitted before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that its occupying army in Northern Ireland had used torture "as an aid to interrogation". Britain has been accused of this by the southern Irish Government.

The methods of torture involve so-called deprivation techniques, such as hooding and white noise. They are admitted to have been used on detainees in Northern Ireland.

While making the admission, Britain is still insisting that it need not bring prosecutions against those responsible for the torture. Presumably they fear that in open court the true facts would come out about who authorised the torture.

So in true Catholic style, the Government is turning to confession as a means of repentance. But who will believe the torturer when he says he has kicked the habit? Is there one law for the people and another for a State and its army?

Conspiracy ?

Pickets can be put in jail for 'conspiracy'. But the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate decided that there was no prima facie case of 'conspiracy' against Jim Slater, so he couldn't be extradited to face charges in Singapore. Workers clearly find it easier to conspire than do financiers.

Workers fight cuts in Humberside Area

Labour Council meets opposition

Public sector workers throughout Humberside have already taken or are planning action against the Labour Council's cuts for 1977-80, announced in December. Council employees, both manual (NUPE) and administrative (NALGO) are operating an overtime ban against threatened redundancies.

Humberside Division of the NUT has decided to apply to the Union's National Action Committee for approval to operate 'no-cover' and class size sanctions. Action Committees are being set up in the constituent Associations. Hull NUT has proposed a Public Sector Action Committee to liaise with NUPE and NALGO, and make the resistance to cuts real and concrete within the schools.

The cuts in education threaten every sector of the service. Capitalism - allowances per child - is to be cut by 20 per cent, swimming virtually abolished (in a port and fishing area), and 287 teachers' jobs lost. No college leavers are to be taken on in September. If insufficient teachers come forward for 'voluntary redeployment' there will be 'inevitable redundancies', according to the Education Committee Chairman. Hull NUT has already voted to reject and oppose any form of redeployment, voluntary or compulsory.

The Humberside cuts and the fight against them are of some significance. Until very recently Humberside was acclaimed by many of its employees as a 'good Authority', one that would bend

over backwards to avoid cuts. Those who said 'the leopard can't hide his spots for long' were accused of being Cassandras. Many trade unionists collaborated with the Council, believing this would save their interests.

In the event, the employers did not even bother to consult the union representatives when deciding the cuts - a lesson for any industrial workers beguiled by Bullock. The result has been that the vast majority of those formerly in favour of 'consultation' have taken a firm stand of resistance, leaving a rump of hard-line collaborators, bewildered and isolated.

It is important that this is a fight against a Labour Council which says it is only obeying the Government's orders. In one respect this is correct, since the cuts are a political decision by the capitalist State, and adding a penny to the rates won't deter the Government's aim of demolishing the public services.

However, Humberside unions are telling the Labour Council - 'stand up against the Government if you have an ounce of socialist principle in you.' A large abstention rate is expected in Council elections in May since, as Councillor Lewis, leader of the Labour Group has complained, workers no longer care whether they are a Labour, Tory or Liberal Council. All, whatever their colour, have the same policy, and that policy must be fought, every inch of the way, if we are to survive.

WALES Workers must say no to devolution

The unique events in Britain which gave birth to the industrial revolution and the English working class also gave birth to the Welsh working class - a younger brother maybe, but of the same parental origin. Together they shared the same squalor, the same struggle for existence and, above all, the same exploiter. Common origin gave rise to a common culture and ideology. From this we must fashion a common destiny, that of socialism. As Marxists we admit varia-

tions of culture, such as exist in Wales and Scotland, but we cannot agree that these variations in culture determine a separate destiny. In the rundown of industry and services going on in Britain, capitalism recognises no devolution - it is being applied throughout Britain with an even-handed injustice. Any talk of devolution, then, can only divert and confuse us from our real aim which is not to split where there is no class division but to unite the whole British

working class against the bourgeoisie which knows no national boundaries in its greed for profit.

There can be no solution to the destruction of services and industry in Wales within the confines of capitalism. Whether capitalism operates from Westminster or from a devolved representative in Cardiff won't save one school or hospital or factory. It won't save one job. On the contrary, devolution is intended precisely to accelerate decline.

Unemployment, rundown meet resistance

The latest Government acknowledged unemployment figures for Wales have risen to 83,372, the highest since 1940. In the month of January alone 10 announcements of redundancies and closures were notified mainly in the manufacturing and heavy industries. And the response of the workers is shown in the fact that two areas in Wales, the southwest and the Swansea-Llanelli area, have the third and the sixth highest strike figures in Britain.

In Llanelli, 100 foremen at the Leyland plant staged a 24 hour stoppage over the filling of vacancies while 300 white collar workers have begun a whole series of stoppages over non-

payment of backpay and allowances for anti-social hours. At Llandudno the first strike for 36 years at the hydraulic press plant by 63 AUEW workers has been turned into a lockout by management claiming that the pay claim is against the social contract. Bus workers in Port Talbot have staged stoppages to show the public what the cuts in services are going to mean. In north Wales 200 UCATT workers at Pontin's Tower Beach holiday camp, at Prestatyn, have occupied the site in protest at Pontin's sacking of 35 men whom they tried to replace with lump labour.

In answer to local government's boast at Dyfed that they

were going to save over £1 million by leaving jobs vacant, NALGO retorted with a work-to-rule order to begin on April 1st. NUPE and other public sector unions have planned demonstrations toward the end of this month and have urged members to take appropriate action. At the West Glamorgan Institute for Higher Education in Swansea and the Polytechnic of Wales the teacher training sections have been closed down and NATFHE and NUT have formed action committees to fight the closure. Parents continue to join with teachers in the fight against overcrowding and to maintain standards, and action has been taken over restriction of school meals.

CPSA IN GIBRALTAR WORKER INTERVIEW

An interview with a committee member of the CPSA branch in Gibraltar, where 300 members have been locked out by the Ministry of Defence - since October 25th - in a pay dispute.

Q: What is the background to this dispute?

A: Members in Gibraltar have a system of well-established pay relativities with similar grades in the UK, but this system has been broken. The pay of our members now lags behind by about £400 a year, so a claim for an immediate restoration of relativities was made by the branch. This was rejected, so for six weeks our members carried out industrial action such as a work-to-rule, lightning strikes of one hour to one day's duration. Then, when we turned up for work as usual on October 25th we found we were locked out.

Q: What was your response to that?

A: Of course, we couldn't succumb to such intimidation and we were strengthened in our conviction when the union executive gave us their full backing.

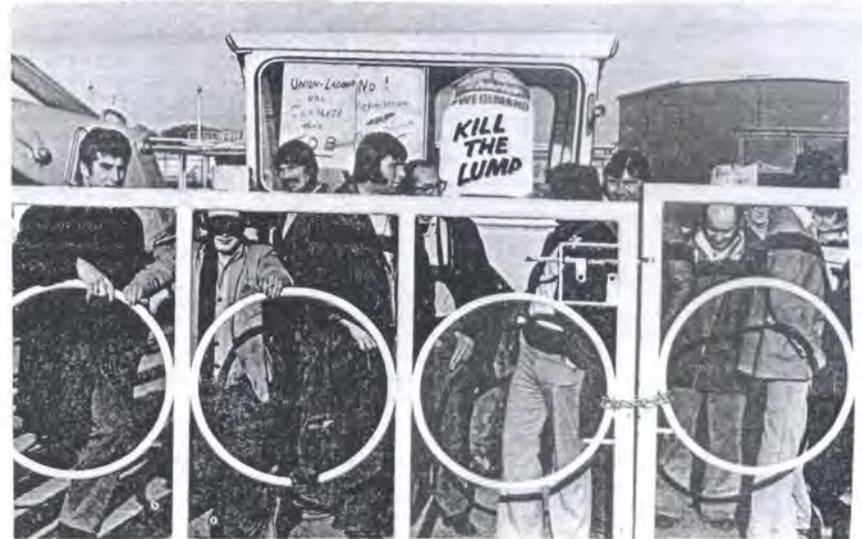
Twenty-four hour pickets and demonstrations have been mounted. At the end of one such protest - which was completely peaceful - 187 members, including myself, were arrested and fined. The jail was overflowing that day.

Q: What attitude has the rest of the Gibraltar population adopted?

A: This is a small community and some 60 per cent of its workers are in the public sector connected with the military base. They recognise that this claim, if successful, is in their interest and that it is a just claim. For instance, there are 6,000 TGWU members with a similar claim on the table. When news of our lock-out spread, they organised a demonstration, obviously much bigger than ours, and challenged the police to arrest them too. They did not dare. The workers are now on a go-slow, and the Ministry of Defence has suspended all the TGWU shop stewards to try to stop them organising.

Q: Obviously you think you will win. What makes you so confident?

A: Now we are strong, militant and united. Every time the Ministry of Defence hit us we come back harder. And those branch committee members who hesitated have been replaced. We have kept up morale with meetings, social gatherings, sing-songs and the like. We have the support of our families and the local community, of our union executive, and as more and more CPSA members in Britain hear about our struggle, so their support grows through blacking, etc.



Picture by John Sturrock (Report)

Building workers in occupation at Pontin's Tower Beach.

Strike at Chamberlain's

The summary dismissal of the Deputy Convenor at this East London factory brought an instant response from the AUEW workforce. They withdrew their labour and brought the factory to a standstill.

An official picket explained that the company was using this incident to test union strength since they wanted to introduce new work patterns and productivity deals.

Strengthened by the refusal of drivers to cross the picket line, the workers rejected both a company offer and any reference to the State's conciliation service (ACAS). Instead they put their faith in their own

strength and finally agreement was reached and the Deputy Convenor reinstated.

In vigorously resisting this attack on a colleague the workers at Chamberlain have delivered a clear warning to the management for the future.

Too much safety!

The Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways said at the Department of Transport on January 17th that Britain's railways had been getting steadily safer in recent years and with less than one significant train accident to every million train miles 'it may be argued that the level of safety on the railways is higher than can be justified economically.' That is no doubt the reason for the Government policy of shifting from rail to road with an accident rate over ten times as high.

Occupation at Pontin's camp

Sacked while on strike to make way for new - and lump - labour, 200 building workers at Pontins Prestatyn holiday camp in North Wales have turned the tables on their employers.

Pontins thought they were well rid of these workers, but when they called them in to pay them off, management got a nasty surprise. The men had held a meeting, decided on their strategy, and agreed to take advantage of Pontins' generous invitation to go inside the gates to collect the money due to them. They waited until the last of them had the last cash in his hands - then turfed the bosses out!

LETTERS

Bullock Report

From Brighton
Dear Editor,
However heated the "debate on industrial democracy" might get, we must not be fooled by it and think that there are any differences of substance between the stance of the CBI and that of the Labour government. They might disagree on the ways and means, but the aim is the same - to divert workers from acting in defence of their interests, from the struggle against employers.

In line with its corporatist approach the Labour Government will probably press for the integration of the trade union machinery into the new structure while - "in opposition" - the more backward capitalists would probably like to be able to pick more freely their worker-directors. But in the end it all comes to the same thing: to make workers think that their interests and those of the capitalists can be united and a new brotherhood of man forged in the cushioned confines of the boardroom. Workers, of course, know better than that and class struggle will not cease

whatever scheme is finally arrived at.

The Bullock proposals are to be used as tax concessions have been used in the past, as a bargaining point to keep the Social Contract afloat.

We can already see a scenario for this Spring's performance of the TUC-CBI-Government show. The CBI will make a lot of noise about opposing the Bullock proposals; the TUC "leaders" will pose as the champion of the working class; the Labour Government - as ever desperate to appear radical but with "common sense" - will work out a compromise. A historic working class victory will be proclaimed! Worker directors arrive - along with yet another year of 'voluntary' wage restraint. Such is their hope.

Workers are not after 'Industrial democracy' - they want real democracy. That means the working class in full control not only of the boardroom but of the whole of society, from the State to the means of production. Their answer to the ruling class's latest move will be to send this Bullock to their slaughterhouse.

Teacher training

From Yorkshire,
Dear Editor,

Recently, in her address to the North of England Education Conference, Mrs Williams, the Education Secretary, said: "the rapid expansion of the sixties is behind us," and proceeded to turn the world upside down by declaring that the strategy of the Labour government is aimed at avoiding unemployment. How? By reducing the numbers of teachers to be trained in the 1980's!

Working people everywhere may find the logic hard to follow but there can be no doubting Mrs William's veracity when it comes to the reduction in teacher training. At the end of 1976 the Report on Initial Teacher Training for the Yorkshire/Humber-side region was issued. This detailed the massive reduction planned in teacher training within the area by 1981/2. In response to government policy, the overall number of teachers qualifying in 1981/2 was to be 2081 in comparison to 4567 in 1974/5 - a cutback of 54 per cent.

In her speech, the Education

Secretary spoke at length on the question of so-called 'shortage subjects' and her desire to see more maths teachers trained. The Yorkshire figures highlight this 'concern' for they reveal that there will be a decrease of 27 per cent in those being trained for 'shortage subjects', and a decline of 29 and 35 per cent in maths and science specialists respectively. Home economics teachers are to be halved and other secondary specialists to be reduced by 32 per cent overall.

As if these plans were not drastic enough, towards the end of January it was announced that many of the region's colleges were to be closed or merged with a subsequent further loss of jobs and places. In addition to those mentioned above, for example, in the Bradford district Bingley College is to close and a further 400 places lost.

In contrast to Mrs Williams' protestations that the Government is concerned about improving the quality of education, that education will not suffer, that cutbacks do not really exist, the reality is that education is to be destroyed.

Profitable experience-but for whom?

The government scheme whereby it is intended that school leavers should gain work experience seems to be another sort of experience with an employer who does not pay them himself. Instead the government uses taxpayers' money to pay the employer's wages for him at a flat rate of £16 a week.

Recently figures show that it is the smaller employers who are "contributing" to the scheme the most. Most of the larger schemes are run by multiple stores such as Debenhams. In other words it is precisely in those areas of employment where unions are weak that the majority of the "to be experienced" school leavers find work. No

doubt the value of the experience gained will show up handsomely in the profit figures of the employers while the school leavers themselves get a first hand experience of a unique form of exploitation - they are made to do the work of a normal employee, while receiving nothing from the employer.

Such a conclusion was indirectly borne out when an official of the Training Services Agency, the body running the scheme, said "It is not necessarily a question of manufacturing employers being less willing to co-operate. Many of them are having difficulty in getting union agreement at plant level, despite the TUC's backing."



Picture by John Sturrock (Report)

Student teachers' demonstration against closing teacher training colleges.

Leylands

Continued from P. 1

Against this background came the Ryder Report, one of the main proposals of which was "more realistic manning levels and more mobility of labour". Ryder wanted to increase production with a smaller workforce.

But the most vicious proposal has been the 'Security Earnings Agreement', which seeks to reduce stoppages and manning levels.

Workers control, much in the news following the Bullock Report, is exposed by the Leyland scheme for what it really is when it states: "Trade unions will cooperate in the control of unauthorised absence and unconstitutional industrial action." The shop stewards and convenors locally would be made responsible for disciplining their fellow union members. This idea was so obnoxious to the workers and their reaction so immediate that the firm quickly withdrew the point about "unauthorised abs-

ence" which dealt with sick leave, but the "unconstitutional industrial action" part remained. This point, in fact, revolves around the system of payment for lay-offs caused by an interruption in the supply. The proposal offers more paid lay-off days in the year, which is for the point of calculation split up into quarters, but the crunch comes in the part of the document that says: "No lay-off payments will be made to any employee who in the previous quarter took part in any unconstitutional industrial action that amounts to an aggregate of four hours." Now anybody who is aware of the conditions within a car plant and the stresses and strains that build up among the workforce will know that it is impossible for three months to go by without some sort of dispute arising and as no management sees the workers' point of view unless they are prepared to act, the loss of half a shift is inevitable. And even if, for some strange reason, the best part of three months did go by without a dispute, it would not be beyond management to precipitate

trouble. This is the main point of the proposals. The management want to ensure a steadily increasing and uninterrupted production at the expense of the workers' rights that have been won over the years. The other important part of the document has to deal with manning levels. They want to reduce them. It used to be called the sack, then redundancy, and rationalisation, now Leylands choose to call it manpower surpluses. They want to reduce the workforce and as part of this aim they want to introduce a greater mobility of labour. They won't necessarily sack you, just make it more difficult for you to get to work, as the plan is to move workers to any place where there is work within the respective area. These proposals have been rejected by the vast majority of Leyland workers. However Leyland want to introduce some sort of reorganisation and even if they have no luck with this scheme, they will try again.

LSE Occupied

At a mass meeting attended by over 200 students on February 9th the decision was taken to occupy the LSE registry in protest against the proposed increases in tuition fees. This action comes as a culmination of the anger and seething resentment which has been building up against the proposed increases, as much as 300 per cent in some cases.

On February 7th the Director of the LSE, Ralf Dahrendorf, in an open letter to all members of the school, said that though he was "worried to the point of despair" by the effects of the latest increases he felt that he had no choice but to recommend the introduction of the increased fees. This despite the fact that he admitted that as many as 500 students would be forced into serious financial hardship as a result. The students were not prepared to accept this and after an unsatisfactory meeting with the Academic Board decided to occupy until their demands are met. They demand that there be no fee increases and that a determined action against all the present attacks against education be launched. The morale and determination of the students is high. Messages of support have come flooding in from colleges all over the country.

Public Meetings

- 7.30 pm. Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW5.
- February 18th One Working Class - Unity not Devolution
 - February 25th No meeting planned
 - March 4th Women - One Half of the Working Class
 - March 11th Karl Marx
 - March 18th Vietnam and Cambodia on the Road to Socialism
 - March 25th Health
 - April 1st Meeting to be arranged by New Albania Society
 - April 8th No meeting planned
 - April 15th Science, Research and Technology in Jeopardy
 - April 22nd Revolution - Britain's Duty

MEETING IN SOUTH EAST LONDON

- 23rd February From workshop of the world to industrial graveyard. Corinthian Restaurant, St. Fidelis Road, Erith.

Bookshops

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