

THE WORKER



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CLASS WAR NOT WORLD WAR

THE CURRENT bout of wage bargaining is well under way and Government and employers have expressed their concern, their fear, and also their adamance that they will not be pushed around by trade unionists.

But of course it's not what you say that matters so much as what you do. Employers are putting their foot down only to have it trodden on by workers. Remember Beckett's brave statement at Ford. The reaction was more defiant than deferential. And that mood is catching as a round-up reveals.

Bakery workers at Rank Hovis McDougall and Allied Bakeries, 26,000 all told, have gone for 26 per cent. Having turned down 11 per cent with productivity increased, the strike is well under way despite an unprecedented campaign of intimidation by press and police. There has been trouble with scabs; both lorry drivers and middle management, with a few getting thumped for their trouble. Picket line arrests have not put strikers off and in several places agreement has been reached that scabs will not do it again. Hospitals are being allowed bread on humanitarian grounds.

42,000 gas workers have pushed for 20 per cent increases, while British Oxygen workers in the gases division have rejected management's latest, 'final' offer of 9 per cent. Most workers at Mich-

elin UK would have probably accepted 10 per cent if it had been on basic rates. But with strings attached, that would have meant more work, it was unacceptable. Michelin workers, like Ford workers and bakers, resent the suggestion they don't work hard enough for their money already.

The offer put forward by the Scottish section of the Road Haulage Association has been rejected. Five per cent plus attendance payments were not what the lorry drivers were thinking of. Tanker drivers at Shell have opened negotiations on money, being followed shortly by Shell refinery workers.

Local council manual workers have delayed pressing their claim for the moment. They are after 40 per cent, but it could be a case of verbal militancy without the will to back up such a big claim with big action, if need be. When the claim was put there were hints of an appeal to being a 'special case', whatever that is. This cap-in-hand approach never wins. Everybody is special you could say - you evaluate your work and your needs and negotiate a price for the labour, with arm-twisting where necessary.

No wage struggle has ever been easy but at least we have rid ourselves of hurdles of our own making such as social contracts and can take on the employer and Government in our own way.



The bank rate doubled on the outbreak of World War I. Is history about to repeat itself?

WORLD WAR I casualty figures recall the scene of carnage in that four year span. But in 1975, in a tactical nuclear battle simulated by NATO, 1.7 million Germans "died" in 48 hours, while 3.5 million more were "wounded". Most of the casualties would have been West Germans, the people allegedly being defended by NATO. The Supreme Allied Commander of NATO is General Alexander Haig of the USA, previously on the losing side in Vietnam. He was in Vietnam at a time when towns and villages were having to be "saved" by destroying them. That so many West German casualties would be inflicted in a defensive move redefines the meaning of the word "defence". It was another Haig in World War I who ordered tens of

thousands to their deaths.

How far have we learnt the lessons of that Great War? We have learnt to oppose war vehemently, whoever stirs it up, as shown by union conferences and the TUC year after year. But still military expenditure goes on.

In 1913, on the eve of war, world arms expenditure (at constant 1970 prices) was \$9 billion. By 1976 the total was \$220 billion, or over \$300 billion at current prices.

Almost three-quarters of such expenditure is accounted for by the United States, Soviet Union, and their allies in NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Detente is a joke. SALT talks set certain limits, all the more to race ahead on new technological developments not referred to in the SALT agreements. Strategic arms limitation talks cannot limit the 'neutron bomb' because it is a tactical weapon, yet the missile lowers the nuclear threshold because it is cheaper, smaller, 'cleaner' and leaves property intact. It makes nuclear war more likely because more limited in scope.

The USA tried every weapon in Vietnam except the neutron bomb, even though "bomb them back into the stone age" was heard. Had they had the neutron bomb then its employment seems more likely than not.

At present in this country military expenditure continues apace. The 1977 Defence White Paper shows £826 million being used for military research and development but, in addition, £158 million going on "other"

expenditure. Britain is also building 385 of the new Tornado aircraft, partly for use as a strategic nuclear bomber, at a cost of £7000 million over their operational life. In fact, Britain has the largest arms industry in Europe.

It has been estimated that if Britain's arms spending since 1945 had been held to 3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product, national output would by now be 30 per cent greater than it is, because high investment in the military sector reduces what is available for the rest of industry.

An option for the military is done at some cost. For Hitler it was guns before butter, for Russia it is missiles before meat, while currently it means that "as Iran teeters on the brink... there is growing concern over stability of the Gulf and the fate of British arms exports" (THE TIMES).

The Shah has been the biggest customer of the Government Defence Sales Organisation with outstanding orders worth several thousand million pounds. One tank order from Iran is estimated at £1000 million, in addition to the 760 chieftain tanks already being used.

So Owen is bound to support these most reactionary regimes. Capitalism makes money out of arms. This was also the main concern of Krupp, whose factories stayed intact during the second world war.

If we allow them to wage war again, that war will be a war too far.



From London to Belfast the demand is growing - Troops Out Of Ireland

THE annual conference of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) voted last week to demand the withdrawal of British troops from northern Ireland.

The vote of 700 to 2 in favour of this demand is an important development, particularly as it comes at a time when it is clear that the people of Britain want nothing more to do with an armed occupation of Ireland.

The SDLP has always had visions of an Ireland united, but it has tended towards a compromise position. The strong belief that gradual change through parliamentary means (in the form of power-sharing, devolved government, proportional representation or whatever) would eventually solve Ireland's problems has guided the policies of the party. The party even welcomed the troops on the pretext that the catholic minority needed protection!

The vote at conference emphasises that these 'solutions' have failed and that the troops

in Ireland are protecting no one.

Indeed it would be impossible to argue that such an occupation ever did protect any workers or that a political solution involving British ministers could ever be in the interests of the Irish people.

Only this week a British minister waived the necessity for charged prisoners to appear before a magistrate to suit the convenience of the security forces who cannot even run their own prisons! The minister denied one of the few civil rights left to the citizens of Ireland and had to consult no one to do it.

All this is very worrying for the British Parliament. Belfast solicitors are accused of conspiring with terrorists and the SDLP vote is regarded with fear - yet another nail in the coffin of British imperialism in Ireland.

They are running scared. Let us make sure they can't pause for breath.

Military will not save Shah

BRITISH-MADE chieftain tanks have been put to the task they have always been intended for - namely the protection of the Shah's regime from the people of Iran. Whether the massive army, the tanks, rocket launchers and the biggest fleet in the Middle East will save the Shah from the verdict of the people is uncertain to say the least. The army which three years ago temporarily saved the Sultan of Oman might prove unreliable when the time comes to prop up their own oppressors.

For the first time since the return of the Shah, by courtesy of British and US imperialism, from exile in 1953 a united mass movement has gripped the workers, students and peasants of Iran. Their call is the downfall of the Shah. Let the mass media speculate on what will follow the Shah. The people of Iran, having thrown the yoke of His Imperial Highness off their backs, will certainly solve any problem that might arise afterwards.

The idea circulated by the imperialists that the revolt is a desire to return to the 'rule of Islam' to prove that the Shah is comparatively progressive is proved to be entirely false by the reports coming from Iran. The workers in the oil industry who

downed tools did not do so for time off to face Mecca and pray to Allah. They called for the release of political prisoners. The demonstrators in the streets of Teheran burnt the British Embassy not because of the infidels inside but because of the support British imperialism gives to the Shah. The US Embassy would have suffered the same fate if it wasn't for the massive armed guards outside.

The military rule introduced by the Shah is his last card. The conscript army has proved unreliable when ordered to shoot at their brothers and sisters demonstrating in the streets all over Iran.

The last time the Shah fled the country it was the money and subversive activities of the CIA and its British equivalent which brought him back to begin the long years of brutal oppression in Iran. Already the British and the US Governments have declared in the words of President Carter that the Shah's 'progressive administration is very valuable for the entire world'. The scene is set for forcing intervention. But it is a different world today from that 25 years ago. The lesson US imperialism was taught in Vietnam has not been forgotten.

THE WEEK

THE TWENTY-TWO per cent wage rise won by the Fire Brigades Union after their heroic strike earlier this year will be welcomed by all. The harder you hit a rigid wage limit, the more cracked it becomes.

2,000 jobs in the Civil Service are kept permanently open for retired officers to the exclusion of qualified civil servants. The Civil Service Union has just bitterly attacked this "nepotism."

REACTION abroad - Zionist expansion on the West Bank - is matched by reaction at home in Israel. With inflation at 50 per cent, a 15 per cent wage limit is being imposed, and opposed. Teachers have decided to strike from December 12 for a 35 per cent rise. A 48 hour strike of 30,000 civil servants dislocated public services, stopped radio broadcasts, and threatened municipal elections.

WATER shortage in the West Country has less to do with rainfall than with the EEC. The British government stopped subsidising waterworks in 1974, and investment now comes from loans from the European Investment Bank. We pay for no water at the rate of £8½ for every hundred borrowed. In another piece of EEC madness domestic beef is deliberately priced higher than imports, so that domestic production will decline from 1.06 million to 0.99 million tonnes per year.

WORKERS at Michelin's Stoke plant have overwhelmingly rejected the company's pay offer of 6½ per cent. At General Foods, Banbury, 1,200 TGWU members are on strike against the government's limits.

A "cut in the phone bill" campaign at Exeter University has started because the government has cut its grant. Not surprisingly, priority for the chop are the Students Union phones.

Three high rise flats in Liverpool were so foul that no-one would live in "the Piggeries". The blocks have now been bought for a song (£15,000) by a company which will build an eight-foot fence round the lot and sell flats at £8,000 each to the "right sort of people".

Wilson speaking to the Commons said it was inconceivable that his cabinet should have connived in sanctions breaking. Whether this is true or not under Labour every type of dictatorship flourishes. The Botha regime occupies Namibia with an army of 50,000. The Smith regime with martial law - butcher and bolt in old-fashioned English - nappalms Zambian civilians. Amin occupies part of Tanzania. Let's smash the evil at its source - the capitalist government in Britain.

HISTORIC

NOTES

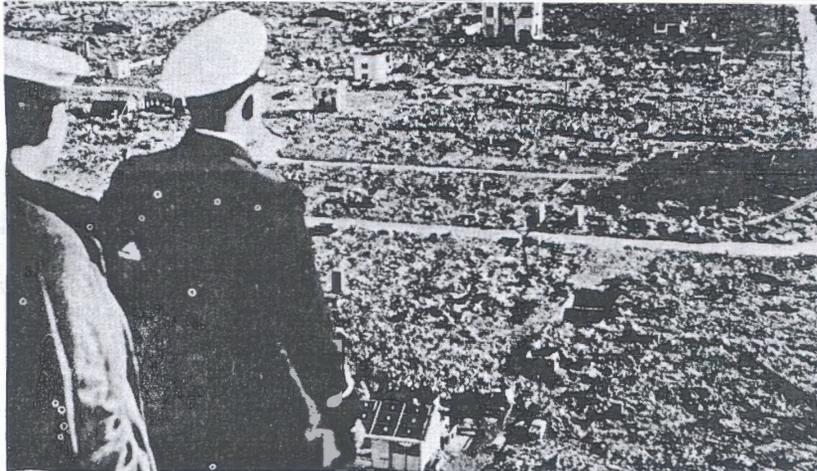
War to end all wars?

"The hand that signed the treaty bred a fever,
And famine grew, and locusts came,
Great is the hand that holds dominion over
Man by a scribbled name."
WORLD War I was fought in the interests of kings and capitalists, though none of them died in it. (Do they ever?) The sixtieth anniversary of the armistice must make us pause for thought about this, particularly in the context of current sabre-rattling and war-talk.

Despite solemn vows by all parties in the Socialist International that workers would not fight workers in the cause of capitalist rivalry, that spirit was breached resulting in horrendous slaughter. 65 million men were mobilised, of whom 8.5 million were killed, with 21 million being wounded. Of all those mobilised, 57.6 per cent were war casualties.

Krupp, the German arms manufacturer, made a fortune out of World War I, as he did out of World War II, and today the family name embraces the same business. The Kaiser, the Fuhrer, the Chancellor - who cares, business is business. Krupp was not alone, however; we too had our merchants of death. But how did it come about?

It was not started by the assassination of an Austrian archduke at Sarajevo, although that incident was used as the pretext for mobilisation. Antagonism between, and alliances among, the empires of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and Turkey, with the Balkans as a focal point of those contradictions, made



Hiroshima, August 1945. 200,000 were dead within three months. 1000 have died annually since 1945 in Hiroshima from radiation. Yet today's nuclear weapons are far more powerful.

war a danger years before it ever began. The Turkish empire in decline was easy prey for the others. The Austro-Hungarian empire sought domination over the new Balkan states falling out of Turkey's grasp. Tsarist Russia used the pretext for expansion in this area as 'protector' of the Slavic peoples, or, to cast its net wider, of non-Slavs who were fellow members of the Orthodox church. Any excuse would do.

German intentions to retain Alsace-Lorraine won from the French in 1870-71 meant alliance against France, which alerted British imperial interest to Germany's rivalry. Treaty followed alliance in this den of thieves.

When the war was over two years old, after terrible casualties, and peace was talked about, the conniving still continued on the Allied side. Russia would get Istanbul, Alsace-Lorraine would go to France, the German colonies would go to Britain, while Italy was promised Trieste and the Tirol in Austria, with other portions of the Turkish empire.

The callousness of this wheel-dealing at the end of 1916 is underlined by battlefield results on the Somme. Allied forces attacked German positions on the Somme for four months from July 1916 when stalemate was conceded. The campaigns cost 1 million lives, with no important gains on either side. Or take Verdun, where five months of bloodshed saw a German gain of only 130 square miles for a loss of 300,000 plus French casualties.

Although opposition to the war had been fiercest in Britain, war overtook that opposition. The South Wales Miners Federation was prepared to put an international miners' strike between the belligerent countries and war, receiving support from the National Union of Mineworkers. A Cardiff miners' meeting resolved that no coal would be supplied to the fleet. When the Parliamentary Labour Party backed war, Ramsay MacDonald resigned the leadership in disgust. The Independent Labour Party opposed war for the duration. Engineers in the munitions industry opposed the low pay and dilution of skill

that war encouraged, founding the first shop stewards' movement. The tanks were then to be used against workers on Clydeside.

The Bolsheviks, who had opposed war throughout, dealt with Russian absolutism in a way the German army could not. But not before the Russian people suffered 9 million casualties. Only in Russia did the people turn their guns on their rulers. They preferred revolution to war. Land, bread and peace.

The kings departed after the war, but none died on the front for their war.

Mutiny racked the French army in 1917, but there was no revolution. In Germany, the Kaiser's abdication led to no revolution. In Britain, demobbed soldiers returned to a land fit for heroes - mass unemployment.

Russia was the one positive development. In addition to enormous military casualties, we should remember that 28 million civilians died because of the war. A lost generation. Those living scarred by the experience. Progress is not built on a pile of skulls.

EDITORIAL

AT FIRST SIGHT the extraordinary rise in the bank rate with its boost to the cost of living looks like petulant destruction on Callaghan's part. 'If the organised working class won't accept my 5 per cent limit on wages, then I'll hike the bank rate by 2½ per cent and put a lot more of them out of work.' It almost seems like the act of a bad tempered child smashing crockery because he can't get his way.

Everybody says that what is wrong with British industry is that it is starved of investment; this increase in the bank rate is going to discourage investment in British industry even more. Besides, in increasing the number of workers who are unemployed, the Government is also increasing the number of employers who are out of business. Spokesmen for the CBI at their conference in Brighton have complained vociferously about the consequences for businessmen of the higher bank rate.

This action is another step in the destruction of Britain which, while directed mainly at the working class hurts the employing class as well. What does Callaghan think he is doing? Has teetering on the brink of Parliamentary defeat and having to think up shabby devices for staying in power finally driven him round the twist?

To understand how such destructiveness can make a kind of Alice-in-Wonderland sense, one has to appreciate the fundamental contradiction at the heart of the distorting mirror of world of capitalism: profit, not people's real needs, sits enthroned. This contradiction is the key to an understanding of everything going on in Britain today; human labourers, in that portion of time they are not paid for their work, create all profit; but the same human labourers, organised with their workmates, are the greatest enemy of profit.

This poses an insoluble problem for capitalism and its agents like Callaghan. How can the organised worker be destroyed while preserving the creative worker who produces all value and, therefore, surplus value or profit itself? All capitalism's contradictions are rooted in that one simple formula of class opposition and cannot be resolved short of an ending of class exploitation. Does that sound too simple? It is simple. The main task of all economists who are apologists for the capitalist system is to make what is really very simple look very complicated.

Callaghan says that one of the main reasons he has had to put up the bank rate is because the US has put up its interest rates - just as Carter wants a wages policy like the one Britain had. That helps us to understand what the "special relationship" between Britain and the US really is - a close exchange of methods for trying to solve the problem of how to bring workers together to create profits without letting them organise to defend themselves. That same problem is also the basis for the coming together of west European capitalists in the EEC. But whatever commercial and financial combinations they think of, the problem remains insoluble.

This formula of class opposition has a lesson for us workers as well. For us, too, the problem of how we can go on working constructively making things that people need and at the same time put an end to our exploitation by those who only want to make profits is insoluble - as long as we seek a solution inside the capitalist system. We solve that problem by destroying capitalism and establishing socialism, in which production is for use and there is no exploitation of man by man.

But the way to socialism lies precisely through our organisation as workers to defend ourselves, through the class struggle of fighting for wages, through the demand for the right to work. There is no other, more glamorous, road to revolution. The class war we have been fighting ever since our class was born at the dawn of the capitalist era is the class war out of which socialism will be born.

TEXTILES RUNDOWN

AT the Courtauld's textile factory at Spennymoor 560 jobs are to go. This is approximately one third of the workforce. The destruction of this section of North East industry has over the period of 1976-1978 lost about 3,700 jobs, most of which were from highly unionised factories.

The usual reasons given for such redundancy and closure are cheap imports and the changes in fashions from suits to casual clothes and jeans, but it is all simply part of the crisis of capitalism where profit not human need directs the flow of money. With factory closures and the loss of jobs, comes the closure of the high street shops, and the reduction of transportation so there are losses of jobs in this area of employment too. With crisis comes greater concentration of capital like the Jackson and Burton merger with some 200 shops closing and the possibility of more

The last Jackson factory at Hendon Road, Sunderland has closed bringing an end to their north east operation and with earlier closures making a loss of over 1,000 jobs in Sunderland alone. Over 1,500 jobs were lost with the closure of the Co-op factory in Pelaw and factories have been closed in Gateshead and Durham.

1,800 workers at the Brentford Nylon factory at Granglinton were laid off for 3 weeks in March, and Lonhro who now own Brentford have announced their intention to close other factories. The fight for the right to work has to cover the whole industry. The loss of so many jobs nationally as well as locally is intended to weaken the Tailor and Garment Workers Union to prepare the way for the reduction of wages. We have to fight for our jobs, for our union, for our wages, and for the preservation of our industry. It is all the same fight - the fight for socialism.

Corporate Plan of the Lucas Aerospace shop stewards - the road to hell is paved with good intentions

SUPPORTERS of the workers' plans for Lucas Aerospace should remember the old saying, "the road to hell is paved with good intentions". For while we must praise the workers for seeing the need to protect skill and experience, the solution, as the Company moves investment abroad, of providing the Corporate Plan can only fail. We must beware clarity on job protection being distorted by involvement with a wrong solution.

The workers in this industry have stated: "These jobs are not ours to give away, we are caretakers for future generations. The Corporate Plan is necessary because it provides for greatly extended training opportunities and apprenticeships for young people. We want to pass on our skills to future generations - it is social vandalism to prevent us doing so."

The workers are faced with the rundown of Lucas Aerospace where the management have followed a deliberate sacking policy and are destroying jobs in Britain. Since 1970 they have got rid of 6000 highly skilled jobs, reducing the workforce to its present 12,000. Now they want to reduce it by a further 2000 and are eliminating permanently facilities and equipment which could be used in the future.

The Combine Shop Stewards Committee at the works have posed an alternative to the redundancies. Called the Corporate

Plan, it argues how absurd it is to put highly skilled workers out of a job when there are hosts of products urgently needed by our society. It recognises the utter waste and cost of unemployment, and suggest 150 products which could be made with the skills already developed, rather than accept further sackings.

The proposals are thorough and in some instances prototypes have been built and successfully tested. The products range from high-technology products such as Gaseous Hydrogen Fuel Cells to Natural Gas Fired Heat Pumps. Some are in the medical field such as the portable life-support system (Kidney Machines, ie Dialysis Machines, are already made by the firm). Others are direct aerospace items such as the powered wheel for conserving fuel and reducing noise pollution.

But in putting forward these alternative products, workers are assisting Lucas in the rundown of the aerospace industry in Britain. Surely we want a self-reliant Britain, not one which needs to import aerospace technology. Neither do we want to choose either aerospace or these other products. We must demand both.

At no point does the plan confront the essential stumbling block of capitalist ownership - Lucas workers are being treated only as can be expected of capitalism. The profiteering nature of the management is directly ex-

posed in their refusal to consider the plan, because they are able to continue developing military aircraft abroad without loss of profit.

We should not be surprised, nor would any acceptance of the scheme lead to good developments at this time, for we can never go cap in hand to the boss and say "Save us". Any idea that we would receive a sympathetic hearing is based on illusion, and ignores the fundamental contradiction which exists between capitalist and workers. Every worker wants an adequate job, with good conditions and pay and the boss wants the job done for as little cost on his part as possible.

Graver dangers become apparent in ignoring this contradiction: if we collude with the boss in order to make the capitalist system work better, then we are in fact bringing greater oppression upon ourselves. For we are by such an action policing ourselves on behalf of the boss, who still rakes in the profit. Unless we solve the question of the ownership of the works, not with partial control (workers on the Board) but once and for all, there can be no real progress toward the production of socially needed goods.

The capitalists at Lucas seek only maximum profit wherever it can be obtained. The only way the products named by the Shop Stewards Committee will be successfully developed is in a true socialist society when the needs of the people come before profit.

FOCUS ON N.EAST-Shipbuilding at risk

THE recent disclosure of the BSL corporate plan to be put into effect by the end of 1978 with a proposed 10,000 redundancies should come as no surprise. The workers in the industry have been continually told of the orders situation internationally and nationally - as if it were the fault of shipyard workers that there are no orders. Our capitalist masters accuse us of laziness and low productivity when the fact is that many more countries want to build their own ships.

At Haverton Hill on the Tees 350 jobs are to go, 800 at the Birkenhead yard of Cammell Laird on Merseyside and there is an announcement by British Shipbuilding that there are 1,640 Boilermakers on Tyneside surplus to requirements when over 700 Boilermakers have already been

made redundant.

Under capitalism all sections of industry suffer the same contradictions and over production resulting in crisis. The flood of investments in the 1960's into tanker and bulk carriers production, suddenly stopped with the collapse of one merchant company after the other like Maritime Fruit Carriers. With the deepening of the crisis in all sections of industry and the increase in oil prices, the amount of goods transported by sea dropped. The need for new and replacement vessels fell so there were too many men and too many building berths. Capitalism cannot solve its crisis, it can only pass the effects on to us in cut-backs, closures and redundancy.

Our reply must be a clear NO to the destruction of shipbuilding,

NO to capitalism. Only socialism can ensure the continuation and development of shipbuilding. Now that the shipbuilding industry is nationalised our fight is no longer restricted to individual shipyards but the whole industry. As in the fight for wages so the fight for the right to work must be national. The fight against closures and redundancies has been taken up by the CSEU and has to be pressed home. Whether in the form of occupations or any other action to keep jobs and save industry, it ultimately lies with us the shipyard workers to save shipbuilding for Britain. So much depends on shipbuilding, marine engineering, steel and the supply industries which make everything from steering gear to washers. The fight for shipbuilding is the fight for socialism.

HEATING ENGINEERS' SUCCESS

FOLLOWING their recent two day strike in pursuance of 25 per cent bonus pay and a basic wage claim of £1.80 an hour, heating and domestic engineers from the north east decided to implement a complete overtime ban and work to rule at a meeting held on October 9. This led to bonus rates ranging from £10.00 for mates to £16.50 for chargehands being negotiated from five employers. A meeting called on October 28 passed this motion unanimously: "Unless the employers meet the district officers by November 13,

there will be a total stoppage of work."

The discussion from the floor made plain that the struggle between employers and workers is a class war in which the employers will use every means to defeat our action. The struggle has brought home the need to use fully our union machinery and works committees and site committees have been set up in most places.

The review body which was set up to look into the wages of the heating engineers has recommended a basic hourly rate of

£1.02½, which still has to be accepted by the Government. But people at the meeting were quite clear about the fact that such bodies and procedures are set up to detract from the struggle. The executive council member present stated that, if necessary, national action would be taken, in line with the conference decision against the 5 per cent guidelines and for a return to free collective bargaining.

The gains made so far by north east engineers bode well for a national victory.

BAKERY INTERVIEW

The following is the text of an interview given to THE WORKER by two pickets outside a large bakery in Walthamstow, East London, on the first Saturday morning of the bakers' strike.

Q. What are your demands?

A. The basic wage is £41 for a 40 hour week. We're asking for the basic wage to be £51, a £10 rise for 40 hours.

Q. What are your shifts?

A. Two days, including Sunday, we work twelve hour shifts; the rest ten hours. People with large families have to work 80 hours odd to get £57 take home pay.

Q. Is the bakery 100 per cent union?

A. 100 per cent.

Q. Is the strike solid here?

A. 100 per cent. 68 loaves going out today - its usually 6 to 7000. Two lorries are going, one to the London Hospital and one to Enfield Hospital. We don't stop hospitals, prisons and old people's homes.

Q. Is there anything else you want to report?

A. We think you should write about the actions of the police on Thursday. There were four pickets lined up across the gate. We asked the drivers kindly not to pass the picket line. They said they had instructions from their union to ignore the picket line. While the branch secretary was talking to the drivers' official, the first driver said no way would he take the van past the picket line. If the manager wanted the van past the picket line he could take it himself. An assistant sales manager jumped in and started driving towards the picket line. So the pickets standing on the side moved in front of him. All this happened while negotiations with the drivers were still going on.

All of a sudden as we moved in front there were 80 policemen here in one minute. They had been all lined up down the road in their cars. There were 80 police and 40 pickets (yesterday it was only 30 police because the BBC came down). They came in booting, kicking, punching, they just went in like bulldogs.

When the pickets were forced out of the way three vans went out and there were eight arrests. The branch secretary had just finished negotiations with the drivers and reported that the drivers refused to take the vans out.

Q. How long will you stay out?

A. As long as it takes us. We're 100 per cent solid down here and we'll stick to it till we get what we want.

CPBML hold public meeting at Fords

AT A RECENT meeting called by the CPB(ML) at Ford's, Dagenham, the speaker began by stating that capitalism is in absolute decline. Despite what the social democrats try to tell us, we know there is nothing "round the corner" anymore - capitalism will never recover from the present state it is in.

The meeting had been held at Fords, he said, because they were workers involved in struggle, they had been prepared to take on social democracy in a fight that was not just for wages but also a fight against a social system.

The speaker emphasised that it was wrong for workers

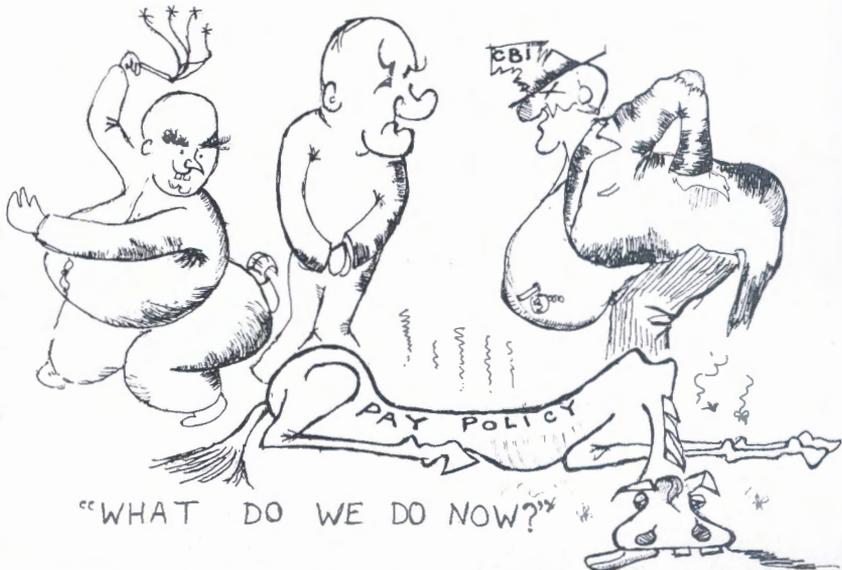
to sit on the fence waiting for Fords to win their wage claim for them.

Workers must struggle for the correct things in the correct fashion through their trade union machinery. They must "seize the assets" of these unions by taking part in them and ensuring they are carrying out the tasks they were set up for. The trade unions are the only mass movement our class has, and therefore have to defend them. We must no longer allow social democracy to dominate us. Collectively, as workers, we are to blame for this - we could have control through our unions. If we can't do our basic

trade union work we can't begin to make revolution.

The speaker concluded by saying that our class will fight capitalism whether we say so or not, but it won't destroy capitalism unless it understands why it should.

Another speaker said we know now why we need revolution. The industrial base of Britain - the means of creating wealth - is being taken away from us. The philosophy of British capitalists is that they don't need workers. Only when the working class, who create wealth, take over, will the material, educational, and needs of the people be fulfilled. This is now within our grasp.



A CAPITALISM crippled and incapable, but fearful as never before, mouthing a rhetoric of brava-o - that was the CBI conference.

"The extraordinary thing is that no nation has gone to so much trouble over so many years to find the answer to the wage question - with so little success. "We've led the world in the number of variations we've played on formal and not so formal wage restraint. But the majority of the people have not seen the folly of their ways."

This is the language of a ruling class in crisis, parading itself in public. A revivalist atmosphere, with new prayers in the vernacular ("let profits rip" intones the high priest Edwardes). They reject Labour's proposal to draw workers out of unions into the boardroom. They reject even their leaders' modified proposals for 'participation'. They are unwilling to back the Govt. openly in imposing a wage limit, yet their every word breathes hope that the Govt. will succeed.

The organisation of the CBI is that of the capitalist class at odds with itself in a threatening situation. "Unemployment is here to stay". Capitalism will make Britain the "industrial museum of the world".

In the opening address of the conference there is even realisation that revolution is in the offing. "The weighting totally in favour of organised labour has brought Britain to a point of dangerous disequilibrium."

No to phoney 'education'

AT THE Autumn conference of the London Students' Organisation held on Saturday, November 4, delegates representing students' unions from all over London overwhelmingly voted to reject any collaboration with the Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

The ever-growing MSC's cheap TOPS courses and job creation schemes have been making themselves more and more apparent in technical and further education colleges over the last year. Although students initially thought that such courses might be a positive contribution in overcoming

youth unemployment, they have quickly come to realise what the MSC really stands for. It is now more obvious than ever that the MSC is becoming a parallel education system - a system that is developing at the expense of existing education.

The conference condemned this destructive strategy, knowing that, far from being educational, these MSC courses were attempting to institutionalise and control youth unemployment and plan for the lowest level of skills we might be allowed to acquire in the future.



The defence of Albania is in the hands of the people - an armed proletariat to protect socialism.

Bookshops

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

The autumn series of public meetings held in London and organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) will be continued; Bellman Bookshop, Friday, November 17, 7.30 p.m. "Labour Movement - Workers' Organisation"

READING MEETING: "Britain in the World 1978" 8.00 p.m. Thursday November 30, AUEW Cttee Rooms, Oxford Road.

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