



THATCHER GOVERNMENT MUST GO!

IT IS time that this Thatcher Government was brought to an end.

The Prime Minister and her court have lost more credit within their short space of office than could have been thought possible. As a result they are becoming isolated even within their own Party.

Every zig zag of economic policy has proved a disaster for the country in general and the working class in particular. Every fresh turn of the screw heightened the effect it was designed to cure. Some members of her clique have begun to lose their nerve. Hysterical statements attributing the blame to the greed and pig-headedness of the workers are a sure sign of panic. Why did the Minimum Lending Rate have to rise to 17 per cent? Because 80 computer operators in the Civil Service, apparently, delayed the collection of Government revenue!

But what is truly alarming is that the Government intends to continue, regardless of advice from anybody, would-be friend or not. (Sir Geoffrey is angry at the bankers for lending money. What else would they do?)

They have but one rationale. All resistance must be crushed. They are prepared to gamble everything on the slaughter of the organisations of the working class of Britain. Central to that policy is destruction of industry, while the ruling class decamps and seeks to shroud itself in the newer and more congenial institutions of the EEC (or even further).

Every form of Government holding in industry is to be sold off at rock bottom prices to the carrion of the City and the international money mark-

kets. Because the board of the NEB had the integrity to resist, it is forced to resign and a virtually complete replacement team (except for trade union representation) is announced the very next day.

The Industry Bill before Parliament will transfer control of Rolls Royce to the mad axeman Joseph and a lot of vukures will make a speculative killing. Now Edwardes wants the same treatment for Leyland (as if he had not done enough already!)

After BA, BP, Rolls Royce and Leyland come ICL and Ferranti.

The major part of British industry is now foreign owned. What remains in any sense British is to be butchered and the workers taught to be humble. As for the remainder they can leave at any time and no doubt the Government will pay their removal expenses.

The British Steel Corporation and the Central Electricity Generating Board are presently buying coal abroad (Britain is an island of coal) whilst Thatcher and her hatchet men run down the pits and prepare to chop down the miners. The recovery plan at BL (chopping 25,000 jobs, closing or partially closing 13 factories and destroying all dependent industry) amounts to the assembly of Japanese parts under a British trademark. Who will they sell them to?

But all this is backfiring. The working class will not be crushed.

Far from being cowed by the terror tactics of the Government, many groups of workers are grasping the nettle and taking on the fight

which has been forced upon them. At BL, having scored a victory with the shameful vote taken recently, the management decide to sack the Longbridge convenor and to discipline three stewards. Thousands walk out and regain their honour.

Wage settlements are being made at between 15 and 25 per cent (like the Fords offer of 21.5 per cent). Far from being 'educated' into submission by tight monetary policy workers are realising that high wages are the answer to high prices. The miners have been offered 20 per cent, the Merchant Seamen have accepted 24 per cent and the Agricultural Workers 19 per cent.

Now Thatcher's ministers are alarmed, but stick to their guns. The Government will not make a U-turn says the Prime Minister (so raising the possibility); the employers must deal with the workers without Government intervention. The employers, meanwhile, are not so sure that this is what they want. They wouldn't mind a bit of help now and again, when faced with a strike, maybe.

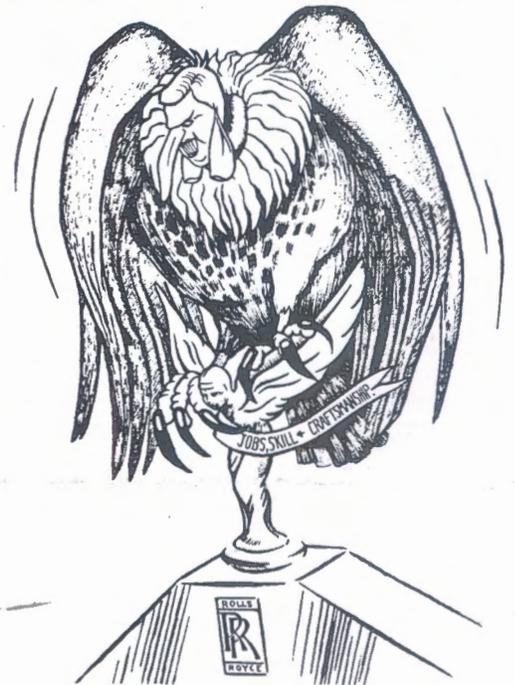
But workers must not be content with high wage settlements where they are strong and allow industry around them to be closed. They cannot be content with keeping pace with inflation (if they have the prowess) and allow reactionary labour laws on to the statute book.

The very best use of the strength of the organised working class is to strike a death blow at the Thatcher Government. Let us get rid of this nineteenth century throwback and her Praetorian Guard.

how prepared our enemy is.

For publicity purposes this enemy bangs the old drum of keeping government out of disputes and rolling back the frontiers of state involvement in the economy. They also talk about not dipping their hands in our pockets as they increase VAT, interest rates, mortgages, national insurance contributions, prescription charges and always prices, and more prices.

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A prophetic cartoon from 1971 when THE WORKER discussed the Tory takeover of Rolls Royce.

Housing stock at rock bottom Prices go through the roof

THE INCREASE in the mortgage rate to 15 per cent is no more than confirmation of the Government's obscene relish in attacking the right to housing.

For the third of the population who are in the process of buying their own homes (or is it renting from a building society?), it means a crippling 22 per cent increase in repayments, and this is on top of considerable increases during the past 18 months. Despite the reassurances from the building societies, it is bound to lead to great financial hardship and increasing homelessness, both for those who just cannot pay the increase and for many first time buyers who will now be unable to proceed with purchase.

House prices themselves have rocketed in the past 18 months to the extent that it is not unusual to have to pay something like 50 or even 100 times the original cost of an old house for the privilege of living in it. When interest pay-

ments are included it is more like 150 to 300 times the original cost.

It is not as if these higher payments, or the equally huge impending increase in Council house rents, will lead to the production of more new homes. There is no relationship between the two. The rate of new building is the lowest since the war and is still declining. At the same time, the rate at which existing housing is being repaired and improved is not high enough to keep the housing stock in its present condition. A valuable national asset is wasting away and the number of dwellings which are unfit for habitation must rise.

The Tories will shortly announce the allocation of money, or rather permission to borrow money, for next year's capital expenditure on housing, and this is likely to be less than 90 per cent of the current year's allocation, itself a cut on the previous year.

Strikebreakers, Warmakers This Government stands revealed

THE DESTRUCTION of Britain is the overriding aim of this Thatcher government and in this endeavour it seeks support both at home and abroad.

NATO and the Common Market are the Emperor and the British workers the unruly force to be subdued, to be made an example of.

The government attack on Britain is a comprehensive one - an attack on civilisation.

The purchasing power of our wages is to be destroyed by a policy of inflation.

The provision of health, welfare education is to be destroyed.

Industry - our jobs and produce - to be decimated.

Because this angers the population, our means of defence is attacked; our trade unions the labour movement.

The Thatcher plan is not so new, it's just that she fancies herself the one to carry it through.

All the organs of the state are involved in this destruction and we should be clear

The Week

ITS MEMOIR season just at the moment, so hard luck if somebody buys you a copy for Christmas. Wilson and Kissinger are only the latest to enter this lucrative ("I was at the centre of history") business. One reviewer remarked of Wilson's latest effort that it showed once again the tendency of politicians to mistake themselves for statesmen. (It showed also that unless you have something to say you shouldn't write memoirs.)

IF WILSON'S recently published tome has almost sunk without trace (beyond sales to libraries which must purchase copies for the archives) Kissinger's has been news lately. It may not be the Greatest Story Ever Told but Kissinger has tried hard. It is at least a very Tall Story. It is meant to cover the years with Nixon when Kissinger was a travelling salesman for US foreign policy. We recall Nixon's slogan for recognising US defeat in Vietnam: Peace with Honour. We recall what actually happened; Impeachment with Honour.

IN HIS memoir Kissinger tries to distance himself from Nixon but everybody knows that's futile except Mr. K. His alibi about the bombing of Cambodia is unconvincing too. At 1500 pages Kissinger's memoir is thought to be the longest alibi in American legal history. Shouldn't he be remanded in custody?

EVEN THE ex-Shah of Iran is getting in on the act. His proposed doostopper is modestly titled "My Reply to History". He is a man (God King) who has much to answer for but like the others will probably answer none of it.

SINCE that well-known tyrant Emperor Bokassa was overthrown in a French-engineered coup recently, he has fallen on hard times. He sits in bars and talks but nobody listens. So we can expect a memoir from him shortly. So far then, we have Wilson, Kissinger, the Shah and Emperor Bokassa but who will be the Fifth Man?

RUMOURS of Labour Party plots against the Leader of the Opposition abound. Is the MP for Cardiff South East putting pen to paper already? THE WORKER ASKS "IS JAMES CALLAGHAN THE FIFTH MAN?"

THE EVIDENCE is overwhelming. We believe up to 25 people may be involved. In January 1969, Nixon met Wilson at Downing Street. Both have since written memoirs. Later that year, Kissinger met Golda Meir. Both subsequently wrote memoirs. In 1976 Wilson resigned (was he offered a chat show?) and Callaghan followed him. Wilson must have known that Callaghan wouldn't last long and memoirs would shortly follow. A contact (code name 'Longford') is chairman of publishers Sidgwick and Jackson (memoir handlers to the gentry). A colleague of 'Longford' in the Festival of Light is codenamed Muggerridge (it can't be his real name) who was in wartime intelligence (well it was wartime). Are these the men behind the current flood of memoirs? Has political pornography a place in our society?

Historic Notes

AT THE present moment the worst excesses of the early Cold War period are being revived, mainly in the form of hysterical anti-Soviet outbursts from Mrs Thatcher and the witch-hunting capitalist press. It is worthwhile recalling that only one power has ever threatened to use nuclear weapons, and only one power has ever used them. That power is of course the USA which recently has been invited by the present British Government, to turn this country into a sacrificial aircraft carrier by stationing nuclear missiles in East Anglia.

It is all too often assumed that the dropping of the Atom Bomb on Japan in 1945 was a regrettable, but necessary, part of the Second World War. Historical evidence however points to a different conclusion - that Hiroshima and Nagasaki was the opening salvo in US imperialism's attempts at world hegemony and war against socialism symbolised, at that time, by the strength and influence of the Soviet Union.

Very early on in the Second World War the secret Manhattan Project was established with the purpose of harnessing the energy of the atom to produce a bomb that could be carried by aircraft, before the Germans could achieve a similar objective. However, the work progressed slowly and it was not until 1945 that the scientists achieved their goal. By now of

course Germany was defeated and the coming Russian entry into the war in the East seemed to seal the fate of Japan. Many of the scientists working on the bomb, who were fully aware of its horrifying effects began to doubt whether it could now be used at all.



Sixty-four Manhattan Project scientists signed a petition saying "It may be very difficult to persuade the world that a nation which was capable of secretly preparing and suddenly releasing a new weapon, as indiscriminate as the rocket bomb and a thousand times more destructive is to be trusted in its proclaimed desire of 'having such weapons abolished by international agreement.'" They suggested that

..... The British people, the Bomb and the Rosenbergs

ON A SUNNY June day in 1953, the biggest-ever British post war demonstration was held in Hyde Park. The crowd was a mixed one, all listening in total silence to messages read from the platform. Messages sent by Trade Unions, Womens' Guilds, MPs and the Pope then spontaneously groaning so deeply that the birds flew up in a flurry of fear. They were condemning the proposed execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, denounced as atomic spies and prosecuted by Cohn, the very close friend of McCarthy.

The evidence was grotesque. It was based on a denouncing brother-in-law and sister, Greenglass, who had lost money in a business venture with the Rosenbergs. It evolved round the two halves of a Jello Box, that the whole world discussed the case and still does. Why then should the American government have killed two people whom even the court could not declare had the slightest scientific knowledge

that would enable them to recognise an atom secret if they saw one.

From a Polish scientist and her French husband, the Curies, and from an Australian, Rutherford, working with his team in the Cavendish Laboratory Cambridge, the USA had been given knowledge that enabled them to make, not a tool to improve the life of man as



intended, but to make the Hiroshima bomb. At last they were masters of the world. Unfortunately science can not be hoarded like gold bars. Russian scientists, including one who had been a pupil of Rutherford, found out how to do it also.

This must be treachery and

the bomb be demonstrated on a barren island before Japanese observers. If the Japanese still refused to surrender, then the US should turn the bomb over to the United Nations and let it assume the onus of making the decision to use it.

In the event Truman ignored this advice and dropped the bomb on two Japanese cities, an act which he justified as having "saved millions of lives". This is, to say the least, very far from being the truth. Almost all of Truman's senior military advisers including the future Secretary of State, Marshall and the future President Eisenhower, believed that Japan could be forced to surrender unconditionally without an invasion and without using the bomb. The violently anti-communist Admiral Leahy, one of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote later that "the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in the war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender..."

The decision to drop the bomb was therefore obviously not motivated solely by military considerations but almost certainly as a blatant and barbaric political response to the rising tide of anti-imperialism engendered by the Second World War and the strength and influence of

the Soviet Union which had grown immensely in stature as the main opponent of Nazism and Fascism.

The dropping of the bomb before Russia entered the war would allow US imperialism to dominate Japan in the post-war period. It would allow US troops to remain in Europe during the initial post-war negotiations (and all too many of them haven't gone home yet); it would allow the US imperialists to develop and maintain a crucial technological weapons superiority over the Soviet Union by keeping the secret of Atom Bomb manufacture solely in American hands. Above all, however, it could serve as a warning to the peoples of the world that US imperialism had a new and terrifying weapon to use in its bid for world-wide supremacy. None of this could have been achieved if the horrifying effects of the bomb had not been demonstrated.

It is now clear that the atom bomb was dropped as a political warning. In a sense of course this did not work. The existence of nuclear weapons did not deter the Eastern European countries from shaking off the exploitation of centuries, and establishing Peoples Democracies. It did not deter the founding of the Chinese Peoples Republic in 1949. It did not affect the struggles of the Vietnamese people to free themselves from imperialism.

..... The British people, the Bomb and the Rosenbergs

governments have bankrupted Britain and have to beg from hostile foreign capitalists. Do not give them bread but circuses!



The Labour Member for Hartlepool, that bleak distressed area had the honour of handing the baton to Thatcher. It would be interesting to know what his unemployed constituents thought of his valour.

spying! How could the inferior Russians discover something for themselves that the Americans had had to be given? According to the FBI a shock wave went round the USA. But what was the truth? The "cold war" had started, triggered by Churchill's Fulton speech. Hoover and Thomas were demanding of everyone from postmen to film stars "are you or have you ever been a communist?" Junior schools were having "atomic drill". But there was also industrial unrest. Workers had not forgotten the depression and Hoovervilles. The President had been a respected War Commander; as a President, a fair golfer. But even Eisenhower expressed doubts because of letters he had received.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it". Today we see a farce repeating a tragedy. Now all the old men who were at Cambridge in the thirties are suspect. Did he or did he not take tea with Burgess? And this at a time when Labour and Tory

Journeyman Press have re-printed "The Unquiet Death of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg by Alvin Goldstein who was, obliquely, funded by the USA Government to write the book. It costs £1.75 obtainable at Bellman Bookshop.

Common Market rip-off - what's there to negotiate ?

NEXT WEEK Mrs. Thatcher goes to Dublin, to attend the EEC summit. She will be posturing there on the price of Britain's contribution to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Of course she will not declare the obvious opposition of the British people to this not infamous, indeed lunatic, system of intervention buying that keeps the price of food high and profitable for those already rich enough.

Britain's contribution to the CAP was last year £1000 million and for that we had the privileges of paying considerably more for our food. Since 1970 the cost of Britain's imports have been steadily increasing and at a faster rate than price rises in the rest of the world. For example we now pay 734 per cent more for sugar; 443 per cent more for barley; 413 per cent more for

butter; 389 per cent more for bacon; 386 per cent more for wheat; 383 per cent more for cheese and 320 per cent more for beef.

All this when our obvious capacity to produce our own food is undoubted. We shouldn't be importing food at all.

There are those who argue that the high contribution pays for social and regional necessities. e.g. to assist those moving from the land to industry. This accounts for less than 5 per cent of the total or even less.

There are those too who argue that the high cost of the CAP goes to peasant farmers too backward to modernise. This is a nonsense; the incomes of peasant farmers have been decreasing in recent years.

The CAP has also adversely affected countries outside the

EEC. The sugar industry in Mauritius and the West Indies has all but been destroyed. In order to get rid of a surplus caused by very high prices the EEC commissioners sell sugar at ridiculously low prices outside the EEC.

The irony of it all is that the Summit is being held in Dublin where the Irish working class can't even afford to eat their own food even if they were allowed to. Irish produce goes all over the EEC now and the prices are prohibitive at home.

In Britain our traditional cheap food policy is no longer possible. We mistakenly argue with the French about lamb when we should be saying, that we will no longer subsidise rich foreigners or even those at home. Will Thatcher tell the summit that!

* IN BRIEF

BSC'S DECISION to increase imports of coking coal to 24 per cent of its requirements, means a 15 per cent reduction in orders for coking coal produced in the South Wales Coalfield. South Wales miners threatened with job losses (in existing pits, and by the abandonment of the proposed development of Margam) have approached dockers and railwaymen for support in blacking its handling and movement. BSC argues that unless it is allowed to take advantage of the present world-wide glut of coking coal and the subsidies it carries from foreign governments it cannot meet the April 1980 break-even demand from the Government necessitating closures of even modern steelworks in Britain. But dockers at Newport have refused to play the game, and blacked the arrival of the first shipment from the USA due to arrive on November 25.

Editorial

The Thatcher gang came to power on the promise of increasing incentives all around and using sound monetarist policies for creating an economic climate in which industry would thrive. There would be no need for an incomes policy and wages could be left to a 'free' system where the market was in control, and there was no need for interference by the central government.

This whole thesis was patently false from the start. It pretended that capitalism had departed from the pure laissez-faire system of Adam Smith out of some arbitrary whim and not because it had been forced to by its own internal contradictions. The nationalisation of industries which were necessary but not profitable enough to be left to the private sector, the intervention of the government on the side of employers to impose wage limits, the attempts to encourage by government action investment at home and to discourage the export of capital were all efforts to shore up a falling system and not the result of some misunderstanding about how the system was supposed to work.

What this Government has actually done is to effect a severe wage cut by introducing soaring inflation and then, by applying strict limits on monetary growth, to bring about a sharp down-fall in productive output. A major world-wide recession was on the way in any case and Government action here has not only made it certain but also exacerbated its seriousness. Whatever faint hope there might have been that cuts in taxation would stimulate industrial investment has been completely swamped by the enormously high cost of borrowing money - the highest in Britain's history.

Are they mad then? Committed to increasing profits, everything they have done has led to a decline in output, to closures and bankruptcies of the small firms they were supposed to be helping and to a severe economic recession. No, they are not mad. They know that the main threat to profit is an organised working class which is strong enough to resist paying the whole cost of capitalism's decline. What we are seeing is an all-out attempt to destroy the will and the ability of the working class to resist by destroying production and creating even more massive unemployment, by eroding the value of wages with swingeing inflation and attacking the trade unions to break their strength.

The CBI recognises the strategy and even though the immediate effects are bad for business they know that the organised working class has to be smashed if capitalism is to survive in Britain.

That such was the intention all along is obvious from the steps taken in increasing the pay of police and the army and in enrolling Britain more firmly in militaristic anti-working class blocs. When it comes to expenditure on weapons of any kind, we must never forget that we are capitalism's only enemy. The Government may not try to fix wages in the private sector, but that does not mean that it won't intervene in every way it chooses to break strikes and punish and penalise industrial action. Even to advocate it, as Edwardes has shown, is a sacking matter. That is the kind of winter we are in for and we had better be prepared for it with everything we have learned from two hundred years of class struggle, plus what we have to think through now about ending a system which can only continue to exist on the basis of our complete fascist enslavement.

Don't get run over at weekends NHS won't provide the service.

PEOPLE DO NOT choose to become patients, nor do they choose to become ill only during working hours. For this reason Emergency Duty Pathology Services, which include emergency blood transfusions and other urgent haematological, biochemical and bacteriological investigations, should be available outside the normal working day. The service provided is performed on a voluntary basis, which means technicians are not under contract to work unsocial hours. The Management side of the Whitley Council obviously does not wish to recognise this and would rather see it as some kind of charity. What an insult!

The situation now is such that it is not worth qualified staff volunteering for the emergency rota, and yet who is to provide the service if they do not? Are patients to be told that owing to the cuts in the Health Service a blood transfusion cannot be performed between the hours of 5,00 pm and 8,30 am? And mind you don't get run over at the weekend!

Technicians are asking for the stand-by and on-call rates, which at present are £4.20 and £3.00 per session respectively, to be increased to £10. Rate per call for

up to two hours work is at present £4.55, £7.50 has been asked a mere £5.80 offered. Negotiations are at a deadlock and national guerrilla action has been called for. How can action be taken to defend what already is an emergency service when the workers and only the workers care about the patients? The action being taken is based upon the following tactics. Union members withdraw from the rota but are available for work on a non-registered system. Members of the Union, ASTMS, will only accept emergency calls routed via a Pathology Consultant and/or a designated Senior Administrator Personnel Officer or Treasurer.

The skills are therefore available, but if management wish to be obstructive then they will have to take responsibility for their actions. The workers are certainly responsible, which is why they have to take action. The intention is to impress on management the seriousness of the issue but at the same time to protect the interests of the patients.

Unless a realistic pay offer is made there will just not be sufficient staff available to continue the service. Technicians cannot work for peanuts; they need to be paid in order to live.



Secondary school pupils in Islington continue to gather support for their campaign of saving schools. The Inner London Education Authority points to falling rolls. So it wants to close down a number of premises and reduce the number of secondary schools in the borough from ten to six. On Thursday, November 22, Highbury Grove and Highbury Hill, two schools which work together at sixth form level, marched on the Department of Education and Science. Shelburne school had marched earlier that week. Petitioning and lobbying continues. Photo shows signatures being collected by pupils in Chapel Market, Islington.

Photo: The Worker

Siege conditions in Oxfordshire area hospitals as the authorities seek to wear down the health workers.

OXFORDSHIRE health services continue to suffer from what the Area Health Authority calls 'a freeze'. It is, in fact, a continuing reduction in the number of health service employees in the Area. At the end of October, 346 full-time jobs will be left unfilled by the non-replacement policy, on top of 'permanent' reductions in staff. If this freeze continues, we shall soon reach zero. We have seen, for instance, the new John Radcliffe Hospital (JRH) close temporarily in recent weeks, and other units unable to be opened because of lack of equipment and staff, especially nurses.

The AHA plan to operate surgical wards at the Churchill Hospital on a 5-day week. These patients will (hopefully) only need short recuperation periods, and presumably not develop any complications. Meanwhile, the situa-

tion at the JRH forces it to function solely as an acute hospital. It is not hard to envisage how minor the operations at the Churchill will remain when there is so little room at the JRH.

General hospitals are in danger of coming to a standstill; on the one hand their ability to keep beds open for acute admissions is being reduced by the staff cuts; on the other hand they cannot empty beds of patients with more chronic problems. Acute beds become occupied by the old, disabled or mentally defective; these cannot be transferred to the institutions best equipped to deal with them because they themselves are being cut and filling up with patients who should be discharged to community care, but are not because resources there are also short.

So far the response of staff in the hospitals to increased work-

loads produced by unfilled vacancies has been to work much harder, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to cover gaps in this way. Morale and enthusiasm for the job flag as people feel the odds against which they are working are insurmountable.

Simply working harder and harder will not save the health service; we must not be diverted into isolated and individual battles. If we care, our first priority is to unite in the trade unions. We must prevent each closure, but we must also fight unceasingly for more pay, for our skills and for the proper equipment and buildings in which to use them. In the words of a nurse from the Cowley hospital, "We don't want to stay here working under siege conditions. We are not just saying 'Keep Cowley Road Hospital open', but 'Keep it open and upgrade it'."

Enormous turnout to save education by Avon teachers, parents and children

THE FIGHT against education cuts in Avon was given new impetus last week when nearly 10,000 people marched through Bristol to the offices of the County Council declaring their total opposition to the destructive policies of the LEA and the Government.

There had been some short-sighted criticism of the decision to resort to strike action, on the grounds that it jeopardised children's education, and was unprofessional. But, as the NUT president Jim Murphy and general secretary Fred Jarvis pointed out to the enormous crowd that jammed the hall, ours is the true professionalism since we are prepared to fight to save education. Teachers have continually shown their concern for children by pressing for im-

provements in the system. As the memorandum presented to Avon County Council on that afternoon concluded, the NUT "cannot stand by and be a silent party to the dismembering of the service it sees as vital to the country."

The initial and fairly obvious response to the huge demonstration from the chairman of the Education Committee was that he was 'unimpressed'. If that were the only expression against cuts that he had to face, such complacency might be well-founded. However, the half-day strike and march were recognised as a first step, a rallying point for the campaign which will be pursued with even greater energy and conviction. Teachers will have been tremendously encouraged by the

support they received from parents and other trade unions, and this will help to overcome the feeling of isolation that some of them have in their particular schools.

Recognising that the struggle for education has to become much sharper, the NUT has called a special delegate conference, several months before its annual conference, to discuss the implications of the cuts. This will be an opportunity for us to co-ordinate and consolidate our action nationally, when the more active and advanced divisions can inform and encourage those which have yet to join the struggle, so that we can go forward in a concerted manner to save Education from destruction.

Strike break plans

continued from page 1.

Their non-interference in education entails closing schools, their non-interference in the National Health Service means closing hospitals. Their concern for the weak is a sick joke, closure of old peoples' homes and the dole for school leavers, all under the banner of a better future.

We now have all this talk about a winter of discontent and what should be done about these strikes they intend to provoke. Like its mates, the Confederation of British Industry, the government is reviewing its strike breaking powers. The CBI set up, with a great fanfare, their brand new lockout fund and the government leaks information about its secret Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) and its secret plans to smash the unions.

The CCU is a cabinet committee of civil servants and ministers. They meet several weeks before a major strike and then work out how to smash it. They are mainly concerned with what they consider to be key industries which they keep shuffling up and down a league table. The CCU experts work out where

troops will be brought in and give themselves the curious role of maintaining essential supplies and services. That means they are concerned with maintaining the government's ability to destroy essential supplies and services.

The Thatcher plan for Britain's destruction is treachery at home and abroad. It is linked with the dream of world conquest through world war. Heath once told a conservative womens conference that the entry of Britain into the Common Market would achieve in peaceful ways what Napoleon and Hitler could not achieve in war.

Thatcherism aims to achieve by war what the warmongers of this world have always failed to do - the subjection of the Soviet Union. "Those that the gods wish to destroy they first send mad" was a saying from ancient Greece. We who have no gods to rely upon must get to work to destroy Thatcher's dream before its madness destroys us all.

As the Chairman of our Party has said: We do not wait for war to bring revolution. By revolution we will prevent war.

Fight against destruction of education



Children in Stoke on Trent demonstrated recently against the continued attacks on the education system in their area. Photo: The Worker



Southgate Technical College students picketing last week in support of a one day strike and occupation against the cuts. Further Education students are rapidly joining their Higher Education colleagues in making a stand against the governments wholesale attempts to destroy education. Photo: The Worker.

AUEW backs Leyland workers

"This London South District Committee demands the immediate reinstatement of British Leyland Shop Steward Convenor Derek Robinson and that the disciplinary measures against others be withdrawn. We fully support the statement of Executive Council in declaring the action of British Leyland as victimisation.

We urge Executive Council to use the full strength of the Union to defeat this blatant Anti Trade Union attack on Shop Stewards and grass roots organisation which is a challenge to the whole Trade Union movement.

We congratulate and pledge our full support for the action our members are taking to safeguard their Trade Union Workshop organisation and we call upon Executive Council to declare the dispute official."

Carried unanimously

Industrial pollution still kills

THE TOLL in both health and lives to workers in Britain, due to industrial pollution in the workplace is inestimable. The so-called "industrial diseases"; asbestosis, emphysema, bronchitis, pneumoconiosis, dermatitis etc, are still rampant in factories, mines and quarries.

For 200 years the fight for improved working conditions has been waged against a ruling class motivated solely by profit. The effects on our health and the environment due to the constant emission of gases, dusts and effluents (from sources as diverse as chimneys, cars and effluent pipes) are more difficult to assess.

It is an indication though, that to live and breathe in the city is equivalent to smoking 12-30 cigarettes per day. We are told that monitoring and control are either technically impossible or financially prohibitive.

It is ironic therefore to learn of the new precious metals reclamation plant now in operation in this country. Gold, platinum and silver wastes are sent from all over Europe for recycling. 90 per cent of all its gas and dust emissions are reclaimed for further refining.

In an economy planned by human beings what is now pumped out as waste would very likely become another resource.

Moslem law valid Women in UK lose rights as a result

A **LAWLORD'S** decision this week that Talag divorce is valid in Britain could mean Asian women in Britain being thrown on to Social Security; unable to claim maintenance in the courts.

The husband, in this Moslem divorce ceremony, has only to proclaim three times before witnesses, "I divorce you." Once this procedure has been gone through the marriage is ended. The wife cannot then start proceedings for maintenance or a share of the matrimonial property in Britain because of the 1973 Matrimonial Causes Act which lays down that a person can only obtain financial provision if a party to marriage when the case first comes before an English court.

It is typical of the dishonesty of this Tory regime that in the same week that they announce immigration laws that will effectively stop arranged marriages with women outside Britain, that they should legitimise another barbaric marital procedure. Both measures are sexist in nature. Women are perhaps one of the weakest sections of the working class in Britain. As such they are being attacked first.

5000 turnout for Merseyside march

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY delegates from trade union branches all over Merseyside met in early November to launch their campaign against outbacks in Public Expenditure. There was no disagreement on the need to fight these cuts and a debate on strategy ensued.

The most rousing reception was accorded a fellow worker in struggle, a speaker from the Corby Workers Action Committee, who described the last demonstration in Corby and how shops, and banks had been forced to close as a result of the numbers

taking part.

Words were translated into deeds three days later. On November 7 over 5000 workers marched through Liverpool in torrential rain to demonstrate their opposition to the cuts. This demonstration was the largest mid-week demonstration since the "Kill the Bill" marches and a fitting preparation on Merseyside for the National Demonstration on November 28, which will link together the many similar local demonstrations that have been well supported up and down the country.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Clarion Books 5 The Precinct, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays
Liverpool Bookstall every Thursday Liverpool University

Public Meetings

All meetings start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise stated.

LONDON
 Thurs Nov 29 Fighting the Cuts. Sutton Adult School
 8.00pm Benhill Ave, Sutton.
 Fri Nov 30 Britain in the 80s, Conway Hall
 an Industrial Wasteland. Red Lion Sq, WC1.
 Fri Nov 30 A New Reality - Room 249,
 1:00pm Destruction Not Cuts Middlesex Polytechnic
 Ponders End, Enfield.
 Fri Dec 7 Fight cuts now, Fight Lower Hall
 for a Socialist Britain Lambeth Town Hall

BRISTOL
 Tues Dec 11 Fight For Wages AND Main Trend Books,
 Employment. 17, Midland Road,
 Old Market.

The Worker

Subscriptions:
 155 Fortess Road, London NW5

NAME 6 months £2.50 (inc. postage);
 ADDRESS 1 year £5.00 (inc. postage);
 (as from Jan 1980, £3.75
 and £7.50 respectively).