



# Dictatorship Theirs or Ours?

'TODAY it is not business as usual. We are not dealing with an Iron master who believes that a ducking pond will improve discipline at the mill. Now they want to close down the mill. We have to learn that there is a time when there are no more variations in the struggle. There is only the major struggle itself. It is no longer a question of repudiating yesterday's compromises and accepting them again for tomorrow. Now it is a question of absolute overthrow. Either them or us. Thatcher must go.

Are you going to go on suffering this complete squandering of your wealth and that of your children? Are you going to allow all the wonderful reforms those before you won through struggle to be thrown away? Or are you going to move into a situation of overthrow?

It is because of the great strength of the working class and our enormous wealth that we can provide for a nation in all its plenitude. Let us use that strength for construction. Let us now in this situation determine that we have had enough.

NEVER MIND ABOUT SHUTTING CORBY. NEVER MIND ABOUT SHUTTING SHOTTON. SHUT PARLIAMENT FOR A CHANGE.



Photo: THE WORKER

MEMBERS of the National Union of Teachers will gather in Blackpool this week for an emergency national conference called to strengthen their opposition to the planned demolition of schools, jobs and skills. At the same time the National Union of Students will be holding its annual conference to prepare its opposition to the government's plans to close more colleges, destroy more valuable research work, reduce student numbers and radically limit access to post school education. The two unions will debate different tactics and different issues specific to their members, but they will both face one overriding problem - how do you fight barbarians out to destroy you and all you stand for? This is a question for all of us. The consequences of these two conferences will be of significance for the whole working class. We can fight for our future or let the philistine rulers get away with murder. Perpetual opposition and protest is perpetual subjection. In fighting the cuts we are fighting for revolutionary change. We must move on now to make cuts impossible in the future. We must move on to control.

NEVER MIND ABOUT SACKING ROBINSON. SACK THATCHER. AND SACK EDWARDES FOR FREE MEASURE. IT WOULDN'T BE NOTICED IF HE LEFT.

These things you can only do if you are ready to believe, in a political way, that the struggle is not one of reform. The struggle is not one of the ballot box. The struggle is one of revolution - revolution against the counter-revolution which is being waged against this great working class who must rise up and overthrow those who now seek to destroy them.

In a major speech at Conyng Hall on November 30, Reg Birch, Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), called on the workers of Britain to recognise the situation we are in and to act accordingly. (See page 3)

## Steel making - when is a surplus not a surplus

182,000 work in steel making, but the plan is to make 80,000 redundant. That is over and above closures at Shotton and Corby. This is madness.

There can be no advanced industrialised country in the world where steel production is treated in such a cursory manner as here in Britain. And that's the point. We now live in a country advanced in its deindustrialisation, it is deliberate rundown of industry.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) must now fight on a national scale to stop this idiocy from Villiers and Co from being enacted. Acceptance of redundancy money with no prospect of future work is plain daft. 32 plants produce steel for BSC. Which one is safe from capitalist rationale (cutbacks, closures, sackings, profit, productivity)? In which of those 32 areas are jobs so abundant that we can take the money and run?

Supposedly there is surplus steel production, yet how much steel is imported that could be made here? (80 per cent of Ford UK production uses foreign made steel for example) It does not.

There is surplus steel production (like there are surplus doctors and teachers) only because of the crass stupidities and anti-social priorities of capitalism. Contradiction in industries like motor vehicles (Leyland) shipbuilding (Swan Hunter, British Shipbuilders) engineering and construction, which BSC would normally supply, have a serious effect on the demand for steel from those industries.

Who would ever have thought that there would be 25,000 redundancies at Leyland (remember when Triumph Speke with 2,500 redundancies was a scandal?) or that 80,000 jobs would go in steel? Proposals for rundown of industry, now on a massive scale, are built on a firm basis of earlier prevarication and eventual retreat on our part as a working class. Nobody has had the wit, even as a holding action, to have our wages paid by the employer until we find other work elsewhere. Such a deal would at least highlight their hypocrisy, and our self-deception, that work exists in abundance elsewhere.

## 'Mighty Atom' Edwardes

Reg Birch during his recent speech in London said:

Edwardes, the great industrial tycoon, decided that the way forward for Leyland was to have a ballot, a ballot on how many people should get the sack, appeals to the wives to vote for him: its almost bigamy. That's his idea of superb industrial planning! How could anybody go about asking anyone to put a cross on a piece of paper whether you make a car or don't make a car? How can a working class, for that matter, become involved in voting who shall get the sack? The only people with any right to vote on who'll get the sack are those who are going to get it. I might vote on whether you're going to get the sack while I stay on: but not if I'm part of a great British working class.

Reg Birch went on to say: Then Robinson produces a plan. He says we don't want to contract. Then he gets the sack for his opinions. The Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions, prior to that had already acted in complete pre-emption of any struggle because it said: We have listened to this Mighty Atom Edwardes and we agree with him that the only way out for Leyland, the only way for you lot to keep Leyland going is to chop it. So how can they support a Robinson who says we must keep places open and make more? They have already given the whole thing away.

Now we are in a situation in which the TGWU which was right is in difficulties because of the role of the AUEW Executive Council. And incidentally that council's decision will now go down in history as the time when a union voted for the dismissal of a worker who is a champion of the trade unions. After all if its a question of personalities, when Edwardes says: either I go or he goes, we should have said to him why don't you, mate!

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## The Week

The Government's 'short sharp shock' treatment continues. In a stunning sequence of moves the Tories have caused inflation to jump to 18 per cent in only a few months. What else could they do faced with a delinquent working class?

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY:** An amusing episode occurred in the House of Commons last week which was really a private celebration of a tenth anniversary. Ronald Bell, a particularly reactionary Tory MP, walked the centre table and plonked down a copy of 'In Place of Strife'. This, it will be remembered, was the white paper introduced by Barbara Castle, which proposed compulsory 'cooling off' periods and penalty clauses. It was so anti-union that firm opposition defeated it, although it provided a model for the Industrial Relations Bill 1970. Anyway Bell introduced it to the Commons last week claiming that present Government proposals don't go far enough and wanting to see Labour's proposals of 1969 applied in late 1979.

**FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY:** In December 1964, only weeks after the general election a well known Labour politician held up the future before our very eyes 'the white heat of the technological revolution' Ho-Ho.

**TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY:** At the 1959 General Election, Harold McMillan said the Tory ideal was for people to be able to buy their own homes; 'a property owning democracy'. Something obviously got lost in the translation because twenty years on we have a propertyless dictatorship. Who can doubt that with record mortgage rates and anti-people policies announced?

**TWENTYFIFTH ANNIVERSARY:** John Junor has been editor of the Sunday Times for all that time. Although he writes for a reactionary newspaper he is very 'modern' on 'new technology'. Well at least we think he is. The way his 'JJ' column is written clearly suggests a man with a chip on his shoulder.

Seen at Kings Cross underground station: "Help the police; beat yourself up".

THE PEOPLE of Manchester must have been comforted to learn this week that the policemen of the city are "polite, helpful, considerate and concerned". This description was the one used by a High Court judge when he exonerated five officers of blame for the death of an arrested man.

The individual concerned died from pneumonia and peritonitis after receiving four fractured ribs and a ruptured spleen. One wonders what would have happened to the man if officers had been aggressive and violent instead of 'polite, helpful, considerate and concerned'.

## Historic Notes

**STALIN!** Even today, 100 years after his birth and over a quarter of a century since his death, the very name summons up violent emotions - emotions of love and respect in those who fight for peace and socialism, of hatred in the enemies of the working class and progress. This week we begin a three-part series on Stalin to coincide with the centenary of his birth.

The world owes much to Stalin. He led the Russian people in their struggle for national sovereignty, led the whole world in the fight against fascism and saved the world from the Nazis during the Second World War. Throughout his long life, from 1879 to 1952, he never lost faith in the abilities of his people.

Stalin rose to leadership in Russia at a time of devastation. Millions of Russian workers and peasants had been killed and maimed during the First World War. When it ended, Imperial Germany robbed the country of a third of its population and of the richest industrial and agricultural territories. The Revolution, in which Stalin played a vital role, was followed by civil war and imperialist invasion by no less than 14 countries.

When the invaders had been driven out by the Russian people,

led by their Communist Party, the country was destitute. Famine was rife, most of the livestock had been slaughtered, all the coal mine and iron works had been destroyed, along with most of the railways. On top of this, the proletariat of Europe had been unable to successfully make a revolution and join with the young Soviet state. In the face of the likes of Trotsky who said that the revolution could not be sustained, Stalin, a beacon of clarity, declared that socialism could be constructed in one country.

By 1928, under Stalin's leadership - he had assumed that res-



Stalin in 1945.

possibility following the death of that brilliant communist, Lenin, in 1924 - pre-1914 levels of pro-

duction had been restored. Yet these were levels which had sufficed to provide only one man in ten with a rifle in 1916. Another attack on socialist Russia was inevitable, and an attack made by armies fresh and rearmed, unlike the war of intervention in 1919. To survive, the Soviet Union had to transform itself economically.

In this context, the fulfillment of the three 5-year plans (of 1928, 1933 and 1938) rank as one of the greatest feats of humanity of all time, both in political terms and in terms of sheer achievement.

Nor was it all hard work. During the period of the plans literacy increased from 45 to 81 per cent of the population, and free medical care was introduced. After 1928, no worker lacked the basics of reasonable food, housing and clothing, and the standard of living gradually improved. A vast new range of cultural activities were opened to all, at the excellent standard we know so well. This is why the capitalists call Stalin a monster - because he cared for the working class!

The newspaper reporter Alexander Werth, attending a local cinema in Moscow in 1941, wrote: "The audience cheered loudly only once - when Stalin

appeared on the screen. He must enjoy general popularity with the ordinary people here; for people don't cheer in the dark unless they really feel like it. "No wonder!"

1933 was a key year in the struggle of the Soviets: Hitler and the Nazis were ushered into power in Germany. Their job was to crush communism, first at home, and then abroad, and the capitalists of Europe lost no time reminding the Nazis of their duty. Lord Rothermere of the Daily Mail put it simply in 1935: "The sturdy young Nazis of Germany are Europe's guardians against the communist danger... Germany must have elbow room... Once Germany has acquired the additional room she needs in Western Russia... The diversion of Germany's reserves of energy and organising ability into Bolshevik Russia would help to restore the Russian people to a civilised existence, and perhaps turn the tide of world trade once more towards prosperity..."

Such were the threats faced by Stalin and the Russian people. Industrialisation was no longer just a necessity for socialism, it was a matter of survival. The race was on, and it was a race against time!

NEXT WEEK: How Stalin fought for and won that time.

## Not a penny to EEC

Predictably, the Dublin summit of EEC prime ministers failed to resolve the problem of Britain's billion pound subsidy to the Common Market budget. Thatcher's response, equally predictably, is to dismiss any suggestion of pulling out of this capitalist club, on the grounds that 'only Moscow' would be happy.

What rubbish! The fact is that millions of British workers would be delighted to be free of the Common Market - regardless of whether Britain pays a million too much or not. The money is not the half of it. The EEC's main aim is not to suck money from us, but to destroy our industry, agriculture and fishing and rob us of North Sea oil (just Thatcher's aims, too).

Thatcher must be delighted at the payment deficit. Dedicated as she is to the destructive ideals of the Common Market, she now has the opportunity to pose as Britain's saviour. This is why everything is being done to spin out the negotiations from month to month. The longer they go on, the more Thatcher can attempt to appear as a latter-day St George fighting the EEC dragon.

The very idea that we should pay one penny for the EEC is repellent. There is nothing to negotiate. Out of the EEC Now!

## Problems in USSR and China

THE CURRENT Five Year Plan in the Soviet Union (1976 to 1980) is falling far short of its targets, making the present year the worst for the Soviet Union since the War.

The grain harvest fell nearly 50 million tonnes short of the expected yield and once more the Soviet Union will have to find the money for costly grain imports. One remembers the Khrushchev scheme for ending the grain shortage in the Soviet Union by applying capitalist methods of ploughing up the steppes. What was produced was dust-bowl conditions like those in the US mid-west.

Production of oil, coal and natural gas is falling far short of planned output. Both heavy and

light industry are lagging far behind proposed growth rates.

Brezhnev blames these failures on the same thing that capitalist governments in Britain blame: a lack of industrial discipline. Like the American president he calls for an all out effort to reduce waste. Western commentators blame the Soviet Union's industrial difficulties on too much centralised planning. If they would just allow a much freer market to operate, everything would be fine - as in Britain just now!

In China the figure for unemployed young people has risen to over 7 millions - this in a country which could recently boast that, as in any socialist country, there was no unemployment at all.

There has been a big reduction in the scale of capital construction in China and in the building of big factories for metallurgy and machine tools - all to pay for 'modernisation'. This is like Thatcher's cuts in higher education, development and research in order to pave the way for a brighter future! The growing inflation in China is something else the economy there shares with capitalist Britain.

In other words, the economies of the Soviet Union and China are exhibiting the same symptoms of the capitalist West - which isn't surprising since both countries, having achieved enormous advances under socialism, have restored a capitalist-motivated society based on individual self-interest and material incentives. Any appeal based on material incentives is always the cloak for the exploitation of workers by a privileged class.

A visitor to the Soviet Union from Britain in the 1930s, when socialism was scoring such heartening successes, said: 'I have seen the future and it works.'

Visitors to either country today would have to say, regretfully: 'I have seen the past restored and it's a complete flop.'



A large demonstration in London recently protested against the racist aspects of the proposed immigration legislation. In not allowing women, who are citizens of this country but not born here, to be joined by their husbands, the Government is not only guilty of racial discrimination but of sexual discrimination as well. (Photo: Laurie Sparham IFC)

# Britain could be a 'desert' of wealth

IN A MAJOR speech at Conway Hall on November 30, Reg Birch, Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), called on the workers of Britain to recognise the situation we are in and to act accordingly.

In his speech, Reg Birch drew attention to the irony of the title of the meeting, 'Is Britain to become an Industrial Wasteland?', since it would be a desert full of wealth.

"We are an industrious people, and here we are with a great glut of wealth, that is, people, the working class.

## An army of scholars

"We have a working class army which is articulate, which, even with the decline of educational facilities, is an army of scholars. They are a working class who over the years have developed themselves through the industrial revolution as capitalism developed, the one being inseparable from the other. We are a people without superstition, without any Middle-Ages inhibitions, educated and civilized enough that you can be religious or you needn't be religious. You can work in Ford's and you don't have to stop five times a day and kneel down on a prayer mat if you don't want to. I don't know what Ford does if you do want to. All that has been done before, not necessarily by us but our predecessors, as capitalism developed, getting rid of the divine right of kings - and everybody else's divine right. What it is we're still lacking is the divination of what's right and wrong - practically right and wrong for us now at this point in time."

He went on, "The fact that Britain is in such a parlous position is simply a matter of historical development, in relation to capitalism in the world as a whole. In the general decline of capitalism, Britain, as the oldest and

first, is the first to be in an accelerated decline. This means that all the problems, sharper than almost anywhere else, are thrust upon our working class. The reforms achieved in the development of capitalism as a quid pro quo cannot be sustained in a period of absolute decline. It is not just that capitalism is declining but also that which it created and is also its mother and father, bourgeois democracy, is fast disappearing. So we take fright when we listen to a hysterical hen like Thatcher who says all the things that have been said before but says them even more shrilly.

## Artists of contraction

"There are two kinds of capitalism, throughout its growth and in its death, the one assuming ascendancy over the other and putting it down. There are those who acquired exchange value and used this surplus in the process of manufacture, to make others work, to exploit them and thus make more money. Then there are what Lenin called the 'coupon-clippers'. In this period of crisis we have been exhorted to welcome the new angels, and they're just like theatrical backers, the new solution givers. All these financial wizards held up as examples of how to do it are artists of contraction, never of growth. Robens combed out the coal industry, Beeching cut railways on the theory that they had outlived their usefulness, Weinstock took over and immediately shut down Associated Electric, Woolwich and everywhere else - always diminution, not expansion. None of them had an engineering background, no manufacturing, no 'making' skills. Now we have Edwardes who came yesterday and will be gone tomorrow, with his concept: contraction! This is the complete contradiction of capitalism now - not to use

the skill and the wealth there is, namely people. There are over two million unemployed - a complete squandering of that which they need for their capacity to exploit. And most recently we have a Joseph who is something of a deviationist - a constructive contractor. He says let a thousand John Blooms flourish: all the little men who will set up the little factories - and end up on charges of fraud? There were the Cornfelds and all the other get-rich-quick 'coupon-clippers' operators.

## Thatcher destroys

"Then we get Thatcher. She's not bothered with the market. She's bothered with humanity and her contraction is in everything to do with humanity in this land. Don't just cut this school or that. Do away with education. That is the meaning of ending expansion for contraction. If you don't grow you die. It is the same with health. One would imagine that Britain is full of hypochondriacs who never go to work and live on free hand-outs of placebos. As a matter of fact Britain spends less per head on health than France, Germany, Italy or the US.

"There is supposed to be a shortage of money here but Britain invests abroad £8½ billion, 50 per cent of this going to the US where British capital is the largest foreign investor. Or consider the money there is to waste on personal licence plates or £800 for a bottle of claret or £120,000 for a commode, as was recently paid at Sotheby's. Compare with this the fine Swan Hunter had to pay when

found criminally negligent in the death of eight workers - £8000. In an auction recently advertised, a bottle of wine had a reserve price of £6000 - or the same value as six workers'.

"In this land of ours the working class has been inexhaustible in its tenacity and its struggle. It's been very good at it. But you also get many odd things going on like the contradictions of the workers' actions at Leyland. We are very able to struggle, to fight and to win; but we must do so much more in the situation we are in now.

## Not business as usual

"It's not business as usual. We've got to learn that there are no more variations in the struggle. There is only the major struggle itself. It's a question now of absolute overthrow. Either them or us. In the first place, and especially because of her ineptitude, Thatcher must go. Don't let us get involved in a jejunal debate about who comes afterwards. If the governor attacks us or a foreman gets a bit naughty in the shop, we don't refrain from punching him on the hooter because there's always another boss or another foreman. Thatcher has been running around talking about what she was going to get back from the Common Market, but they're just as villainous, as she is. If she were a shop steward in a factory, they'd have had her card back overnight. And it's time that's what our working class did.

"In order to advance, our working class must know that

only an organised people can do anything. That means first of all those who are in unions - above all those who accept that there is only a political way forward. Those who understand that the CPB(ML) is of them and is them, too.

## Squandering of wealth

"As for Labour Party opposition, what did they do in the House of Commons on the day the MLR went to 17 per cent? Joined in the irrelevant discussions about some octogenarian who was supposed to be a traitor for passing some useless information to the Soviet Union when it was our ally. That's the opposition.

"Are you going to go on suffering this complete squandering of your wealth and that of your children? Or are you going to move into a situation of overthrow? There are but two choices now. We either have dictatorship or dictatorship of the proletariat. Those are the choices. Are you going to leave it to your kids? Well, there may not be time.

"We must understand that we are the source of all strength and all wealth and instead of running up and down talking about a cut on this or a cut on that we must stop the cutting into our heart, the cutting of our arteries that is going on. It is on our great strength and our enormous wealth that this nation still depends. Let us use that wealth and strength for construction. Let us now in this situation determine that we have had enough. "Out with Thatcher!"

## Students must organise to defend education

AS THE WHOLE of Britain's industrial base is dismantled, as the entire health service is attacked, as the menace of war grows, so every aspect of the education system is attacked.

All colleges, all students are deeply affected by destruc-

tive Government policies. We fight these policies best by organising in the institution where we work and thus through the national union.

The best way of breaking down the so-called 'binary divide' between universities and

other institutions of learning like polytechnics is not to campaign for more resources in lower levels but to fight for more resources on every level. No one benefits if a further education course or college closes, no one benefits if a teacher training college closes, no one will benefit if there is one single student less next year.

Nothing about the present confederal structure of the union impares this active unity. We have seen in the last few months that basic struggles against cuts and for improved working conditions, waged in practically every college in the country, have led to stronger positions on a national level. But recent actions in defence of education could be hampered by the NUS conference to be held this week if it ratifies the proposals of the union's constitutional review body.

Made up at a time when students were inactive, these proposals would lead to various divisive changes in the structure of the NUS. They are nothing but a reflection of the diversionary bickering students engaged in over the last couple of years in order to avoid fighting cuts and wage reductions. This conference must totally reject them. The proposals aim only to create divisions and minimise involvement. They appear irrelevant in the light of the main difficulties students have been dealing with in action: yet this must in no way excuse students from consciously rejecting them in order to help develop the defence of education.

## St Benedict's - the fight starts

AT SAINT Benedict's, Tooting, the hospital occupied since the threat of closure, its workers are gearing up to fight their real battle. This started on December 1 when admissions officially ceased.

The secretary of the hospital's defence committee explained to THE WORKER that the decision to occupy St Benedict's was taken because the workers knew they had the strength. First, in the support of ancillary workers, nurses, maintenance men, housemen, and the consultant. The Consultant alone bears the responsibility for admissions, and has bravely stood in defiance of the area health authority. Nurses whom the AHA thought they could wean away from the occupation, were invited to put in for employment elsewhere. Only a handful accepted alternative nursing posts - the rest put in for jobs as district administrator, consultant, prime minister ...!

Second, their strength lay in the knowledge that under the 1944 Act, the local health authority is statutorily bound to continue to issue supplies to a hospital according to the number of beds

available all the while there are patients inside. The workers know that they have in fact patients who will remain in St Benedict's all their lives - so it will never be empty. But it is still important to get GPs to continue to refer new patients in order to keep the hospital alive. The defence committee secretary reported that 30 local GPs have signed a petition deploring the closures - three have undertaken to refer patients after December 1. More will follow.

Third, there is support in the local community. Visitors and patients have made collections for the defence fund. Trade unionists have offered spells on picket duty.

"After all, it's our NHS," said the committee secretary. "They are out to destroy it so that private medicine can take over. If we don't act now, we won't have a NHS in four or five years."

St Benedict's must win. "We are not just fighting to keep St Benedict's open any more. We are fighting for the whole of the working class. We must win, to show everyone that it can be done. All it needs is a lot of hard work, and a lot of talking to people."



Staff occupy St. Benedict's Hospital to prevent its closure by the Area Health Authority. Photo: Laurie Sparham (IFL)

# Edwardes - give him his cards

ON MONDAY 27 November the mixture of strength and weakness, clarity and confusion present amongst Leyland workers was shown in a tense but fluid situation following the sacking of Derek Robinson, an AUEW convener. With 25000 on strike and most BL plants in the Midlands shut down, 10000 workers marched in protest in Birmingham and a number of meetings were held in support in local factories.

The sacking of Derek Robinson and the disciplining of 3 stewards follows the 7-1 vote by BL workers in favour of the employers plan involving a 25000 job cut and plant closures. Clearly the employers are pressing their advantage and increasing their attacks. Also following the vote came the publication of the firm's draft agreement on pay and conditions which would virtually do away with consultation with the unions on plant management and working conditions.

The stated reason for the sacking was the threat of disruption to the BL plan contained in a pamphlet published by the shop stewards committee and signed by Derek Robinson. The pamphlet contrasts the proposed cuts with the detailed requirements in investment, new models, distribution network etc., which a real intention to maintain and expand BL would require. But what the BL management find most annoying is the stewards suggestion that in the end saving



Workers in Birmingham demonstrating against the dismissal of their convener.

Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

BL may require a fight including plant occupation.

Against such an obvious attack on basic rights the privatisation of the AUEW executive was lamentable and their decision to hold an inquiry is inexcusable. Their sectarianism and dislike of the convener and his outlook has blinded them to the attack on

the whole membership. Their present actions contrast sharply with the relationship between leaders and union recently displayed in the successful fight on the pay and reduction in hours claim.

The TGWU's backing of the strike was right, their action should not have had to wait on the AUEW.

# How to destroy Rolls Royce - the Keith Joseph way

THE ANNOUNCEMENT last week that Rolls Royce aero engines is to be taken away from the National Enterprise Board, and returned to the Department of Industry under much stricter financial controls is a further clear indication of the Thatcher Government's determination to destroy this workforce.

The Government is saying that Rolls Royce is not making enough profit and that it is taking too much investment. They say that the NEB has been holding back the British aero engine industry, and if only the Rolls Royce management behaved a little more like Edwardes and Co. at Leyland, there would be no need for this kind of rationalisation.

Yet Rolls Royce 1971 is making a profit, and despite the efforts of the NEB to cripple British aerospace industry, the company achieved record sales and orders worth over £2000m last year. And why? Because Rolls Royce products are the acme of technical achievement and their main project, the RB211 and its derivatives, is the most advanced engine of its kind in the world.

The Government says that Rolls Royce sales are based on selling engines below their true market value. Yet it is the Government which is destroying British industries such as BL, selling off the assets where Britain has a technological lead to foreign competitors, abandoning exchange controls and encouraging investment abroad whilst undermining our own industries. They are the ones fuelling inflation by raising lending rates to record levels.

The Government stands indicted. From now on profit and investment must be seen in absolute contradiction. The company's aim of 10 per cent profit on investment by 1981 has been declared inadequate. So from 1982 onwards Rolls Royce sees no need for any further substantial investment and only by the mid-1980's do they expect to be making "an acceptable level of profit".

Already the Government has inveigled the Rolls Royce board into seeking nearly one-third of their investment needs "privately", whilst making no firm commitment itself to providing the remaining balance. For nearly six months now the Industry Sec-

retary has been discussing with GEC the possibility of their taking over Rolls Royce, and with a financial plan based on zero investment and "credible financial forecasts" he is creating conditions to sell off "the figurehead of British Industry" to the highest bidder.

The newly appointed chairman of the NEB, Sir Arthur Knight, says that he is not planning to phase out the NEB. Nor is he! He is using the NEB now to create the same carnage and destruction in the aerospace industry as he has left behind in the textile industry. The only difference is that he intends to do it in a matter of months rather than years.

The attack is political. It is an attack on an organised working class willing to fight for what it wants. On this one issue the TUC has threatened to withdraw from the entire so-called "tripartite machinery" (including NEDO). But the unions need to do more than this - to be true to the policy for "Economic Progress" adopted at the last TUC we must produce our own plans for industry and smash Thatcher and her government who stand in our way.

# Hospital patients evicted

WHEN SHE heard that her husband's hospital was to close Mrs. Wood stood by her husband. Together they refused to leave the Waltham Abbey War Memorial Hospital, close to London in Essex. They held out for two nights until exhaustion forced them to leave.

On hearing the news that the Area Health Authority planned to evacuate patients from the hospital on Thursday 29th November a mass meeting was held on the Monday. Fearing a Hounslow type raid, relatives and friends staged a round the clock picket of the 23 bed hospital, where the number of patients had been deliberately whittled down.

Local ambulancemen refused to cross the picket lines, and the Authority was suddenly faced with the possibility that the hospital might remain open. In secrecy, with relatives of patients uninformed, they commandeered an ambulance which, the WORKER was told, was in

for servicing, and had it driven by one of its employees not living in the area.

All this in secrecy, two days before the date for closure, at midnight. According to eyewitnesses, patients were herded like cattle into the ambulance 8 at a time. Those who escaped the first levy remained behind, old patients sat with their suitcases in the entrance hall, in tears.

When Mr. and Mrs. Wood refused to move, mendacious reports were circulated that they were being pressured by the pickets, something which both totally deny.

"My husband is 84. He was in the First World War as an army transport driver. He was in here for 4 years. But now they want him out. We want this hospital open. We paid for it to be built ourselves, as a memorial to those who died, after the war with our tuppences and threepences.

# Nurses struck off for taking action

Following the statement from the General Nursing Council (for England and Wales) earlier this year that being absent from work for industrial action would be counted as 'professional misconduct', three nurses from Northern Ireland have now been struck off the register by the Northern Ireland equivalent of the GNC.

Their crime was in taking part in withdrawals of labour for as little as one day. One was due to start a new job as a clinical teacher, and his career is now ruined, another had been a nurse for 30 years.

In a court of law, actual neglect of patients would have to be proved to convict a health worker of an offence, these

nurses have simply been victimised on a "principle", the principle of stopping nurses taking industrial action, regardless of its effects on the patients. Moves are now afoot within COHSE and NUPE to find ways of defending their nursing members from this attack on their basic union rights, and the Royal College of Nursing must reverse its support for this shameful policy

# NHS destruction

A report just out from the Greater London Community Health Councils shows that by March 1980, if all the cuts go through, London will have lost nearly 3000 beds, 10 hospitals will have closed and 8 casualty departments will be severely restricted.

## Bookshops

**Bellman Bookshop** 155 Fortress 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

Fri Dec 7 Fight cuts now, Fight Lower Hall  
for a Socialist Britain Lambeth Town Hall

Apology - Due to an occupation of the college the meeting advertised at Middlesex Polytechnic last week was cancelled.

### BRISTOL

Tues Dec 11 Fight for Wages and Main Trend Books  
Employment, 17 Midland Road  
Old Market.

## The Worker

Subscriptions:  
155 Fortress 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).