

THE WORKER



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REVOLUTION IS THE MAIN TREND

(The Preface by the Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) to the Programme, "The British Working Class and Its Party", adopted at the Party's Second Congress in April, 1971).

For over 200 years the battle between the classes, i.e. in Britain the working class and the capitalist class, has raged. It has ebbed and flowed according to the strength, understanding and contradiction between these two classes. The working class never ceasing, never surrendering but neither remaining true to its revolutionary origin nor ever totally pursuing that aim without reservation.

"Theories", suggestions have been proffered from time to time to explain this phenomenon. The truth is that the revolutionary aims of Marxism have been distorted to deliberately corrupt the working class mind, direct it to reformism — even, if allowed, to subservience. The social democrats have filched from us, the workers, our national heritage. Yet they have failed, for the incessant war rages. The classes cannot be reconciled. Today this is more and more clear, the contradictions cannot be concealed, hence revolution is the main trend.

All over the world the struggle continues in many forms at all stages.

In the Middle East, in Latin America, above all in Vietnam, a gallant nation, true to its revolutionary destiny for freedom, socialism and the emancipation of mankind. In Vietnam they have defeated the most powerful military might ever developed by an imperialist power, the strongest today in the world. The U.S.A., driven back surrounded, unable to extricate, lashes out like a wildbeast, a dying beast, crossing borders in attempts to escape, and turning on its own at home.

Two great peoples, nations of peasant and worker joined together, point the way — Albania and China. Marxist-Leninist Parties everywhere build daily, fight more strongly.

In the U.S.S.R., first champions of Leninism now betrayed, the battle begins anew in underground and semi-legal form.

The struggle in Britain so constantly denigrated as 'economic' is as organic and necessary to revolution as the gun, just as is the fight for land, bread and liberty for the peasant in other lands. It is corrupting only if it becomes an attempt to live with the opposite class, the capitalist class.

This is not possible when Heath — in a covert declaration of war against our class — says the new danger to the fabric of society is Civil War. Only the destruction of the class for which he speaks, the overthrow of the capitalist state power will suffice. Violence is not the monopoly of a capitalist state and class. The answer to attack is attack, hit harder. Guided by Marxism-Leninism with a revolutionary party so directed we shall meet the struggle and establish workers power.

We must see the great developments of Marxism-Leninism through the teaching of Mao Tsetung, which led the great Chinese people to victory and to develop socialism. These developments of that great teacher are not for the Chinese alone, they are part of the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism; adapted, they apply everywhere in the world of revolutionary struggle according to the region or country and are a living great extension of Marxism-Leninism today for which we are eternally indebted.

Be not afraid, we are not alone, the world of workers is rising and fighting back.

Revolution is the main trend.

REG BIRCH,
Chairman.

VIETNAM

On the second anniversary of the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) sends its warmest fraternal greetings to the heroic men and women of Vietnam.

Their brilliant victories over the years and more recently in the last few months, together with the resounding defeat inflicted on the U.S. aggressors on Highway 9 in Laos, as well as in Cambodia, make this second anniversary a wonderful occasion for the peoples of all five continents.

Every victory of the peoples of Indochina means a further deterioration in the morale of the soldiers who have to do imperialism's dirty work. The number of desertions among puppet and U.S. troops is steadily increasing, while a new phenomenon of "fraggings" — of U.S. soldiers throwing fragmentation bombs on their own officers — reflects the complete demoralisation of the imperialist forces. Inside the U.S. even Vietnam veterans are joining in anti-war demonstrations.

The Vietnamese people will go from strength to strength because, in the words of the First Secretary of the Vietnam Workers' Party Comrade Le Duan, speaking at a reception in Peking recently, "We, the Vietnamese people fear neither protractedness, nor hardship, nor sacrifice. We are determined to win final victory in the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation."

VICTORIES IN WORLD DIPLOMACY

In the last few months the internal strength and unity of the Chinese people and the Marxist-Leninist line of the leadership in foreign affairs have resulted in a series of diplomatic victories which have left U.S. imperialism's policy of isolating and containing China in ruins and thrown the Soviet revisionists into a state of panic.

With their thorough understanding of the contradictions within the imperialist camp, between the imperialist powers and their client states, between the military forces of imperialism and the world-wide anti-imperialist liberation movement and between the ruling class and the working class inside each capitalist country, the Chinese have kept the forces of reaction and oppression divided and off balance, thus making a major contribution to confirming the main trend today as world revolution rather than world war.

NEW RECOGNITIONS

The trickle of countries prepared to defy the US embargo on relations with China and accord full recognition to the People's Republic of China has become a flood — from the US's own closest neighbour to the north, Canada, to Italy and tiny San Marino in Europe, including Cameroon and even that erstwhile lynch-pin of British oil imperialism in the Middle East, Kuwait. Negotiations are far advanced with other countries. All this has made greater nonsense than ever of the exclusion of the People's Republic of China from its rightful place as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. This is not China's problem. The Chinese know only too well the reactionary role the UN has played under the domination of the US and, more recently, the USSR. It is a problem for the US who see this instrument of their imperialist interests losing any credibility as a world organisation.



Le Duan, First Secretary of the Vietnam Workers' Party (on the left), in discussion with Chou En-lai (centre) at Peking airport before leaving by special plane to visit Mao Tsetung's home village.

CHINA SCORES GREAT VICTORIES IN WORLD DIPLOMACY

These diplomatic victories, based on correct relations between states having different social systems, have nothing in common with the Soviet distortion of "peaceful co-existence". The Soviet revisionists bought their way into collaboration with the US by ceasing to support and actually condemning anti-imperialist movements and by urging the "parliamentary road" which is no road at all on the potentially revolutionary working classes in imperialist countries. The present nuclear limitation talks between the two major imperialist powers, the US and the USSR, are a continuation of the policy of trying to keep these weapons to themselves to enforce by nuclear blackmail their world hegemony. But as Lin Biao has pointed out: If there are areas of collusion between them, there are contradictions too — which the Chinese know how to exploit.

NATIONAL LIBERATION

China has never made the slightest concession on diplomatic grounds in its Marxist-Leninist policy of supporting liberation struggles in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, as formulated by Mao Tsetung in his call to the people of the world: "Unite and defeat the US aggressors and all their running dogs!" Le Duan, First Secretary of the Vietnam Workers' Party, said on his recent visit to China: "The battlefield in our Vietnam is not just a battlefield of Vietnam and the battlefield in Indochina is not just a battlefield of Indochina because we have your mighty people as our backing and your vast land as our great rear area". These are the feelings of all peoples who have taken up arms to liberate themselves from imperialist exploitation.

Nor has China ever failed to distinguish correctly between reactionary imperialist governments and the working people in those same countries. At the very time that the Chinese indicated that they were willing, as always, to enter into discussions with Nixon based on absolute equality, they did not hesitate to welcome the

mighty upsurge of the American people against the vicious policies of their government and to characterise Nixon's actions as fascist. And when Nixon tried to exploit Chinese friendliness to some visiting US citizens by dusting off his old, discredited two-Chinas policy, he was quickly told what he could do with it.

REVOLUTION CANNOT BE EXPORTED

China supports all genuine anti-imperialist struggles but China also adheres firmly to the Marxist-Leninist principle that revolutions cannot be exported. China does not interfere in the internal affairs of those countries which have detached themselves from imperialist domination to the extent of entering into correct state relations with the Chinese People's Republic, however reactionary their regimes may be internally. But the rich revolutionary experience of the Chinese people under their great leader, Mao Tsetung, is at the disposal of those countries when they organise themselves, self-reliantly, to throw off the yoke of local oppression and defeat the attempts of imperialist powers to come to the defence of their landlord and comprador class enemies. They may be sure that the Chinese people will be with them in their struggle — whatever that close comradeship-in-arms may entail.

ULTRA-LEFTISTS AND CHINA

Some ultra-leftists, who do not understand the Marxist-Leninist dialectics of combining correct state relations between countries having different social systems with full support for the revolutionary movement of the world proletariat, have seen China's diplomatic victories against the main enemy of the revolutionary peoples, US imperialism, as compromises with the class enemy. They have no understanding of contradictions. They had better remember what Lenin said to that arch ultra-leftist, Trotsky, at the time of the Brest-Litovsk negotiations.

THE POLITICS OF OUR STRUGGLE

A SPECTRE IS HAUNTING 10. DOWNING ST...

In recent times millions of workers have been involved in wage struggles, some short and sharp and some bitter and protracted and involving much hardship and sacrifice. In some fights the gains have been barely enough to maintain the status quo in terms of real living standards, in others gains have been substantial. Some workers will have exercised their minds in considering what were the gains or losses. For some it appears as a simple arithmetical question, the loss of wages set against the monetary gain in terms of wage rise. Which- ever way it works out one thing is certain and that is that they will return to the fight again. So the stock-taking must needs be of a serious nature. If all this struggle is only to be counted in terms of pennies on the rate, though it must go on, there will be struggle but not progress. Any struggle which does not educate is only a matter of pennies. The real lasting gain must be in the lessons learned from each struggle whatever it is about and whatever the outcome.

EXPOSE FAKE "LEADERS"
In periods of relative peace reputations are made. In positions of leadership in the mass labour movement reputations are made. These reputations are based on speech not action. The Labour and Trade Union movement has always been well stocked with those who can talk a good fight. Many of these have gone through life with reputations for militancy, have proceeded through Knighthood, Barony and comfortable and affluent retirement without ever having been exposed fully in action. But times are changing. The struggle is getting sharper and struggle is the acid test and it is leaving many leaders who have made their reputations with their mouths in exposed positions.

The working class never could really afford these leaders. They can afford them even less in the present situation when even the fight for the pennies will take the form of illegal activity. Recent struggles have exposed some very notable "lefts" when action was the order of the day, when the workers were fighting without being exhorted by the "lefts". In the struggle with Ford it was not the "backward" workers who shirked the fight with powerful employers but those whose names were accepted by many thousands of workers as synonymous with militant action. The Morning Star described the conduct of Messrs Jones and Scanlon as uncharacteristic of the two men. Jones and Scanlon would not accept this verdict. Neither do we.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED
As the struggle becomes sharper therefore, all lessons of the recent past must be learned, especially as workers will come into conflict more with the whole State machine. As this develops life will be seen much more as it really is, the true nature of the State and its relation with the employing class, also the relation of those who presume to represent workers' interests in industry as well as parliament to the establishment will be more exposed.

WORKERS FACE TO FACE WITH THE STATE
In the future the lesson must be learned that struggles to meet with any real success will require serious attention to tactics. The struggles of workers must be joined with the struggles of other workers. Isolation will spell defeat and disillusion. As the ruling class employ all the powers at their disposal so must the workers, and false careerist leaders must be discarded as workers develop new leadership at the place where it matters most, at the point of production. The workers' struggle will come more and more face to face with the State power and must face up to the real issue whether to be subjected or take the offensive against the State and eventually overthrow it. This makes the question of developing new leadership a most serious question. In this type of struggle those types of "leaders" who falsify the very nature of class struggle, who peddle illusions about parliament and peaceful solutions are not only worthless but dangerous. They will continue to peddle the line that it is possible to come to terms with the capitalist system, for workers to live and prosper under capitalism given some reforms until the very mass of initiating reforms no longer exist, in other words the corporate state.

WORKERS' SALVATION A QUESTION OF POLITICS
Our Party was formed to provide in Britain what has been so sadly lacking so far. British workers have never lacked the courage to fight its class enemies. What it has lacked is the politics to transform that struggle from a question of pennies on the rate and living with capitalism to a politically conscious struggle to end the system entirely. We shall, with the weapon of Marxism-Leninism applied to the conditions of life and experience in Britain, achieve success. Marxism-Leninism applied to China and Albania has achieved advance unequalled in other countries. In the continent of Asia China stands out. Self-reliant, no food parcels and medicines from abroad, no hunger and disease, no debts, no population problem, all this represents the most tremendous advance ever made in one country and from a position no better than that of India. The explanation is a political one, it lies nowhere else. It is time the British working class awoke to the realisation that their salvation is a question of politics too. That is what our Party is about.

QUOTES FROM CPB(ML) MAY DAY MEETING

The employers complain that British workers are pricing themselves out of the labour market. They say: "The workers of Britain have become so expensive that capitalism cannot afford them." We say we cannot afford a capitalist class. It is they who have priced themselves out of a human society with their anarchic viciousness and greed. Every strike is part of a protracted struggle against the Industrial Relations Bill. A plague on Carr and Castle and all.

We greet our Irish brothers and sisters who are fighting against British imperialism. We greet warmly our comrades everywhere who are fighting against British imperialism or the other imperialist powers headed by the U.S. with which British imperialism is allied. And of course we pay once more our fraternal respects and our sincere gratitude to the great heroic Vietnamese people and the people of the rest of Indo-China.

N. IRELAND PROTOTYPE FOR FASCISM IN BRITAIN

British imperialism is continuing its campaign of repression and intimidation against the people of Northern Ireland. There are now about 9,000 British soldiers in the province, operating from garrisons at Belfast, Armagh, Dungannon and Derry. The Belfast and Derry garrisons are engaged mainly in house to house arms searches and the suppression of riots on the streets for which they are equipped with a whole array of the latest anti-riot weapons. The troops operating from Armagh and Dungannon are involved in policing the border and guarding key installations in rural areas. They are assisted in this by the Ulster Defence Regiment, a part time force consisting partially of ex B Specials and partially of reactionary Catholics to give it an impartial appearance.

All over British occupied Ireland one finds the R.U.C., some 3,000 of them, who are now integrating their activities more and more closely with the actions of the

military. Senior police officers accompany Army units on riots while Special Branch detectives mingle with crowds identifying individuals for later arrest. The kind of repression which is at present being enacted by the British authorities in Northern Ireland will soon be unleashed upon the workers of Britain. Britain's Ulster colony is a prototype for the future corporate state on this side of the Irish Sea. In addition to demanding the withdrawal of British troops the workers of Britain should learn the many lessons that can be learned from their own class brothers in the northern part of Ireland.

As we in the CPB(ML) have always said: British troops are never sent anywhere outside the borders of this country except as a repressive force to secure the interests of British imperialism. That is why we have always demanded and still demand: British troops out of Ireland now!



Demonstration against the plans to make 4,500 workers redundant at the Irlam steel works Manchester.



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

SWAN HUNTER
600 fitters at Swan Hunter, the Tyneside shipyard, have won a £27 a week guaranteed wage, after a six week strike. This was followed by the yard's plumbers accepting a similar offer. The firm still faces similar demands from painters, joiners and electricians. The boiler-makers have also put in for a new claim.

FINE TUBES
The strike at the Fine Tubes factory at Plymouth, which started on June 15th last year, still continues, making it the longest post-war strike yet. The strike is by 757 AUEW & TGWU members for a substantial pay increase and 100 per cent trade union membership. The firm has dug its heels in and argues that the strikers have been sacked and paid off. However the strike is now beginning to hit home at the company. In addition to the unions involved the railwaymen have also declared Fine Tubes black and the strike committee estimate that the company's turnover is down three-quarters.

MANCHESTER DOCKS
During the end of April and the beginning of May, Manchester docks were brought to a halt 13 times. The dockers were striking over lack of progress in reaching an agreement under stage two of the Devlin modernisation programme, and the dockers have found the employers' pay offers unacceptable.

ARMSTRONGS PATENTS
Once again another company is trying the con-trick of telling workers on strike that other firms are taking over its orders because of the strike, and consequently they risk losing their jobs. Armstrong Patents, manufacturers of shock absorbers, sent out a letter to its Hull and Beverly factories. Of course if the company really risks losing such lucrative orders why does it not pay up in order to keep the orders? The workers are demanding an increase of £7.50 a week.

REDUNDANCIES IN BRIGHTON
Over the past few months close on 700 engineering workers in the Brighton area have been made redundant by several big factories, despite the fact that the companies concerned have recently improved their financial prospects or received big orders. But at the Allen-West factory, which produces electrical switch-gear, DATA members have hit

back against the threat of layoffs and demanded a £3 rise with no strings into the bargain. The management refused to agree that if there were any redundancies, they should be among non-unionists first, saying that this would be conceding a closed shop. So the trade unionists started a harassing campaign of non-co-operation with the management and with non-unionists. Various temporary walkouts were held and when the workers felt that the situation needed discussion they held "days of deep discussion" in which people would be far too involved in talking about redundancies and the pay claims to be actually doing any work. But the workers were not ignoring the well-being of the company. Far from it. In fact with great dedication they spent long periods in the lifts testing them for safety, riding up and down and up and down and...

IRLAM STEELWORKS REDUNDANCIES

Irlam's 20,000 inhabitants live alongside the Manchester Ship Canal, and between them and its waters lie a soap factory, a margarine factory and the works of the British Steel Corporation, employing 5,000. Between now and the middle of 1973, 4,350 men are going to lose their jobs at the steelworks as part of BSC's nation-wide rationalisation. This is just part of a recent redundancy package by which BSC hope to save £15 million by doing away with 7,000 jobs. These 7,000 will join the 9,000 made redundant from the steel industry in the last four years.

The Irlam redundancies are a severe blow to workers in an area which is already depressed. Heavy industry in the North-West is dying, and there is nothing to replace it. Recently GEC-AEI made 2,000 redundant at their Trafford Park and Wythenshawe factories. Hawker - Siddeley has done away with 2,500 jobs in the area, and literally scores of smaller firms are closing down or cutting down on jobs, like Churchill Machine Tools, which has just made 236 redundant.

In the war between capital and labour a worker can live only by selling his ability to work to an employer. Redundancies make this difficult or impossible, and so cut at the very roots of workers' lives. Under capitalism workers will have to fight for the right to work, while realising that the capitalists cannot meet their demands, and that the only real answer is the ending of the system that creates the problems and the taking of power by the working class.

BRITISH WORKERS and the COMMON MARKET

We the CPB(ML) are in favour of a Common Market — of workers in Europe for revolution. We are absolutely opposed to the existing Common Market which is the brain child of capitalists who in the extremity of their own contradictions are driven to seek a coming together.

It cannot work, since the uneven development which creates its need also provides the ground for the predators to attack their weaker partners. It is a capitalist family of inbreeding and incestuous relationships whose members will devour each other to the last — they hope!

It is a capitalist alliance in denial of capitalism's own credo of private enterprise and laissez-faire, into which capitalists themselves have been driven by the growing strength of the working class in Europe. We oppose monopoly capitalism. We oppose multinational capitalism. We oppose international cartels.

The whole Common Market idea is a vulgar capitalist day dream of how nice life would be without contradictions. Dead common is the word for it!

What exactly will it mean to the workers of Britain if we join the European Economic Community?

One obvious result which will affect all working class families as consumers will be a rise in the cost of living. The shift to value added tax, which is a tax on consumer spending, to bring our own tax structure into line with that of the Six would probably add from 2½ to 3 per cent to the cost of living.

Great play has been made by those opposed to Britain's entry (but not to imperialist exploitation) of the effects of "indexing" a policy of cheap food from the Commonwealth" which they estimate could result in a rise in the retail price index of food of as much as 18 to 25 per cent, or some 25 p in the pound spread over a 3 to 5 year period.

What eased Geoffrey Rippon's negotiations in Paris was a willingness by the Tory Government to sacrifice British imperialist interests in the exploitation of primary agricultural producers in the Commonwealth, but not, of course, the much more profitable exploitation of oil and mineral wealth) to the need of British monopoly-capitalist industrial combines for a European-wide scene for their operations. Hence the crocodile tears shed by Tate and Lyle, for example, for the poor sugar growers of Jamaica or Mauritius and for the poor British worker who will have to pay more for food.

The abilities of workers to win wage increases to cover rises in the cost of living is already under attack from the Government with its Industrial Relations Bill. At present the rise in the cost of living before we even go into Europe is such that any claim for less than a 10 per cent wage increase per year means that workers are not holding their own as it is.

CIVIL SERVICE

The situation within the civil service has now reached a point where the workers involved realise that any wage increases they demand are only going to come through struggle against their employers, as in the case of workers in other fields. No longer are they falling for capitalist propaganda that they are something special because they are employed by the state. They are being exploited in the same way as all other sections of the working class. The capitalist tactic of divide and rule has been used for a long time within the Civil Service to try to set its employees against those workers claiming benefit, and with some success. No longer is this the case as the majority of workers in the Service now realise that their true allegiance is with the worker facing them over the counter.

Working for the Civil Service is described often as a "good

job." The Clerical Assistant or Officer within the Service would tell you otherwise! The so-called "good job" means a £20 per week for the Clerical Officer who is 25 years old, and who would have needed 5 GCE 'O' levels for his position.

The antiquated system of wage bargaining within the Civil Service is such that the Civil Service Department, after meetings with the top government Ministers, make a percentage pay offer to the Civil and Public Services Association, the main trade union within the Service. At present the government is refusing to make an offer to the 184,000 workers within the CPSA. Unless an offer is made, agreed and settled before July 1st 1971, the workers will lose any increase being backdated to the 1st of January. Those workers

involved are now seeing that only through struggle against capitalism and its front-men at Westminster will they achieve any sizeable pay increase, and not a fobbed off with an insignificant increase as in other years.

The CPSA has now demanded that unless an offer is received immediately, or it is given a date when the offer will be made, selective strike action will be taken. For the first time in its history the capitalist system now faces revolt by the workers in its very midst.

TEACHERS' PAY

The first lesson you learn as a teacher is how to handle a room full of rebellious pupils. The idea is first, to split them up into groups according to docility. Second, present them with some

attractive looking exercises, and finally reward their efforts with plenty of tiger stamps. The recalcitrant pupils unwittingly get educated. What's more the classroom remains intact.

The teachers' employers are at present trying to stage an enactment of the abortive little drama. Faced with an army of teachers no longer willing to sell their labour power for the honour of 'professional integrity' the employers have devised a new scheme whereby a teacher occupies a certain position on one of five scales.

Naturally, the position which is the most lucrative is the least accessible. And as you clamber up the hierarchy you may slip in shifting from one scale to a higher even though this is disguised as "promotion."

DHOFAR

Frateral Greetings to the People of Dhofar Fighting our Common Enemy — British Imperialism.

On the 6th anniversary of the liberation struggle in Dhofar which began on June 9 1965, we send our greetings to the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arab Gulf which is leading the war against the slave-owning Sultan of Muscat and Oman and the British Government that has propped up the Sultanate with military strength through the decades to protect the fabulous profits of the oil monopolies.

The Dhofar people's struggle is a beacon for the rest of the Middle East since it is combining the class question with the fight for national liberation. We in Britain should do our utmost to bring home to the British working class the importance of the Dhofar struggle against British imperialism since it is going to help us. We remind our readers of the stirring Declaration issued by the Front in February last year.

"We are fighting against both national and class oppression; . . . We are also fighting on two fronts: a military fight against British intervention, and a social fight against the backwardness that imperialism has preserved in this area; that is against illiteracy, tribal division and the subjection of women . . ."

"We appeal to all progressive forces in Britain to support our cause, and to oppose this savage and secret war being fought by Britain to protect her oil and her slave-owning Sultan . . ."

PALESTINE

At a meeting organised in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, May 15th, by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign an industrial worker on the platform said: "The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) fully supports the people of Palestine in their struggle for the liberation of their homeland."

"Our Party, formed three years ago, out of the British working class and dedicated to that class, will never neglect its international responsibilities. At its founding Congress support for the Palestinian Liberation Front was declared and we welcome the opportunity to renew that solemn pledge. It is important for the British working class to make its position clear on this issue. The ruling class long ago declared war on the people of Palestine. The working class of Britain was not consulted any more than the people of Palestine have ever been consulted."

"Over 50 years have passed since the Balfour Statement and the encouragement of Zionists to press for the establishment of a Jewish state and the expulsion of Palestinians — including the Israeli aggression in collaboration with British and French imperialism and the June War which further consolidated the Israeli hold on the territory belonging by rights to the Palestinian people. In this aggression the Israelis have enjoyed the support of British and U.S. imperialism."

"The U.S. and the Soviet Union will not be able indefinitely to bolster up either Zionism or Arab reaction. The U.S. ruling class sends Rogers around the world just as Henry Ford came to Britain, to aid against the working people here and abroad. But no great power gang up with the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain or France will keep the Palestinian people from their rightful place. The protracted armed struggle of the people will decide. Victory to the Fedayeen!"

FROM THE WORKERS

An interview with one of the Convenors at Fords, Halewood (Liverpool).

What is the present feeling of the workers, having returned from the strike?

Whilst they felt aggrieved at the actions of Jones and Scanlon, they were probably more upset at the Company who, as they saw it, had not come across with the goods.

Their attitudes had changed as they realised their fight was for principles and they grew stronger. They were disappointed it went the way it did and that their militancy was dampened.

I would say they felt strong and organised in themselves and only conceded return to work when there was no alternative and their delayed return was a demonstration of their continued solidarity and belief in the claim, and justification of the strike.

What about the management?

The management did not return victorious and are turning against the organised worker who is more important than Jones or Scanlon. Fords now have to re-establish themselves as boss and have got to make up lost money.

They know they could defeat Jones and Scanlon but couldn't defeat the organised worker. So they are trying to separate the worker to an individual man and attack him and destroy this collective feeling. In spite of the 2,000 telegrams and ballot no one responded. The power of the worker organised has not been defeated. The workers' actions recently since the strike, in resisting management's attacks on them and stewards, further demonstrates their continued belief in themselves as a militant fighting force and not as a beaten army returning from battle.

What has been management's attitude to workers since the return to work?

They have carried out a campaign of systematic and calculated attacks on the organisation in the plants. They are carrying out all those things that they have not been able to do before the strike, such as, taking disciplinary action against men for time keeping, attendance and against those who insist on reasonable conditions and treatment and reasonable working pace. They have always attempted to do these things but were unable to impose unfair acts of discipline and unfair conditions of work because of shop stewards representation and fear of industrial action.

The management have pledged support to the foremen in disciplining the men.

The retaliation of management has been mass layoffs to create division of feeling between those taking action and those laid off because of the action. It might have been wiser to not respond to attacks by industrial action but I believe that letting too many things go by (and we did let some) it may have jeopardised any chance of future resistance. Halewood management, we conclude, wish to do a number of things:—

1. Disrupt the organisation that was responsible for Halewood being the first out in the strike and the last back, which also happened in the 1969 strike. This is also responsible for some success in obtaining reasonable conditions in the plants. They, we know, believe that the convenors had arranged the premature walk out at Halewood before going to London for the negotiations.
2. They wish to improve the performance of the operators and increase the output with less labour than present.
3. To establish a disciplinary code

that will force operators to do as they are told without argument or dispute.

4. To prepare for the introduction of the Industrial Relations Bill before it comes in. No doubt so that it will not show the inevitable change in attitude too sharply.

They are trying to do this by telling men to do things that they previously would not have done without agreement, and when the men say no, they tell him he is off pay. They believe that if they do this sufficiently, other people, to avoid losing pay, will do things without question. Also it establishes a record for the people who refuse to do things which will enable them to sack them with apparent justification. There is another benefit, when men refuse and are sent home, their mates support them and go home too. This often lays off many thousands more. The possible outcome of this is that the larger number will get tired of losing money with seemingly no purpose and no control and through their resentment refuse to support cases themselves.

The Halewood management have been instructed to cut the labour force by 30 per cent. This they will do by "natural" wastage.

The shop stewards bulletin mentions that there are now restrictions on communications. What does this mean?

Previously shop stewards had unwritten licence to move off the line and go and talk to people i.e. they could get around and keep in touch. Now stewards are being prevented from doing this by the foremen who are creating precedents for a tighter discipline aimed at attacking our traditional means of organisation.

It has been suggested that this kind of management attack is a repeat of what happened in Dagenham in 1962. Do you think this is so and what lessons have been learnt from the experience of Dagenham?

This is definitely the same management tactics as 1962, which resulted in the militants being picked off. This is in fact the greatest fear at the moment.

I don't really feel we can learn from what happened in 1962. It will happen — it is an inevitable situation. The only thing is not to be provoked. The only thing is for a great deal of publicity before and after these attacks to stress what the management is doing. The Company will deny it but when it happens we can show that we were right. It becomes difficult for Ford's image if they are exposed.

Are the management attacking particular plants?

Yes — they are going for the militant plants — and going for Halewood because it is better organised. A situation like this needs a great deal of courage from leaders. Some are trying to hide the facts whereas the facts should be fully explained and publicised.

You say that the management are preparing the way for the Industrial Relations Bill. Are the workers relating the present situation to the Industrial Relations Bill?

For the workers to relate their situation to the Industrial Relations Bill means that we must do a lot of talking and explaining. In fact we put out a lot of publicity to that effect. I definitely think it is all related and it is probably happening in other places at Fords as well.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM WORKERS ABOUT THEIR OWN AREAS OF STRUGGLE WILL BE A REGULAR FEATURE OF FUTURE ISSUES.

WHITE COLLAR WORKERS FIGHT BACK

job.' The Clerical Assistant or Officer within the Service would tell you otherwise! The so-called "good job" means a £20 per week for the Clerical Officer who is 25 years old, and who would have needed 5 GCE 'O' levels for his position.

The antiquated system of wage bargaining within the Civil Service is such that the Civil Service Department, after meetings with the top government Ministers, make a percentage pay offer to the Civil and Public Services Association, the main trade union within the Service. At present the government is refusing to make an offer to the 184,000 workers within the CPSA. Unless an offer is made, agreed and settled before July 1st 1971, the workers will lose any increase being backdated to the 1st of January. Those workers

involved are now seeing that only through struggle against capitalism and its front-men at Westminster will they achieve any sizeable pay increase, and not a fobbed off with an insignificant increase as in other years.

The CPSA has now demanded that unless an offer is received immediately, or it is given a date when the offer will be made, selective strike action will be taken. For the first time in its history the capitalist system now faces revolt by the workers in its very midst.

TEACHERS' PAY

The first lesson you learn as a teacher is how to handle a room full of rebellious pupils. The idea is first, to split them up into groups according to docility. Second, present them with some

attractive looking exercises, and finally reward their efforts with plenty of tiger stamps. The recalcitrant pupils unwittingly get educated. What's more the classroom remains intact.

The teachers' employers are at present trying to stage an enactment of the abortive little drama. Faced with an army of teachers no longer willing to sell their labour power for the honour of 'professional integrity' the employers have devised a new scheme whereby a teacher occupies a certain position on one of five scales.

Naturally, the position which is the most lucrative is the least accessible. And as you clamber up the hierarchy you may slip in shifting from one scale to a higher even though this is disguised as "promotion."

The once-dissatisfied teacher, now in his brand-new category, grateful that it could be worse, licks his lips at the prospect of big rewards in the future. Unwittingly he has accepted a wage-cut. The education system grinds on.

Actually the employers are slow learners. Only last year the teachers demonstrated that they wanted hard cash, not fancy promises. What's more, this hard cash could only be won by united action. And the logic of united action is an increase across the board, with the platform of a basic scale. The employers must seek to fragment the opposition. Hence, their proposals.

The Unions have accepted arbitration as the condemned man on the scaffold puts the noose around his own neck. It's up to the mass of teachers to ensure that the trap door never drops. The "free" period is over. It's time for action again.

POSTMEN

NO SURPRISES FROM BOSSES' INQUIRY

The Hardman Tribunal on the Post Office published its report last month. The results were entirely as might be predicted from its three members — A knighted ex-senior civil servant, a managing director, and to "balance" it out a bit, the vice-principal of Ruskin College Oxford.

The recommendation is that the total wages bill is increased by 9 per cent. With concessions (see below) this means many workers will get just the 8 per cent. The top increases are £1.66 for postmen, and £1.57 for telephonists — virtually half the original claim. Further the tribunal recommends drastic cuts in overtime nearly which will be necessary to keep the wages bill down to its 9 per cent ceiling. It looks as if, for example, the out-of-London postman will be lucky to improve much on his basic £19.87. In certain sections, there will be changes in the wages structure. In the Home Counties, the Midlands and the North West, there will be extra increases to help recruitment. Union restrictions are to be lifted and there will be greater use of women and part-time workers.

INCREASE? NOT IN WAGES!

The committee claims that 9 per cent not only covers the rise in the cost of living over the past year, but it is so much more than adequate that it will increase savings! Perhaps they didn't notice that prices have risen more than 94 per cent over the past year by the Government figures and over two per cent last month alone! The only savings will be by the Post Office! The 9 per cent even before extra tax and deductions, is totally inadequate and represents not an increase in pay but yet another drop in the standard of living of nearly a quarter of a million workers.

THE REAL INCREASE

The real increase is shown by this report to be twofold — higher productivity by the Post Office workers, and higher charges for the Postal services. Mechanisation of letter and parcel sorting and distribution is to be speeded up. To quote a postman at the UPV conference — "Do they expect us to run round delivering the letters?" There is the suggestion that there is no need for two deliveries a day nor even for a daily delivery in some places. It is said that the Post Office must bring "realism" into the industry by promoting productivity schemes. And that faithful tool of the capitalist class, Arbitration, is to be brought back. Meanwhile in January 1972 the post will go up by 4p. The cost of postage will then have risen from 4d to 5d to 7.2d and 8.4d (80 per cent and 68 per cent respectively) in 11 months, while the wages bill has increased 9 per cent. And Hardman seriously tries to suggest that wages are the cause of inflation!

THE "MINORITY" REPORT

One member of the Tribunal did not agree with the paltry settlement. John Hughes of Ruskin College published a Minority Report in which he disputes most of the decisions — except the productivity schemes. A lot of good that has done! The inclusion of one sympathiser to the workers on the Tribunal can now be seen to be no more than a wangle whereby the Post Office can claim that the workers had a voice, that the Tribunal was 'fair' and listened to their case, coming to its gentlemanly agreement in a 'democratic' fashion. In fact this was true social-democratic fashion, and insofar as Hughes says that the recommendations are unacceptable, he is reflecting the voice of the vast majority — the solid 200,000 Post Office workers. This is not to say Hughes reflected the feelings of these workers. He did not, by not naming a figure for the wage increase by supporting the productivity measures, and of course by agreeing to serve on this Tribunal in the first place.

THE LESSON

The report is a clear lesson for all workers everywhere — that nothing can be gained from the Bosses' Courts whatever form they take. Neither can faith be put in having representatives on these committees — only struggle will produce results.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

The results of the recent local elections represent an unmitigated defeat for the Tories in their first major test at the Polls since the General Election. They are a slap in the face for repressive legislation, for entry into the Common Market, and, above all for rising prices.

It is, however, necessary to point out that the problems of the working class will never be solved by voting for one capitalist party, Labour, in preference to another, the Tories. Both these parties have proved themselves time and time again to be open enemies of the working class. We in the CPB (ML) will not join with the so-called "left" in asking the workers of Britain to support one of their enemies against another. Now as at the General Election our slogan is DON'T VOTE. ORGANISE TO SMASH CAPITALISM!

THE SAME DIFFERENCE

Giving evidence in the trial of the two men charged with blowing up his house Mr. Robert Carr, Secretary of State for Employment, was asked if he had heard public comparisons with the Mussolini and Franco labour codes and the Government's Industrial Relations Bill.

He replied that he had heard those comparisons but the one most commonly linked with it was the Labour Party policy of In Place of Strife.

The CPB(ML) has frequently pointed out the similarity of the Industrial Relations Bill, the Labour Party's In Place of Strife, the Mussolini and Franco labour codes and the Nazi Dr. Ley's Labour Front. They are all fascist measures for trying to make the trade unions part of the apparatus of a corporate state.

But of all these political parties serving the interests of monopoly capitalism against the working class only the Labour Party has had the nerve to ask the very trade unions it has sought to hamstring for an increased political levy to bolster up its party funds.

The present per capita fee which trade unionists are expected to pay to the Labour Party is 7p. The Labour leaders want to raise it to between 15p and 20p. In other words they want workers to pay twice as much to have their interests betrayed by the Labour Party if it ever gets back into power.

Workers would be well advised to insist on a levy to pay into their own strike funds. Every strike is not only a form of action against employers but also against any anti-trade union legislation, whether it is drafted by the Labour Party or the Tory Party and whether it resembled the labour legislation of Nazi Germany, fascist Italy or Franco Spain.

GOVERNMENT TRAINING SCHEMES

Government training schemes were set up during the first World War to meet the shortage of skilled and semi-skilled men and women created by the war itself. This training was given during the recent World War also and has continued to a greater or lesser degree ever since.

In line with the Labour Government's anti-trade union policies their redundancy payments act introduced the new training centres to retrain those who had been made redundant in railways, mines, service industries etc. as a result of the Labour Government's own capitalist actions. A training levy was imposed on the whole of industry which meant apprentices and semi-skilled workers being retrained on starvation allowances while the employers made profits by not paying the rate for the job when they were re-employed.

Firms had to pay a sum of money for retraining whether they sent their own workers to the centre or not. After training, this sum, and often an additional amount was refunded so that it was in the interest of employers to acquire their skilled and semi-skilled workers in this way.

But with unemployment of skilled and semi-skilled men, women and young people approaching one million, what is the need for a levy on industry for training schemes? There is a large pool already from which employers can draw their labour force. This is what Enoch Powell and the Tory backwoodsmen are saying against continuing the scheme.

In this situation the trainee leaves the training centre to find that there are already too many fully skilled workers chasing too few jobs. The trainee after his six months course joins the ranks of the unemployed unable to make use of his newly acquired skills and unable to make up for the time he has spent scripping along on meagre allowances.

The only benefit he has gained from his training is that he at least knows what kind of work he is out of!

QUOTES FROM CPB(ML) MAY DAY MEETING

There can be no revolution without a revolutionary party. We reject spontaneity. Out of the polemics in the international communist movement our Marxist-Leninist Party was born. We have not split into factions but have grown in strength and unity. We are here and we are here to stay. With the growth of the corporate state in circumstances where "bourgeois democracy can no longer fool the people, there is a more urgent need than ever for a revolutionary party and we are fully aware of our great responsibilities to the working class.

Our Party the CPB(ML) has just had its second congress at which we endeavoured to analyse conditions in Britain and work out a strategy and line to create socialism.

THE WELFARE STATE HOAX

Social - democracy has peddled consistently the idea that the Welfare State is somehow outside class struggle and that it stands as a mediator between bosses and workers in the capitalist system. In times of relative peaceful development, bourgeois ideologists have pushed the notion that the Welfare State was universal and comprehensive, benefitting everyone in the "National interest." Those people who believe that concessions once wrung from the ruling class are "beyond capitalism" and are "everlasting rights" delude themselves about the true nature of the State.

Today the ruling class, in its attempt to overcome the crisis for which alone it is responsible tries to lay the burden on the backs of the working class. Hence the working class faces a sharpening assault on its living standards. This is shown by the anti-Trade Union legislation which attempts to tie the hands of those very organisations with which the working class defends its standards of living.

The present attack is not a "party political issue." Both parties represent ruling class interests. The Tory party has merely carried on the policies introduced by the Labour party, e.g. anti-trade union legislation, immigration policies, raising of prescription charges, abolition of school milk and so on — all of which form an essential part of the ruling class strategy.

The welfare state has never been "neutral." The contradiction between having a working class healthy enough to work and exploiting them to the utmost always existed. The National Assistance Board (NAB) or the Supplementary Benefits Commission as it is now so politically called has always been used to intimidate and demoralise the weakest sections of the working class; the industrial injured, the chronically sick and disabled, pensioners, widows etc. However in this period of increasing class contradiction it is clear that the "welfare state" will now be used more and more as part of the attack on the most powerful and best organised sections of the working class.

Earlier welfare measures, such as the four-week rule (which limits benefit to only four weeks for unemployed, unskilled, single males) and the "industrial mis-

conduct" rule (which withholds benefit for six weeks if a worker is dismissed on these grounds) are being used to full effect. The former as unemployment continues to rise, is a weapon which gives unskilled workers the choice of striving or accepting low paid jobs which they would otherwise never consider. The latter will no doubt enjoy a new lease of life if the Industrial Relations Bill becomes law.

However, it is with the more recent acts that the ruling class fully reveals the real class basis of the welfare state. The raising of prescription charges, of school dinner prices, of dental and optical fees all directly attack the mass of workers and their families. The niggardly abolition of free school milk (by Labour and Tory) shows just how petty and vindictive the ruling class can be!

The implications of new moves to weaken the position of strikers pose a further threat to the working class. The further cuts in social security benefits payable to strikers' families, threatened delaying of PAYE, income tax rebates until after a strike is over, are intended to undermine the ability of workers to sustain a lengthy strike against an intransigent employer. Here is clearly displayed the direct involvement of the welfare state in class struggle on the side of the capitalists.

The Family Incomes Supplement may appear at first as a 'liberal' neutral measure to improve the standards of living of the poorest section of the working class. This is not so. Although its immediate short term effect may bring temporary relief to certain sections of the working class, it will in the long run have much the same effect as the Spenhamland system (1795) which effectively held down the wages of workers because employers knew that low wages would be made up to a "subsistence" level by the state. The Family Incomes Supplement attempts to hide the problem of low wages, and makes yet another section of the working class dependent on the "benefits" of the welfare state. The Family Incomes Supplement does not and cannot solve the question of inadequate wages and poor standards of living. This can only be achieved by working class action!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

Meeting on victories scored by Vietnamese people and the people of Laos and Cambodia against U.S. aggressors.

Thursday, June 10th

at 155 Fortress Road, London N.W.5, 7.30 p.m.

Organised by Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA

First-hand report on socialist advances by young British worker just back from attending May Day celebrations in Albania.

Refreshments.

Saturday, June 12th

at Bellman Book Shop, 155 Fortress Road, N.W.5

(nearest tube: Tufnell Park) 7.30 p.m.

Organised by New Albania Society.

THE WEMBLEY SOUTH BRANCH OF THE A.E.U.W.

(Technical and Supervisory Section)

invites all active Trade Unionists, in particular Shop Stewards, to a Public Meeting —

"Kill the Bill,

Fight the System!"

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plus

"Kill the Bill"

a film by Cinema Action

at the Labour Hall, Ealing Road, Wembley,

Wednesday, June 9th at 7.30 p.m.

Admission Free. Refreshments Available.

Further particulars available from John Petty 01-204-4965.



Delegate of the CPB(M-L) to the May Day celebrations in Albania greeted by Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania.

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