

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) No. 15 July 26th 1973 Price 3p

CLASS LAW CAN'T STOP CLASS WAR

FREEZE LAW, TUC-GOVT TALKS FAIL TO STOP INDUSTRIAL ACTION FLEET STREET

NATSOPA ends agreement and aims to force local agreements, picking off the weakest employers

Following in the footsteps of their Scottish brothers, London and Manchester printing workers have been engaging in a guerrilla campaign that has affected nearly all national papers from the Financial Times to the Sun. Lord Goodman, the Newspaper Publishers' Association boss, described the situation as "extremely grave, threatening the whole of the National press".

After the Press lords have devoted acres of paper and oceans of ink to pontificating about inflation and the wage freeze they now find themselves in the front line. Under a national agreement dating from last October there would be a further increase this October 1st of 8% unless the general retail index had gone above 177.4 for two consecutive months, in which case the increase would be brought forward to July 1st.

Well you don't have to read the papers to know that the 'threshold' has been crossed. In fact the index reached 178.0. So our law-abiding Press lords ran for cover behind the wage freeze which bans increases at less than 12-month intervals, and repudiated the agreement.

This shows the weakness of the whole concept of "threshold agreements". They seem to offer an easy way of fighting the increasing cost of living. Just sit back and let the pay increases roll in automatically. But what happens when this gets too expensive from

the point of view of either employers or government? Now we know. The agreements are repudiated and the great danger is that after a long string of 'automatic' increases the workers' organisation and militancy may have been weakened by the illusion that gains can be made without struggle. And just as significantly 'threshold agreements' at their best can offer no prospect beyond merely keeping up with inflation. The working class must attack, go forward, not merely aim at perpetuating the present status quo of exploitation.

Workers have been quick off the mark to take action and have started a campaign of disruption, using guerrilla tactics, even before the increase was due,

thus seizing the initiative from the employers' side. One of the unions involved, NATSOPA, gave

a lead by sending all its members a letter which stated: "Any branch or chapel making application for payment of the threshold increase and being refused by the management, who feel sufficiently incensed to take industrial action will be officially supported by the executive council." The conduct of the struggle was thus correctly left to the shop-floor and workers responded immediately with a variety of tactics (meetings during production hours, lightning stoppages etc.) causing the maximum disruption (from lost editions, no late news, absence

of corrections to complete loss of production) with the minimum inconvenience to themselves.

The effectiveness of this action

can be judged by the NPA's eagerness to move the arena of struggle onto more favourable ground by suggesting a court case to resolve the problem. Workers however know better than to put any faith into courts set up by the Government to serve employers' interests and are carrying on the struggle on their own ground, choosing their own tactics and leaving the employers to lament as shown in the editorial columns of one of the dailies: "Fleet Street is again threatened with turmoil and again through guerrilla warfare."

PERKINS

BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND A HALF

The fight for parity at Perkins Diesel Engines, Peterborough, goes on. The demand is for eventual parity with Coventry workers also employed by Massey-Ferguson, the Canadian combine that took over Perkins in 1960. The difference in wages is £20 a week. Perkins claims this is due to Peterborough being a 'rural' area (although employers' logic never gives industrial wages to farmworkers who live near big cities). Perkins used to boast smugly that turnip pickers make good assembly line workers. Now they have found out that if you treat people like peasants you must eventually face the Peasants Revolt.

The real demand was not for an immediate £20 increase, but freeze or no freeze, the workers were determined that there should be a rapid closing of the gap.

Although they had no major struggles before, the workers staged a very effective overtime ban for 11 weeks. By stopping maintenance at weekends, this cut production by 70 per cent. Eventually the management closed down the works. But the lockout only strengthened the workers' determination and the management beat a hasty retreat.

A backdated £2 increase was awarded and an agreement was reached that wage levels at the five Massey-Ferguson factories in Britain 'may be agreed progressively to reduce and ultimately eliminate the existing differences in wage levels'. Perkins, in defeat, were prepared to accept this form of words. So was a large majority at a mass meeting, who thought that the formula meant parity. Perkins had at last scored a minor victory - they had managed to split the workers who had previously been 100 per cent united.

But words and pieces of paper carry very little weight in the class struggle. After agreeing to return to work the workers were greeted that evening with the spectacle of a TV interview in which the industrial relations director blandly denied any com-

mitment to parity (indeed the agreement could even be to reduce Coventry wages by £20). And this is not surprising. Employers will always break laws and agreements when it suits them. And so will workers. We have seen this in Fleet St just as in Peterborough.

So only 2 hours after returning to work, the men were out again. Again they voted to return, but only to work a 40-hour week. The overtime ban was back on and Perkins were again in a position they had already found intolerable. So the management scurried back to the negotiating table and apologised profusely for their indiscretion on TV. 'Our interpretation of the agreement' they said, 'is consistent with yours'.

The part played by Union officials in allowing this agreement to be so hastily pushed through at the mass meeting on July 9th has shown up social democratic tactics for what they are - effective collaboration with the capitalists and under-estimation of the strength and militancy of the workers. Workers have learned that victory is not won by social democrats round a negotiating table, but by the struggle of the mass of workers at the factory, who cannot just be asked to vote on agreements they have not even seen. They are not obliged to accept meaningless documents which give no real commitment to parity.

There are other disputes, such as the demand of the 60 canteen women that three women, who worked when the rest were out, should be removed. The struggle does not end when an agreement, good or bad, is signed. There has to be a continual battle to turn the words into reality in the pay packet. Coventry workers do not have their present position because they signed a good agreement in the dim and distant past, but because they have engaged in protracted struggle. The only real way to get parity with Coventry workers is to fight just as hard or harder. The battles are only just beginning.



Print workers have taken an active part in the fight against anti-working-class legislation.

Editorial

The Cold War

Khrushchev boasted in 1959: 'If any mad man wanted war, we the two strongest countries in the world, would have but to shake our fingers to warn him off.' And included among these 'mad men', of course, were any liberation fighters who wished to take their countries out of imperialist bondage. This was the essence of the policy of collaboration between the Soviet Union and the US; the two super powers acting as an international police force.

What this collaboration amounted to was the division of the world into Soviet and US spheres of influence and the permanent freezing of the world along those lines by the threat of nuclear terror. The two super powers were assisted in this plot against the world's peoples by those 'pacifists' who argued that such were the horrors of nuclear war that those who were oppressed and exploited must put up with their lot rather than risk striking the spark that might trigger off a world explosion.

The success of this shared hegemony of the US and Soviet Union depended on seeing to it that no other country developed nuclear weapons and such agreements as the Partial Test Ban treaty, while paying lip service to peace, were really directed to this end.

How it has worked out

People's China, through the devotion and political understanding of scientific workers, developed a hydrogen bomb in half the time taken by the US or the Soviet Union - not to join them in bullying other countries but to break their monopoly in the interest of the world's peoples. Another successful hydrogen bomb test was carried out on June 27th and again the Chinese Government gave the assurance they alone of the nuclear powers have given 'that the conducting of necessary and limited tests by China is entirely for the purpose of defence, and at no time and under no circumstances will it be the first to use nuclear weapons.' China has repeatedly called for the complete destruction and prohibition of all nuclear weapons, but that does not suit the US and Soviet Union who will go on throwing dust in people's eyes with phoney ploys like the SALT negotiations. There can be no doubt that it was only China's possession of nuclear weapons that prevented the US from using them in Vietnam.

And yet at the very time when the US is continuing to carry out murderous bombing attacks on Cambodia and the Soviet Union is about to celebrate, in August, the fifth anniversary of its practical application of the principle of 'limited sovereignty' by invading and occupying Czechoslovakia, there are those like the Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the TUC who can find no threat to peace but the testing of weapons by countries outside the super-imperialists' club!

Many countries, pre-eminently Vietnam, refused to submit to imperialist blackmail. Vietnam's tremendous victory against US aggression has shown that men are more important than weapons and that even the heaviest armed international gangsters are no match for a properly conducted people's war.

Neither was it possible for the Soviet Union to intimidate Albania and turn it into one of its obedient satellites in the East European zone.

The attempts of both the US and the Soviet Union to contain and isolate China have been shattered by a whole series of diplomatic victories based on China's socialist strength at home and the trust and friendship won from the independent countries abroad, culminating in taking her rightful place in the UN and adding another voice to Albania's in presenting socialist solutions to the problems raised in that international forum.

The unholy alliance today

The Soviet Union has realised the hundred year old dream of Tsardom and moved into the warm waters of the Mediterranean. By backing Indian aggression against Pakistan to the tune of supplying India with over two billion dollars worth of military equipment the Soviet Union has achieved what British imperialist policy for the whole of the Nineteenth Century was bent on preventing - acquisition of a base on the Indian Ocean.

The weaknesses at home and internationally of the two super powers make them need each other. Brezhnev helps Nixon weather his present embarrassment and in return gets help for the Soviet Union's shaky economy, particularly in agriculture. And the US's own economy is in a bad shape because the strain of policing the whole world on behalf of capitalism is too great. Hence the willingness to let the Soviet Union take on part of the burden in India and elsewhere.

What began as a partnership to divvy up the loot has become a desperate alliance for survival - between two countries which can never trust each other an inch.

Consider their attitude to Europe as revealed in the first stage of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe attended by the foreign ministers of 35 NATO, Warsaw Pact and 'non-aligned' European countries. The Soviet revisionists want to consolidate their position in Europe by getting international recognition of the boundary between Eastern and Western Europe and acceptance of the Soviet Union's dominant position in the East. This is called 'setting up a system of inter-state relations founded on the principles of peaceful co-existence' but all it means is an attempt to expand Soviet hegemony.

The US works through those European powers with which it has most influence to demand as a condition of such recognition 'free exchanges of peoples and ideas' throughout Eastern Europe which strikes at the very basis of Soviet dominance in its own sphere.

This desperate need and equally desperate rivalry of the two major imperialist powers reflect the struggle of the working people all over the world for emancipation - struggles making revolution the main trend today. The attempt at freezing the world into joint spheres of imperialist dominance has proved as hopeless as will the British Government's attempts to freeze the wages of workers.

The Anarchy of Capitalism

Suddenly the UK is facing 'its worst labour shortage since the war'. We are now told that the engineering and building industries are 'desperately short' of skilled workers. What then is the nature of this system under which we live? Under capitalism we now see that 'labour shortages' occur with over 500,000 workers without jobs. Even 'full-employ-

ment' is taken to mean 250,000 on the dole, (regarded by bourgeois economists as the 'acceptable level of unemployment'), while in times of economic slump more than a million workers are thrown onto the scrap heap. Under such a system, security of employment for any worker is a myth. Only in Albania and China,

planned Socialist economies under the control of the working class, does real job security and full employment exist. In Britain, we face again and again the anarchy of employment under capitalism and the unrestrained violence of that system towards our class. Our path is clear.

THE EUROPEAN FRONT

Like Britain, Western Europe at the moment is simultaneously undergoing both boom and slump. Runaway inflation and industrial depression. For example, despite the optimistic forecasts of the Bank of France, rising prices have forced the Government there to announce a new minimum (starvation) wage. The Bank is more nearly truthful when it declares that 'extreme limits of possible production' have already been reached in several sectors of industry. This means of course that more workers are soon to find themselves jobless, being no longer profitable. In fact the situation has already reached flashpoint.

LIP

At the Lip watch factory near Besancon, the workers have decided to take over the running of the works which has officially gone into liquidation. The workers have public opinion very much on their side and having concluded new agreements with Lip's subcontractors have declared themselves capable of running the factory for at least a year.

Lip is very much the French watchmaking industry, and the primary employer of labour in Besancon. Meanwhile the asset strippers wait....

Fos-sur-Mer

10,000 out of 16,000 jobs are to disappear at this major, prestige, construction site near Marseilles by the end of the year. This, despite Government promises of security:- as if capitalism could promise any such thing!

PUK

But French workers are not everywhere on the defensive. 'Irre-

sponsible action', i.e. demands for reclassification and better pay, has shut down the largest aluminium producer in Europe, PUK at Nogueres. The company was at great pains to deny that it would not be paying a dividend this year!

The metal in the 435 electrolytic vats has now solidified. The process of chipping it out may delay the start of production by anything up to 6 months - once the dispute is settled.

OECD

Similarly, the staff of the OECD secretariat in Paris, source of many works on labour relations etc. have organised a series of stoppages. After 5 years of negotiations they have finally accepted that only action will win their claim for better pensions. The action involved nearly all the 1500 staff up to and including directors.

Italy

The question of security was also at the root of the recent stoppage staged by the workers on Rome's biggest newspaper, *Il Messaggero*. 50 per cent of the shares in the publishing company were sold without consulting the employees and leaving the situation very confused.

W. Germany

West German air traffic controllers continue to ground dozens of aircraft, defying government attempts to bring their go slow to an end. The cost to the state has been estimated as being in excess of 100 m. DM. The government has threatened leaders of the controller's association with court action for damages!

The six week old action is in support of a pay claim. The controllers are determined to press ahead with their claim and have rejected offers of arbitration.

Spain

Following a bonus claim in the Motor Iberica factory (controlled by Massey-Ferguson) 17 stewards were charged under the labour laws and suspended by their employers. Reaction was such as to bring out 20,000 Pamplona workers as well as others from nearby towns.

This traditionally backward labour force has been a strong attraction for foreign capital. But just as the Perkins workers showed, a good thing can't last for ever. The 'strong' reaction of management in the town ('our own' British Leyland locked out 1700) was soon to be followed by an embarrassed climb down involving a number of concessions and the necessity of holding off overeager government officials.

Filed again!

Employers are still attempting to control universities and technical colleges. This fact, highlighted 3 years ago when students discovered that political files were being kept on them, is illustrated by a recent incident at a Midlands Tech. A lecturer set the exam question, "How would you write a letter of application for a job to a potential employer?" It was censored by local employers, through the Principal, on the grounds that it might give apprentices and day-release students the idea that they could apply for other jobs!

'The Worker'

A paper written by workers for workers, published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

SUBSCRIPTION £1
(12 issues post free)

Send to: "The Worker"
155 Fortress Road, London N.W.5.



MARXISM-LENINISM

WINS AGAIN

Manchester Exchange

By-Election

56% did not vote

44% voted

Chinese Acrobats

As a gesture of goodwill to the people of Britain, the Chinese recently sent a troupe of entertainers to London.

Their work reflected the Chinese determination to preserve the best of their traditional art forms whilst celebrating in many ways the new joy and progress of life in the People's republic.

Many spheres of art in China are blossoming under the new clarity of the Cultural Revolution, which seeks always to marry politics with art, to interest through simplicity, originality and craftsmanship (rather than mystifying with obscurities, allusions, slick typography etc) and which strives always to make art serve the people.

WHAT'S THE FREEZE.

The hospital authorities are worried, and they have cause to be. In the past year or so, hospital workers have stood up, and now they are beginning to walk.

Take St Pancras Hospital for example. Nine months ago the union branch had all of 25 members. Membership is now around 6 times that figure, and the gains are obvious.

WORKERS ORGANISE

At a mass meeting, cleaners walked out of the room while their manager was trying to foist on them a bonus scheme they had already rejected, and they demanded payments for the many times when they had to cover for illness. To avoid the issue management has been offering overtime as it never has before - meaning some workers are now taking home £7-£8 more (1 day overtime). The workers have decided to accept this now, and have delayed the real struggle

for October when everybody is back from holidays and they are strong.

In the catering department, after 3 years of 'happy' functioning of a bonus scheme the management suddenly decided there were too many staff - and so dropped the bonus. It has taken 3 months for the workers involved to get off their backsides, but after they were offered a 'choice' between 2 redundancies or only 20%, they had a meeting demanding full bonus (at 25%) and full staff. 5 hours later it was announced that the bonus had mysteriously increased to 30%!

And as for the Porters, the management have conceded the regrading of those on grade B to grade C, meaning 56p a week more backdated to April 1st.

The problem now, perhaps the most difficult one, is to make sure the advances are not eroded away, but all this for a hospital that 1 year ago was virtually completely unorganised!

INDUSTRIAL FRONT



T. BAILEY FORMAN LTD

On June 20 the management of Nottingham's two local newspapers introduced a new method of typesetting called Letterflex. Its main claim to fame being it uses plastic instead of expensive type metal, and in this case needs one operator instead of the 13 on the conventional hot metal.

Though still the subject of national discussions the management arrogantly insisted the new system be used. The process was blacked by SLADE members and they were sent home. In the following hours 300 workers were sent home for expressing their solidarity in blocking the process.

The Joint Chapels Committee has warned its members to prepare for a long struggle. The management declared that the Morning paper would have to close, a threat which printworkers and journalists joined together to combat. They went ahead and produced their own paper.

There are big profits to be made if the workers in this dispute are beaten, and no doubt other employers are looking on like hungry vultures for weakness they could profit from, this being the first dispute in this country over the letterflex process.

LLANELLI SIT-IN

300 workers at the Llanelli factory of Bowden Controls, making control cables, continue their sit-in. They are demanding that their new wage agreement should be implemented from April 1 not June 19. Two months ago the

workers staged a one-week sit-in to stop the management stalling in the negotiations over the wage agreement.

GEC

Two hundred women are on strike at the GEC, Spon Street factory in Coventry, over a dispute about piecework bonuses.

The women, members of the AUEW and TGWU, who work on printed circuit assembly and inspection, asked the management to retire six girls' jobs after it was discovered that other workers were receiving three times as much bonus as they were. The management was given seven days in which to investigate, but when nothing was done, the women started to block particular work. The management retaliated by laying-off the women in groups of twos and threes, and, after a mass meeting, the whole floor voted to come out on strike.

The women have been picketing, the first time at GEC that there have been pickets outside the gates. The shop stewards, who deserve praise for their good leadership and militancy, emphasised, 'It's not us who should be praised, but the girls. We are very strong and are determined to win'. Guerrilla tactics have been used in the picketing, and the women have been lying down in front of lorries who try to break the picket lines, and taking their numbers. Despite divisive attempts to set one union against another, the AUEW and TGWU shop stewards said that they will stick together in the struggle as they have always done in the past.

Guerrilla tactics in local struggle

It is not unusual for women to be innovators, their ingenuity and tenacity in industrial action has been recounted many times. But what of those outside the work situation? How can they hope to resist the constant bombardment of insane food prices, increased fares, means tested allowances, deteriorating health service etc? There is no blue-print to follow. Yet in this era of growing civil action, each section of our class must strive to forge the weapons needed to gain victory.

Dented any play space for their children, a group of Gravesend women on a large estate recently conducted a determined, organised and successful campaign which we may all learn from.

Having been ignored on several occasions by the Council, the women put aside their petitions

and letters to royalty and called for a mass meeting on the local green. There they confronted the Mayor and the new Labour councillors (elected on a landslide 28 per cent poll) shouting, 'You're all the same!'

'Now steady on, let's forget the past, ladies' pleaded the Council.

'You learn from the past, mate!' they insisted. The women were having no truck with social democratic promises! The Council had no answers, and retired to the comfort of their Civic Centre.

But there was no let up. The women gathered more support, contacting the Trades Council, the local teachers' union, the Tenants Association and social workers. All marched to the Centre with a list of specific demands. After consultations,

TOGETHER WE STAND

A recent dispute in Glasgow at the Stimur Manufacturing Co. has gone a long way to show that equal pay for women is the common concern of all working people.

One hundred workers, who joined SOGAT as recently as October 1972 had to negotiate an equal pay agreement with the Company as it was not in the Employers' Federation.

They claimed for a first instalment for the 25 women and the full rate for 18 year-old boys. The company offered the rate for the boys, but £1.20 for the women to be paid after October 1973.

A full chapel meeting rejected this and the strike followed. After 5 weeks, it was decided at a meeting to occupy the factory. This was done and the management locked all the doors and called in the police. After four hours of talks the management agreed to serious talks the next day.

The result was £1.50 for women in October as before but to be followed in 6 months by a further £1 - equal pay.

MINERS

On July 3rd the mineworkers' conference unanimously approved a claim for increases of between £8.21 and £12.71 a week in minimum rates. This would mean £35 for surface workers and £40 for underground workers (with £45 for surface workers £45 for face workers). The conference also demanded a return to the situation before the Winterforce deal, so that pay agreements would expire in November. The obvious advantage for the miners is that this would put major industrial action in the winter period, with its maximum effect, as in 1972, when there is maximum demand for fuel.

the decisions were announced to everyone in the square. Surprise, surprise, the Council had found some money from somewhere. But they couldn't grant all the marchers asked for.

Three days later, the women called another meeting. New tactics were discussed; blocking traffic, refusing to pay rent, etc. The women involved have grown more determined as their actions have become more effective. Their tactics have changed from pleas and gestures to carefully calculated blows aimed at producing the maximum effect with the least cost to themselves. Other residents have come to respect their achievements, thus the women are now to take a lead on the question of housing and repairs.

The San Marino of the North Sea

When workers and factories move out, what moves in? This question which Londoners ask as they watch the closure of one well-established factory after another, now has an answer: tourists and hotels move in.

It is typical of our crazy, candyfloss economy that tourism should have become the principal source of foreign exchange in what was once rightly called 'the workshop of the world'. Capitalism would have us become a nation of domestics, buttering up the

visitors and striking colourful poses for the photographers - the San Marino of the North Sea. This summer the tourist wave is expected to break last year's record total by 15 per cent.

In 1968 the Labour Government, always the innovator for capitalism, offered 20 per cent toward the cost of any new hotel or hotel extension built by the end of March, 1973. More than £25 million of taxpayers' money has now been handed out to the London hotel magnates in this

way. In the last five years, 99 new hotels have been set up in London alone. This year 29 new hotels are due to open, providing 20,790 beds.

Bed for whom? Hardly for ordinary tourists, since the minimum price per head for bed and breakfast at a London hotel is £11. The hotels are for businessmen on the spree, and you don't have to look through a two-way mirror to discover the nature of their business.

WHOSE 'FREE SPEECH'?

The Nobel Prize-winning Russian novelist Solzhenitsyn, a crude populariser of the bourgeois slogan of "free speech", is revealing what he really means by this principle. He has recently

got divorced from his wife, who is no less anxious than himself to pile up the dollars in a secret Swiss bank-account. So in a time honoured fashion she is writing a book to be published in the West-

quoting from his personal letters to her. However publication is by no means certain, for Mr Solzhenitsyn is frantically requesting his many capitalist friends in the West to have these letters suppressed!

CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY —

Public meeting Friday October 5th 7-30pm Camden Studio

NOBEL PRIZE

It can be confidently predicted that the Yugoslav President Tito will receive the next Nobel Prize for Peace - the first 'Communist' to do so. Tito's nomination is being supported by the USA. What then are the blessings that Tito's 'Peace' policy has brought to the Yugoslav people in the eyes of the USA? Here is a brief list:

- (1) The greatest unemployment in Europe.
- (2) The biggest forced emigration for work.
- (3) The most unbridled exploitation of Yugoslavia's rich natural resources by Western speculators i.e. capitalists.
- (4) The highest rate of inflation.
- (5) The lowest standard of living.
- (6) The biggest foreign debt.
- (7) The lowest standard of literacy etc. etc.

Tito's nomination is also being

supported by the USSR, which is anxious to improve its image with the Yugoslav bourgeoisie in anticipation of the day Tito goes to meet his god. In the meantime, with a view to stirring unrest and national disunity in Yugoslavia, the KGB is fostering a Croatian 'Communist' party among Croatians working in West Germany, at the same time as assisting the Fascist Ustashi guerrilla movement whose aim is to separate Croatia from the rest of Yugoslavia. Thus the USSR hopes that, in the inevitable confusion and national unrest in Yugoslavia following Tito's demise, the Soviet Army will be invited in by one or another of the ruling factions in Yugoslavia to restore 'national order' and save 'socialism'.

PART-TIME EDUCATION

From Glasgow to London, a shortage of secondary school teachers will mean part-time education for some children next academic year. In many areas, a large proportion of teaching vacancies have not been filled. Recent recruits have been quickly absorbed by the demands made in raising the school leaving age. Schools are having to manipulate the range of courses available to their pupils and to make heavier demands on their existing staff. In some areas, such as the shortage that plans have been made to send some children home.

In Essex for example, two comprehensive schools will be sending their younger pupils home, for one day a week. Liverpool is trying to persuade primary teachers to move to secondary schools and so put its youngest children on half-day schooling. Glasgow is still 1,000 teachers short for next term, while in London, some schools have yet to find one-third of their staff.

Mrs Thatcher is unimpressed. She recently announced that the teacher training intake at colleges in September 1974 would be 32,000 as opposed to 36,000 this coming

autumn and 38,000 last year. She plans for 18,000 in 1981.

While secondary schools are poleaxed by the teacher shortage, work on primary schools promised by Thatcher during the 1970 election campaign is grinding to a halt. Such are the restrictions on spending that no tenders for projects are coming within the limit. Cancelled school projects are having to plan for temporary classrooms and again, for part-time schooling.

The working class looked the other way when the hospital workers were fighting for their own existence and that of the health service. The working class at large were again reluctant spectators when the teachers were in battle for the future of London education, though the teachers were not so heroic and did not pursue their demand.

The crisis situation accumulating for September will teach us that those who were meek yesterday only inherit bigger problems today. The working class will have to respond to this attack and teachers, refreshed by their summer holiday, will have to show the way.

THERE IS NO IMPERIALIST REPRESSION WITHOUT ATROCITIES

Reactions to the massacre by Portuguese troops of hundreds of unarmed African men, women and children are like the reactions to the My Lai atrocity committed by US troops in Vietnam. Some apologists for imperialist aggression deny that the massacre took place. Others insist that it is something exceptional.

It is impossible to keep whole peoples in a state of subjection without continuous torture, terror and mass murder. This was as true of the Labour Government's emergency operations in Malaya as of the US's criminal acts in Southeast Asia.

Wilson who is making a bit of personal political capital out of condemning the Caetano visit knows this perfectly well. After all, he supported every act of savagery carried out by the US against the Vietnamese people.

From the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee has come the following statement:

'This July the Tory Government is inviting Portuguese Prime Minister Marcelo Caetano to Britain to celebrate and strengthen

a 600 year old alliance, an 'Alliance of Exploitation', which guarantees £300 million of British investments in Portugal and her colonies, together with diplomatic support in the United Nations, and NATO support for Portugal's 3 colonial wars in Angola, Mozambique and Guine-Bissau.

Massive profits

Every British worker knows what's in it for the British government. Massive profits are made by British-owned companies employing cheap labour in Portugal and her colonies, at the expense of thousands of jobs lost in factories moved out of Britain. It also ensures a cheap supply of forced Portuguese labour to work in Britain's hospitals, hotels and the private homes of the rich.

As trade unionists we must reject all attempts to involve us in the strengthening of their police state in Europe and their three brutal wars of oppression in Africa, and we must unite to fight any attempt to divide and exploit us.'

Less Benefits for Strikers But Bosses Don't Benefit

The Government hoped to starve the working class out of industrial struggle. Yet the drop in benefits has embarrassed the Government rather than brought it joy. This attack has not signalled the ending of class struggle but its moving to a new level: the growing application of the line of guerrilla struggle by workers in the protracted war against Capitalism. Railways, gas workers, Ford workers, civil servants, hospital workers and many others have shown they understand that, in any war of attrition, the workers will always starve first, with or without state benefits. Therefore they fought so as to cost the employers money, not themselves. Instead of all-out strikes the policy of workers is, more and more selective and flexible disruption without unnecessary maximum harm to the employer with least damage to ourselves.

The State's attempt to combat the growing force of working class militancy by cutting back on state benefit to strikers and their families is well underway. Unfortunately for Mr. Heath his callous measures have served only to underline the invincibility of workers carrying out a correct political line.

Only £295,000 has been paid out to strikers, and their families from January to May this year compared to £6,185,000 in the same five months last year. In addition, the benefit paid to workers after a return to work (to tide families over until the first pay packet is received) has been converted into a recoverable loan. Also social security officers have been instructed to be more sparing in the giving of discretionary awards to workers on strike, and finally, whereas previously workers were allowed £4.85 strike pay

before benefit, was cut, they are now only allowed £1.

Struggle against Capitalism at the place of work is the proper reaction of the working class to the constant attempts at reduction of its standard of living. The mean and callous measures of the Government, have been left high and dry. In effective in their real intent, these measures remain as one more indictment of Capitalism's inhumanity.

It was the strength and sacrifice of workers that forced the bourgeoisie to seek the camouflage of the 'welfare state'. But concession to our struggle quickly becomes a new means of control, of upholding bourgeois power, as long as the capitalist class retain control of the state apparatus. Thus for the working class, there can be no halfway houses; we must direct our strategy to the taking of state power.

PARTICIPATION IN EXPLOITATION

In whatever form it appears, the ideology of Social Democracy has a single aim - to contain the aspirations of the working class within the capitalist system; to prevent seriously rocking the boat and endangering the interests of the employers.

Its latest offspring, the TUC interim report 'Industrial Democracy', adds more words to the overloaded debate about 'worker participation in management' and 'asset formation for workers'. It cannot obscure the meaninglessness: the ownership of one or two shares does not make decision-making power. That lies where it always lies, with international monopoly capital. However many workers 'participate' on supervisory boards, the logic remains the same - ownership of the means of production by the few, wage labour by the many, production

to make profit for the employers.

To quote from the horse's mouth, the engineering employers (who have already rejected the TUC proposals) state 'management responsibility must be related to the prosperity of the enterprise as a whole and cannot therefore make special provision for the work-force over and above the needs of the entire business (read 'the needs of the employers'). Worker participation on supervisory boards would not work because of 'the inconsistency between the stated roles of the trade unions (to preserve workers' interests) and the part they would be required to play on supervisory boards (to make decisions which would bring in profit for the employers). Clearly the capitalists understand the real situation better than their apologists.

The general debate, provoked ostensibly by the discussion on the EEC's 5th Directive about supervisory boards in large industries, now before the European Parliament, reflects in fact the critical need from the employer's point of view of doing something about the increasing numbers of days lost through strikes and absenteeism and the reluctance of workers to accept changes in work practices.

The TUC programme, another variation on a theme, is to quote a one-time member of the TUC general council, 'an alternative to revolution'. For true workers control can only be achieved with worker ownership - the seizure of state power by the working class and the social ownership of the means of production enforced through that state.

Bellman Bookshop

155 FORTRESS RD LONDON NW5.

Liverpool:
October Books
99, Mount Pleasant,
Liverpool 3.

Open Weekdays 12 to 6 pm
& Saturdays 9.30 to 6 pm

MON. TUES. 10.30 am - 5 pm
WED. FRI.

THURS. 10.30 am - 6.30 pm Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 2 to 6 pm

Brighton:
Brighton Workers Bookshop
37, Gloucester Road,
Brighton.

Open Weekdays 2 to 6 pm
& Saturday 9 to 6 pm

Bristol:
Main Trend Books
17, Midland Road,
Old Market,
Bristol.

Open Tuesday 9 to 4 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 to 5 pm

Basildon:
Basildon Bookstall
Market Place,
Basildon, Essex.

Open Tuesday 9 to 4 pm, Friday & Saturday 9 to 5 pm



Fighters of the Angolan patriotic armed forces who have launched many successful attacks against the Portuguese colonialist troops.