



NO VICTIMISATION SACK EDWARDES

ON FEBRUARY 7 the AUEW Executive called on its 8000 members at the BL Longbridge plant to answer the refusal of British Leyland to reinstate Derek Robinson by coming out on strike as from February 11. The senior TGWU shop steward was confident that his union, which took strike action at the time of Robinson's dismissal, would support the move; but AUEW officials at Longbridge have postponed the strike pending a meeting of Longbridge engineering shop stewards during the week.

Robinson was dismissed by the Company in November last year for opposing Edwardes' so-called 'recovery plan' which is really a plan for cutting back, dismembering and eventually destroying BL. The Executive Coun-

cil of the AUEW, by sitting around a table with the BL boss and more or less accepting the plan, created difficulties for itself in dealing quickly and decisively with a case of wrongful dismissal and an attack upon the union. Instead, an executive member chaired an inquiry into the Robinson case and came up with the answer that Robinson should not have been dismissed but, on the other hand, he had ignored some union rules and was not a very satisfactory convener. He even suggested that the AUEW would probably accept Robinson's reinstatement shorn of his union office.

The AUEW president made it quite clear that no such compromise was possible. The Union could not accept Robinson's being given his job

back on condition that he ceased being a convener. That was none of the Company's business.

Edwardes has been adamant all along that he was out to get Robinson for opposing his 'recovery plan' and was prepared to provoke strike action to carry out his vindictive purpose. In this he was backed by BL cars dealers who were whooping for a witch hunt of Robinson and said they had large enough stocks of cars anyway.

The engineers at Longbridge have a problem now as a result of delays and confusion; but they have at last a clear directive from their Executive, and they cannot allow BL's wretched little bossman to get away with victimising one of their members or to decide who shall be a convener.

Civil Service unions demand more wages without job loss

THE WAR of nerves has now begun in the civil service, following claims by the major civil service unions for rises this April of 20 per cent and above.

Angered and dismayed by growing union power in Whitehall, special government committees have been set up to work out ways of undermining any industrial action; and the use of troops cannot be ruled out. Hence the propaganda battle which has also started, with willing allies in the media. Civil servants, we are told, receive large pensions, inflation-proofed, for which more must be paid the government, of course, conveniently ignores the fact that civil servants already pay more than 7 per cent from their wages for their pensions.

Government hypocrisy

They say that our jobs are secure (the 40,000 cutback of last year might never have happened;) and so again we must be paid less - the logic of this argument is so obscure that not even the government

appears to understand it.

Then of course we have the most vicious argument of all - the cash limit system. Rises in spending are to be limited to 14 per cent, so that any wage rise above that limit will lead to a loss of jobs. And the trade unions are told that they cannot oppose the cash limit because that is set by parliament and the "democratic processes" would be undermined if there were such opposition.

Soft underbelly

At the moment the unions' executives are responding well. There will be more coordination of any industrial action and the government's arguments are being fought vigorously. The days are long gone when government's could regard civil servants as the "soft underbelly of the Trade Union movement".

In particular the unions seem firmly committed to opposing the 14 per cent cash limit, saying that wage rises must not mean jobs lost, and it seems that upping the cash limit will form part of the

claim.

So too the unions are coming of age politically, refusing to accept that their democratic rights consist solely of putting a cross on a ballot paper every five years - the cash limit set by parliament affects them therefore they fight it. The prime need now is for these various national executives to ensure that the arguments are understood amongst the membership, that their fights for a decent standard of living and for a job are firmly pursued.

ISTC walk out of pay talk

THE BSC's derisory offer at the reconvened negotiations on steel workers' pay has resulted in a flat rejection and walk-out by the general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

The strike which has already lasted for more than 6 weeks shows no sign of ending in spite of ACAS' efforts to salvage something out of the disrupted meeting.

The ISTC general secre-

tary has warned that the pay strike could now merge with action against the BSC's plant closure and redundancy plans. The fact is, the strike has always had the political purpose of defending the steel industry since a BSC pay offer amounting to a savage wage cut was part of the Government's plan for destroying steel from the start.

Picketing will get tougher at the very few private steel

firms still open, like that Sheerness; and it has also been decided to spread picketing to steel customers ICI, Lucas and GKN.

The steel strike is organised resistance through industrial action against the Government attacks on the working class by destroying Britain's industrial base. It must have the support of a workers. Steel is too important for all of us.



Demonstration in favour of Derek Robinson and against the Edwardes Plan in November last year.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Ref)

The Week

RECENT figures confirm the astronomical rise of house prices. In the last quarter of 1979, the average house cost £21,800, an increase of 28 per cent over the previous year. This is the largest increase since the heyday of the property speculators back in 1972-73. In 1978, the building societies loaned money on 802,000 houses. In 1979 this fell to 712,000 houses. Interest rates pressed by the Thatcher government last year account for this drop. This is particularly seen by building society loans which covered, on average, 65 per cent of the purchase price in 1978, while for the last three months of 1979 this was down to 56 per cent.

QUITE APART from getting a loan, you have to find a house. In 1979, fewer house foundations were laid than any year since 1951. Public expenditure cuts have made themselves felt in housing construction in the public sector, where starts last year were down by 27 per cent on 1978.

AMERICAN women, in the name of equality, look like being impressed into the armed forces along with male counterparts in the 18-26 age bracket. Says Carter, "... there is no distinction possible, on the basis of ability or performance, that would allow me to exclude women from an obligation to register." That Presidential imposition of a dutious 'right' will test the political maturity of women.

RECENT COURTROOM testimony from former Ford executive Harley Copp, if true, is a real eye-opener to management thinking. He claimed that Ford dropped plans to make its 1973 Pinto model less likely to explode after rear end collisions. He was testifying at a trial in which it is claimed that the Pinto effectively caused the deaths of three teenage girls. Plans to improve the car were dropped, claimed Copp, when Ford estimated the improvement would cost £2.80 per car, which would affect profits.

FOR SOME time Londoners have been complaining about the falling standards of public transport in the capital city. Every day brings radio announcements of tube cancellations, signal failures, escalators and lifts not working. So understaffed is London Transport that it takes only a few drivers or guards to be ill (not unusual in winter after all) to cause scores of cancellations. At last the London Transport Executive has decided to act. In order to improve weekday bus services, says LTE, they propose to cut weekend services by a third. No doubt in future to improve weekend services they'll cut weekday services by half.

Historic Notes

THE KOREAN war has always been presented in British history books as the result of a vast conspiracy masterminded by Stalin in order to probe the Western defences in Asia. Yet this widely accepted belief is hardly compatible with several incontrovertible facts.

At this time the USSR was boycotting the proceedings of the UN Security Council in protest at the exclusion of the recently victorious Communist government from China's seat in the UN, so it was hardly in a position to exercise its veto to combat the inbuilt pro-US majority in the General Assembly. The North Korean armed forces had not been adequately mobilised to mount a full scale invasion (only 6 out of the 13 divisions were initially involved), and they could hardly have been expecting the complete collapse of the South Korean puppet army.

The United States reaction to the success of the North Korean armed forces, advancing in conjunction with widespread guerrilla activity in the South, was an unprecedented manipulation of the United Nations to provide a 'respectable' cover for US aggression. The UN Commission in Korea were expected to call for a cease-fire and mediation between the two Korean governments, so it was imperative for the United States to present the UN with a fait accompli.

President Truman had already ordered US occupation forces in Japan to give Syngman Rhee's ragged troops cover and support before the Security Council were persuaded to adopt a US resolution condemning the North Korean armed attack on the Republic of Korea. It was Britain's representative at the UN who pandered to the US designs in proposing a unified command for UN armed involvement in Korea under a US commander, quickly despatching part of the Hong Kong garrison to Korea. 'The peace-loving' United Nations had now declared war upon the Korean people for having the cheek to attempt the independent unification of their nation.

The first taste of the barbarity of the Imperialist forces came after the amphibious landings at Inchon and the advance to capture Seoul. UN commander MacArthur had boasted that he would take Seoul in 5 days, yet it took two weeks of intense aerial and artillery

bombardment to achieve his goal. The ramshackle wooden dwellings of the ordinary people became a prime target. Thousands of civilians were trapped and burnt to death or horribly maimed in the inferno. Whole districts were devastated and panic-stricken refugees were cut down. The greatest triumph of MacArthur's military career was to capture a capital city that he had reduced to rubble.

The hypocrisy and arrogance of the United States now became blatant. President Truman had

Again it was a British resolution to the UN that sanctioned the invasion of the North, but perhaps the best comment came from the US Secretary of the Navy: "It would earn for us a proud and popular title - we would become the first aggressors for peace."

Diplomatic warnings from Chou En-lai that the Chinese people would not "supinely tolerate their neighbours being savagely invaded by imperialists" were blithely dismissed as just propaganda in the euphoria that

abandon the aim of unifying Korea under imperialist control.

The UN retreat from North Korea had been a 'scorched earth' policy that left few material resources of any value, and what remained was subject to 'strategic bombing' as the US met the Communist superiority in morale (with 'meatgrinder' attacks aiming to massacre as many of the defiant Koreans and Chinese as possible). The inhumane nature of the imperialists was best revealed in their choice of names for their offensives - 'Operation Killer' and



The Korean people have never given up the struggle for unification and independence. Our picture shows demonstrating students coming under a tear gas attack from armed police in the streets of Seoul, South Korea, on December 31, 1974. The students, from Korea University, formed a centre of opposition to the dictatorial rule of the late unlamented President Park Jung Hi.
Photo: Hsuinhua News Agency

claimed that 'we do not want the fighting in Korea to expand into a general war', yet forces also from Britain and other countries had taken part in the Inchon invasion. The US had claimed to be fighting "solely for the purpose of restoring the Republic of Korea to its status prior to the invasion from the North", but once the 38th Parallel had been retaken by UN forces, the United States declared that "the artificial barrier which has divided North and South Korea has no basis for existence in law or in reason" (conveniently ignoring the fact that if this were true then the UN could hardly condemn the North Koreans as 'aggressors' for crossing a line that divided their own country).

surrounded MacArthur's 'Home for Christmas' offensive to occupy completely all of Korea. This boast was perhaps to prove more true than was intended, as once the UN legions came up against the Chinese forces that had rushed to the assistance of their Korean comrades, it resulted in such a headlong retreat that it left the UN troops back below the 38th Parallel in time to celebrate the festive season.

MacArthur's arrogant statement that there was 'no substitute for victory' was to rebound against him. Desperate threats to use nuclear weapons and invade China were to prove too much for the allies of the US, which under pressure from their own populations, were forced to

'Operation Ripper' whose success depended upon the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons so familiar later in Vietnam.

Although cease-fire talks began in 1951 and an armistice was signed two years later, Korea remains divided as the United States has persistently opposed any moves towards unity. After a wave of popular unrest Syngman Rhee was replaced in 1960 by the late unlamented President Park, who, despite the imposition of a ruthless dictatorship, failed to prevent the recent upsurge of the Korean people demanding democracy and unity. Korea will be reunited: no people will tolerate forever the artificial division of their nation imposed by outside forces.

Zimbabwe elections jeopardised by Soames

"EVERY single person in Rhodesia of whatever party is complaining of the action of the Governor..." So pronounced Carrington this week in the House of Lords following the United Nations Security Council's criticisms of Britain.

The statement was made with some pride — the British ruling class can still show itself to be a past master of the art of divide and rule, as Soames' rule in Rhodesia demonstrates.

Within weeks of his arrival in Salisbury, Soames has assumed dictatorial powers. Under the pretext of eliminating intimidation, he has announced that he will, if he chooses, restrict public meetings by political parties, suspend people from camp-

aigning, and even disqualify a party from contesting this month's general election if "violence or coercion" is taking place.

Meanwhile Smith has joined the British in deserting Muzorewa, who now seems a poor gambler, and openly

3000 are South African troops, together with another 3000 South African volunteers.

There is a South African artillery battery situated facing the Zambian border, and there are South African patrols operating along the border with Mozambique; in the

is clearly illustrated by their reaction to requests from Zambia for the resolution of a 15-year-old dispute which has cost Zambia hundreds of millions of pounds, and gave Rhodesia some of the cheapest electricity in the world. The two countries' joint electricity grid is physically controlled from within Rhodesia, and while Zambia supplies most of the power, Rhodesia uses most of it. Until 1977, however, not a penny was paid to the Zambians.

When Soames was approached about this by the Zambians, he refused to meet them, and the matter has finally been referred to the World Bank.

So called British 'neutrality' is committed to support - ing 15 years of theft perpetrated by the Smith regime.

'Within weeks of his arrival in Salisbury, Soames has assumed dictatorial powers...Smith has joined the British in deserting Muzorewa...3000 South African troops...'

encourages support for Nkomo rather than Mugabe.

As long as the British remain in Rhodesia, repression and violence will continue. Soames is openly using the Rhodesian security forces and auxiliaries, of whom at least

south, South African units are based at Buffalo Range. Next week army and police reservists will be mobilised, bringing the number of troops and police to at least 60,000.

The 'neutral' path pursued by the British administration

Editorial

It is in the interest of workers to understand the class character of capitalist society. As the exploited class we have to know who our enemy is; and know, too, all who belong to the force which can be mobilised for the overthrow of that enemy.

A ruling capitalist class has every interest in smudging or concealing class lines. As a minority governing force they realise that class political consciousness on the part of the immense majority is a threat to their continued rule.

Various means of confounding class consciousness have been tried, often taking the form of some kind of chauvinism: "we are all British together" or "we are all white together" or even "we are all men together". Anything to avoid the politically effective statement: "we are all workers together", which is bound to be succeeded by the realisation that we are allowing ourselves to be exploited by a tiny group of capitalists.

Thatcher has come up with a new form of the attempt to rub out class lines: "we are all taxpayers together". Taxpayers are supposed to be the whole population of the country, with the same basic interests, who are being exploited by selfish sections of workers using their all-powerful unions to hold the community to ransom.

Of the strike of the steel men to gain a decent wage and keep their industry from being destroyed, Thatcher says that the steel workers have been provided by taxpayers with the best equipment money can buy, but instead of using it for the general advantage they have gone on strike "to demand even more from the taxpayer."

Who is this taxpayer whom Thatcher is defending from wicked workers? Thatcher put forward as her Government's aim the freeing of the economy for expansion by lifting the burden on taxpayers. Her tax concessions helped people like Sir Charles Villiers who found themselves some thousands of pounds better off. They didn't help the great bulk of us because the trifling concessions were more than wiped out immediately by the Government-engineered inflation. She obviously doesn't think we are taxpayers.

In fact, directors of companies and the like don't pay taxes as we do. They take their pay in the form of expensive cars, town flats and all the perks made available to them and hire ex-employees of the Inland Revenue to help them avoid paying taxes on their salaries or on their investments. Tax fraud is one of the few growth industries in the country.

The only certain taxpayers are those who are taxed at source by deductions from wages over which they have no say - in other words, taxpayers are workers, us. By using the word "taxpayers" as though it represented the whole people of Britain, Thatcher can pretend that she is acting in the general interest; but once we give that word its actual meaning we see that what she is saying is that steel workers' wages are being kept low, workers in their millions are being made redundant and the unions that protect workers are going to be weakened in whose interest? - the workers!

Thatcher government hates people

SPARE A THOUGHT for the poor people having to organise Thatcher's parliamentary agenda these days. So much to do! Budget day has been brought forward by three weeks to March 25 - waiting till after the Easter recess would have meant lost revenue from increased taxes and the projected cuts of £1,000m in domestic spending.

The bad news for Tories is that Corrie's Abortion "Amendment" Bill might fall through lack of parliamentary time. The good news for Tories is that this means that the Social Security Bill, which drops the earnings link for pension increases will be able to be brought forward, and the Education Bill, which drops the legal obligation to provide nursery education, will be completed by the end of the week.

"It is not our intention to reduce spending on the Health Service" read the Conservative Election Manifesto. About £100m has already been cut, and there will be more in March. Britain, of course, already spends less per capita and as a percentage of Gross National Product on health than any other country in the EEC. But who cares? "I am asking myself questions on prescription charges", Biffen, Chief Secretary of the Treasury says, "are they high enough? Are the expemptions too liberal? Should there be charges for accommodation in hospitals?"

The Employment Bill attacks those who have organised to defend themselves - the trade unionists. Britain's unfair dismissal provisions are already the most backward in Europe, but the Bill carries this further by removing the employer's responsibility to prove that he acted "reasonably".

The Tory manifesto promises to restore incentives so that hard work pays. "A fine thing for the 13,300 of the 17,800 boys and girls who left school in Scotland this year and are still looking for a job.

And what of those who are already the victims of the attack on British industry? The Tories are trying to reduce unemployment benefit - as if that was going to create jobs. The official figure for poverty in Britain, of people living at or below the level of Supplementary benefits, is 5 million. More impartial estimates are nearer 14 million. Nevertheless the value of pensions, child benefits as well as unemployment benefits is also set to be cut by the government.

The brunt of March's new cuts however, will be in housing where there will be 'substantial' increases in council rents and cuts in other housing subsidies. The new Housing Bill, besides effectively ending council house building with all that means, abolishes restrictions on private sector rents.

What was it that Thatcher said about "freedom of choice"? We can choose to spend our money on increased rent now, or if we happen to be ill we can spend it on prescription charges or dental charges. Then we can choose to spend it on the increased gas and electricity prices and on the extra £150m on our food bill - the latest present from the EEC "inflation-at-a-stroke" Common Agricultural Policy.

Fight spreads to save publishing jobs

STRIKING members of the National Union of Journalists at Penguin Books are gearing up for a key struggle to defend their jobs. In an attempt to achieve spending cuts of £1.8 million, Penguin management have announced their intention to shed 90 jobs, resulting in a loss of 23 per cent of the jobs in the NUJ area of the company. (This covers workers involved in all aspects of the preparation of books for printing.)

Vicious Redundancy Plans

Eleven redundancies have already been issued. Management have announced their intention not to fill 11 other jobs, and are requesting further 'volunteers' for the axe. However, the attack on workers at Penguin goes even deeper than the immediate loss of jobs, because management are simultaneously seeking to abrogate the established agreement with the NUJ on staffing levels and job descriptions - wanting complete flexibility for the future - i.e. the freedom to do exactly what they want. Further than this, the way in which the redundancies were announced is a direct and blatant attack on the unions at Penguin, totally bypassing the current agreement on detailed consultation on any change in staffing levels well before any redundancies are declared, let alone notices served to individual workers. The emphasis in all consultations is intended to be job saving - clearly the reason why management have thrown all pretence to the wind, and simply wielded the axe.

The NUJ reacted quickly. It immediately blacked all work on titles which would normally be handled by someone whose job has not been filled. In this way they received the support of some authors whose own books have fallen victim. The NUJ have now escalated their action and are now on strike. Their demand is simple. Withdraw the redundancy notices and begin discussions in the spirit of the agreement.

The events at Penguin take place against a background of contraction throughout the publishing industry: public spending cuts, the slashing of educational budgets in particular and the general economic destruction of Britain. Already large publishers such as Collins, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, Marshall Cavendish and Oxford University Press (OUP), to say nothing of smaller companies such as Paddington Press, are throwing workers out. Other firms are trying to achieve similar results by more insidious means - 'non-replacement' and 'voluntary redundancy'. Throughout the industry workers are preparing to offer those at Penguin their support, while at the same time (being encouraged by the stand taken there) are preparing for their own battle on the home front.

Oxford University Press have announced the closure of their Neasden depot which involves loss of 350 jobs belonging to members of SOGAT, ASTMS and the NGA. The OUP wishes to open a new warehouse in Corby and transfer the clerical and computer facilities to Oxford. Sale of the Neasden site is expected to raise a large sum and enable the management to shed labour as well as to introduce working practices more to their liking. The satellite warehouse recently opened at Park Royal is also to be closed.

THE VOTE this month on John Corrie's Bill to amend the Abortion Act of 1967 is not just the culmination of yet another attack on the rights of women, but it is also an attack on the organisation and strength of all people in Britain. In recent years, massive sections of the Trade Union movement have fought consistently, through their conferences and elsewhere in defence of abortion facilities. The TUC rallies and marches in opposition to Corrie have had widespread support from all sections of workers. Doctors from the BMA speaking at the TUC rally at Central Hall Westminster on February 5th spoke of the enormous dangers if the Corrie amendment were passed. Not least of the numbers of deaths from illegal abortions. Before 1967 between 30 and 50 women died each year as a result of septic abortions and other complications, where as now death as a result of abortion has virtually been wiped out and 'back street' abortion eliminated. It was said that the amendment was masquerading as an enlightened measure. It must be seen for what it is.



Clearly medical workers have taken a strong position. They recognise that the NHS must improve facilities and that certain areas have better provision than others. In Newcastle for instance 95 per cent of women having terminations of pregnancy do so within the NHS whereas in other areas the proportion is as low as 13 per cent. If the NHS is not persuaded to improve its facilities and the number of abortions through charity hospitals is cut, then the danger to life through reaffirms its belief that it is a practical and humane piece of legislation."

But the attacks implicit in the Corrie amendment have other facets. Not only do they threaten the responsibility of women to control their lives and put them in physical danger, but the Bill also increases governmental control, through attempting to legislate and control the clinical judgement of doctors, who must make judgements and recommendations in the best interest of any individual patient.

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UNITE ALL AGAINST THATCHER GET HER BEFORE SHE GETS US

AT A recent public meeting entitled "Unite all against Thatcher: Get her before she gets us" held at the Bellman Bookshop, Reg Birch, the Chairman of the CPBML pointed out the urgency and significance of the title for the future of the working class in Britain.

It was necessary in the present situation to know why we say "Thatcher Out"; we must understand the political situation fully. The Chairman described the Thatcher person as pedestrian, worse than a camel floundering in the mud and she transcended all in idiocy. She is as hysterical as Hitler and a failed statesman who is now reduced to rushing around the world like a nagging fishwife. In essence such a suburban - an offence to any worker.

Things either change for the good or go worse rapidly. For us in Britain, since this government has come to power the latter is evident. Just a few examples such as income tax "reductions"; failed discussions on EEC contribution; increased salaries for the police, army and MPs; increased military spending; VAT up to 15 per cent and recently the decision to place missiles in East

Anglia.

We must look beyond Thatcher as capitalism has made an error putting her there. But also the working class made an error having got rid of Heath and Callaghan by not ending bourgeois parliamentarism.

The chairman mentioned the dignity of struggle. As workers we must say "Out with Thatcher - let us have some dignity". If we argue against this we are arguing like Kautsky, it is an excuse for lack of courage. We are avoiding revolution.

By saying "Thatcher Out" we are not saying we tolerate parliamentary democracy or bourgeois democracy. We are replying to the decadence of bourgeois democracy. Thatcher represents an abysmal low in capitalism itself.

Are we not ever to be angry? and to argue personally? why mustn't we spit on Thatcher and show her fascist quality? We do not worry about what comes after. Debating is a privilege. If the class are angry enough we should be there with them to chuck her out. The class will move beyond parliamentarism if they strike a blow against Thatcher. The first

thing is to get her out! You cannot demand power. It is the choice of people - they know the next step. Let us destroy Thatcher before she destroys us.

In his summing up Reg Birch spoke of the symptom of the acute distress of capitalism, i.e. world war. If we allow a thing like this to be floated in hysteria it develops a momentum of its own - it becomes irreversible. This serves as a distraction from internal affairs. We must apply Marxism. The voice of capitalism can no longer make sense. In decline it is unable to control the force of events. We must come to grips with our own. The CPBML is the leadership of the working class and belongs to it. The mass is against Thatcher, but neither the Labour Party nor the Trade Union movement declare "Out with Thatcher". The sanction is that of the working class if the TUC General Council, the NUM and AUEW do not come out against Thatcher. There was no hesitation on Heath or Callaghan, why hesitate with Thatcher?

The British working class is suffering an inquisition, we must raise our voice against it. It is US or THEM.

Government Refuses to Provide the Cash for more Heart Transplants

AFTER A WEEK when we have seen the miraculous results of modern surgery as two more heart transplant patients are well on the way to complete recovery after suffering the crippling effects of heart disease, we are now told that the Health Service cannot afford any more transplants.

The advance in British techniques in heart transplant surgery has already been much delayed because of restricted funds. Now that a small group of dedicated and skilled surgeons have developed the skills necessary for the operation to be carried out with success, their hopes are dashed by the Area Health Authorities involved, which say they don't have enough cash: any future transplants will have to be funded by charity.

At the same time the DHSS has just issued guidelines on the transplant of human organs - a document which they clearly hope will not be used, since they are hell bent on preventing any transplant surgery taking place. The operations at Papworth Hospital are already funded by the National Heart Research Fund, and the Hillingdon Hospital surgeons are resorting to the same source for funds.

What a damning indictment of the depths to which this Government has sunk. Even the most reactionary regimes have usually shown some national pride in the scientific or medical advances made in their country. But for Jenkin and the DHSS there is one criterion only - no more Government money will be spent on health.

Oxford Health Authority Threatens More Cuts in Service and Staff

THE OXFORD Area Health Authority (Teaching) is rapping itself on the knuckles once again for what it terms "overspending against budgets". This will exceed two million pounds by the end of March unless more radical cuts are made.

Elaborate papers are produced on ways to 'save' money. The latest paper which calls itself "progress report from the cost reduction group" just illustrates their total ideological acceptance of the job they are doing, which is aiding and abetting the destruction of the NHS, which has always been underfunded.

Intricate analysis and statistics are applied as if a great deal of care and thought is needed to make the process of destruction as humane as possible. There is nothing complicated or humane

about the ideology of this government and its strategy to destroy health care in Britain.

The OAHA (T)'s latest effort to divide and rule in an attempt to make us swallow the government's medicine is to try and make us believe that some staff groups are less directly involved in patient care than others and therefore more dispensable. The target group for the latest round of staffing reductions are medical records staff, porters, medical laboratory scientific officers and medical physics technicians.

Health workers work as an integrated team, all their skills are needed, and this understanding translated into our work in our trade unions will lead to the unity needed to fight our destruction.



On January 28 Cardiff workers held a mass demonstration for the steelworkers and against job losses in Wales. Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

Yorkshire Campaigns Against Cuts

NORTH YORKSHIRE is faced with massive cuts in public spending unless the Labour Movement and the local population mobilise to fight against them.

This was the conclusion of a meeting called by York Trades Council when more than 100 people gathered in the fine surroundings of the York Guildhall to hear successive speakers detail the extent of the cuts which will total £4.2m in the next financial year.

In Education the meeting was told how in one school individual experiments had been ended in science and of the totally inadequate provis-

ion of text books. Proposed staffing cuts in the school meals service from the present 89,000 to 11,000 with the resulting redundancies in staff alongside the rocketing charges for meals brought cries of indignation from those present.

In Housing a spokesman from Shelter pointed out that only 26 council houses had been started in 1979 in York and with the waiting list well in excess of 6 months real hardship was being caused.

A speaker recalled how an official of the local bus company had said that the buses would literally fall apart on the roads if there was no new

investment. Cultural facilities are being axed. All swimming pools will be closed in the morning during the week and the Rowntrees baths are to be closed altogether.

The Trades Council have formulated a plan of action for the coming months. It was unanimously agreed to fight the cuts in whatever way possible.

With York not normally at the forefront of struggle, the meeting provided a strong indication of the very real anger felt by local people against these Draconian measures, an anger that is reflected throughout the whole of Britain.

Bookshops

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

The Worker

Subscriptions:
155 Fortess Road, London NW5

NAME
 ADDRESS 6 months £3.75 (incl. postage)
 1 year £7.50 (incl. postage)

Public Meetings

LONDON MEETINGS

To be held on the following Fridays at 7.30 pm at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5.

Friday, February 15th Hitler, Thatcher: guns, not butter.
 Friday, March 14th The economics of destruction.
 Friday, March 28th The future betrayed? Our children's inheritance is not for sale.

To be held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1
 Friday, February 29th Our trade unions or their law?