

THE WORKER



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FIVE IN-THOUSANDS OUT WORKERS DEFY THE STATE

The dockers' defiance, backed by their fellow workers, massively challenges the Government's corporate state legislation on Industrial Relations

IN CONTEMPT OF DICTATORSHIP

FIVE workers are in Pentonville Prison, charged with contempt of court. Their contempt is for this whole rotten system of corruption in high places, get-rich-quick property speculators and increasing exploitation of workers who produce the nation's wealth.

They fight for the right to work. Workers by their action are making new laws — against the dictatorship of employers, for a society of workers.

Five dockers are in jail. The working class will not be divided. Does the Government propose to jail all workers? All workers show solidarity now.

Join the dockers in action. Demand their immediate release. No Tolpuddle here! Down with the 1972 Combination Act.

No more delays. No more conversations at Downing Street.

We are the unions. Let's show it. Face your employer and demand that he too denounce the Government's vicious act publicly.

Engineers, transport workers, miners. All join in this struggle. Our brothers are in prison because they fight for justice for us all.

Force their release immediately through your solidarity!

THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS AND ITS PARTY

THERE is a new spirit in the working class of Britain today. The miners by their aggressive militancy forced the state to accede to their demands; the railmen against whom the full rigours of the Industrial Relations Act were first used turned the secret ballot intended to break their solidarity into a huge vote for action; the dockers defied the National Industrial Relations Court and presented the Government with the alternative of backing down or precipitating a nationwide dock strike; and the engineers have launched a guerrilla war from their factory bases which has enabled them to single out and knock off employers piecemeal.

Massive unemployment which was supposed to damp down militancy with the old threat that "a dozen men were waiting at the factory gate to take the job of anyone who got out of line" far from reducing the level of struggle has simply added a new issue on which to fight — the right to work. In answer to the threat of redundancy and closure the tactic of "occupation" was developed and is now being used as another weapon in the daily battle for higher wages and better conditions.

WHENCE THIS NEW SPIRIT?

What is behind this new spirit? Is it the parlous state of British capitalism which is having to crawl into the Common Market as a possible refuge from its continuous buffeting? Is it a new generation of young workers contemptuous of reformist measures and seeking a more radical expression of their class feelings?

We believe the real reason lies in the fact that the workers of Britain are not isolated from the world proletarian movement in which revolution is the main trend. Our working class is aware of the world we live in. When the first workers' state, the Soviet Union, which workers in Britain had defended against British imperialist intervention, was betrayed by revisionism, there began a great polemic waged by the Chinese Communist Party on behalf of the working class ideology of Marxism-Leninism which has deepened the class understanding of workers everywhere. The Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China was a dramatic demonstration of how workers' state power could be defended and consolidated once it had been won in revolutionary struggle. It was at this period

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Dockers joined by thousands of supporters march from Tower Hill to Pentonville Prison.

DOCKERS' pickets, with the growing support are laying siege to Pentonville Prison — Britain's Bastille. They are battering at the legislative wall the Government has raised with its Industrial Relations Act to contain working class militancy.

The Government hoped that this time, when their judicial agent presiding over the National Industrial Relations Court arraigned the dockers' stewards, disunity among workers in the docks would prevent the massive response which made them back down before. They guessed wrong. The moment the five dock stewards were locked up the lorry men packed up their protest over which workers were to handle containers and stood solidly with their brother workers in prison.

As for Jones-Aldington no dockers are going to look at any proposals while five of their mates are in prison. Their call to other workers on behalf of the stewards is simple and direct: "Five trade unionists are inside. Why aren't you out?"

As soon as it was announced that the dockers' stewards were to be arrested and committed for contempt of court, dockers all over the country came out in support. Now the whole dock force of 40,000 men is out and every

port is at a standstill. More and more workers are joining the dockers in this struggle. Covent Garden and Smithfield porters are out as are the trawler porters in Hull. Already 2,000 miners are out and the miners' leaders will be calling for a national stoppage.

Fleet Street will stay closed down till the men are released. London Transport's Acton works stopped work on Wednesday July 26, and the London busmen came out. The aircraft and motor industries are being hit as well — to say nothing of individual factories where the workers have decided to down tools and join the dockers in action.

Typical of reactions of workers all over the country was the notice on the arrest of the dockers' leaders sent to all convenors by the London North District of the AUEW: "This is a direct challenge to the Trade Union movement. A challenge to our right to engage in normal trade union activities and exercise democratic rights won over more than 150 years of struggle. Our Union have been in the forefront in the campaign against the vicious Industrial Relations Act. We now need to carry this forward into mass activity throughout the industry."

The largest Trade

Union in France representing 90% of French dockers has declared its support for the dockers in Britain and at Le Havre British ships have been blacked.

This Government has set a hornet's nest buzzing about its ears. But Labour Party representatives trying to cash in on their discomfiture have fared no better. As a shop steward from the Royal group of docks told us: "Some people are rushing about calling for a general strike but we don't want action which will only bring back a Labour Government. The working class has no choice but to fight and win on its own. Last night three Labour M.P.s turned up to join the picket. We told them to piss off and go and picket Westminster." Already the Govern-

ment is seeking the same way out as before through a move on the part of legal functionaries to have the men released without the Government's appearing to have intervened. If the Government does manage to squirm out of this crisis, it will be a great victory for working class solidarity.

THE whole Amalgamation of Engineering Workers, foundrymen, construction engineers, technicians has told all members to cease work on Monday July 31st, for 24 hours. This decision is to be conveyed to the General Council of TUC. Whether or not the TUC takes action the Engineers will go ahead till there is a release of the stewards in prison and they will take other steps to this end if necessary.

IRELAND: NO END TO CONFLICT

IN Ireland these days no British soldier can feel safe walking the streets, nor even lying crouched and sheltering in his sandbagged post. The Army occupies the Divis Street flats and Lenadoon Avenue, and attempts to shut up the people of Belfast within barbed wire fences. All this upsurge of conflict comes

as no surprise. As we have said time and again in THE WORKER, there can be no peace declared in an imperialist occupied country, no truce between the oppressors and the oppressed, just as in Britain there is constant war on the shop floor, between workers and their employers.

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WORKERS' PARTY

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that the need of British workers for their own Marxist-Leninist party was answered by the formation, mainly by industrial workers, of the CPB (ML).

The world shared by British workers with their workmates elsewhere is one in which the workers of China and Albania have taken control of every aspect of national life, administrative and cultural as well as industrial, and are building prosperous socialist societies from which all forms of exploitation have been eliminated. A world in which a small country like Vietnam with the working class in the leadership has humbled the mightiest imperialist power.

SPONTANEOUS CLASS STRUGGLE

The spontaneous upsurge of class struggle in Britain is part of the world struggle between capitalism, the ideology of the bourgeoisie, and socialism, the ideology of the working class. This spontaneous militancy is a political act on the part of British workers. It has already caused consternation in the ruling capitalist class which seeks frantically for ways to contain it — devising new anti-working class legislation, setting up phoney forms of mitigating the conflict like the TUC-CBI conciliation machinery, trying desperately to split the unity of the working class by attempts to divide workers according to the level of their wages, their sex, their race, nationality or religion, even whether they have jobs or not. They know only the law of divide and rule — just as workers know that their strength is their unity.

The ruling class in Britain has not yet lost its capacity to rule but it is already being driven by its weakness to rule in a different way. Bourgeois democracy with the threat of force nicely in the background, is being abandoned for the naked coercion of the corporate state. The call for "law and order," for a tougher line with organised workers, for the adoption by the armed services of the "low intensity operations" developed in Northern Ireland for use against "subversives" here at home are all demands for the open dictatorship of the bourgeoisie with no holds barred.

THE WORKING CLASS IN DANGER

This situation is full of promise for the working class but it is also fraught with danger. The spontaneous struggle of workers which has evoked this repressive response is magnificent but it is not enough to meet the threat of fascism. The tactics of the moment which have scored victories on the industrial front are not enough for the protracted war which must be fought to a finish. The working class needs its own strategy of revolution and its own political party to co-ordinate that strategy — with the courage and foresight to say when it is necessary to draw back and when to go forward again stronger and more united than ever.

REVOLUTION AND A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

This strategy already exists: it does not have to be invented. Marxism-Leninism derives directly from the working class and is based on the experience of workers who have successfully overthrown the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and established the dictatorship of the proletariat. No other theory has ever succeeded in guiding a working class revolution. It is for us to enrich this theory further by applying it in action to the concrete situation in Britain today.

The workers' own party already exists — the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). It is for militant workers in all areas of conflict to claim it as their own and help it grow to its full revolutionary stature. We do not go to workers expecting them to be Marxist-Leninists. We expect them to have integrity as workers. It is our task to help them become Marxist-Leninists and we shall become better Marxist-Leninists in the process.

Do you understand that spontaneous class struggle is not enough? That the tactics of the moment are not enough? Do you understand that workers to gain final victory over their class enemy must have a revolutionary party? Then you must belong to the CPB (ML) because you have to lead in the war of our class to smash the system that exploits us.

PRINT WORKERS IN SOLIDARITY

A march of print workers, making their way along Fleet Street on July 22 in support of the work-in at Bryant Colour Printers was approached by dockers to gain support for action in sympathy with their jailed brothers. To the slogans in support of the Bryant Colour workers were added those calling for the release

of the dockers and decisive action by Fleet Street to smash the Act that has put them in jail and to smash the system that has created the law.

The rally terminated early and moved off to Pentonville where it swelled the already large pickets of dockers.

PAPERS STOPPED
FOCs and print workers



Pentonville prison becomes 'no-go' area.

ENGINEERS' GUERRILLA STRUGGLE

MOLINS OCCUPATION

TRIBUTE FROM THE ENEMY

IN an editorial the Scotsman of June 29th plauds with engineering workers who have carried their guerrilla struggle into the Scott Lithgow yards and other firms in the West of Scotland "not to intimidate managements into conceding their wage claim. If they do, it will mean that the men's Union (AUEW) has found an unbeatable method of pursuing a totally unjustified demand, and there will be dire effects not just on the companies involved, but on the whole engineering industry and indeed on the national economy."

The editorial goes on to give a clear description from the class enemy's point of view of just how the engineers' guerrilla tactics work.

"When negotiating national agreements, the employers can present a strong, united front to the unions. When the claims are pursued locally, the employers can be picked off piecemeal. The whole strength of the unions can be brought to bear on one concern, while the union itself does not have the trouble and expense of a national dispute. The engineers have started by picking on firms where the management is weak or vulnerable or where the men are particularly militant."

When the factory-based struggle began, the national press, the Financial Times, the Times, and Telegraph covered the various strikes and occupations while editorialising about what a flop the guerrilla struggle was proving and how the engineers would be forced back to the conference table begging for a national settlement.

As it became obvious that the engineers' grass roots war was catching on and spreading all over the country, these papers stopped printing anything about the firms under attack. They were determined not to help fan the flames by telling how workers in this factory or that had taken on their bosses and forced separate settlements on them.

Providing information about this guerrilla struggle is a service THE WORKER can do for the working class, so that we can all learn from each other's experience of class conflict. In each issue we shall give a round-up of the latest position in this nationwide war of movement the engineers have initiated against the employers.

MANCHESTER

A second wave of industrial action is about to hit the Manchester engineering employers.

The first wave which involved dozens of factories, with over thirty being occupied by the workers has forced over a 100 employers to make separate settlements, thus breaking the front of the engineering employers' federation. As the AUEW Divisional Organiser, John Tocher, said —

"There will certainly be a second wave of action. Shop Stewards who have so far done nothing to press local claims will now be under mounting pressure from their shop floor members."

Two of the most recent settlements have been C.H. Johnson at Wythenshaw, Manchester, where 30 maintenance workers have been in occupation for 11 weeks, now accepting an offer of increases of £4 a week with a further £1.50 next January plus a 3½% hour week. The other is at Fletcher

Brothers, where 25 workers have been on strike for six weeks, and have now accepted rises of between £2.83 and £4.70.

LONDON

At the Hammersmith Borough Council's vehicle repair department at the Hythe Road and Munster Road Depots, 30 repair workers have struck. They walked out on Monday 3rd July, after they could obtain no satisfaction from the employer on the questions of bonus, sick pay, and holidays. The strike was endorsed by the AUEW London North District Committee.

C.A.V.

110 engineering workers at the C.A.V. Engineering Laboratory, Acton, have from the 28th June staged a sit-in in support of their claim. The employers have gone back on the 1970 agreement to give equal pay increases to all skilled men, and have refused to pay the full increase to men on the lower grades.

Late news: The workers at C.A.V. have won their full demands.

TIF Sit-in and occupation continues by the workers at the 3 factories, Deptford South London, Kingston Surrey and Saunderton High Wycombe, which commenced on the 27th June, 1972, in the struggle to win their claim for improved wages and conditions.

The workers are operating a round the clock sit-in which is ensuring that all machinery is idle in the production sections of the factory; that it is properly maintained but that nothing moves in or out of the factory.

There has not been a total strike at this firm on wages for over 21 years until this dispute, the Stewards having been generally able to use their bargaining power and strength of organisation to negotiate reasonable rates and conditions.

To counter the militancy of the workers, the Company tried to set pre-conditions before the re-opening of the negotiations, including that there should be a resumption of work. Such conditions were firmly rejected by the Union and Shop Stewards. Since then several meetings have taken place with the Union Officials and Strike Committees of the 3 factories.

The Company, which claims it wants to resolve the dispute, put forward a revised wages offer which was completely unrealistic. It failed to take into account the mood of the workers involved in the struggle, who see speculators being free to do as they please by making money in dealing in money,

BRITISH SURGICAL TRADES ASSOCIATION

On the 26th June the 250 engineering workers employed by the British Surgical Trades Association struck in pursuit of the national claim for a 15% increase in wages, an additional weeks holiday, and a 35 hour week. The employers offered an 11% increase only, without any reduction in hours or increased holiday. This offer was unanimously rejected at a mass meeting and the workers decided to strike.

LIVERPOOL

Wintgrove and Rogers have settled after a three-months occupation by workers. Workers at Manesty Machines are

who see the salaries of the bosses of State industries earning £22,000 to £25,000 a year being paid £50 a week increase and given enormous income tax concessions. Yet when workers seek adequate wage increases to protect themselves and families, they are attacked for damaging the capitalist system which exploits them. Everybody gets richer except those that produce.

On the claim for a shorter working week the Company has made no positive offer. The workers are saying why should they not have a shorter working week. Changes in technological and manufacturing processes, including automation and rationalisation, expect to get some benefit from all this. Why should they not have more leisure time. This firm which was established more than a century and a half ago as a family concern is Britain's biggest producer of cigarette making machines. The Imperial Tobacco Company and the British American Tobacco Company have large interests in it.

Molins which also produce advanced types of machine tools, as well as cigarette making machinery, are currently involved in "system 24" a highly sophisticated component control system for virtually eliminating shop floor engineers by automation.

The workers are in good spirits and determined to continue their struggle until such time as a satisfactory settlement of their claim is reached.

still out after five weeks. The strike at Vitreous Enamel is in the 10th week.

If the rarefied air of the 10th world congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions ("Free" means run by the Americans) made any delegates think they were all-powerful in the trade union movement, then they must have had a nasty shock on the last day. Tannoy employees who operate the translation and public address systems failed to report for work in support of two stewards who had been dismissed. Real leadership in the trade unions comes from the base, not from the top.

BUILDING SITES EXTEND THE ACTION!

AFTER five weeks the building workers' strike has reached a critical stage. Critical, not because there are divisions or weaknesses amongst those in struggle, but because site operatives are more united and resolute than ever to press their demands.

In this mood they must crush any attempt to create a "holding situation" which confines strike action to sites run by the big national contractors. Seventy-five per cent of building firms are classified as small or medium-sized companies. Through their bosses' federations it is they who are urging the employers generally to stand firm against the workers' demands. Until they are brought directly into a confrontation with their workers such sweaty little capitalists will

constantly raise their voices above the din. Building workers' pickets will be paying closer attention to this matter in the coming weeks.

THE CRACK APPEARS

TWO building companies in Dundee and another in Aberdeen have already suffered a defeat at the hands of militant building workers. 4,000 workers have secured a £30 minimum weekly wage, £25 basic wage and a cut in the working week. Eight more Scottish contractors are thought to be on the verge of settling with their workers, much to the annoyance of the Scottish employers' federation.

BRISTOL

Reflecting the militant mood of building workers all over Britain, strikers from Bristol sites have called for an all-out national stoppage in

support of their demands. From the first days of selective strike action Bristol workers have shown their determination to fight by picketing and obtaining a shutdown at the new Wills tobacco factory at Hartcliffe. Now more than a dozen other sites in the West of England have ground to a halt. About 40,000 workers are affected by the action.

LIVERPOOL

Strikes continue at the Holiday Inn site, Marks and Spencers in central Liverpool, the Bootle Triad site and Bidston Dry Docks. At McAlpine's site on the M57 motorway the pickets are on from 6 a.m. till 10 p.m.

Builders from sites that are still working are picketing non-union sites doing overtime in spite of the national over-time ban.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT CHINA FIGHTS POLLUTION



TRANSMISSION OF POWER

LORD Stokes, chairman and managing director of British Leyland has always paraded himself as the champion of British industry, as being "the national interest" personified. But capitalists are only patriots when it is profitable. Already B-L is transferring production to Belgium in preparation for Common Market entry.

Now comes the other side of the coin. In a £5 million deal, B-L has sold the heavy transmission plant of Transport Equipment (Thornycroft) at Basingstoke to the Eaton Yale and Towne Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio. This would mean all heavy vehicle transmission production in this country being American-owned. Eaton would continue to supply B-L with transmissions, but all other activities would be dropped.

This would destroy 350 of the 1,100 jobs at Basingstoke. But Lord Stokes and Eaton had reckoned without the workers. At Basingstoke there has been a work-to-rule and, in one section, a sit-in. And B-L's 180,000 workers are preparing to take action in support. The Eaton Corporation has bought itself £5 million worth of trouble if it tries to go ahead on this deal.

HOVAL ENGINEERING, THETFORD

50 Workers at the Stephenson Way factory of Hoval Engineering, Thetford, making stainless steel equipment, staged a one-day stoppage in support of their pay claim on July 10th. They then went back to work or rather work to rule. At present they get twice-yearly cost-of-living increase, which has brought skilled rates to 63p an hour. The demand is for a 30% increase, bring basic skilled pay to £35.

During the work to rule, the employers announced that there would be redundancies, and followed this with an arrogant letter attempting to place the cause of the redundancies on the workers for having the audacity to fight for a pay claim. Perhaps it is not surprising that the employers think the company's profits are going up in smoke, as during negotiations the directors appeared to consume more in expensive cigars than the cost of the claim. When the 13 redundant workers were named who was included on the list? No prizes for guessing, three of the five man works committee. Furthermore they were kindly told they could use their weeks notice to seek alternative work, and should not turn up at the factory. Perhaps somebody does not want them around?

SOUTH WALES TIN-PLATE WORKERS

ON July 19th, 800 workers at Ebbw Vale, voted at a mass meeting to join the three week old strike of tin plate workers at Trostre and Velindre. They will withdraw their labour on August 6th, the day the Ebbw Vale plant is due to restart production after a two week holiday.

WESTINGHOUSE

The seven-week strike following a lockout at the Westinghouse Brake and

Signal factory, Chippenham, Wilts ended on 19th July. A mass meeting agreed to accept an offer of £3.10 for men and £2.85 for women. An earlier offer of £2 for men and £1.80 for women had been rejected. The action was in support of the engineers' £6 claim. After the lock-out, vigorous picketing had stopped all goods entering or leaving. One of the Shop Stewards addressing the meeting said: "We are going back, but we are still going to fight."

STRIKE, SIT-IN AND LOCK-OUT AT LLANELLY

BRITISH Steel Corporation works at Trostre, Velindre and R.T.B. West Wales are at present shut down by a strike of white collar workers fighting for a £1.60 trade award won by the manual workers last June. Even the "independent" arbitrator Professor E. Nevin decided that this was the mens due, but the British Steel Corporation think otherwise. The white collar workers have decided that no tinplate will be produced at these works until they get the full £1.60 per week and they will accept nothing less. Workers at British Steel Corporation Ebbw Vale works involved in the same dispute, who had previously accepted the corporation's last offer of a lump sum payment of £175, have just reversed that decision but have not yet decided on what action to take. If they strike, tinplate production in Britain will be completely halted.

200 men at Trostre Works, not involved in the dispute, but members of T.G.W.U., of which the white collar workers union A.C.T.S.S. is a part, were refused dole because they were involved in industrial action. These men were ready to work and staged a sit-in in the works until they were either paid or given dole. On Monday 3rd, July it was agreed that they would receive dole and only then did they leave the factory. One of the men involved in the sit-in said to us: "We were ready to work and we were not going to move from the factory until they paid us the guaranteed 35 hour week or the dole to which we were entitled. If they hadn't agreed to pay us we would still be in there now".

If the British Steel Corporation think they can play one section of men off against the other by their lock-out, then they are mistaken. There is no sign of divisions between the workers, whether white collar or manual, and the strikers we talked to said that everybody involved was solidly behind them.

SHAW CARPETS

400 workers brought Shaw Carpets of Darton, near Barnsley, Yorkshire to a standstill in protest against the suspension of three workers, including a shop steward, for an alleged breach of discipline.

MILFORD HAVEN

2,000 construction workers closed down the £20 million expansion scheme at Esso's Milford Haven refinery in protest at the sacking of 37 workers.

GAS RUNNING OUT?

Heathrow workers are winning the three-year fight against North American-owned General Aviation Services. Its existing clients have been persuaded not to renew their ground-handling contracts with GAS. Shop stewards claim: GAS is now prepared to get out of Heathrow. This victory over GAS and the redundancies threatened by its presence was only possible because workers were prepared to take on the police and police dogs last year.

GEC

From Dover to Edinburgh GPC telephone exchanges nearing completion have been hit by the walkout of GEC telephone exchange installers. The 800 workers, based on Coventry, have hit GEC at its most vulnerable point in their demand for substantial wage increases. An offer of £2.50 has been rejected. Meanwhile 1,600 workers, mostly women, went on

strike at the GEC telephone equipment factory at Middlesbrough over the issue of parity with workers at GEC plants in Hartlepool and Coventry

TOBACCO WORKERS

All over the country, on July 10th, tobacco factories were shut down by a one-day strike for a general increase of £3.50 a week for manual workers. An offer of £2.40 has been rejected. For the first time since it started production in 1970, the Churchman's factory in Ipswich was closed by this strike. Things are unlikely to be as smooth in the next 180 years. The handful of families who own the tobacco industry have not just got their own workers to worry about. Wills' new factory site at Hartcliffe has been hit by a stoppage of building workers, while at the tobacco machinery firm of Molins, the workers have occupied three factories as part of the engineers' claim.

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

The following is an interview with a woman shop steward at Wills' No. 2 factory in Bristol.

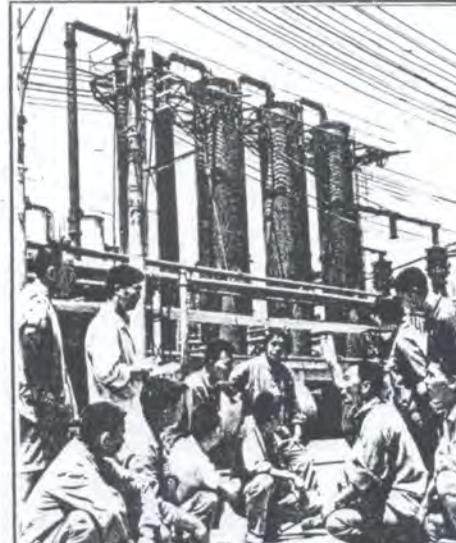
We put in for a claim of £3.50 for all workers because Imperial Tobacco made £6,000,000 more profit this year, than it made last year. The firm replied with an offer of £1.75, then one of £2.25, then they offered £2.40 - £2.60 for female workers and £2.60 - £2.80 for men. The workers turned it down. They wanted an increase across the board for all workers, with no differential between male and female or lower and higher paid workers. This has led to industrial action, non-cooperation and an overtime ban, followed by a one day strike. This was the first strike at Wills for over 180 years. The management and unions are meeting again starting on a basis of £2.40 for everyone. Morale and feelings are high and the majority of workers will not be satisfied unless their demands are met. If the management don't come up with a satisfactory offer there might be another one day strike next week.

Q. What are the unions involved?

The Tobacco Workers Union, The Transport and General, the General Municipal Workers Union, the Cigarette Operators and Mechanics Society. We have also got support from the craft unions, the electricians fitters and so on. On Monday the Transport and General called for an all out national strike against Imperials. The workers are pissed off because Wills are being charitable with their money, paying for power boat races, tennis, horse jumping and the rest. Who gives them the right to give away our money? Charity begins at home. Our girls have to spend 50 weeks on the rocks to spend 2 weeks on the sands and it ain't bleeding good enough.

Q. Why do you think the strike came now after 180 years?

Usually we've put in smaller claims and accepted the management offers. We put in a higher claim now because of the extra-profits the company has made and because of higher productivity. The workers aren't going to be satisfied until their demands are met.



Chinese workers discuss ways of checking pollution from their factory.

THE entry of China to the UN was an important advance for the people of the whole world - and incidentally saved that organisation from losing all purpose and identity other than as a plaything of the USA.

In the 1st conference on the human environment held in Stockholm last month, China, with its principled and constructive position, took leadership of the majority to isolate the USA and its followers on many important questions.

The Chinese statements were optimistic - they asserted that humanity can, and will, control its own destiny. They also asserted that social problems in a nation arise from the underlying economic relationships existing between the classes within a nation, and with other nations outside.

The declaration of the conference was inadequate. The important principles missing were outlined by the Chinese delegation as follows:

1. Developing countries need industrialisation to advance and to protect their independence.
2. People are the most precious things in the world. The problems of population growth can be solved with national planning, in advancing production, science, technology, and in population distribution, with encouragement of family planning.
3. There must be a complete prohibition on the use of all biochemical weapons. All nuclear countries must agree never to be the first to use nuclear weapons - as China has already done. Following this, steps to destroy all nuclear weapons can be taken.
4. The main cause of pollution is the anarchic and ruthless form of production in capitalist and imperialist states.
5. We should support all countries opposing the wasteful and destructive exploitation of their natural resources by outside states.
6. All international work on environmental problems must proceed with respect to the sovereignty of all countries as a pre-requisite.

To sum up: we can say pollution is a bed mate of capitalism: international pollution which is war, is the other face of imperialism.

It has been in the western industrialized countries that an enormous concern about the environment amongst ordinary people has been seen. This has centred on two main aspects:

1. The ill-effects of industrialisation.

There is no doubt that industrialisation has marked a great advance for all humanity. Pre-industrial societies are one mainfall away from famine. Britain in the early sixteenth century, with a population of less than four million, suffered years of wet summers, and the people had a terrible life. Industry means the machines, the chemicals and the power to overcome natural disasters: ideally, it can "water the desert, causing it to bloom": e.g. In Albania the great malarial marshes by the sea have been drained dry areas irrigated, and the high mountains wasted by centuries of warfare with Turk and German, reforested.

For the first socialist-country, the importance of industrialisation was stated, with characteristic pithiness by Stalin, speaking to Red Army men in 1935: "Of course we could have used the 3000 million roubles in foreign currency, obtained as a result of a most rigorous economy, and which was spent on building up our industry, for importing raw materials to increase the output of articles of general consumption. That is also a plan in a way. But with such a plan we would not now have a metallurgical industry, or a machine building industry, or tractors and automobiles, or aeroplanes and tanks. We would have found ourselves unarmed in the face of foreign war. We would have undermined the foundations of Socialism in our country. We would have fallen captive to the bourgeoisie at home and foreign."

Yes, of course there are terrible wrongs with capitalist industrialisation, and none know the human cost better than the British working class. It is in our history - the grotesque brutalities of the poor law punishments, designed to force into discipline a nascent agricultural proletariat. The casualties, particularly amongst seamen and miners; half a million miners died in accidents in the nineteenth century alone. Even now, the statistics show an increase in the number (more than 300,000 reported in 1970, and rate of accidents at work in the last 20 years, particularly involving young workers.

There is the reckless discharge of industrial wastes - inorganic salts (such as mercury) which kill people, and organic, which just kill the fish.

2. The increase in world population

Britain is, with the Netherlands, the most densely populated country in the world. It is certainly true that increasing population is a serious problem in many countries, but worst of all is the complete refusal of governments in some of those, to deal with it.

Again, the mass of the people are right. The rights to abortion, contraception, family planning, measures fully adopted in the socialist countries, have been demanded and won in some of the capitalist countries of Europe. In others, the Catholic Church, which for its survival depends on enchained women, chains them further with its obstinate refusal to countenance any advance.

In the capitalist world more than 90 per cent of wealth is owned by less than 10 per cent of the population.

Similarly, more than 90 per cent of the pollution is caused by less than 10 per cent - herein lies the problem and the pollution.

China's stand at the UN conference on behalf of the people of the world, is only possible because of the successful revolution there. China's fight against pollution tallies with the fight against the sources of pollution - the imperialist powers and the new capitalists of the leadership of the Soviet Union.

The struggle for purity of the environment must be a philosophical as well as a material one: against the ideology of capitalism and its new partner, revisionism.



DIVIDE AND RULE BACKFIRES

Why then, has this perpetual conflict not resulted in a working class revolution in Ireland? Two factors are responsible. First, the tactics of the British ruling class, seeking to set Irish workers at each other's throats. Second, the lack of a revolutionary leadership, of a Marxist-Leninist Party. In all their colonies, the British have practised the tactic of divide and rule. In India they whipped up communal hatred between Hindus and Moslems. In Ireland, from the creation of the Orange Order in 1970's to counter the Catholic-Protestant alliance of the United Irishmen, the British have schemed to play Protestant off against Catholic, to prevent any union of the whole working class. Robert Peel, Irish Secretary, 1812-1820, put it in a nutshell, "The great art of governing Ireland is to keep Catholics and Protestants always divided, and yet at peace,

or rather not at war, with each other." How can the imperialist still get away with this? Why is there not one single military organ of the whole Irish working class to take on and drive out the occupation army?

NO MARXIST - LENINIST LEADERSHIP

The answer is - there is no Marxist-Leninist Party in Ireland. Until a political leadership arises, representing the real interests of the workers of Ireland, the struggle cannot develop to its fullest potential. When that happens, it will be a question of military tactics emerging from a political strategy, as in Vietnam, and no more of militaristic reactions to the British Army's latest move.

CONNOLLY - NEED FOR A WORKERS' PARTY

As James Connolly, the great Irish revolutionary Marxist, and trade unionist, wrote, "The Irish question is a social question. The whole age-long fight of the Irish people against their

oppressors resolves itself, in the last analysis, into a fight for the mastery of the means of life, the sources of production, in Ireland. Who would own and control the land? The people, or the invaders?" Such a fight, as Connolly himself saw, could be carried to victory only under the lead of a revolutionary Communist Party.

RULING CLASS DOOMED

The British State relies more and more on a 'military solution' - i.e. wholesale violence against the total population of Northern Ireland - so will the whole people be roused into opposition to those who have plundered their country for 800 years.

As the British ruling class, in desperate straits, attempts to erect a Corporate State in Britain, it will find its troops, its key weapon against workers in revolt, pinned down in Ireland. As Hitler discovered when he attacked the Soviet Union, imperialists who try to fight on two fronts at once are surely doomed to destruction.

GUILT-EDGED LAW

AFTER only 8 years of deliberation the Criminal Law Revision Committee has come to the conclusion that big criminals have been having too easy a time in the Courts and that it's just a bit too hard for the State to get a successful prosecution. So they've decided to recommend one or two small procedural changes just to make the odds more even.

But what are these suggested minor changes directed of course at those 'big criminals' who abuse the legal system? They're just little things like abolishing the rule that any confession made

as a result of a threat or inducement is inadmissible evidence! And the police caution (You are not obliged to say anything but anything you do say will be taken down and may be used as evidence against you) is given a neat twist by which the right to remain silent is swept away so that anything you DON'T say will be taken down and used etc.

In addition, the rules governing hearsay and uncorroborated evidence, which might previously have been inadmissible, will be relaxed - and this will also allow information from computers to be accepted (the police

just happen to have centralized all criminal information on a new computer at Hendon). All this for a handful of criminals?

Don't be fooled by the fancy-wrapping of this report. The contents are a far-reaching assault on the legal rights of the individual. The Ruling Class is destroying those 'democratic freedoms' which have no place in a capitalist society fast preparing its corporate state machinery. The benign mask is torn away to reveal the malevolent face of a ruling class desperate to maintain its power by any means.

WOMEN cheap labour

WOMEN home workers, trimming rubber mouldings earn on an average 22½p to 25p an hour, says an employer with pride. If they were nimble they could earn twice that rate and children may help their parents. Anyway it was pin money and the women were delighted to do it. A woman worker contradicted him. She said that on average she earned £2.50 a week, sometimes working long periods. One week she was paid 82p for a 28 hour week.

All workers are exploited by the employers but women workers are doubly exploited. Home-bound women with small children are at the mercy of greedy employers. Marx wrote of "the cheapening of labour-power by sheer abuse of labour of women and children."

The rubber mouldings are for the motor industry. What do workers in this industry think of this double threat to the health and well-being of the out-workers' families and to their own standards?

LONDON TRANSPORT: WAGES AND FARES

IN the same week London Transport offered the Unions 8½% to settle the wage claim they announced fare increases of 100% on the night buses.

The LTB workshop staff had expected the same settlement as British Railways, hence the lack of activity on the workers part who saw no sense in fighting for something which they expected to be handed them on a plate, as a result of the activity of the main line railwaymen. This is not altogether surprising because LTB usually follow the BR on wages increases. The LTB offer was of course turned down unanimously by the Unions concerned, NUR, AUEW, ETU, NUVE. The niggardly nature of the LTB wage offer will be seen when it is realised that the 8½% would apply only on the basic rate which for craftsmen is £21.40, other aspects of the wage structure being unaffected which would mean that the increase proposed would not even match the cost of living increase as expressed by the Retail Price Index.

In this situation LTB workers are now looking to themselves, to their own strength, they have seen what happens when

they wait on others.

The other face of LTB is expressed in the shocking decision to increase the fares on night buses by 100%. They pay the workers a little and charge the workers a lot. High wages are inflationary but somehow high fares are not. What strange logic. The logic is even stranger when it is realised that the buses concerned are run primarily to get LTB staff home when they are on late turn and to work when they are on early turns. The pretext for the fare increases is given as heavy losses sustained in maintaining this service. But since LTB needs to run this service anyway the losses would be even greater without fare paying passengers. It is arguable therefore that every penny taken on the night buses is clear profit. LTB is managing as ever to upset its workers and its passengers at the same time. The passengers should understand that when the workers take action which disrupts services that they do so because they have to deal with the same villains who consistently make life difficult for the passengers by raising fares and cutting services.

Stone walls can't confine comrades

THE news, announced early last week, that Comrade Charu Mazumdar, Secretary of the Communist Party of India, Marxist-Leninist, has been arrested by the fascist government of West Bengal, is certainly sad. But no jail or concentration camp can divide the revolutionary masses from their leader or keep them from taking the Indian revolution to new heights. Recent news from India shows that despite the ever-growing fascist powers of the Indian Government - the laws and internal security measures, the enormous growth of military and para-military forces armed by the Soviet Union, the people's struggle, under the correct leadership of the Party, guided by Comrade Mazumdar, has been developing rapidly, throughout the country. Space allows us only to talk of one or two actions of peasants and workers. Thus, despite government propaganda about the failure of Naxalbari, that part of North Bengal, has once again witnessed some tremendous fighting in which police camps have

been destroyed and class enemies killed. In February of this year, in Murshidabad, also in West Bengal, cadres were successful in snatching weapons from the Mukti Bahini the army of so-called "Bangladesh". It should not surprise our readers to learn that India provides training facilities for the "Bangladesh" forces since they were created by the Indian government.

That chauvinism is not paying off is shown by the workers of North Calcutta who have refused to accept the war policy of the government. Factory walls have been covered with slogans - "Down With Bangladesh"; "Destroy the conspiracy to make East Pakistan an anti-China, anti-revolutionary base". Jails cannot hold comrades and jail breaks are becoming common. The daring escape of comrades from Siliguri Special Jail, probably the worst concentration camp of West Bengal, is just one more example of the links between communists and the mass of the people without whom such escapes are not possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 4th FRIDAY Meeting on Turkey Today with a speaker from the United Patriotic Front of Turkey. 7.30 p.m. Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Rd. NW5.

AUGUST 5th SATURDAY Film Show "We Are from Kronstadt" Soviet Film 1936. 7.45 p.m. Bellman Bookshop.

AUGUST 18th FRIDAY Film Show "Mengpeze Luft" Albanian Film. 7.45 p.m. Bellman Bookshop.

SEPTEMBER 2nd SATURDAY Film Show "Landmine Warfare" Chinese film. 7.45 p.m. Bellman Bookshop.

SEPTEMBER 15th FRIDAY Film Show "Dhofar Liberation Struggle" 7.45 p.m. Bellman Bookshop.

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