

THE WORKER



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MAY DAY 1975

FROM DEFENCE TO ATTACK

Editorial

On May Day, International Workers' Day, we think of the comradeship of our fellow workers all over the world.

In Vietnam the working people under communist leadership are in the process of winning one of the greatest victories of all time. Marx has described the period of class-divided society, of society split into exploiters and exploited, as prehistoric. Only when, history having made men, men begin to make their own history, only when working men in cooperative command of their own destiny shape to their needs a world from which exploitation has been eliminated, only then does real history begin.

The Vietnamese people are winning one of the truly great victories for our working class on the border between pre-history, represented by imperialist aggression and world capitalist reaction, and history, represented by socialism, the progressive force of the working class in power.

In the course of this victory they have vindicated with their own sweat and blood the great truths of the world revolutionary working class movement - that men, ordinary working men conscious of the justice of their fight against exploitation, are more important than weapons, that people's war, the organised struggle of working people against the force of their oppressors, is invincible.

This victory will take its place beside those other great working class victories of our time, the capture and consolidation of state power in China and in Albania. These victories have established an impregnable base for socialism in our world.

This is the reality behind the declaration that in the world today "revolution is the main trend". It is the reality behind the upsurge of people in the under-industrialised countries.

The workers of these countries will also take their countries out of the prehistoric period of the exploitation of man by man and into the glorious historical period of socialism. Socialism is on the attack and winning.

BRITAIN'S DANGERS

In Britain this world-wide situation in which "revolution is the main trend" can only manifest itself in the struggle between British workers and British capitalism. As Marx says in The Communist Manifesto: "The proletariat of each country must, of course, first of all settle matters with its own bourgeoisie".

The world reverses of imperialism reflected in the crisis of capitalism in Britain have made it impossible for the capitalist ruling class to rule in the old way. The state, "the executive committee of the bourgeoisie", can only save capitalism by sweeping away all forms of working class defensive organisation. Collective bargaining, industrial action, trade union democracy are all to be swallowed up by the corporate functions of state capitalism.

If the working class tries to take refuge in a defensive stance, it will be crushed. It has to go over to the attack. In going over to the attack against the class enemy in Britain it joins forces with the world-wide brotherhood of workers against international oppression and exploitation.

It is to this necessity for our class to attack, to working out the plan of battle and the general line of advance, that the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) dedicates itself this May Day.



Vietnam

Daily and hourly, news reaches us of fresh victories of the Vietnamese liberation forces. Saigon is surrounded and there is no way for the enemy to avoid final defeat.

Never more clearly are the differences between the liberation forces and the imperialists to be seen. In the liberated areas, administered by the revolutionary committees of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), the liberation forces have been greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm, corruption is banished, reconstruction begins. This is true humanity at work. But in those small patches of territory still under the rule of US puppets there is nothing but corruption, oppression, fear of the people and suppression of rights.

Yet the insolence of the US imperialists and their puppets is such that they have raised the flag of humanitarianism in a vile attempt to reintroduce US troops into Vietnam and continue

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Cambodia Liberated

"Of all things", said Ho Chi Minh, "freedom is the most precious". The fall of Phnom Penh to the Cambodian army of national liberation was an eloquent tribute to that simple and enduring truth. Phnom Penh, perhaps the most beautiful of the Indochinese capital cities, is today a symbol of the will of peoples to be masters of their own future - and more, much, much more! For here is proof that the wish can become reality, that it is possible to go beyond defiance to victory, that "the great only appear so because we are on our knees".

With what a splendid gift to the toilers of the world have the revolutionary forces of Cambodia marked their victory! And what a tremendous boost have they given their brothers and sisters in neighbouring Laos and in Vietnam, where the bitter war still rages and the sacrifice continues still. Here is a triumph worthy of the name, the expulsion

of a powerful foreign tyrant, the defeat of the traitors who acted as its agents, and the establishment of a neutral, democratic state: a triumph worthy of emulation.

The Khmer people have earned the right to celebrate their victory, but they will not forget the loved ones who gave their lives and limbs in order that this success might be possible. Cambodia will long bear the brutal scars of war, but in remembering the former beauties of their country they will determine to build a country still more beautiful. The battle to build a peaceful, bountiful land has already begun.

No to EEC

The next issue of

THE WORKER, No. 9, will be devoted to the working class's struggle against Britains' Common Market Membership.

May Day meeting

MAY 1st 7.30 p.m. CONWAY HALL RED LION SQUARE.

FROM DEFENCE TO ATTACK

MAO TSETUNG ON NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE

Make trouble, fail, make trouble again, fail again... till their doom; that is the logic of imperialists and all reactionaries the world over in dealing with the people's cause, and they will never go against this logic; fight, fail, fight again, fail again, fight again... till their victory; that is the logic of the people, and they too will never go against this logic.

Vietnam

CONT FROM PAGE ONE

their war of aggression. In this context we see the deliberate manufacture of refugees. Scores of thousands are forced to leave their homes to be driven helplessly from one town to another. The US puppets find that they have lifted a rock only to drop it on their own feet, for the refugees turn their anger against them. Their fear of a mass uprising is such that in Saigon a curfew is enforced, civilians are threatened with instant death if found carrying arms, any form of gathering is strictly forbidden. The US claims that it must send gunboats and marines to kidnap Vietnamese people in their thousands. The US imperialists will stoop to any

tactic, however low, to send in their troops and air force.

The presence of the US Seventh Fleet, with the aircraft carrier Enterprise and 1000 marines is an attack on the sovereignty of South Vietnam, a flagrant breach of the Paris Agreement, and another step towards direct military interference in South Vietnam. In Britain we must raise an outcry against the sending of a British warship to Indo-China. Workers in Britain and throughout the world must be vigilant and ensure that no interference takes place.

For their part, the PRG have said that if 'the Ford Administration still stubbornly follows

the bankrupt tracks of its predecessors, opposing the South Vietnamese people, wasting more money and lives of the American people to deliberately save its incapable and corrupt group of lackeys, it will suffer even heavier defeats and lead the United States into a tunnel without end.'

We in Britain have much for which to thank the gallant people of Vietnam. The new manoeuvres of the imperialist teach us yet another lesson: the ruling class will never willingly depart from the stage of history, the greater its crisis, the more vicious and underhand its response.



'Participation' in France

In France, the government has recently introduced the "Reforme Sudreau" named after its creator. After careful research the French industrialists confessed to past mistakes arising through inadequate consideration of "human factors". The Reforme Sudreau is designed to overcome them. To quote them: "Workers' rights will be fully voiced around the negotiating table through their Trade Unions. Factory committees will play a bigger part as regards training and working conditions. A third of the committee will consist of trade union leaders." The Reforme even goes as far as defining the role of the trade unions for them: "Although they play a protesting role they really constitute a factor of social stability since they channel forces which would otherwise spring in all directions."

In other words, for the future, employers won't dismiss workers any more - a workers managers' committee will be in charge of planning redundancies. The same device will channel wages within a "reasonable limit...."

Their reason for this is crystal clear. The capitalists hope to bait us with gilt words such as mutual trust, participation and partnership with the sole purpose of furthering their own interests. They don't keep it well hidden, as one of them says: "One of the secrets for an efficient enterprise is to motivate and involve the wage earners. The workers are then ready to fight to support their firm."

After liberation Da Nang, the second largest city in South Vietnam was quickly restored to normal social order. Photo shows students and other young people carrying out propaganda work in the street.

SIKKIM - BIG SISTER ACT

The tiny mountain kingdom of Sikkim seems doomed to be swallowed up by the New Delhi expansionists. After passing a law in New Delhi legalising the takeover, someone with a 'flair' for propaganda, has reconsidered and decided to have a referendum which is 'expected to ratify India's takeover overwhelmingly'.

Since press reports indicate that there are twice as many Indian troops in Sikkim as there are Sikimese, it will be interesting to see the voting figures - a 200 per cent poll is not unlikely!

In the meantime India is also

putting the squeeze on landlocked Nepal which, not unsurprisingly, has recently developed very friendly relations with China.

NOW AND THEN

It is interesting to compare the deafening silence over India's latest Himalayan land-grabbing exercise with the furore and 'outrage' when the Tibetan serfs overthrew their masters.

It is even more instructive to remember the support given by the West and the USSR when India attempted to seize large tracts of China on the basis of 'Victorian empire-builders' sketch maps.

Cooperation with Capitalism

—or the right to work

On May 6th the Scottish Daily News hopes once again to roll off the presses, after a year in which the workers, in response to redundancy notices from the Beaverbrook Empire have borrowed £725,000 from that same company in the hope of buying their freedom from redundancy and exploitation, of buying the right to work. The government has also given a grant of £1.2 million and some of the workers have even sacrificed their life savings. But what for?

In effect, as long as this

society is a capitalist one, no worker can be free of exploitation or can guarantee himself the right to work, as the women of Fakenham and the Meridian workers have proved. In this society "workers' control" or "workers' cooperatives" are merely illusions, and in reality both mean working harder and earning less while the capitalist class continues to profit. The working class cannot afford to delude itself that there is any way of guaranteeing employment or of not being exploited under capitalism.

Portugal

.. a New Dictatorship ?

The democratic and trade union rights that the Portuguese people seized upon the overthrow of the Caetano regime on April 25th last year have been under continuous attack by the military junta. The right to strike, the right of political association, access to information, political organisation and the right to demonstrate were won by the mass of the people at a time when the new ruling regime was unable to halt the surge forward. Today there is the "information law" which imposes fines and suspensions on newspapers. The "anti-strike law" designed to control the organised workers. The "anti-demonstration" law which forbids gathering unless authorised by the junta.

Upon seizing power, the Armed Forces Movement junta promised a "free election" as newly installed military juntas always do. This election is to take place on the first anniversary of the coup. The election is used to divert the

workers from class struggle, to attack political parties and political association through its law on regulating the elections (many parties are banned) in order to elect an assembly which has been stripped of any power even before it meets.

While the election is hoped to give the regime a veil of legality, it is embracing the revisionist Communist Party of Portugal to give it a semblance of mass base. It has been the task of that party to enforce the labour and anti-democratic laws of the regime. Landless peasants had to face those revisionists from the ministry stopping them from taking over the thousands of acres of unused land owned by absentee landlords.

On the first anniversary of the overthrow of the fascist Caetano dictatorship, the people of Portugal must be organising to overthrow the new rising fascist dictatorship.

EEC and Redundancy

All British workers know the implications of the Common Market: the inevitable fall in our standard of living, the loss of civil rights dearly won over the years, rule by the combined efforts of nine capitalist nations, unemployment and migratory labour conditions.

The EEC would claim to be some sort of club in which decaying countries can join in the common interest of all the people.

Rather we should liken it to what many workers have experienced over the past decade in their own industries, where big consortiums have taken over smaller concerns with the eventual result of redundancies and shut down. We could give a roll call of all the great engineering firms that had gone to the wall in London alone: Napier, Hawkers, E.N.V., Handley Page and many others, all great firms in as much that the workers had created highly skilled units of development and production together with highly organised Trade Unions. Both technical skill and trade union organisation second to none in the world. All grouped and taken over by big business backed by government (Aircraft Industry Rationalisation Bill 1960). All destroyed and disrupted by redundancy and closure.

We all saw this trend in the 60's in our own industries. Today we see Britain with its highly skilled and highly organised working class on the brink of a take-over by a consortium of European capitalists whose aim is to destroy us with redundancy and close down. Seeing the pattern it would be criminal to wait until we have to fight the redundancy of Britain itself. We must fight the takeover by going onto the attack.

"No" to the EEC!

"No" to redundancy!

Trespass to be made a crime

A further illustration of the fraud of 'consultative' government has appeared recently. Various lawyers and civil liberty groups have published comments on the proposals of the Law Commission on the reform of the law surrounding 'criminal trespass' and 'illegal' occupation of property.

Published by the commission in the summer of last year the proposals supposedly seek to change the law so that trespass by picnickers and rambles will be a criminal offence. The proposed changes would make it '... A criminal offence if a person unlawfully on property fails to leave as soon as is practicable after being so ordered by a person entitled to occupation.'

Far from being simply a measure designed to curb over-enthusiastic walkers, or even the excesses of football hooligans, the proposals, if enacted, would represent a major change in the law - they would be yet another serious blow to liberty, all vestiges of which are fast disappearing in Britain.

The real purpose of bringing trespass into the arena of criminal as opposed to civil law is to strengthen the legal apparatus which can be used against workers who choose to occupy their places of work. It can also threaten the right to picket.

At the moment the state cannot prosecute directly anyone who occupies a factory and the police can only be used to eject workers once, as a result of a civil case brought against them by their employers, an injunction is granted and they refuse to obey it. Employees can still plead in court they are agents of the employer and hence are not guilty of trespass. The new proposals if formulated into a bill, as they undoubtedly will be, would put an end to all that.

The law commission in putting its schemes out for comment and 'consultation' hopes to present these new measures against the working class as yet another product of reason and public debate. There can be no debate.

CROSFIELDS

The Tactics of Occupation

On Monday night April 14th some 50 police assisted by Securitor and Dogs arrived at Crosfield Electronics, to give protection to the Crosfield management to move 15 machines from the building opposite the Number One Elthorn Road, where workers have been in occupation since March 26th. These machines were loaded into trucks and vans supplied by a company called Vanguard, by members of higher management, which must be the first time that the lads in occupation have ever seen these men work. This action was certainly not a sign of strength on the part of Crosfield; it is but an example of how the occupation is beginning to have an effect, and can only be seen as a sign of weakness.

The Crosfield workers at a mass meeting called a few days before the police raid, a meeting which lasted well over two hours and at which all were allowed to put their point of view, by an overwhelming majority voted to continue the struggle. Once again showing by example, that when the issue is clear and wor-



Crosfield workers turn their factory into a five-star restaurant during their occupation.

kers act out of conviction nothing can stand in our way, there can be no betrayal, because it is our struggle.

On the occupied site we still hold vital components worth well over £1 million, needed by Crosfield for the satisfactory manufacture of their machines. The last move by management in this struggle was to inform all manual workers that on Monday April 21st they would be on a three day week. Our answer to this was to call a factory meeting for Monday morning, April 14th. At

this meeting the management were once again given their answer: the picketing would continue, and we shall use all means open to us to challenge the right of management to lock our members out. The only effect of this latest move by the management is to make the members even more determined to continue the struggle.

The support now being given to our struggle by the organised working class is magnificent and still growing. The very nature of the system we live under is being exposed, when workers

whose only crime is that they want to work have to fight not only the employer but the law and the whole state machine. The tactics of occupation now being worked out by the workers at Crosfield belong to all members of our class, and we are sure that the lessons will be learnt, and that the struggle at Crosfield will help point the way to other sections of our class about to take up the struggle against redundancy, and finally against the system which produces it.

'NATIONALISATION'

The ever spiralling cost of state-financed capitalism received a new boost on April 4th, following Mr. Benn's announcement of a national target of £6 billion of industrial investment per year up to 1980.

The latest Department of Industry Journal claims that there has been a 7% fall in investment in manufacturing industry from 1969 to 1974, and that such a small percentage of national production is now devoted to industrial investment in comparison with other European countries that the government must 'intervene'. 'Public funds', we are told, must be raised in order to avert 2 million redundancies and a 15% contraction in manufacturing capacity between now and 1980.

However stupendous the bill may seem to be to the taxpayer, the real price to be paid for these industrial plans cannot be measured in purely financial terms. Rather the cost has to be assessed in terms of the extent to which as a class we continue to deceive ourselves that this massive misuse of our own wages will avert the two million redundancies with which Mr. Benn threatens the nation.

It is exactly this kind of wishful thinking at which Labour's social contract policies are aimed, in the name of 'employment protection', 'participation' and 'social accountability' we are promised an industrial Valhalla the reality of which, in the form of the Ryder Committee, consists of trade unionists presiding over the 'nationalisation' of whole firms such as BLMC.

Far from heralding Benn's 'new industrial era' nationalisation will mean greater struggles to be fought, greater hardships to be endured and above all the knowledge that if we are to run industry for the people instead of vice versa, then as a working class we must take power in order to do this.

Crosfields and EEC

The fight of the workers at Crosfield to keep the De La Rue monopoly-capitalists from closing down part of one of the last big industrial firms in north London is part of the fight against the de-industrialisation of London and the disruption of the lives of hundreds of thousands of working people.

The fight against the de-industrialisation of London is part of the fight against the de-industrialisation of the whole of Britain brought about by British capitalists seeking the easy profits of financial manipulation and the export of capital.

The demand of the workers of Crosfield for the right to work

where they are and not be sent, like refugees, wherever the capitalists choose is part of the fight of British workers not to be subjected to the Europe-wide "mobility of labour" of the Common Market.

"Mobility of labour", the right of the employer to drive workers wherever the greatest surplus-value can be extracted from them, breaking up families, destroying homes and wrecking lives in the process, is just one of the unacceptable conditions of wage-slavery under capitalism. The Common Market, as far as the working class is concerned, is a slave market.

Imperial Typewriters Occupation Continues

The Imperial Typewriters occupation is continuing. Outside the factory there are placards saying 'Support our right to work', 'Support Imperial sit-in', and a board telling how many days the occupation has been going on. By 21st April it had reached 60 days. Morale is still very high. Mr. Grant, Hull TGWU official and coordinator of the campaign, said that the mood of the workers is one of great determination to carry on the sit-in and rescue their jobs stolen by

Litton Industries. He said that talks with the Government had been a disappointment. The Union had been told to put their proposals in yet another report. This will be the fourth report submitted by the Union since January. Three hundred workers are taking part in the sit-in. Of the rest of the workforce, Clare Tate, TGWU convenor, said she didn't believe many had found new jobs because there simply weren't any to be had. In Hull there are at least 10,000 unemployed.

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

RAILMEN AND THE RIGHT TO WORK

The three railway unions have united in shunting the social contract into a siding - and leaving it there. Throughout the industry railwaymen have been taking action on an increasing number of issues - bonuses, redundancy, etc. Following the claim for over 30 per cent, confrontation looms threateningly ahead with all the omens indicating that the government, having let the miners and the power workers slip by, is now intending to use the railways as their last ditch stand for the social contract.

NO MORE REDUNDANCIES

In common with other nationalised industries, railwaymen have watched their numbers dwindle from over 750,000 to a paltry third of that number, with the freight and passenger carryings hardly declined at all. No government, Labour or Conservative, has made up its mind whether railways should make a profit or operate as a social service, and neither has provided enough investment. Successive governments have succumbed to the road haulage lobby, and preferred freight to be carried by environmentally foul and economically unsound juggernauts.

GLASGOW DUSTCART DRIVERS

The Glasgow dustcart drivers returned to work on April 14th after a 13 week fight against the Labour Corporation, the Government and the Social Contract. Troops have been called in before by Glasgow Corporation to break strikes - in 1919 and 1973. The history of the working class in Britain is full of courageous fights against uniformed blacklegs. In the 1930s the women of Newcastle tore up the cobble as weapons against the armed militia.

Yet in 1975 a class which has a history has stood back and merely watched an attack on our class, without so much as a squeak. To have allowed it has a greater significance than the defeat of the Glasgow dustcart drivers. It is a gigantic step backwards for our class, saying much about the dangerous lethargy that will allow the growth of all the tentacles of the corporate state beneath our very noses, while we knowingly avert our gaze.

SCOTTISH TUC

The Scottish TUC was unequivocal in its opposition to the Budget and made it clear that it considered the Social Contract to be effectively null and void. It pledged support for all unions seeking wage in-

creases designed to improve rather than merely maintain members living standards. Workers in Scotland are spelling out loud and clear - capitalism is the same under a Labour or Tory Government. There can be no social contract between capitalism and the working class.

GEC WITTON KRAMER

On 10th April workers at the Witton Kramer division of GEC walked out in support of their claim for wages and in rejection of a management productivity deal offer.

It is the first strike action taken by the workers there for many years, and marks the growth of a much stronger organised shop floor.

HORNSEA COMPREHENSIVE

At Hornsea Comprehensive School, Yorkshire, a struggle to obtain supply teachers to cover for absent staff has been won. As in many schools increased workload and the need for extra preparation and marking have made it essential that teachers should not give up their non-teaching time to substitute for absent staff. At the same time the increase in out-of-school visits and activities, involvement in exam boards and in-service training have led to a higher rate of absence. Humber-side Education Authority's first response was a point-blank refusal to incur the expense involved in appointing supply teachers.

They tried to weaken the teachers' resolve by stating that in the present economic situation no improvements in conditions were possible. When the teachers, backed by the NUT declared that they would refuse to cover absences, the Authority gave in. Hornsea teachers see their victory as a product of a united stand, and as a precedent for other schools in the area to take up.

BOOTS

Boots is preparing another device for heading off any rising militancy amongst its workforce. It is proposing to set a 'landmark' in its industrial relations by introducing an elaborate scheme for consulting its 60,000 employees, and involving them in its company affairs. Endless questions affecting workers will get bogged down on endless committees in exactly the same way as they do on nationalised industries and London Transport, designed to work to divert the development of the only means by which workers have ever won, through organised and direct confrontation with the common enemy - the employer.

MINSTER SOFT DRINKS

Drivers and mates at Minster Soft Drinks Leeds, part of Allied Breweries and a highly profitable section have been on official strike for over two weeks.

The demand is for an extra mate on a difficult delivery every

second Thursday.

At a mass meeting on 4th April the men unanimously voted to hold out until their demands are met.

Management have refused to speak to TGWU officials, but will negotiate with individual drivers or mates, thus attempting to split the men.

Tetley brewery drivers have refused to deliver beer to certain chosen pubs in solidarity, exerting more pressure by drying the pubs which are now threatened with losing their license.

Minster works is now closed down totally by the action of the pickets who are covering the gates in working hours allowing nothing to leave and one of the men stated categorically "We can hold out longer than they can".

NORTH STAFFS.

For the first time since 1970, the members of the Ceramic and Allied Trades Union have rejected the employers' pay offer. The offer ('death by a thousand thresholds') was a consolidation of 1974-75 threshold payments into all rates, plus £1 now; a 3 per cent rise in July, a 3 per cent rise in October and a 4 per cent rise in January 1976; this would bring the minimum, finally, up to £35.90 for a forty hour week.

The lodge meetings at Worcester and Middlewich and the mass meeting of North Staffs lodges all, rightly, threw out this 'insult' of an offer.

Anti-Working Class Budget

FROM OUR POCKETS TO THEIRS :
1,250 MILLION POUNDS

What the budget says: higher income tax yielding £770m a year; increased VAT on most household electrical appliances yielding £325m; higher revenue on beer, wine, spirits and tobacco yielding £625m; increased road tax on motor cars and motor cycles yielding £200m.

Add to this a cut in subsidies on food and housing of over £200m and a cut in subsidies on 'nationalised' industry prices of nearly £500m. Remember Labour's great election gimmick to get your vote of subsidies to peg the cost of living? The subsidies are gone and the budget adds an admitted 2½ per cent to the cost of living immediately. It also, admittedly, throws 20,000 out of work immediately and expects unemployment to reach a million by the end of the year.

And how is this enormous sum taken from the workers to be made over to the capitalists?

Taxation is up for everybody - expect the corporations. There is no rise there and, in fact, stock appreciation tax relief for large and small firms is to be continued and extended. Millions of pounds will be given in aid

Private Practice Diversion

Over the past few months, there has developed among some NHS workers actions which, at best, are ridiculous and, at worst, are destructive to the brave struggles of many other NHS workers - doctors, nurses, para-medical and ancillary staff - to defend the National Health Service. These actions, purporting to oppose private practice, in reality have diverted attention from the real issue of the Government's systematic destruction of the National Health Service, have inconvenienced both private and NHS patients, and have fuelled the fires of the media, giving them a field day in their constant efforts to denigrate and ridicule organised labour. Worst of all these actions have played into the hands of the ruling class by dividing NHS workers amongst themselves, thereby weakening the struggle of them all. The sight of these 'counter-actions' by some NHS ancillary workers to hospital consultants' working to contract over an issue which has nothing to do with private practice, must gladden the hearts of the ruling class.

This tactically inept struggle, whose only possible outcome could be a weakening of the unity of NHS employees, has produced actions such as those at the Morriston Hospital, Swansea, and the Westminster Hospital, London, which have inconvenienced NHS patients whose interests are ostensibly being defended: At another London hospital, it was acknowledged by those taking action against private patients that this merely forced more duties on the already overworked nursing and medical staff. How's that for unity in struggle?! The bourgeois Press were surely delighted to print a photograph of a 'triumphant' union official, holding aloft a bag of bread rolls which never got through to the private patients. Accompanying the photograph,

under the Industry Act for investment projects. New assistance for modernisation and rationalisation alone will come to over £100m. And millions more are to be made available to companies which say they are experiencing pre-shipment finance difficulties which are holding up their exports. All companies have to do to collect many more millions of pounds is to say that they were about to lay off workers but will delay redundancies if the government hands over enough of our money.

The excuse offered for some of this massive transfer of funds from us to them is that it will enable companies to meet their wage bills. But if we have to pay ourselves, why should we not work for ourselves? It has never been made so obvious as this budget makes it that while the employers need us - another provision is that part of the money taken from us in taxes is to be used to retrain us for other jobs - we most certainly do not need the employing class at all. To hell with them and to hell with the capitalist system and this Labour Government that serves it.

was a statement from the same official saying that there is no place in the NHS for consultants, which is like saying that there is no place in industry for the highly skilled. How's that for clarity?!

To concentrate on private practice when our entire Health Service is being brought to its knees by the Government is short-sighted, divisive, destructive and demoralising at a time when a unified struggle to defend the NHS is imperative and has been developing. The source of the attack on the NHS is not private practice but Government policy. If the NHS is to be preserved we must aim our blows at the enemy and not dissipate our strength by attacking its shadow.



Albanians celebrating May Day

STUDENTS CONFERENCE

Many of the delegates leaving the recent National Union of Students Conference in Llandudno, must have left with mixed feelings. Large steps forward had been taken with respect to the major issues specifically affecting students as a section of our class - grants, the fight against the State's attack on education through expenditure cuts, the acute shortage of housing - as well as issues affecting the class as a whole, the Social Contract, the EEC, Indo-China, Women's Rights, etc. In all these instances, the policy of our Union is one which places the emphasis firmly on its mass strength, the membership in their individual colleges all over the country.

Policies long promoted by Marxist-Leninists in the Union of protracted direct action against college authorities, through such tactics as rent strikes, canteen boycotts, picketing of supplies, selective occupations, etc. In pursuance of our demands received mass support at the Conference, and there was a rejection of 'easy

ways', isolated protest action and the defeatism promoted by ultra-left groupings reflected in such calls as that for threshold agreements to replace on-going grants campaign. The militancy of the Conference was reflected in the decisive rejection of Labour's Social Contract "as an anti-working class measure", in the decision to launch a campaign against membership of the EEC, in the standing ovation given to a fraternal speaker from Vietnam, among many other decisions.

However on the negative side, many of the class issues discussed at Conference were clouded by the factional activities of the two blocks which operate in the Union, the Broad Left (comprised almost exclusively of the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain) and NOISS (the aptly named Trotskyist grouping). The sectarianism of these groupings continued throughout the Conference, through Executive reports, policy discussions, election to the National executive etc. Many issues which demand a class unity if we are to win our objectives have been diverted by one or the other grouping for their own ends - allowing a certain confusion to arise which is exploited to the full by those opposed to student struggle.

Only when the Conference reflects the seriousness given to the Union at local level, when a decisive blow is given to the factions will the NUS National Conference be worthy of its membership.

IN BRIEF

Volkswagen, which has just made 25,000 workers redundant, is one of the West German firms where "Workers participation" has been instituted. Now we see that this gives workers real influence, they can sack themselves!

The price of petrol at the pump may have more than doubled in the past five years, but very little of that ever reaches the oil-producing countries. The oil companies have taken advantage of the situation to amass huge profits for themselves. Exxon (the old Esso), the largest oil company, fleeced a cool

The Right to Work in Books

Throughout book publishing the attack by the employers in the form of redundancy and cut-back is becoming ever more vicious.

At Cassell Collier Macmillan, an American-owned book publishing firm, action has already taken place. In retaliation at the declaration of 42 redundancies (10 per cent of the total workforce) the NUJ and Sogat chapels took immediate strike action. Within a week the struggle resulted in complete victory, with all the demands of the chapels being won.

This action followed hard on the heels of the occupation against redundancies at Educational Audio Visual (reported in The Worker) and further large-scale loss of jobs at Penguin Books, who only last year closed down Penguin Education, making the entire workforce redundant.

At Macdonald Educational too, members of the BPC chapel are faced with the redundancy of 2 of their most senior members - managing editors - having won the redeployment of the more junior grades.

In the country as a whole, total jobs in the industry amount to about 4,000 and the loss of even 50 jobs spells a flooding of the market and many months - even a year as in the case of some workers from Penguin Education - of work. The editorial side of book publishing has a particular vulnerability to the employers' attempts to cushion their own crisis - their work being geared more to the preparation of new titles for a future programme and less to the continued production.

3,140 million dollars in 1974, a 28 per cent profit increase over 1973, even though its sales decreased by 11 per cent. Also a good proportion of the price of petrol goes in taxation, well over two-thirds of our money goes directly into the pocket of the taxman, no doubt party to subsidise the oil-companies risking "their" money drilling for oil in the North Sea.

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP

155 FORTRESS ROAD LONDON NW5

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- May 1st Film, "OCTOBER"
Park Lane College, Hanover Way, Leeds 3. 7.30 pm.
- May 1st MAY DAY MEETING, Albanian film and talk
Glasgow University. 7.30 pm.
- May 7th "MUSIC IN CHINA", illustrated lecture
George Service House, University Gardens, Glasgow. 7.00 pm.
- May 8th "FORD WORKERS AND UNEMPLOYMENT"
A meeting for (Ford) Dagenham workers.
Fred's Cafe, 4 Princes Parade, New Road, Dagenham. 5.30 pm.
- May 21st "FROM DEFENCE TO ATTACK"
Bridge Hotel, Nr. High Level Bridge, Newcastle. 7.30 pm.

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