

THE WORKER



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THROW OUT THE CORPORATE STATE . . .

"Social democracy is dead. Long live corporatism". That is the message of the Labour Government's April budget. In the budget tax cuts are offered "conditional" upon the acceptance of a pay limit by the TUC. To call this budget "anti-working class" is a grave understatement. In one stroke Chancellor Healey invites the simultaneous destruction of trade union independence and the sovereignty of parliament.

Social democracy is dead. Reformism, benevolent social progress, old-fashioned philanthropy are no more. Parliament has no further role to play. Even the appearance of a decision-making authority is denied it.

The Prime Minister's resignation sounded the death knell of social democracy. Healey performed its official burial ceremony. With its passing away, social democracy will bring inglorious death to all institutions, be it Labour Party, the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain, or the trotskyite ultra-left, all of whom derive their sustenance from the theory of gradualism.

Healey's particular attack on wages is a feint. The unions are his real target. Those old defensive organs of the working class, the unions, Healey would love to render impotent. Healey wants the sovereignty of individual trade unions to be wiped out, their conferences and committees to become rubber stamps, their members sheep.

We are to be ruled by a clique composed of "politicians" and "labour leaders". Decisions are to be reached between the Government and the TUC. All dispute is to be suppressed, all heresy put down. The TUC, once hailed as the "grand parliament of the working class" is to become the Grand Inquisitor. The working class is to kneel down before a handful of office boys in Bloomsbury.

The working class must reject this budget. Not because the 3 per cent limit is too low. But because independence and sovereignty exerted through our unions are too precious to be bargained away for any tax cut or percentage, be it 3 per cent, 50 per cent, or 100 per cent.

Those "leaders" who accept government plans for the corporate state are not selling out - they just do not belong. Those who do not own cannot sell. We own our unions so we must be their guardians. Banish the usurper!

The Labour Government has thrown the greatest challenge to the working class. We must respond with an even greater challenge of our own.

Throw out the corporate state, throw out the Labour Government, throw out fascism! Our aim - the dictatorship of the proletariat.

FOR REVOLUTION MAY DAY MEETING

Chairman Reg Birch

SATURDAY MAY 1st. 7.30 pm

CONWAY HALL Red Lion Square WC1

Nearest Tube - HOLBORN

Teachers Conference See Page 2

. . . WITH A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

No working class revolution has ever been made without the leadership of a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party. Until Easter 1968 there was no revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party in Britain.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) was not formed by some little group detached from or in any way separate from the working class. It was formed by what Lenin calls "class conscious, thinking, politically active workers", the vanguard of the British working class.

It is no political accident that the Marxist-Leninist Party of Britain was formed at that crucial point of time when Britain was moving into a revolutionary situation. Decades upon decades of class struggle by the workers of Britain had brought British capitalism to a state where it could no longer afford an organised working class capable of defending the standard of living it had won for itself in past struggle. Social democracy, the winning by parliamentary means of piecemeal reforms and concessions, has been killed off by a capitalist ruling class which, far from being able to make concessions, can only survive by the destruction of the working class's capacity to resist the drive for profits at their expense.

Social democracy only lingers on as an illusion in the minds of workers that they can preserve what they have gained without raising their struggle to the revolutionary level of a fight against capitalism itself. The peaceful, social democratic "British

road to socialism", proclaimed by the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain in its desire for the embrace of the Labour Party, has now plainly become the highroad to fascism.

The Marxist-Leninist Party of Britain was not only born out of and contributed to the qualitative change in the class struggle in Britain but it also grew out of and is part of the furor of the polemic within the world communist movement. The split between the revisionists in the Soviet Union and the East European countries, who betrayed socialism and the world proletariat, and the Communist Parties of China and Albania, who secured the revolution in their own countries and defended and encouraged revolutionary struggle everywhere, had its effects in Britain too. Our Party's formation was the answer of the vanguard of the working class to these events. We take great proletarian pride in our fraternal relationship with the Communist Parties of the two socialist countries and we see our revolutionary struggle in Britain as part of the world struggle of the working class in which "revolution is the main trend".

Eight years is a short time for a Marxist-Leninist party to have established itself and to have formulated already, by applying the theory of scientific socialism to the concrete conditions of Britain, a revolutionary line for the working class in our own country.

But it is a long time in

terms of the rapidity of social change in a revolutionary situation in which the ruling capitalist class can no longer rule in the old way, in which the disaffection within the parliamentary parties is a breeding ground for fascism, in which all forms of bourgeois democracy are fast disappearing, in which the trade unions themselves, having begun to outlive their usefulness as a defensive weapon, are adopting the role of collaborators or policemen to the bourgeois state - and with, because of the social democratic blinders they still wear, the working class assisting in the process.

In this situation we, as the party of the working class with no other interests than those of our class, have a sense of tremendous responsibility. We are uplifted in the knowledge that those ideas which first led workers to seize power in the Great October Revolution, which enabled the workers of China to defend their state power in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, which made it possible for little Albania in defiance of all the hostile powers surrounding it to build the only socialist society in Europe today and for the Vietnamese people to humble and expel the imperialist force of the US - those same ideas, shared with our fellow workers here in Britain and applied to our own conditions, can take us out of the gloom, oppression and despondency of capitalism in crisis and, once we have thrown off the chains of wage-slavery, into the dawn of a socialist Britain created by our own efforts.

CPBM-L's

8th Anniversary



MACHINE TOOLS

The Workshop of the World is an Industrial Graveyard

Machine tools are the starting point of all production, all modernisation, all technical innovation. Wherever metal is shaped into a workpiece by milling, planing, turning or grinding, a machine tool does the work. The capacity to produce machine tools in Britain is proof of the advanced engineering level of our class. This capacity in fact is the key to the industrial future of Britain.

This is precisely why the defence of this industry - or more exactly its skills - is of vital importance to every working man and woman in Britain - vital in the defence of their skills too.

Despite the vicious rationalisations which have occurred, of which the tragic story of Alfred Herbert is the best example, the industry still employs about 49,000, of whom 500 are scientists and technologists and over 20,000 skilled craftsmen. They are spread across the country - but particularly concentrated in Birmingham, Coventry and Leicester.

Yet the whole future of the industry is now under greater threat than at any other time in its history. Firstly: industrial investment throughout Britain in new plant and machinery is at its lowest level for twenty years. Yet capital outflow from Britain is higher than ever - particularly to EEC countries. This means that home orders for machine tools have fallen dramatically (by 23 per cent between mid-1974 and mid-1975).

Secondly: more machine tools are being imported than ever before, particularly from the EEC countries. In 1975 the total value of imports from all countries (represented at current prices) almost doubled from £87.6 million in 1973 to £114.9 million. Over the same period imports from the EEC have risen at a similar rate, and account for over half all machine tools coming into Britain. Over the last ten years the increase in imports of machine tools has been dramatic; from 25 per cent of home demand in 1965 to 33 per cent in 1969-70 to 59 per cent in 1975!

Thirdly, however, the industry has been attacked by capitalism from within. 'Efficiency' has been gained, not through adequate investment and modernisation, but by chopping off whole branches of firms and the concentration of ownership in fewer hands. Taking Herbert's as an example: it was once the largest

machine tool manufacturer in Europe and the jewel of Coventry's industrial crown. Even in 1967 it still employed over 11,000; now it employs 6800. Since 1968 the industry as a whole has seen about 11,500 jobs abolished. It is an industry high in skill; yet not only has the workforce been chopped again and again, so has the proportion of skilled craftsmen: from 49 per cent in 1965, to 45 per cent in 1970 to 40 per cent in 1975!

Investment by British machine tool manufacturers has been very low. From 1970 to 1974 gross investment per employee in Britain was £361, compared with US firms £435 and West Germany £600. Again, in comparison with West German firms the ratio of investment per employee to profit per employee is about double!

What all this means is that British capitalism has been ripping off a higher level of profit from its machine tool firms, re-investing very little and thus leaving an increasing share of the market open to foreign manufacturers. In other words, it has been killing the goose that lays the golden egg - not just for this industry but the whole of manufacture.

Why do we tolerate such industrial treachery? Why flatter ourselves for instance, that a 'Labour' NEB in 1976 will not complete the ruination of this industry which was begun by a 'Labour' IRC (Industrial Re-organisation Corporation) ten years ago? Will capitalism tear the heart out of engineering. No! We will tear the heart out of capitalism!

Haringey Teachers Oppose Transfer

The London Borough of Haringey Association of the National Union of Teachers this week took a major step forward in the fight against the cuts in education. They overwhelmingly passed a motion totally opposing all forms of teacher transfer, whether compulsory or voluntary, where the staffing establishment of any school is adversely affected. They called on the Local Authority to withdraw all their proposals before May.

The Association also reiterated its opposition to overcrowding in schools, and called for a class size below 30 in every class in the Borough by September 1978.

LEYLAND'S-Its right to struggle

But its better without our hands tied

The present series of strikes by Leyland workers, mainly toolmakers, at factories in Birmingham, Coventry and South Wales have started up again. Attempts by workers at these factories to secure recognition by the Executive Council of the AUEW fell on stony ground. There was no way the EC could have made these strikes official. The policy of the Engineering Union at this moment in time is support for the Social Contract and the £6 pay limit. Demands above the £6 limit will not receive official backing. This does not mean that workers should not defy this limit, it never stopped struggle in the past. There was a time when recognition, which means you receive strike pay, was looked upon as a bonus - you struggled anyway.

What we should now be

asking, is how and why the AUEW got into this situation, supporting a Social Contract and a £6 pay limit. Is it not ironic, that a leading shop steward at one of the Leyland factories involved in the strike against the £6, is the same man who moved the resolution at the National Committee 'In Support of the Social Contract, and the £6 Pay Limit'.

A trade union exists to maintain and improve the conditions of its members. The situation we now find ourselves in, with all the contradictions, cannot be blamed on bad leaders, or even the National Committee. The fault belongs to the membership, and it is only they who can put things right. If the present trend continues, we will be faced with the situation where leaders of say the AUEW, the TGWU

and the GMWU meet with the Government once a year, and then inform us what increase, if any, we shall receive.

The present talks now taking place between the TUC and the Government on what percentage increase we shall receive, are as phony as a two dollar bill. There are no politics in a percentage. Are we to sit and wait and allow the TUC to decide our future, when we have an organisation, the AUEW, built by workers to maintain and improve our conditions? We must now begin the fight back, and make quite sure that the coming meeting of our National Committee takes the right decision, against the Social Contract, and returns to Free Collective Bargaining.

Return to Work in Dignity

At the GEC Plant of Keith Blackman in north-east London, 350 locked out workers have voted for a return to work. The dispute which lasted three months had been the culmination of the history of confrontation between GEC's local management at Keith Blackman and the workforce. The immediate cause of the dispute was the sacking and victimisation of a TASS representative (the staff section of the AUEW) who was also the spokesman for all the unions at the Plant; and from the outset it became clear to the workforce that this was an attempt to strangle the trade union organisation in the Company.

After the victimisation a stoppage of work by certain departments in the Company was met by the locking-out of the whole workforce, both manual and white collar. The workforce decided to turn the tables - they re-entered the Company and evicted the management.

Finally, after meetings between the Company, the Engineering Employers Federation, Union officials and the Conciliation and Arbitration Service a formula was presented to the workforce as a basis for a return to work. It transpired that the Company were no longer seeking assurances but were in fact offering assurances so that the occupation of the site would end and normal working could be resumed as quickly as possible. However, there was to be no re-instatement of the victimised steward. Reluctantly the workforce at a mass meeting voted to accept this but, in the realisation that they had done everything possible in an effort to win the battle. In returning to work they have preserved their dignity and organisation.

GEC had sought to have the workforce crawling back to work but instead they had sustained one of the greatest batterings ever at one of their plants. For them Keith Blackman was a bad example to the rest of the Combine and indeed to the engineering industry. The unity between all the nine unions at Keith Blackman, representing all grades of white collar and manual workers is almost unique in the industry.

NUT CONFERENCE

On April 17th, the Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers opens in Scarborough. This event is of some moment, not only for teachers but for all workers and the future of education.

Organised labour is the stumbling block to Government plans to dismantle the education service. Teachers find themselves in the front line of this struggle.

"The major issue for the NUT's Annual Conference at Easter, is the erosion of democracy and the sovereignty of the Conference itself." (THE WORKER, No 6, 1976)

The acceptance of the £6 pay limit was in contravention of Conference policy and the refusal to call a Special Conference to ratify this was a flaunting of the rules. This is clear. Not so clear yet is that this is the responsibility of the membership, now in particular their delegates. Their passivity has allowed the embryo of adherence to the Labour Government to thrive.

This adherence threatens an active defence of education. Will Conference allow a misplaced allegiance to a Labour Government to thwart opposition to education cuts? To reserve opposition for only the most outlandish cuts?

Each week brings fresh cause for concern. Social democratic thinking tempts us to treat with ideas that should be dismissed out of hand. The Department of Education and Science proposes to throw skilled and experienced teachers on the scrap heap at 50. They are playing on the weakness of those keen to retire early. The DES's aim is to foster division inside the profession and we should know of their intent.

Nor must we impose fetters on our capacity to struggle. The proposals for new disciplinary procedures, which involve immediate suspension for members engaging in "industrial action" with out prior approval of the Executive, may not even be debated. Will Conference have so little faith in our members conducting struggle with discipline?

Unless Conference is reaffirmed as the supreme authority of the union then the labours of this body will all be in vain.

Now we must see beyond our present struggles and our particular arena. Successive governments have underlined that there is no future for education. Now, more than ever, we can see that a revolutionary struggle for education is on the agenda.



Building workers, students and other trade unionists demonstrated outside the Home Office on Wednesday 24th March, in protest at the continued imprisonment of Des Warren. His detention serves as a constant reminder of the hatred reserved for those who threaten the ruling class. It also should remind those who argued that his release would come after electing a Labour Government of how wrong they were.



The EEC Endorses Unequal Pay

The right to equal pay guaranteed in Article 119 of the Rome Treaty and in Westminster's Equal Pay Act is not worth the paper it is written on.

The EEC Court of Justice recently ruled that a Belgian air hostess had been paid less than her male equivalent - and that her employer should grant her back pay and pension rights, some some £140.

The British and Irish governments objected, on the grounds that the decision would establish a precedent. If all were to be paid according to the ruling the Exchequer stood to lose £1000 million, especially if settlements dated back to the year of Britain's entry into the EEC in 1973.

After the British intervention the EEC Court's decision has been reconsidered. The Court admits injustice by ruling (on complaints already received) that employers must make up money denied workers in the past. But in the same breath as it declares itself for compensation, it also declares that, from the date of its verdict onwards, the principle no longer applies!

Palestinian Revolt Grows

The Zionist occupation of Palestine began with violence and murder in the expropriation of land and the tradition is being maintained. Not content with seizing Palestine, then later the West Bank, the Golan Heights, and Sinai, the Zionists are now turning to those plots of land still in the title of individual Arabs and seek to enclose them for military training.

With the recent mass upsurge, both in the newly-occupied territories and in the lands stolen in 1948, the struggle of the Palestinian people for justice and for their nation has reached new heights. Once and for all the myth spread by the Zionist occupiers that "their Arabs" were "happy" as opposed to the "miserable" refugees has been refuted. For the struggle has come home. And with the murder of 5 Palestinians, the Zionists stand condemned by the world.

Britain Stay Out of Zimbabwe

As the struggle of the Zimbabwe people to liberate their homeland from the racist colonialism of the Smith regime intensifies, fresh diversions rear their familiar heads. Not the least of these is the pernicious idea put over by, for instance, Kaunda of Zambia, that British troops should intervene to impose majority rule in

The Sterile Road To Fascism

Once upon a time when the American Century had not met an early grave in Vietnam, old India hands in Washington would say after a few Bourbons that the only solution was to shoot every tenth Indian. The Peace Corps tried to do the next best thing - bribe Indian villagers with transistors and 50 pence to have vasectomies. That occasionally 14-year olds would be among those made "safe" was just their fate.

Today things are different. Mrs. Gandhi has cleaned out the CIA and other "foreign" conspiracies. Her Emergency and rule by decree, the mass arrests and imprisonments without trial or appeal, the press censorship, the abolition of all civil liberties and most vitally, no strikes or stoppages, have met with the approval of

both the Kremlin and the Labour Party. But history being what it is some things have a strange way of recurring.

Among his many exhortations to the youth of the nation the Prime Minister's younger son, Sanjay Gandhi, whom the experts are grooming for higher and better things, has recently stated that no one will be appointed to posts within the Youth Congress - the ruling party's junior wing - unless he can bring about at least two vasectomy cases or render some other service for the poor of India. No sooner said than two Indian states have started drafting laws to make sterilisation compulsory for those (the fortunate poor no doubt) with two children. Progressive opinion is divided about a third chance for those with no sons!

A Visit to Highgate

A delegation of Japanese who have been attending an International Peace Conference at York held a remembrance service at the tomb of Karl Marx in Highgate Cemetery. The photograph shows a survivor of the Nagasaki A-bomb blast before the tomb. The delegation was welcomed by the Highgate Residents' Association.

On May Day the Highgate Newtown Residents' Association is organising a march and a wreath-laying ceremony at Karl Marx's tomb to honour the man who formulated the theory and practice of scientific socialism. The



ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. and the slogan for the occasion is "Workers of All Lands Unite!" It is planned that the ceremony will be followed in the afternoon by street theatre and musical entertainment.



Workers at this Chinese iron and steel company, because they work for themselves in a socialist country, applying revolutionary zeal to their tasks, have fulfilled the 1976 state plan ahead of time.

Zimbabwe. Such an act would be a perversion of the idea of solidarity.

We in Britain who have witnessed the so-called peacekeeping role of the army in Northern Ireland, the peoples of Aden, Cyprus and Malaya, will know that the army of British im-

perialism enters a country, not to liberate, but to perpetuate enslavement. Our role in aiding liberation must always and everywhere involve the demand for withdrawal of British troops, for they represent the military expression of political reaction and only oppose progress, wherever they may be.

VIETNAM REUNITED

April 25th will be a great day for the people of Vietnam. One year after their epoch-making victory over the United States and the complete liberation of their land the people of Vietnam, north and south, are going to fulfil the goal which inspired them through the long years of bitter fighting - the reunification of their country.

Vietnam was always one nation despite the efforts made to divide it by the French colonialists. When the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was established by President Ho Chi Minh in September 1945 it extended throughout the land; and the 17th parallel, dividing north from south in 1954, was intended to be a temporary demarcation until elections were held to unify the country.

Those elections were never held because the United States knew what their outcome would be. Instead they not only occupied the south but spread about the lie that north and south were two separate nations and that the north was "invading" the south. To their shame many people believed this lie and in Britain, as in so many other countries supporting US imperialism, one had to hear politicians making the absurd charge that the DRV were on a par with the USA as both were "aggressing" against the south.

The necessities of war led to the formation of a National Liberation Front for South Vietnam and later, as its victories mounted, there came the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam as a separate entity from the DRV although both were under one common leadership - that of the Vietnam Workers' Party.

Today, one year after the last American general and puppet criminal fled and through the hard work of rebuilding a democratic socialist Vietnam, out of the ashes of the most vicious bombing any nation has had to endure have proceeded the plans for reunification. So on Sunday, the 25th of this month, the people of Vietnam, north and south, men and women, will go to the polls to choose representatives for the first National Assembly for all of independent Vietnam. This Assembly will be the sovereign political body for a reunified socialist Vietnam which will eventually replace the two existing governments of the DRV and the PRG. It will lay down the guidelines for the future shape that such a reunified socialist Vietnam will take.

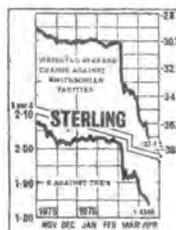
The workers and peasants of this heroic country have shown by their limitless courage how to win independence. They now begin the next chapter in their story - the building of socialism.

Save the £ from Capitalism

The plummeting pound, brought low by the vastly profitable manipulations of international financiers, does not only mean that those of us who can still afford holidays abroad get a lot less for the money we have earned.

It ties up with other aspects of Britain's dependence on other capitalist countries, for so much of our food for example, to make British workers work harder and longer just to go on being able to eat the same amount.

There are only two currencies in the world which are out of the reach of the international money-grubbers - those of China and Albania. In socialist countries the currency is simply a measure of the values produced by the working people and serves to facilitate their equitable distribution.



A stable currency in Britain would be one symptom of a socialist Britain developing on the basis of self-reliance and independence. It can come about in no other way. Our own native capitalists will not save the pound. They can make huge profits selling it short themselves.

All capitalists are international money-grubbers, gnomes of Zurich. Capitalism has no acceptable face - not even the Queen's on a one pound note.

INDUSTRIAL ROUND - UP

Capitalism's counter-attack against the working class by the destruction or contraction of the industrial base in Britain continues, sometimes taking the form of shutting down in this country, sacking the workers and opening up again in some other place where profits are greater, as in the case of Rank Audio's move to Korea.

Sometimes it takes the form of take-over and contraction, as when the Hull-based Northern Foods firm which owns Northern Dairies absorbed the Stoke-based Clover Dairies and immediately closed down plants in Hull and Bridlington creating many redundancies.

At Plessey's, Liverpool, workers have lived under the constant threat of redundancy for the last six months. After announcing 2000 prospective redundancies at Beeston, Sunderland and South Shields management has been shifting workers from one place to another and sometimes letting workers go only to replace them with more workers a short time later. All this reorganisation and moving work from one factory to another is intended to set workers at each other's throats while Plessey reduces the grades and piecework system on each product they move around.

It is useless to accept the Government-TUC wage policy in principle and then protest because you do not like the way some aspect of it affects you personally - like the toolmakers at Rolls Royce, Bristol, who even agreed that re-instated differentials need only be paid when the Government allowed it!

Workers will find no answer to this attack by the employing class as long as they accept in any form the right of the Government to fix their wages - which is one of the main characteristics of the corporate state.

Civil Service Unions In Danger

The Ruling class's courts are again being allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of a trade union. The union concerned this time is the Civil and Public Servants' Association.

There is at present a court battle being waged between the CPSA Executive and its President over an article written by the President on the internal affairs of the union in the "Readers' Digest". As to who is right or wrong in this or any other similar case is only of secondary consequence - the main issue is that this is a union matter being dealt with in the ruling class's courts - just what they would like! This circumvention of union procedure is part of the erosion of unions' internal democracy.

This sort of thing reduces the power of unions to act as united bodies against the capitalist class.

NUJ BRANCH OPPOSES BUDGET

The NUJ's 1300 strong Book Branch, meeting on the evening after the budget, overwhelmingly passed a motion calling for union opposition to the idea of a deal with the government involving voluntary wage restraint in return for tax concessions. This follows the branch's consistent support for free collective bargaining and opposition to the social contract. The motion will go forward in the Branch's name as an emergency motion to the union's policy-making Annual Delegate Meeting at the end of April.

When the chairman of a company about to be swallowed up by Slater Walker protested at the effect mass redundancies and the hiking of prices might have on production, Jim Slater told him: "The only product we're going to make is money."

It reduces the democratic nature of unions to a farce, causing splits within the membership, and costs unions heavily in legal fees and even fines on the unions for not doing what individual, reactionary members (and even non-members) want.

This is doubly serious in view of the proposed amalgamation of the civil service unions, in the belief that "bigger is automatically better". This is not true, as has pointed out in a previous Worker article (No. 5 1976). Any amalgamation through weakness, will create further weakness.

Such reactionary trends within the civil service unions, if they are successful, can only aid the disruption and therefore the effectiveness of those unions, at a time when civil servants need to be united against the biggest threat to their jobs they have ever had to face.

Nalگو Defends Education Dept.

Avon branch of NALGO has taken a correct stand opposing the County's proposals to transfer to Personnel the personnel duties carried out within the Education Department. This attempt to break the autonomy of the Education Department, going as it does against the Balas Report on reorganisation of local government and even the recommendations of management consultants, employed by Avon itself, is a thin guise for the implementation of education cuts.

The personnel Committee are notoriously mean in their management of the County's budget. So that if they get their hands on the largest section of County spending, there would be no stopping them, except by the action which members in the Education Department are prepared to take.

STUDENTS FIGHT FOR EDUCATION

The main concern of the NUS conference which took place between April 5th-9th was to protect education against the vicious attack of the government's expenditure cuts. The conference re-affirmed the demand of the grants campaign, first put forward by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) of "Full grants for all full time students".

The new claim was that of £985 for next year which will bring us back to the real value of the 1962 grant.

The conference refused to be diverted by arguments that students on discretionary grants or overseas students are special cases which should be prioritised at the expense of the other demands of the students' fight to save education. It was recognised that an attack upon one group of students is an attack upon all and must be resisted by all. Equally it was recognised that calls to moderate student militancy so that pensioners can be looked after is a crude attempt to end struggle.

It was realised that the attack on education is part of a general attack upon the skills and future of the working class. The destruction of education, health, housing, are symptomatic of the capitalist system's search for profit at the expense of Britain. Students are a part of the working class and must play their part in the fight of the working class to save education.

In Brief

The former lecturer in economics, Harold Wilson, always insisted that economic policy was the central issue of British politics. Perhaps it takes a skilled bourgeois economist to be able to push unemployment to its highest level since the great depression and bring about a negative industrial growth rate, and certainly it explains how bourgeois economics acquired the name of "the gloomy science".

Devolution- or the Dictatorship of the Proletariat

The debate on devolution continues to flag. As devolutionists of all shades struggle in the drifts of the White Paper on separate assemblies, opinion polls admit a marked move away by the Scottish workers from the idea of 'Home Rule'.

When the aim of devolution is to transplant to Cardiff and Edinburgh tissue which is already rotten before it leaves Westminster, one can appreciate why the recipients do not relish the thought of the treatment being recommended.

The all-important question, "Who controls state power - the working class or the employers?" is assiduously avoided by those advocating a 'free and independent Scotland! The nationalists advance the most contemptible slogan of all - 'Rich Scots or Poor Britons'. Who can doubt how they view the aspirations of the British proletariat!

Others, like the newly-founded Scottish Labour Party, recognise the growing disenchantment of the class with the politics of social democracy. So they split from the British Labour Party and re-form only to find that without a revolutionary ideology they have escaped the spider but not the web. Soon they are back to being MP's again, electioneering and supporting Labour's attack on the whole British working class, just to 'keep the Tories

out of office'. Clearly, there are good reasons why they have all been steadfastly cold-shouldered by every trade union in the land.

The understanding by Scottish workers that they must fight capital, whether homegrown or foreign, will finally knock the nationalists into a corner where they will stay. Outside of Canada, Scotland is the country most penetrated by American capital in terms of US investment per head of population. Whisky, shipbuilding, cars and oil are not all, American marines daily man the nuclear missile base at Holy Loch.

It is the instability of the overseas subsidiary in a time of world capitalist crises that threatens to wreck Scotland with closures just as previously the deliberate rundown of engineering and heavy industry put tens of thousands on the dole queues.

All this British governments have brought about with subsidies, development grants and tax allowances to multi-national companies. All this and more the supercilious Scottish devolutionists omit from their propaganda.

All this and more the Scottish working class must understand if they are to play a full part in the self-determination of the entire British proletariat. That means not devolution but dictatorship of the proletariat.

Voluntary Workers

Before statutory provision was made for welfare services in Britain all such work was done by voluntary organisations. These subsequently became a tool in the hands of the government, who covered up the inadequacies of the statutory provisions by encouraging charities to fill the gaps.

Now, at a time when huge cuts are being made in the social services budget, local authorities are turning more and more to voluntary organisations for help in papering over the cracks.

For example, in Exeter, the student Community Action group found themselves being asked to provide services normally the responsibility of local authorities. At one time the social

services would never refer cases to a voluntary group, because to deal with such visits required professional training. Now referrals are being made because of cutbacks in staffing. In hospitals volunteers are being asked to do nurses' work, helping to feed patients, being unpaid porters, and transporting patients between home and hospital.

Voluntary workers must realise that to do such work is to help these organisations cut back staff more easily, voluntary help will become the only welfare service in the country. In Exeter the students decided not to undertake work normally done by paid workers. In this way the full extent of the attack is not obscured.

CPBML Bookshops

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON, NW5.
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol 2.
October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool.
The Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, off Great George Street, Leeds.

Meetings

EXETER: 'We made Britain - We must save it'
Exeter City Library, Music Room.
Wednesday April 28 at 7.30 pm.

LIVERPOOL: Mayday Meeting: 'Revolution to Save Britain'
October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool 2
Sunday May 2 at 8.00 pm.

New Albania Society
'Europe's only Socialist Country'
October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool 2
Friday May 14 at 8.00 pm.



EDITORIAL: "We take great proletarian pride in our fraternal relationship with the Communist Parties of the two socialist countries." The background is last year's CPB(ML) May Day meeting.