

THE WORKER



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STOP THE DESTRUCTION

Steel

AS we have pointed out before, all the charges and counter-charges flung about by Varley, Villiers and the Select Committee are just so much dust raising to hide the fact that they are all fully agreed on the destruction of the British steel industry. An agreement just reached between the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation representing 65,000 steel workers and the British Steel Corporation by which, in exchange for the Government-allowed 10 per cent wage rise, the union leaders accept the need for the closure of 'loss-making' plants is an attempt to get workers to ratify in advance the rundown of steel making in Britain.

The Confederation has agreed to consider the closure of additional plants not on the 1976 Beswick list for destruction, like Shotton where some 6,000 workers stand to lose their jobs. Indeed, it is reckoned that the intention is to reduce the overall figure of 199,500 workers in steel by between 25,000 and 45,000. It has also agreed to cooperate in work-measured incentive schemes which means fewer workers doing the same number of jobs, and it promises to prevent undue delays in commissioning new plants like the dispute over manning at Redcar. Because redundancy and severance pay are highest for skilled workers productivity schemes designed to reduce the work force in fact tend to rid the industry of skilled workers.

Of course, this agreement is only a promise to behave on the part of union leaders and can in no way prevent a challenge to the destruction of the industry being made at any time and anywhere. Already workers are arguing that in defining 'high-cost' plants due for destruction depreciation and interest costs should not be included.

Craftsmen and blastfurnacemen have yet to express their view of the agreement when they meet in Sheffield on March 13. The working class must let it be known that as far as this or any other 'agreement' between workers and destroyers is concerned we will not acquiesce in the destruction of Britain's industrial base which is our own destruction as the best-organised and most skillful working class in the world.

Workers go back to dig in

AT a mass meeting on February 24 at the Leyland factory, Speke, Liverpool, who have been on strike for 17 weeks were recommended by the AUEW convenor to "return to work on Monday (February 27) and fight redundancies by any means whatsoever". This recommendation was made on the basis of securing agreement on manning levels in all areas which was what the strike was about.

The proposal to return to work was carried overwhelmingly. There will be another meeting called inside of a month to involve all other trade unions in the factory, APEX, ASTMS and so forth, in the fight for the right to work and a strategy for the defence of jobs at Speke No 2 will be decided on.

It is obvious now that Leyland management have been dragging out the dispute over

manning levels and challenging the mutuality agreement simply to set up the strike-bound factory as the first target for Edwardes's campaign of reducing the Leyland workforce. Some say the intention is to cut the 130,000 workers in Leyland to something like 50,000. In this task of making the Speke factory look like the logical one to close down first management had the help of the ACAS which over and over again would help in prolonging the negotiations.

Besides full Government backing in his plan to shut down this factory, which was built ten years ago at a cost of £10½m to bring much needed employment to Merseyside, Edwardes has had the help of the media which published wild stories of redundancy payments of £10,000 to those who lost their jobs continued on P. 4

Racists are excuse for ban on demonstrations

WITHOUT enormous police protection the racist National Front would have been swept off the streets - just as in the 30's the fascist Moseleyites were driven out of London's East End.

Now these agents provocateurs of capitalism have given the Metropolitan police, backed by the Home Secretary, the excuse for banning all political marches for two months.

"All" means, for example, those concerned with animal welfare, higher students grants, and women's rights. All had planned demonstrations in London, as well as others too numerous to mention. Implementation of the Public Order Act now classifies all as illegal, if held in London, an area of 250 square miles, containing a fifth of the population. A ban on fascists or a

fascist ban?

NATIONAL Front supporters beat a hasty retreat from the gates of an Ipswich school on Tuesday when they were set on by a crowd of angry pupils.

The incident took place when two Front supporters tried to give out leaflets at Chantrey School. They were spat on and their literature was torn from their hands. One pupil said "we want no nazis at Chantrey." (Times Educational Supplement)

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Picture by Lawrence Sparham(IFL).

WHEN is a strike not a strike? When it is a stoppage of work. During the Second World War, strikes were officially outlawed. State intervention into collective bargaining came in the form of the Statutory Regulation and Order, 1305. Order 1305 was introduced by the government in May, 1941. It declared both strikes and lock-outs illegal. Significantly, only 2 employers were ever prosecuted under the order - as against over 6000 workers.

In December 1941, the Betteshanger Colliery in Kent provided the setting for the testing of the practicability of prosecuting large numbers of men for going on strike illegally.

The initial struggle concerned allowances for work in a difficult seam where working conditions changed almost weekly. The dispute was referred to the compulsory arbitration court, the National Arbitration Tribunal. The arbitrators awarded in favour of

the management. The men rejected the award, walked out, and 4000 were on strike. Although the strike was illegal it had the backing of the local union officials.

The Secretary for the Mines, a former miners' leader, took action with Cabinet backing. The first step was to select 1000 underground workers for attack. But charges against 1000 workers could only be handled satisfactorily if the men pleaded guilty, because if each man pleaded not guilty the proceedings could last for months. So the Union was asked if they would instruct their members to plead guilty and accept a decision on a few test cases which they obligingly did.

Three union officials were sent to prison. The Branch Secretary was sentenced to two months with hard labour; the local President and a member of the local executive each received one month with hard labour; 35 men were each fined £3 or one month's

imprisonment and nearly 1000 were fined £1 or fourteen days. Yet the strike continued.

Protests from the working class came against the severity of the sentences, particularly against the jailing of three union officials. Many of the miners in the area were in the Home Guard and Kent was in the front line.

There was talk of sympathetic strikes - and the only men who could call off the strike were in jail. So the Secretary of Mines went down to Kent accompanied by the President of the National Federation of Mine Workers. After 5 days of re-opened negotiations, an agreement was signed in prison between the colliery management and the Kent Miners Union.

Apart from a few face-saving words, the agreement gave the miners what they wanted. The officials were released after 11 days imprisonment. And the mines re-opened; in the first

week back the normal output of coal nearly trebled.

The lessons learnt from this miners victory were that the government could only prosecute on a large scale if everyone co-operated. It had irrevocably weakened the authority of Order 1305.

Of the men who were fined, only actually 9 paid. The county jail could only accommodate a few at a time, and it would have taken several years to work through the list. The Clerk of Justices asked for guidance - and the company offered to pay the fines since the cost to them would be so much less profits tax.

But the government informed them that on no account should they do this. Instead, the Court was advised not to invoke the fines... (In 1950 the NUM asked formally that the fines paid should be returned. They were told in the appropriate civil servant manner to forget it.)



Kent miners in 1972.

Longest coal strike in American history

WHAT the two and a half month strike of coal miners in the US is really about is whether their union, the United Mine Workers, is going to survive in the form which generations of struggle in the Appalachian coal fields have given it.

Coal mining presents the same phenomenon as other areas of US labour history: courageous organisation in the teeth of the most ferocious opposition from employers and government which nonetheless falls short of the achievements of British workers in terms of unionisation. As late as 1914 local militia men acting on behalf of the notorious robber baron, J.D. Rockefeller, against striking coal miners at his mine in Ludlow, Colorado, fought a day-long battle during which they killed over 40 men, women and children. And yet today there are many mines which are completely non-unionised where 'lump labour' can make high wages by risking safety and health.

In the present strike state troops are being used to protect road drivers bringing in coal for power stations and one man has already been killed in a clash between striking miners and seabs. The main negotiations which

fix the relations between workers and employers in the mining industry are those between the United Mine Workers Union representing 180,000 miners and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association representing owners out of whose mines comes half of the coal produced each year. The trouble over the three-year contract which led to the strike is not connected with the 37 per cent wage increase which the workers are not contesting. It is over the small print clauses in the contract which would wipe out benefits won by the miners over years of struggle - a coat of living agreement, their own administration of their pension scheme, and the Union's health and welfare funds, the very thing which enables the miners to sustain a strike of this length. There is also what the BCOA calls a 'stability clause' which would penalise miners refusing to cross picket lines in 'unofficial' strikes. Pittsburgh and Midway Coal, a company not belonging to the Association of owners, has agreed to a settlement satisfactory to the miners, but the main body of owners and employers is insisting on its punitive clauses which would seriously weaken the UMW and open the

way for an extension of non-union, more dangerous, higher paid but fewer jobs throughout the industry. Exactly the same kind of move as is represented by productivity deals in British coalmining.

President Carter is under pressure to do something to bring the strike to an end. He can get a court order under the American Industrial Relations Act, the Taft-Hartley Act, requiring the miners to go back to work for 80 days while negotiations continue; he can ask Congress for legislation enabling the government to take over the mines and put soldiers in the pits to hack out coal with their bayonets or he can call for binding arbitration which the miners would be forced to accept. But these options all depend on the miners being willing to bow to them.

Workers in the US like workers in Britain have to save their assets - their unions without which they are powerless. Latest:

A few hours before Carter had to make up his mind to take on the coal miners in one way or another an agreement was reached by owners and union which still has to be approved by the membership.

More investment and wages too!

WHEN is a workforce most attractive to capitalist investors? When it is skilled yet cheap. An advert from the Industrial Development Authority of Ireland put it plainly. 1. "Labour costs have been kept to a keenly competitive level." This means that employers have kept wages down to a level low enough to compete with low paid workers in other countries. 2. "Ireland has been able to negotiate and adhere to her National Wage Agreements." In other words, unions have not demanded wage increases when they felt they should have one but only when the employer is expecting it. And then negotiations are conducted on a national basis when the employer doesn't have to face unions on his own. 3. "Employer contributions to social welfare have been kept to a keenly competitive level." This refers to the poor provision of pensions and so on.

The fact is that the standard of living for workers in Ireland is one of the lowest in the EEC.

No Avon closures

TEACHERS in Avon are now beginning to understand exactly what the chairman of the County Council meant last year when he said that having cut the education service "to the bone", this year "amputation" would take place, for many schools throughout the county find themselves under threat of closure in accordance with the Education Committee's new policy on primary school numbers and accommodation. The Council may well recommend that rural schools in which the roll falls to 60 (100 in urban schools) should be considered for closure. This criterion includes an alarming number of schools.

The director of education justifies these proposals by contemptuous remarks about the poverty of the educational environment to be found in small schools, and dismisses the teachers who work in them as disinterested, inefficient or just "stagnating".

A motion has been passed by Bristol Teachers' Association to Avon Division calling upon them to refuse to co-operate in any plans for such closures, and to give help and encouragement to members whose schools are at risk.

COMMA NDO groups organised by imperialists and would-be imperialists to interfere in all parts of the world are fashionable nowadays. Cyprus was right to defend itself from Egyptian attack. Let a similar fate await all other such outrageous ventures.

GKN the Great British nuts and bolts monopoly has run into some trouble. An £80m move to take over Sachs, the German motor components firm has been stopped by the German High Court. In 1971 GKN's investments in Europe amounted to 19.6 per cent of their holdings in the UK. In just five years this has increased to 34 per cent, and the proportion of profits has increased similarly from 24 to 43 per cent. So this is what the regeneration of British industry is all about.

A NEW biological 'theory' designed to prove that there is no hope of improvement for the human race so we might as well give up now, has emerged from Mr Arthur Koestler. Sometime round the Pleistocene Age he says, "evolution... left a few screws loose between the neocortex and the hypothalamus". Thus analysts and emotions and morals will never meet, says Mr Sadsack. War, exploitation, etc., are all bound to continue. Let him speak for himself.

OFFICIAL figures reveal that the economy has failed to register any significant growth in 1977 at all.

THE Post Office (Industrial Action) Bill to go before Parliament later this month forbids Post Office workers from taking part in any discriminatory action against an individual, company or country, and thus is an attempt to legally eradicate working class solidarity.

As a sop, the bill recognises the right of the PO workers to strike against the Post office over internal disputes. As though that right could be denied! No government or its legislation will tell us when we can show solidarity or not.

THE effects of health cuts on an already underfunded NHS are becoming more and more apparent. The latest hospital waiting list figures reveal that there were 40,000 patients in need of urgent care, who could not have treatment at the end of September. The total number of people waiting to go into hospital was nearly 600,000. Such figures cannot portray the human suffering that is involved. David Ennals the Government's chief architect of the dismantling of the NHS, in his hypocrisy declared: "I am very concerned."

As if it were not cold enough, the heating temperatures in Cornish hospitals are to be cut, and the patients food allowance is to be cut by 5p. This cut will 'save' the Health Authority £100 a year. It is clear that our health as a class is of little concern to our employers. If we cherish our Health Service, Health Service, then we have no option but to defend it.

EDITORIAL

COMMUNISTS oppose violence. It is a crime against humanity. One of the marks of a communist is his dedication to the establishment of a communist society from which violence has been eliminated because the exploitation of man by man has been eliminated.

At the same time communists know that every exploitative regime is only maintained by violence or the implicit threat of violence. They also know that no ruling class of exploiters has ever voluntarily resigned state power. If communists are sincere in wanting to change society and end exploitation, they have to be prepared to fight counter-revolutionary violence with revolutionary violence.

Capitalism, whose essence is the theft of surplus value from the working class backed by state force and whose whole development depends on aggressive expansion, is violent through and through. All the hungry, miserable people of the earth are victims of this violence even if in this place or that there may be no overt signs of it. All the millions of unemployed workers are victims of this violence even if no guns are going off. A man sitting comfortably on another man's back may seem to be enjoying a peaceful relationship with him - till the man with his face in the mud decides to stand up.

Capitalism in its final imperialist phase is the source of all wars which from the world-wide conflicts of imperialist countries fighting each other for new fields into which their own national capitalism could expand have now increasingly become wars of suppression against those workers and peasants who challenge capitalism itself. That is the significance of the defeat of US aggressive imperialism by the people of Indo-China.

Since the revolution has to be made by the united strength of the working class, no violent action of revolt can be envisaged which would have the effect of splitting or dividing in any way the workers' forces. All appeals to non-class or anti-class sentiments of race or religion are forms of counter-revolutionary violence. Acts of terrorism which are the expression of a lack of confidence in the working class by arrogant individuals who think they have a right to act on behalf of the class merely serve as an excuse for the counter-terrorism of the ruling class, directed not against the terrorists so much as against the whole working class.

If the bombers of women and children in northern Ireland who have the nerve to claim that they are patriots did not exist, British imperialism would have to invent them. The Baader-Meinhof group, whatever their intentions, provide the West German Government with an apology for the repression they would have imposed anyway. The hijackers of aircraft who put the public at risk are used to justify the flagrant violations of national boundaries as at Entebbe and Larnaca.

The force we have to use to create the society we want is directed by the working class against the class enemies of the world's people. It is part of a proletarian crusade in which workers must be proud to enlist. As Marx says: "This revolution is necessary, therefore, not only because the ruling class cannot be overthrown in any other way, but also because the class overthrowing it can only in a revolution succeed in ridding itself of all the muck of ages and become fitted to found life anew."

Doctors faced with the dole

THE standard employers' tactic of creating a reserve army of unemployed workers in order to intimidate those in work is being applied with a vengeance to the medical profession. More medical students are being trained than there are jobs for and more juniors are employed than there are senior posts for, so that unemployment at every level is already with us and certain to worsen.

The current policy of the British Medical Association (BMA) addresses itself to this problem only in that it calls for a reduction in medical student intake. This by itself is completely inadequate and must be supplemented by a demand for the creation of more posts, especially senior ones.

Clearly the demand for more posts must be made on the understanding that there must be no drop in salary for any doctor lucky enough to have his or her workload lightened and that adequate back-up staff and facilities must be provided to enable the extra doctors to do their job properly.

The BMA has failed to incorporate this demand in its policy only because of a lack of clarity in the profession itself. Objections are raised that the demand is "unrealistic" (asking too much) and that expansion of the consultant grade would erode its status. Where is the status involved in being top

dog in a profession of more or less desperate men and women grovelling to be taken on to work 100 hours a week for peanuts? Like many other workers, particularly among the professions, doctors are reluctant to admit how dirty their employer will fight.

Once it is clearly seen that the unstated intention of the Department of Health is to bust the medical profession, rob it of its dignity and bring it to heel - all the better to increase the exploitation of its members, then the objectives mentioned above shrink into insignificance. Of course it is aiming high to demand the creation of more consultant posts but what is the alternative? We either aim high or admit defeat.

A strong response by the BMA to the weapon of unemployment is not only necessary for doctors themselves. The Labour Government is not setting out to degrade the medical profession but of a sense of egalitarianism, though some pseudo-Marxists seem to think it is. The truth of the matter is that health workers as a whole cannot defend the NHS if doctors are degraded and demoralised.

Medicine belongs to and should serve the working class and the presence of doctors in the dole queue is a phenomenon that only capitalism is twisted enough to benefit from. For every doctor trained there must be a job!

Capitalism - menace to British farming

THE Government's recently published Annual Review of agriculture attempts to paint a rosy picture of Britain's Agricultural Industry over the last year and although production has increased considerably compared to the two drought stricken years of 1975 and 1976, there is still no sign of the steady expansion envisaged in the white paper 'Food from our own resources'.

The review declares that farm incomes were up by 16 per cent, but such an increase in profits hides the continuing decline in agricultural production. The production of cereals and other arable crops reflected the favourable growing season but did not reach the levels of similar seasons such as 1973 and 1974; while the area under horticultural production remained constant but the acreages of apple orchards and cauliflower declined. Of more concern is the drop in livestock numbers since these have a long term effect on our food supplies:- the total number

of cattle dropped by 170,000, beef production falling by 5 per cent, sheepmeat production was down 4 per cent while the pig breeding herd fell by 7 per cent.

It is to the credit of the skilled agricultural workforce that while overall production is falling, yields in the various sectors of agriculture are improving consistently.

Despite an increase in profits, investment in plant, machinery and buildings continued on a downward trend. The agricultural labour force, the key to Britain's food production, is also continuing to decline in numbers:- full time workers dropping from 213,000 to 206,000 part time workers dropping by 9000 to 68,000. The most serious change in the workforce, however, is an increase in casual workers from 14,000 to 94,000 indicating a deskilling of agriculture and increasing exploitation, since casual workers are the most difficult group to organise in the farmworkers Union - NUAU.

The Annual Review acknowledges

that farmworkers' living standards have fallen over the last year, and the recent wage increase, though breaking Government guidelines, has done little to restore living standards --the minimum wage being only £43. The devaluation of the 'green pound' is hailed by farmers as the means of revitalising

British Agriculture and paying higher wages, but Farmworkers should know from long and bitter experience that however high farm profits, farmers will always pay the lowest possible wages and it is only through utilising their industrial strength that Farmworkers will achieve a wage level that matches their dedication and ever-increasing productivity. The devalued green pound will only lower living standards still further due to increased food prices. To quote from the CPB(ML) pamphlet 'Food for the people': Farmworkers should not only use this strength to fight for more wages, but also to save our agriculture for a self reliant, socialist Britain.

Abundant resources

"THE working classes, if they will but exert themselves manfully, have no need to solicit the smallest assistance from any other class, but have within them superabundant resources." (letter to 'The Economist' Oct 1821).

This is the fundamental thread running through all the policies at work in Albania. It is the policy of self-reliance.

The Albanians stress "self-reliance demands, first of all, firm reliance on the creative mental and physical energies of the people." Developing skills, independent thought and initiative are the foundation of increasing economic production - that is when people are motivated by socialist aims. Only then can natural resources be properly utilized and developed. Such development is itself the foundation upon which national independence is secured. It all rests on the people.

Capitalism in Britain is a good example of the opposite. Work, which can be a joy in developing human talent has become a drudge and an oppression. Unemployment, the destruction of skill and prosperity is endemic. Industries, regions and countries undergo a deformed development concentrating solely on what they happen to be 'best at', creating misery for their peoples and dependence upon other countries. Competition in the world markets means, if successful, imperialism. And if a failure then decline, 'protectionism' and war. All can be seen at work in Britain and the world today.

In Albania, however, great attention has been paid to overcome uneven development. Industry has been diversified, depopulation of backward areas halted by the development of appropriate industries and agriculture, division between town and country, deliberately reduced. New industries have been developed to reduce import dependence.

UGC's phoney expansion

THE most recent and sinister proposals concerning the future of university education in Britain were released last month in the form of a letter from the University Grants Committee to the vice-chancellors of the universities.

The UGC are calling for a roughly 10 per cent increase in student numbers by 1981-2 and if resources were provided for this then university education would benefit enormously due to the intake of new staff, the improved prospects of promotion, and so on.

As it is, however, there is no firm commitment from government to expand resources, and many departments are already struggling along under a quite untenable burden.

In the light of policies towards education pursued by all governments in recent years, any proposal for expansion without a corresponding guarantee of funds must be treated at best with the utmost scepticism; at root, it should be seen as the insult to our intelligence which it really is.

The destructive intent of the proposals is most clearly spelled out in the recommendation of a cutback in the numbers of post-graduate and overseas students by 3 per cent of the total student pop-

ulation. In some colleges this would mean losing anything up to half the post-graduate places, and the reason given for this is that "otherwise there will be a restriction of opportunity for school leavers and others which it will be impossible to justify".

The government is clearly up to its usual game these days of trying to turn undergraduate against postgraduate student, home against overseas student, destroying the most advanced areas of higher education in the process, and attempting to clothe its deeds in the guise of "progress" and "expansion".

There is no justification for cuts in any area of education, and it is a welcome sign that certain vice-chancellors have already told the UGC in no uncertain terms what they can do with their latest quota proposals.

Yet no one should think that the desired expansion will be achieved without a fight, or without recourse to campaigns of guerrilla action through our unions. The government is committed to the rundown of education in all areas, and it is going to take a lot more than mere words to stop them.

Many people try to ignore the basic political issue. They try to reduce self-reliance to an arithmetic game of counting 'natural resources'. Albania it was said, had no mineral resources. Their capitalist advisors in Moscow told them to concentrate on growing sunflowers and oranges because they were 'good' at that. The Albanians did the opposite...

... the geologists should courageously search every inch of our mountains and plains, and assess every trace, every clue and every discovery with the greatest of seriousness". Oil, chromium, copper and coal reserves were rapidly opened up. Such a comprehensive programme is anathema to the capitalists of Britain. Here, land is divided between profit seeking corporations vying

in secrecy and competition. Self-reliance breaks the false dichotomy between free trade and protectionism which are both a result of imperialism. But some people today are saying that nations should preserve their independence against the USA and USSR by forsaking the class struggle which 'divides' the nation, when 'unity' is needed. They talk with forked tongues. It is clear capitalism, dependence on others, and misery go hand in hand.

Socialist self-reliance, is not and never will be, a purely 'economic' policy to be pursued when expedient. It is the expression of the working class in control - liberated and ascendant - in politics, culture, morality, production and diplomacy.

TUC youth

Callaghan champions neutron bomb and another war

THE guest speaker at the Annual TUC Youth Conference was Mr Geoffrey Holland, author of the Holland report and director of the Special Programmes of the Manpower Services Commission (MSC). He called on the young trade unionists faced with large-scale unemployment to join in the "good work" of the Commission. Indeed he was in the position of being able to congratulate the trade union movement on its fine record of involvement and aid to the Commission's programmes already. He told delegates, "You should feel a sense of ownership and pride in these programmes. You should regard them as yours; yours to plan, design and evaluate."

This was an undisguised call to join with the state in the creation of permanent mass unemployment, and the deskilling of our youth. Ownership? Pride? Never! The shame for delegates was that the trade union movement had already put its name and time to such an organisation. One after another delegates denounced the smokescreen of the MSC. It was the creation of jobs not the design of better ways to spend life on the dole that youth was demanding. The message to emerge from the discussion was that jobs had to be created by workers in their workplaces and no jobs belonging to our class should be surrendered.

AN offer of 10 per cent plus £3.60 made by the Electricity Council has been rejected by the negotiating team representing the five unions in the negotiations led by Frank Chapple General Secretary of the EEUPTU. The mandate given by the EEUPTU from the November conference was clear. To reject any wage restraint by any Government and pursue a claim in a collective bargaining situation.

The claim in all its aspects must be pursued. Central to the claim is the demand for a substantial increase in wages of 30 to 40 per cent. There must not be instead a settlement involving the selling of jobs centred on a productivity

deal. Already in our industry over the last ten years we have witnessed a reduction in the workforce from 141,000 to 82,000, a loss of 59,000 jobs contributing to the national figure of nearly 2,000,000 unemployed. This has been achieved with the cooperation of the Unions in the false belief that this cooperation would bring substantial benefits for those remaining. Part of the present claim is for the elimination of the mobility of labour clause, clause 202, which gives the employer the right to move skilled men to less skilled jobs enabling the employer to operate with a much reduced workforce. The threat to eliminate clause 202

should not be used just as a bargaining counter to win a better productivity deal. We must throw it out as it has been a source of much resentment for those who have been denied the use of their skill as well as its effect on employment. Also an important part of the package is for a reduction in the working week to 35 hours and an increase in holiday entitlement. This again can be a way of ending the continual cutting of jobs and create employment.

What has become absolutely clear is that arguments about justice or past sacrifice get nowhere. Any advance is going to be based on our unity and on our determination to

make a so-called 'Labour' Government concede a living wage. We must remind our negotiation team that their loyalty must be to us and not the Government. The Trade Union movement is not in existence to keep an anti-working class 'Labour' Government or any other Government in office. It exists to fight for the wages and conditions of its members.

In fact defeating this pay policy would weaken the ability of any other Government to try to impose another pay policy. There can be no doubt that we can win if we fight. We must overcome our fear. Our guidelines are determined by the needs of our families.

Electricians want money and no loss of jobs

CALLAGHAN is off to Washington at the end of May for a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the political body which oversees the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). And top of the list for discussion is the question of the neutron bomb.

The neutron bomb - or, as the Defence Secretary called it recently, the enhanced radiation/reduced blast weapon - has been developed in America. It is the epitome of a capitalist weapon since it can wipe out a population while leaving buildings and factories intact.

NATO has still to accept this brutal weapon. The NATO

ministers, meeting in Europe last year, decided it was a good thing - but weren't sure the idea would go down well with the peoples of Europe, so a decision on accepting the nuclear neutron bomb was deferred.

For its part, the USA is hanging fire on full-scale production of the bomb, because they intend it to be deployed in Europe and don't want to waste money in case Europe should reject it. The American imperialists, of course, fully intend any future war to be fought over our dead bodies, not theirs.

In the face of rising opposi-

tion from the workers of Europe - and those of America too - to the idea of being killed off by massive doses of radiation for the greater glory of imperialism, Callaghan has stepped into the breach. He is leading a campaign on behalf of the USA and Europe's bourgeoisie to convince everyone that the neutron bomb is a good thing and ... wait for it ... a force for peace.

The key to Callaghan's attempt to establish himself as a leading statesman of imperialism is the Russian Menace. The Soviet Union, which tries to be second to none when it comes to nuclear hardware

and is also well to the fore in chemical and bacteriological warfare, is for its own reasons against the neutron bomb (it hasn't got one). Brezhnev has even written to European heads of state telling them not to accept it.

So Callaghan has been on his feet in Parliament telling us that the neutron bomb is "no more fearful than a number of weapons now being developed in the Soviet Union" and "the neutron bomb and its serious effects are being used by the Soviets as a propaganda exercise."

All of this is quite true. But only the most diehard supporters of American imperialism could think that it is reason enough to adopt the neutron bomb. Only those who would like to see workers - Russian as well as European and British - die in a nuclear war could encourage the neutron bomb.

You do not fight for peace by putting ever more powerful weapons of destruction in the hands of imperialists. This is the cardinal point. There is only one deterrent to imperialism and that is revolution against imperialism.

When Callaghan goes to Washington it must be against the background of a rising chorus of protest against this weapon.

He is thus maintaining the special relationship with the US and consolidating the EEC'S position in NATO by putting the lives of all of us at the most terrible risk "Down with war. No to the neutron bomb."

Polys fight 'quota cuts'

THE policy of quota imposition on overseas students has again reared its head as an attack on the British education system. The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) is using quotas as a means to cutback on courses and close whole colleges.

ILEA logic is as follows. Firstly cut back on the numbers of students attending courses. Then say that there are too few students to make the course viable. Close courses, throw lecturers onto the dole.

The National Union of Students has taken up the challenge. Thames Polytechnic Students Union has been in occupation for two weeks against the quota. Central London Polytechnic, after a

union meeting 700 strong, have adopted a policy of lightning short term occupations and canteen boycotts designed to bring maximum pressure to bear on the PCL authorities.

On February 22nd two thousand students demonstrated their total opposition to the quota. Action has spread around the country.

The courses that are most under threat are engineering and computer studies. Whoever heard of an industrial economy without engineers or computer designers?

The fight against the quotas will be won in the colleges. The strength and unity of the unions in education will make it impossible for local education authorities to implement the quotas.

Leyland (contd. from p1)

Some mistakes have been made. The stewards should have realised sooner that the dispute was just an excuse to close down the Speke No 2 factory and more of an effort should have been made to keep workers informed of what was going on. Till the meeting on February 24 there had not been a mass meeting since November 1 last year.

However, with the vote to return to work to prepare to fight redundancies the ground is laid for defending Leyland from the quack who has been sent in by the Government to bleed and butcher it. What has to be realised is that it is not the fight of one or two unions or of one or two factories but of the whole of the Leyland workforce in defence of their skills and jobs.

Shortages of nurses for specialists

ALTHOUGH there are more nurses seeking employment than there are funded posts to fill, shortages of qualified nurses continue in many specialties, such as children's nursing, intensive care, theatres and on night duty.

In her report on nursing services in 1974 to 1976, the Chief Nursing Officer, emphasises the need to plan adequately both at local and national level to ensure that supply and demand are in step in the future.

Does this mean we shall have more cutbacks on specialist units so that 'supply' is in step with 'demand'? Or perhaps the Department of Health will increase the number of funded posts?

Books, pamphlets

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW 5
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Liverpool bookstall **Every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool**

PUBLIC MEETINGS

WORKER readers are invited to the CPB(ML)'s London meetings listed below. The meetings will take place on Friday evenings at 7.30 at Bellman Bookshop, 155, Fortess Road, Tufnell Park, London, NW5.

- March 3 Down with Phase Four
- March 10 The Politics of Economic Struggle
- March 17 James Connolly, the first British Marxist

'The Worker'

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NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....

Friends of Albania meet at the "Albania Today" exhibition at Town Gate Theatre, Basildon.



The exhibition which attracted a lot of interest was organised by the New Albania Society, Basildon