

THE WORKER

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600,000 JOBLESS

August unemployment highest on record

AT OVER 600,000, or 2.6% of the working population, the August unemployment figure is the highest since records began 30 years ago. With so many out of jobs in the summer, it is believed that the winter figure may top 700,000. In Northern Ireland the percentage of unemployed is 7.5!

Our WORKER cartoon last month showed Lord Denning, in a case against a trade union for dismissing a man from membership and thereby threatening his job, proclaiming that "a man's right to work is fully recognised by law". If that right is endangered by a trade union taking action against a member for an infringement of rules or by workers sending a scab to Coventry, it can be upheld in the courts. But just try vindicating in the courts your right to work against the boss who has made you redundant!

The legal right to work is meaningless in a country of soaring unemployment. It is like telling the starving masses of the neo-colonial countries that at least they have a legal right to eat.

Workers will not fight for the right to work. They will fight for work. They will not ask for jobs. They will demand them. This demand will be based on the knowledge that if workers in their unity withdraw their labour, instead of letting the bosses withhold jobs arbitrarily from certain sections, that is the end of the whole capitalist system. The strength of the working class must come from the realisation that while they can do very well without the boss class – in countries like Albania and China the workers have already done so – the bosses cannot do without the working class. Without workers to exploit by robbing them of surplus value capitalists cease to exist.

The demand for full employment cannot be met by the capitalist system. Promises of full employment by successive Labour and Tory governments aren't worth the paper they are written on. So the fight for work for all – men, women, young people – is a battle in the class war to overthrow capitalism by exploiting its own inner contradictions.

LONDON TRANSPORT

Wages, fares & service

NOBODY today is happy about the state of London Transport. The passengers are understandably incensed because the service, always bad, has got even worse at a time when fares have reached a new high.

Passengers left waiting in the morning on their way to work for half an hour upwards at what is quaintly called the "Rush Hour" are made no happier by the increased cost of this doubtful privilege.

On stations all over London there are boards stating the reason for the bad service as being staff shortage and technical faults.

There may be some truth in this but the real truth is not given though it is not difficult to see. Where is the service at its worst? Much has been said about the "Migery Line" meaning the Northern. There is nothing special in fact about the Northern Line. All the lines are equally bad. The Northern Line has always been O.K. on the stretches covering the City and West End. The District Line which has always been far worse than the Northern functions quite well around the City and West End and so with all the Lines. This is where L.T.B. conceal what has always been the real cause of bad service and it goes like this.

Passengers using the Underground within the confines of the City and West End won't wait half an hour for a train if this becomes a regular occurrence. It would be quicker and cheaper to walk, and the revenue is thereby lost to L.T.B. But the passengers from outlying areas have no alternative than to suffer and wait.

It is one thing to walk from Leicester Square to Charing Cross (where the service is almost non-stop). It is another thing to walk from Uxbridge to Shepherd's Bush. It is also a fact to be considered, and L.T.B. never lose sight of it, the long distance travellers include a large proportion who buy season tickets. Nobody buys a season from Strand to Leicester Square. With the Season Ticket buyers' money already in the bag who cares how bad the service is – not L.T.B. Where else can they go. It is small wonder that the passengers have their own name for the lines, not "misery lines" but "robbery lines."

London Transport workers engaged on maintenance are claiming an 11% increase without strings. This arises from the

fact that after refusing to budge on a wage increase without strings the LTB conceded shortly afterwards an 11% increase to many of its employees following an agreement with the Main Line Rail Unions and this without offsets. Naturally LTB workers consider it high time they had a wage increase to offset increases in the cost of living without having to bargain away their conditions. Passengers should see an identity of interest between themselves and LTB workers and not conflict. What about those staff shortages which the LTB blame for the putrid service. How much more severe would the staff shortage be if the Unions had listened to the LTB employers and desisted from making wage claims. The shortage would of course be far worse and consequently the service would have collapsed completely. It is not that far away from complete collapse now.

The fare situation has now reached farcical proportions. The only thing that makes the Underground cheaper than Taxis is that the train drivers don't require tips. How much longer must this situation continue before it is fully realised that passenger transport must be an efficient public service without regard to profitability. That it must be manned by fully competent staff which means good wages and conditions. That the alternative is a rotten Passenger transport service and roads congested, and air polluted. Off the roads and onto the rails has always been a good slogan for goods or passengers. It won't be realised under a system of profit above all.

They order these things better in Albania!

THOUGH the transport prices in Albania were modest to begin with they have been constantly reduced. Thus, for instance, the railway season tickets have been reduced by 50% for workers and 60% for students. Transport tickets to certain resorts have been drastically lowered. The estimated savings to the public of these reductions, particularly of long distance trains is some 8½ million leks – about £700,000.



YOUTH!

THE WORLD IS YOURS

IF YOUNG people, young workers and students, did not rebel in a society like ours, that would be a matter of grave concern. If the idealism of youth failed to find British society wanting and ceased to think it could be changed for the better, the situation would indeed be hopeless.

Ours is a class society, based on the capitalist exploitation of workers here and the imperialist exploitation of workers and peasants abroad. Goods are not produced to meet the needs of the people but to make profits for the bosses. If it is profitable to use up natural resources making rubbishy articles which must be quickly replaced, that will be done. If it is profitable to pollute the atmosphere, the streams and the sea in the process, that will happen too. If it is profitable to destroy food crops in a starving world to keep prices up, they will certainly be destroyed.

It is no use appealing to the government to do something about it because governments, whether Labour or Tory, serve the interests of the boss class and the profit system. It is not governments that need changing but the system itself.

The training and the education of young people is not for the purpose of enabling them to make their fullest contribution to society, but to brain-wash them and mutilate them spiritually to fit into a system that produces – profits. Whole forests are felled for the paper on which propaganda for the capitalist profit system and lies about socialism can be disseminated.

Youth must rebel. It is your world the bosses are plundering and destroying before you can inherit it. It is your fellow students and young working mates they are bombing, murdering and starving in Vietnam, India, Malaya, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, just to go on reaping the easy profits to be got from exploiting the raw materials and cheap labour of the colonial world.

Already young people are on the march in protest at the waste and brutalisation of the profit system. Already students are beginning to realise that it is not just the

educational system that is wrong but the profit-grubbing society it reflects, and that society can only be changed by the working class. Already young workers are protesting in various ways at the dead-end jobs or no jobs at all which are what this system offers them.

It is right to rebel; but the boss class is clever and has plenty of agents who will try to assume the leadership of your rebellions in order to misdirect them. These agents will exploit your militancy to rush you up blind alleys and leave you disillusioned and frustrated. They will take you along adventurist short-cuts which in the end will get you nowhere. There are no short-cuts. There is only the building of a revolutionary movement among the working class which alone has the force and will to topple the bosses, smash their state machine and establish a proletarian dictatorship capable of preventing the profit-seekers from ever sneaking back into power.

Our Party, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), is a revolutionary party and any genuinely revolutionary party depends on its appeal to youth, to young workers and students. We need you to continue to the end the protracted fight against capitalism in the vanguard of the working class.

What have we to offer you? The only revolutionary theory proved in practice by actually making revolutions – in Russia, in China, in Albania. The only revolutionary theory which can explain what went wrong in Russia and which has successfully prevented any such retreat from socialism in China and Albania.

What we have to offer is Marxism-Leninism the thought of Mao Tsetung, that is to say scientific socialism, which must be applied to the concrete conditions in Britain so that here, too, the profit system can be smashed and socialism established. We ask you to join with us now in the great social adventure of that application. Our Party will never desert the struggle this side of complete victory over the class enemy.

PEOPLE'S WAR SWEEPS ASIA

Palestine guerrillas fight on! . . .

Defy phony peace plot!

THE reactionaries of the world are rejoicing. After years of "honest endeavour" by the international imperialist goon show - starring Brezhnev and Gromyko, "Tricky Dick" Nixon and U. Thant, Boozy Lord Brown and Sir Alec - Israel and Egypt have come to the conference table and a Middle East cease-fire has been declared.

What does it mean? Precisely nothing! The main parties to the Middle East conflict are the Palestinian people, whose homeland was usurped by the Israelis, and the Israeli state, founded, armed and financed by U.S. and British Imperialism. Egypt is a spectator on the side lines. The few times her army has confronted the Israelis it has been smashed. The Egyptian government cannot speak for the Palestinians.

In fact no cease-fire has taken place; the Palestinians have refused to silence their guns. Recent statistics show that in the second week of August, after the "cease-fire", the Palestinian guerrillas launched 120 attacks on Israeli forces, wiped out over 100 enemy troops, destroyed three tanks and 30 military vehicles, and shot down one plane. Some "cease-fire"!

The Palestinian guerrillas fight on. And as they fight their goal of a democratic Palestine, in which Jews and Moslems will live side by side with equal rights, comes ever closer. Their example is beginning to teach everyone in the Middle East the only way to beat imperialism is through people's war.

No wonder the imperialists, from the White House to the Kremlin, are worried. In Britain alone our two biggest monopolies, Shell and British Petroleum, stand to lose a total of £800 million profit a year if they lose their Middle East oil fields. Of course they will try every manoeuvre to liquidate the Palestinian struggle, whether by arming Israel to the teeth with every latest weapon, by instigating the regime in Jordan and Lebanon to stab the guerrillas in the back or by the present farcical "cease-fire".

25th Anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

THE Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) sends its warmest revolutionary greetings to the Vietnam Workers Party and the people of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the August Revolution and the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on September 2nd, 1945.

In these twenty five years the Vietnamese people under the guidance of the Vietnam Workers Party and their great world-venerated leader, Ho Chi Minh, defeated and routed French imperialism and achieved over the mightiest imperialist power of all time, the United States of America, tremendous victories in the field which have had a shattering effect on this colossal enemy of the world's people. All attempts by the U.S. aggressors against the liberated North have been repulsed and in the South the National Front for Liberation under the present leadership of the Provisional Revolutionary Government has inflicted on the imperialist invaders and their puppets defeat after resounding defeat. The U.S. imperialists, thrashing about in the toils cast about them by the courageous Vietnamese people, have now spread the anti-imperialist war of liberation to the whole of Indo-China.

The Vietnam Workers Party has declared in connection with this Twenty-fifth Anniversary: "Acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's testament, our entire people must persevere in and step up their war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation till complete victory."

Those opposing imperialism and fighting for socialism the world over owe a never-to-be-forgotten debt to the Vietnamese people and their great leader, Ho Chi Minh, whose heroic life was given to the cause of world socialism.

Ever greater victories to the Vietnam Workers Party and the whole people of Vietnam till the last U.S. soldier has been driven ignominiously from the soil of Vietnam and the rest of Indo-China!

British workers must understand that they cannot stand apart from this struggle. It was British governments that used their mandate over Palestine to establish Israel. It is British companies today which, along with those of other big imperialist powers, profit from the Arab lands. Our task is to overthrow the whole rotten edifice of capitalism and imperialism here in Britain and so to end once and for all the crimes committed in our name against all the peoples of the Middle East.



WHEN THE armed struggle of the Indian people began in 1967 in the little village of Naxalbari in North Bengal (heart of British tea plantations), under the leadership of Indian communists who have since then formed the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), it was known that the road to socialism would be protracted armed struggle full of ups and downs but growing in strength.

That has been proved by the experience of the last three years. The small band of dedicated comrades who went to the villages or worked among the urban proletariat have become a large army of revolutionaries, composed of peasants, workers and those sections of the petit bourgeoisie who have thrown in their lot with the oppressed masses.

The struggle has developed geographically from one end of the country to the other and politically has presented the first alternative to the long history of betrayal of the working class revolution by those who called themselves communist parties but could do nothing other than divide the working class and canvass for votes. Indeed it was such a "communist"-led coalition government that ordered the armed police and soldiers of West Bengal to fire on the first band of revolutionaries in Naxalbari.

In the last three years with every consolidation by the Party of guerrilla squads and the formation of political bases to propagate Marxist-Leninist ideas, especially as developed and applied by Mao Tsetung, the reactionary government, which is the client of both U.S. imperialism and Russian social imperialism, has stepped up its repression. Despite the trappings of democracy the Indian state possesses an army of repressive laws which permit the detention of political suspects before they have committed any crime and allow the police to fire and kill strikers on the picket line, students agitating or any group of people who are protesting.

Bullets and repression cannot stop revolution

Today, by the government's own reckoning, the number of those arrested for their allegiance to the communist revolution (the so-called "Naxalites") are almost 5,000 and those prosecuted are 2,364. But many are not listed because they are killed by police torture before being taken to the police station. Special training is being given to Indian police sent to the U.S.A. in counter-insurgency and new forms of torture. The government hopes that by killing leaders like Satyanarayana and Kallaiah in July and now by arresting Kanu Sanyal, the revolution will be nipped in the bud.

British Imperialism, which takes a keen interest in what the real revolutionary threat to its vast investments in India will be, publishes frequently in its mouthpiece, the Times, stories of Naxalites which might make one suppose they were little more than

hot-headed students. Such is not the case. The struggle in India is the first stage of the socialist revolution - the stage of the people's democratic revolution which is being waged in the villages and cities.

The list of successful encounters between guerrilla squads in villages and the police who are supposed to protect the landlords and moneylenders has grown longer and extends to 11 states of the Union.

What is of special interest to workers in Britain is the growing revolutionary struggle among the working class. In Bengal, for example, the last year has seen a victory for Marxism-Leninism as against the reformist leadership of the revisionist parties whose sole aim in conducting workers' struggles was economist or, recently, to win votes during the elections and today, to divide the workers so that they should not carry out their revolutionary tasks.

However such tactics are obviously not succeeding in West Bengal where recently, a very major struggle has been launched by railway workers in the northeastern railway, a struggle which has shaken the government and the tame union leaders. Tyrannical managers have been punished; plant and equipment destroyed and reactionary moves by the government checked. Similar acts have recently taken place in the government's armaments factories in and around Calcutta where the Government of India, preaching non-violence, practises the art of developing a rapidly growing arms industry, financed and helped by the Soviet Union.



THE COUP in Muscat and Oman, which took place at the end of July this year, is a clear indication that British imperialism intends to maintain its hold over the oil rich Arabian Gulf.

Ever since 1965 the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arab Gulf (PFLOAG) has been fighting an armed struggle against British imperialism and its local puppets, the feudal reactionaries, in order to liberate the Gulf from imperialism and feudalism.

After having achieved significant political and military successes PFLOAG was able, in accordance with Mao Tsetung's principles of peoples' war, to establish in the Dhofar province of Oman a strong base area, with over two-thirds of the province liberated.

The growing success of peoples' war in the Gulf has proved to be a strong threat to British imperialism's interests there, and particularly in Muscat and Oman. Britain has tried to defeat the revolution militarily using Pakistani mercenaries commanded by British officers, and when this failed indiscriminately bombed villages and economic targets using RAF planes. However having been unable to liquidate the revolution by force alone, the British government has now tried political manipulation and deception.

British Backed Coup

The old Sultan of Muscat and Oman, Sid bin Taimur, the owner of over 5,000 slaves was such an unparalleled example of feudal oppression in the Gulf that he was becoming an embarrassment even to the British government, which is infamous for its use of feudal reactionaries as puppets.

Consequently British imperialism needed a sultan who would have a more "progressive" image in order to introduce minor reforms in an attempt to hold back the development of the revolution, further its plans for a neo-colonial political entity in the Gulf, and thus preserve British imperialism's control over the Gulf oil. The old Sultan's son, Qabus bin Said, who was trained at Sandhurst is thus suitably qualified as a first class British puppet. British imperialism being in too much of a plight to wait for

the ageing Sultan to kick the bucket, needed one thing - a coup. Obligingly one took place. Askaris supporting Qabus seized the palace and Said wounded during the attack agreed to surrender only to the British colonel of the desert regiment (obviously he knew who really rules Muscat).

Following its successful coup the British government has now sent its special envoy to the Gulf, Sir William Luce, it should come as no surprise to anyone that Luce was in Muscat three months before the coup apparently looking after his own private business interests in the area. One of Luce's objectives is to unite the Gulf sheikhdoms into the neo-colonial puppet federation of the Union of Arab Emirates.

Luce is undoubtedly "lifting a rock to drop it on his own feet," he's done it before. It was Luce who thought up for British imperialism the South Arabian Federation, only to be forestalled by the revolution that kicked out the British imperialists and established the Peoples' Republic of South Yemen.

Armed Struggle

The people of the Gulf have shown they will no longer tolerate exploitation and oppression by British imperialism and its feudal puppets. They have shown this by taking up arms in order to take control of their own destiny and the wealth of their own land. As PFLOAG has stated in its Declaration to the British people, published earlier this year - "We demand the complete and immediate withdrawal of Britain from all areas of the Gulf, and the renunciation of all British defense ties with the Sultans, sheikhs and emirs she has been propping up for so long. We denounce both the Tory and Labour Parties for their identical policies of oppression in the area. Moreover we know that the British people have been kept in complete ignorance of these facts by a tight censorship and in particular by the refusal to permit independent observers to visit Dhofar.

Our struggle is part of a world-wide movement against imperialism and against exploitation by capital. We are one with the heroic people of Vietnam and with the peoples of Rhodesia and Northern Ireland who like us are fighting disguised forms of British colonial rule.

We appeal to all progressive forces in Britain to support our cause, and to oppose this savage and secret war being fought by Britain to protect her oil and her slave-owning Sultan. We shall continue our fight till the whole of the Gulf has been liberated and until British imperialism has been finally driven from the area.

Long Live the Unity of the Anti-Imperialist struggle in the World!
British and American Imperialism out of the Gulf!"

The struggle of the people of the Arab Gulf, is the same struggle as that of the working-class here. The same British oil companies that exploit Arab workers in the Gulf, exploit the workers they employ here in Britain. The British Imperialist ruling class is the common enemy of both the British working-class and the people of the Arab Gulf. It exploits and oppresses both of them in order to maintain its fat profits. In the words of Lenin's great slogan - "Workers and Oppressed Peoples of the World Unite!"

Workers Condemn British Imperialism

"That this Quarterly Meeting of A.E.F Shop Stewards (London North) views with alarm the increase of British troops being sent to the six counties of North East Ireland.

We call for the immediate withdrawal of all troops in order that the Irish may solve their own problems. We feel that the only solution to this problem can finally be a united socialist Ireland."

"This London North District Committee calls for the complete withdrawal of all British Troops from the six counties of Ireland as a first step to ending the partition of the country and the exploitation by British imperialism of this nation. We further call for the release of all political prisoners."

Radio

(Note: All times of broadcasts are given in British Time)

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking:
9.30 a.m. - 10.30 p.m. 32,45,47 metre bands
10.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 32,42,45,47 metre bands

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Tirana:
7.30 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. 31.42 metre bands
5.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands
7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands
9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands
11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 31.42 metre bands
(The 9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium wave, 215 metre band)

Daily Broadcast from Hanoi:
9.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band

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ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

ROLLS ROYCE

The name Rolls-Royce usually suggests the luxury of sleek limousines but the management are now pleading acute poverty. Draughtsmen at the Rolls-Royce Coventry factory demanded parity with other Coventry workers. At age 30 Rolls-Royce draughtsmen get £34 7s 1d a week while Rolls-draughtsmen get £41 2s 5d. The firm made a "first & last offer" of 17% across the board increase for all factories in the combine. They claimed that this would cost them £4.2 million which they claimed was all the company could afford. Local strike action by 24 men in support of the claim for a substantial increase was followed by a lockout of all 950 draughtsmen on July 14. Of course claims of financial hardship by those vast combines should always be taken with an oceanful of salt as accountants, by varying the way they value assets, can make profit and loss figures do anything except jump through hoops.

In any case, as the union claim says "members are not a philanthropic organisation but they come to work to buy the necessities of life. Even if the company were completely bankrupt . . . we would still be seeking wages commensurate with other workers in engineering". Workers in other Rolls-Royce factories are giving financial aid and banning overtime.

OTTERMILL SWITCHGEAR

The strike at this S.Devon plant making telephone switchgear ended on August 12th. It began back at the beginning of May with a claim for an £8 1s a week increase to bring wages in line with national levels. The 200 strikers were then sacked by the managing director who made an "offer" that 130 of the strikers would be declared redundant and the rest would be "allowed to return" at the old rates.

A 15-week strike finally forced the boss to realise that that kind of "offer" was simply not on and an agreement was reached under which there will be a £2 interim increase until a new bonus scheme is finally settled. The new bonus system should mean at least £4 a week extra.

PILKINGTONS

During the 7-week strike earlier this year, Pilkington workers at St. Helens took on the company and the reactionary leadership of the General and Municipal Workers Union as well as the press and the police. But they failed to recognise other class enemies in the TUC and the Government Department of Employment & Productivity.

The "Labour" government, Vic Feather of the TUC and the Churches were not and never could be "neutral" in such a tough struggle with the bosses. The natural fury which the strikers felt about the GMWU leadership led them to set up their own union, the Glass and General Workers Union. But as we said at the time "They will be confronted with the closed shop agreement between the GMWU and the company . . . only rank and file vigilance and militancy can make certain that the dues they pay into any union go to swell a fighting fund and not to subsidise a union bureaucracy."

The Pilkington family was determined that people in their glass houses shouldn't throw stones and set out to smash the new union. The GGWU was refused the right to represent a member in a disciplinary matter. 615 of the workers at the Cowley Hill float glass works went on a 3 day "token" strike which soon became very real when 480 dismissal notices were handed out. The new union then had to call out all of its St. Helens members in a desperate struggle to stay in existence. This was unlikely to be made easier by the old illusions about the "neutral" State. The GGWU treasurer appealed to the courts (the case will be heard in October) on the grounds of wrongful dismissal. Lord Denning's notorious attacks on the closed shop

and defence of "the right to work" were meant for non-unionists and not for militant trade unionists. In any case the battle at the factories will have been won and lost long before the court read out their epitaph.

GKN SANKEY

Europe's biggest truck wheel plant at GKN Sankey, Shropshire was shut down by a strike over a pay claim for 1,750 maintenance and other non-production line workers. Increases averaging 20% were rejected and the workers demanded increases of 4s 3d an hour (£8 10s a week). The "big wheels" at GKN claimed that this 43% demand was "impossible to concede". The 5,000 production workers answered by joining in the walkout.

FERODO

The brake lining works at Chapel-en-le-Frieth followed by the smaller Caernarvon works were closed down by striking maintenance men. They rejected a company offer of £2 a week extra with a productivity deal and demanded £10 extra.

OIL AND CHEMICAL SITES

2,000 construction workers employed by contractors (chiefly Kellogg International Corporation - the major U.S. building concern) - at the Shell Chemicals site at Carrington, near Manchester and at the Burmah Oil refinery at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire went on strike in early July. The men are demanding an increase in the basic rate of 3s 6d an hour to 15s and have rejected an offer of 1s 6d increase. At Ellesmere Port 46 men arrested in July when police tried to force a way through picket lines for tankers were faced with charges of obstructing the police. At the Carrington site there is also a strike of 700 Shell craftsmen claiming a 25% increase in basic rates, at present between £26 13s 4d and £36 10s a week. An offer of a productivity deal giving 12% increase has been turned down.

SCOTTISH TANKER DRIVERS

In April it was agreed nationally that drivers of large delivery tankers for the big oil companies would have an increase from £24 to £28 5s a week. As a result, in Scotland a claim was put in on behalf of 300 drivers of smaller tankers for local distributors.

The claim was for an increase from £18 to £24 10s a week to maintain their position. A strike was called at the start of August which was backed up by drivers with the big oil companies. The oil giants, fearful for their profits, put pressure on the local distributors. The local companies caved in all over the place and so before the strike had lasted a week all the distributors had hoisted the white flag and conceded all demands.

STANDARD-TRIUMPH

Because of a shortage of components following the GKN Sankey strike Standard-Triumph at Coventry laid off 1,300 workers on August 19th. 7,500 other workers then carried out their earlier decision to have a mass walkout every time there is a lay-off.

According to a convenor at Standard-Triumph the men lost about £6 a week last financial year as a result of lay-offs. Why should workers in one firm suffer because the bosses at another firm are so stubborn they need a strike to make them reach a settlement?

Chrysler, which recently left the employers' federation, is on the verge of reaching an agreement safeguarding earnings from the effects of outside disputes at the Ryton assembly plant, Coventry. The battle-cry of "parity with Ryton" is likely to be heard again on another front in the motor industry.

THE 102nd annual Trade Union Congress opens at Brighton on September 7th.

A large number of the motions from various unions are defensive in nature, squaring off to meet the expected Tory Government's attempts to introduce legislation involving sanctions in the sphere of industrial relations. There are no motions however, to keep the TUC itself from offering, as before, to do the Government's dirty work for it!

In the next issue of THE WORKER there will be an analysis of this year's TUC.

Eight or nine motions oppose Britain's entry into the Common Market because of the rise in the cost of living that would result - without explaining why monopoly capital needs to join.

The motion on equal pay merely applauds the last Government's means of postponing it; and, in the international field, while there are motions on Vietnam, Spain and South Africa, there is no mention anywhere of the occupation of Northern Ireland by British troops.

IN ORDER to find additional weapons to use against workers the Government is looking at social service benefits paid to the dependents of strikers. If they were stopped, the resultant hardship for the families of workers on strike could represent a real blow on behalf of the bosses.

Otherwise, it is argued, the state is subsidising strike action when it could force the whole burden of alleviating hardships onto unions and so exhaust their strike funds more quickly.

Of course men on strike do not get state assistance, but their dependents are entitled to supplementary benefits; and the idea of the Government investigation is to see if these could be done away with - amending the National Insurance Act accordingly.

Workers will still enjoy the bourgeois democratic right to strike. They will simply have added to it the right of watching their wives and children go hungry while they're at it!

Industrial Training -

Who benefits?

NOBODY works for nothing and British Industrial Youth are no exception, they in particular have a long history of struggle fighting for the basic rights of all working men, having a say in their own future and destiny, fighting for higher wages and the bettering of their conditions, training facilities and the need for advanced education being part of their continuous fight for advancement within a capitalist society.

Working class youth are not born with a silver spoon in their mouth and any advance they make, irrespective of what field it is in, is only made on the basis of united struggle - a struggle against the employing class, reactionary Government, Labour or Tory.

Youth have learned that to wage a successful struggle they must unite with their older comrades, they must not work in isolation. Young and old are both exploited by a common enemy, capitalism - a system of society which puts profits before people.

It does not matter what trade you work at or what job you do, the employers are only interested in getting the maximum return for the minimum outlay of capital. Hence the need in a capitalist society for apprentices at a low rate of pay and the increasing advance of automation within this Society for the training and re-training of workers who have lost their jobs due to redundancy or the fact that their traditional skills are no longer required and society has found them not profitable enough.

We are all aware of the depth of knowledge and skill acquired by youth during the course of their apprenticeship and we would not be sectarian or old fashioned in saying that we would want to maintain the apprenticeship system. In the past, organised labour have from a position of strength endeavoured to maintain a level of control over the number of apprentices that an employer would have, thus enabling the high standards of skill British craftsmen are world noted for to be maintained.

Also by controlling the number of apprentices, this helps to maintain the level of earnings of all workers and improve them. Should there be a flood of skilled workers

on the labour market, as a result of no control over the employers quota of apprentices, then this would result in far greater exploitation of the mass of workers, that means skilled workers chasing too few jobs and, consequently, the workers lacking bargaining power. In finality - low wages all round.

As automation increases and new forms of power and energy emerge, more people are thrown out of work and the traditional skills which were a man's bread and butter are no longer needed. This presents new problems for the capitalist society of finding new jobs and training redundant men in new skills.

We do not say that the apprentice training system is the be all and end all of craft training, but we would maintain that in those 5 years, now 4, the youth get the all round basic training that enables them to carry out their job with the skill and efficiency that is needed, like doctors and lawyers. One would not expect engineers or craftsmen of any trade to be sold short of their training or education.

The training scheme, in which these workers who are being made redundant find themselves, fall far short of the requirements for the skilled standards that are required in industry today. The time allocated to retraining of these work people of 3 to 6 months is inadequate. They are fostered with the delusion that they are classed as skilled when they finish this course. In fact, because of the inadequacy of their training on finishing, they are only capable of specialist work, which in the eyes of their future fellow work men, and employers is not classed as skilled. In fact, this system of training gives rise to the breaking down of skilled work to semi-skilled status with all its drawbacks of reducing the price for the job, etc.

The employing class, by endeavouring to foster this form of diluted craft training on the working class as an answer to their lack of planning, cannot solve the long term effects of the unemployment, which they have created. It will not solve the crying need for the skill and technical know how that is needed to keep the wheels of British Industry turning. This can only be done with true socialist planning in a true socialist society.

ARRESTED PICKETS

4000 WORKERS

IN ANGRY MARCH

A ONE-DAY token strike called by the Stanlow and Burmah Oil Shop Steward Committee brought 4,000 angry workers out into the streets of Liverpool on August 24th to protest at the arrest of 45 pickets during a strike.

The arrest of the pickets at the Stanlow, Burmah Oil, Carrington Site was the culmination of harassment and needling by the police undoubtedly carried out in the interests of Shell Burmah Oil.

In addition to the 45 who were trapped by police in a narrow lane and arrested when they did not jump to the orders of the Deputy Chief Constable of Cheshire a site convenor who was dragged out of bed in the early hours of the morning was arrested too.

The demonstrators were joined in their march by representatives from the Pilkington Glass works at St. Helens who raised their voices too in angry denunciations of police provocation of striking workers and the right of workers to picket when in dispute.

Among the banners and posters on the demonstration were warnings to the Tory Government to keep its hands off the trade unions.

Threat To

Strikers' Families

IN ORDER to find additional weapons to use against workers the Government is looking at social service benefits paid to the dependents of strikers. If they were stopped, the resultant hardship for the families of workers on strike could represent a real blow on behalf of the bosses.

Otherwise, it is argued, the state is subsidising strike action when it could force the whole burden of alleviating hardships onto unions and so exhaust their strike funds more quickly.

Of course men on strike do not get state assistance, but their dependents are entitled to supplementary benefits; and the idea of the Government investigation is to see if these could be done away with - amending the National Insurance Act accordingly.

Workers will still enjoy the bourgeois democratic right to strike. They will simply have added to it the right of watching their wives and children go hungry while they're at it!

Biggest Australian Strike In 70 Years

ON July 13th maintenance workers at oil refineries in Australia went on strike against their exploitation by the U.S. and British oil monopolists. Eight major refineries were compelled to close down.

On July 21st tanker drivers throughout the country joined the struggle closing down petro stations in all main cities. Buses, taxis and transport lorries were soon immobilised and traffic ground to a halt.

During the same period there were also strikes by container ship terminal workers, warehousemen, packers and crane drivers at the main ports. Construction workers came out stopping work on many sites.

This upsurge of militancy was hailed by "Vanguard", organ of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) as "a new awakening of the Australian working class who would surely continue to lift their struggle to even greater heights."



ARTHUR SPENCER - OBITUARY

SKILLED Engineer. Foundation member of the Communist Party of Britain (M.L.).

Arthur served his time on Tyneside. However, he was not allowed to follow his trade there for long.

He moved to London and worked in Ford's at Dagenham until he was victimised for his Trade Union activity. Eventually he obtained work at Plessey's in Ilford, where he soon won support, first as Steward in the Toolroom, and subsequently when he was elected Convenor. This position he held from 1940 until his election, in 1950, as District Secretary of the London North district of the A.E.U.

During this period he represented the District on the Divisional Committee, and also served the membership in many other spheres.

Arthur Spencer was quiet and unassuming and a man of many interests. A staunch and tenacious fighter for the interests of his class. He had a great love of music and was a keen gardener.

But all his own pleasures were subordinated to the interests of the working class.

STATE DECLARES WAR ON STUDENTS

IN upholding the vicious sentences passed against Cambridge students for demonstrating against British support for Greek fascism last February, the Appeal Court practically outlawed student protests.

Lord Justice Sachs said that the Court would not entertain any argument that the students were provoked into their demonstration by the pro-fascist nature of the dinner party at the Garden House Hotel. "Those who choose to take part in such actions," he said, "do so at their peril." He further threatened all forms of solidarity to achieve political ends by adding: "The law has always leaned heavily on those who obtain their purpose by strength in numbers."

This legal opinion which has just confirmed sentences blotting a year or more out of the lives of six idealistic young men could as easily be turned against workers exerting their "strength in numbers" against police-protected strike-breakers. As has been pointed out before, students are under attack from the state because they are the most vulnerable of those who are critical of the capitalist system. What happens to students today can happen to workers tomorrow.

It is true that deportation orders against two students from fascist countries were quashed — probably because of the strength of popular feeling against this outrageous decision expressed

in petitions to have the order cancelled. But the danger of the precedent of using the threat of deportation to restrict the expression of political views cannot be overestimated — particularly when the Immigration Acts expose so many workers here from Commonwealth countries to this very threat.

After endorsement of the heavy sentences by the Court of Appeal it is perhaps understandable that among those who had gathered outside in sympathy with the students were heard muttered comments about "pigs in wigs."

This whole case can be taken as a move in the direction of the kind of "law and order" promised by the Tory Party. They are not the first to launch such a programme.

"The streets of our country are in turmoil; the universities are filled with students rioting and rebelling; communists are seeking to destroy our country. We need Law and Order. Without Law and Order the country will fall. Elect us and we shall return to Law and Order."

That was Adolf Hitler, speaking at Hamburg in 1932.

Correspondence

THE Aug. 1970 issue of the "Worker" carries an article on the dock strike which concludes with the following paragraph: "The strike is about money not politics. When the dockers and other workers name their price and stick to it . . . that will signal a breakthrough into the realms of politics. Capitalism cannot survive such a challenge."

It seems to me that this paragraph is seriously wrong on two points.

Firstly, all strikes, including those on economic issues, are manifestations of the class struggle and are, therefore, even though they may not appear to be so, basically about politics. Our job as revolutionaries is to support the struggle of the workers for short-term gains and, while doing so, to convince as many as possible that their long-term interests can only be served by extending the struggle to the point where the working class led by its political party confronts the boss class, not just for more money but for state power.

Of course, that does not mean that whenever men strike for a tanner an hour we should wave the Red Flag and call for immediate proletarian revolution.

But still less does it mean that we should lag behind the workers and echo the empty talk of their reformist leaders about strikes being about money, not politics. To quote Mao Tsetung "Our comrades must not assume that the masses have no understanding of what they themselves do not yet understand. It often happens that the masses outstrip us and are eager to advance a step and that nevertheless our comrades fail to act as leaders... and tail behind . . ."

The second error is to state that capitalism cannot survive a strike in which the workers "name their price and stick to it." There have been innumerable strikes in which the workers have named their price, stuck to it and won and yet Britain is still undeniably a capitalist country. Marxism maintains and history proves that capitalism can only be overthrown by a revolutionary uprising of the working class. The one and only thing which capitalism cannot survive is the strength of a united working class armed with Marxism-Leninism, the Thought of Mao Tsetung.

Our Party and our paper must strive unceasingly to master this weapon, to adapt it to our own conditions and, by patient, uphill work, to place it at the service of the British working class.

J.S.H. E.11.

(We are not convinced that the writer of this letter has correctly interpreted the intentions of the article on the "Dock Strike — Them and Us." The solidarity of the dockers was supported — even if the immediate ends were economic. Only the lack of seriousness about the strike as misdirected by its leaders was condemned. And more than the limited economic demands of any particular strike was meant by saying that when dockers and other workers name their price and stick to it, this "will signal a breakthrough into the realms of politics."

Still, the line expressed in the letter is unexceptionally Marxist-Leninist and we wish to encourage comments on the contents of THE WORKER.)

Soviet puppet supports U.S. puppet

ON THE second anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the rulers of the Soviet Union (on Aug. 20, 1968) it is quite apparent that, for all the backstage and apparently unobtrusive manoeuvres, the people of Czechoslovakia are well and truly under the heel of the Kremlin.

Recently in Prague the Cambodian Embassy split, with the Ambassador proclaiming his allegiance to the U.S. puppets and the Second Secretary determined to uphold the rights of the Cambodian people now fighting for their liberty against the U.S. and its puppets. Cambodian students, studying in Czechoslovakia, supported his actions and helped to occupy the Embassy building on August 10. The Czech authorities, however, refused to recognise them but have besieged the Embassy and refer all enquiries about the Cambodian Embassy to the residence of the puppet Ambassador. Further, when the diplomats of China and Democratic Republic of Vietnam have wanted to help the patriotic diplomats and students now confined to the Embassy the Czech government, allegedly socialist and anti-imperialist, have refused them entry.

Prague police, in other words, obeying big brother's orders from Moscow, have sealed off the street leading to the Embassy and in many other ways have made it impossible for the Chinese Embassy to make contact with the legal Cambodian embassy. Serious protests have been lodged by the Chinese but up to this point the

Czech authorities, probably awaiting orders from their masters, have refused even to defend their preposterous behaviour.

So in practice it makes not a whit of difference whether the Czech government is under a Dubcek, the darling of the west, or a Husak, loyal to Moscow. As our Party stated in its protest against Soviet Aggression two years ago:

"As between the Soviet revisionist leadership which has betrayed world socialism and the Czechoslovak revisionist leadership which has betrayed socialism in Czechoslovakia, the Communist Party of Britain (ML) does not support either as the lesser of two evils. That would be like the revisionist CPGB urging its members to support the Labour Party as a lesser evil than the Tory Party when they are both parties of British imperialism and enemies of the working class. We utterly repudiate all revisionists everywhere. Our support is for the working people of the Soviet Union who under Lenin's leadership made the October Revolution and will surely rise up against the revisionist faction which has betrayed them and their proletarian brothers all over the world. Our support is for the working people of Czechoslovakia who will surely learn from their recent experience to denounce their own revisionist leaders, whether old-style Novotny or new-style Dubcek and re-establish the dictatorship of the proletariat so that their country can go forward in the great company of the peoples of China and Albania . . ."

HANDICRAFT FAIR

Albanian Handicrafts on Display

There is an Albanian stand, displaying examples of their handicrafts, at the 18th International Handicraft Exhibition which continues till September 12th. These products of

Peoples' Albania which all the friends of Albania will want to see are shown on stand O30, Exhibition Hall, Olympia.



RUSSO-GERMAN TREATY

ONE OF the main reasons behind Moscow's eagerness to push through the Treaty with Western Germany, which has raised German hopes of eventual reunification of the two Germanies on their own terms, is the desperate economic plight of Russia.

Ever since the time of Khrushchev Russian agriculture has deteriorated and lately there has been failure to realise the targets for industry, much of which is hopelessly out of date. Brezhnev obviously expects the Treaty to pave the way for obtaining West German capital and technological aid. This is in line with the whole policy of the revisionist leadership to make up for deficiencies in Russia's economy by inviting in foreign capital. And this is happening in the first workers' state which, before the revisionists began to restore capitalism there, won the admiration of the world for its self-reliant achievements in developing industry and agriculture on a socialist basis!

But that is not the only reason for the Russian leadership's interest in the Treaty, there is a more sinister explanation. By the concessions made to secure this detente in the West, the Russian leaders free their hands to maintain a threatening presence along the 5,000 mile border with China.

"Mao worse than Hitler" says Russian hack. In a booklet distributed throughout Russia the revisionist leadership's stooge on the South-east Asia desk of the Russian Foreign Office enumerates the major acts of treachery in history: "Hitler's attack on Russia, Japan's aggression against China and American aggression against Indo-China." But more shocking than any of these, according to this revisionist hack, is "Mao Tsetung's treason against the Soviet Union."

It need hardly be pointed out that not one Chinese soldier has ever invaded Russian territory. The "treachery" of Mao Tsetung has consisted in upholding on behalf of workers and oppressed peoples all over the world the principles of scientific socialism when the contemptible leaders of the Russian sell-out were betraying workers inside and outside of Russia by restoring capitalism and collaborating with imperialism.

The Russia of Khrushchev and his successors is threatened from China — in the sense that all imperialist regimes are threatened by socialism. Russian social imperialism, like U.S. imperialism, will be defeated — not from outside but from within, when workers inside the imperialist countries in alliance with liberation forces elsewhere smash their common class enemy.

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