

THE WORKER



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Editorial

REAL WORKERS' CONTROL

Any time the working class fails to sustain and control its own struggle for its own class ends, fails to carry through the line of guerrilla struggle which is tactically correct for this phase of the class war, the phoney 'leaders' of the labour movement will try to recapture the direction of the movement.

That is the context in which the TUC-CBI compromise has to be understood. There can be truces between the working class and the capitalist class but no compromises.

What the TUC is helping the Government to promote is a second line of defence against working class militancy. The Industrial Relations Act will remain on the books as the ultimate legislative sanction against industrial action and the conciliation machinery worked out by the TUC in collusion with the CBI will be a 'voluntary' sanction accepted on behalf of the working class.

This is the same farce which the TUC played out with the Labour Government over 'In Place of Strife' and workers will not be fooled by it. The working class will accept no 'voluntary restraint negotiated for them and will not leave the Industrial Relations Act lying about as a time bomb the Government can detonate when it suits them.

That is the background to the TUC Conference. The TUC will try to raise enough dust and create enough contradictions between various unions to try to win support from some spokesmen of the organised labour movement for its collaborationist line.

At this time when the working class is taking the offensive against the capitalist state's attempts to castrate the unions and turn them into pliable eunuchs within the state machine, would-be leaders of the labour movement are forced to sound militant while devising ways of diverting militancy into harmless channels or blind alleys.

Calls for limited action like token strikes, one-day national stoppages or national bargaining as opposed to factory-based struggles are the response in fear of these 'leaders' to the demands of rank and file workers for real action. But if workers take control of these excuses for action once called, why should they pay any attention to the limits set them? The engineers' struggle in the Manchester area may have begun as an attempt to substitute regional for national bargaining when the AUEW had decided to take the fight into the factories, but the occupations and strikes carried out by the engineers themselves soon escalated into full scale guerrilla battles and spread all over the country. The one-day strike against the Industrial Relations Act by the engineers in Coventry on August 14th may have been conceived as a token gesture, but as implemented by the workers themselves, following up all the incidental issues arising from victimisation, threatened sackings and the like, it becomes a real struggle against the employers and their state. The question is whether rank and file workers, the troops without which there can be no action, achieve and maintain control of any action in which they are involved.

In this sense every industrial action is a small dress rehearsal for revolution with the same problems and the same opportunities. The crux of a proletarian revolution is the capacity for workers under their own working class leadership to take control by smashing the bourgeois state and having won state power to hang on to it. The same basic strategy of exercising control applies to the more limited tactical battles on the industrial front in which workers are presently engaged.

Once workers have taken the step of refusing to submit to an act of the capitalist state they have embarked on the protracted struggle of overthrowing that state; and however long it takes there is no resting place short of final victory or utter defeat. Their future is in the balance. They must control every aspect of their struggle.

Building Workers

on to Victory

Building workers, in their thousands, are now in the third month of strike action against the building employers.

This by itself is an achievement for workers in an industry notoriously casual and one third trade union organised.

This by itself is an achievement for workers who are daily subject to the jungle rules of an industry where lump and bonus-working earns fortunes for the contractors, the property speculators, the landowners.

The greatest achievement, however, is the way in which building workers, using the ingenuity and strength of their organised sections, have quickly developed, to take their place in the vanguard of the workers movement.

Like the engineers they have understood and applied correctly the tactic of guerrilla warfare by withdrawing labour from those sites which hit the employer hardest.

Like the dockers and miners they have seen the necessity for a strong, mobile and uncompromising picket.

Like the railwaymen they have downed tools at an hour's notice - on many sites without waiting for an instruction from their union office.

By their action they have put the fear of death into the employers, who, having created a jungle, expected the workers to behave like tame animals.

By their action they have ground to dust the elaborate plans of the contractors to offer a few crumbs now, a few more next year.

By their action victory on the claim is now the order of the day.

V VIETNAM VICTORIOUS

September 2nd is the 27th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and on this occasion we salute the fighting people of North and South in their great victories over U.S. imperialism.

In Vietnam new fronts are being opened daily. As the Vietnamese people are subjected to ever crininate bombing by U.S. aircraft, so they deal increasingly heavy blows in return. Nowhere in South Vietnam is there a safe hole for puppet forces or

the 39,000 U.S. troops who provide the backbone of the Thieu administration.

Just last week the Vietnamese liberation forces over-ran a support base in the Que Son valley 30 miles south of Da Nang completely routing the puppet troops there. In the words of the American advisers 'the whole fifth regiment of the Second Division (of South Vietnamese puppets) simply disintegrated'. Not only did this put a considerable force of liber-

ation troops within striking distance of Da Nang, the main U.S. supply port, but resulted in the capture of considerable military equipment including 21 American 155 and 105 mm artillery pieces, 11 armoured personnel carriers, 4 tanks and a number of secret American wire-guided missiles.

Daily successes are being won by revolutionary forces from the Mekong delta in the south to the northerly province of Quang Tri. As the roads

into Saigon are being severed it is a matter of speculation whether Thieu will get the bullet from the U.S. like his predecessor, Diem, or whether the Vietnamese people will get there first.

No amount of travelling between Paris and Saigon by Kissinger can conjure 'an honourable settlement' out of the hat for the American government. Increasing international recognition of the People's Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam tells the knell of US 'diplomacy'.

When victory on the present claim has been won a period of consolidation must occur within all the unions involved. This will prepare the ground for further offensives.

The present action has shaken the employers to the core. They never believed that 'their workers' would have reached this far in their fight for a wage increase of 45%.

Victory is in sight. For building workers as a section the battle for £1 an hour looms large.

For building workers as a section of the working class, the battle to defeat capitalism is well and truly started.

Lessons of the Dock Strike

The national dock strike showed again the new spirit which is animating workers all over Britain.

The line of the dockers to defend dockland from get-rich-quick container operators and greedy land speculators has not been defeated by the Jones-Aldington 'compromise' proposals. The dockers have gone back to carry on the fight by guerrilla tactics against individual capitalists who are plundering dockland for enormous profits.

If Jack Jones was bewildered by the reception he got on August 16th from the militants, it was because he never understood what the battle was really about. He thought it was simply a question of getting the best terms possible in the dockers' struggle for their own jobs in a deteriorating situation. The dockers were challenging that situation itself and the system which has given rise to it.

In their rejection of the proposals to begin with and in the militancy and solidarity of the national dock strike, the dockers demonstrated that the fight was not simply for jobs and certainly not just over money. They were fighting for the dignity, self-respect and basic rights of workers who made Britain the greatest trading nation in the world and whose skills and energy are being frittered away by the capitalist class.

The class enemy recognises this. The managing director of Hays Wharf, once the largest employer of dock labour in London, which has trebled profits by investments outside the port area and plans to reap bigger profits yet from the speculative exploitation of 38 acres of London dockland, said: 'The dockers' action aims at undermining the whole free enterprise system.'

And Lord Vestey, owner of Midland Cold Storage, said: 'We will not give in to anarchy... Are we meant to employ the sort of men who attacked Jack Jones?' (Class war makes strange bed-fellows!) 'Do you want to live in a decent and civilised country? We are standing firm for economic reasons.'

The dockers say 'No thank you. We do not want the 'civilisation' of the brutish, selfish, wasteful, short-sighted capitalist system. We do not want the 'decency' of the speculators and grabbers. We want

our own proletarian civilisation which guarantees the dignity and well-being of the producers of wealth, which is based on men and women working together in co-operation and not on the exploitation of one class by another, which puts speculators and exploiters behind bars, not workers.'

Tactics and Strategy

Tactically, the strike did not produce the threatened food crisis, though naturally as much as possible was made of the poor, hungry factory chickens, pigs and cows. Its main result was the non-delivery of machines and raw materials, which takes a longer time to begin to bite. It was thus a situation in which the Government could bluster about a state of emergency without actually taking the step of using troops—apart from those in blue. Since another four and a half thousand troops had just been sent to Northern Ireland, the only troops available would have had to be brought back from Germany.

It is important for workers to appreciate the relationship between any action they undertake against particular employers over their own conditions, and action undertaken against the capitalists' state over the right of workers to go on struggling at all. We have passed the time when the two forms of action can ever be separated.

Since the strike was, ultimately, a strike against the system, it should have continued to be an open attack on the Industrial Relations Act as one of the means by which that system is seeking to defend itself. This would have served as a rallying cry to others workers and exposed all those who tried to present the struggle as one concerning only the dockers.

RENT — A — COP

During the dock strike, private wharf operators in Scunthorpe turned the police into their own private strong-arm boys. Police from five counties guarded the steel-barricaded Neap House wharf at a cost of £7000 a day. They sneak-

ed out strike-breaking lorries. They picked fights with and arrested dockers, getting them swingeing fines.

Meanwhile, any car on a road 20 miles around Scunthorpe was subject to search.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



Last year, the average office worker was earning £24.73 a week, about £6 less than the average manual worker. Even allowing for the longer hours the manual worker puts in, the office worker still comes off second best. Yet some people still imagine themselves to be 'middle-class'. Why not imagine yourself Rockefeller? You still won't be able to pay the bills, but it's a much nicer illusion. Alternatively accept you are a badly paid worker — organise yourself to improve your conditions — and organise to smash the system that exploits all workers.

Honeywell

After 5 weeks, the 2500 Honeywell strikers were still solid. The workers at the three Lanarkshire factories rejected an offer of £4.73 now, and £1.26 next May, for top craftsmen, and £3.53 and £1 at the other end of the scale. The workers are objecting to the agreement running till the end of 1973 and to the widening of differentials.

Pickets Arrested

During the strike of 1200 men, mainly at the Scott-Lithgow Shipyards in Port Glasgow, 49 were arrested and a massive demonstration in support blocked the main road outside the court. It was the vigilance of these workers that prevented a 32,000 ton ship being sneaked out of the yard at 4 a.m. for completion at a foreign port.

Lend — a — Picket

After the miners' mobile pickets and the builders flying pickets, here comes the borrowed picket. 200 workers at Chesterfield agricultural engineers F and J Kitchin had been on strike for 4 weeks over a £4 claim. Round the clock picketing had stopped the management from moving out goods. But then came the annual holidays. Give up their family holidays or give up their struggle? Neither, thanks to the workers in the Chesterfield Tube Works, who will fit picketing in with their shifts. The Tube men are not even in the same Union (they are mostly in the General and Municipal). But why not make this solidarity twice as effective? Picket in your employer's time, not in your own. Make two employers feel the pressure.

Polaris Strikes

1500 workers at Polaris Submarine Bases in Gare Loch have started their fight against a 'miserable' offer of just over £1 a week, by a work to rule, overtime ban and one-day strikes each week. A productivity deal, just another asset to the management, back-fired—the workers have accused them of taking reprisals by cutting out a payment agreed to under such a deal. The Ministry of Defence has withdrawn the Polaris submarine 'Renown' from Rosyth Dock in E. Scotland while the 5000 workers there are on strike.

No Peace in Piecework

The 8-week old strike of 2000 assembly workers at Jaguar's Brown's Lane factory, Coventry, continues. The men want a £3 to £5 increase in piecework earnings. The management has refused to discuss piecework rates, wanting a change-over to day-wage payments.

Pressure on piecework in the motor industry is stepping up, with Longbridge, and Triumph and Jaguar at Coventry the only major plants still on piecework. The employers want to eliminate the day-to-day struggles over piecework rates. At Longbridge, in British Leyland's Austin-Morris plant the management is using salami tactics to cut off the opposition to measured-day work piece by piece. 2000 are already on a flat rate, 3500 are on an interim system and only 6500 are still on piecework. The management is trying to separate the stewards from the members on this issue. This threat stopped the stewards taking action to prevent 100 Marina engine assemblers going over to an interim flat rate of £38.25. The Marina engine workers had agreed to the change-over a month ago, then rejected it two days later on the advice of the works committee, which then decided not to back up the Marina men when they threatened

strike action. 10 other small areas have also abandoned piecework. This slow erosion of the stand on piecework is doubly dangerous, as not only will piecework be lost, but the workers' confidence will be sapped by the succession of small defeats.

Gov't

Industrial Workers

As the autumn round of public-sector pay talks begins, the 194,000 government industrial workers are considering selective strike action. The latest offer of £1.75 has been rejected, and selective token strikes and overtime bans have been applied in naval dockyards, ordnance factories, etc.

Swan Hunter

Swan Hunter shipyards build good ships, but their three-year agreements won't stay afloat. Last year, one agreement gave increases to 140 ancillary workers in the Cleland's yard on the Tyne at Wallsend. The management thought this included the 'end of contract' bonus paid as ships are completed. Think again! The ancillary workers demanded the same, bonuses as craft workers and shut down the yard with two ships waiting to be launched.

Meanwhile 3800 Swan Hunter boilermakers on the Tyne are demanding changes in the three-year agreement they signed 18 months ago.

Bank Clerks

Invest in Struggle

Question: Where in the Banking Industry does one find no money?
Answer: In the pockets of bank clerks.

FROM the beginning of the century the lot of bank clerks has steadily got worse. While other sections of the working class struggled and forged ahead bank clerks remained relatively inactive. Perhaps because some continued to believe that Banking was a "gentlemanly industry". Those who so believed have been punished with a vengeance for their stupidity.

Bank clerks are now among the most badly paid workers of all. At least 82% (ie that section which constitutes the two lower salary grades) earn less than £20 a week, some considerably less, and this in a period when

bank profits are increasing as never before. The pre-tax profits of the 'big four' for 1971 were: Barclays £91m; National Westminster £33m; Midland £52m, and Lloyds £58m. — Increases in the region of 20% in all cases.

What are bank clerks going to do in a situation like this? Will they continue to be the beast of burden who carries any load provided his long ears are scratched? Like hell they will! They are going to fight as every other section of the working class has to fight. Capitalism gives nothing away. Bank clerks can now see as well as anybody that only those who dare to fight—can ever hope to win. For struggle is the best investment of all. Those who invest in it sufficiently can never fail to get dividends.

Know when to retreat

Stanmore Engineering

After 13 weeks of occupation and strike action the workers of Stanmore Engineering, Wembley, have decided to end their struggle and seek jobs elsewhere.

When the employers rejected a claim for increased wages the workers began a 'work to rule', and then sharpened the conflict by occupying the factory and preventing the employers from moving anything into or out of the works.

The employers successfully resorted to the courts to get the workers removed from the premises. This court action turned on the question of 'peaceful picketing', by which the class enemy means non-effective picketing. Workers know that industrial action is part of their class war and that there are no peaceful means of waging a war

Afterwards the workers continued strike action outside the factory. They ignored the employer's plea that if their action continued the factory might have to be closed down altogether.

The Stanmore workers have learned valuable lessons from this struggle: that industrial action has to involve more than the mere withdrawal of labour, that following the court action the fight should have been stepped up, and that more attempts should have been made to gain the support of fellow workers.

However, there are times when it is better to withdraw with solidarity and morale unimpaired than to play the game of adventurists with nothing to lose, who urge them to drag out an action to the point where it is hurting no one but themselves.



Thomas Dudley

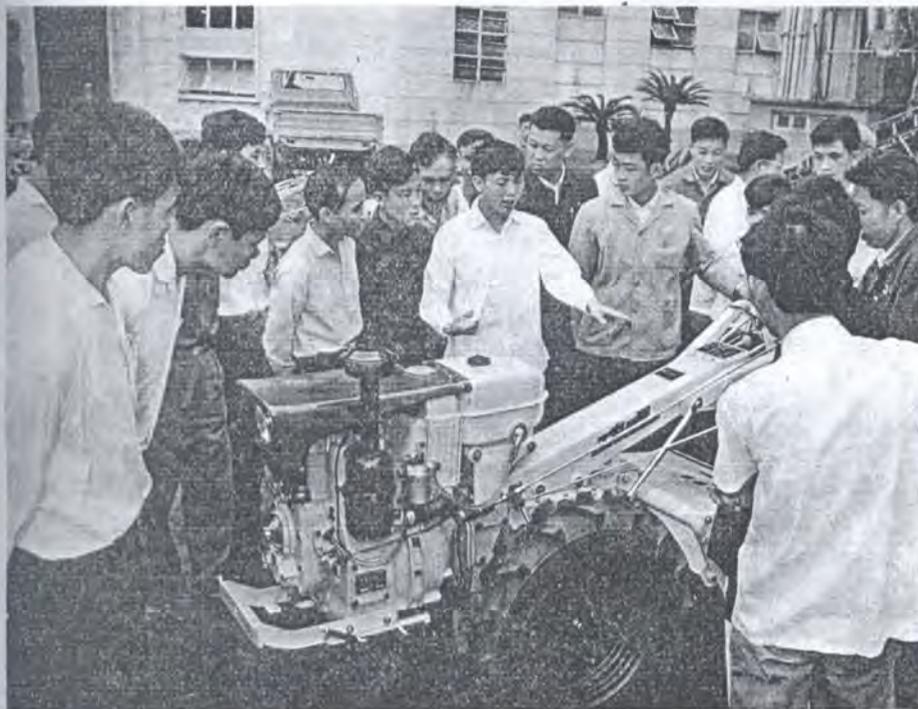
The struggle for union recognition at Thomas Dudley by 50 foundry workers (see 'The Worker', mid August issue) has ended. They were locked out on June 8, after they'd imposed an overtime ban in response to the management's refusal to recognize their union or their elected shop stewards. For the past 10 weeks they have picketed solidly with the official backing of the TGWU.

But, despite this achievement, it was not effective enough to prevent scab labour operating and recently some of the

men have gone back to work. The rest feel that they cannot fight it alone, but they won't go back without the union.

So the men have taken what they feel to be the right course. They are leaving, as a body. They are going with the spirit of having sacked the management!

'We have not lost', says their leading shop steward. 'We are determined to learn lessons from our struggle. We will not only fight anew, but we will continue the struggle against Thomas Dudley, for all workers.'



Chinese workers show Vietnamese comrades-in-arms a hand tractor at the commodities fair

China Unlimited

As the economy sinks into chaos and crisis, old ghosts are revived to explain the problems of British capitalism. Malthus, dead over 140 years ago is brought to life with the theory of over-population. It is ironic that such an explanation can be seriously considered when the most populous country in the world, China, with over 700 million inhabitants has no crisis to complain of. It is axiomatic under capitalism that production in unplanned and takes the form of expansion in one section at the expense of another. Capital invest-

ment goes where profits look highest at the time. Today, profits are found not in the basic industries of engineering, machine tools, etc., but in land speculation, office blocks, hotels and bingo — all non-productive areas. Thus industry contracts, factories close, and workers are unemployed.

Such problems do not exist in a socialist planned economy. (Such planning has nothing to do with the farcical National Plan of the previous Labour government). In China, the emphasis is on the all-round development of the economy.

Industrial development is based on agriculture, and advances in agriculture are based on industrial development. The one conditions and promotes the other. The same holds true for light and heavy industry and so on.

This contradiction between industry and agriculture, light and heavy industry, commodity production and services exist under capitalism as well as under socialism. In capitalist Britain it produces constant anarchy in production, it produces a Centre Point, a Rolls Royce and a Vehicle and General. In

Socialist China the contradiction is resolved to give a consistent and smooth expansion of all sections of the economy.

China, which only 22 years ago was a poor country with a peasant-based economy has achieved an unmatched industrial and technological advance. There is no unemployment (a redundant worker is a pure capitalist product) and no inflation. With self reliance new industries were started, steel machine tools and electronics reaching the highest international standards.

A Scrap of Paper

The engineers struggle has not ended with the signing of the national agreement. The gap between the gains in the national deal and what has been won in local battles shows where real strength lies. The guerrilla struggle over this agreement sets the pattern for the future.

The agreement between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the Engineering Employers Federation covers 1½ million workers and indirectly affects as many again in non-federated firms. It gives a £6 a week increase on the minimum craft rate and £5 for labourers and women, bringing them up to £25, £20 and £18 respectively, in two equal stages on Aug. 25 this year and Aug. 25 next year. It also gives an extra days holiday this year and two days next year. This means a 40% increase on basic rates—BUT less than 1% of engineering workers are on basic

rates. So the agreement will only cost the employers 5 or 6% on the wages bill through increased overtime, holiday and shift payments linked to the basic rate. A pretty miserable settlement considering the gains made in other industries and the £3, £4, £5 across-the-board settlements made as a result of factory bargaining. And even this was only gained as a pale reflection of the factory-based struggle.

The fainthearted, who called for 'national' action (as if workers all over the country taking action wasn't 'national') as an excuse for not acting themselves have had their just reward in this 'national' settlement. Those who took action, who didn't wait on the sidelines, have had their reward—decent settlements, greater unity, and greater understanding.

There can be very few indeed, if any, of those who took on their own employer who did not come off better than those who

About Time on Teeside

Adverts in the 'Daily Mirror', leaflets from the Building Employers' Federation posted in site cabins, and Wimpey's own propaganda have not affected Teeside building workers' response to the call for strike action. The employers' offers are full of catches, like the attendance bonus needed to make up to their supposed minimum of £25 a week, and the (five year?) moratorium on further claims. Misleading half-truths don't count for much against workers' direct experience on the site.

Building trade workers have not always been so determined and united,

sat back and waited for the national agreement to materialise. Many of those who opted out of the fight got no more than the enhanced overtime and other premiums based on the new minimum rate, whereas those who fought got straight wage increases as well as other advantages, such increases ranging from £2 to £6 per week and covering 60% of

but now some have been out for ten weeks and more. On Teeside, the Middles, borough sites were among the first out, and work was stopped on the town's new Civic centre and Law Courts. Now more are joining those first out. All trades gave support, and non-union labour came out too.

Even non-striking supervisory staff expressed sympathy. A universal comment was, 'It's about time it happened'. And workers with years of experience confessed to being impressed by the size and solidarity of the turnout.

engineering workers.

A Union is to do with strength and struggle and what one gets is related to what one is prepared to fight for. Those who will not fight should not be critical of small gains but join in unity with those who commit themselves to the fight. That way all become stronger and the gains larger.

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

CLEANERS

VICTORY for the women night cleaners. Their two week strike (see last issue) at the Ministry of Defence Empress State Building in Fulham won £3 of their £3.50 demand from their employers, Cleanagents.

Interview at Fulham

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR HOURS OF WORK? AND WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT PAY?

A. 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday night to Friday morning. We have two ten minute tea breaks and one hour for dinner. We get £12.50 a week and 30 shillings for good attendance.

Q. WHAT ABOUT HOLIDAYS?

A. You don't get your holiday pay until you come back. Last year I broke my contract because I was ill, so I only got one week holiday, although I've been back nearly a year.

Q. HOW HAVE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS BEEN UP TILL NOW?

A. We had always put up with it. We were frightened of the boss. I've been here three years and every year he promised us a rise. Every year we got 10 shillings bonus. This year we were organised. He offered us £1 out of his own pocket. We refused. We had a discussion among ourselves and made up our minds to come out.

Q. WHAT SUPPORT HAVE YOU HAD FROM OTHER UNIONS?

A. Some of the messengers in the building came out for one day. We are turning back all vans. All the unions concerned recognise the picket line: the milkman, the dustman, the Smithfield people.

OTHER CLEANERS not wanting to be treated like rubbish hit another contract cleaning firm - Industrial Cleaners. They walked out of the Home Office Horseferry House building after a supervisor was dismissed.

BUILDERS

INTERVIEW with the strike committee of Bristol building workers.

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN BRISTOL?

A. More than 3000 building workers in Bristol are now on strike for £30 for 35 hours, and at least two local employers have signed agreements conceding the full claim. From the policy of selective strikes at large sites, action progressed rapidly to closing down all big sites and is already near its aim of a total shut-down of all sites.

The employers' latest offer has been rejected by both UCATT and TGWU men; and the officials, too, have been left in no doubt that the men expect their unions to stick out for the full demand.

Q. WHY DID YOU USE THE 'FLYING PICKETS' TACTIC?

A. As a way of drawing out more and more sites. We always have the initiative in extending the strike. And the coaching has the advantage of surprise and mobility.

Q. HOW IS THE MEN'S MORALE NOW?

A. They are solid and willing to fight it out. There is a new mood, as if they have suddenly woken up.

Q. WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED THROUGH THIS STRIKE?

A. Never leave it to officials. We have relied on ourselves from the very beginning. The best advice we can give anyone in a fight is to take the law into their own hands.

Vietnam - China

Invitation to British Trade Unionists

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has invited a delegation of British trade unionists to visit the home of the heroic Vietnamese people. The Vietnamese in the north have inflicted such major defeats on United States imperialism that Nixon can only order, in vindictive rage, the wanton destruction from the air of a country that by the fighting prowess of its people has humbled four successive American administrations.

Workers from Britain will have the chance of seeing at first hand how their fellow workers in Vietnam, under the guidance of their Workers' Party and inspired by their

great leader Ho Chi Minh, have taken on the invading forces of the mightiest imperialist power of all time and defeated them in battle after battle.

The AUEW has appointed to this delegation a member of its Executive Council, Reg Birch, who is Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

The delegation will leave on September 11th and on its return there will be a report-back meeting at which Reg Birch will speak to workers in this country about their experiences in Vietnam.

The second delegation of British trade unionists to visit China since the Proletarian Cultural

Revolution will leave Britain on September 25th.

The delegation is made up of nine members of the AUEW including the President, Hugh Scanlon, and representatives of the rank and file.

At this time of growing militancy in class struggle it is fitting that workers from Britain should be establishing closer contacts with the workers of Vietnam, which has so long stood in the forefront of the world fight against imperialism, and the workers of China, the world's premier socialist country where the working class having seized state power has deepened and consolidated its control of every aspect of social life.

BITTERNESS IS NOT ENOUGH

AN article in the "Times" on "The bitter mood of the British Workers" explains this bitterness thus - "The most widely canvassed theory is that a sign of growing disillusionment with conventional politics and the performance of all three major political parties. Certainly events such as the work-in at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders have convinced many people in Britain that direct action is the best way to achieve their demands. There appears to be a growing number who are now willing to try it."

Well of course there is every reason to disown the parliamentary politicians. The distinction between promise and

performance is only too apparent. Neither is the "new" policy declaration of the Labour Party likely to fool many people. These are only the old pre-1964 promises rebashed. Again they promise more houses and at cheaper rents, lower prices etc., etc., but what is never to be forgotten is that this is precisely what they promised in 1964, (remember that one about 2% mortgages), and what they served up was wage ceiling of 3%, followed by a total wage freeze with prices, profits and dividends soaring to new heights.

Of course the lessons of direct action instead of trusting others to act on your behalf are there,

but they are nothing new. Workers have known about this for years; long before the Labour Party was thought of. The lesson that still has to be learnt is that whilst direct action is the best way to realise immediate demands, linked with the Marxist-Leninist politics it will also achieve the long term demands. This means that gains are not short lived, to be filched by currency manipulation, tax policies price rises and all kinds of profiteering and speculation. In short, economic and political security will never be handed to the working class on a plate by their natural enemies. It must be fought for and achieved by their own power,

Incredible Shrinking Workers

Parker Morris, a bourgeois economist, worked out what he considered to be the absolute minimum of space for human beings to live in. Not long after it was adopted as the norm for all Local Authority housing. It was decreed that 30% of the population shall live like battery hens.

Terraced housing built fifty years ago was at least a third larger in floor area per family. Such is the brass-necked impertinence of institution-atised robbery by the capitalist state machine, that only the bare minimum of wealth stolen from work-

ers is spent on housing them. While giving away millions of pounds to a small gang of speculators in the form of £1000 grants for each new hotel bedroom built, only £553 per person is to be allowed to be spent on council housing.

Another state 'responsibility' manipulated in the same manner is the 'education' of our children. The latest M.O.E. Building code reveals a budget of £193 million for 1971/72 and £212 million for 1972/73. But an over 30% increase in the costs of building materials and an over 50% increase in

land values generally over the same period means that the 10% increase in budget turns out to be a drastic cut. Consider that since 1966 the average space per pupil has been cut by 25% and that the siting of buildings, their internal fittings and finishes are of noticeably poorer quality, and we appreciate the size and scope of the unending battle that busiding technicians, engineers, surveyors and all other workers are waging to uphold the quality of life, under the rule of a bowler-hatted mafia.



Vietnam liberation infantry charging the enemy on a hilltop.

IRELAND

CPB(ML) Statement

We are coming to the end of the 'cowboys and Indians' operations of the Provos and the British army. Terrorism detached from a popular movement-like hijackings of civil airliners unrelated to the struggle of the Palestinian people-has just about run its course in Northern Ireland.

This certainly does not mean that there will be peace. What it means is that the struggle for the liberation of Ireland from British imperialist domination is being re-invested in the people themselves. The struggle will develop from the level reached by the civil rights movement, but no longer directed toward a parliamentary solution. It will develop to the point where an armed people can wage a people's war of liberation to free their country after 800 years of British oppression.

Eichmann made mistakes too!

Now they tell us - internment was a 'mistake!' A senior Northern Ireland civil servant said, last week: 'The way in which the Special Powers Act was used was a mistake, because a great many of the people detained a year ago were innocent of any crime.' This, after, so many families have been broken up, men and women tortured and confined without trial in rat-infested camps. Of course, internment was a 'mistake'. As the Government is finding here with its arrest of dockers' shop stewards, you don't stop people struggling by imprisoning their leaders. New leaders spring up, to take

their place. It is up to the Irish people now to make the British ruling class bemoan, as its biggest mistake ever, that it occupied Ireland in the first place.

Vanguard

Mr. Tom O'Brien, first chairman of the English Vanguard Movement has lost his job at Cam Gears Engineering Works, Luton, because the other workers refused to have anything to do with him. In O'Brien's own words: 'As soon as the men discovered I was chairman of the English Vanguard they just refused to work with me. How can you work with people you know inwardly hate you and will always be looking for ways to get rid of you?'

Egypt Slings Out Russians

Such is the hatred of Soviet military 'advisors' in Egypt, that in order to gain some popular support President Sadat, decided to sling them out of the country. It is doubtful whether the Egyptian government can throw these 'advisors' very far.

The people of Egypt had tasted some of the reality behind Russian 'aid'. It meant getting up to the eyeballs in debt. It meant Russian naval and air bases (which still remain) for joint domination of the Mediterranean and the Middle East

with the US.

Faced with popular anger, the Sadat government hastily agreed to a union with Libya to cash in on both Libya's wealth and her militant stand towards Israel. However the struggle goes on in Palestine, Dhofar, Iraq and other parts of the Middle East. It is this unceasing struggle that is driving the Arab regimes to periodic twists and turns and overnight somersaults to present a viable picture of militancy to the masses.

Announcements

- September 2nd, Saturday. Film Show 'Landmine Warfare', Chinese film on the tactics of People's War. 7.45 p.m. Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Rd.
- September 8th, Friday. Public Meeting 'A Revolutionary Newspaper'. Readers of The Worker are particularly invited to come with questions and suggestions. 7.30 p.m. Bellman Bookshop.
- September 9th, Saturday. Public Meeting organised by Leeds Branch, CPB(ML), on 'British Working Class and its Party'. An industrial worker and founder member of the Party will be speaking. 7.30 p.m. Prince of Wales pub, near Leeds Railway Station.
- October 6th, Friday. Public Meeting celebrating China's National Day. Speakers, exhibition of photographs, refreshments. 7.30 p.m. Camden Studio, Camden St., NW1.



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