

THE WORKER



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MAY DAY 1976

DIRECT ALL STRUGGLE TO REVOLUTION

THE CPB(ML) HELD ITS FOURTH PARTY CONGRESS AT EASTER, 1976. WE PRESENT IT TO THE WORKING CLASS. REPRINTED BELOW ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DOCUMENT ADOPTED ON APRIL 18TH.

Marx constantly predicted continual and absolute decline. Many said this was wrong since capitalism 'recovered' from one crisis after another. The recovery was always relative not absolute. . . . Always at all times the decline was at the expense of the people, be they peasant or proletarian. . . . no advantage accrued to the people once the ascendancy of capitalist forces over feudal forces was absolute. From this moment of peak, capitalism began its decline. The struggle of the proletariat and the dialectical development of the force for socialism commenced. From this moment in history their capitalist troubles assumed a fundamental nature unresolvable in co-existence; their death knell was rung.

What has prolonged the existence of capitalism, an anachronistic system, has been the backwardness of the opposing force, the proletariat. It is precisely because this backwardness has been overcome in some areas, particularly Albania and China, with the shaping toward absolute dictatorship of the proletariat, an essential for socialism, that now the crisis of world capitalism is absolute - the decline absolute. The crisis is now so sharp because of the growing strength of socialist countries.

The most devastating setback to the working class in struggle in all their weakness was the New Revisionist 'Power' of a former socialist country, the USSR. It was in its coming a necessary shot of adrenalin to a dying capitalism prolonging and postponing its expiration date. It not only created great confusion among political parties purporting to serve workers, but comforted in its confusion the indecision and downright political cowardice within the ranks of the working class in the old world, Europe, and especially in Britain. This lives with us today and we are a part of it.



Such a development did not deter all the forces, not for example Albania and China, though it created for them great difficulties, slowed the speed of their development and still represents an ideological threat within and military without. The emergence of true Marxist forces elsewhere was and is slow, especially in Britain. We should not be dismayed but know the cause: in Britain an especial landmark in reaction was 'The British Road to Socialism', preceding the disclosure of New Revisionism in the USSR. Europe is a specially complex circumstance. An uneven development industrially and in agriculture, and an uneven decline; an uneven force of working class; and an especially potent dangerous force of Revisionism. The forces of Marxism-Leninism in Europe are woefully weak.

As the capitalist crisis develops, there will yet be a

perceiving of the force of socialism which is accelerating and exacerbating this decline. This phenomenon, once perceived, will create even greater problems in these socialist countries and may even create internal difficulties as well as external, only to be relieved by a developing force of socialism elsewhere.

Our duty as a party is clear. For our party there is but one world. The divisive force is class. The division in Britain: working class - capitalist class; the expropriated - the expropriator; the exploited - the exploiter.

The debate on detente

Is detente a sham? Is it some perfidious plot by the New Revisionists, the more easily to seize Europe and perhaps the world?

No. It does not exist. US imperialism has no detente with anyone. Neither has the USSR, not even in ~~Comecon~~. The sham detente from within the USSR is as much to do with the collapse of the building of socialism within the USSR and the internal contradictions because of it as for any external pressures and external contradictions. Those who say, if they do, beware of the imperialist designs of the USSR state the obvious.



Great vigilance must be used by our Party to guard against the promulgation of a philosophy of co-existence in order to save Britain and Europe from the USSR. To save it for the bourgeoisie. It is the mirror-image reverse of Khrushchev revisionism, hence it is the same - revisionism. Just as Khrushchev brandished the Yankee atom bomb as a paralysing fear, so can be brandished the atom bomb of so-called 'social' imperialism.

In Britain the working class has no bourgeois ally, nor is it likely, whatever the contradictions among the bourgeoisie, to have a force from within the bourgeoisie as a progressive breakaway. In this matter the progressive force we have is the working class. It is the only force. It stands alone. When, as must be, the Russian mass make a new revolution then shall you see no detente.

At present the New Imperialist USSR and US Imperialism stand poised as cut throats waiting on the other to be off guard. In the meantime they drive to pastures new and old as before - this with the connivance of each national bourgeoisie.

The division of the world into 1, 2, 3 is artificial and mechanistic, and there are especial dangers inherent within the so-called developing countries and within the liberation struggles today. No true liberation can be achieved within this one world without the strong development of Marxist forces. Internationally is this so but even more nationally. No emancipation and true liberation can be completed in alliances alone of shifting class forces. In finality only the peasant and proletariat can achieve liberation for it is they who are slave.

The Party

The background of the emergence of our Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) was a furor of international and internal polemic. Here in Britain it was late beginning mostly because of a long improper understanding of the meaning of Leninist democracy, of democratic centralism.

Our Party, the only party of the working class, comes of age at a time when the labour movement is in process of awesome and dangerous change. The disaffection within the parliamentary parties is the nucleus of a new fascist force which will no doubt take on a very subtle and sophisticated character, not a vulgar symptom of a new fascist party and new leaders, though we may see this form as well, most probably as a feint. What is now being enacted is the transformation of established bourgeois democracy - well-directed, well-planned and it will find many allies.

The working class is assisting this process. We see the development of a parallelism in trade union machinery of ad hoc and self-appointed committees and leaders, a neglect of the machinery and its by-passing, and a dangerous development of company style unionism. This is not a progressive phenomenon but a dangerous one. It comes from a design and is being adopted by the workers consciously and unconsciously. It comes also because of the unions having begun to outlive their usefulness as a defensive weapon and having adopted the role of collaborators or policemen to the bourgeois state. We must perhaps find ourselves as caretaker of a fast-emptying house - the more easily shall we seize the property and destroy it. We want not a 'leave the unions' campaign but seizing of the assets material and human.

In this new fast-developing period we must expect to see greater and greater inroads of normal civil liberties, the necessary apparatus and ingredient of a bourgeois state.

That is why the Party must be educated, dedicated, disciplined, monolithic. Without it we, the working class, cannot survive. With education and conviction we shall produce revolutionaries separately and together capable, a great Marxist force to lead to revolution for Britain.

**FOR REVOLUTION
MAY DAY MEETING**

Chairman Reg Birch

SATURDAY MAY 1st. 7.30 pm

CONWAY HALL Red Lion Square WC1

Nearest Tube - HOLBORN

NUT Conference

Wrong decisions

— but good debates

The NUT Annual Conference at Scarborough was an elevating affair though all shall have cause to regret some of the decisions taken.

Gone were the days of destructive party games. The Union has educated the offenders, though some have yet to learn.

Gone were the days of the premature squawk, "question be put" and similar devices used to thwart debate. The delegates were eager to hear all points of view. As a senior Executive member confessed, "I don't know what the answers are".

The prevailing answer given was, "Cling to the Labour Government, we are in good hands. Meanwhile let's keep our powder dry. After all, is not my own job secure?"

The bite of opposition to education cuts is reserved for those local authorities who step beyond the Government's directives. The Government itself emerges relatively unscathed.

The subservience to an incomes policy stands. The supremacy of Conference has been impugned, not only on the question of salaries.

Severe discipline measures have been impetuously endorsed for those who take "impetuous" industrial action. The delegates had come well versed in tales of lunacy.

But in all debates the opposing view was put most forcefully, listened to with respect, and endorsed by a substantial number of hands on each occasion. The new philosophy is beginning to emerge.

Scarborough was marked by another advance. For the first

time the theory of 'positive discrimination' was directly challenged. This theory has plagued the Union ever since the Plowden Report of the sixties. Positive discrimination professes to favour 'disadvantaged children' but has proved to compound their problems and hamper advance on all sections of the education and social fronts. The divisiveness of positive discrimination has been demonstrated by the painful number of hours spent debating the question, and the subsequent confused voting on how to discriminate. At Scarborough the delegates were told to repudiate the philosophy. They have yet to do so.

The state of the profession was displayed most sharply during the debate on Government proposals for early retirement of teachers. No one denies that these proposals seek to reduce the teaching force and that some may be forced to go, here the most experienced and often the most skillful of teachers. But pressures are mounting in schools and who would cavil at ten more years on the Sussex coast?

So the Executive came to Conference and said, "Don't worry, it's all in hand". It was Conference, in its healthy distrust, said "No, we want to debate it". It was a good debate and the issue was put clearly. Clear the decks and oppose compulsory early retirement, tooth and nail, as an attack upon education and teachers, or express opposition to the compulsory retirement but proceed to negotiate alluring redundancy terms anyway. The latter course won, but not overwhelmingly.

Save the Shipyards from Capitalism

The Labour government's plans to nationalise the shipbuilding and ship repair industry represent a threat to the livelihood of shipyard workers and an attempt to destroy the skills accumulated by this section of our class. The deliberate rundown of the yards by the government means an end to shipbuilding in Britain. At a conference held recently in Newcastle, 100 delegates representing members of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions from every yard in the country unanimously took up a call to oppose cuts in the industry. Although an attempt was made to steeer opposition to government plans behind the TUC's call for more "worker representation" on the management body, most delegates were aware that the future of the yards lay elsewhere.

The conference represented the kind of national unity which must be maintained to fight the Labour government's policy of divide and rule, realised by selective placing of naval orders in chosen yards, such as those on Tyneside, in order to starve Clydeside Merseyside, Wearside and South coast yards of work, hastening their closure. During this time, Tyneside shipyard workers will be expected to swallow yard rationalisation and a reduction in the skilled labour force. An attack on one yard is an attack on all.

Capitalism can no longer run the yards. It has failed to invest and has squeezed every last penny's worth of use out of its antiquated equipment. In this situation, "nationalisation" will enable hundreds of millions of pounds of workers' money to be poured into yards - some of it to pay for capitalism's failure to re-equip, the rest to go straight into the pockets of Swan Hunters etc. In addition the government proposes to retain the existing management running the industry! When one considers the Financial Times' forecast of over 20,000 redundancies over the next year or so and the TUC call for 50 per cent worker representation on the management board, nationalisation can be seen as nothing more than an attempt by the Labour/TUC clique to force workers to bail out capitalism and to involve the workforce in their own destruction and the destruction of their own industry, which once built over half of the world's shipping.

Nationalisation will destroy shipbuilding, not save it. Yet capitalism can no longer run the industry! There is NO future for the shipyards under capitalism. Only socialism can save the industry. Only when our class holds state power can we fully utilise our skilled and make shipbuilding work for the benefit of the working class.

LEARN FROM THE GENERAL STRIKE

This May Day will mark the 50th Anniversary of the 1926 General Strike, one of the heroic struggles of the British Working Class.

The Tory government joined with the employers in their efforts to restore profits by the time honoured means of lower wages and longer hours. Its Prime Minister, Baldwin, backed the mine owners in their demands that the miners work longer hours for less pay and declared the wages of all workers would have to come down.

The whole trade union movement supported the miners. The government to gain time for a show down with the trade unions was forced to grant a temporary subsidy to the mining industry. Then, when its preparations were complete, it precipitated the General Strike in April, 1926.

The General Strike was a magnificent and impressive demonstration of working class unity. It lasted 9 days. Each day the strength and the solidarity of workers grew. But it ended with the unconditional surrender by the TUC fearful of its consequences.

The miners were left to fight on alone. After many months of heroic resistance they were forced back to work on the owners terms.

The government tried to present the strike to the nation as a revolutionary attempt by the trade union movement to challenge the government and to secure political control by industrial actions.

"This was a myth, the strike was not of a revolutionary nature - it was a sympathetic strike on behalf of the miners in their insistence on "not a penny off the pay, not a minute on the day." At its peak it involved 1,500,000 workers in addition to the miners. This was not disorder.

Now 50 years later, when again the TUC professes to speak for the working class, we must not celebrate the General Strike, but learn from it.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NOTTINGHAM

The Nottingham area has lost 12,000 manufacturing jobs between 1961 and 1973. Even worse a further reduction of 13 per cent of those employed is planned for 1977.

Over 3000 construction workers are unemployed. Here lies the biggest danger to Britain. The deskilling of this country, the basic structures of our industries are being destroyed.

As Nottingham prepares for 8000 youngsters to leave school this summer, their prospect looks grim.

4th Party Industrial Bureau's

The capitalist star is everywhere in decline, and most apparently in this the oldest of industrial countries. 'The work shop of the world' is an industrial graveyard. Britain, which Marx could once describe as 'the demijour of the bourgeois cosmos' is now the 'sick man' of world capitalism, providing us with the clearest demonstration obtaining anywhere of the fatal stranglehold which capitalist property relations place upon the social forces of production.

It is apparent that our rulers are unfit to govern, that social distress is the goal of their economic system, that their sole palliative for suffering is greater suffering, that they will certainly destroy us if we stay our hand.

Nowhere are the class lines more starkly drawn than in Britain. The division of society into two as it has developed here has no parallel. This is the most proletarian of countries. Here it has most clearly been shown that the prosperity of a nation rests upon the skill and ingenuity of its people. . . But these are subject to the use and abuse of our ruling class, to be squandered or destroyed at the behest of capital. We are nothing and we should be everything! We were the first modern proletariat. Once again we must lead. The opportunity is ours, if we only seize it, others will follow as before.

Economic situation

The proposition of the ruling class is that Britain cannot survive economically as an island. . . But the crisis of Britain is also the crisis of Europe, in fact the whole capitalist world.

Why cannot Britain sustain itself as an island? There is no lack of anything necessary to provide the workers with full employment and an improved standard of living. There is seemingly too much of everything including workers! In terms of raw materials there is no overall shortage. Such raw materials as we lack are available in the world in exchange for the products we are best at producing.

So all the conditions exist to provide all that is needed without any surrender of independence - except one. Resources cannot be organised in the interest of the working class while they are the property of those who have no interest in the working class other than to exploit them for profit. Ownership must pass into the hands of workers who have no possible interest in unused economic resources. Such an organisation is socialism. We must get across to our class that capitalism does not work and that socialism does.

Britain is being destroyed and we should not suppose that this is in any way the result of ignorance on the part of our rulers. Nor can it honestly be said that we, the working class, are unaware of the present situation. But only from us can come the necessary action to redeem the present desperate situation.

We made Britain. We alone can save it.

Government policy

On the basis that 'bigger equates with better', government policy has been the promotion of amalgamation of capitals as in the formation of AEI and British Leyland. Far from strengthening industry this has meant easy pickings for the parasites of modern society, the asset-strippers and property speculators. It has meant the destruction of skills, of productive capacity and of jobs. . . Far from 'rationalising' industry and creating efficient, competitive units of which they boasted, they have husbanded absurdity and irrationality, enabling the financial Cain to slaughter his manufacturing brother or to force him into an even more slavish dependence. . .

Modern industry demands high investment in human beings as well as plant. The destruction of educational establishments and of craft training helies the promise of a better tomorrow in a capitalist Britain. Not only are they clearing the ground, they are sterilising it. Will the immense human capital which is embodied in our working class soon be crossing national boundaries in the service of a French or German bourgeoisie?

Bristol Bus Crews Defend Transport

Bristol bus crews 1650 strong, recently met to discuss the proposals for further fare increases and more redundancies. They decided their policy - to oppose redundancies. This they will now have to implement.

Already, Bristol's bus services are notoriously bad, with infrequent and expensive services. A sharp decline has been implemented in recent years. This by a policy of successive fare increases followed by service cutbacks and redundancies, one leading to the other as Bristol's workers find more of their wages going out on transport costs.

The situation facing the bus crews in Bristol is a plan with the same logic of run-down as in transport generally. Part of this is the recently-announced government plan on transport: this forewarns of accelerating cutbacks, the reduction of transport subsidies, increased fares and larger taxes on transport.

This is the logic of moribund capitalism in decline, frantic profit-making by hiking prices, while destroying the industrial base which creates wealth, by a policy of asset-stripping in the name of "reducing overheads" - this policy now on a national scale here in Britain.

Congress Report - Extracts



At present the Government is bribing, cajoling and threatening workers into accepting another year's freeze of wages as the price of preventing even higher unemployment.

But two years after the 1957 squeeze unemployment stood at 512,000. Two years after the 1961 squeeze it was 612,000. Two years after the 1966 squeeze it was 601,000. By the beginning of 1972 unemployment had topped one million and four years later it stands at one and a half million! During the late fifties and the beginning of the sixties, a period in which the average rate of unemployment was 1.7 per cent, it was widely said that a rate of 2.5 per cent would 'bring about stable prices'. Unemployment is nearing 6 per cent and prices...!

By far the most calculated measure taken by the governing class was entry into the Common Market, a huddling together for warmth in a thieves kitchen where beggar-my-neighbour is the game and winner takes all.

The destruction of our advanced agriculture, the exultant flight of capital, increased taxation, prices and unemployment, these facts are so well attested, as to need no further elaboration. We should remember also the limitations on production, the quota system which was a part of the high price of entry; the loss of national sovereignty and the present menace of reactionary European labour laws.

Conclusion

Put together the evidence points to the conclusion that the ruling class seeks our destruction because they have proved incapable of living with us. Fear impels them to act and out of fear we are reluctant to take the most elementary defensive measures. But act we must, and in a radically new way.

We have said loudly and often that revolution is on the agenda... Our difficulty will not be one of convincing the class that change is desirable or even necessary but that they must be the instrument and initiator, that in doing so they will offend against constitutionality.

It is for us to break the moral and intellectual ascendancy of social democracy which, once the expression of resistance, is now a philosophy of subjection, part of the corporate mechanism of control. We do this only by posing the alternative course, the which we posit correctly only by uniting the greatest number in the struggle against the aggressor and finally for socialism.

It is for us to convince our class that the capitalists, in Marx's words '... are lords of the earth only in the sense that they fill it with their presence as worms fill a corpse.'

Must our battle-scarred class after all its toil-worn history be left to starve among a pile of ruins. The "now" of the revolution must be put in the sharpest way.

Dare to struggle. Dare to win.

Cambodia from strength to strength

The imperialists are never satisfied. Not content with raining high explosive and napalm down on the beautiful country of Cambodia, destroying people, livestock, land and architectural relics, in their defeat they now turn to other forms of attack. Hence the stream of anti-Cambodia propaganda currently emanating from the barrooms and brothels of Bangkok.

The Cambodian people are going from success to success. They have begun the long process, not only of reconstruction, itself a mighty task, but also the establishment of a people's power, a state run by the workers and peasants in the interest of all who

labour. To the imperialists, in decline and creating nothing but destruction and barbarity, these developments are anathema, to be attacked and slandered.

These attacks will not fool the Cambodian people, for they know the truth. Nor will they deter the workers and peasants of the world from following in the footsteps of the Cambodian people and the peoples of South East Asia. In our era all advance lies with those who work, the key is Marxist-Leninist leadership. Hence the imperialists' onslaught, now verbal following military defeat, the onslaught which stems from fear and hatred and decline.

China- Bastion of Socialism

The People's Republic of China is the main bastion of socialism in the world today, a great socialist power which has exacerbated and accelerated the decline of world capitalism.

Since 1949 the Chinese people have struggled to construct a new society where the working class wields state power and production is planned to fulfil the needs of the people.

An ideology becomes a material force when the people fully understand and adopt it. In a socialist country the ideas of the people are the most potent force in society. Workers' control of production in China does not mean simply running a factory the same way as under capitalism, but with the profits going to the workers instead of to a capitalist employer. Workers' control in the factory and farm is the basis for their government of society, and the direction must clearly come from a socialist ideology.

The Kirin Municipal Oil and Grease Plant was collectively owned when it was set up in 1953 by a disabled soldier and twelve housewives, with three cauldrons. Material conditions were poor, but the plant thrived because of the founders' revolutionary enthusiasm. The plant now consists of over 500 workers and some modern equipment, and is owned by the whole people.

In spite of this great success, it was recently shown that it is still possible for the plant to fail if the workers adopt an "employee" mentality and forget socialist principles of management. This happened when some of the worker-managers claimed that diligence and frugality - always a tradition of the plant - no longer mattered now the plant was state-owned and successful. They forgot that waste and ex-



travagance in production are utterly alien to a socialist economy, where anything wasted is lost to the people. After a great deal of discussion of these ideas throughout the plant, they decided that the principles of diligence and frugality are socialist principles, and could not be abandoned. After this decision, the plant went from strength to strength.

The question of ideology is constantly raised by the Party Committee, which is part of the factory. The Party members work in the plant itself, as well as helping to run the enterprise. In the past few years the plant has selected Party members from among the workers, and shop-floor workers have come into management. The plant authorities have also sent Party members into the workshops. This structure ensures the correct relationship between the Party and people which is essential to socialist society.

Internally the Chinese people with the leadership of the Communist Party of China have constructed a socialist society through constant ideological struggle and hard work.

Internationally China has

asserted the principles of Marxism-Leninism against those of capitalism. In the United Nations Assembly China has upheld the absolute right of nations to defend their sovereignty against all imperialisms, and the right of peoples to decide the future of their own countries. She has supported the revolutionary aspirations of the working people of the world, and by her example has given them great encouragement.

By her actions China shows that the only true division in the world is between the forces of the bourgeoisie and those of the proletariat and peasantry. Her socialist power is an incalculable asset to those of us who have yet to make our revolution.

"War, this monster of mutual slaughter among men, will be finally eliminated by the progress of human society, and in the not too distant future too. But there is only one way to eliminate it and that is to oppose war with war, to oppose national counter-revolutionary war with national revolutionary war, and to oppose counter-revolutionary class war with revolutionary class war." (Mao)

No inflation in Albania Raging inflation in Britain

The title of the meeting of the New Albania Society in Gravesend on April 7th may have been a long one - but it was very much to the point.

The speaker gave an interesting and detailed description of how the Albanians, under the dictatorship of the proletariat, have managed to build up their economy to satisfy the primary needs of all the people - food, clothing, housing, electricity, and then turn to less basic commodities such as televisions. Such items are sold a little above their value in order to compensate for the necessities which are underpriced. Prices do not go up in Albania -

in fact some items such as pharmaceuticals have gone down in price since liberation.

It is only in capitalist countries, where the minority ruling class is interested only in the pursuit of profit, that inflation is a problem. We can see who it is in our country who suffers and who benefits from inflation. Inflation is used by the capitalist class to decrease our standard of living still further and to force us to submit to their dictates.

Albania has protected herself from the influence of the western capitalists and from the effects of their inflation by moving towards self sufficiency. The people made a political decision to make use of

their own resources - land and labour - and are an example to the world of how self sufficiency can be achieved. Of course, trading with other countries continues, but this is always done on equal terms with neither Albania nor the trading country seeking to influence the economy of the other.

The meeting made it clear that only when we have finally rid ourselves of our minority ruling capitalist class will we be free from the threat of inflation. We can then build an economy which makes use of our own resources, including land and skilled labour, instead of letting them lie idle, and which puts the need of the people before profit.



On the visit of Kissinger to Africa, a spokesman for the Zimbabwe liberation forces said "We are our own liberators. We know that aid such as Kissinger offers is not for the good of those pretending to be helping". Photo shows soldiers of the Zimbabwe Liberation Army which has recently been in action in a number of parts of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

NO PERCENTAGE

If the trade union movement goes into its Special Conference to debate the Chancellor's proposals with the argument raging about 6 per cent as opposed to 3 per cent, then from the government's point of view there will be no need for that meeting - the battle will already have been won. For the real argument is not about how much but how.

We must not play the idiot's game of arguing about the quality of the cloth used in the straitjacket: the argument is not about money, it is about the sovereignty of our unions, the independence of the working class.

There are those, enemies of the working class all, who use the argument during the period of free collective bargaining "workers were not that well off anyway." Indeed they were not: workers will never be "well off" under capitalism, boom or slump, we pay for it all.

Free collective bargaining never was that free. Capitalist wage relations are a jungle whose laws we can change only by changing the jungle. Freedom to determine the issues we fight on was never given us. But without the freedom to determine how we fight, we adopt the role of an actor, playing a role in a play written by others. It means also to abandon our unions, to allow their incorporation into the capitalist state, to permit their destruction.

In all things there is either advance or there is a moving backwards. So we will not be so unwise as to think, when demanding a return to free collective bargaining that we can return to where we left off in 1974. We return to that freedom in order to advance to the freedom of the working class from capitalism.

South London AUEW Advances

The following is part of the resolution adopted unanimously by the London South District Committee AUEW (Engineering Section).

"This London South District Committee once again expresses its concern at the policy of the Labour Government. Added to the continued use of unemployment as a policy weapon and the active opposition to free collective wage bargaining, the government now seeks to use the high level of taxation as a

weapon to further depress the living standards of working people...

"We call upon the Executive Council and all members to repudiate the budget, to resist any regulation of wages and to insist upon a restoration of the right to unfettered collective bargaining. The rising cost of living and the need for our members to increase their purchasing power and also the recognition of their skills in industry, all make higher wages imperative."

Capitalism prefers Profits to Health

Capitalism in its decline will use any means it can to grab a little more profit. You may have considered that the social services, by their very nature, were immune from such grubby practices. But think again!

The Department of Health and Social Security, whose every action lies in the face of its name, which has been the instrument of government policy in cutting back on all social services, has viciously attacked the National Health Service. Yet such are the contradictions of capitalism that while it is attempting to destroy the NHS in its capacity to heal the sick, so it is trying to use the NHS to bolster exports of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals of all types.

The DHSS even has an "industries and exports division" to boost sales of British medical

products which are among the most advanced in the world. In order to do this the Department finds it advisable to buy some of these products for NHS hospitals. Not because it cares for our health, and wants to see that we have the best care, but merely so that other countries will follow suit and exports will rise.

And did you not think it strange that an agent of destruction such as Mrs. Castle should go to the Middle East in January to advise on building a Health Service? Not strange at all! For when she returned she said that the visit had given her a much clearer idea of how her Department could help industry sell to the oil-producing nations.

Capitalism holds nothing sacred other than profit and least of all does it hold sacred the health of the working class at whose expense the system has survived.

CPBML Bookshops

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

MAY DAY MEETINGS

LONDON - May 1st, 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1.
BIRMINGHAM - May 1st, 7.30pm
LIVERPOOL - May 2nd, 8.00pm, October Books, 4B Temple Court.
LEEDS - April 30th, 7.30pm, Park Lane College of FE, room 102.

MEETINGS

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

Hull Riggers

Show Clarity

The legislation at present passing through Parliament for the extension of the Docks Labour Scheme, is aimed at setting dockers against other sections in allied trades. This is because the dockers have traditionally been at the centre of struggle, especially in Hull. Hence the role of the new legislation, backing up other divisive moves by the Port Authority and the British Waterways Board, is to frame the question as 'dockers jobs' as against jobs for 'other workers', instead of the Right to Work. In Hull, both the lightermen and the dockers have fallen into the trap; only the riggers have kept their vision clear.

When the BACAT - a container-barge system - was introduced in Hull last year, it was immediately blocked by the dockers, and by the lorry drivers and the bargees. This forced BACAT's withdrawal from the Humber. In retaliation, the lightermen, seeing their jobs threatened, blockaded the port of Hull.

Of course action to save jobs was needed, yet the lightermen, by looking solely to their jobs, played into the hands of the enemy, the capitalist destroyers of Britain, who would have dock workers fight each other while they fell off the assets and eliminated workers' skills with impunity.

Similar division occurred when riggers walked out following on the transfer of their work to the dockers. The division came only because the dockers were taking the same incorrect stand as the lightermen, trying to save their own jobs by taking those of others.

The riggers however showed the way forward and in their clarity raised the question of the Right to Work - for all. There lies the key to the unity of dockers, riggers, lightermen, bargees, lorry drivers, warehousemen, and fish-dock workers, the unity of all against the enemy.

Victory But no Respite at Avonmouth

After an 18 week strike, workers at CSL smelting works were victorious. Management attacked the trade union organisation, built up over years at the plant, with demands for 150 redundancies and movement of shift-workers onto days. In reply, the workers fought for the right to work, in conditions acceptable to them.

Capitalism's logic is to improve profits by 'redundancy'; it creates 'wealth' by unemployment and (as in steel) by the destruction of whole communities and industries; its 'pledge' for our future is the decision to run down welfare and education. The social contract mentality enlists this the 'national' interest and harnesses the working class to capitalism in decline.

There will be no respite at CSL: negotiations on manning levels continue on the basis of the status quo. Having fought once and with such effect, the workforce have given a great lesson: they have shown that unity and determination can compel recognition even from callous multinationals such as RTZ, the present parent company.

Revolution to Save Public Transport

Last week's Government Green Paper on transport policy represents the latest and most vicious attack on Britain's transport system. It follows directly from the original Beeching philosophy of "making the railways pay". It proposes cuts in expenditure - a phasing-out of subsidies to passenger and freight traffic, and a raising of fares and charges: and all this in the name of social justice - "We cannot afford to subsidise public transport (indiscriminately - these subsidies tend to benefit the better off more than the poor)", says the minister.

Railwaymen repudiate this absolutely - says the NUR paper, "... go out to the actual trains, and we don't just mean in the busy south-east, and watch out, because on many services you will be crushed by proletarian crowds who still use the trains despite high fares. Talk to railway passenger managers in different areas and they will tell you that many services are gaining traffic substantially. See the packed excursion trains. Search them for the richer two top categories of people. You'll be lucky not to get a bovine hoot in your shin."

The conspiracy to destroy the railways has been both ruthless and relentless - the construction consortia who build motorways and destroy farmland - and the freight companies with their juggernauts now coming from the EEC - the motor industry with its throw-away products - the petrol companies and most important, the government which regards motor tax as a lucrative source of revenue. All these have combined to foster the grand illusion of the private motor car and mass 'personal' mobility. Thus public transport is destroyed, loses more money every year, while motoring, once a luxury, becomes a necessity and gets ever more expensive - and still over 45 per cent of all households have no access to a car!

Beeching said railways were obsolete. His report in 1963 proposed a reduction in the railways network from 17,500 miles in 1962, to 8000 miles. Now the government says less than 4000 miles must remain. The long-term aim is to abolish railways and public transport altogether, condemning us to immobility.

The last twelve years in parti-

cular have been a disaster. The total number of passenger miles travelled has grown, but for rail the figure fell between 1963 and 1973 from 22,400 million miles to 21,900 million miles, similarly public road transport fell from 41,400 million miles to 33,800 million miles. Yet private motor transport rose from 115,500 miles to 223,500 million miles. Rail freight too has shrunk: from 1954 when rail took 40 per cent of all freight mileage to a mere 17.5 per cent in 1974. By 1972 86 per cent of all freight by weight went by road; under 9 per cent by rail; 2.5 per cent by coastal shipping and less than a third of 1 per cent by canal.

The transfer of goods from rail to road has been an attack on every community. The recent struggle of the people of the Aire Valley in Yorkshire illustrates but one struggle in the fight against the juggernauts.

As the losses of the National Bus Company are allowed to mount year by year, the response of the government is to cut the more heavily subsidised rural routes, turning the clock back and creating a new rural isolation - especially for the young and the old.

However, railways and public transport are not just to be defended as public services - they are the arteries of an industrial nation. Besides this they are the safest means of transport. The Medical Research Council estimates that road accidents now cost over £500 million per annum and they account for over half the deaths of young men aged between 15 and 24.

Yet as public passenger transport is destroyed the all-motor-car transport dream is collapsing too. Car production was down 17 per cent last year and, taking the industry as a whole, 52,900 people were sacked. The motorist is exploited too. Total revenue from motor tax in 1974/5 was £2390 million while expenditure on roads was only £1129 million.

The battle to save public transport is the responsibility of us all - it must be united with the fight for the right to work in the motor industry. Not, however, to produce obsolete cars which cannot be sold, but buses and trains - the means to transport the working class. There must be a revolution for transport!

NUJ GOES TO DERBYSHIRE

On April 27th, the Annual Delegate Meeting (ADM) of the National Union of Journalists opens among the Derbyshire peaks in Buxton. It is an appropriate meeting place because journalists face a rocky future if they fail to avoid the crevasse ahead.

The continuing major issue facing journalists is the fight for the right to work. Newspaper proprietors are anxious to replace men with machines - to substitute skilled workers with computers. All print unions are under attack and the NUJ is no exception.

The union's annual report quotes a survey of 115 workplaces which show that in the past year there has been a loss of 168 jobs, a drop of 4.3 per

cent.

Several motions before ADM illustrate the journalists' growing concern at the destruction of their industry and their skills by the profiteers. Opposition to printing technology; the outlawing of voluntary redundancy agreements; demands to end all redundancies - all these calls are on the agenda.

Journalists must fight off the threats or watch proprietors, who cynically claim to have the long-term interests of the industry in mind, destroy their craft. Each journalistic job lost - whether it be by voluntary redundancy or the sack - represents the eventual loss of a skill. It means that another school-leaver will join the dole queue.