

CLASS STRUGGLE

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PRICES UP, CUTS & 2 MILLION ON DOLE FIGHT BACK!

The new Tory Government's first budget hit the working class hard, particularly poor workers, in a direct way. Chancellor Geoffrey Howe heralded this budget as if it represented a new Jerusalem. With the smugness of a bourgeois (capitalist) politician, he presented the Budget proposals as if he was doing the mass of the people a favour. The mythical "Mr Average" earning £100 a week was trotted out to dazzle people with the prospect of taking home an extra £4 a week from tax cuts. What's the reality? A public service worker with a weekly wage of £50 will gain from the tax cuts by a measly £1.54. Better than nothing? It is nothing when we take into account the effect of a 15% VAT rate, 10p on petrol and diesel fuel, and rents and mortgages up with the 2% rise in the banks' minimum lending interest rate. At a stroke the budget will force up prices by 4%. That is a £50 a week wage will be worth £2 less. This wipes out the tax cuts and takes a bit extra for good measure. However, 4% is a conservative estimate, coined by the bosses press, of how far prices will rise. The unemployed who do not even get the "advantage" of the tax cuts will be hit doubly hard by the budget. And for the their pains they face the prospect of cuts in social security benefits. The Budget will force more workers into grinding poverty and create a more desperate struggle to make ends meet. Is this what they mean by "incentive"?

SPENDING CUTS HIT JOBS, EDUCATION AND NHS

Public spending has been cut again. This time by £1,500 million. Money exacted from the working class through taxes and national insurance contributions is to be channelled in other directions to aid the monopoly capitalist class. Not a penny extra is to be paid on the NHS even though the NHS budget is worth less because of inflation. This is the same as a cut, while prescription charges have

shot up to 45p per item. Education will be cut by £55 million meaning fewer new teaching jobs, less nursery education and school building cuts.

Cuts of £440 million to local authorities will cause early sackings of Council workmen. Struggles against these have started already on Merseyside and in different parts of the country. A £300 million cut in the rate support grant will lead to higher rates and/or service cuts.

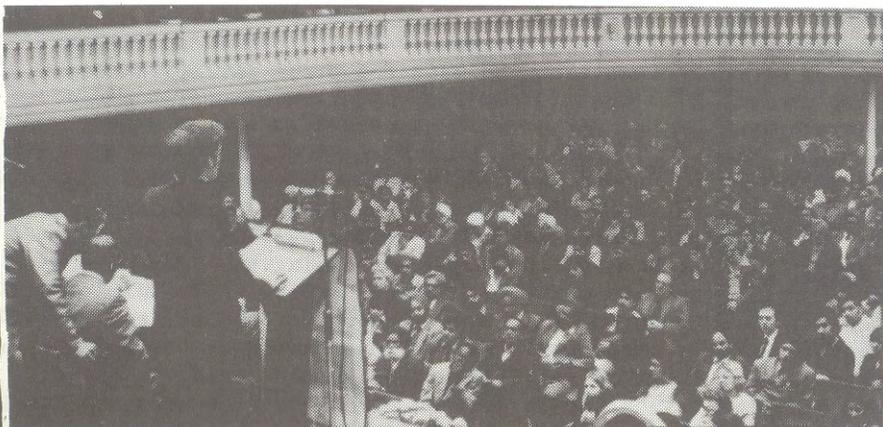
The picture is one of less health care, higher risk of disease because of cuts in rubbish collection while people find it harder to pay for medicines because of sky-high prescription charges.

RICH GAIN

A lot of hot air came from Government spokesmen on the Budgets tax-cuts, "reviving incentive". Howe was not kidding himself that the budget would make the working class work harder for capitalism. The bosses only expect workers to sell their labour and do as they are told. But the tax cuts did bring smiles all round in the board rooms. Sir Arthur Bryan, Chairman and Managing director of Wedgwood will benefit by £28,000 a year because of the cut from 80% to 60% for the supertax bracket.

The rich gain directly and indirectly from the VAT rises too. Previously there were two VAT rates - 8% for services (restaurants, cinemas etc) and 12½% for luxury goods. The masses, including small shopkeepers who face the increased threat of bankruptcy, will be hit hardest with the 7% increase in service rate VAT. While the rich who can afford the luxury items face only a 2½% increase on the cost of luxuries. As for the state bosses of 6 nationalised industries they have gained twice since the Tories got in. Their salaries were upped by as much as £212 a week, while they now gain most from the super-tax cuts.

Cont'd on p4



Comrade Chris Burford, Chairman of RCLB addressing the meeting.

Memorial meeting honours comrade Jagmohan Joshi pp4&5

JAGMOHAN JOSHI MEMORIAL FUND

To publish his revolutionary poems in Urdu and Punjabi, in hard back.

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WHEN FORDS WANT STRIKES

It goes without saying that Fords are operating in Britain to build cars. They can sustain their profits (and they made £242 million last year) only if they can sell all cars built. At certain times, however, it suits firms like Fords to have strikes and lay-offs when production ceases and no wages need be paid out to the workers.

Such an occasion could well be fast approaching now, which would go some way to explain just why Fords would actually like to see its workers on strike. Hence the current disciplinary crackdown at Halewood.

On Monday, June 11th, the Ford bosses began a 'blitzkrieg' attack on the workers in the Halewood Body Plant, leaving them in no doubt at all that they were trying to provoke a strike situation. Groups of management personnel scoured the plant, shift after shift, looking for any 'offence' which might warrant disciplinary action.

ARBITRARY SUSPENSION

After just one week, on one day alone seventeen men appeared in front of management disciplinary hearings to face a variety of 'charges'. One of these workers was given a 3-day suspension over a manning dispute. Despite the fact that similar disputes arise every day in this plant, and are usually sorted out amicably between the stewards and the foreman, the hard-line 'no negotiation' attitude of the bosses escalated this minor incident into a major dispute.

It began with 70 men walking out during a night shift in support of the man in dispute. Once the 3-day suspension was handed out, and the various stages in the appeals procedure had been gone through (all to no avail) the workers were forced to take sterner retaliatory action. This entailed a one-day token strike on the first day of suspension (a Friday), followed on the Monday and Tuesday by a strict work-to-rule, an overtime ban and a collection for the suspended man. This action would have maximised the disruption to production, with the minimum effect on their own pockets and

minimising the threat of layoff for the other Halewood workers.

LAY-OFFS

Within hours of this decision, however, the bosses retaliated by laying-off more than half the remaining workers in the plant (including all the line-workers) for the Friday shift. By this they intended to minimise the damage to production and to sow antagonisms among the workers.

But as we go to press, the workers are hitting back at the bosses even harder. Once the lay-offs were announced, the stewards called a shift meeting of the plant. They described the events as they happened and recalled the plant policy of 'one out - all out'. They called the whole plant out for the Friday shift and organised mass pickets right through the weekend until the return to work on Monday. This final tactic effectively scotched the bosses' plans to bring in the building contractors to catch up with alteration schedules over the long weekend.

The most commonly held view by the Halewood workers themselves, in explaining the bosses tactics, is connected with the £105 million plant alterations leading up to van and saloon model changeovers this year and next. Some of this work involves ripping up old lines and re-routing them elsewhere. Plant closure would suit the bosses down to the ground to enable them to get this work done. Rumours currently circulating the body plant indicate that this contract work is three weeks behind schedule. Add to this the current glut on the car market and falling demand because of VAT and petrol price increases and petrol shortages and the reasons for Fords wanting a stoppage become clear.

This is recognised as just one battle of war that is likely to continue for some months yet. But the determination of these Ford workers to fight back when attacked stands them in good stead for the future battles.

CAPITALISM ROCKS FROM CRISIS TO

"We used to think that you could just spend your way out of a recession and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting Government spending ... that option no longer exists" Callaghan.

Since the 2nd World War, Labour and Tory Governments have sworn by the theories of bourgeois (capitalist) economist John Maynard Keynes. These theories were supposed to prevent a repetition of the unemployment and depression of the thirties and some bourgeois politicians even dreamed they could prevent crisis.

Keynsianism is based on a system of state financing of deficits in the capitalist economy. This means the state intervening in the capitalist economy to increase credit and money supply above real production in order to increase demand and give an impetus to production. But while enabling the Government on behalf of the ruling class to influence slightly the slump/boom cycle through "stop-go" budgetting has introduced another contradiction for the crisis ridden capitalists economy - uncontrolled inflation and debasing of the currency.

Callaghan and the other bosses' politicians are lying when they say they want to stop inflation. The ruling monopolies want inflation and gain from it. It cuts real wages while the monopolies are still able to raise prices to keep up with inflation. What the monopoly capitalists do not want is uncontrolled inflation because it threatens a collapse of the whole already shaky capitalist economy. They do want the price inflation which will result from the budget increases, however.

BOSSSES DESPERATE

Keynsianism has not got rid of the old contradictions of capitalism which led to the collapse and depression of the thirties. The threat of uncontrolled inflation is leading the Tory Government to clutch at straws. Following the same measures of the last Labour Government, the Tories have savagely cut public spending by £1,500 million for this year. Public sector borrowing is to be cut by £1,000 million. These cut the amount of the state deficit while the Tories expect that these areas of state involvement cut will be taken up by "private enterprise". But this option is no longer

LETTERS

Who are the real scroungers?

Dear Editor,

I have been on the dole 4 weeks now, and I still haven't had any money off them. I can't claim social security because my wife is working. The dole say they are sorry they can't pay my Unemployment Benefit, because they're waiting for some papers to come through from Newcastle. One of the clerks more or less admitted they had forgotten to send off for them.

Anyone who's been out of work knows what hell you have to go through to get what you're entitled to. I know there's many much worse off than me. I don't blame the clerks. In Liverpool they've got to deal with nearly 90,000 unemployed. Now the Government is stopping the civil service taking on new staff. So there will be even less clerks, and even more time and trouble to get your money, if you ever do.

The bosses don't care, as far as they're concerned we're all scroungers. They're the real scroungers. They live off our backs. And now they have just got tax-cuts worth more than a family would get off the social security in five years!

W. Liverpool

Skill centre racism

Dear Editor,

I hadn't really thought much at the time about the letter in *Class Struggle, No 8* describing skill centre discrimination until I went for an interview myself. Out of 12 people waiting for interviews 3 were Asians and I would be surprised if any were accepted as the interviewer left me in no doubt how he felt about "wogs". Despite my previous poor work record I got on the course, mainly because he thought that he was in the army with my father (he was wrong) and having started the course now, there is no sign of the 3 Asians.

C. Manchester

CRISIS

open to the capitalist class. The funds and capital required for new investment are so vast today, that only the state and largest monopolies can afford them. And they will only foot the bill if they can expect lucrative markets and maximum profits. However these markets are shrinking as more and more unsold goods pile up; and the rate of profit on such investment is falling as more capital is tied up in machines and new plant.

Capitalism cannot budget its crisis away. Whether the Government inflates or deflates the economy, the masses of the people pay. The whole rotten system has outlived its stay and is becoming a bigger millstone around our necks. Socialism and the rule of the working class is the only solution and this must be won by revolutionary means under the leadership of a genuine communist party.

MAKE CLASS STRUGGLE YOUR PAPER

Let us know what is happening at your place of work or in your area.

Write to: "CS. Ed." c/o New Era Books

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ THE RECENTLY KNIGHTED MICHAEL EDWARDES, FORMERLY boss at Chloride and now "whipping British Leyland into shape", kindly bared his hopes and fears on the future of Leylands in an interview with the *Sunday Telegraph* this month. When he arrived in his new job he admits he wasn't certain it had a future at all but now he feels differently, "I've got a super team of fellows, I'm astonished by the way people work in this company and that's heartening too. 18 months ago I wasn't sure whether the company deserved to win. Now, I believe the employees do deserve a break". Some people are just all heart.

In 1978 Leylands made an operational profit of £71 million. Sales this year are reaching new record levels. So just who is getting the breaks.

■ LAST WORD ON THE "RAMPTON TV EXPOSURES" MUST go to Labour MP for Basseltow, Joe Ashton. Ashton labelled them "trial by television" and said, "For years I have been reading about show trials in other countries. Now I've seen one". In defence of the allegations made against some of Rampton's staff, he goes on to say, "many of them I know personally to be decent, caring people, active in the Labour party". (How stupid of the programme makers not to know that Labour party members are incapable of acts of brutality and sadism.) In his crude whitewash of Rampton, Ashton says further, "Out of 800 patients there are literally 2 or 3 who occasionally have to be kept naked in padded cells for reasons of hygiene..." These patients Ashton has described as "the dregs of humanity".

■ YET AGAIN THE GOVERNMENT IS TO PAY A COMPANY for the privilege of exploiting us. Roche Products - the British wing of the drug company Hoffman La Roche - has been promised £46 million aid for a new plant in Dalry, Ayrshire. The factory will provide a mere 430 new jobs and no doubt one of our readers knows of an older factory Roche are closing down. You've heard of Roche before? Yes, they market the much overprescribed tranquillisers Valium and Librium. They sell these at such inflated prices to the NHS that a few years ago they were successfully sued for "excess profits".

■ IT SEEMS AS IF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY'S (SWP) "vote Labour" line in the General Election has caused more than just a little dissent among its rank and file. In a recent letter published in *Socialist Worker* an angry rank and file member writes, "what kind of editorial comment allows a revolutionary socialist newspaper to encourage people to vote Labour in an election which is practically irrelevant?" He goes on to accuse the SWP leadership of "foistering" bourgeois democracy onto the working class and ends with the words, "Vote Labour indeed!" Paul Foot and the rest of his trotskyite cronies make no reply to the letter. Perhaps the rank and file comrade should try reading the book "Why Paul Foot Should be a Socialist" to discover why.

■ GENERAL MOTORS BOSSES IN SOUTHAMPTON WERE DISCOVERED to be sending out circulars to job applicants making it clear that those under 5 foot 4 inches and who wore glasses had no chance of being taken on. The entry age limit was fixed at 35. On discovering this new level of superrace restrictions on employment, the TGWU convener and shop-stewards protested and got the height and age restrictions changed. The age limit was raised to 45 only, while the management are still demanding that recruits be over 5 foot 2 inches. Over 70% of the workers in the factory are women and a lot would be disqualified if the height restrictions were applied to them. The works' convener, Ron Beale, has exposed the motive for the bosses banning applicants with glasses as keeping down the cost of eye protection in the welding area.

MEMORIAL MEETING HONOURS COMRADE

"Comrade Jagmohan Joshi belonged to his community, but also to all people who fight racism, fascism and imperialism. The greatest contribution we can make to his memory will be to carry on the struggle". With these words Comrade Shirley Joshi, widow of the late General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association (Great Britain) paid tribute to this respected communist leader at a memorial meeting in Birmingham on Sunday, June 17th.

1,500 people packed Birmingham Town Hall to hear speeches, poems and songs in Comrade Joshi's honour. He had died two weeks earlier of a heart attack, leading a demonstration against state racism in London. Comrade Avatar Johal, President of the IWA (GB), opened the meeting with a statement of the Central Committee. He pointed out Comrade Joshi's contribution in building the organisation, and in the broader class struggle. Comrade Joshi upheld the teachings of Marx, Lenin and Mao Zedong, he said, and the IWA(GB) pledged itself to continue his struggle.

Comrade Teja Sahota, Chairman of the IWA(GB) followed. He praised comrade Joshi's revolutionary work and spirit. He recalled in particular the forming of the Black People's Alliance, a joint movement against racism of 56 black organisations formed in 1968. He talked about the Alliance against Fascist Dictatorship in India, a broad organisation opposing Gandhi's fascist emergency rule and the subjection of India by Soviet social imperialism.

Representatives of Bangladeshi, Kashmiri, Afro-Caribbean and Azanian organisations spoke. A speaker from the Birmingham Afro-Caribbean Self Help organisation said, "Comrade Joshi's death was a great loss to the Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities in the Midlands. We must go on fighting this evil capitalist system until fascism and imperialism is smashed".

There was a spokesman for the Bharatiya Dalit Mukthi, an organisation of Dalits, so-called "untouchables" of India, the most oppressed of an oppressed people. Amrit Wilson, from an organisation of Asian women, praised Comrade Joshi's support for the emancipation of women.

Comrade Chris Burford, Chairman of the RCLB, said comrade Joshi was a great communist and an outstanding fighter against imperialism. He fought racism, seeing that it is a product of the imperialist system. In fighting for the Indian people's struggle for the new democratic revolution, he first opposed British imperialism, then US imperialism, and then Soviet social imperialism, which was tightening its stranglehold on the Indian nation. Comrade Burford pointed out that Joshi upheld Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong thought, and fought revisionism, which uses the words of Marxism to support the interests of capitalism. Comrade Joshi, he said, had the style of integrating theory with practice and using the mass line.



Teja Sahota (Chairman IWA,GB) addressing the Jagmohan Joshi Memorial Meeting. Sitting is Avatar Johal (President of IWA,GB)

A speaker, for the Communist Workers' Movement, praised comrade Joshi and the IWA(GB) for their strong opposition to racism, fascism, imperialism and the hegemonism (domination) of the two super-powers, Soviet social imperialism and US imperialism. A ripple of applause ran through the audience when he pointed out how comrade Joshi struggled for the liberation of all oppressed nations and peoples of the third world - most recently organising activities in support of socialist Kampuchea, against the enslavement by the Vietnamese authorities and the Soviet traitors.

Comrade Joshi's history was recalled by many speakers, Indian and British, including Maurice Ludmer, Chairman of the Birmingham Trades Council. He said "my association with comrade Joshi goes back 22 years. He used to discuss with me in a room above a hairdressers in Soho Road, Handsworth. Within a few years the IWA(GB) had built a membership of 28,000. Unlike many whom the press and the race relations industry claim as immigrant leaders, Joshi genuinely had a mass base".

"The IWA(GB) played a major role in the trade union movement in Britain. Many of the sweatshops in the "Black Country" were organised for the first time by Indian workers. Comrade Joshi stood shoulder to shoulder with the whole working class in this country".

There were many speeches and poems of farewell from branches of the IWA(GB) throughout Britain, from Bradford to Essex. It is a tribute to comrade Joshi's style of "uniting all who can be united" that many different political and social trends were represented. A leader of the Sikh temple in Smethwick paid tribute. The "Friends of India", an organisation whose basis is Hindu nationalism, but which united with the IWA(GB) in the fight against

PRICES UP, CUTS & 2 MILLION ON DOLE: FIGHT BACK!

Cont'd from p1

"INCENTIVE" FOR THE BOSSES;
INCREASED MISERY FOR THE WORKING CLASS

The form of shifting the burden of the capitalist crisis has changed into a more direct attack on living standards. Treasury forecasts that unemployment will reach 2 million and price inflation shoot up to 20% by next year are being kept under wraps because of their "acute political sensitivity". But nothing can cover up the increased misery that

will result from these latest attacks on the working class. Only militant class struggle can defend the working class in the face of these attacks. Calls by Labour and TUC bosses for caution and respect for the authority of the elected Government, is nothing but a call for respect for the rule and authority of the capitalist class which parliament serves. In the struggle against the bosses attacks such treachery must be fought. ■

JAGMOHAN JOSHI

Indira Gandhi's fascist rule, sent a message of support. A representative of the Wolverhampton Anti-Nazi League spoke of his devotion to the anti-racist and anti-fascist struggle. Although comrade Joshi always struggled against the incorrect politics and opportunism of revisionists and trotskyites, speakers from the "Communist" Party of Great Britain, Socialist Workers' Party and International Marxist Group took the platform to acknowledge his great achievements.

There were many revolutionary poems and songs in the Urdu and Punjabi languages. The highlight was the singing of comrade Joshi's own revolutionary song "Hame Jange Awami Se" by comrade Tara Singh Tara, and chorus of IWA(GB) youth, dressed as red army soldiers.

This song was written to celebrate the rising struggle in India in 1967, led by Marxist-Leninists. Its symbol will be for all time the name of the District in West Bengal where the peasants rose in armed struggle - Naxalbari. Handclapping greeted comrade Tara Singh Tara's mention of Naxalbari.

The Banner Theatre Group, an accomplished group of black and white musicians, sang 3 rousing anti-racist songs from their play "The Great Divide", including a song about the Grunwick strike.

A collection for the Jagmohan Joshi Memorial Fund had realised £4,037 by the end of the meeting. £850 was collected in the hall in cash.

Comrade Joshi is gone. But his revolutionary spirit lives on. Comrade Gautam Appa, of the Central London IWA(GB) summed it up in quoting comrade Joshi's own slogan for the anti-racist movement "we won't sit back; we'll hit back!"

The meeting ended with a "Lal Salam" (Red Salute) to comrade Joshi in two slogans:

SATYE JOSHI ZINDABAD! LONG LIVE COMRADE JOSHI!
INQUILAB ZINDABAD! LONG LIVE REVOLUTION!

Worked to death!

A fitter at Shirebrook colliery was killed recently when he was caught in moving machinery while working at the coal face. The 29 year old man was salvaging machinery from a face not in use when he was struck by machinery. Tragedies such as this highlight the serious dangers affecting manual workers in their work. Some examples of death rates for different occupations are given below. Miners are very high on this list and in the age group 20-29 years the rate is four times that for administrators and managers.

OCCUPATION	DEATH RATES (deaths per 100,000 living) for years 1970 to 1972
Armed Forces.....	1,504
Labourers.....	860
Miners & Quarrymen.....	836
Furnace, Forge, Foundry)	
Rolling mill workers).....	731
'Professional,)	
teachers & artists).....	450
Administrators & managers.....	440

Statistics such as these have not changed over the years. Under capitalism working people are dispensable - their lives are not valued. Not until state power is in the hands of the masses will we make real progress in safety at work. ■

Anderton demands labour camps

Manchester's Police Chief is in the news again. This time James Anderton is calling for "Penal Work Camps" where "hooligans will sweat as they have never sweated before" and only released when "their violence has been vanquished by penitent humiliation and unqualified repentance". Appealing thoughts for people living in inner cities where mugging, rape and house break-ins is far too common. But what is the context of these remarks?

Since 1974 there has been much well documented evidence of Manchester police picking up kids for questioning, without their parents knowledge and without charges, only on "suspicion". Many have alleged violence by the police and one the humiliation of having his trousers pulled down. Also in 1974, Don Swanson died in Manchester's Central Police Station, according to the coroner, of a diseased heart and liver. The coroner ignored substantial bruising and three broken ribs. In 1977 Fred Atkin was beaten up at Manchester's Longsight police station in a case of "mistaken identity". The police made an out of court settlement of £2000 but no action was taken against the officers involved.

This type of activity has continued and increased up to the present time (in Longsight alone, PC Vernon was convicted of assault on Terrence Croad in 1978, and two Asian shopkeepers were beaten up last summer)

It would seem that Anderton's police force is already carrying out his ideas on harsher punishment and only wants to make them legal.

SAS type cops in Manchester

The call by the Chief Constable for a national police force along the lines of London's notorious Special Petrol Group (SPG) is already becoming a reality. Manchester's Tactical Aid Group has already conducted joint manoeuvres with the notorious Special Air Services (SAS) in blocks of city centre flats, setting up road blocks and searching passers-by. It was also reported that large numbers of TAG (total strength at least 70) were sent to Leicester to protect a National Front meeting. They appear in their blue transit vans at any sign of trouble (although they didn't stop NF thugs trying to break up a meeting in central Manchester on May 31st until it looked like escalating to massive proportions). Manchester has not yet experienced the heavy handed tactics of the SPG but TV interviews with TAG members leave no doubt that it will happen. They don't hide the fact that their purpose is to "contain civil disobedience" and their military style training makes it obvious how they intend to do this. What they term "civil disobedience" is open to question but anyone thinking of organising a mass picket won't be in doubt for long.

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper. Contact RCLB c/o New Era Books 203, Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

CHINA'S DEVELOPING COUNTRYSIDE

In China, over 700 million people are peasants, living and working on the land. Agriculture is a key question of major importance - the foundation of China's socialist economy. Recently, a great deal of attention has been paid to developing agricultural production, and the peasants' enthusiasm for socialism.

Before Liberation in 1949, the peasants in China lived in terrible conditions. Poverty, starvation, disease and oppression were everywhere. Millions died through starvation, and many were forced to eat even the bark off the trees in sheer desperation. Under the leadership of the Communist Party the peasants arose to support the revolution. After the Liberation, the position of the peasantry greatly improved with the first steps at organising cooperative agriculture, increasing both production and their well-being. Another great step forward was the setting up of the rural people's communes in 1958, which allowed the resources of large areas to be pooled, and massive irrigation projects to be set up, taming even China's mightiest rivers and decreasing the threat of drought or floods.

While agricultural production has increased dramatically (grain production has increased over fourfold) there have also been setbacks. For a while, under the leftist line of Lin Biao and the Gang of Four, policies were implemented that severely reduced the peasants' enthusiasm to increase production and build a strong socialist China. Now, this situation is being remedied. The whole Party is concentrating on new measures to boost agricultural production and the well-being and enthusiasm of the peasants.



Peasants in Wuxian County with their "mountains" of rice - but these "mountains" will be used to benefit Chinese working people.

In Britain and the Common Market, agriculture is very mechanised, quite unlike China. But here production is purely for profit. The 'mountains' of butter, beef and 'lakes' of wine are a scandalous testimony to the rule of capitalism in agriculture. There is wholesale destruction of products like milk and eggs, and sometimes even farmers are paid not to produce crops! In China today the situation couldn't be more different. While agricultural prices remain low and stable for the consumer, the peasants are being encouraged to develop agriculture to its full potential.

COMMUNE SYSTEM DEVELOPED

Vast tracts of agricultural land in Britain are owned by major companies like Birds Eye or a small number of Dukes and Lords (The Duke of Northumberland owns most of Northumberland). In China ownership is through the system of people's communes. There are three levels of ownership - by the commune itself, by production brigades and by the production teams. The individual peasant belongs to a production team, which collectively organises the farming and other productive activities, and is responsible for its own profits and losses. The production team is the basic accounting unit, making way for less bureaucracy. The production brigades are then made up of the individual teams, and the commune is made up of all the brigades in a locality. The brigades and the communes undertake projects which the individual production teams are unable to do, such as buying large farm machinery and running large pig farms, forest farms, fishing grounds and small factories and mines.

While the activities of the communes, brigades and teams are all brought within the socialist state plan, the recent measures introduced are placing greater reliance on the initiative of the peasants and production teams. Over the past years there have been many instances of the commune itself telling the teams what to plant and where and when to plant certain crops, regardless of the concrete conditions. This has led to demoralisation among some of the peasants, who knew their land better than the leadership of the communes. Sometimes the commune leadership has demanded the use of the labour of the production teams in building schools or irrigation projects, without consultation or compensation. Again, this sometimes left fields uncultivated and sapped the peasants' enthusiasm. The new measures ensure that the commune must ask permission before the teams' resources are used, and that adequate compensation is given.

MORE WORK - MORE PAY

The principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" cannot be put into practice until a communist society is established, where materials and goods are really abundant and people's consciousness greatly enhanced. In order to build the basis for that society, the people must be mobilised to develop production and raise their consciousness. Under socialism, as Marx pointed out over a hundred years ago, the principle is "from each according to his ability to each according to his work." This system of more pay for more work encourages the peasants to take an active part in collective productive labour.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



At the Pailou production brigade, one of Baoa commune's 40 brigades, the remuneration system is based on 'fixed quotas and allocated work points, according to work done.' For example, people harvesting wheat and planting autumn crops on the same plot of land would be given 3000 work points to the hectare. By the end of the year if a peasant got 5000 points, and the team gives 0.8 yuan for every 10 points, his income would be 400 yuan. This practice of paying for work done, regardless of sex, gets rid of the practice of paying women less. The work points for each job, are not the brainchild of a few brigade leaders, but are based on the team members' experience. They are worked out democratically with the help of the masses. By paying more for more work done, the peasants are enthusiastic to increase production. Under the influence of the Gang of Four this principle was abandoned in some cases and payment was made for so-called "political consciousness" - as a result, the most vociferous supporters of the Gang got paid more for less work. This was creating great resentment and lower production. Now the situation has been remedied.

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

At the Pailou brigade, all the production team leaders are elected. The team's production plans, work quotas and work points are all fixed after repeated and full democratic discussion by the members themselves. The accounts of the Brigade and its teams are made public at regular intervals, and posted up on the wall outside the brigade and team headquarters for all to see and discuss. It is because the peasants have great democracy and are able to determine and organise themselves, together with more pay for more work, that they know they are building a country where they themselves are the masters.

SMALL PLOTS RETAINED

In 1962, the Party, summing up the experience of the rural communes declared that the commune members could cultivate small plots for personal use in their spare time. All the produce of these small plots belong to the member and were at their own disposal. They are not large. In Wuxian County, a fairly typical example, small plots allowed to commune members make up about one-twelfth of the collectively cultivated acreage - about one-hundredth of an acre per person.

The Gang of Four tried to ban these small plots and this often led to hardship for the peasant. As a result, the enthusiasm for even collective production declined. As long as the primacy of the collective agricultural production is ensured, it would be wrong to dispense with small private plots at this stage. On the contrary, they are beneficial to the economy as a whole. As the production of the collective increases these private plots become less important to the individual peasant.

By following this policy of mobilising all the positive factors in agriculture, great progress is being made. In the province of Sichuan grain production has increased by 18% over the past two years, despite prolonged drought! Obviously it will be difficult to maintain such increases, but there is still considerable potential. This result is typical of Chinese agriculture today, building up a solid foundation in socialist construction.

INDOCHINA: "The root cause for the outflow of refugees from Kampuchea is the Vietnamese aggression against the country. Therefore the sole solution to this problem is the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. So is the case with the Laos refugee problem." With these words Ieng Sary, the Deputy Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea, pointed to the reason for the refugee problem in Indochina and also indicated the only real solution

The same is true of the problem of refugees from Vietnam itself. The Vietnam authorities have concentrated Vietnam's scarce resources on militarising its economy to the utmost and on paying for their aggression against Laos and Kampuchea. They have further built up massive debts to the Soviet social imperialists. The economy is in desperate straits. Agriculture is in a mess with able bodied peasants pressed ganged into an army they no longer support. People are starving - and fleeing. On top of this the Vietnamese authorities are viciously oppressing Vietnamese who are of Chinese descent. They are carrying out a ruthless racist persecution sacking them from their jobs, and throwing them out of the factories - doing all they can to drive them out of the country.

At the same time the Vietnamese authorities and their masters in the Soviet Union, (as well as their grovelling and subservient mouthpieces in Britain like the New "Communist" Party) are saying that there is no real problem and that all the hundreds of thousands of refugees were wealthy capitalists! There must have been a lot of them!

NICARAGUA: Now that the despot Somoza, the dictator of Nicaragua, is about to be toppled by the armed masses led by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, (SNLF) the US imperialist are suddenly peace-lovers again! Somoza was installed in power by the USA. His family own the key industrial sectors, and US monopolies have been doing very well. Now the people are getting rid of him. So the US offers to "mediate" and propose that to stop the fighting a "government of national unity" be formed comprising of pro-Somoza elements, the SNLF and the "broad opposition". What they are really worried about is losing their interests. The provisional government which has already been set up to replace Somoza and which contains the SNLF and other opposition forces has told the US imperialists that they will not accept their "mediation". They warned the US not to try to intervene militarily either directly or through other South American states.

FRANCE: The French Government is introducing a new "Immigration Bill". The Bill not only deals with immigration (and like all such Bills is based on trying to blame immigrants for capitalism's problems) but also gives the state and its police enormous powers to step up the oppression of minorities when they are actually living in France. This is another common feature of immigration acts, including the racist laws operating in Britain. The Bill will open up a hunt throughout France for "illegal immigrants". Suspects will be thrown into camps, "not subject to the control of the judicial authorities". i.e. concentration camps and no right of appeal. Also "legal" immigrants who become unemployed or are "a threat to public order" will be liable for deportation.

The Bill is being fought by a broad range of opponents.

CPB(ML) backs imperialists

Two issues ago (Vol.3; No.11) *Class Struggle* carried an extensive article on the struggle for a new economic order which was being waged by third world countries at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In that article we pointed out how the imperialist countries continued to plunder the third world through economic means; how the third world as a result of direct exploitation and of having to sell raw materials cheaply and buy machinery off the imperialists at higher and higher prices were being driven further and further into debt. *Class Struggle* fully supported the struggle against imperialist super exploitation, and pointed out that the working class of the imperialist countries and the peoples and countries of the third world have a common enemy - imperialism.

On June 14th *The Worker*, the paper of the so-called "Communist" Party of Britain (ML) also carried an article on UNCTAD. But did it support the struggle against imperialism? No. It did not even mention imperialism! It incoherently launched a vicious and chauvinist attack on the just stand of the third world countries. It took the same stand as the imperialists. But unlike the imperialists, the CPB(ML) pose as super-revolutionaries. In this guise, they said: "Which of (the third world countries) is engaged in socialist construction?" and "UNCTAD 5 is all about capitalism, no more, no less." Isn't it also about imperialism? The CPB(ML) claims that because the third world countries are capitalist countries it has no duty to support the struggle even of third world capitalists against imperialist plunder. This trotskyite garbage is backed up by claiming solidarity with the workers of the third world. Even here the only example it can give is of the wages struggle in Morocco, not of the armed liberation wars being waged or the broad national democratic movements!

The CPB(ML) rants on that the third world countries will not win TOTAL INDEPENDENCE through

"A proletariat that tolerates the slightest coercion of other nations by its 'own' nation cannot be a socialist proletariat". Lenin.

"No matter what classes, parties or individuals in an oppressed nation join the revolution, and no matter whether they themselves are conscious of the point or understand it, so long as they oppose imperialism, their revolution becomes part of the proletarian - socialist world revolution and they become its allies". Mao.

the struggle for a new International Economic Order alone. True enough, the capitalists of the third world cannot take the struggle through to the end. But behind this ultra-left clamour, what the CPB(ML) is saying is that it is therefore OK for them to take their stand shoulder to shoulder with the imperialists! Class conscious workers, though, will continue to support all aspects of the struggle against imperialism. That unity will bury imperialism.

The CPB(ML) will go on supporting imperialism and claiming that that is the way to "save jobs" They will go on betraying the anti-imperialist struggle of the third world, and also, through this, by opportunistically putting forward imaginary immediate gains - "saving jobs" - they will go on betraying the struggle for revolution in Britain.

Honest members of the CPB(ML) must break with this "ultra-left" facade, break with the reality of the CPB(ML)'s chauvinist support for imperialism, and grasp firmly that the CPB(ML)'s claim to stand for a Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought is a total fraud - which can no longer be made a reality.

De Villiers defends his interests

Strikes "...are not characteristic of the South African way of life. South Africa's excellent industrial legislation lays down a simple procedure to be followed in the case of disputes. It is in fact one of the finest pieces of legislation in this respect in the world and has saved South Africa from strikes of the kind that have struck at the very fibre of other Western economies. Under no circumstances can illegal acts of this nature be allowed to frustrate the progress of South Africa or inhibit the development of its peoples."

It won't surprise anyone to hear that the speaker is one of South Africa's bloated colonial masters. It is in fact Dr. W J de Villiers, Chairman and managing director of General Mining, who are doing very nicely thank you. They have major interests in mining gold, uranium, coal, asbestos, copper and chrome, as well as in heavy engineering, steel production, oil and farming.

Apart from their direct control of about 80 subsidiary companies, they have a half share in the Union Corporation group, which itself controls or has a major interest in 350 companies. On top of this they have investments in several other enterprises. These interests are mainly in South Africa and South West Africa, but they also infect many other countries.

General Mining represents a massive concentration of wealth and power.

The racism of such imperialist giants comes out more in de Villiers' speech. He boasted that "there was an extremely good supply of black labour to the mines." He also explained why the South African regime has responded to the needs of the monopolies by allowing more black workers to be trained.

After complaining about the world wide economic slump (which hasn't stopped General Mining coining in record profits) he said: "it is quite surprising to find that there is even in these difficult conditions, a distinct dearth of skilled labour. If eventual recovery is not to be prejudiced, extended training programmes are now very necessary."

Of course, such companies can't resist profiteering from every aspect of the national oppression of the Azanian people. General Mining just happen to have built and own many "townships" in South Africa - near to their mines and factories, but of course, well away from the expensive "white only" areas where de Villiers and his racist friends live

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