



THATCHER

BSC's balloting bedlam

OF ALL the crazy ideas that the management of British Steel have come up with, the "secondary ballot" must take the cake. We'll soon have tertiary balloting, like tertiary syphilis. How about a ballot about a ballot to see if we want to vote?

The idea, which is heralded by the press in their present enthusiasm for balloting, as a means to break strikes and divide workers has won the support of Thatcher. She says that workers have the right to be consulted about their future. Is this ballot to enquire how the workers at Consett, Corby or Port Talbot feel about their future? No, it is a ballot to see if steelworkers would be prepared to be further balloted about British Steel's offer of a cut in wages represented by 14 per cent.

Spirit of enquiry?

It is typical that managements such as this who have never been interested in what anyone else — least of all their workforce — thought, should suddenly develop such an enquiring spirit.

If the management really was interested in the steelworkers' opinions it would of course be sacked by Thatcher. As it is, they have made their own opinions known to just about everyone else in Britain, if not in the world: they will not accept cuts in their wages or in their industry; they will cut Thatcher.

Meanwhile plans for destruction reach into the so-called private sector as well — 1500 jobs will go with the closure of one of the most modern and, reputedly, efficient steel complexes in the world, at Patent Shaft Steel.

OUT!



The Thatcher Government is incompatible with civilised human society. We must declare it immoral and reject it.

Thatcher attempts to turn us into outlaws. In terms of any decent society it is Thatcher who is the outlaw. She and her cabinet are outside the law of human decency we workers have established here in Britain in the teeth of capitalist exploitation.

In their insensate desire to attack the working class these minions of Thatcher break their own laws — as in the case of Denning's rulings and the sacking of Area Health Authorities who dare stand up for the health of the people.

Anyone with so little regard for human life that she savagely cuts the services sustaining life in order to pour billions into weapons of mass destruction must be labelled an outcast from human society.

Our past struggles have ensured our survival from one government attack to another; have improved our living conditions, education, health, housing and welfare; have safeguarded our trade unions against assault from the Combination Acts of 1799 to the Industrial Relations Act of 1972.

These very successes have produced a Thatcher in Downing Street whose brief it is to destroy all that we have created and preserved.

Today our survival means the end of Thatcher, the end of this Government, the end of capitalism.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

New report threatens medical teaching standards

Slay it with Flowers...

As predicted exclusively in THE WORKER last week, the recommendations of the Flowers Report on London Medical Education and the London Health Planning Consortium report called "Towards a Balance" signal a qualitative change in the attack on our health service. Not only are our hospitals to close, they're now dismantling the London medical schools. These reports indicate a further move towards a new Dark Age of ignorance.

The Flowers Report, instigated by the University of London which was worried about the cost to its budget of medical education, and the consortium, sponsored by the DHSS, have launched an attack on Britain's medical education system with recommendations which, if implemented, will mean ultimately the closure of most if not all of London's teaching hospitals.

The Flowers Report recommends that the Westminster Medical School close and merge with that of St. Thomas' Hospital. The Consortium wants Westminster Hospital to cease as an acute hospital with over 600 beds (including the world famous Westminster Children's Hospital) and become a 100 bed "small supporting hospital" to St. Thomas'. There will be no expansion of St Thomas' to cover for the loss of beds or for the continuance of most of the highly specialised medical and research teams at the Westminster. £1.2m is at present being spent on Westminster's operating

HERE NO US MISSILES HERE NO US MI

The Week

ANOTHER couple of months of Thatcher and the Nobel Prize awarded to the arch-monetarist Milton Friedman will probably be taken back.

SPEAKING of awards, Thatcher was recently given the Freedom of the Borough of Barnet in her Finchley constituency. This was not a particularly popular decision with the people of the borough in view of the destruction of services being carried out by the Tory council. Now a demonstration organised by the Barnet Anti-Cuts Campaign rallied some hundreds of people in protest and before you could say "Afghanistan" there were roars of "Thatcher Out".

OF MANY anti-Thatcher jokes going the rounds, this one comes from the USA by way of Bradford:

"Five thousand years ago Moses said, 'Park your camel, pick up your shovel, mount your ass and I will lead you to the promised land.'"

"Five thousand years later Roosevelt said, 'Lay down your shovel, sit on your ass and smoke your camel; this is the promised land.'"

"Today, Thatcher will take your shovel, sell your camel, kick your ass and tell you the land's been promised to someone else."

THATCHER intends to take a direct part in nuclear war exercises next winter and is instructing her ministers to follow her example. Usually senior civil servants have played the part of ministers in Whitehall war games but next January when the NATO countries rehearse steps leading up to a nuclear war Thatcher wants to act out her role in person in the Cabinet war room and enjoy the thrill of pushing the button that simulates a launching of Polaris missiles against the Soviet Union. For the safety of ourselves and our children we ought to cut off that itchy finger of hers - at the neck.

AFTER trouble over her son's 'Buy Japanese' efforts, Thatcher's husband Dennis, who is so keen on sending rugby teams to South Africa, has won further notoriety for the family through his firm, Chipman Ltd., which sells weedkiller. This weedkiller contains the magic ingredient 2,4,5-T which was used in Agent Orange spread over Vietnam as a defoliant.

ANOTHER judge who can take a hint from Thatcher is Lord Justice Lawton who, in refusing an appeal against a 12-month prison sentence by a man who drew £700 in social security while working at a garage, said "prison is the only way of dealing with such an offence, even in the case of first offenders, because it is rife from one end of the British Isles to the other." It is not nearly so rife nor does it involve such large sums of money as price-fixing, juggling with company law etc for which the penalty is a slap on the wrist and a small fine.

Historic Notes 'We will not go to court or recognise this law.'

WORKING CLASS OPPOSITION to Heath had not risen to strike action strong enough to prevent the Industrial Relations Act becoming law in 1971. Because of this weakness, action continued, guerrilla and irregular, in 1972, as we saw last week.

Nevertheless, the passivity of large sections of workers was expressed by their leaders in the TUC, who wished to betray the struggle of that year by setting up conciliation machinery with the government. Heath, on the evidence of this weakness, stepped up his attack and imposed the Wage Freeze with its Phases I, II, III.

The Engineering Union alone had decided on a policy of non-cooperation with the Industrial Relations Act. Heath and his tool Donaldson of the National Industrial Relations Council (NIRC) now judged the AUEW so isolated as to be able to attack with impunity.

Fined for 'contempt'

They began with a £5000 fine for the Union's "contempt" of court, refusing to answer why its members in Sudbury had denied membership to a certain Goad. Then a £50,000 fine followed. The Government, although empowered to take over the whole union and imprison its leaders, shrank in cowardice from this, and seized a total of £67,000 through a stockbroker. All hopes they had of avoiding conflict were dashed by the wave of engineering strikes which followed then and in the New Year of 1973.

Defeat even more glaring followed immediately when a Chrysler worker tried to resign his AUEW membership. Strikes action was so solid that the NIRC, to which he appealed, refused to pronounce judgement, and hence capitulated to the Union.

The Engineers' struggle against Heath moved to a higher, more organized stage when at the Special TUC Congress of March 1973 - a congress called specifically to avoid struggle - the motion was carried for a one day general strike on May 1st.

Guerrilla Struggle

That first of May was marked by over two million workers defying the government. It also marked the fifth birthday of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) in whose Chair-man, Reg Birch, the line of non-cooperation with the Act by the AUEW originated.

Now the Party published its best-selling pamphlet 'Guerrilla Struggle and the Working Class', looking forward from the guerrilla struggle of the first stages of the fight against the Act, to the protracted struggle of the Engineers, which, as it became more organized and won the support of other workers, was to become mighty enough to overthrow the Act itself.

Yet no sooner was May Day past, than the TUC reopened negotiations with the Government. The AUEW sabotaged this move (one of so many) towards capitulation by forbidding their President to attend the six-man talks. Nevertheless, (even though the Engineering Employers informed Donaldson of the NIRC that his Act was a failure) Donaldson could still hope to wear down this one remaining obstacle to the Act, the AUEW.

In August 1973, the Government attempted to bring the Union, not to the NIRC, but to a County Court but with as little success as before.

Then in the autumn, when the employer at a small non-union firm in Surrey, Con-Mech, sacked twenty men for attempting to join, they thought they saw their opportunity. The size of the fine (£100,000) for the Union's non-attendance at the NIRC, and the lack of organization at the heart of the dispute must, they hoped,

phase two of our attack. This is class war. We shall have class law - our law. They try to impose their law on us but we shall destroy them. They believe we shall sue for peace, but our end is the end of the employing class."

Such clarity of purpose explains why popular history, in the interests of the bourgeoisie, holds

'We welcome' said Reg Birch of the AUEW striking against the Industrial Relations Act in November 1973, 'the other trade unionists who have seen the correctness of our stand and have joined us because our stand has been a somewhat lonely one.' This third in our series on the defeat of recent anti-union legislation shows how the guerrilla action of 1972 against Heath was developed by the Engineers into a protracted struggle which, even unassisted by other unions, culminated in the massive strikes of 1973-74 which alone overthrew Heath's prototype of Thatcher's proposals.

produce results. But the political gains of the previous years' struggle were such that the Engineering Union members struck nationwide.

Reg Birch speaking at Tower Hill on November 5th 1973 articulated the true significance of the AUEW's stand. "We have believed we could live with the employing class. The capitalist government has brought in Phase One, Two and Three against the working class. We are still in our phase one of live and let live. We must have

as a sort of dogma that the "Miners defeated Heath". Not that the Miners and all others who opposed the Wage Freeze did not play their role, particularly the NUM with its winter strike, in forcing Heath to election defeat in February 1974. But to say that the "Miners defeated Heath" is to refuse to recognize the line of all-out opposition to the Government represented by the Engineering Union, which was, all too often, unsupported by fraternal unions.

Thus no sooner was Heath defeated, than voices of collaboration with the new government were immediately raised - even though the Industrial Relations Act was still on the books. When Donaldson in May in a final fit of pique sequestered the Union's funds, the reaction of the Union was instant. The Executive Council "instructs all members of its engineering section, with-out exception, to withdraw labour forthwith." In face of such massive action, the employers capitulation was complete. Within hours the monies required were provided by anonymous capitalist donors. It was indeed, as the WORKER said "one of the quickest and most complete victories ever won by workers against the state" - a reminder that guerrilla struggle is never an end in itself but a means to higher and more organized struggle.

Fighting Thatcher

As we face under Thatcher a revival of Heath's legislation we should remember the great power wielded by only one union, united under correct leadership, as a reminder that this time it should not be one union, but all united. How right the WORKER was then. "Only by industrial action can freedom be maintained against the re-imposition of anti-Trade Union legislation."



Above: March 1st 1971 and the fight against the IR Bill is on in earnest. 100,000 workers marched through London to a huge rally in Trafalgar Square. At the time THE WORKER warned: "This Bill and what it implies will not be defeated by some short, once for all demonstration of temporary unity." And we were right. Only the AUEW, led by a Marxist-Leninist, Reg Birch, on its Executive Council, persisted in boycotting the Bill when it became an Act. The engineers never appeared in front of the National Industrial Relations Court.

Right: the simple headline "AUEW STRIKES" says it all. Instructed by their Executive to withdraw their labour, hundreds of thousands streamed out of work when they heard the news on the radio. By the time official instructions reached anyone, it was all over: an anonymous benefactor had paid the AUEW's fine, and the NIRC, which never was recognised by the engineers, gave them back their money.

THE WORKER

Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) No. 10 May 16th 1974 Price 3p

AUEW STRIKES

Engineers' Answer to Sequestration
VICTORY AGAINST STATE

IN REFERENCE TO THE ORDER IN DEFERRE OF THE ELEMENTARY RIGHT TO TRADE UNION AUTONOMY BY EMPLOYERS, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE AUEW, "WELCOMES THE DEMANDS OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, TO WITHDRAW LABOUR FORTHWITH."

THE PRESS WHICH CLOSED DOWN THE NATIONAL PRESS AND THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COURT HAS NOW OPENED UP THE COURTS TO THE WORKERS. THE AUEW HAS NOT COMPLY TO THE DEMANDS OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MAKE TOTAL RESIGNATION OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COURT HAS NOW OPENED UP THE COURTS TO THE WORKERS. THE AUEW HAS NOT COMPLY TO THE DEMANDS OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MAKE TOTAL RESIGNATION OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS.

IN INDUSTRIAL ACTION, BY ABANDONING THEIR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL PRESS AND THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COURT, THE AUEW HAS NOT COMPLY TO THE DEMANDS OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MAKE TOTAL RESIGNATION OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COURT HAS NOW OPENED UP THE COURTS TO THE WORKERS. THE AUEW HAS NOT COMPLY TO THE DEMANDS OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MAKE TOTAL RESIGNATION OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS.



GOVERNMENT WORKERS FIGHT

GROUPS OF CIVIL AND PUBLIC servants are organising to fight the Government's attempt to force them to work for the Government. The Government's attempt to force them to work for the Government is a direct challenge to the workers' right to withdraw their labour. The Government's attempt to force them to work for the Government is a direct challenge to the workers' right to withdraw their labour.

PUBLIC MEETING Friday 24 May 7.30pm Conway Mill Red Lion Square, 'Workers in Struggle'

Editorial

AT PARTICULAR times in working class history a common need expresses itself in a popular demand, a slogan which can mobilise the whole class. Such was the call for "Bread, Land and Peace", proclaimed at the first All Russian Congress of Soviets, in June 1917. Such also is the cry on the lips of every politically articulate worker in Britain today: "Thatcher Out!"

Slogans like these are what Mao Tsetung called the main contradiction, translated into injunctions which can be acted on. The main contradiction is that major opposition within a thing or situation which gives it its essential character, and which, when taken hold of by the masses, can change that thing or situation into something else. The main contradiction in Britain is the confrontation between capitalist exploiters and exploited workers. It culminates in the immediate political form of Thatcher against all of us who live by the sale of our labour power.

It is a sign of capitalism's parlous state that it should be represented at such a time by a thoroughly pedestrian second-rater, animated only by her class hatred. Her incapacity for clever deception or shrewd manoeuvre reflects the position of capitalism at the end of its tether. Hence the successive moves towards naked fascism, by which class struggle is suppressed by law and force. The very encouragement of British citizens to inform on their neighbours for fancied infringements of the rules of social security is the same kind of socially divisive tactic as Hitler's plea to children to inform on their parents for criticism of Nazism. In Thatcher we have the end of bourgeois democracy in Britain.

Is such a slogan, "Thatcher Out", revolutionary or merely social democratic? Any demand which the whole working class is prepared to act on and which the ruling class cannot or will not concede is revolutionary. That is why the leaders of social democratic parties or groups are not making such a demand. It comes from the working people who are potentially the revolutionary force. A revolutionary situation is one in which the ruling class cannot go on ruling in the old way and the working class shows that it will no longer submit to being ruled in the old way. "Thatcher Out" is a revolutionary declaration on the part of workers that brushes aside all parliamentary film-flam and dust-raising to hit the nail in capitalism's coffin right on the head.

But can it all be as simple as that? It is perfectly simple. It is like the situation in the factory when the foreman gets stroppy and begins to take it out on us workers. We have to find the easiest form of rebellion which will seem to all of us the likeliest way to put a stop to that tyranny. We don't, at such a moment, worry about what might come after to such an extent that it stays our hand. We know that when we have chucked out that foreman things at that particular factory will never be the same again. Any successful industrial action is like a little revolution.

We in the CPB(ML) are not dilettantes who try to think up obscure theories and slogans because we don't think our class can formulate its own political needs. We are delighted that all of us are raising our voices in a shout for the first step on the way to building a better Britain - THATCHER OUT!

Trade unionists throughout Kent fight destruction on all fronts

TRADE UNIONISTS from all over Kent gathered in Maidstone on 16th February to march and rally against the proposed cuts in public expenditure. Many trades were represented, with workers from offices, farms, mines and schools. And they had plenty to protest about!

Some of the most glaring cuts proposed by Kent County Council include the closure of three old people's homes, despite the lack of alternative accommodation for the present occupants. This cynical attack on those least able to defend themselves is compounded by the decimation of the home help service and by closures and cuts in hospitals. As a member of the Kent Area Health Authority stated recently, the effect of these policies is that old people needing medical help will have nowhere to go, nor will they be able to care for themselves at home. Some will undoubtedly die as a result.

Similarly repugnant is the proposed closure of four children's homes - again an attack on the weakest. However, these proposals are not going unchallenged, and NALGO

members have pledged their resistance.

The cuts in spending on education are vicious. Cleaning hours in schools have been almost halved, with non-replacement of staff and compulsory retirement at 60. Nor is there any cover for absentees until the staff at work falls below the new lower level decreed by the council.

Again resistance to this has been organised in some schools, with NUPE members refusing to cover unfilled vacancies or absences or to change their work schedules. And NUT members have refused to take over any of their duties.

Parents' anger

However, the issue creating most anger among parents in Kent is that of school transport charges. Parents who were previously unaware of education cuts are now face to face with them. Kent County Council intended to charge £3.50 per week for secondary pupils living more than three miles from school, and £2.50 per week for

primary pupils living over two miles from school. In the face of mounting anger this has been reduced to £2.50 and £1.50. Now the fight must be to abolish the charge completely, though not at the expense of other parts of public services! And this requires union action.

NUT takes action

To its credit, the Kent NUT which has already taken a stand on protecting education by taking action on class size and by not covering for absent colleagues, has taken a decision in principle to refuse to handle any monies concerned with such charges.

There is an ever growing awareness that an injury to one section of the class is an injury to all. As was said by one worker at the demonstration which took place in Maidstone: "We are no longer prepared to bear a cross for capitalism, whether it be unemployment, war, or any other means of attack on us."

If Thatcher and her cronies can't solve their problems, we will solve them for ourselves - and to hell with her."

Corby - the town without a future

SCHOOL LEAVERS in Corby have traditionally found it difficult to get jobs. This year's batch of 1200 will find it an especially difficult struggle - in many cases in competition with their own parents, who are among the thousands of steel workers thrown on the dole by the closure of the town's steel works.

By October, 5000 workers will have lost their jobs - most becoming redundant on April 1st when 4500 jobs finish. Already

36 out of the 59 Northamptonshire school leavers now registered as unemployed come from Corby - a high percentage in a population of 35,000, compared with a county population of half a million.

However, as usual the Thatcher government has a ready answer to these young unemployed school leavers - join the Army.

In Corby the Army has just launched a four-day campaign and recruitment drive. The reasons for the potential attrac-

tiveness of Army life were summed up by the headmaster of one of the largest Corby comprehensives when he said, "Many youngsters go in for the specialised training in the Army, but there is an element of security also and a reasonably well-paid job within a secure environment. Maybe in the Corby area this is something!"

This worry is also in the minds of local members of the NUT who recently produced a pamphlet which outlined the problems the closure of the steel works would bring. It said, "The lowering of morale, both in unemployed parents and the community as a whole, will communicate itself to the children and undermine their aspirations and motivations. Older children will be influenced by the knowledge that, on leaving school, they will find jobs very scarce."

As well as the Army there are three other options in Corby for those who cannot find full-time employment: Youth Opportunities Programme, a Community Industry scheme and a workshop scheme for 60 youngsters at a Teacher's Training College. All three schemes insist they only take on work which cannot be done by anyone else and there has been little opposition by unions on the grounds that they are taking away full-time employment. But these are only palliatives to stave off the moment when they have to go back to the dole.

It is disgraceful that for youngsters in Corby the only way to take an apprenticeship in a specialised skill is to join the Army and thus provide more cannon-fodder for the Third World War which Thatcher is so busily arranging. What we are witnessing here at Corby in microcosm is what is happening all over Britain - the total destruction of our skills.

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)



IN ORDER TO REDUCE spending plans over the next two years by £130m the Director General of the BBC has announced the loss of 1500 jobs, the disbandment of five orchestras, the early closing of Radio 3, the ending of the radio daily serial, "Waggoners Walk" and cuts of educational programmes by 10 per cent. BBC management must be left in no doubt that these proposed cuts represent a dereliction of their responsibility for public service broadcasting in Britain and are completely unacceptable.

The argument that these job losses and programme cuts are necessary because of the shortage of funds won't wash. It begs the question of how the funds available are allocated and dodges the issue of BBC management's responsibility for finding the funds to provide a satisfactory public broadcasting service. If such a service cannot be provided on the money then resign in principle as a challenge to the Government's notorious and loutish niggardliness in respect to the arts in Britain.

Other forms of financing public service broadcasting

IN BRIEF/Home News

THE HYPOCRISY of those who pose as the guardians of public morality simply knows no bounds. After yet another humiliating defeat, that great "defender of the unborn child" MP John Corrie still had one chance of getting his Abortion Amendment Bill through — but only if he managed to persuade another MP to drop his Bill... for uprating child maintenance orders.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

theatres in the belief that these would be used to relieve suffering. As the press statement of the Hospital Campaign Committee points out, "Both Westminster and St. Thomas' Hospitals are in excess of 85 per cent full, and any reduction will inevitably be felt acutely by the general public, with soaring waiting lists and longer waiting times for treatment, the true costs of which can only be measured in pain and suffering." The future of St. Thomas' however, is not assured since doubts are raised in the reports about its future role as a teaching hospital, and the DHSS is known to wish it did not exist. St Thomas'

Cultural sabotage proposed to balance BBC budget

than simply increasing the license fees should have been canvassed. And BBC management should not be the sole arbiters of whether funds are correctly distributed among administrative and technical needs, programme staff, outside artists and so forth.

The Director General's incompetence for taking the kind of decisions he has announced is shown by his characterisation of the role of public service broadcasting in a letter to all BBC staff as "providing, over and above the main stream of popular programmes, a range of more specialised services -

educational programmes, regional and local broadcasting and network programmes of more minority interest."

It is this attitude, no different from commercial broadcasting, which, in the field of radio, has led to the generic broadcasting of the 'Seventies; the tendency of Radio 3 to become a high-brow ghetto and the utter failure to recruit appreciative listeners to drama and music from the young audience for pop on Radio 1. In the field of television it has led to competition popularity with its richer rivals instead of blazing its own cultural, artistic

and entertainment trails with imagination and ingenuity.

The role of public service broadcasting is to provide the finest quality programmes in a number of fields, with the wide-scale patronage of creative artists that entails, and constantly to enlarge the audiences for such programmes at the expense of all the cheap, shoddy rubbish offered in the name of entertainment. Looked at from that point of view the Director General's proposed cuts can be seen for what they are - sabotage of public service broadcasting.

The negotiators of the Association of Broadcasting

Staff, along with a new claim must reject totally these cuts. More and more the ABS is going to have to concern itself with preserving programmes and programme standards as well as with wages and conditions. Branches must inform head office that these job losses and programme cuts are not acceptable.

The Safeguards Committee which is a body concerned with broadcasting and the arts and on which are representatives of the Musicians' Union, ABS, ACTT, Equity, the Writers' Guild, the Society of Authors and so on, some 100,000 workers whose creative talents make broadcasting possible, must make it absolutely clear to BBC management that they will not be allowed to solve their financial problems at the expense of creative workers and the British public.



Health Authority reinstated

THE ARROGANCE of this present government and one of its ministers, Jenkin, has been squashed for the time being - by a High Court judge. Last week the sacking of the Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Area Health Authority was declared to be an "unlawful act". Jenkin sacked all members of the Authority last year when they refused to abide by the government's vicious health cash limits and threw out all plans to cut health care in their Area.

A puppet group of Commissioners was appointed by Jenkin for an indefinite period, and they have already

closed St. Olave's, a geriatric and psychiatric hospital, and St. John's Hospital.

The action against Jenkin was brought by members of the three London boroughs. The sacked Authority members will be reinstated on April 1st, but the battle against the attack on health care in the Area will continue. Jenkin said of hospital closures, "It is always open to health authorities to consider alternative ways of keeping expenditure under control which may lead to the ending of a temporary closure."

We have only one alternative - the closure - permanent - of this government.

London teaching hospitals

was rebuilt in the 1960s.

The Flowers Report recommends that the 36 separate undergraduate and post graduate teaching institutions be merged into 6 units. How can that save money without the quality of service being affected?

Massive pruning

The postgraduate hospitals and institutions have, up to now, managed to stay outside the rest of the NHS structure and have managed so far to avoid the worst ravages of the cuts; they are now to be subsumed into the rest of the NHS, with massive pruning no doubt, as happened when they

were brought into the structure in 1974.

The recommendations of these reports, if implemented, will not just mean the closure of Westminster Hospital and its medical school, the merging of many other famous schools and the cutting back on postgraduate education, they will lead the way forward to a future with no teaching hospitals in Inner London. It will not only even tually call into doubt the future of St. Thomas', but also such as the Middlesex, St. Mary's, the Royal Free (rebuilt two years ago) and St. George's, despite its move to Tooting and that it has not yet been completed.

Penguin-NUJ members take up fight

RESOLUTE action by the National Union of Journalists chapel at Penguin Books has led to victory in the first round of the battle to save jobs - a battle which will have repercussions throughout the book publishing industry.

The management of the company, facing the now familiar 'financial crisis' embarked upon an all-out onslaught on its workers. Besides threatening nearly a quarter of its NUJ jobs and similar proportions for other areas, the company completely flouted all agreed redundancy procedures and confidently announced that staffing level agreements (which en-

sure the filling of vacancies) would be ignored.

The Chapel stood its ground. It refused to even discuss job losses until agreements were adhered to and redundancy notices withdrawn. It backed its stand up with a one day strike and a carefully directed blacking campaign - which rapidly brought the company round to the NUJ's terms. The redundancy notices have been withdrawn.

The fight at Penguins is important for the publishing industry as a whole. Employers have been 'shedding' workers for the last six months and, up till now, have usually managed to bludgeon their

way through agreements or at least develop a fatalistic attitude that whilst we may be able to negotiate pay increases, there is nothing we can do to stop job losses. Too many chapels have accepted their employers' financial 'logic' and argued themselves into the ground, selling jobs on the way.

The Penguin defence of their negotiated agreement and their defence of jobs shows the strength which derives from keeping a clear sight of basic trade union principles and sticking to them. The NUJ Book Branch campaign to halt the contraction of the book publishing industry has got off to a good start.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Clarion Books 5 The Precinct, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basilidon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays
Liverpool Bookstall every Thursday Liverpool University

Public Meetings

LONDON

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, Tufnell Park, NW5 at 7.30pm.
 Friday March 14th 1980 "The Economics of Destruction"
 Friday March 21st 1980 "Children's Inheritance is not for Sale"

KENT

The Rose Inn, Delce Road, Rochester, Kent. at 7.30pm.
 Thursday March 20th 1980 "Smash Thatcher Stop the Drive to War"
 The Carpenters Arms, St. Peter's Lane, Nr. Westgate Canterbury, Kent. at 7.30pm.
 Thursday March 27th 1980 "Smash Thatcher Stop the Drive to War"

The Worker

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