

THE WORKER



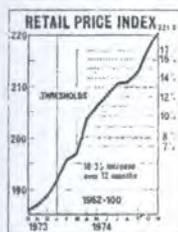
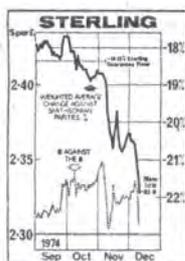
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AS 1974 ENDS TIME RUNS OUT FOR CAPITALISM

Price rises at an all-time high; the pound at an all-time low; the largest trade deficit on record. That was the gloomy situation in Britain at the end of the year after just three months of Labour majority government.

Already in the bourgeois press and in government circles it is being openly stated that the social contract to hold wages to the level of price increases has been made as irrelevant as it was unworkable. The reduction of the working class's standard of living has to be drastic if capitalism is to pull through at all. The Bank of England has said that there can be no economic growth in Britain until an absolute restraint on wages has been achieved and, in fact, "most of the population will have to accept a cut in living standards."

nothing to keep Britain from being a prosperous, self-reliant country, offering her workers ample opportunity of applying their talents to the production of wealth for the general good, nothing but the capitalist system itself.



Meanwhile in Mayfair another part of the population is coping with inflation by a great spending spree, turning their surplus cash into Rolls Royces, diamond brooches and safari trips to Kenya.

Nor is there any prospect of improvement. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research predicts that inflation next year will run at 25 percent with a million people unemployed.

Grim Irony

The grim irony about this situation is that there are just as many skilled workers in Britain as ever, capable of producing goods which the whole world needs. There is enough good arable land in Britain to enable us not only to be self-sufficient but even to export food to a hungry world. There is, in short,

This system, unlike socialism, never did have any ideals. Its whole purpose has always been to enrich the few at the expense of the many. Its only justification was that in the course of doing this it was supposed, as a by-product, to feed, clothe and house the millions who laboured for the capitalists. Now we see this entire system collapsing around us. The crisis is not just in Britain: it is a world crisis of capitalism.

Give the Rotten Structure

the Push

However, no matter how deep the contradictions within the capitalist system become, it will never simply disappear or go away of its own accord. The capitalists themselves will never voluntarily abdicate and step down from the rule their control of the means of production gives them. They will have to be pushed.

Time is not only running out for them. It is running out for the working class as well. The more difficult the situation gets for capitalism the more likely is some kind of fascist solution. The only alternative to fascism ultimately is working class revolution.

The Only Alternative



Terraced hillsides in Shensi Province give stable yields in spite of drought or excessive rain

Why There is No Inflation in China

In China they have a currency called to Renminbi. It is one of the most stable currencies in the world.

For more than 20 years the prices of daily necessities have not changed. The prices of grain, cloth, salt and coal have never fluctuated. How have the Chinese done it?

There are three major reasons. Firstly, the guiding principle in economic affairs is "develop the economy and ensure supplies". It was Marx who said in his 'Critique of Political Economy' that, "The circulation of money is merely a manifestation of the metamorphosis of commodities." So goods are kept in ample supply and the State possesses a large stock of commodities which can be put on the market at stabilised prices. State purchase and sale of commodities increased seven-

fold in the period since liberation and the stock of commodities today is twice that of ten years ago.

Every yuan in circulation is backed by commodities worth several yuan. Thus, the currency in circulation is commensurate with the supply of commodities.

Another condition for stability is a balanced budget. The principle of balancing revenue and expenditure has always been adhered to and it is impermissible to increase fiscal outlay by issuing more notes. The State budget generally provides for a favourable balance with a slight surplus. In the event of a natural calamity the balance is ensured by increased production and strict economy and using what has been set aside in bumper years.

The Chinese never rely on getting loans to solve the problem, still less on the issuing of more

China Moves Mountains

It used to be faith the size of a grain of mustard seed that was supposed to move mountains. In China problems the size of mountains - unemployment, permanent food shortage, floods, and droughts - have been solved, not by faith but by Marxism-Leninism and hard work. Mountains have literally been reshaped by terracing, and the amount of earth moved by one commune alone in digging irrigation canals makes the Panama Canal look like the moat of a children's sandcastle.

Unemployment

In China's cities in 1948, 4 million people were unemployed. In Shanghai that winter, 1738 dead bodies were picked up from the streets. Capitalist production could find no way out. Improved efficiency and machinery meant lay-offs, inefficiency meant that foreign goods took over the market, so factories

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banknotes.

The third guarantee of currency stability is the firm control by the state over the amount of money in circulation. The wages paid by the state, the purchase of farm produce, the amount of money to be put into circulation, the corresponding merchandise to be supplied - all these are arranged annually by the State according to plan. The currency is released and called back through planned channels.

With a stable currency, the livelihood of the people can only improve as the economy develops. But there are other advantages. The exchange of products between city and countryside is promoted and this consolidates the unity between worker and peasant. Internationally, more than 50 countries now use the Renminbi in trade dealings with China.

EDITORIAL

Labour MPs are trying to make it a condition for pumping public money into Leylands' that a form of worker participation in management be introduced. Fords have proposed that convenors from the various factories, whom they wined and dined at the time of the last pay claim, should in the future sit in on all negotiations.

Does this mean that Government and employers, baffled by capitalism's crisis, are turning to workers for advice and assistance? It does not. It means that in the disastrous state of Britain's economy, with a desperate need to shift ever heavier burdens on the working class, the effort is being made to detach shop-floor leaders from their bases in order to damp down class war.

Day-to-day class struggle at places of work is the hard fighting core of British trade unionism which keeps the trade unions from becoming bourgeois institutions. That struggle waged in the teeth of ruling class opposition, the same struggle which created the trade unions themselves, is political as well as economic - even though the politics are limited to survival within the system.

What is to be done?

Lenin says in What is To Be Done?: "Class political consciousness (or revolutionary consciousness) can be brought to the workers only from without, that is, only outside of the economic struggle, outside of the sphere of relations between workers and employers."

Lenin did not mean that revolutionary theory, without which there can be no revolutionary movement, will be handed down to workers from on high by some transcendental 'intellectual' above class conflict. He meant that such theory must come from outside the narrow limits of the day-to-day class struggle - from a Marxist-Leninist party which brings to workers the revolutionary experience of the world proletariat and helps them change their daily war of self-preservation within capitalism into a liberation war against capitalism itself.

But there is another voice that speaks from outside that narrow class struggle - the voice of social democracy. Social democracy tries to lure leaders away from the arena of class struggle with illusions of sharing in decision-making without first capturing power - and turns them into capitalist stooges.

The CPB(ML) is the voice of Marxism-Leninism, the ideological heritage of the working class. It arms leaders with the theory, adapted to conditions in Britain, which has emancipated the entire working class in China and Albania.

Our Party

The CPB(ML) is essential to the bringing of "class political consciousness" to the workers of Britain. It has the supreme responsibility at this crucial time of making its necessity as the agency of revolutionary theory apparent to all workers in struggle. We cannot and must not simply call the class struggle which is waged with or without our Party a revolutionary struggle and think we have signed capitalism's death warrant.

Teachers Reject Houghton

The £100 interim award for teachers has been decisively rejected by Scottish teachers. School teachers in England and Wales accepted the award with an indecent haste to get the money before Christmas. Only the 50,000 strong Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions refused to succumb to the management side of the Burnham Committee.

This meagre award is designed to pave the way for the Houghton report on teachers salaries, due at the start of the Christmas holidays. The Government which instructed the employers to offer no more than £100 (in the true spirit of free collective bargaining) hopes that the acceptance of £100 will encourage the full Houghton recommendations to be accepted as a formality.

Houghton's recommended increases will consist of a global sum to be shared by teachers according to their post. Teachers are thus expected to fight amongst themselves for the biggest share. The Government took a similar approach in their recent £10.8m handout to schools with "special difficulties". Some teachers got some money, others didn't. Here were the seeds of divisions very cleverly sown by

the Government the results of which we can witness today. It is no coincidence that college teachers in England and Wales who had no such diversions took the brave stand of rejecting the interim award. In the absence of their colleagues from the NUT, the ATTI refused to subvert the Scottish struggle and insisted on a substantial rise for all. The global sum is the Government's policy. Our policy is a maximum increase for all grades.

London Allowance

The Houghton enquiry, the brainchild of Prentice, was conceived in May this year. Its purpose was to pre-empt teachers' struggle, gathering its momentum as the struggle for the London Allowance proceeded. In Scotland it proved to be an impetus to struggle.

Victory

The determination in Scotland has found a response amongst college teachers south of the border who are already preparing for strike action on the second day of next term. Victory will only be swift when the school teachers of England and Wales join in.

IN BRIEF

Innocent Bystander?

The Home Secretary, whose Labour Government in 1969 sent thousands of troops into Northern Ireland, described the anti-terrorist acts as preventing "the trouble in Ireland from spilling over into this country from whence it does not spring!"

Nationalise 'C'PGB

The French Government has decided to give aid amounting to some £300,000 next year to L'Humanité, the newspaper of the French Revisionist Communist Party.

One remembers the constant bleat of the *The Morning Star*, the newspaper of the Revisionist Party of Great Britain in this country that the Government would not help its fortunes by advertising in its pages.

No longer able to call the tune

John Scall, US representative at the United Nations, threatened that US financial support of various UN bodies might be drastically cut if votes in the General Assembly kept going against US policy. In a speech on December 6th he railed against what he called "the tyranny of the majority" which is any majority not completely subservient to US monopoly-capitalist interests.

Labour Laws

Prentice, the Labour Secretary for Education, has described as "deplorable contempt for the rule of law" the move to get the sentences on the Shrewsbury pickets reviewed on the grounds that their prosecution had been politically motivated and their sentences excessive.

Polish Dockers

There has been action in the Polish ports of Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin by the dockers. This is as a result of the setting out of new work norms and pay rates which actually reduce their incomes. The action took the form of refusal of overtime and go-slow. In the harbours of Gdansk and Gdynia 180 ships were held up as a result. Despite the intensification of the censorship, there is evidence that other Polish workers in other cities are following the struggle with the greatest interest.



Put Revisionist Rulers in Strait Jackets

The Albanian people celebrated the 30th Anniversary of their liberation by dedicating themselves to a principled proletarian policy in the service of the world's people and against all oppressors and exploiters.

That was the message of Enver Hoxha in a speech delivered to the electors of the Tirana No. 209 precinct in October. It was the message of Hysni Kapo on November 28th at the Solemn Conference on the 30th Anniversary of the liberation of the homeland and the triumph of people revolution. It was the message of the soldiers, children and workers who marched in an impressive parade of Albanian might on November 29th.

"The foreign policy of the People's Republic of Albania", Enver Hoxha said, "is the policy of a socialist country where the proletarian dictatorship is in power, which is led by the Party of Labour that takes inspiration from and remains loyal to the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin."

"We oppose US imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism and all other imperialists and reactionaries in the world who are responsible for the miseries of mankind, for the wars of plunder and oppression, for the quarrels and dissensions, diversions and plots hatched up all over the world, for famine and poverty on a world scale."

And how can a small country like Albania make its opposition effective? Enver Hoxha explained: "The imperialist and social-imperialist enemies endeavour to put us to flight with their numerous and powerful weapons. But real strength does not lie in the number of soldiers or the amount and kinds of weapons. History has proved the invincibility of countries and peoples, however small in numbers and inferior in armaments, who fight for a just cause and who are determined to defend it to the end. There is no stronger army than an army and militarily trained nation and there is no weapon so powerful that it can prevail against people's war in which all aggressors are burned up and scattered to the winds."

"We are close comrades and friends, faithful allies of the People's Republic of China, of the fraternal Chinese people and of the glorious Communist Party of Mao Tse-tung's China."

Enver Hoxha called on the common people of the world to Look Out! "US imperialism and Russian revisionism are leading the world into another world war, more terrible than the two previous wars!... It is precisely the two superpowers that arm anti-popular cliques and governments to use them as watchdogs and their peoples as cannon fodder for the inevitable shambles they are preparing if they are given a free hand... Our People's Republic does not lower its flag either before blackmail or terror, or before the rouble or dollar."

"With the megalomania of a fascist state the Kremlin rulers, with their histrionic bushy brows, may say: Where do those Lilliputs find



the force to oppose the Soviet Union? Do you want our answer? Take Marx, Engels and Lenin (for you have discarded Stalin); read them aright (for you read them the wrong way around) and there you will find where our strength lies."

Of relations with the USA Enver Hoxha said: "They refused to establish diplomatic relations with us after the war because they wanted a parlour and coca-cola government to be established in Albania. It is we today who refuse to establish relations with them... The British Government too flies now and then a balloon for diplomatic relations. But we say to them: before you fly such balloons you should release the gold of which you robbed the Albanians and return it with interest."

"We are friends with the Yugoslav and Greek neighbouring peoples. The imperialist powers and their espionage agencies have made all preparations to undermine our friendship and set us at logger heads against each other. But we the Balkan peoples have drawn lessons from these things and, in the face of the common danger, even if we may agree with each other in many respects, we have found and we can find a common language... Neither the Yugoslavs, nor the Greek nor the Albanian people will allow themselves to be trodden underfoot by Soviet American, Italian or German fascists. In case they engage themselves in such adventures they will find their graves in our countries."

Hysni Kapo's speech at the Solemn Conference on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary reiterated these points. Summing up the situation in the capitalist world he spoke in a way that exactly describes the state of Britain. "The bourgeoisie is striving to shift on to the labouring masses the heavy burden of the deep crisis which has gripped the whole capitalist system. The situation is deeply revolutionary and the working class fights for the defence of its interests. The course this struggle will take in the future greatly depends on the ability of the revolutionary political forces to use to their advantage the situations created, to at the working class and successfully lead them in the struggle against the bourgeoisie. It is up to the Marxist-Leninist parties to play a role of great historical importance at this juncture for they represent and defend the genuine interests of the working class and of the world's peoples."

CRISIS IN MOTORS

The crisis of capitalism which is world wide is having a particularly sharp effect in the motor industry. The motor industry in all countries is in a state of crisis with some peculiar aspects.

British Leyland bewail their loss of revenue from the lack of production due to strikes and the three day week. The American Chrysler Corporation on the other hand have millions of pounds tied up in cars already produced but for which there is no market and are therefore outputting back production with consequent sackings.

The British and French governments are pumping millions into their motor industries which is significant considering that in capitalist terms the motor industry has been hailed as the success story of the 20th century and the finest example of free enterprise.

Government interest is concerned with the effects of a decline in the motor industry affecting balance of payments. This goes for all countries from Japan to France. The effect on employment is also a considerable factor because whereas unemployment is a favourite weapon for chastising the working class, they like to feel that they can keep it under a measure of control. Sackings on a big scale in the motor industry employing hundreds of thousands cannot but have its effect on other sections of industry and thus control becomes out of the question.

The almost laughable aspect of motor manufacture is its preoccupation with exports, because this means in the main exports to each other. For instance, for a period of this year at least Japan had the biggest share of the British motor market. They outsold Britain, America, Germany and France. But at the same time Britain sold more abroad than they did at home. Never was the term "taking in each others washing" more apt.

In the crazy world of capitalist economics even success can be looked upon with trepidation. The Japanese are said to be a little concerned about their spectacular successes in the European markets. In a market so obsessed with balance of payments they see the possibility of success bringing about import barriers against their goods and that would sharpen the crisis in Japan which is already bad enough.

What does this industry mean to the working class

It could only happen in a capitalist society that one of its key industries is one which in fact is engaged in mass producing rubbish. So far as the consumer is concerned he realises full well that this expensive contraption is rapidly growing more expensive as the cost of the vehicle mounts as well as all related charges. What was once seen as an alternative to a diabolically inefficient public transport service is, due to a number of factors a very poor alternative, rapidly becoming unviable. Petrol costs, tax, insurance, repairs and parking and traffic problems leave him with the painful choice in terms of getting to work of the trials and tribulations of peak time road traffic and persecution by (in London at any rate) the London Transport Board, who seem to have embarked upon a deliberate policy of promoting car sales by making the use of their transport facilities too much for human flesh and spirit to endure. Again it could only happen under capitalism that while entreating people to abandon private motoring in favour of a grossly inadequate public transport system they at the same time panic at the thought of any loss of production in the motor industry. They take money from the tax payer to keep up the production of the motor car while at the same time imposing such taxes on the use of the car that make it almost impossible to possess one. But that's capitalism for you.

The effect of the motor vehicle on society in capitalist countries should be an object lesson for future socialist society. What was once looked upon as an intriguing and fascinating object and very useful to boot is now looked upon socially as one of our major problems. In terms of the toll in human life and misery it has almost supplanted war. Living with the motor vehicle has drastically lowered the quality of life in terms of noise, air pollution and the attendant mental and physical strains. Living without the motor vehicle poses economic problems the controllers of the economy find too awesome to contemplate.

In the early days of Ford at Dagenham, stories were legion concerning this latest modern form of exploitation, the conveyor system. The story is still told that at that time there was a routine for dealing with workers in the foundry who collapsed from the effects of heat, dust and fatigue. First clock them out, then give first aid. It was alleged that one worker returning from the first aid department to the foundry worked to the end of the shift without pay because they forgot to clock him in again.

Some of these stories may be somewhat exaggerated but there is no denying that work in this mass production industry is unattractive way to earn a living. This is evidenced largely by the fact that at a time when so much was being said about the high wages in the motor industry, Fords felt obliged to engage in the most expensive form of advertising, television, to attract more labour. This is the situation in the motor industry throughout the world.

And what does the industry mean to those who work in it?

So much for the workers at the mercy of the motor vehicle, and the majority of motor vehicle owners are workers. But what about the workers who produce these monstrosities.



All these highly paid jobs seem to be filled in all countries by either immigrant or local black labour whose choice of job through racial and other forms of discrimination is most limited.

This doesn't solve the motor tycoons problems either. The immigrant or black worker takes to struggle the same as any other. So the employers use all sorts of devices - piece work here, work study there grading system which cause more conflict and loss of production than they achieve, long term contracts which have a way of expiring prematurely.

As ever the social democrats seek to come to the aid of the exploiters. They have no real solution in the short term or the long term. They only plan to avert struggle. They have invented a new phrase - "job satisfaction".

But what satisfaction is there to be got from being exploited? Whichever way they produce a motor car the worker knows better than anyone about built in obsolescence and there is no satisfaction in that. Efforts have been made to arrange new methods of mass production which lessen fatigue and relieve boredom. They haven't got very far. The reason is quite simple. The capitalist or the State for that matter does not invest capital into an enterprise to entertain the worker but to exploit him.

This is then the crux of the matter. We have to see the crisis in motors as a part of the crisis of capitalism. One crisis cannot be resolved without the other.

In a Socialist society such an affront to human dignity and welfare as the motor industry as we know it in capitalist society would be unthinkable. Its effects upon both producer and consumer would be regarded as socially unacceptable.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Unemployment?

In a pessimistic forecast the National Institute of Economic and Social Research say that unemployment is likely to rise to 900,000 next year. This Institute would do well to bear in mind that workers will struggle against these vicious attacks. Workers at three Midlands factories of BSR have successfully fought the management in its efforts to sack 2000 of the 9000 labour force and are instituting short time working for four weeks.

NUJ

The National Executive of the National Union of Journalists has called on provincial members to take strike action from January 1st. The action is in support of a claim lodged with the Newspaper Society, the employers' organisation for provincial and local newspapers. The strike call follows the failure of the Conciliation and Arbitration Service to resolve the dispute.

Municipal Busmen

Wage rises of up to £8.55 a week have been won by 70,000 busmen. A similar wage offer has also been made to 90,000 provincial company busmen whose delegates will vote next week.

Associated Automation London

The lock-out of over 500 workers at Associated Automation, Willersden, continues. Workers at this factory, although with little experience of struggle, began a form of work-to-rule over piece rates. Management reacted by clocking workers out. The whole factory is involved and is being given full support by the AUEW.

Shell

4000 workers at Shellhaven, Stanlow near Ellesmere Port, Teesport and Ardrossan, Scotland, and at the Carrington petrochemical plant have rejected a pay offer by the management which would have been within the terms



of the Social Contract. The offer came on top of two settlements this year of an average of 25 per cent.

Basildon Bakers

Due to the recommendation of the Executive Council of the Bakers' Union to accept the employers' offer, the bakers at Basons in Basildon, taking account of certain local weaknesses like the large number of part-time workers, voted to end their one-week strike. The voting took place at a heated meeting where many expressed disagreement with the settlement reached.

The bakers' strike on a nation wide basis proved their capacity to unite in industrial action. The strike is over; but not the struggle and the same unity among members which made strike action possible will bring more directly under their control the results of such action in the future

Rotaprint

At Rotaprint Ltd. (Engineering Division) in Queensbury, Middx., several pay settlements have been made since their four-day strike fourteen months ago. The most recent deal, which comes into operation at the end of the month, will achieve an increase over the pre-strike rate of more than 50 per cent.

The importance of the recent settlement is that the 4000 AUEW members involved have rejected the terms of the social contract by refusing to accept a twelve month clause in the agreement. They reserve the right to go back for more when they deem it necessary.

Fords Staff

Faced with 1750 redundancies by early January, the three trade unions that represent supervisory and white-collar staff have resolved to fight this vicious attack on their members by waging overtime bans and non-cooperation campaigns. Further meetings are being convened to consider stepping up the industrial action.

China(continued)

closed down. The hunt for profits by individual capitalists left no opportunity for the collective effort and large-scale investment that was needed. In the country landless peasants starved if work was short, and there was no industry or investment in irrigation or other projects to provide employment in winter.

Co-operation

1949 came, and a People's Government. It took over the enterprises of some capitalists, allowing the national capitalists and essential enterprises to continue, but permitting no layoffs. The unemployed quickly found jobs in the government schemes for drainage or repairs to roads and buildings. In the country peasants formed mutual aid teams, where families pooled their labour and tools, and thus increased production. These grew into co-operatives and in 1958 into People's Communes. At last there were collective units big enough to finance and work together on the vast scale needed to conquer China's perennial flood and drought problems.

The Yellow River, which burst its banks two years out of three, and once flooded 12.5 million peasants out of their homes when the Kuomintang breached a dyke, now provides silt-laden irrigation water to paddy-fields of rice, and the flooded area is now an apple-orchard. Another commune, Chiling, recently had 200 days of drought, but still reaped a bumper harvest, because of the 648 kilometres of canals the peasants had dug. Each winter 20,000 peasants in this commune work on the irrigation project. The same kind of co-operation, collective investment and nationwide planning has produced large forests where China used to have deserts. Leichou peninsular was so bleak and denuded it was used as a place of exile. It now looks like a chessboard and trees protect the farmland from typhoons and tidal waves.

Labour Creates Wealth

Nine years after liberation, all the unemployed had long been found jobs, peasants had work all year round, and large numbers of women were taking part in production for the first time. This was a result of putting into practice the socialist maxim "Labour creates all wealth". The fruits of this labour are seen in the standard of living today. The Chinese enjoy complete job security. If new machinery in a factory displaces workers, there are always extensions to be set up, new plants to be built, skills needed elsewhere. Full pay is given between jobs and wages are over 50 per cent higher than in 1950 while prices continually drop - for example medicines cost 80 per cent less than 24 years ago. Rents, including light and heat are about 5 or 6 per cent of a family's income.

A typical example of the way improved production and a better quality of life are combined, is Nanning City. In the public parks and gardens of the city there are 10,000 trees. Mango, jackfruit, olive, peach and apple trees line the streets. Every tree is ornamental yet useful at the same time. The planting of these trees was a result of the people's initiative during the Cultural Revolution.

Miners and the Social Contract

Miners, along with millions of other workers are now having to pay the price of allowing their trade unions to become involved in an election gimmick to secure the return of a Labour Government by supporting the social contract.

Of course workers themselves were not consulted on this treacherous act but right across Britain they allowed it to be done in their name without an appreciable outcry.

The real contradiction within the ranks of the miners is not that reflected in the shadow-boxing between the so-called 'moderates' and 'leftists' at the top over the exact figure of a claim. The contradiction is between tacit support

of the social contract, which limits struggle to what will not embarrass the Government and consciousness of the legitimacy of a claim which would cut right across any phoney bargain between workers and a capitalist Government - a Government which is playing for time in relation to coal mining in hopes that North Sea oil will eventually strengthen its hand against the miners.

The question remains: Can the miners bring their political stance into line with their just demands? Are they big enough, united enough and bold enough to say to hell with the social contract! - not only in their own interest but in the interest of the whole working class.

No Shortage of Food

"A country that is dependent on other countries for its food is not economically free." The words are those of the Prime Minister of Guyana and the view reflects a growing awareness amongst developing countries. The enthusiastic boost to food production throughout the world refutes the current pessimism purveyed in Britain, and the question posed by the Prime Minister of Guyana must eventually be confronted by the British working class.

What are the latest achievements in farm production? Nepal reports a bumper harvest in the year 73-74, with the paddy-rice yield achieving an all-time high in its history.

This year Pakistan reaped a good harvest of wheat and Sri Lanka had the best harvest of the maha paddy crop since independence. Last year Ghana produced a surplus crop of maize.

Long-term imperialist domination has reduced many countries to mere markets and sources of raw material. With lopsided economies and a crippled agriculture, most have not been able to support themselves in food. Today, things are changing.

Ghana, for example, which is dependent on the export of cocoa has launched 'operation feed yourself' aimed at gradually ceasing to live on food imports.

Tanzania, an important sisal and clove producer, has attached great importance to transforming its monoculture into a diversified economy.

Investment increased

Investment in agriculture has risen dramatically. In Algeria, agricultural outlay rose from 265m dinars in 1969 to 775m in 1973. Many countries have built water conservancy projects to prevent drought and flood and to expand irrigated areas. In just over three years Sri Lanka has invested more than 200 million rupees in such projects.

Growing attention is also being paid to the science of agriculture. Algeria has now trained 360 agricultural experts and 1500 agricultural technicians compared with two experts and 15 technicians in 1962 when it gained independence.

Mutual assistance, too, has promoted food production. The Rice Development Association, formed by 16 West Africa countries for achieving self-sufficiency in rice, is now training cadres and technicians in Liberia.

The political independence won by the countries of the third world is now being strengthened by a growing economic independence. We should mark this lesson well in Britain.

IS HEALTH WORTH FIGHTING FOR?

Do we need new hospitals? Do we need properly trained people to run them? Do we need new equipment?

Put these questions to the health-workers and the answer would be such a united roar of assent as to drown the Gadarene babbling at Westminster.

Every year many people die as a direct result of staff shortages or poor facilities. This situation is not improving, and is in fact getting worse as the increasing cuts in finance bite more deeply. This knowledge is one of the strongest sources of the present anger amongst health workers.

Pay Beds - A Stalking Horse

In the good old days, when children were hanged for stealing handkerchiefs, a London surgeon might average four operations a month - many amputations - many deaths. Asepsis and Anaesthesia increased the work, and reduced the deaths, but attitudes have changed more slowly. The Labour Government's floating of the Pay Bed issue, which is totally irrelevant in the present situation, and a diversion from the basic

questions of financing the NHS and paying the people working in it, nearly succeeded in drawing off sections of health workers. Fortunately the common sense of the mass is prevailing, and the BMA negotiating committee has been forcibly reminded by the divisions that the real demands are for:

1. More pay for all.
2. Improved terms and conditions of service - the present system of unlimited commitment may mean consultants working between twenty and sixty hours of unpaid overtime for every working week of their lives.
3. A basic 35 hour week for junior doctors.
4. Immediate increase in capital financing for the NHS.

There is much more than this to come. Just as workers have to produce the bread they eat, so they have to produce health for their class. Health workers are fighting not just for themselves but for their class, and yet the support forthcoming is dismal.

The wages of sin is, nowadays, a course of penicillin; the wages of cowardice is, always, death.

Action at Guys Hospital

Ancillary workers at Guys Hospital won a decisive victory last week. Two porters who were unjustly sacked on Friday 30th November were reinstated on the following Thursday. This followed swift and effective action by their union COHSE, whose members struck at both Guys and New Cross Hospitals. This action was firmly supported by NUPE.

The dispute arose when Guys Hospital management asked the two porters to carry mail bags, a job outside their normal duties, and only necessary because of unfilled vacancies. They refused, and after being warned they asked for consultation with management. This was granted, but they were told they must do the job in the meantime. When they again refused they were sacked.

At a meeting the next Monday, COHSE members at Guys decided on immediate strike action. This was backed by a further strike by COHSE members at New Cross Hospital, while NUPE threatened

to join in at Guys. Within two days the hospital was completely disrupted. Memos were sent round asking staff to limit demands for linen as services had been "disrupted by industrial action". Meanwhile only emergency admissions were accepted and top management were sorting their own mail. Effective picketing also ensured that supplies of oxygen, a particularly vital service, and thus a weak point for the management, were stopped.

On the Thursday the men were reinstated. Prompt and sharp action made more effective by the support of fellow workers and the tactic of hitting at the employer's weak spots, has swiftly resulted in complete victory. A worker at Guys told our interviewer that the action's success had raised morale sky-high. At the same time it has discouraged the management from trying to transfer problems caused by cuts in NHS expenditure on to the backs of health workers.

LIBERATION STORMS

It is indicative of the present day world situation that the racist regime of Rhodesia should so 'dramatically' climb down on what has been so viciously instituted for so long; a police state with Rhodesian leaders banished or in jail. What might seem instantaneous is in reality the result of a long hard struggle by the people of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). It is a result of the changing face of Africa and the world.

The armed struggle of the people of Mozambique and Angola brought about the end of the Portuguese colonial rule in these two countries. The armed struggle of the people of Rhodesia brought about the climb down of the Smith regime, something that ten years of open and secret negotiations between the British government and its 'kith and kin' failed to get anywhere near. South Africa, the bastion of reaction in southern Africa, is forced to ditch its unequal partner Rhodesia. The wind of change is being transformed into a storm of liberation.

Areas where imperialism reigned supreme less than a decade ago are today challenged by the rising forces of liberation and of the third world countries. The oil producing countries in the Middle East found courage and determination in unity, forcing oil imperialism to relinquish what it had possessed by force. The people of Palestine were given recognition by the UN. Puppet regimes of South East Asia totter helplessly.

This change in the balance of forces was brought about by two main events: the consolidation of socialism in China and China's subsequent occupation of its rightful place in the UN, and the defeat of the United States in Vietnam. The world has never been the same since. Revolution is the main trend.

Sussex Students

Students at Sussex rejected the University's offer of a £2.25p subsidy for students living in Guest Houses in return for the end of the rent strike.

This comes after a term of intensive struggle. Already the union has successfully stopped University attempts to divide it off from other unions on the campus during the occupation. It occupied the University's administrative buildings and the telephone exchange for four weeks. Coupled with this the students carried out lightning forays from the occupation closing down school offices, and research buildings one afternoon at a time, and also setting up exchange desks at the refectory - by which students pay only the old, cheaper prices for meals.

The action was called off when negotiations started again. Now the University has gone back on all its promises and so the rent strike continues - despite desperate pleas from the University Authorities, coupled with veiled threats to students on strike that they will not be registered and will, in effect, be thrown out of University. This has failed to do anything but ensure that the rent strike will be stronger next term than ever before.

NEXT WORKER

Issue No 1, 1975 will appear in three weeks on January 17th.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS

Our Party has recently received a letter from the Politburo of the newly formed Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Greece.

It is good to know that after years of revisionist betrayal the Greek workers and peasants will resume under correct leadership the battle for freedom and socialism so heroically initiated during the great days of the civil war.

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