

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist - Leninist)

No 25 Nov 26th 1977 5p

GOVT ISOLATED AS FIREMEN STAND FIRM

THE Labour Government stands isolated as the firemen's first national strike gathers support from all sections of the working population in Britain. The Government's wage restraint policy stands discredited.

The only support for the Labour Government comes from the equally discredited Tory 'opposition'. Labour and Tory leaders alike have been heckled by firemen everywhere in Britain. In Bournemouth one fireman told Thatcher that there was little to choose between the parties.

The firm and principled stand by the firemen has won the admiration of everyone in Britain. The 'backlash' encouraged and actively whipped up by the Government and the mass media has turned into its opposite - so much so that the Government is conducting a campaign to entice the public against the firemen's just demands. The Government has the impossible task of showing that a take-home pay of £47 is luxury living.

Messages of support have been coming to the firemen's headquarters from trade union branches everywhere. Thousands of signatures have been collected outside fire stations and in factories, schools, and offices. In Battersea, £1000 was collected in the first four days

of the strike. In Wembley a poster asking passing motorists to sound their hooters if they supported the firemen was taken down when residents objected to the continuous tooting.

The National Association of Fire Officers reaffirmed its instruction to its members not to cross picket lines at fire stations. And London Fire Officers decided to take stronger action against those officers crossing picket lines.

The Government has shown the bestiality of capitalism by its readiness to allow people and property to burn. It is only the humanity of the firemen that has so far prevented some of the worst tragedies from taking place. Already the damage to property would pay for the firemen's claim many times over



Public support for the firemen grows to meet this latest Government attack on the working class. Picture John Sturrock (Report).

The AUEW National Committee clears the decks for a wages fight

THE decision of the AUEW to present to the Engineering Employers' Federation a claim for a basic £70 weekly wage and a 35-hour week is the first major essay in the new collective bargaining period of national importance. It affects 3 to 3½ million workers in the engineering industry and will undoubtedly be endorsed by all the unions in the Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions. It lifts the minimum

wage for skilled men from £42 to £70 and pro-rata for other workers, the so-called semi-skilled and labourers. It is a partial attempt to remedy the anomalies in the differential problem caused by the absurd Social Contract and Incomes Legislation. It is the first clear rejection: no more income policies!

The Engineering Employers and the Confederation of British Industry, are already sounding the alarm, notwith-

standing all their hypocrisy regarding the need to correct anomalies. The decision calls for the direct mobilisation of the membership to achieve the demand and an immediate recall of the National Committee in the event of rejection by the employers.

The claim should be understood as modest in the extreme, for few earn as little as £70 a week. The achievement of the claim would give little direct gain except in holiday credits and overtime pay where worked. This has been taken care of however for once again the engineers have insisted that

this is but a minimum and members in the factory shall pursue direct domestic improvement over and above this, related to their actual earnings. It has the merit of simplicity and is uncluttered with a long unachievable shopping list. The decks are cleared to attain by negotiation or, in the case of stupidity by the employers, direct action.

The struggle for a higher base-rate for all will help those who have not, for whatever reason, been able to supplement the national rate, stronger localities uniting with those lacking in

industrial muscle. The shorter working week has been on the agenda for a long time and now, when no-one is even predicting a reduction in unemployment, is the time for employed brother to join with unemployed brother in an attack on this monstrous capitalist injustice to our class.

The claim must be discussed at factory meetings with fellow workers, at union branches and in district committees to involve the whole membership in the fight for a living wage, more leisure for those in work and jobs for those unemployed.



This November marks the 33rd Anniversary of the Albanian Revolution. The establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Albania proved to be a trail blazed for workers throughout the world. The picture shows miners from Valias near Tirana, discussing the national newspaper of Albania. (Picture ATA)

Europe, Japan take up revolutionary tasks

MARXIST-Leninist parties around the world are rededicating themselves to revolution.

Recently five European Marxist-Leninist parties - those of Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain - met together to discuss the situation facing the working class in their countries.

Out of this meeting came a Joint Declaration* which points out that "millions of working people of our countries are unemployed. Millions of workers have abandoned their countries in search of work and minimum living conditions. . . . In the enterprises the capitalists are intensifying the exploitation and imposing monstrously high rates of work. As a result the number of fatal accidents at work and the maiming of the workers and occupational diseases is increasing. Reduction in real wages, price rises, inflation and tax increases are leading to a progressive deterioration of the economic position of working people in our countries."

The crisis, they said, was a crisis of capitalism. "There can be no talk of there being common interest between the proletariat and bourgeoisie of our countries."

They have learnt from their

own experience that the ruling class in their countries are bent only on reaction. They will have no truck with ideas that colonialist and neocolonialist exploitation by their ruling class is some kind of 'alliance' or 'dialogue' with the so-called 'Third World'.

The theory of "Three Worlds", they say, "strengthens the enemies of revolution and of socialism. It supports the war preparations of USA imperialism and its imperialist allies," and "its proponents come out more or less openly for the bolstering of NATO, the EEC, the American presence in Europe and so on."

The Declaration ends with three calls: Long Live Marxism-Leninism! Long Live Proletarian Internationalism! Proletarians of all countries Unite!

And in Japan

ON the other side of the world in Japan the Communist Party of Japan (Left) has also been studying the 'three world theory'. A

recent statement said "We firmly reject the endeavours to support this or that imperialism by stressing the exploitation of the contradictions among the imperialist powers and groups of monopoly

capitalists. We must take full advantage of these contradictions, but always in the service of the world and Japanese revolutions."

The statement points out "The theoreticians of the 'three worlds' have abandoned the struggle against the Japan-US Security Treaty and the restoration of Japanese militarism; which are the weapons of the Japanese monopoly bourgeoisie for its oppression on the Japanese people as well as for its aggression on the foreign countries, they sing praises to such imperialist organisations as NATO, European Common Market, etc. . . ."

The statement points out that US imperialism is no less a danger in the world than Russian imperialism, and continues: "It is of particular importance for the Japanese proletariat and people to struggle against the aggression, control and interference of US imperialism as well as against the Japanese monopoly bourgeoisie and government."

"We must oppose in every way departure from the class struggle and betrayal of the Japanese revolution."

*available from Bellman Bookshop, price 15p including 3 p.p.

"Superpower" enfeebled by mass unemployment and bankruptcy

ONE of the main planks of the present Labour Government's economic 'strategy' seems to have contracted an unpleasant case of dry rot at an earlier stage than was anticipated. The bonhomie of American capitalism, Callaghan has always insisted, is a necessary prerequisite for 'economic recovery' and a return to 'prosperity', for Britain and the rest of the capitalist world in general.

It would appear that this 'superpower' is more seriously ill than its admirers had thought, too ill in fact to come to the aid of its little European brothers.

Domestic deflation has killed demand and brought mass unemployment in its wake, though fear of inflation still borders on the paranoid and stifles any idea of reflation.

The US domestic rate of profit has fallen to such a low level that no American capitalist with any sense is even considering any investment programmes. Even the most optimistic bourgeois economists cannot see the prospect of any substantial growth in the American economy in the immediate future. The idea, born out of blind hope and

perpetrated by this Labour Government, that world capitalism can be dragged out of its senility by a US inspired boom is shown to be yet another myth killed stone dead by the unreasonable existence of reality.

In fact, Britain has recently come to the aid of its 'superpower saviour'. Last month the Bank of England in the process of accumulating huge foreign currency reserves bought billions of dollars of US Government stock - at a time when other countries were rightly steering clear of this dubious currency.

Increased grants are a right

IT seems that the bourgeoisie is not content with the efforts of the Government in its attack on education. Increased tuition fees, reduced facilities, staff sackings do not satisfy the thirst for destruction.

The recently published Hobart Paper 'Payment by Degrees', written by two university lecturers, strongly condemns the existing method of financing students in higher education. They argue that the direct grant system is inefficient - one would have thought it insufficient - and propose that 'education vouchers' be issued which students would 'cash in' at a college. These vouchers would not meet the full cost of the course undertaken; the shortfall would be met by a loan repayable through a graduate tax on future income - with interest! Of course this presupposes the graduate will find a job in the first place! The idea is that such a system would release finance for new resources and improve the prospects for young people wishing to enter further and higher education. As the authors no doubt realise, this will certainly not be the case and even further education 'economies' will certainly result.

There is no doubt that the present grant system is imperfect, when only a tiny proportion of all full-time students receive the maximum, entirely inadequate, grant. What is required is an extension of the grant system, in which every student receives a full grant. We will continue to assert that education is a right and not a privilege.

Greek election fraud

OUR Marxist-Leninist comrades in Greece have denounced the elections as a shabby trick to delude the working people into thinking that, after the naked fascist rule of the Colonels, there is now popular democracy.

The need to achieve clarity on the question of the parliamentary road being a blind alley for the

Employers' conference demonstrates weakness

THE FIRST thing to be said about the Confederation of British Industry's staging a TUC-type conference at Brighton is that it represents a self-consciousness and a relative weakness on the part of British industry. It never used to have to justify itself or seek legislative assistance from the Government in garnering massive profits.

Embarrassment

The second thing to be said is that the CBI vociferously backed the Government's pay policy, backed the Government's dropping of Bullock for some even more non-effective form of worker participation and backed the Government's current legislation on picketing and the 'closed shop'. Since the TUC recorded the rejection by the trade union movement of the Government's main economic programme, this CBI conference ought to be great embarrassment to a Government calling itself "Labour".

THE WEEK

WE READ that of the 2246 registered independent schools attended by 6 per cent of Britain's children, all of which are subject to inspection, only 1299 (58 per cent) are recognised as efficient by the Department of Education and Science. That is why the private sector of education will have to go.

At the Bellman Bookshop (see PUBLIC MEETINGS) a speaker from the floor was denouncing acts of individual terrorism and going on to explain that revolution was made by the mass of workers. "Give the workers sticks and muskets" . . . she began at which point an interjector scoffed, "You're a bit out of date, lady". The forceful reply was instantaneous. "Maybe, but I'd rather have a million sticks than one bomb, usually in the hands of an amateur, and often in the hands of a policeman in disguise!"

IN Washington Senor Carrillo, secretary-general of the Spanish 'Communist' Party was denounced as a scab by striking maintenance workers at Yale University when he crossed a picket line to give a lecture. Senor Carrillo said "the opportunity to speak should not be denied."

THE Government's policy of high unemployment has cost the community almost £20,000m since 1974 according to a book just published. This huge reserve army of unemployed which serves the capitalist purpose of weakening working class organisation is paid by us!

Greek people is increased by the collaborationist tactics of revisionist parties and groups - those who deck out their capitulation to the ruling class with Marxist terminology.

The Greek people were urged to show their contempt for the elections by boycotting the polling booths or spoiling ballot papers.

There was a kind of innocence about the CBI's demands for stronger bargaining power in its industrial relations with employees, for clear accountability by trade unions to agreed procedures and for "greater recognition of the freedom of the individual and the profitability of business". There were also demands for legislation banning pickets of more than 20, sympathetic strikes and blacking; and demands for limiting social security payments to those on 'official' strike.

Difference

An interesting difference in the attitude toward trade unions emerged as between big business and little business. Little business men, of whom the Grunwick manager is an example, want unions outlawed altogether while big business men, like the chairman of Fords, want "more effective" unions which are "strong to abolish restrictive practices and keep labour agreements."

EDITORIAL

WE live in one world divided by class. That is the essence of Marxism. Everywhere the working class with its ideology of socialism is in conflict with the bourgeoisie with its ideology of capitalism. Countries where the bourgeoisie is in power make up the capitalist camp; countries where the working class is in power make up the socialist camp.

With the establishment by the bourgeoisie of Western Europe of the European Economic Community which is soon to have its Euro-parliament enacting Euro-laws to be obeyed by Euro-workers, there was developed Euro-communism, a watered-down version of British social democracy. Euro-communism is not so much a new form of revisionism as the logical outcome of its origin - Soviet revisionism. From Krushchev through to Brezhnev the world's first dictatorship of the proletariat has been revised out of existence, taking Lenin's and Stalin's USSR back into the capitalist camp.

They used the threat of a nuclear holocaust to mask collaboration with US imperialism and became themselves a big imperialist power exercising dictatorial rights over its East European allies on the basis of a bourgeois conception of 'limited sovereignty', denouncing liberation struggles as possible causes of a world war and disarming communists throughout the capitalist camp by calling for only a peaceful transition to socialism by parliamentary means.

By rejecting the dictatorship of the proletariat the Euro-communists have no option other than embracing its opposite, the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. There can be no middle way for the interests of the working class are in no way compatible with those of the bourgeoisie.

Here in Britain, according to the fourth edition of the "British Road", socialism is to come about as a result of the Labour Party's gradually swinging over to a 'left' stance. Collaboration with capitalist parties hostile to the working class is the essence of this 'peaceful' parliamentary road to socialism.

Now, along with this totally discredited revisionism of the recent past, a new type appears on the scene, justifying itself on the grounds that the earlier revisionism of the Soviet Union destroyed the socialist camp and left nothing behind but conglomerations of countries split up into 'three worlds'. Here, too, 'class', 'revolution' and 'dictatorship of the proletariat' have all disappeared along with the socialist camp. Instead of the main force combating capitalism in its final imperialist phase being the working class, it has become the loose conglomeration of 'third world' countries regardless of whether they are under a bourgeois dictatorship or a dictatorship of the proletariat. And as for the working class in the major capitalist countries like Britain, "for the time being, as a result of the Soviet ruling clique's betrayal, the spread of revisionist ideology and the splits in the ranks of the working class, the workers' revolutionary movement in the developed capitalist countries cannot but remain at the stage of regrouping and accumulating strength. . . . Such being the case, the more actively the third world countries and people play their role as the main force in the struggle against imperialism and hegemonism, the more important will be the support and impetus they give to the workers' movement in the developed countries."

For the British working class there's nothing to do but wait for a 'third world conglomerate' to come and liberate you! The supreme irony of this counsel of defeatism is that up until very recently we have had from there the most principled ideological struggle waged against revisionism not only in the Soviet Union but throughout the world, with urgent encouragement to working class parties everywhere to fight revisionism and, where revisionism had gone too far, to form new Marxist-Leninist parties. Now comes the advice to the 'second world' workers of Britain: 'you're too disorganised and demoralised by Soviet revisionism to fight for revolution. Give it up and ally yourselves with your own bourgeoisie against the bourgeois forces of the 'first world superpowers' - as long as they speak Russian and not American!' We've heard of waving the red flag to defeat the red flag. This is trying to defeat revisionism by a greater revisionism!

For workers in Britain as elsewhere there can be no alliance with the bourgeoisie. In a period of the absolute decline of capitalism such an alliance can only mean the destruction of the working class as it exists today. We will never cease from our revolutionary duty of leading the workers of Britain in the overthrow of bourgeois rule and the establishment here of the dictatorship of the proletariat - and that is the greatest service in the name of the proletarian internationalism that we can render the workers and peasants of colonial countries seeking to liberate themselves.

Reading no longer biscuit town

AFTER one hundred and fifty years as one of the most famous biscuit manufacturing towns in the world Reading has moved a step nearer to being an industrial wasteland with the recent closure of its Huntley and Palmers biscuit factory. This closure brings with it two hundred redundancies (making a total of three hundred redundancies in recent years) and comes at a time when the owners of the factory, Associated Bis-

outs, are making a thousand pounds profit a year per employee (so much for the Labour Government idea that increased profits mean more jobs.)

Capitalist insult to working class injury is completed by the fact that this destruction of industry and jobs is paid for with working class money. Since 1974 Associated Biscuits have been given over a million pounds in Regional Development grants by the Labour Government.

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Plessey Liverpool

AT PLESSEY Telecommunications, Liverpool, hourly paid workers have recently taken joint union action in a concerted stand against management threats.

The workers, members of TGWU, GMWU, NSMW, and NSMM, had together applied for regrading. The five unions therefore immediately applied sanctions.

Management responded with a familiar threat - "Work normally or there'll be layoffs" - to which the united workforce reacted clearly and correctly. The vote was, if layoffs were enforced, to ignore them and report for work.

The challenge was clear: in class struggle, workers will set the pace, take the offensive and - when threatened with a management blow - react with a bigger one.

Sanctions continued and increased and, on November 10, Plessey management, faced with the bold concerted action of the whole shop floor, gave way and agreed to review grades.

Architects

LABOUR Government cuts and destructive policies in Cambridgeshire are reducing the provision of badly-needed new buildings for schools and the social services generally. It makes no difference that Cambridgeshire has the fastest growing population in the country - capitalism is less than ever directed to meet the needs of the people.

Architects employed by the County Council have been informed that their numbers are to be reduced by some 45 per cent over the next 18 months, in line with the reducing workload. Already, 'natural wastage' and penny-pinching economies have undermined their working capacity; now qualified architects and architectural assistants have received notice

that they are to be redeployed away from design work. They are told that if they do not accept redeployment, or in the event of a four-month trial period "proving unsatisfactory", they will be sacked.

A meeting of NALGO members in the Architects Department was held and voted unanimously to demand that the letters notifying their fellow workers of redeployment be withdrawn, and to ban any work being put outside the Department. They recognise that their skills are under attack and have begun to resist.

North Staffs busmen

NORTH Staffordshire busmen this month went into the fourth week of their strike against management plans to raise fares and cut services. A successful outcome to this struggle will defend jobs and conditions, benefit the public, and advance the struggle to save public transport from its destruction by capitalism.

NALGO

WHO says public servants have no industrial muscle? Not the social workers in NALGO employed by the London Borough of Camden.

Camden wanted to cut the service to local people by wiping out 18 social work jobs in a year. The remaining social workers showed their anger by refusing to do any extra work to make up for the gaps. This is in line with official NALGO policy.

Ignoring any appeal to their 'public dedication', local government workers know that the best public service they can give is actively to defend jobs and services. They calculated that if they blacked certain duties in their 5 area offices, it would be the equivalent of the labour of the 18 missing people.

They refused to accept visitors or calls between 1 pm and 2 pm

and for a half day each week; to handle inquiries from MPs or local councillors; to prepare court reports on first offenders.

After 4 months Camden was forced to promise to fill the vacancies. In fact they have undertaken to provide 30 to 34 additional staff.

Civil Servants

SHERIFF Court premises throughout Scotland this week were closed as civil servants joined the national half-day strike organised by the Society of Civil and Public Servants.

The union's assistant general secretary warned the Government against using the civil service as the whipping boy in their attempts to hold the line on pay.

Speaking to a crowd of 1500 civil servants in Edinburgh, he went on, "We cannot trust the Government to treat the civil service fairly. They may be honest men, but they cannot stomach paying us a fair wage." The Government is refusing to implement an agreement which ties pay in the service to comparisons with outside industry.

In Glasgow overflow meetings had to be held, the depth of feeling was so strong. Other civil service unions not officially supporting the strike added significant numbers to the stoppage.

Inland revenue

INLAND revenue workers have been holding mass meetings all over the country to decide on industrial action, because their claim for extra payments has been turned down by the Labour Government.

In some towns, including Bristol and Glasgow, offices have been shut while the meetings took place. Whatever the final form of action, which is to be decided by the Executive Committee, the Inland Revenue Staff Federation will have made a great step forward. In the past the union has relied on the Whitley 'consultative' committees, now it is poised to play its full part in the forthcoming fight over pay.



West Reading Community Centre is a focal point for local people to meet and take part in the many activities. The Centre was built by volunteers with limited help from the local authority. Many more such centres should be built by the Government and the local councils. (Picture Brian Poulton)

Destroy the Criminal Trespass Act

BY mid December the Home Office will have rubber stamped the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Part of this Act (the Criminal Trespass Law) is specifically aimed at preventing occupations. This act is being introduced at a time of massive unemployment, confrontations over wages, homelessness and the savage and continuing cuts in public services.

The Law is not designed to pro-

tect from occupation the homes of workers. It is designed to prevent the occupation of factories, the home of capitalism. These measures are being brought in as a tactic of counter revolution - coming into being because the class, through its organisations the unions has learned to operate within and combat the bourgeois law to their advantage.

The true face of 'parliamentary

democratic representation" is revealed to the degree that these laws, Tory conceived, are perpetrated by a Labour Government which seeks to shore up capitalism in Britain.

The class has not responded sufficiently to prevent these laws coming into being. We must now smash the law, just as the engineers smashed the infamous Industrial Relations Act.



Communist Party of Britain (M-L) public meetings are a forum for the working class.

CPB (ML) MEETINGS

From a meeting at the Bellman Bookshop on October 28 on Trade Union Sovereignty:

Unions born in illegality against the employers and their state naturally developed as self-sufficient autonomous, independent or essentially sovereign organisations. The philosophy of trade unions was in direct opposition to that of the employers - solidarity with fellow workers, consciousness of class and struggle, defining who is the enemy and who is the friend. The Rule Book is a worked-out philosophy of autonomy.

Strong autonomous unions become everyday more important as capitalism in decay tries to destroy everything that we have won.

Liverpool

From a meeting on November 8 on the 60th Anniversary of the October Revolution:

The Bolshevik Party was small in numbers compared with other parties which were called "revolutionary" or "socialist". But the Bolsheviks were a Party dedicated, disciplined, educated, and monolithic. With such a Party the Russian workers and peasants were able to grasp the revolutionary situation they had helped create and to strike terror into the hearts of the world's bourgeoisie.

It was the Party of Lenin and Stalin that showed the true and only internationalism "working wholeheartedly for the development of the revolutionary movement and the revolutionary struggle in one's own country, and supporting (by propaganda, sympathy and material aid) such and only such a struggle in every country without exception. Everything else is deception and Manilovism, sentimental daydreaming. How necessary it is that we in Britain learn this lesson now that capitalism means destruction of our industry, health, education, and only workers can prevent the destruction of our country..."

Bristol

From a meeting held in the middle of November which was addressed by a spokesman of the Zimbabwe Liberation Forces:

The Owen/Young plan and the Intervention of the United Nations has to be rejected as having nothing whatever to do with liberation. The goal of one man one vote could only be achieved by dismantling of the existing State, and any transitional period of hand over to Black majority rule would be decided by the Zimbabwean people.

When the problem was raised of what aid British workers could give to the liberation movement, a speaker from the floor emphasised that revolution here to smash British Imperialism in its homeland would be invaluable to the Zimbabwean struggle.

Step forward for students

DELEGATES from student unions from all over London have made a step forward in organisation in their conference this last weekend. The Government's 'Green Paper' on education, and its attempts to reduce the intake of overseas students were rejected as thinly veiled attacks on the education system as a whole, and policy passed on the threat of racism and fascism pointed correctly to the necessity of uniting all workers in the fight against worsening economic and social conditions, the root cause of hatred and strife within our communities.

Most important however was the advance in policy relating to the closure of colleges of education. Despite the fact that the Government intends to reduce the number of teachers being trained

to one third of their former number, attention has not been paid to the fight against closures - but on a battle about what the empty buildings should be used for. An approach fully supported by Shirley Williams.

The answer of the London students has been that teacher training colleges should be used... for training teachers. If in particular cases we are defeated and colleges are closed, let them remain empty - so that the destructive intention of the Labour Government is there for all to see... and so that no one can deny their responsibility. The fact that the London Students Organisation has come out with such a clear line is a credit to the clear leadership of colleges themselves threatened with closures.

NHS workers speak on pay

OUR party has said that the destruction of Britain's industrial base by a capitalist class in absolute decline is inseparable from the dismantling of the Health Service, simply because healthy, dignified workers will no longer be required in a de-industrialised Britain. To understand the unity of these two features means that to fight against cuts in the Health Service is an offence against capitalism itself and must inevitably raise the question of who shall rule in this country. The capitalist state, here represented by the Labour Government, is the destructive instrument, and our objective must be to replace it with our own constructive instrument - the dictatorship of the proletariat. Only then can we guarantee comprehensive health care for our class.

The struggles at the Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson, at the Weir Maternity and at Hounslow have given great encouragement to health workers everywhere, but the initiative still clearly rests with the ruling class. The DHSS document "The Way Forward" (September 1977) reaffirms and restates the objectives laid down in the RAWP Report (Resource Allocation Working Party) and the February 1978 Consultative Document, in spite of all advice to the contrary received by the Royal Commission. Fears expressed about Maternity Services, Renal Medicine and Acute facilities are ignored. Urgent waiting list cases are now divided into URGENT and VERY URGENT by harassed consultants and it is now accepted that a name added to an 'ordinary' waiting list means waiting indefinitely.

West Riding Health Services ASTMS 703 Branch came to the conclusion that an offensive against the employer was urgently needed in the light of this situation, and passed the following motion unanimously: "This Branch mandates its National Officer to seek immediate 30 per cent pay rises for all Health Workers."

As our Health Service is labour intensive, the pay issue

Sadat's visit is treachery

Israeli bombs hardly had time to explode on Lebanese soil, and Palestinian mothers hardly had time to bury their murdered children when President Sadat of Egypt announced his intention to visit Jerusalem and have talks with Israeli prime minister Begin, the very person who ordered these attacks on the refugee camps.

That Sadat and Israeli Zionists found much in common is not so sudden and strange as the press make out. Such common understanding has been apparent for

a long time. That Sadat should dare to announce his new found friendship in such a dramatic manner is a reflection on the mass movement in Egypt and the rest of the Arab world.

The Palestinian liberation movement, Fateh, has denounced the visit as treachery. Denunciations by any Arab regime which would have done the same thing itself if it had the nerve are hypocritical to say the least. The Arab people must speak out for themselves.

University teachers

"If we are not for ourselves, who will be for us?" Under this banner 7000 members of the Association of University Teachers, one fifth of the profession, left classes for a day to demonstrate their feelings about their pay.

Central Hall was filled twice over. Two meetings there were followed by a lobby of Parliament. This action over pay is part of the fight for standards in education.

University teachers have traditionally been used as a soft option to apply the incomes policy since they were already 'privileged' and not very militant.

At the end of the 1960s, the Prices and Incomes Board tried to make university teachers a target for their pay policy, but the AUT successfully fought. In 1975 the university teachers once again were a target for the government pay freeze. Although an ar-

bitration award gave university teachers a 21 per cent pay rise, the full award was delayed in the corridors of power by the pay policy of the time.

This pay policy has now, supposedly, been lifted, but through the operation of cash limits and 'voluntary guidelines' pay is still to be restricted. The Government now admits that it would now take a 45 per cent rise for university teachers to get the full value of the 1975 award. There is only 5 per cent allotted to their pay in the cash limits.

The myth of the privileged position of university teachers has been broken. Many lecturers' children now qualify for free school meals. Wednesday's demonstration was a good beginning, although lobbying cannot be relied on. The struggle will continue; the fight for pay is part of the fight against cuts in education.

Public Meetings

ALBANIA, AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD

Friday 25th Nov. 7.30pm.

Small Hall, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq., WC1

(organised by the New Albania Soc.)

LONDON At Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, N.W.5. 7.30 pm:

Fri December 2 Capitalism's destruction of the fishing industry.

Fri December 9 The changing role of the police and the the armed forces.

Fri December 16 "The world is yours as well as ours, but in the last analysis it is yours." -The Role of Youth in Britain.

BRIGHTON At Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Rd., 8 pm
Thur December 8 Britain in the World 1977.

BRISTOL At Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, 7.30pm:

Fri November 25 One world divided by class.

Wed December 14 For an independent Britain: No to devolution, No to the EEC.

LIVERPOOL BOOKSTALL

Every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool.

(largely ignored so far) holds the key in the fight against cuts. To oppose loss of facilities and buildings, without, at the same time, defending and enhancing the living standards of health workers is to ignore 70 per cent of the cuts battle. The most important feature, however, is that the demand is an immediate one. Although the National Advisory Council has advised its members to defer the pay issue until April 1978 in line with TUC guidelines, such a delay will mean that health workers will have a harder battle to fight later. For the State has another weapon in its reserve - 'cash limits'. If in April 1978 the guidelines are exceeded by any section of health workers, pay increases

in excess of the guidelines will be deducted directly from patient care. We will be accused of obtaining pay rises at the expense of the sick and the state will have forged another weapon with which to attack us. Those who ask us to abide by the TUC recommendations speak against free collective bargaining and address us on behalf of the state.

A victory on pay now will deal a decisive blow to cash limits - the antithesis of long-term planning. But it is not enough to simply pass a resolution. It must be actively pursued and fought for, with an understanding of all that such a struggle implies. Health workers everywhere are asked to raise the issue of wages.