

THE WORKER



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WORKERS WAGE WAR

"I'VE WORKED for this company for 35 years and I've never seen a strike like this. Everyone just downed tools immediately and came out as soon as they knew the employers' offer. I was involved in the 1946 strike when we had to struggle for union recognition, and then in the strikes of 1952 and 1971. But this one is different."

"It is political as never before. The Labour Government, under the orders of Ford and all capitalists, is attempting to shatter the trade union organisation. It is itself being shattered."

"The workers (in the words of a shop steward) have shown two fingers to the Labour Government. I was to put the motion to workers in the Foundry to accept or reject industrial action. But the vote was a foregone conclusion. The workers' main demand was to file in forms to withdraw their political levy to the Labour Party."

The whole workforce, like the unanimous AUEW executive, followed by the TGWU, like all those preparing to take parallel action, at the Liverpool Docks, Mackies, British Oxygen, are united in one aim. The union negotiators will have no discussion at all with management until the demand is met: recognition of

the right to collective bargaining. Even exploratory talks are out.

The employer is powerless. They have no friends, no scabs to cross the picket lines. Outside Dagenham, a lonely policeman has nothing to do but observe the giant capitalist plant stranded and helpless, deserted.

As the pickets said, "Security men came out immediately. Previously they had waited, now they are with us. Drivers have turned back their vehicles without a murmur. Supervision men are being allowed through this week. We know that when they are offered 5 per cent they will be out too. Pickets will be on Ford's warehouses and docks."

The 56,000 manual strikers have heard that the 12,500 white collar workers are ready to support them.

Ford's dream of a down-trodden working class is shattered. There will be no return to the conditions of before. The average wage in the Foundry, where tuberculosis occurs and where metal pourers risk burns, is £71. One picket told us his take home was £42 for a 40 hour week. "And Fords are offering a productivity deal which would add to the danger by cutting the workforce."

The employer is held in contempt and derision.

The Ford picket line at Dagenham shows how a successful strike is conducted. When the workers are united and determined only a token presence is required. There is no question of scabbing.



(Photo THE WORKER)

Labour farce at Blackpool

THE LABOUR Party conference in Blackpool this week will be the occasion for Callaghan's rendering of accounts to his capitalist masters. Though ostensibly talking to his party, he will in fact use this platform to reaffirm his role of faithful servant of the bourgeoisie's interests by taking a firm stand on the 5 per cent limit.

He might not openly go as far as the Government's "secret" guidance note revealed in THE TIMES last week, which clearly showed Labour's determination to do away indefinitely with free collective bargaining, but his purpose will remain the same: to win good marks for the Government's record of service

to capitalism.

We are no doubt going to be treated to laughable displays of conference-room militancy from the minions of the so-called 'Labour left'. But for all the noise and clamour, their pathetic posturing will make not one bit of difference to Callaghan's intentions or for that matter, to what we have to do.

The real battle lines are being drawn elsewhere by Ford workers and others. Unlike the TUC conference which can be as good or as bad as we make it through the democratic processes of our trade unions, the Labour Party conference is of no consequence to the working class.

MACKIE'S - BRITISH OXYGEN - NUPE Line up for fight against 5 per cent

NEARLY 2500 workers at James Mackie and Sons, the Belfast textile engineering firm, overwhelmingly rejected a 5 per cent increase in line with the Government's pay guidelines. Last year a successful claim of 22 per cent by these same workers led to their firm being the first to be put on the Government's blacklist. This year as one engineering shop steward said, "The 5 per cent was paid in our wage packets whether we wanted it or not

and the workforce strongly objected to this."

Clearly this is the sort of unilateral action by management that the Government is keen to encourage. But other workers than those at Ford and Mackies are running into out and out opposition to the Government's guidelines.

A union spokesman for 4000 British Oxygen workers said that "if the company's offer is the same as that made by Fords, I am quite sure

there is no way we shall be able to restrain our members from taking the same action as the Ford workers."

The NUPE claim for council workers, many of whom are disgracefully low paid, is of the order of a 50 to 60 per cent rise.

The CBI complains that 50 claims covering a million workers if settled in full would add over 20 per cent to employment costs. They'll have more to complain about soon.

our series on the fight for freedom in the Civil War

Last week, we saw how the Levellers, unwilling to see the creation of a mercenary army, unwilling to go to Ireland to suppress their brothers there, unwilling to submit to a right-wing presbyterian dictatorship presided over by rich merchants, and desirous of receiving their wages, abducted the king, Charles, and stood their ground to prevent a counter-revolutionary restoration. This week, we take up the story.

THE ARMY assembled at St Albans and for two months debated everything which concerned them. A Council of the Army was elected, of all Agitators and officers above a certain rank (including Ireton and Cromwell). The army's Agitators wanted to march on London and force parliament to do its will, but the weighting of officers on the Council ensured that a compromise was adopted.

Next, the Levellers drew up an Agreement of the People, which was intended to be accepted

by all the people to form the basis of the new society. It included the abolition of rotten boroughs, a biannual parliament, freedom of conscience, equality before the law (MPs and aristocrats were immune from legal proceedings) and an end to the press gang.

The General Council of the Army debated the Agreement at Putney Church from 28th October to 11th November 1647. During hot debate on the extent of the franchise, the rift between the propertied Grandees and the property-less soldiers became clear. It was agreed that the army and civilian Leveller representatives would meet at Ware jointly to sign the Agreement.

The king's escape from army custody strengthened the Grandees' hand, as the soldiers were well aware of the need for unity in the face of a new civil war. The Grandees were quick to capitalise on this, and by threats and promises induced most of the men to drop the

agreement and sign the officer's draft.

One regiment refused, mutinied, drove away its officers and rode to Corkbush Fields at Ware, proposing to rendezvous with the people and adopt the Agreement. Isolated as they were, the Grandees were able to crush their revolt by court-martialing the regiment's Agitators and sentencing 3 to death. After throwing dice for their lives, the loser, Private Arnold, was shot. The strength of feeling aroused was shown by the burial of Arnold by the people, with full military honours and mourners by the thousand.

Having been temporarily pacified by promises and violence, the army allowed itself to be dispersed to garrison towns in January, 1648, which severely weakened the revolutionary movement. The Army Council continued to publish declarations, though it was now entirely under the control of the Grandees. The Levellers showed they were still

active by publishing a pamphlet calling for the annual election of Sheriffs, JPs, parsons and militia officers. These demands hit directly at the means by which the exploiting classes held power, their legal system, their propaganda mouthpieces, and their police. But in the name of unity against a greater enemy, the demands were not pressed during the Second Civil War (May-August).

The Irish had been taking advantage of the soldiers' refusal to fight by driving out English settlers and retaking their own land. But parliament decided to strike while the army Levellers were weakened: once again, they started to raise an invasion force.

Next week we conclude our three-part series on the Levellers with a look at how Cromwell took advantage of the weakness of the movement to smash it. This brave chapter in British history ends with an assessment of the Leveller movement as a whole.

BRITAIN'S 'Oligate' scandal, far more serious than its US counterpart which brought down Nixon, will be debated eventually in Parliament and then it will be decided if there ought not perhaps to be another investigation. That way Callaghan hopes to head off discussion at Blackpool. The British Government is far more successful than the US in sweeping such things as the Bingham Report under the carpet.

THE CHINESE two years ago produced a beautiful pamphlet. Written in language anyone could understand, it was entitled "Why China has no inflation". Now, the People's Daily carries news that prices are no longer stable, in some cases doubling. This is the first fruit of the policy of the Gang of Hua. Will the new capitalist rulers of China dare tell their people the truth and write a new pamphlet entitled "Why China has inflation"?

REFERRING to the imposition of martial law in Iran on September 8th the British Ambassador there has described the Labour Government's attitude as one of being "heartened by the Shah's determination to maintain "stability, security and progress." "We wish the Government well in these tasks", he declared. And added "We are sure you will be successful."

AFTER getting rid of their respective dictators the people of Spain and Portugal find themselves still suffering the imperialist oppression of the US and Western Europe, still dominated by the Pentagon and NATO. A campaign has been launched calling on all workers, trade union organisations and various cultural, ecological and professional bodies to support an anti-imperialist Conference to oppose a third imperialist war and remove all imperialist military installations from the Iberian peninsula.

FURTHER evidence of the Labour Government's callous attitude to the continuing NHS maintenance supervisors claim for restored differentials. The Government's position is that they would rather close hospitals than to pay more than five per cent.

LATEST to join the drive for free collective bargaining are 15,000 pub managers. The National Association of Licensed House Managers are asking for a pay rise of 50 per cent for their lowest paid members, taking them from £60 to £90 a week. "We reject the Government's guidelines of five per cent and will line up with all those other organisations that have announced their intention to move along the road of free collective bargaining", declared their General Secretary.

MORE AND MORE in the older capitalist countries no one pays taxes but the workers. In the USA according to the latest figures, the number of tax payers has gone up from 41 million to 70 million while the tax paid by the rich has decreased by 20 per cent. Legal tax exemptions for the big corporations in Britain have made the payment of corporation tax, in the words of one accountancy firm, "a matter of voluntary contributions."

Albanian socialism frees people from burden of taxes

SOCIALIST Albania has gone down in history as the first country in the world where the population is exempt from all kinds of taxes and levies. The example of Albania in this aspect is important. It proves the fact that in genuine socialism the objective possibilities are created to do away with all kinds of taxes and levies and in this way the personal income of the working people from their work is not affected. At the same time this shows the indisputable superiority of the socialist order over the capitalist and revisionist one.

The exemption of the population from all kinds of taxes in Albania was not done at a stroke and it was not an administrative act. In this field, too, the Party of Labour of Albania, led by the teachings of Marxism-Leninism has implemented a correct, principled policy. It was conscious of the fact that taxes and levies on the

population are a temporary historic category, linked mainly with the existence of private ownership of the exploiting class and its remnants. On this basis, the Party of Labour of Albania, immediately following liberation, defined its policy of taxation.

In the early years, following liberation, when the former exploiting class in Albania was deprived of political power, the policy of taxation served as a powerful weapon in the hands of the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat to completely deprive that exploiting class also of its economic base as well as to curb and liquidate the tendency of capitalist development both in town and countryside. Such a role was played by "the extraordinary taxation on war profits" which operated against the speculative profits of the former exploiting class. This law was at the same time the chief means

to secure the income for the reconstruction of the country, recently devastated by the war, at a time when the Albanian bank was empty.

On the other hand the policy of levies imposed on the mass of the people at that time had quite another aim and content. It had to do with a part of the contribution the people had to make to face the financial difficulties Albania was faced with in the first years after liberation for the recovery of the economy. At the same time the policy of taxes and levies on the people aimed at making impossible the birth of new capitalist elements from small and middle production; to encourage socialist collectivisation in the countryside and among the craftsmen in the cities; to put an end to private property both in country and town; and to make impossible the creation of conditions for the development

of the private sector, which, because of its nature, brings about the exploitation of man by man.

Later on, when Albania embarked on the road of socialist development, the extension and complete establishment of the socialist relations of production, both in country and town, the elimination of private ownership, the rapid development of the productive forces and the people's economy, the basis was created for the gradual reduction of taxes and levies on the population and their complete abolition. With the socialist industrialisation of the country, and the intensification of agriculture, which constitute the two basic sectors of the socialist economy, the sources of income from the productive sectors of the economy increased perceptibly and were used, according to the principle of self-reliance, to finance the economy and the other sectors of the country's life.

Thus the weight of taxes and levies on the population was lowered constantly in the total income of the state budget. In the financial year 1945-46, the income from taxes and levies on the population accounted for 92 per cent of the total income of the state budget, while in 1960 they represented only 2.7 per cent, and 0.1 per cent in 1969. Thus in November 1969, the conditions were created for their complete abolition.

In socialist Albania, the direct income ensured by the working people of town and country through their useful social work, is not only unaffected by taxes and levies, but a series of important measures have been taken by the Party of Labour of Albania and are being implemented in the socio-cultural field from which every family of the working people draws profits. Thus through the growing social consumption fund, the state meets the expenditure for the health service, education and culture, which are free of charge for all the population. It meets the expenditure needed to keep rents at a very low level and pays for the public services, pensions and the other social security expenditure.

Chinese revolution - then and now

TWENTY-NINE years ago, on October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was proclaimed. It was a socialist state with the workers and peasants of China controlling the dictatorship of the proletariat under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. There was jubilation among millions, throughout the world, who had witnessed the humiliation of the USA as it poured money and arms on its puppets - the reactionary Kuomintang - only to see both being frittered away or being captured by the ever-advancing Red Army. Finally on that triumphant day the world's largest socialist state was established to increase, immeasurably, the strength of the socialist camp.

The USA, aided and abetted by Britain and other imperialist powers, tried their utmost to throttle and blockade the infant state. The war in Korea, begun when the People's Republic was not even a year old, was deliberately spread to the borders of China in the fond hope held by the United Nations that the "reds"

would never be able to withstand such an onslaught. They did, and fought shoulder to shoulder with North Koreans.

Then followed the successful building of socialism in a semi-feudal, semi-colonial state where hundreds of millions of peasants broke their chains from the bondage of hunger, illiteracy and oppression.

Finally came the testing of socialist ideology confronted with the wholesale revising of Marxism-Leninism by the post-Stalin leadership of the Soviet Union. In the early '60's the Chinese Party took up the challenge initiated by the gallant Albanians and exposed the manifold deviations from scientific socialism inside the Russian Party and many others which have now openly embraced the reformist rubbish termed "Euro-Communism."

Many communists throughout the world benefited from the clarity of the ideological polemics.

Then came the attempt to strengthen the leadership of the working class inside China by

involving millions of workers and peasants during the years of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Today the giants of the Chinese Revolution - of the Long March, the Civil War and the creation of socialist China - are all dead. Chu Teh, Chou En-lai and Mao have all gone and with them appears to have perished the banner of socialism. But just as Brezhnev and the traitors of the Kremlin cannot dim the glories of the Bolshevik Revolution or the achievements of the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin neither can the present leadership of the Chinese Party and State destroy the inspiration that the Chinese Revolution provided for the peasants and workers of the world.

Socialism is possible for all of us if we learn to apply the principles of Marxism to our own conditions and fight on class lines for the destruction of capitalism. As Mao wrote in one of his fine poems:

"Nothing is hard in this world
If you dare to scale the heights."

EDITORIAL

WITH AUEW Council backing for the Ford workers' strike to enforce collective bargaining, the organised working class of Britain is moving into position for an all-out challenge to the Labour Government's most desperate attempt to fix wages by dictat

It must be seen as the same kind of fight which gathered around resistance to In Place of Strife and destroyed the Wilson Government in 1970 or that which was mobilised in resistance to the Industrial Relations Act and destroyed the Heath Government in 1974. In these campaigns, also, pressure from the mass of British workers, drawing on all their past experience of class struggle, made the TUC the expression of their will; and the AUEW, as one of the best led because most democratically organised unions, formed the hard core of the mass opposition. Against it such Government weapons as the Industrial Relations Court were shattered.

The battle that is presently shaping is even more politically important. Previously what was being opposed by workers was the attempt by either the Labour or the Tory party to hobble the trade unions by Parliamentary legislation. What is at stake now is the very existence of trade unions in their function of bargaining for wages and conditions for their members under sanction of the withholding of labour.

Callaghan speaking for capitalism says Britain cannot afford collective bargaining. It is too serious a threat to profits and without profits capitalism collapses. It has taken the labour movement ten years of putting up with wage restraint under different guises to appreciate the full implications of where capitalism is headed - toward fascism, toward a state in which there would be no unions, no collective bargaining, no conditional sale of labour power, nothing but permanent slavery under capitalist bosses. When Callaghan and Healey say they are opposing collective bargaining to reduce inflation what they really mean is that the capitalist system for which they speak can no longer afford an organised working class capable of fighting to preserve its standard of living.

For capitalism in decline, the fight for collective bargaining is a fight against capitalism itself. That is why the chairman of Ford complains that the strike is a political strike and "there is very little that Ford can do to bring about an accommodation between the Labour Government and the trade unions." Of course there is very little Ford can do because the Labour Government is asking on behalf of Ford and all the other big employers. That is why it is sound tactics for the workers at Ford to say to him, "You have to withdraw your ridiculous offer. You must oppose the Government if you want to talk to us about opening Ford for business again."

It is not the working class but the Labour Government that is in a terrible dilemma. They can give way and get kicked by their capitalist masters or they can stick rigidly to their 5 per cent formula and bring out into conflict against them council workers and all the others who have indicated their determination to fight for collective bargaining. Their appeal that they are really for the workers and that the labour movement must rally behind them to keep the Tories out has lost all credibility. We are perfectly well aware of whose side they are on with their instructions to all ministries to hold the guidelines at all costs while they are busily planning phase five! Seeing Labour for the capitalist class enemy it represents is one of our major political achievements. The crisis of capitalism, which cannot afford collective bargaining, has become the crisis of the capitalist Labour Government.

New challenge to Oxford teachers

A RENEWED declaration of war has been handed down to Oxfordshire teachers by their new Chief Education Officer. Outlining his strategy recently, he spoke openly of the cruel decisions he would have to make in the next few years. These include the future necessity of reducing options for children in the 5th and 6th years.

By saying such things so openly

and so soon after his appointment, he is expressing his Council's utter contempt for education. It is a calculated insult, too, to the teachers of Oxfordshire who fought so well last year to defend staffing levels and resist redundancies. It will not go unanswered.

The need for 'cruel decisions' he described as simple, namely, the declining school population. Yet

all teachers know that falling rolls present no problem to them. They are an opportunity to create the conditions (i.e. smaller classes) in which they are able to use their skills better. Teachers in Oxfordshire and throughout Britain, can and must take every measure at their disposal to stop falling rolls leading to school closures or 'reorganisation'.

Pollution - who cares for the people?

AT A TIME when children in Britain are being slowly poisoned by fumes that reach them from cars passing their homes, a time when this occurrence warrants merely a passing mention in the national papers, we have to consider the whole question of the health of a nation.

To be more specific - lead is added to petrol in Britain to facilitate the 'smooth' running of motor car engines and as a consequence, people who happen to live in areas where the roads are congested are found to be suffering from lead poisoning. Still, the engines run smoother and after all we are told, it would raise the price of petrol by a penny a gallon not to add the lead.

We all know that there are many many more examples of this kind of lunacy, and that most go unreported. Remember asbestosis, remember silicosis. The British

rulers are not alone in the world in their blatant contempt for the health of the people. Remember Seveso, Italy 1976? Over 600 cases of incurable skin diseases have been reported since that disaster. In the USA, according to official figures, at least 6 million workers are exposed to chemicals that are considered possibly cancer causing. Remember the thalidomide children.

Is there any method in this madness? The answer is so simple and obvious as to sound clichéd and yet if we reject it because we have heard it before, we are aiding our own destruction. It is purely a matter of greed - greed for more and more profit which drives the ruling class not merely to neglect, but rather to make a conscious decision not to implement safety measures which could prevent the wastes of industrial destruction from damaging the health of

our people. And they are aided in this by successive governments which flinch at the very idea of passing legislation to force the monopolies to take the real measures needed.

The name of the game is russian roulette. And yet it is certainly not a game as far as the workers in Britain are concerned. How much longer will we tolerate it? Workers in this country produce everything and die in the process of doing so. The country is ours - it will be our children's - we are the only people able to take on the responsibility of caring for it. It is in our interest to do so.

The protection of the health of a people should constitute the highest aim in any society. This aim is being realised in other countries - in socialist countries like Albania. We have to realise it here and that means making Britain socialist too.

The struggle for a socialist Malaya thirty years after British intervention

THIRTY years ago, in 1948, the British Labour Government launched an all-out attack to suppress the Malayan Liberation forces under the leadership of the Malayan Communist Party and to maintain their colonial grip on Malaya.

The export of Malayan rubber and tin was paying for the US aid which the British Government considered essential for the restoration of the British economy

after the war. We were presented with the obscene spectacle of Strachey and other 'socialist' ministers crawling around safe sections of the jungle in battle kit to encourage British troops to make bloody war on the Malay-people.

The Malayan liberation struggle, with such leaders as Chen Ping, who had learned his skill as a guerrilla fighter during the war against Japanese invaders, reached such heights that the British Government had to pour in more and more troops and continuously escalate its military efforts to try to stem the anti-imperialist tide. In the course of the war against the Malayan people such brutal means as 'strategic hamlets' were developed - whole villages turned into armed concentration

camp to try and isolate the liberation fighters from the people supporting their struggle. These same tactics were borrowed by the US imperialists for their war against the Vietnamese.

It was the strength of the Malayan liberation movement that forced the Labour Government to recognise the independence of the Federation of Malaya in 1957, even if it was possible, in collaboration with bourgeois reactionary elements in the country, to cheat the people of the opportunity of creating a socialist Malaya.

The liberation struggle in what is now Malaysia has never been suppressed and the people under correct leadership will go on to free their country from the exploitation of both imperialism and their own corrupt bourgeois rulers.

Roundup of health news

Round the country fights against cuts and closures in the NHS are going on. Essex Hill and Turner Village Hospitals in Essex are to get 43 extra nurses after staff took industrial action to highlight chronic understaffing. At Hungerford psychogeriatric hospital near Newbury, where years of hard work in building up expertise in the care of the elderly is to be destroyed under a Berks AHA plan, COHSE staff have set up an Action Committee to devise ways to fight the closure. The same has happened at St Mary's Hospital Margate, and Willesden General, London.

The Scottish Home and Health Dept. has reported that spending on hospital services has decreased in real terms by nearly 1%, with nearly 500 fewer nurses employed than a year ago.

Members of the Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Area Health

Authority are continuing their refusal to implement £3m cuts from their budget. This they say would "destroy patient services overnight".

If and when the government on behalf of the capitalist class, can no longer make its own appointees carry through its attacks on the working class, we are a step nearer saving the health service.

Staff and patients from the Manchester children's hospital are organising demonstrations and pickets against plans to close its cancer unit. And finally, as a warning to those who fondly hope that campaigning for an official enquiry will obviate the need for trade union action, Cornwall AHA says it simply cannot afford to take on the 79 extra nurses recommended for St Lawrence's, Bodmin, by an independent enquiry, after years of campaigning by staff.



A group of children enjoying themselves at the recent Anti-Nazi rally. (Photo THE WORKER)

British textiles - an industry in decline

THE TEXTILE industry shows all the signs of the general decline of British industry. From a peak just before the 1914-18 war the systematic destruction of this industry has reduced it to a mere shadow. The physical effects of this destruction can be clearly seen everywhere.

The North West, centre of the Cotton industry, abounds with empty spinning mills, derelict weaving and finishing factories: The workforce also, of course, is fast declining. Short-term working and redundancy are always threatened. Those not on the dole find work in the 'candy floss' industries and the growing distribution networks that have grown up to peddle shoddy goods.

After food man demands clothes. It was progress in the production of cotton that was the backbone of the Industrial revolution, stimulating

changes in transport, bringing in the new trade of engineering and heralding the new industrial era. In spite of its obvious decline, the industry is still large. With something in excess of 800,000 operatives (9.1 per cent of the workforce in the production sector) it is second only to engineering and construction.

However, the industry is shedding jobs at the rate of 24,000 a year. Those people who remain within the industry are subject to quite savage increases in productivity. In the cotton sector only one-tenth of the 1957 spindles are working. Yet production is at 40 per cent of the 1957 level. The much-heralded new mill, the first for fifty years, opened at Atherton, Lancs, is employing 100 people. However, it in fact replaces two mills, one at Stockport and the other at Leigh, which employed 400.

Profits, especially those of the big concerns, are up and mid-1977 saw the industry setting export records. But re-organisation, closures and asset-stripping go on. Courtauld's closure of their Skelmersdale factory, with the loss of 1000 jobs, is merely one of the more spectacular examples of what is common.

The rapid rundown of the Burton factories and the closure in August 1978 of the last mill in Middleton are other examples. The answers of the industry to its troubles are ineffective attempts to control imports and more closures. The general gloom and despondency is spread with scare stories like the Taiwan suit, £2.50 at the dockside and £40 in the shops. The unions' position must be more than to demand good redundancy payments and to present petitions to the Prime Minister.

Heating engineers begin action against 5pc

HEATING engineers in an area from Middlesbrough to Newcastle and across the country to Carlisle went into action on the weekend of September 29 to October 2 in pursuit of their 25 per cent wage claim. This is the first shot in a protracted war.

The decision to strike had been taken earlier, and it was unanimous. The heating engineers are well aware of their weaknesses - one of the main ones being the scattered character of work on sites. The numbers employed vary from one or two to twenty or more on the large sites. But, as was stressed time and time again at the meeting, they knew they had to take on the employers and the government with its 5 per cent limit. They were determined to achieve a proper living wage and a proper recognition of their skills, and so began their guerrilla action. More is to come, including the closure of one or more key sites.

Those on strike are being financially supported by their brothers in work. A Board of Inquiry into wages in the industry is being held on October 3, and the action is geared to this too. A further mass meeting has been called for October 9 to hear a report back and to

make more detailed plans for further action.

The engineers are quite clear that they have to make full use of their union machinery: if they are to win, then victory will be based on their own strength and organisation. Their union, the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers Copper-Smiths Heating and Domestic Engineers, is backing them to the hilt, guided by its conference decision of an immediate return to free collective bargaining. The shop stewards' committees, too, dormant for some time, have suddenly found new life and determination.

The threat of action by the union was immediately responded to by the North East Heating Engineers Employers. They replied, predictably and hypocritically, that the Government's 5 per cent and its black list held them back. However, cracks swiftly appeared when two of their members offered 25 per cent at once if they were not hit by the strike. But as the workers said at their mass meeting, "no employer escapes in this battle."

The employers are now finding out that, no matter how scattered the workers may be, a united and determined workforce is more than a match for them.

Berks. shunt children to save money

THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers has successfully prevented blatant discrimination against children with educational and social problems, in a determined stand against the cynical attitude of Berkshire County Council.

The council announced last June that from September children from three Social Priority primary schools would be sent to Alfred Sutton school in Reading. This was a clear policy of discrimination and isolation, since it would mean that this one school would have 35 per cent immigrant children, as compared with 9 per cent at

the next highest school in Reading. The council itself admitted that the children would have to be bussed across the city from two of the three schools while there were far more convenient secondary schools in their own catchment area.

Members of the National Union of Teachers within the school quickly saw the scheme in its true light and on the advice of the national executive made four demands to Berkshire County Council. The first two were that children from two of the three educational priority area schools

should go to secondary schools in their own catchment area. The third demand was that from September 1979 the authority should thoroughly review its secondary allocation procedures and consult all interested parties. The final demand was that Alfred Sutton should be staffed as for a six-form entry this September and that this staffing should remain for the five years these pupils were working their way through the school. Under threat of immediate industrial action, Berkshire County Council acceded to all four demands. A victory for education in Berkshire!

Poverty

THE WORLD BANK estimates that in 20 years 600 million people will be what it calls "absolutely poor". Even this figure is based on "optimistic projections" of expanding international trade and finance. What a prospect the World Bank holds out for the world!

The Bank's remedy is to expand trade and finance - a remedy which has the remarkable quality of resulting in the condition it pretends to cure. In fact, the Bank's policies would, if we let them, result in even more and even worse poverty; they would lead to an even quicker destruction of agriculture and industry. All would be sacrificed on the altar of capitalism's priorities of trade and financial profit; there would be increased imperialist exploitation; and more of the so-called aid would consist of military spending for the purposes of counter-revolution.

A former president of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (a spin-off of the UN) once said that neo-colonialism was the only cause of hunger in Latin America. It is even more true that imperialism, the absence of socialism, is the only cause of hunger and poverty in the world today.

The World Bank and its planning for disaster must be thrown out. The workers of the world will abolish poverty by socialist planning for peace, land and bread.

No troops to Back to back? Zimbabwe

AS SMITH'S "transitional government" in Zimbabwe proves its bankruptcy by stepping up the conscription of Zimbabwe workers and increasing its terrorist raids into Mozambique, the British and US governments are searching for ways to safeguard capitalism in Zimbabwe.

It is being said in the British press that only British troops can prevent the disaster of chaos and massacres in Zimbabwe. Owen says in the United Nations that a contingent of a thousand British troops or so would be standing by for use in Africa.

Exactly the same excuse was used for sending British troops into Ireland - they would prevent violence and bloodshed. And what but violence and bloodshed did they take into Ireland! So much so that a growing majority of people, as a recent poll showed, are taking the line our Party has taken from the day the Wilson Government, with Callaghan as home secretary, sent the troops in. British troops out of Ireland!

We must make it absolutely clear to this Government in advance: No British troops for Zimbabwe! A so-called peace keeping force would be sent to serve no other purpose than to defend imperialist interests and try to cheat the people of Zimbabwe of liberation.

Back to back?

A PUBLIC enquiry into a proposed housing project by Barratt Developments at Keighley, West Yorkshire, revealed that the builders intend to erect what were euphemistically described as "Four single accommodation homes within one building, which, when complete would resemble a semi-detached house."

A spokesman for Bradford Council, in justifying the Council's deferring of a decision on the planning application, was more forthright in his description: "Since 1909, when we had the first Planning Act, we have been trying to rid ourselves of the back-to-back. We are still not rid of them, and now we are trying to re-introduce them."

Barratts claimed that the return of the back-to-back was being encouraged by the Government and that approval for such developments had been obtained from about fifty local authorities. To further their case, Barratts also claimed there was widespread demand for this sort of accommodation.

It doesn't say much for Government housing policies that seventy years since we tried to stop building such houses, there are enough people in poor conditions or homeless, to guarantee a market for their profitable construction.

Engineers support Ford workers

"This London South District Committee expresses its solidarity with Ford workers in their struggle to obtain a satisfactory settlement of their wages and conditions claim."

"We congratulate Executive Council on their immediate and unanimous decision to make the strike official."

"The Ford workers are demonstrating how to deal with the Government's attempt to enforce its 5 per cent wage control and reduce living standards. We call upon all members to give their full support to the Ford workers, their fight must be won, their success will be a victory for all workers who oppose state interference in the right of collective bargaining."

Bookshops

- Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
- Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
- Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
- Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
- Basildon bookstall Tues Fri Sat Marketplace
- Liverpool bookstall - every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool
- Hull Bookstall - Old Town Market, Saturdays 9.30-4.00

'The Worker' 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5
 6 months £2.50 (including postage)
 1 year £5.00 (including postage)

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....

Public Meetings ALL START AT 7:30pm

THE autumn series of public meetings in London organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), will commence on September 22nd, 1978. The venue of the meetings will alternate between

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 Fortess Rd, NW5 and CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square, WCI		
Oct 6	Conway Hall	Albania - Beacon of Marxism-Leninism
Oct 20	Bellman Bookshop	British troops out of Ireland; US Bases out of Britain
OXFORD		
Oct 10	Cowley Community Centre, Oxford	Don't Vote for Capitalism