



## TUC 1979 -

# LABOUR MOVEMENT POISED FOR BATTLE

THE WORKING class is poised for an all-out defence of its living standards, working conditions, jobs, skills, social services and industry as a whole. This desire by the class was eloquently expressed by the TUC meeting in Blackpool, which took place against a background of, for this time of year, unprecedented action by industrial and white collar workers all over the country.

The mood of preparation for battle emerged as a conscious decision was taken to make workers aware of the vicious policies of the present Government. While leaving the door open for talks with the Government, it was more an empty gesture toward avoiding the conflict which Congress made clear was inevitable.

In practice Congress has acknowledged that this Tory Government must go if we are to survive, and has left the path open for our class to start the battle when we are ready. Last Congress voted to uphold collective bargaining after the firemen had provided the spark. This year Congress has cleared its decks in advance for all-out class struggle.

Incomes policy, anti-union legislation, judicial erosion of trade union rights (picketing in particular), public expenditure cuts, and further destruction of our industries - all these issues were inter-linked by the common objective of survival of our class under attack.

Composite 2, passed without dissent, rejected any undermining of existing statutory protection of trade unionists and any attempt by the Government to interfere in the internal democratic procedures of individual unions. A speaker from the ACTT won loud applause in concluding that, "... such attacks can only be rebutted by the power of organised labour. They have set out to weaken the power of labour in order to further their destructive aims."

Not surprisingly therefore did Congress recognise the intention behind the formation of the Special Patrol Group,

identifying its central political deployment against mass picketing and demonstrations and calling for its disbanding.

Motion 45 was a call by the General Council to oppose the Government's economic policy and to back an "alternative strategy". The alternative plan, while calling for reforms, is revolutionary in the sense that they are reforms our bosses cannot afford. The large vote for an amendment calling for a series of mass demonstrations, though unimportant in itself, shows the strength of feeling in the labour movement.

Congress has sown the seeds for us to use. We can call the tune when we are ready and our TUC will be ready for use. We have to ensure that we are prepared to take the responsibility of a revolutionary alternative, our only real choice.

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TUC delegates vote against government attacks. Photo: Nick Birch

## Strike Costs ITV

SINCE 1975 workers' wages have risen by 46 per cent at Yorkshire Television. In the same period inflation has increased by 73 per cent. Thus an ITV wage offer of 15 per cent was bound to cause TV workers to get angry, particularly when we look at company profits.

It was the late Lord Thomson, whose family own Times Newspapers, who said back in the 1960s that his having a large shareholding in an ITV company was "a licence to print money". It was then and it is now. That the current shutdown should cost ITV over £1 million a day is indicative of the profits they normally make.

Yorkshire TV has, for the last four years, seen company dividends rise by 161 per cent, while company share values have risen by a staggering 1,593 per cent, from £21 million to £365

million. Granada's group profits for 1978 were £34 million after tax. In the first half of 1979 Granada profit has risen by 30 per cent. All the ITV companies made "an embarrassment of profit".

As an ACTT member told The Worker, "We're not asking for much when you consider the profits these companies make, yet they treat us like scum. They are the scum, producing relatively low cost and poor quality programmes en masse, without caring about the public as a whole, just the advertising revenue and the profits. We shall stick it out to the bitter end." ACTT members are on strike while managements have locked out members of NATTKE and EPTU.

They hope that starving out workers will help force through an agreement on new technology and manning levels.

NOTHING could demonstrate more clearly the utter irrelevance of the London Conference on Zimbabwe than the all-out armed invasion of neighbouring Mozambique by Rhodesian security forces just as the conference is about to begin.

Britain, whose only connection to Zimbabwe is its colonial past, has no right to speak on Zimbabwe at all. Neither have representatives of the present regime, backed by sanction-busting British imperialism.

Smith, who presided over a racist regime in Rhodesia for over a decade, Muzorewa, who expressed his "delight" at the recent murder of his countrymen by the security forces, and their entourage, do not represent the masses in that country.

The future of Zimbabwe will not be settled around a desk in London. It will be settled in Zimbabwe by force of arms.

# Historic Notes

## 1549 - Revolt in East Anglia

part 4

The Week

Concluding this series on the large scale combat waged by peasants and artisans fighting for food and land in the mid sixteenth century, we look at what happened in Norfolk.

THE NORFOLK men had established an efficient, organised tradition of defence against the exploiters. As enclosures of their lands increased, as more were driven into vagrancy and unemployment, their forces of opposition intensified and they moved from defence to attack. On July 8th, 1549, they gathered and in speech after speech they informed each other of the need to revolt and stop the closures. Local skirmishes ensued as the rebels took over the landowners' lands and massed an army. Then the whole of East Anglia began to

rise.

The gentry fled, leaving a few hardies, and the army forcibly entered Norwich, the county town. They started to govern it themselves. They formulated careful accounts of their main grievances against the impositions of late feudal rule and took them up where they were, realising that their own actions were more productive than petitions to the King.

Under the so-called "Oak of Reformation" the people administered their own justice and condemned the evil actions of the

feudal lawyers who had oppressed them. Here they also held free, open debate to resolve their doubts and differences.

The Government's forces were tied down in the South West in their war with the peasants, the rest were in London protecting the threatened Lord Protector. However, local landlords began to collect troops and guns for themselves. The rebels responded accordingly. Having overcome the city they made life so dangerous for central government that eventually an army was sent out against them. Their crucial encounter came in August at Dissindale.

The peasants sang: "The country gnoffes, Hob, Dick and Hick, / With clubs and clouted shoon, shall fill the vale / of Dusindale / With slaughtered bodies soon." In fact it was to be the murdered peasants' bodies that filled the vale. The Government men ruthlessly massacred them saying they were worth no more than beasts. And after their victories they engaged in horrific "pacification" measures like those undertaken in the South West.

In all ten thousand people pro-

testing courageously against raised rents, stolen lands, unjust taxes, lack of food, violent inequalities and administrative corruptions, were killed in 1549. The scale of this massacre was massive, for the population of Britain at that time was only about three million.

Looking back at these years we see the bravery and militancy of our ancestors fully borne out and get some idea of the great sacrifices they were prepared to make in the protection of their primitive forms of producing food and goods, no matter how inadequate.

The lessons subsequently learnt by the class warriors were handed down a century later to the troops who fought to remove the king and create a greater democracy. Having brought ourselves closer together by our industry and union organization, having built the base from which real collective civilization can emerge, having controlled nature more effectively, we should remember our ancestors who did not enjoy such mastery and unity, and complete our task fully. Every factory or school we let the bourgeoisie close is a sell-out on history.

THE MERCHANT Navy fleet has been reduced by 59 ships so far this year and from 50 million tons in 1975 has dropped to 38 million, one million being sold off in May alone. Not only are our productive industries being destroyed but our means of trading with them. How closely the two are linked is shown by the closure of the Manchester Dry Dock Company, the ship repair yard at the end of the Ship Canal, with a loss of 450 jobs. It is scarcely likely that ships will negotiate the 35 miles and 11 locks to Manchester with no repair facilities at the end.

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HARD TIMES insist the government. Meanwhile we are in the middle of a huge boom in dividends. An estimated £400 million bonus is being paid out to shareholders now that the Dividend Act has been allowed to lapse. "Dividend restraint" only meant that dividends would be stored up for later: thus Unilever shared £52.9 million and Shell £296.9 million. Meanwhile British Industry is starved for lack of investment.

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NOT ONLY are British Steel's plans at Corby (human 6000 redundancies), incompetent (they plan to transfer steel making to Redcar then transport the steel back to Corby to make it into tubes), but they even claim it will save £42 million. More likely only £6.4 million say two academics of Warwick University using BSC figures. The burden on the tax payer, far from being lighter, could be much greater. Firstly, there would be the cost of maintaining so many on the dole. Secondly, there is the fact that the Redcar plant is designed to use imported ore, and coking coal 55 per cent of which will be from abroad. Switching to imported coal will either increase the Coal Board's "deficits" or cost miners their jobs - probably both.

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WEALTH per head of the population in Britain has fallen from 8.3 per cent above EEC average to 8.2 per cent below it, in the fifteen years up to 1977, according to government statistics Britain was the only country apart from Luxembourg to experience such a significant decline.

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INDUSTRIAL civil servants belonging to twelve unions, whose action crippled military establishments last year, are taking similar action again - to ensure their pay rises now.

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AMONG the wide range of penalties against strikers now being considered by the government are the withholding of Tax rebates and the compulsory repayment of supplementary benefit paid to strikers' families.

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ONE OF the first acts of the Government Commissioners administering Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Area Health Authority has been to close St John's hospital. Waiting lists, at present 3 to 6 months will be increased by a month, according to an official estimate.

## BRAZIL'S PAY FIGHT

DESPERATION drove striking construction workers of Belo Horizonte, Brazil's 3rd largest city, to demonstrate their case in the streets at the end of July. Although strikes are officially illegal, the Brazilian government kept the Army at bay for once. Instead they let the police out. At the end of the day of fighting one worker was dead and 40 others (including police) wounded. That night police agents removed injured workers from hospital for arrest and interrogation, despite doctors' protests.

There are about 100,000 construction workers, or 'peoes' as they are called, in Belo Horizonte, demanding a 110% increase in their basic pay rates. Their present wages are barely sufficient to afford even the most basic of diets.

This unrest is the most recent in a country generally considered stable - which only goes to show mass poverty has no standing in capitalist definitions of stability. Strikes last May in Brazil's largest city, Sao Paulo, were the first to challenge the rule of the military dictatorship since its installation with USA assistance in 1964. Though punishable at the time with prison sentences of 6 months to 1 year plus heavy fines, workers at companies such as Perkins, Pirelli, Volkswagen, Philips, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, Saab-Scania, and Karman Ghia fought for wages and won. They have set the scene for this year's actions where more and more are organising against their employers, and have produced uneasy reactions from the Government.

## PROFIT COSTS DEAR

OPEN CAST protesters at Daisy Hill Sacriston, County Durham, were informed by their solicitor that EEC countries were buying British coal to burn in their power stations, but were in fact paying less than it costs to produce.

Two mines, Easington and Horden, have stockpiled a year's supply of the same type coal. The coal from the 332 acre open cast mine would be used as a sweetener for coal from deep mines, said the National Coal Board representative.

With the recent NCB figures of £20m loss by Northern pits

the excuse the NCB are putting forward is that British Steel Corporation's "rationalisation" and their importation of Australian coal have led to a drop in demand.

The deficit from deep mining was up nearly 50 per cent from the year before. However, open cast profits totalled £19,700,000. With the call for more "profitable" open cast mining, those who live in the areas where open casting is planned will have a fight on their hands.

In the interests of profit, land and houses are destroyed, coal stockpiled, pits closed and cheap coal imported.



## Media on Ireland - lies, half-truths, distortions

"THE FIRST casualty when war comes is the truth." How well this applies to the British press and the British Government's war on the Irish people. And it should concern all British people as well as Irish, for it is their government which is building up a capacity to lie, to divide and to rule as it would wish.

As the TUC has recently pointed out in its investigation of reporting of industrial disputes, you don't have to have blank papers and blank TV screens to have censorship. Half-truths and hate campaigns can be more effective.

Nevertheless, just as the bombs of a few have provided the excuse for too many British people to turn a blind eye to the actions of their own government, so the authorities have used it as an excuse to smother the voices of the Irish people. When other countries

have 'totalitarian censorship' Britain just doesn't interview 'terrorists' - and, of course, this convenient blanket term covers all who oppose British imperialism in Ireland.

**1971** February. A BBC 24 Hours film on the Ulster Unionist Party never shown.

September. The 24 Hours team wanted to do an in-depth report on the IRA. The Chief Assistant to the Director-General replies, "Such a programme setting out the roots of the IRA would not be acceptable."

October. A BBC report on the SDLP never shown because it was deemed "unbalanced".

November. Granada's World in Action film on "The Troubles" banned by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. Lord Hill the BBC chairman assures Reginald

Maudling, Home Secretary, that "as between the British Army and the gunmen the BBC is not and cannot be impartial."

**1972**

A BBC report, with numerous interviews of Irish people not transmitted. The song, "Give Ireland back to the Irish" by Paul McCartney banned by BBC radio. It reached No. 1 in Ireland.

**1973**

February. A specially commissioned historical study of Michael Collins the Irish nationalist, banned by the IBA. 10,000 copies of the Penguin book 'A Society on the Run: A Psychology of Northern Ireland' shredded.

**1974**

A Bristol Channel TV programme on the Birmingham bombings not screened because it would have been "wholly inappropriate".

**1976**

March. An anti-torture play, banned by the BBC Controller.

**1977**

Two BBC programmes on Ireland banned, two cut before screening, and one delayed. The offices of Republican News raided and papers seized.

**1978**

Two commercial TV programmes on Ireland banned, two BBC programmes cut. A speech by an Irishman on a demonstration saying "As long as there's one British soldier in any part of Ireland, there will always be people who will struggle, there will always be people who will resist", banned by the IBA under Statute 4(1) of the Broadcasting Act (1973) as "an incitement to crime". A special Observer supplement on Ireland, already printed, pulped when the Editor read it.

## Editorial

"IN THE THEORY of Marxism no true place has been found for organised labour, the trade-unions in being, the main force for revolution." So states the CPB(ML) document on The Party and the Trade Unions which is one of the fruits of the Fifth Party Congress held last Easter.

There are historical reasons why this should have been the case. In Russia, the country of the first proletarian revolution, there were two social conditions relevant to working class organisation differing considerably from Britain which, as the birthplace of the proletariat, was always Marx's model. The polarisation of Russian society into "two great classes directly facing each other: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat," or capitalists and workers, had not proceeded nearly so far and the trade unions had not developed into nation-wide organisations of the labour movement which in Britain as early as 1868 had been reflected in the first Trades Union Congress. The Soviets were quite different organisations, resembling more in composition and in relation to factory base what we would call trade councils.

It was the first of these conditions which made it seem, even to Lenin, that the organised working class in Russia was not sufficiently well developed to generate revolutionary theory out of its own daily experience of class struggle. As Lenin put it: "Class political consciousness can be brought to the workers only from without, that is, only from outside the economic struggle, from outside the sphere of relations between workers and employer." This distinction between economic and political struggle in reference to the specific conditions in Russia at the time differed from Marx's dictum in the Communist Manifesto that "every class struggle is a political struggle".

And yet when Lenin came to define the democratic centralism which was to be the main political feature of the Party of a New Type the best analogy he could think of was trade union industrial action. "Before a decision has been taken by the centre on a strike, it is permissible to agitate for and against it, but after a decision in favour of a strike (with the additional decision to conceal this from the enemy) to carry on agitation against the strike is strike-breaking."

The Mensheviks were scandalised by this analogy and complained that Lenin seemed to look on the party as a "huge factory". To which Lenin retorted that they betrayed "the mentality of the bourgeois intellectual unfamiliar with either the practice or theory of proletarian organisation. For the factory, which to some seems a bogey, represents the highest form of capitalist co-operation which has united and disciplined the proletariat, taught it to organise, and placed it at the head of all other sections of the toiling and exploited population."

### Marxism and Unions

Ironically, the very ideas Lenin developed in applying Marxism to a situation different from that of capitalism's home, Britain, have often been imported back into Britain as the only way forward to revolution. Since the day-to-day class struggle was assumed to be "economist", without political significance, would-be Marxist theoreticians have called trade union activity "spontaneous". Thinking of themselves as bringing Marxism to the workers from outside the class struggle between workers and capitalists they have said of such struggle, "since it is not what I think, since my thoughts, my plans for progress are not adopted, then it is without thought, that is 'spontaneous'." These 'theoreticians' have even wanted to write off altogether the trade unions developed by the working class over many decades as a defence to minimise the degree of exploitation and replace them with "red unions" of their own devising.

Mao Tseung quite frankly stated that in applying Marxism to China he was dealing with entirely different conditions than those in Britain. He described the two-stage theory of revolution as "a feature peculiar to the revolution in colonial and semi-colonial countries and not to be found in the revolutionary history of any capitalist country."

As the CPB(ML) document on the Party and the Trade Unions states: "There is an acceptance that the working class is the revolutionary force. There must be an unqualified acceptance that the class struggle is waged most effectively, solely so, through the trade unions who are the most advanced section of their class... class struggle, which within capitalism goes on daily and continuously, is not synonymous with revolution, which is the accumulation of all forces within the contradictions gathered by the class in one fell blow to seize power and rule; but it need not and must not be separate." The problem of the relationship between the two which is also the problem of the relationship between the trade unions and the communist party has never been solved because "no capitalist country has achieved a revolution."

It is to this problem that the CPB(ML) has mainly addressed itself at its Fifth Congress. It is not a mere personal nor historical accident that the founder of our Party, presently attending the TUC conference as a member of the General Council, is an industrial worker and life-long trade unionist. So much for any idea that in Britain today revolutionary theory must or could "come from outside the economic struggle" and of the trade unions the CPB(ML) document concludes:

"Do not despise these hard-wrought organisations. In the course of the class struggle such organs have twice been the force to destroy governments - the Labour Government over "In Place of Strife" and the Tory over the Industrial Relations Act. Then there is no limit to the proper application of this force for revolution, through a revolutionary Party, our Party, of the working class."

## Town planning is for people

THE VERY IDEA of "planning" the environment of an advanced, industrial country is revolutionary. The aim of arranging and organising the economic resources and human assets in a way which is pleasing to everybody according to the capacity of rational thought available is clearly something capitalism cannot afford.

It always was revolutionary where town planners broke through the narrow demands of the bourgeoisie and established principles and standards for the human habitat, which always were unnecessary, suspect and dangerous ideas as far as the advocates of capitalism were concerned.

For decades Britain's town-planning system and achievements were admired throughout the world. These things were always part of this working-class civilisation - the fruit of its struggle.

Three years ago the Labour Government introduced the idea of changing the General Development Order (GDO), which regulates planning in Britain. It wanted to eliminate certain categories which still needed permission before development. This was intended to create more "freedom" for developers, cut delays, reduce standards and abolish the need for development guides: in other words, cut the work-load, and volunteer planners for redeployment. Town Planning Associations and NALGO, in which most planners are organised, were asked for comment, and the negative response to such an outrageous proposal was overwhelming.

Now the Tories are going to revise the GDO themselves, without consultation. They will just change it, just like they straightaway abolished the Community Land Act.

What exactly the new GDO will look like needs to be seen. But the result will obviously go in the direction that more capitalists can do with the environment and with the physical fabric of towns as they like with fewer town planners to control them.

This "simplification" of the town-planning process will have devastating consequences in both rural and urban areas. To add to that, the government suggests now to Local Authorities that they should charge for all incoming planning applications, which really should make any conscientious town planner hit the roof.

To a limited extent, town planning has an advice-giving

function, to house-holders, builders, and other members of the working-class with relatively small-scale projects. This advice will then no more be given.

In the main, town planning is a service required not by the developer, who prefers to do without planners, but by society as such, which employs town planners so that there is control over where the industrial buildings go, how high the office block may rise, how dense a housing site is acceptable, etc.

To charge the developer for a permission will change the whole philosophy of all that, because it is then he who wants a service - a rubber stamp, and there seems little town planners can do about that. We have not even got the time to wait and see what the Tory philosophy to town planning may eventually produce, because they have no philosophy.



Photo: THE WORKER

## TUC UNITED AGAINST GOVERNMENT

THE 111TH CONGRESS was launched by a Presidential address which typified the proceedings of the next five days. It was quiet, measured and thoughtful. It was a synopsis of the first four months of Tory Government under Attila the Hen. What the Presidential opening touched on delegates developed in greater detail throughout the week.

The TUC needs to be listened to, and participated in. It displays the weaknesses in the working class in tandem with its awesome strength that ensures success when it decides that a capitalist government is a threat to its continued existence. Heath learnt that, Callaghan learnt too late. Thatcher thinks she knows it all, but she too will learn. Of that this government can be certain.

Congress this year lacked some of the sparkle of previous years. But if you attend for the

fireworks you attend for the wrong reason. It is true that many delegates were disappointed that Labour had not won the General Election despite the fact that they, with fellow trade unionists, had destroyed the Callaghan government's intolerable incomes policy, and so the mood of Congress was one of sobriety. But also, and more ominous for the government of Capitalism, there was no reason for sparks to fly. Several times during Congress the President, Tom Jackson, had to plead for speakers against motions in order to spark a debate. Rarely were such speakers forthcoming. It must have been one of the most united Congresses in years. United against the government.

Congress is united against anti-union legislation, against cuts in education standards and health services, against unemployment, against manufactured

inflation, against warmongering.

Despite unity, despite lack of opposition, there was passion. On education cuts across the board from pre-school play groups to school meal charges and adult education, an USDAW delegate remarked "Not a single individual in this country will not be affected in some way."

CPB(ML) Chairman, Reg Birch, retired this year from the General Council. Said the President, "He will be missed. He is a character on the General Council, unique in his political views (wouldn't you like to think so, Tom) a man of great kindness and humanity, a fine intellect, embodying strong purpose and firm principles, a shrewd negotiator deservedly popular in the labour movement." Reg thanked his colleagues on the General Council in a short speech, his final words being, "Goodbye, good luck, farewell."

## Action saves shipbuilding capacity for a time

A MEASURE of success has already been achieved by the overtime ban imposed by shipbuilding workers in their fight against the proposed 6000 redundancies in merchant shipbuilding and the closure of four yards. This action was backed by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions at a conference in Newcastle last month which rejected the cuts planned for shipbuilding by the Government and British Shipbuilders.

The agreement forced on British Shipbuilders not to close but to "moth-ball" the threatened yards and not to

make the 6000 redundancies compulsory has resulted in a lifting of their three week long overtime ban by shipbuilding workers at two of the yards scheduled for closure, Govan and Scotstoun Marine.

This is only the first skirmish in what will have to be a continuing fight to save British shipbuilding. Although there is agreement to give orders to one of the yards, to have yards without workers is no better than to have workers without yards. Shop stewards from shipyards throughout the country are attending a meeting at Car-

lisle to discuss plans for keeping all the yards supplied with work.

A meeting of shipbuilding workers at Cammell Laird, Birkenhead, also voted to lift the overtime ban but workers at Robb Caledon, Dundee, are confirming their ban and 8000 shipyard and engineering workers from Scotts, of Bowling, and the Cartside yard of Scott Lithgow are meeting to consider their overtime ban. Guerrilla actions of this kind are bound to characterise the fight to save British shipbuilding which will have to go on.

# NW ENGINEERS SOLID AS ACTION HARDENS

THE ENGINEERS' fight for the minimum pay rate of £80 per week and a shorter working week continues.

In the north west the one day stoppages, now stepped up to two days, have been absolutely solid. At one factory, GEC at Openshaw, which employs 16,000 men there is only one picket. The convenor at the factory said, "We are 100 per cent here, we do not need pickets." Round the corner at Edgar Allen's it is the same story. The token picket there was confident of complete success.

The employers' side, the Engineering Employers Federation, are attempting to dig their heels in. One of their

members is threatening a lock out, the men are expecting notice of this in their next pay packet, which will close the giant GEC plant on the Trafford Park Estate. But this hard line and the demand, no one breaks ranks, is no more than papering over the cracks. In spite of the denials that individual companies have settled or wish to settle the rumours still persist. The latest information is that several companies in the region are ready to leave the Federation in order to get their men back to work.

Against the determination of the engineers the employers cannot win.

## Post office latest pay offer far from satisfactory

DURING September the membership of the Union of Post Office Workers will vote in a ballot on whether to accept the pay deal which has been negotiated between the union's executive and the management. The deal offered would give a rise on the basic rate of 7%, plus an interim payment of 3½%. Thus a total of 10½% is being offered at a time when the government itself has admitted that inflation will be running at between 17 and 20%. Therefore what is on offer is a further deterioration of wages in real terms.

The deal also embodies one of the main questions that has faced the UPW in recent years, that is whether the notion of comparability is to replace the principle of using the union's strength to fight for wages. The union's Executive entered into negotiations with the management with the expressed intention of gaining a deal which compared favourably with what the other postal unions are getting. This has meant that in practice the job of fighting for wages has more and more fallen to the other postal unions, particularly the clerical section. If the union continues to base its claims on the basis of comparability then it must face the consequences of that, consequences which have

had to be faced by all those public sector unions which involve themselves in comparability deals, they become emmeshed in a seemingly unbreakable trap of low pay and dissatisfaction of organisational strength.

Acceptance of this deal will also mean acceptance of 'efficiency deals' which are ostensibly aimed at improving the quality of the postal service. In fact the deterioration in the postal service stems directly from the chronic staff shortages which have developed in recent years, and from the way in which successive Conservative and Labour governments have deliberately run down the postal service to the extent that it is now one of the most technologically backward in Europe. The current pay offer will do nothing to improve the postal service, in the long run it can lead only to the loss of jobs, particularly in view of the present government's plans to hive off the profitable sections to free enterprise cowboys.

Deteriorating wages and a deteriorating service are two sides of the same coin. Those who work in the industry must begin to assume responsibility for its well being, and in the present situation that means fighting to defend and improve their own living standards.

## Courts stop in Civil Servant's fight for justice

ONLY IN Britain would you see such sights as have occurred at London's Magistrates Courts this month, with court workers mounting picket lines and closing their places of employment. And when a reporter from THE WORKER visited Old Street court last week he found several entrances blocked by pickets, organised on an efficient rota basis and determined to win their struggle.

The action is now into its fourth week. It began on Monday August 27, when two Civil Service Unions called out on strike their members working in the Inner London Magistrates Courts. The workers, members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants and of the Civil and Public Services Association, were after rises of over 20 per cent and new pay negotiating procedures.

The pay claim is one for parity with other Civil Servants. As for

pay negotiations, the workers are employed by the Committee of Magistrates, and have conditions broadly similar to civil servants. In the past, they have not enjoyed the right to negotiate directly on pay - their wages were determined in line with settlements reached by NALGO for other, related, workers. So the struggle against the employer in the courts and against the state is about far more than an immediate pay rise.

In the first week of the strike an offer of 9.4 per cent plus an amount on account and a reference to the Comparability Commission was overwhelmingly rejected. The strikers continued their action, shutting down all 18 Inner London Magistrates Courts and 32 juvenile courts.

After ten days of solid action, with courts shut and unable to take fines, deal with parking offences, summonses or maintenance payments and with grow-



Photo: THE WORKER

## Lockout at Kellogg's factory

FOR NINE WEEKS union and management have been locked in a bitter struggle at Kellogg's works in Trafford Park, Manchester. In order both to raise moral and financial support, union members have been talking to fellow trade unionists. This struggle, which has been neglected by the media, is one more sign of the increasing use of the lockout by the bosses recently.

It is clear that the American-owned Kellogg's is out to smash the union if it can. The Marketing Manager said recently in the Financial Times that it had £1½ million to spend on advertising. As their cereals disappear from the supermarket shelves, Kellogg's are also said to have lost £1 million already and the struggle is now costing £½ million a week. It is apparent that Kellogg's are willing to pay a good price for both markets and a non-union workforce.

The Convenor for the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW) at Kellogg's, addressing Shop Stewards of UCATT recently, expressed both the difficulty that the USDAW workers were facing and their determination to fight on. The workforce applied various sanctions to lift the company's pay offer by 5 per cent and at that point the Company locked out the 1600 production workers. But they left in the tradesmen, members of SOGAT, UCATT etc. in the hope of weakening the resolve of the lower-paid USDAW

members. However, there is no production at the factory, so these tradesmen are idle but are still being paid by Kellogg's.

The Company has left no stone unturned in order to bring pressure to bear on the locked out workers. They declared to the DHSS that there is no lockout, but a strike, and so social security has been refused and many of the workers are surviving on the £6 a week they receive as strike pay. As the Convenor Mr. Duncan said, many of his members are the bread-winners of one-parent families doing this kind of work because with shifts they are able to look after their kids and work. For them it is hard but they fight on. At a recent mass meeting of the workforce 1400 turned up and all but a handful voted not to accept the management's terms.

## \* IN BRIEF

THE VICIOUS Tory campaign against the public services is simply to spend what is contributed by us, not on what we want but what they want. As schools and hospitals close, at least 12 new diesel electric submarines are to be built for the Ministry of Defence, the first for several years. The cost: at least £25 million each. The Navy plans to increase its reservists from 5,500 to 6,000. In this way, the number of reservist manned warships will more than double from 6 to 15. And the following is from a nationally circulated advertisement: "UNEQUALLED in its range of job opportunities. British Aerospace P3T is launched. We have opportunities for a few specialist engineers, practical scientists and designers to join us, the prime architects, now developing a new missile."

## Bookshops

**Bellman Bookshop** 155 Fortess Road, London NW5  
**Brighton Workers Bookshop** 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton  
**Main Trend Books** 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol  
**Northern Star Bookshop** 18A Leighton Street, Leeds  
**Basildon Bookstall** Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace  
**Hull Bookstall** Old Town Market, Saturdays  
**Liverpool Bookstall** every Thursday Liverpool University

NEW BOOKSHOP

**Clarion Books 5 The Precinct**  
**Stanford - Le - Hope**

## Public Meetings

Autumn Series of Public Meetings in London

Fri. Sept 28	Tories attack the old, the young and the Infirm.	Bellman Bookshop
Fri. Oct 12	Education attacked, from nursery to college.	Conway Hall
Fri. Oct 26	The Party of the British Working Class.	Bellman Bookshop
Fri. Nov 9	Britain in the World Today.	Conway Hall
Fri Nov 23	Britain's Future, solely in the Working Class	Bellman Bookshop
Fri Nov 30	Britain in the 80's, an Industrial Wasteland	Conway Hall

All the above meetings will start at 7.30 pm.

## The Worker

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