

THE WORKER



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YOUTH MUST HAVE WORK SAVE THE FUTURE

IN a speech to the youth of Albania, Enver Hoxha pointed out that the well-being and education of the country's young people was an important task for the Party of Labour and the entire people. In contrast, the lot of the youth of capitalist countries was an uneasy gamble. The spectres of unemployment and moral degradation haunted their lives. Hoxha did not blame the errant nature of youth under capitalism but rather the system which gave rise to its predicament.

One only has to witness the prophets of doom in the British capitalist press and television to see they like nothing better than to heap blame on the young, forever attempting to divide and alienate youth from the rest of the working class. Indulgence in this pastime even goes so far as to

blame the young for the very evils to which capitalism itself gives rise.

Yet it is not the young who create unemployment and seek to destroy the public services, but rather the ruling class who in finding the mass of workers expendable, seeks its destruction, and where better to begin than with Britain's youth.

At the last count, 800,000 young people of working age were unemployed in the United Kingdom. The true figure is even greater as many do not register as unemployed. In some areas, youth unemployment is as high as one in four, and the growth rate is three times faster than in other unemployed groups. Since 1974 this increase has accelerated. Throughout the EEC the young unemployed now number over 2 million and are 40 per cent of the

entire total.

In Britain, all that most young people hope for are the services of job creation schemes. In one of its more degrading forms there is a service to employers. The labour of a young worker is made available for a period of six months, free of charge. The employer contributes nothing. The Government and thus, indirectly, other workers, pay the wages. If the employer approves the worker's services, then he may become a paid employee. This seems to be more than unlikely as the employer would then be obliged to pay a wage instead of feeding from a reservoir of unpaid labour.

Opportunities to exploit the young worker more ruthlessly are legion in the form of longer hours, lower rates of pay, and poorer conditions of work, which would not be tolerated by unionised workers. Other degrading forms of employment are cleaning beaches, moving piles of sand and earth from one site to another, making absurd Beefeater dolls and doing good deeds for local authorities.

Oddly enough, when jobs are scarce, careers advice becomes a thriving industry.

Large numbers of individuals, about 5000, are under training to give young people advice about "Life". There is an array of ludicrous projects. One is how to find a job when there is maximum unemployment. Another institutionalises unemployment and gives advice on how to be unemployed. Yet another tells you how to please the boss at interviews and last but not least in silliness is how to open and run a bank account, when most young people in this position don't have a penny to their name.

In the Manpower Services document no provision is made for girls and young women and no mention at all is made of the physical or mentally handicapped. Yet large amounts of money are being made available to Manpower Services, while the Department of Education and Science is being run down. It looks as though a Labour Government is helping the ruling class to dispense with the young worker whose services it no longer needs. Under a smokescreen of activity and with a budget of £200 million, Manpower Services is relentlessly pursuing the destruction of the working class.

Britain is undergoing a period of stringent cuts in the social services and it is widely believed there can be no recovery. Workers are taking savage wage cuts of a severity unknown since the great depression. The reason for this we are told is to modernise and retool British industry so that it can compete more effectively with its foreign rivals. If this is true, then where are the new apprenticeships in industry? Where is the training in modern methods for the young to enter worthwhile and dignified occupations? The simple truth is, they do not exist. The number of apprenticeships of any kind in British industry is falling rapidly. Government policy in industry even runs counter to worthwhile industrial training. Added to this, many employers actively discourage young workers from taking advantage of day-release or part-time education.

The grim truth is that there is no golden age ahead under capitalism. Only in a socialist Britain can youth take its rightful place as the dignified and forward-looking workers of tomorrow. To achieve this young workers must take the path of revolution.



picture by Ray Smith (I. F. L.)

Lift Crash

THE tragic disaster at the Littlebrook Power Station which claimed the lives of four tunnel miners, highlights the serious disregard for safety procedure in the construction industry. For over two years the tunnellers branch of the TGWU has been campaigning for the introduction of elementary safety measures to cover tunnelling contracts. As a result of trade union pressure a working party was set up by the Health and Safety Executive towards this end, the union side of which has been pressing for the introduction of rescue teams to be available for use in just such a situation as Littlebrook. The employers federation have consistently argued against this idea on the grounds that it would be too costly. If just such a team had been available on this occasion it would have been

possible to reach the trapped earlier, in which case more might have been saved.

The prevention of accidents has always been prominent amongst the aims of the tunnellers branch. As the background to this tragedy emerges, it becomes clearer that the employers in this very profitable industry, do not hold the prevention of accidents in such high esteem.

Although the contractors insist that the lift in which the men fell to their deaths was properly installed and maintained, it has since been shown to have been purchased 5 years ago for use elsewhere. A second lift has now been banned as dangerous.

Determined that the Littlebrook disaster will not be repeated, the tunnellers branch have pledged themselves on behalf of their dead colleagues to use the full might of the trade unions within the construction industry to ensure this end.

Solidarity

THE employers at Crosfield Electronics, North London, carried out a military-type action against workers on January 19, bringing in extra security guards with dogs, taking control of the switch boards in all three production areas and locking out the workers. They then informed the police that the workers were on strike and that there might be trouble.

After many months of argument about a long overdue claim which the employers had avoided paying by hiding behind the Government's pay policy, one London shop proposed taking industrial action, and this was promptly endorsed by all the Crosfield shops in London and by Crosfield workers in Peterborough as well.

The workers informed the employers that timesheets and

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Opportunism knocks!

WILL the Italian 'Communist' Party which is not communist join the Christian Democratic Party which is not democratic in saving capitalism in Italy?

Now that the 39th Italian Government since the war has collapsed, the Christian Democrat leader Andreotti, whose party has dominated Italian politics for over 30 years but whose recent government only survives with the connivance of the Italian 'Communist' Party, has to face the question of allowing the 'Communists' direct participation in government. It is argued that the deteriorating economic situation and the mounting violence in the cities demands a government which can be sure of the support of the 'Communist' Party, the second largest political party in the country - even though Carter has expressed the strongest US objections to any political power sharing with the 'communists' anywhere in Western Europe.

A leader of the trade union federation which is dominated by the Italian 'Communist' Party has proposed to the workers of Italy a social contract, like that put to British workers by the Labour Government, by which they would agree to "a policy of sacrifices, not marginal but substantial" in exchange for the participation of the 'Communist' Party of Italy in the next government. Some exchange!

The Italian 'Communist' Party under the leadership of the revisionist, Togliatti, has been one of the main architects of Eurocommunism, which is not communism at all but a brand of social democracy from which everything that really characterises communism - class struggle, the proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat - has been eliminated. Indeed, the Italian revisionists of the CPI have declared officially that they will remove all references to "Marxism-Leninism" from future Party documents.

The Eurocommunists of Italy, France and Spain are all supporters of capitalism and the bourgeois state in which they only hope for certain minor reforms. They even support the supranational capitalist confederation, the EEC, and accept the US-dominated NATO military structure. Hence their eagerness to dump Lenin who pointed out that "a United States of Europe under capitalism" would only be "for the purpose of suppressing socialism in Europe."

In an article in *Zeri i Populit* (People's Voice), newspaper of the Party of Labour of Albania the non-, not to say anti-communist character of Eurocommunism is dealt with in reference to its latest spokesman, Carrillo of the 'Communist' Party of Spain. It points out that when the arch-revisionist, Khrushchev, left the road of the October Revolution and turned his back on Marxism-Leninism, he was paving the way for revisionist leaders in Europe, like Togliatti, to turn their backs on Moscow and go their own opportunistic class-collaborationist way. Carrillo has gone even further along this unprincipled road and renounces not only the dictatorship of the proletariat and

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Albania looks forward to New Year

IN Albania, workers in town and country have saluted 1977 as a year of considerable progress and are looking forward to the challenge of 1978.

Construction workers, for example, are in the process of building a hydropower station on the Drini River and have just completed their first turbine. In 1978, Albanian builders will have more work to do on the Elbasan metal combine and work will begin on several chromium and copper mines and enriching factories.

Work on a new railway will begin just as another is completed.

It is also illustrative that the production of construction materials is up. Brick production, for example, has increased by 13 per cent over the previous year.

Work has gone well in 1977 and building projects in industrial, reclamation, irrigation and cultural spheres have been thriving. Over 2000 new flats have been

completed during the year. The Party of Labour of Albania has always tried to make the town and country advance in step so that the working class and the peasantry constantly raise their material and spiritual level. Socialism is not built only in towns for the working class but also in the countryside and for the peasantry. Therefore, education and socialist culture have assumed a great importance in the socialist countryside.

The extension of the educational network, the construction of schools and the increase in the number of pupils show the concern for this sector. Today, every village in Albania, be it in the most remote area, has its own well-equipped school. For years now, 8-grade education has been compulsory for all children. Everyone in the countryside from 6 to 14 years old attends classes. But schooling does not finish there. General middle schools and professional middle schools operate

also. Fifty four per cent of all the professional schools in Albania are in the countryside.

Many sons and daughters of the peasants have graduated or are continuing their higher studies in the higher schools while still at work. Today, in Albania, one out of three persons attends classes. This figure goes for the peasantry, too.

One result of the extension of education in the countryside is that scientific work in agriculture has assumed a mass character. At the same time, the press, radio, television, films and books have deeply penetrated the life of the countryside. Political, artistic and scientific books have played a special role. They have become the closest and permanent friends of the Albanian peasantry.

It all goes to explain why the New Year festivities in the Albanian countryside were as bountiful and joyous as everywhere else in Europe's only Socialist country.

Historical notes 1888 The Matchgirls' Strike

'ROUGH, hard and saucy' was how one of the Commissioners who wrote the 'Inquiries concerning female labour in London' described London factory girls. But what most impressed him was that "among no other class of young women does there appear to be so much camaraderie, such a strong instinct that all must pull together, such a commune of food, clothes and helpance as among the factory girls of the Metropolis."

It was precisely this kind of solidarity which was so significant for the events of July 1888 when 1400 match girls downed their tools and walked out over the attempted victimisation of one of their number at the Bryant and May factory in Bromley, East London.

And it was precisely this solidarity which Annie Besant, self-appointed champion of their cause, failed to recognise when she wrote in her paper (*The Link*): "We must help these because they cannot help themselves."

The conditions which Besant highlighted in an article entitled "White Slavery in London" were appalling. (But they were by no means exceptional for factory workers at that time.)

Bryant and May had built up a virtual monopoly in the match trade by buying up other companies. At the same time, they had reduced wages from 18-20s. a week down to 4-13s.

There was an illegal system of fines for petty misdemeanors (dirty feet, talking!) and many deductions from their wages.

The workers were subject to all manner of hazards. Physically violent foremen, injury from machinery, spinal damage and premature baldness from carrying heavy boxes on their heads, and the ever-present danger of phosphorus poisoning (they had to eat in the work rooms) causing a horrible disease known as 'phossy jaw' - all these added to the misery of their working lives.

In 1888 one 16-year-old reported taking home 4s. a week of which 2s. paid her rent while she survived on a steady diet of bread, butter and tea. Meanwhile down at the Stockmarket, Bryant and May's shares soared in value from £5 to over £18 and in 1887 they paid out a 23 per cent dividend.

Having exposed this running



sore of capitalist exploitation, Mrs Besant and her fellow Fabians called for... a boycott of B & M's matches!

Theodore Bryant was renowned among his workforce for his unprecedented generosity; he had allowed them to contribute to a statue of his favourite statesman (Gladstone) by docking 1s. out of their wages and giving them a wage-free half day for the unveiling ceremony. His first response to Mrs Besant's article was to threaten to sue her. Then he made the same mistake as she had done. Foolishly underestimating his workforce, he attempted to victimise some of them for giving the information to outsiders. The response was a shock to both Mr B and Mrs B. As one girl later stated: "It just went like tinder. One girl began, and the rest said 'yes', so we all went." The factory emptied.

Threats of importing scab labour from Scotland or moving the factory to Norway were to no avail. While money poured in for the strike fund shares plummeted in value. The London Trades Council, much impressed by the action of this group of unorgan-

ised women, gave full support.

Within two weeks the management were forced to concede to all the girls' demands and the strike ended in victory.

The matchworkers subsequently formed their own union and their example provided the stimulus for thousands of other unorganised workers to follow. It was the spark which lit the fire of the so-called "New Unionism" and the following year saw a massive outbreak of struggles to secure decent wages and conditions among dockers, gas workers, railwaymen and many others.

That Mrs Besant provided much help and publicity for this cause is undeniable. It is significant however that she and her fellow 'socialists' chose to take full credit for the whole affair and subsequent historians have mainly chosen to compound the distortion. The idea that it takes great men and women to make history while the mindless, helpless masses provide a suitable backdrop to their stage is an insult to brave struggles such as this and to those who dared to take a step forward for their class.

THE WEEK

BRITAIN is building a railway for Brazil, fascist state of South America. Wouldn't it make Queen Victoria smile?

WHILE all the other parties in Parliament demanded a devaluation of 7½ per cent in the green pound, and so accordingly a food price rise, the Labour Government posing as progressive, clamoured for a mere 5 per cent. The new profits won't be going to aid the struggling farmer with a single tractor, but the fat 'aristocrats' and financial interests.

The General Secretary of the NUT has correctly pointed out that there is no third phase of the social contract and that so far as the teachers union is concerned "we are entitled to frame what we consider a reasonable and appropriate claim". Quoting the Government guidelines the employers have rejected the teachers' claim for 12½ per cent and have said that the present 'surplus' of teachers enables salaries to be justifiably low. Only four years ago a special Government committee talked of the need for a 'professional' salary.

THE whiz-kid Edwardes who has been called in to decimate British Leyland reminds us of 'Lord Beeching'. Beeching was the great mind that was called in at an enormous salary to sort out the railways before the war. Before Beeching, the railways ran pretty well. After Beeching, had wielded his destructive axe many parts of Britain, now without a railway, returned to the 13th century and were only reached by packhorse.

PRESIDENT Carter told the Speaker of the House of Representatives that the success of his first State of the Union message would be measured by the stock market. "We'll see how good a speech it is by what the market does on Friday," he said.

LONDON dockers have called on the TGWU Executive Council to drop the plans for a lunch in honour of Mr. Jack Jones, retiring General Secretary of the union. The dockers say that 'Jack Jones is a traitor to the working class' and refer particularly to his recent role in 'negotiating' the social contract.

ENGINE winders at the Park Hill Colliery near Wakefield, Yorkshire have come out on strike because they feel hard done by by the workings of the new productivity scheme. Not classed as 'productive' they will get only half the bonus of other workers. We can see the quagmire the productivity scheme is leading the miners into. Attention will concentrate on divisive comparisons between different sections and pits. Don't the miners remember the vicious 'productivity' system which made one miner the slave of another before the formation of their union? How much energy of the NUM will now be taken up in rectifying internal bickerings

EDITORIAL

IF capitalism committed no other crime against the working class than that of denying work to thousands of young people as they complete their education and training, of forcing British youth to go straight from school or college to the dole queue, then we would have to smash it.

As we said back in June last year: Youth is the principal target of the attack by capitalism on Britain today. The most devastating way to disable an established working class is to disable the coming generation. First, the young are relatively easy targets. Secondly, the young will eventually replace the old. Destroy the young and you destroy the future."

Workers who accept schemes of "natural wastage" or sell jobs for redundancy payments or agree to productivity deals which reduce the labour force are collaborating in the attack on youth and, therefore, on the future of our class. What our class has to do is to launch an all-out fight for the right to work because mass unemployment is an all-out attack on our class.

Unemployment, as we have pointed out before, is not merely something bad that happens to capitalism in crisis. It is something bad capitalism does deliberately to weaken us in class struggle. The Labour Government, like any capitalist government, serves capitalism by deliberately creating massive unemployment. Just as Healey and Callaghan are talking of an endless succession of wage policy phases so the direction of the Manpower Services Commission in talking about programmes for the unemployed right through the '80s.

By creating massive unemployment the capitalist class intends to split the working class and enfeeble the trade unions. They seek to divide us into employed and unemployed with apparently opposed interests. This we must resist with all our united strength. As our Chairman, Reg Birch, has said: "Struggle has to be at the point of production. Unemployed and employed must be united. We will take to work with us our mate who is unemployed. Let it be seen that we accept no division in our ranks imposed by their slashing redundancies."

World wide unemployment is a sign of the absolute crisis of capitalism. just as, in Marx's words, "the ultimate reason for all real-crisis always remains the poverty and restricted consumption of the masses", so the class expression of crisis remains mass unemployment to weaken organised workers. The capitalist class is incapable of reversing the downward spiral of absolute crisis. It can only go on piling up the social cost of the decline on the back of the working class.

Nothing brings out more clearly the basic contradictions between the working class and the capitalist class than unemployment which reflects the need of the capitalist class, on political grounds, to reduce the production at home of the very surplus value on which it batters. Nothing brings out more clearly the basic contradiction between socialism and capitalism than the full and complete employment in a country like Albania and the massive unemployment of all the capitalist countries. That is why we say that there is one world and one enemy, and unemployment is one of the marks by which we recognise those parts of the world where the class enemy is in power.

The fight for the right to work, like the fight for wages, is ultimately the fight to end capitalism and save Britain.

Construction workers fight back at the Grain

THIS month has seen a significant victory for construction workers on the Isle of Grain Power Station, in a dispute over the installation of a major cog in the machinery.

It is now nearly a year since the end of the big strike at the Grain. In this period, the employers, Babcock and Wilcox have consistently said "No" to the men's demands, and like typical capitalists, have gone back on previous agreements and codes of practice. In particular, Babcocks have failed to honour an agreement whereby if they fail to provide hot meals the men return home without loss of a half-days pay.

The Central Electricity Generating Board, through its agents the contracted employers on the site, has threatened lay-offs, leading to redundancies if there is any 'trouble' from workers.

It has for some time been clear from national figures that massive new power stations such as the Grain are not needed by capitalism in a situation of industrial run-down. Eighteen months ago the CEBG showed quite clearly that it had no desire to see the Grain Power Station completed by their provocation and prolongation of a six month strike. At the same time this particular arm of cap-

italism was against the building of 'Drax B' power station in Yorkshire.

Since the Government, representing some of capitalism's other interests gave the go-ahead for Drax B, the CEBG's plan for Grain seems to be to get it built at the lowest cost with the minimum amount of 'trouble'. So it has tried to keep workers well under its thumb.

Four months ago workers began a 40-hour overtime ban in response to the employers failure to listen to their demands. But the installation of the main steam drum requires continuous welding and so Babcocks wanted the ban lifted, the men refused and demanded the return of the meals agreement. Threats of lay-offs leading to redundancies were again spread around.

This time the men felt they'd had enough of the 'suspended axe game' and, insisting upon on-site negotiation, stuck to their guns. Babcocks conceded.

The men have now won back the meals agreement. The overtime ban has been lifted just for the welding of the steam drum. With the drum in position workers will have a stronger bargaining base with regard to job continuity in the future.

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the role of the communist party but the very mission of the working class to liberate itself from exploitation.

The Albanian paper describes Carrillo's attitude. "Peaceful co-existence and the peaceful reformist road to socialism calls for the status quo in the field of international relations, with the preservation of all existing military pacts, alliances and monopoly-capitalist federations, and also a status quo within the country, with the preservation of capitalism and the bourgeois state together with all its repressive organs." It quotes Carrillo as asking the Soviet Union:

"Since you receive huge credits from the US imperialists, why should a Eurocommunist state like Spain not receive such credits too?"

Why, then, since the Eurocommunists have nothing whatsoever to do with communism, should the US be so opposed to the inclusion of the 'Communist' Party of Italy in the new government? Is it their opportunistic nature that makes the US so suspicious of them. If they did achieve a position of some power they might try to play off one major imperialist power against the other, using their old ties with Moscow to squeeze better bargains out of the US - just as the 'third world' opportunists hope to use ties with the US to fend off Soviet imperialism.

Rolls Royce

AFTER 18 weeks on strike, the 600 workers of Mulliner Park Ward, Willenden returned to work. Though some concessions were gained, they failed in their attempt to break through the Government's guidelines. Their increase of 10 per cent means, after tax and inflation, in reality a 10 per cent wage cut. In defeat it is easy to try and sport on guilt and blame. But we should beware of simplistic solutions such as saying that it is all down to trade union leaders sell-

ing out. 'Blame' lies both with the capitalist system which aims to increase profit by holding down wages, and with ourselves for not having already destroyed such a system. The workers at Rolls Royce were not only fighting their employer, but also the employing class and the state acting on their behalf. Victory will only be complete when this capitalist state is overthrown. Workers disheartened at losing and fed up with the low pay they are getting are leaving or thinking of leaving. They should stay and prepare to fight another day. No pastures are greener under capitalism.

In Coventry

FROM 1909 to 1979 the hundred largest firms operating in Britain increased their proportion of the whole manufacturing industry from 15 per cent to 66 per cent and the ten major car firms control three quarters of the entire world market.

This growth in the multi-nationals has gone hand in hand with the contraction of the labour force. The ten years between 1966 and 1976 saw the disappearance of over one million jobs in vehicle production. This was partly due to the introduction of new machinery but more because of a shift of investment and production as well to countries abroad.

The loss of jobs in the Coventry area alone is a result of the

operations of the big companies to keep up profits in a time of general capitalist decline. Look at the facts.

1956-7: Standard made 3500 workers redundant, GEC laid off 400 and Armstrong-Whitworth 600. 1967-8: Closure of Hawker-Siddeley with the loss of 2400 jobs, take-over of AEI by Lucas with the loss of 1500 jobs. Redundancy at BMC and Rootes. 1975-6: Jobs lost at Chrysler 4800, at GEC 1200, Jaguar 1000, Triumph 450 and Coventry Engines 400.

Out of 14 multi-national firms in Coventry, 13 have reduced their number of employees by over 100,000 through jobs lost from 1971 to 1976, and these are not temporary reductions but permanent. Coventry now has over 20,000 unemployed - about 8 per cent of the working population.

Post Office breaks promise to workers

AS the situation stands at the moment, the first six hours of overtime worked by the unformed section of postal workers is undertaken at a rate less than the current hourly rate. This has arisen due to the introduction of a threshold agreement which gave UPW members a 7 per cent increase in 1975. In addition to this, pay supplements negotiated in 1976 and 1977 remain unconsolidated, leaving one half of all post office employees in this ridiculous position. The consolidation of the last two pay supplements is a matter which will be dealt with in the coming 1978 negotiations. For the present the UPW seeks only the consolidation of the 7 per cent.

In response to this claim the Post Office has reneged on a promise, made by the previous Post Office Chairman, Sir William Ryland, in 1975 and repeated at the time of the 1976 pay increase. Due to periods of heavy work such as the Christmas period, a certain amount of overtime becomes unavoidable. The union has asked the present administration to honour the pledge made by its predecessor, but have been informed that incomes policy prevents this. The UPW along with the rest of the trade union movement has rejected wage restraint and the government guidelines on pay. The leadership is mandated to secure increases that will not

allow for a drop in the living standards of the membership. The employers reaction to the consolidation claim gives an indication of the position they will take with regards to the much more important 1978 wage claim. It also gives postal workers an opportunity to prepare the ground and strengthen their position in the period approaching these negotiations.

For the future the whole question of overtime needs to be reviewed. A lead has already been given in this field by the decision of the NUR to tackle this problem in an attempt to create jobs. There is certainly scope for this sort of action in some areas of the postal service.

Jobless youth keep bureaucrats in work

SUPPORT of and participation in the work of the Manpower Services Commission by the trade union movement is one of the main factors allowing the Commission to carry out its work of undermining apprenticeship and skill.

The task of the MSC as outlined in the Holland report (May 1977) and other reports is nothing less than to create an alternative structure for training and education to existing apprenticeship and higher education. Its latest proposal is to replace the various schemes that came into existence since the formation of the Commission in 1974, by a unified programme with every sign of permanency. Short courses of 2-13 weeks are offered under the title of work preparation courses. "Work Experience" of 6-12 months is offered to unemployed young people 'to give first-hand experience' in various types of work. There is not even the pretence of providing training or skill. While Holland talked about a mixture of training and skill, further education and work exper-

ience, there is now no mention of further education.

The question facing the trade union movement is whether skill and education are to be maintained and improved or undermined and destroyed.

It is quite obviously the intention of the Government to replace the established structure of apprenticeship, further and higher education with work experience, and work preparation courses. Hence the £200m budget of the MSC while schools and colleges are starved of the basic essentials of maintenance, heating and books.

It is the height of self deception to imagine that what the Government withholds in one hand may be recouped from the other. There is no way of working within the Manpower Services Commission in order to defeat its objectives. Those who do become the very crutches that prop up the Commission. Those colleges who were tempted by the 'easy' money from the MSC found that there is a very

high price to pay in return. Colleges running courses sponsored by the Training Services Agency (an agency of the MSC) have had their education development disorientated not least because the TSA can and has withdrawn funds from these courses at short notice.

Prioritisation in education for young people must be firmly rejected. Education in skill, training must be available for all who desire it and need it. "Disadvantaged" unemployed young people are no more in need of education and skill than their brothers and sisters. The very concept of 'disadvantaged' youth implies that having a job and some rudiments of education are something to be thankful for instead of a right.

The Manpower Services Commission is a menacing extension of the corporate state that threatens to permeate the lives of young people in order to prepare them for the de-skilled, de-industrialised Britain planned by capitalism for the future.

Spirit of Stalingrad

It was a Marxist-Leninist, Mao Tse-tung, who first pointed out the world-wide significance of Stalingrad. Even today it is difficult for us to understand why Hitler's armies, which had cut through Europe, should have been checked by the British airmen, the little boats at Dunkerque and the merchant seamen who kept the supplies going to Britain and the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, when the Nazis turned instead on Russia, everyone imagined they would fall as easily as most of Europe had done.

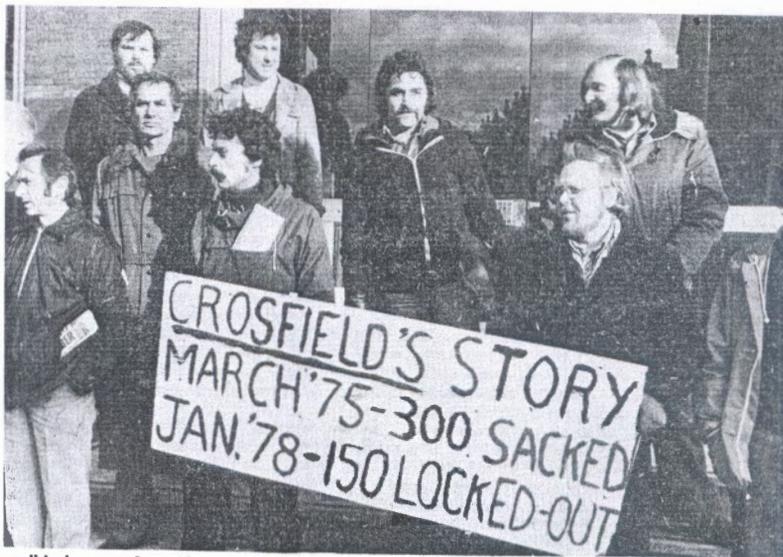
At a recent public meeting in London, the speaker pointed out that Stalingrad was no foregone conclusion.

For each of the two huge opposing armies, victory was indispensable and bitterly contested. The Nazi defeat cannot be ascribed to military incompetence, for they were excellent soldiers, from von Paulus, their commander, down. The Russian people on Stalin's order - Stalin who had refused to leave Moscow when imperilled - simply refused to move. They defended the narrow nine-mile strip of town with their backs against the Volga, laying down their lives for every fragment of brickdust, until they counter-attacked, encircling the besieging invaders. Von Paulus, in consideration of the lives of his men and in defiance of Hitler's orders, surrendered.

Could anyone today, the speaker asked, after Stalingrad, think that armies should once again be thrown at the Russians? That was Hitler's plan, a plan dear to the bourgeoisie even from the time of the Crimean War. Yet

such a plan was being advocated today by some calling themselves 'Marxist-Leninists'. Stalin had the word for such 'theorists'. Would the name Marxist-Leninist become tainted as the name communist was with the advent of Khrushchev in Russia? Who would wish to enlist under their bourgeoisie in a war against Russia knowing the fearful consequences of modern warfare, of the neutron bomb?

Stalingrad aroused amongst the British an interest so passionate and enduring that workers here never believed the 'cold war' theories of 'Russian aggression', coming as they did from a Churchill whom they repudiated at the war's end. Nor are European workers anywhere taken in by today's clamour for war. Even at the outset of the '39 war, the British were not ready to fight at the request of Hitler's former friends, the Whitehall establishment. The need became paramount with the invasion of socialist Russia. The problem now, in Europe as in Russia, is the same as that facing the British during the war - the fight against one's own rulers who brought Hitler to power to destroy socialism, and who used the war as a pretext for even more exploitation at home. The Russians' was a fight against such an oppression, to which the young everywhere owe their lives. Recently, a British trade unionist and communist on a delegation visiting Stalingrad, now beautifully rebuilt, was asked to speak there. His words, broadcast on the radio for all to hear were: "You wrongly call your city Volvograd. The whole world will always call it Stalingrad."



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excessive overtime would be banned from January 3rd. The employers retaliated by stopping all overtime in one production area and the workers then instituted a complete ban on all overtime whatsoever. At the same time the Crosfield shop stewards in Peterborough put in a demand for a bonus increase to 10 per cent and informed shop stewards in London that, if the employers tried to break the London workers' action by the use of sub-contract work, they would black it.

It was the experience of a 6-week occupation by the London Crosfield workers in 1975 which made the employers this time anticipate any such action with a lock-out.

The employers used every means possible to divide the London and Peterborough

workers, locking out all the former and promising bonus payments to the latter. Even though there was an inadequate response to begin with from the shop stewards at Peterborough, by waiting a few days in order to achieve complete unity, the London shop stewards were able to register on behalf of all workers "a failure to agree" which exposed the employers as being completely out of line procedurally in their lock-out. The employers had to call off all their actions against workers

and the workers voted almost unanimously to return to work.

All the employers got out of the operation was a saving of three days wages. The workers got a further development of the proposed shop stewards committee to link more closely Crosfield workers in London and Peterborough and a considerable strengthening of the two unions involved in the action, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers.

picture by Andrew Wiard (Report)

"Food for the people" - or for profit?

THIS excellent little pamphlet concisely sets out the history, present state and possible future of the British agricultural industry. The pamphlet starts by explaining the developments since the war and continues the story to explain the workings of the EEC and their Common Agricultural Policy. This is

useful for sorting out the current rubbish being talked in Parliament about the green pound, with the Government slyly trying to play off the working class (whom they call 'consumers') against the interests of British agriculture, while planning to send both down the drain.

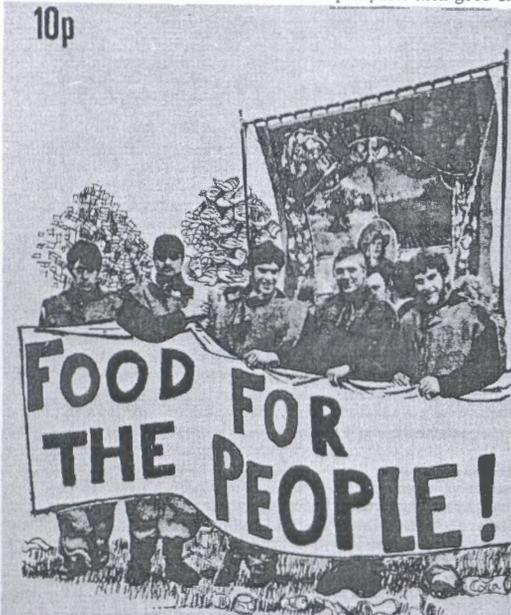
The pamphlet then goes on

to ask "Could we be self-sufficient?" The answer is "Yes". It sketches the possibilities for agriculture under socialism. Medical research is showing that food is not merely something that keeps us alive and is burnt to carbon dioxide for energy but is of crucial importance in determining general health, susceptibility to disease and deterioration of tissues due to aging. We should not forget too that the large food companies have, for the sake of their profits, foisted on us such things as the miserable excuse for bread sold in so many shops, or beer that is only flavoured, coloured water.

These two aspects of nutrition are intricately involved in the whole process of food production because they raise the question implicit in the title of the pamphlet, "Food for the People" - or for profit?

The history of the farm workers since the rise of capitalism is told, long and hard with many examples of class heroism leading to the foundation of the NUAAW. The folly of putting one's faith in social democracy is illustrated by the treatment of farm workers since the war by the Labour Party. The concluding paragraph is a splendid parable which we shall let you read for yourselves.

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Friday, February 3rd Morality in Politics

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