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THE WORKER

TUC — AGENT OF CAPITALISM

THE TUC meets on the 1st of this month. It will go through the motions of discussing the economic policy for the Trade Unions, and the Working Class, questions of income tax, productivity prices and incomes.

It will have before it international questions such as Spain, Czechoslovakia, South Africa and apartheid, world poverty relief.

It will discuss safety measures within factories, social security, occupational health and pensions.

In fact, it will cover the whole range of workers' aspirations within Britain. The fact is that no matter the TUC's pronouncements, the working class will know very little about it, except as reported in the capitalist Press and will care less, for the TUC's true connection with the working class and, indeed, the rank and file of the Trade Unions within the organised working class, is very remote indeed.

Because of this, the working class will, to its cost, ignore the pontifications that shall take place that whole week — for the TUC will seek to so change their Rules to secure greater power over the separate Unions, and thereby over the rank and file, the working class, in order to discipline them!

One of the questions yet to be analysed is, how could it be that the thinking, active, so-called Left Wing of the Labour Movement could be alerted against the danger of Wilson's legislation against the Unions and yet, at the same time, fail to see the seconding of that duty to the TUC? That this could have slipped by stems from the complete inability at this time of the working class in Britain and this class's most conscious section, the Labour Movement, the Trade Union worker, to see the TUC as part of the State.

Indeed, it could be said — at least in the past — Governments may come, Governments may go, but the TUC General Council goes on forever.

Fortunately, the workers are very direct. So that, while the manipulating and lobbying, all the handing and passing back of the dirty duties for capitalism between the Labour Government and the TUC go on, workers themselves are much clearer.

The steel strike at Port Talbot proved it, 1,300 workers of the Blastfurnacemen raised the banner explaining who is the Union. The Executive of this Union stated the strike was not official. Ron Smith of the British Steel Corporation (at £19,000 per year) suggested that to surrender to the simple and just demand of wage increase of approximately 21 is to surrender to the power of the 'wildcat' anarchistic workers.

One of the things capitalism has to learn, the Trade Union Executives and members of the General Council who are even more remote from the working class, is, that if they call a strike 'unofficial' or not, it is still there.

We do not suppose that the British Steel Corporation wants to employ the Executive of the Blastfurnacemen's Union, even supposing at this time that all of them are capable of working so hard! Certainly it is very doubtful whether Victor Feather could be of a great deal of service even to capitalism, lining a furnace with refractory bricks — assuming he knows how!

It comes down to the question of 'where is the power?'

The British Steel Corporation needs the Blastfurnacemen. All the Hoo-ha'ing and setting up of courts of inquiry cannot alter that.

Although the TUC may seek greater powers of discipline, they should be humble enough to know that workers in dispute will not have amateurs' intervention.

To sell one's labour power for the highest possible price is the only way workers can play the capitalist game. Since it is a capitalist system, so be it!

IRELAND ONE NATION

BRITISH IMPERIALIST TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND!



British troops in the Falls Road area of Belfast

NO MATTER how it tries, British imperialism, whether acting directly or through its servants the Northern Ireland Government can no longer secure its hold on Ulster simply by exploiting religious differences. It is no go!

Wilson may dream of 'solving the Irish question' on terms satisfactory for British Imperialism. He may see himself, like a greater predecessor, Lloyd-George, dragging a dying man to a chair in front of the Post Office in order to shoot him. Connolly lives again! Connolly the great Irish revolutionary leader.

The Northern Ireland Government, agent of British imperialism, may believe that by stirring up differences between Catholics and Protestants it can continue to divide and rule. All that is past.

The emancipation of the Irish worker will come about from economic necessity and the unity created in struggle. Catholic and Protestant workers do unite to oppose the Government of capitalism and imperialism.

What has to be remembered about the so-called 'Irish troubles' is that the trade union movement which is relatively united throughout Ireland, North and South, will not be split on a religious basis.

In a word, the Irish working class knows its enemy very well. Irish workers understand that they must rely on their own forces. No gallivanting individuals nor outside agencies like the UN are going to win freedom for them.

The real question is: What is the rest of the British working class to do here at home?

First, we must say to this Labour Government: No son of the working class shall be despatched to Ireland to oppress or to try to put down the struggle there for freedom. No son of the working class shall be used to try to keep a rotten, corrupt puppet government in power in Northern Ireland. What is at stake is an attempt to continue the oppression of the Irish working class.

It must be remembered: Ireland is a nation in its own right.

The English have been deceived by a common language, by proximity and intermarriage into thinking that is Irish (whom along with other imperialist-inspired prejudices they have been taught to think of as 'feeble and wild') are crypto-Englishmen.

Ireland is Britain's oldest colony. The English have never learned in 700 years that Ireland is a nation and will unite. That Britain is an historic amalgam of separate nations and ethnic peoples is a good thing. But what has to be learned by the English is that they are in no sense superior, that all the peoples within Britain must live in quality. There is no inferior and superior. There are class contradictions, the distinction between exploiters and exploited, which must be pushed to the limit if exploitation is to be ended.

Most of all we must be absolutely clear about British imperialism as operated by the Labour Government. We call for the disbanding of the 'B' Specials and the smashing of the whole fascist apparatus of the Northern Ireland Government. But not in order for Northern Ireland to be brought under the direct control of Westminster with British troops replacing the Royal Ulster Constabulary as oppressors of the people. We must not be fooled by the puppet-master taking over from the puppet.

The absurd idea that the armed forces of British imperialism would be used in Northern Ireland to 'protect' the people from the excesses of British imperialism's local agents there we reject utterly. They are simply the 1969 version of the Black and Tans. Out with them!

**FOR THE UNITY OF
BELFAST WORKERS**
(From a statement
issued by the
Irish Communist
Organisation)

IN Belfast last weekend an organised gang of cowardly fascists under the name of the 'Shankhill Defence Association' urged and incited Protestant workers to attack the families and homes of workers in the flats in Unity Walk. After much stone-throwing and repeated attempts to get to the flats, the crowd turned their attention to other quarters. In the events that followed a number of business and shops were attacked and looted on the Shankhill road. During the incidents at Unity Walk the RUC confined themselves to holding back the crowd. When the businesses and shops were attacked however, the RUC had no hesitation in attacking the crowd with baton and water canon and 'dispersing' them in typical RUC fashion. The RUC, the capitalist Belfast Telegraph said on Monday, was merely doing its job. That was quite correct.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT AGAINST THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT

ON THURSDAY, October 2nd at 7.30 p.m., one major industrial record — the highest the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist unemployment for 29 years, which has Leninist) in association with its Sussex shown itself in its anti-trade union pole-Branch will hold a meeting at Brighton ices the open enemy of the working class. Pavilion on the Labour Party Conference which takes place in Brighton during the first week in October.

The meeting is being called to consider the present record and future prospects of the Labour Party Government which despatches troops to Northern Ireland to uphold the interests of the working class will be given in a subsequent issue of THE WORKER.

RUSSIAN LEADERS THREATEN CHINA WITH NUCLEAR WAR

WITH THE defeat of revisionists like Liu Shao-chi inside China the Soviet revisionists lost the second round of their struggle to smash the forces of true revolutionary Marxism-Leninism led by the Chinese Communist Party under the correct leadership of Chairman Mao. The Soviet traitors had lost the first round in the early 1960's when they broke hundreds of economic and technical agreements, pulled out men and materials from unfinished projects and hoped to bring the Chinese people to their knees during a period of great hardship. It was inevitable, therefore, that the Soviet leadership would try a third round - of direct aggression against the people of China. In March of this year came the attack on China's Chenpao Island in China's north-eastern border with the Soviet Union. (See The Worker for April). These were followed by many more attacks and provocations.

The most serious to date was on the morning of August 13 when 2 Soviet helicopters, several dozen tanks and armoured cars and hundreds of Soviet armed troops intruded into the Tshikhli area of the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region in the western part of China. In a surprise attack the Soviet aggressors killed and wounded many Chinese frontier guards. At first the Chinese, to prevent the situation from getting any worse, withdrew further. The Soviet troops, however, now reinforced by more men and tanks pushed deeper into Chinese territory. It was then, in self defence, that the Chinese frontier soldiers repulsed the invaders. The situation is, however, grave and further aggression by Soviet imperialism imminent.

STRATEGY OF US-USSR IMPERIALISM

None of us should be under any illusion about the strategy and tactics of the Soviet and US Imperialists, Vice-Chairman, Lin Piao, was explicit in his report to the 9th Congress of the Communist Party of China: "We must on no account relax our revolutionary vigilance because of victory and on no account ignore the danger of US IMPERIALISM AND Soviet revisionism launching a large scale war of aggression. We must make full preparations, preparations against their launching a big war and against their launching a war at an early date..."

In the first place China, the great bulwark of socialism and staunch supporter of the struggles of workers and peasants in five continents, is the sworn foe of both US imperialism and Soviet revisionism. Both want to see it destroyed but are not strong enough to do it.

US imperialism, in particular, badly scared at the hands of the Vietnamese, desperately seeking a way out of that blunder, is totally incapable of taking on the task of destroying China. She was taught a bitter lesson at the hands of Chinese volunteers at the time of the Korean War.

Today, a greatly strengthened China, armed with the mighty force of Mao Tse-tung thought, is a formidable foe for all reactionary forces. That is why it greatly helps US imperialism to have Soviet revisionism undertake provocative acts against China. Indeed, every time the Soviet renegades have launched an attack on Chinese territory they have briefed both US and West German officials, an unprecedented act.

In the second place the Soviet Union's plans for world hegemony in its own sphere of influence demands that it not only hold on to the imperialist conquests of the Tsars (as opposed to Lenin's oft-stated views about liquidating all Tsarist expansionist gains) but increase its empire. As a result of the 19th century unequal treaties imposed on China, Czarist Russia grabbed huge tracts of land from the Chinese. Today the new Tsars of the Kremlin want to get even more. Sinkiang, for example, is an extremely important part of China both strategically, at the crossroads of the main routes between the rest of China and west Asia, and economically containing as it does rich mineral deposits - especially uranium.

Of greater importance, however, than the covetousness of the present Soviet imperialist ruling clique is their need to have counters to bargain with US imperialism. They need something to distract attention from their naked colonialism in Czechoslovakia and other East European countries and to be used as the price for some concession to be gained from the US imperialists. The 'containment' of China, the sell-out of national liberation struggles especially in Vietnam, concessions over East Germany - these would be important gains to the Soviet traitors in their horse-trading with US monopoly capitalism. But, like the US ruling class, the Soviet renegades will have to learn the hard way that the great socialist bastion of China is invincible.

ZAMBIA

WE APPLAUD the decision for Zambia's people by President Kaunda, to carry out semi-nationalisation of copper mines, Zambia's natural mineral wealth.

Hooray for the drop in copper share prices!

Ross, Selection Trust, dropping, Anglo American, Rokhans, Charter Consolidated all down.

Zambian people complete the job and throw them out.

Expropriate as soon as possible!

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ONE YEAR AGO the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) issued a widely-quoted statement on the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact armies.

"The revisionist leadership of the Soviet Union has committed an act of imperialist aggression against the people of Czechoslovakia. The country of the great October Revolution, the first Workers State in history, has been betrayed by its wretched leaders, Brezhnev and Kosygin, the heirs of the anti-Marxist Khrushchev, into appearing in the eyes of the world like US imperialism in Vietnam.

The Soviet Red Army with which workers everywhere identified their own interests as it defeated the interventionist powers that tried to strangle the proletarian revolution at birth, as it rolled back the armies of Nazi Germany and liberated the whole of Eastern Europe has now been used by the revisionist leaders of the Soviet Union to invade one of those very East European countries in order to bring it to heel."

We went on to say in our statement: "Our support is for the working people of the Soviet Union who under Lenin's leadership made the October Revolution and will surely rise up against the revisionist faction which has betrayed them and their proletarian brothers all over the world. Our support is for the working people of Czechoslovakia who will surely learn from their recent experiences to denounce their own revisionist leaders, whether old-style Novotny or new-style Dubcek and re-establish the dictatorship of the proletariat so that their country can go forward

RADIO STATION FOR WORKERS IN BRITAIN

RADIO TIRANA, the radio station of the Albanian people and the Albanian Party of Labour, in its English broadcasts provides a service which is useful to Marxist-Leninists in their work of building a revolutionary movement in Britain. They particularly request listeners to write to Radio Tirana in Albania sending comments on broadcasts, making suggestions about material they would like included and offering helpful criticisms.

The Albanian people under the leadership of their Party and their great leader, Enver Hoxha, have achieved tremendous victories in building socialism in the twenty-five years since the heroic liberation of their country from the Italian and German fascist invaders. They have not only stood firm against three threats of US and British imperialism but they have also exposed and resisted Titoite and Khrushchevist revisionism which collaborates with imperialism, surrounded by enemies these courageous people have defended their homeland from attacks while firmly establishing socialist relations of production and scoring magnificent economic successes.

We have much to learn from their experiences which with true proletarian internationalism they wish to share with us. But with real socialist modesty they insist that they want to learn from us too and take a lively interest in the problems of British workers.

The times of the half-hour English broadcasts are given in the Radio section of THE WORKER. The medium wave transmission at 9.30 p.m. on the 215 metre band can also be heard in this country. (Radio Tirana would be glad to receive reports on the clarity of their signal.)

Each bulletin includes news, commentary and reports on Albanian home affairs. There are also special regular features as follows:

Monday: The Marxist-Leninist Movement throughout the World is Growing in Scope and Strength.

Wednesday: Review of Socialist Developments in Albania, with Special Reference to the 25th Anniversary.

Thursday: On the Liberation Struggle Front around the World and Developments in the European Workers' Movement.

Saturday: Revolutionary Art and Socialist Realism in Albania and Comparison with Bourgeois and Revisionist Art.

Sundays: (from time to time) Episodes in Albania's National Liberation Struggle and Examples of Socialist Heroism today.

RADIO

DAILY Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking: 8.30 pm-10.30 pm, 47, 45, 32 metre bands; 10.30 pm-11.30 pm, 47, 45, 42, 32 metre bands.

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Tirana: 6.30 am-7.00 am, 31, 42 metre bands; 4.30 pm-5.00 pm, 31, 42 metre bands; 6.30 pm-7.00 pm, 31, 42 metre bands; 8.30 pm-9.00 pm, 31, 42 metre bands; 10.00 pm-10.30 pm, 31, 42 metre bands.

Daily Broadcast in English from Hanoi: 9.00 pm-9.30 pm, 19 metre band.

In the great company of the peoples of China and Albania and all others who firmly reject the vicious exploitative system of capitalism and take the socialist road away from the exploitation in any form of man by man.

Nothing that has happened since alters in any way the truth of the statement we made at the time. We salute the people of Czechoslovakia in overthrowing the revisionist restoration of capitalism and re-establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat!

MALTA

IN JUNE of this year the Anti-Imperialist Front of Malta commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the 1919 National Uprising against colonialism by demanding that the Monument in honour of those who fell in the struggle be removed from its obscure resting place in the Adolorata Cemetery to be re-erected in the Main Guard Square opposite the Palace in Valetta.

The Monument would thus become a national shrine marking the beginning of the long hard struggle for emancipation of the oppressed workers of Malta.

Maltese in London and other parts of the world are being asked to join in this campaign for proper recognition of those who began the fight against British imperialism in Malta.

The CPB(ML) supports their demand to the Government of Malta that the 1919 Uprising should be marked in this way.

VIETNAM

The people of Vietnam will fight to the bitter end until the complete withdrawal of US troops and the total collapse of the puppet government.

THOSE who depend on the capitalist press of Britain for news of the war of liberation of the Vietnamese people can have little idea of what is really happening. So rarely does the press provide any news and when it does it is a faithful repetition of US propaganda to conceal from the British public the quite obvious fact that the Vietnamese people are winning and that they have not the slightest intention of renouncing the struggle until the last invading troops have been thrown out.

This was made abundantly clear in the appeal of President Ho Chi Minh on July 20, 1969, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. For those of our readers who may not have had a chance of reading it we reproduce the major portion of the speech. The entire speech can be read in Vietnam Courier, July 21, 1969, Number 226.

"... Throughout the past fifteen years, our armed forces and people in the whole country, united as one man, braving all sacrifices and hardships, have fought with sublime heroism against US aggression to save the country. The US Imperialists' aggressive plans have gone bankrupt one after another; the US defeats have become heavier and heavier; our people have gone from success to success, and are sure to win total victory.

"The armed forces and people in the North have defeated the US aggressors' war of destruction."

"The armed forces and people in the South are defeating the US 'local war.'"

"Since the spring of the year Mau Than, (Year of the Monkey i.e. 1968) the situation has radically changed in our favour, to the disadvantage of the enemy. Four-fifths of South Viet Nam's territory with three-quarters of its population have been liberated. In these conditions of victory, the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives met and unanimously elected the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council.

"Betraying the American people's interests, President Nixon has continued to step up the war of aggression in the southern part of our country, intensified attacks by B.52s and toxic chemicals, launched frenzied bombardments to destroy our villages and cities and massacre our compatriots, perpetrating new crimes of utmost barbarism."

"Nixon is carrying out a scheme for 'de-Americanisation' of the war. In an attempt to use puppet troops to fight the South Vietnamese people..."

"Nixon plans to withdraw 25,000 US troops in an attempt to appease American and world public opinion. This is a trick."

"After the total withdrawal of the US and satellite troops and the complete liberation of South Viet Nam from foreign invasion, the Provisional Coalition Government, as provided for in the 19-point overall solution, will organize free and democratic general elections to enable the South Vietnamese people to determine themselves their own political regime, elect a Constituent Assembly, work out a Constitution, and set up the official Coalition Government of South Viet Nam without any foreign country being allowed to interfere. So long as US troops and the puppet administration remain in existence in South Viet Nam really free and democratic general elections will be absolutely impossible.

"The defeat of the US imperialists is already evident; still they have not given up their evil design of clinging to the southern part of our country. Our armed forces and people throughout the country, united as one man, upholding revolutionary heroism, and fearless of sacrifices and hardships, are determined to carry on and step up the resistance war, with the firm resolve to fight and win till the total withdrawal of US troops and till the total collapse of the puppet army and administration, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve ultimate peaceful reunification of the country..."

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, VIETNAM WORKERS' PARTY, HANOI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM:

Our deepest sympathy at death of President Ho Chi Minh. His great life's work will inspire Marxist-Leninists throughout the world to overthrow imperialism and revisionism. The courageous spirit with which he led the Vietnamese people will soon drive the last barbarous U.S. aggressor from Vietnam.

Communist Party of Britain Marxist-Leninism.

BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN NEW GUINEA

GREEDY AS EVER, imperialism throughout the world cannot reconcile itself to the resistance of the working and peasant masses. An Australian Company, Conzinc Rio Tinto, subsidiary of the British RTZ Group, has found in New Guinea that the freedom to exploit, despoil, plunder and loot is not now so simple as in past history.

Indeed, to try to secure this pirate loot, the batons were out in Bougainville. In August, 100 villagers in Rovovana a small town in Bougainville, defied this Company's bulldozers attempting to clear the land for a proposed port and 70 armed police fired tear-gas which did not disperse the 100 heroic villagers who by then made a battle charge themselves.

It is important to remember that Bougainville is a United Nations trusteeship territory, but the people are not waiting for the Afro-Asian bloc to pass resolutions on their behalf in the UN.

This Company's reputation in the New Guinea area is already an horrific one. For a considerable time the local people of Rovovana refused to negotiate on the land grabbing by this Company. Recently Conzinc Company compulsorily acquired a 42-year lease over 170 acres. The member for South Bougainville in the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly, has warned the Authorities that such is these villagers' anger that they have threatened deliberate sacrifice of a child if the Company does not quit the island. In his words 'My people will die before they will give up their land.' All are involved in this particular struggle.

When the company official attempted to drive in the survey peg on the compulsorily acquired land, it was a woman who tore it out the stake.

The lot of imperialism throughout the world grows more difficult. The choice throughout the world is in such places as Rovovana - shall the world belong to the big corporations or shall it be a workers' world. Heroic workers and peasants are giving their answer.

A CALL TO BRITISH WORKERS

RECENTLY some of us had the privilege of meeting Mrs Nguyen Thi Chon, a member of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, now a member of the P.R.G. delegation in Paris, when she visited London. We print our interview below.

MRS NGUYEN THI CHON, a delicate, pretty woman, once a teacher, mother of two children, told us of her experiences as a member of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. 'Relying on their own strength,' she said, 'the peoples of Vietnam are increasing their struggle and with the sympathy of the peoples of the whole world, including the USA, they will win.'

While doing her work as Editor-in-Chief of the magazine, Women for the Liberation, and as a member of the National Liberation Front in the Saigon-Cholon area, she was captured by the Saigon police. She did not wish to talk about herself but friends told us of the torture she endured at the hands of the puppet police under the orders of the CIA: electric shocks to her brain so that she now has constant headaches and cannot bear light; beatings, the water-torture. She wished to exchange her life for other women prisoners she thought were more important than herself. The police refused. After her release the police shot other women prisoners.



She brought greetings to the British workers from South Vietnamese workers fighting against aggression, who call for stronger support and assistance to the Vietnamese people to achieve final victory and she brought thanks for the assistance and support from British workers.

'Nixon talks of peace, but continues the war,' she said. At the Paris Conference she said, 'the US Imperialists are obdurate but they know they have been defeated. They can never conquer the people of Vietnam. The people of the world are demanding an end to the aggression of USA.'

Listening to the gentle voice, not dramatising but describing the horrors of this inhuman war, the lifelong separation of families, the brutal behaviour of Commonwealth as well as US troops, degenerate as soldiers fighting an unjust war always are, we could understand the courage and tenacity of the Vietnamese people which has made laughing stocks of the leading imperialists of the world.

She described the defoliation programme of the US invaders to try and destroy the great forests in South Vietnam. But the imperialist plans were foiled, for when the wind blew it sent the poison back to the enemy or else the great leafy forests saved themselves because the poison would remain only on the topmost leaves and could not reach the plants beneath.

Such courage, such clarity, such gentle modesty of a very brave woman made us realise how much stronger an effort we in Britain must exert. The Vietnamese people have thrown back the barbarian. Have we, the people of Britain, done enough to assist the Vietnamese patriots and, therefore, the people of the whole world? We know we have not.

UNEMPLOYED TEACHERS

SOME PRIMARY school classes still have 40 or more children.

There are not enough specialists in secondary schools, but qualified students coming from training colleges are not finding jobs.

The harm done to both workers' children and to the enthusiastic young teachers is a naked example of the capitalist education system.

BLASTFURNACEMAN'S VICTORY AT PORT TALBOT

AND SO the Court of Inquiry on Port Talbot steel comes up, as usual, with a Solomon-like decision.

It is important to remember that such an inquiry was established in the first place as a device to bamboozle the strikers and to obtain a return to work, before its establishment, during its establishment or immediately thereafter. In all three cases, it has failed.

Congratulations to the steel-workers! This same Court of Inquiry now says the claim was justified and should be met. A most expensive use of public funds to discover the obvious!

The tenacity of the steel-workers alone proved the case.

The crass Ron Smith - with his sacred cow of we won't talk unless a return - should be dismissed.

THE FIGHT AGAINST CLOSURES GEC-AEI

THE DEMAND originally voiced by Manchester Shop Stewards for an all-out strike has been deferred; meantime marseyside workers have had a one-day stoppage.

There has also been placed an overtime ban. At an enthusiastic mass-meeting there was a call to take over the factory.

There can yet be a one-day stoppage in Manchester or even a number of token stoppages. Workers within this mammoth monopoly of GEC should examine the whole situation.

Protests never saved Woolwich! It has not stopped the ruthless attack on workers of the town and community of Newton-le-Willows, all part of GEC. The question arises - can workers allow one section after the other to be picked off? Nor is it the selfish question that work from one factory transferred to another will serve to save some workers from unemployment.

What is to be done? It is clear, as we have written before, Capitalism is dying. Employers, no matter how much they prize of modernisation and rationalisation, think only of profit. Since they are no longer able to manage, then workers must come to take over the factories. The sooner the better! And forward from there to the smashing of the system of Capitalism.

PUNFIELD'S

After weeks of
struggle the
workers at Punfield's
have won

IN LAST MONTH'S issue, we printed the story of the strike at Punfield - most of Immigrant workers.

They have come to learn that working hard and for long hours is no way to combat exploitation; they combined in union for defence.

All over Britain workers, Trade Unionists, are in the struggle - In Steel, Lucas, BMC, GEC. British workers have ever been heroic in struggle against the employers, resisting their attacks, seeking to sustain the standard of life against ever-increasing prices, protecting working conditions. But all workers in Britain must surely see that combining to defend is not enough, that strikes for the protection of rates, job, conditions, or improvement, will never end exploitation.

We combine, in the Trade Unions, not to defend alone but to attack - to smash exploiters and their system.

The rubbish that the strikers acted unconstitutionally will be rejected. Since there is not a constitutional right to work in this land, it cannot be unconstitutional not to work.

The steel-workers have proved who is the Union; other trade unionists will surely emulate this example.

The Court of Inquiry should at least be applauded for this priceless pearl:

'The immediate cause of the dispute was that, because of local variations, the 1968 Agreement on minimum earnings was not directly applicable at Port Talbot. This should have been a matter for negotiation and not for heated argument over interpretation.'

Now we all know what Negotiations are. Never get cross, Brothers!

MERGERS and the ECONOMIC SITUATION

JUST IN CASE there is still one worker left in Britain who believes the economic difficulties of this nation, of this country, are attributable to his inability to work harder, let him reflect on this:

	% Rise per year	
	1960	1966
Productivity per man hour -	-66	-68
UK Output	2.8	3.0
Manufacturing	3.0	2.8
Productivity per man year -		
UK Output	2.5	3.8
Manufacturing	2.5	3.1
Agriculture, etc.	6.5	7.3
Mining	3.7	4.4
Construction	1.2	7.3
Gas, Electricity & Water	3.7	6.8
Transport, Communications	3.3	3.0
Distributive trade	1.1	4.8

As a result of his labours, notwithstanding the inefficiency of capitalism, engineering exports still lead the way and in Britain we export more than any other nation in the world.

Workers report that new export orders this year so far are almost double last year's. GEC/AEI expect to see direct export sales totaling the £200,000,000 mark this year.

A machine tool Company, George Cohen, state that 50% of their machine tool business is going overseas, especially to North America.

The motor industry, scene of bitter struggles, forges ahead. Car sales overseas have jumped 18%; commercial vehicle exports are higher.

The rise in shipbuilding orders if 45% above last year's, of which 38% is export. Chemical exports are up by £30,000,000 to £328,000,000 in the first six months of 1969.

And this was all done by fewer workers. In 1957, with 621,900 miners employed in 698 pits, there was produced 27-and-a-half cwt. per man-shift. But, by 1968, this had been changed so that one-half the number of workers are now employed in mines, 364,840 in half the number of pits, with almost 40 cwt. per man-shift.

The British steel worker produces around 80 tons per year.

BSC is aiming that by 1975 300 tons per man shall be the production and 500 tons by 1980 and they say that to achieve it, it requires the cutting of the present production force of 205,000 by some 50,000 men.

It all adds up to - more work, more effort from fewer workers. No wonder there is a boom in mergers!

Correspondence

To the Editor of 'The Worker'

- On July 7th the workers of Henry Sykes Ltd., a rapidly expanding engineering firm with the main works at Charlton, London, and other factories at Slough, Theford and Erith, decided to 'work to rule' in support of a pay claim.

On the following day I, as convener at Charlton, received a report from the chief steward at Slough Works stating that their members had been locked out following the employers' abrogation of national agreements by seeking to chance one class of worker for another without consultation.

As a result of this report our members at Charlton unanimously decided to withdraw their labour from July 8th in support of our members at Slough. I requested the London (South) District Committee, AEF, to endorse this action and the Executive Council to grant recognition.

The D.C. did endorse our action; the E.C. gave us recognition and the solidarity and strength of our members won us the day.

On the 14th July the Works Committee were invited to meet the management and get round the table. It was a quick climb down by the Boss from a position of insisting on 'strings' such as acceptance of methods of control, use of stop watches and synthetic data, work measurement etc. We said 'no strings' and we got them withdrawn. The employers found that they could not break the solidarity and strength of the Union. Our six-and-a-half per cent claim was met in full and has been implemented. The moral is: 'Unity is strength' and solidarity the workers' password.

It is not the answer to sit back in your ivory castles, you employers, and reap your fat profits. The day must surely dawn when the workers will have their own just position as the rightful co-owner producers, with equality and fair shares for a fair day's work. - Yours fraternally, E.M. Lawrence, Works Convener, Henry Sykes Ltd., Charlton.

GLC TENANTS STAND FIRM

IN SPITE OF repeated threats of eviction, Greater London Council tenants have expressed their determination to fight on against the seven and sixpenny rent increase imposed last October. There are more increases to follow.

On 19th August tenant's representatives met Mr. Chase Gardner, Vice Chairman of the Council Housing Committee. When they pointed out that any attempt to evict would be resisted Chase Gardner told them that 'nobody can govern on the basis of threats.' What this piece of double talk was meant to mean nobody was quite sure! But one thing is certain - the first threats have come from the GLC who are now in the process of sending out batches of quit notices in the hope that these will intimidate tenants into paying the rent increase. First notices expire on 15th September.

In order to resist eviction attempts an Anti Eviction Committee has been set up representing Associations in several areas of London. The main area of resistance are Tower Hamlets and Hackney. Unlike other areas the Hackney tenants have so far successfully warded off attempts by Labour Councillors and the King Street Inspired National Association of Tenants and Residents, to channel their efforts into 'safe' forms of activity. One of the 'more militant' of the NATR suggestions was a so-called 'rent holiday.' They tried to persuade the GLC tenants leaders to direct their member not to pay the rent increase for a few weeks, pay up, then stop again, and so on. For tenants to decide to withhold rent is a big and important step. To try to tell them to pay rent the next week would be to invite total collapse. And the NATR leaders have been around long enough to know this.

For their part, the Hackney Federation of Tenants have used all the legal means at their disposal, but with the understanding that the fight must not end when the Council really put on the pressure.

Mrs Irene Lane, a worker in the clothing industry, and Secretary of the Hackney Federation, told The Worker 'We will defend our homes with every means at our disposal. We will not instigate violence, but would meet violence with violence.'

The Hackney Federation represents 10,000 tenants.

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FOR THE UNITY OF BELFAST WORKERS

Continued from Page 1

THE FUNDAMENTAL JOB OF THE RUC, LIKE ANY POLICE FORCE OR ARMY IN A CAPITALIST STATE, IS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF CAPITALISM AND CAPITALIST PRIVATE PROPERTY. Protestant workers learnt, not for the first time, that when it comes to the basic class interests of capitalism they will be treated in exactly the same fashion as Catholic workers - that is, as workers.

The capitalists, their politicians, their newspapers and their police force were not the slightest bit concerned when fascist-inspired attempts were being made to wreck the homes of workers; when the thugs were burning out workers families and carrying out a systematic campaign of intimidation over the weekend, families were refused protection by the RUC. When capitalist interests were being threatened however, the RUC took immediate action.

The capitalist newspapers in Ireland and Britain, to the last one of them, condemned the crowd that went to Unity Walk not for attempting to wreck the homes of working class families, but because they attacked private property; that was where the emphasis of their 'condemnations' lay. The British paper 'The Times' also said that things in Belfast were 'becoming political.' They were merely recognising that class lines were beginning to make themselves evident - there could be a better demonstration of the actual relationship of politics to class interest. This massive display of capitalist solidarity should be a lesson to the workers of Belfast. The capitalists are quite conscious of where their class interests lie, and who are their main enemy. These events should demonstrate to all Belfast workers that their class interests require an equal display of class solidarity in the face of the common capitalist enemy.

The sham 'socialists' in the leadership of the Civil Rights movement have been spreading the illusion for years that the RUC is the private army of the Unionist Party. Get rid of the Unionist Party they have told the workers, and the RUC will go too. That is not so. The RUC is the private army of capitalism; only insofar as the Unionist Party is the main political representative of capitalism does the RUC become the servant of the Unionist Party. This is a very important distinction.

The paper 'Communists' of the so-called Communist Party of Northern Ireland, for example held a meeting after October 5th entitled 'Wille Craig's State Machine.' It was under their influence that the slogan of 'Craig Out!' went up - and the passing of Wille Craig was hailed as a 'great victory' by those opportunists. Well, as we all know now, Craig went - but the RUC remained the RUC. And it is true to say that were the Unionist Party to fall from power, and the capitalist system remain, the RUC would still be the RUC.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALISM

A DEMONSTRATION in London on Sunday 24th August in support of the Irish people's struggle took place under the slogans 'A 32 county Irish Republic the only solution,' 'Free the Belfast prisoners,' 'No new Black and Tans,' 'British Imperialism out of Ireland,' 'Working Class North and South unite against British Imperialism,' 'British troops out of Northern Ireland.'

After a meeting in Hyde Park a well organised march led by Clann na hEireann, the overseas branch of Sinn Fein, left for Downing St., where a letter was handed in calling for the withdrawal of the troops and the disbandment of the 'B' Specials. The march then went on to a meeting off Whitehall.

Among the banners on the demonstration were those of the CPB (ML) and an unofficial ETU banner. At the meeting the Republican speakers thanked all organisations for taking part and called for a united Ireland, the withdrawal of British troops, and an end to British imperialism in all Ireland, North and South.

A separate march, led by Irish Civil Rights Solidarity, went from Hyde Park to Downing St., via the Ulster Office, where the demonstrators were met by a disproportionately large body of police.

...for generations... the soul of Ireland preached revolution, declared that no blood-letting could be as disastrous as a cowardly acceptance of the rule of the conqueror, nay, the rule of the conqueror would necessarily entail more blood-letting than revolt against the rule.'

- James Connolly.

STATEMENT ON IRELAND

Issued by The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) in support of the Irish Peoples' Resistance to British imperialism

WE CONDEMN the despatch of the British troops to Ulster by the Westminster Government.

It is an act designed to save a puppet-Government no longer able to govern.

The United Kingdom Government's intervention can only inflame and is doomed to failure.

We call upon all people here in Britain to demand the immediate withdrawal of British troops.

Our party joins with all who seek to assist the unity of the Irish working class to unite against the Northern Ireland puppets and we are ready to assist in every way possible to achieve this aim.

It is for the Irish People to establish a Government of their own choosing.

The so-called Irish settlement is clearly seen to all now as a failure.

Ireland is one nation. Out with the intruders and their

Quislings!

Disband the 'B' Specials.

FIVE YEARS HARD LABOUR

AFTER FIVE years of the Labour Government, after the strikes for higher wages and better conditions... are the workers better off in terms of actual improvement in purchasing power? The answer given from the Government's own statistics proves that the answer is NO.

From October 1964 to May 1969 the cost of living had increased on the Governments' own money cost of living scale by 21.9 per cent. The average industrial wage had gone up by 27.3 per cent. So that on paper the wage increase outstrips the cost of living increase. But this is where the phoney statistics come in. The cost of living index does not take any account of increase in taxes.

Every time you get a wage increase, you go into a higher income tax bracket so that your coding remains the same through internal adjustments in the Inland Revenue computations. But in practice this means that more of your pay is taxed on a higher income rate. The 'average' industrial wage has gone up in five years from £18 to £23, but the tax paid by a married man with two children has gone up from 14/2d a week to £21.0, an increase of 189 per cent and no increase of pay allowed in the five years has been on that scale. The result is that the amount taken home by the 'average' worker to pay rent or mortgage (and remember these increases in interest rates are not included in these figures) food, clothes has risen far less than the cost of living, phoney as this figure is shown in government statistics.

	E	a	d	E	a	d	%
	Oct 1964			May 1969			Increase
Increase in cost of living							+21.9
Average industrial wage	18	2	2	23	0	0	+27.3
Tax paid on that wage by							
Married man with two kids	14	2		2	1	0	+189.3
Single man	2	3	7	4	16	3	+120.0
Net weekly income of							
Married man with two kids	17	9	0	20	19	0	+20.4
Single man	15	18	5	18	3	9	+14.1

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Anyone wishing to become a member of the New Albania Society (annual subscription 10/-), should write to the Secretary, Miss Joanna Seymour, 217 Westbourne Grove, London, W.11.

its fares, rather than this happening straight after it is handed over to the Conservative controlled G.L.C. After all, they have the next elections to think of!

Over the years the LTB (and before them the L.T.E) have faithfully carried out their role as champions of capitalism. London's transport services have steadily deteriorated. Because of meanness towards their workers there is a shortage of staff and a cut back in services. Because of continuous fare increases public transport users have been forced into the clutches of the car firms, insurance companies and the Government's exorbitant car tax.

So once again the worker's pay packet is raided to pay for capitalism.

THE POUND

THE HEADLINES constantly scream 'The £ is under pressure' 'Sterling is down' '£ takes a knocking.' But recently the merchants who trade in sterling have been caught with their hands in the till.

The money merchants are required to supply the Bank of England with a list of their sterling and foreign currency holdings once every week. Up to recently this was every Wednesday.

It became clear that the pressure on the £ in foreign markets was due to jiggling, that is selling on one day to depress the price and then the Bank of England steps in and buys at a higher price and on that day one unloads a lot of £'s bought at a low figure. But each Wednesday one has to buy enough pounds to make a nice round figure return to the Bank of England. Somebody got onto this ramp of picking the Bank of England's pocket. So the day was changed to a Monday, that is after a week end's speculation in selling and buying sterling by those very money merchants whose patriotic duty it is to see that the £ is not traded at a low price and allowed to have a speculative run on it.

By asking for the return on Monday instead of Wednesday, the Bank of England revealed that some of the 180 authorised exchange dealers have been organising a dear rate for Wednesday, the day the Bank of England makes up its books and would therefore buy or 'Support' sterling. In fact they sell on the dear day and buy on the cheap day. The guardians of the £ are the very racketeers that cause the 'run' on the £.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

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