

THE WORKER



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ENGINEERS ADVANCE GRASS ROOTS WAR

AUEW CONFERENCE

Should we have continued with the mockery of national negotiations or should we revert to our origins which created unions - whether in Warrington, Oldham, London or anywhere else? That was the question the Engineers were answering with their factory-based struggle against the employers, Reg Birch told a meeting of AUEW.

'No union was founded nationally, ever. It was founded at a place of struggle where workers gathered... None of the demands of the past - the three weeks demand, the holiday demand or the pay for one day ever came because somebody waved a banner and said: 'I'm the President of the TUC and I call upon the mass to follow me.' Those things happened because workers in Wigan or in Cornwall perhaps, said that they had won them in struggle. They said: 'What are you doing in that TUC place? We have already done it down here, only six of us Tolpuddle men. We've won it so you can write it on the national scroll, we have given it to you in all our blood and effort.'

And that was the situation today as far as the engineers were concerned, Reg Birch reminded the meeting. 'Where you work, that is where the fight has to be. Don't forget our origins. Our intelligence, our understanding are in us because we all came out of the workshops. I suppose there is nowhere else in the world where that can be said about those who are selected, elected as leaders; and there is no one who can touch us, no one who can teach us.'

'What we've got to do now is use the cultivation, the civilisation, the intelligence that is inherent in all of us, in all our class, to fight the employing class. We've asked our members to do that.'

THE CLASS ENEMY

'We are embarked on the task,' Reg Birch said, of throwing into disarray the 'Union' of the Engineering Employers. They came after us, after we established our Union. They learned from us and so they formed a 'Union' and then they said at every national conference when we went: 'Go and get stuffed!' What were we to say to that? Were we to go back to those stuffed shirts, cap in hand, and say 'Our workmates don't want a battle. Can we talk some more, please?'

SILENT SITES

There was no brass band playing, no convoy of camera crews. At three in the afternoon 500 workers brought themselves and their banners to a rough half-circle and faced the step-ladder which was to become the speakers rostrum. Around the fringes of London's Hyde Park half-a-dozen tower cranes swung idly above deserted sites. At ten past three the chairman, still in his site boots mounted the ladder and bled into the microphone. The first day of the national building workers strike had begun.

modest claim

By the end of this month 200 sites in Britain will be at a standstill until building workers win their demands for £30 for 35 hours. By any measure the building workers claim is modest in the extreme. If based on the profits made by the speculators who buy and sell building land, then site workers would be de-



Bernie Steer, dockers' Shop Steward, again threatened by the National Industrial Relations Court, addresses a mass meeting in the docks. The dockers have defeated the N.I.R.C. once. They will do it again.

'We would not say that. We are talking about the working class here. We're talking about a battle. We're talking about the tactics and the strategy. We're talking about a war of attrition.'

'You know what we are involved in - a perpetual war. And what this Executive Council has said to the membership is: 'You are free to fight, and if you fight, this whole Union stands behind you and will support you.'

'No one is going to stop this fight. First, the enemy won't let it stop. He won't pack it up. Second, our people won't either. There is no way out and we are going to fight it through.'

THE WORKING CLASS

Some of our weaker brothers and sisters have been calling not for struggle, but for the facade

manding £60 per week. If based on the gains to be made by leaving office blocks empty the workers who erected them would be asking for £100 per week. Yet the employers argue that to concede £30 per week would bring the building industry to the verge of bankruptcy. No wonder building workers growl all the way to the strike meetings.

leadership

By carrying out their present guerrilla action against the employers at selected sites, building workers again demonstrate how much respect workers generally have for the governments view of 'wage inflation'. Indeed the mood of militancy is such that many site workers are seeing the present struggle as a prelude to the fight for a pound an hour.

There is also a renewed determination that Lump working which threatens the livelihood, safety and skills of insured operatives will be stopped by the workers for all time. Not by a parliamentary bill or monetary sanctions but simply on the grounds that no craftsmen will allow Lump workers on their sites.

of struggle... They don't want to fight because they are not ideologically convinced that they should. Our job is to tell them: 'There is no place for you to go except in our class. You can't be capitalists. That's why you joined a Union. And if no other union wants to join battle just yet, we'll go on till we convince them as well. There is no way back.'

'It is not just a question of this Union now. It's to do with whether we believe we are what we are - workers. We will fight for our rights. We won't back up and since we don't win across a table, we'll take it out in the open and we'll have a civil war about it.'

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There is also a growing conviction that although the rank and file hold power in the present strike there is still need for an organisation which will spearhead the attack. The debacle of 10 years ago lives still in the memory of many building workers. As one worker at the Hyde Park meeting put it, 'We have been organised for a hundred years. What we now need is leadership!'

OCCUPATIONS

A New Weapon in the
Armoury of the Working Class

OCCUPATION, the physical taking over by workers of their place of work, started at UCS and Plessey's as a defensive measure where mass redundancy or outright closure threatened. The threat of closure ruled out sanctions or strike action as possible forms of struggle; and workers with nothing to lose devised out of their need this new tactic of the stay-in or work-in.

It remained for the engineers in their factory-based, guerrilla struggle with the employers to turn such occupations into an offensive weapon to be used in pursuit of wage claims and better conditions. When the Federation of Engineering Employers responded to the national claim of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions with a derisory offer, the engineers, the most powerful body of workers in British Industry, took the historic decision to go back to their grass roots origin and fight out the class struggle on the floor of each workshop. One of the weapons made to order for this kind of struggle was factory occupation.

Defensively occupations have stopped closures. Offensively, in the Manchester area and now in many parts of the country, occupations have already helped to break the ranks of the employers and forced engineering firms to separate settlement sometimes being expelled from the Federation in the process.

practical considerations

Occupation is an additional form of industrial action — not to be counterposed to sanctions or strike action but to provide workers with yet another weapon to wield where appropriate in the daily class war with employers. Some of the obvious advantages of occupying are:

There is no question of scabs crossing picket lines or blacklegs being brought in from outside. The picket line is the factory force in occupation.

No raw materials come in and no finished products go out. Nor can machinery be moved somewhere else to be put to work.

It makes the use of police or troops for harassment of workers or violence against them more difficult and even impossible without the risk of damage to machinery and plant.

Most important of all it provides ideal conditions for fundamental exchanges between workers at the point of production on the nature of the system that exploits them and the political implications of their struggle. The frequent meetings and discussions, the arrangements for their own comfort, security and entertainment all contribute to a heightening of working class consciousness and culture.

As compared with strikes where numbers of workers may not be involved all the time, occupations keep a greater proportion of workers constantly aware of their mass strength and solidarity which are proof against all the pressures brought to bear on workers in struggle.

relation to guerrilla struggle and to protracted war

Occupations lend themselves admirably to the present phase of guerrilla struggle — hitting out where the class enemy is weakest and at the same time maintaining the mobility and initiative to avoid being manoeuvred into situations where they can be worn down and demoralised or have their ranks split.

Every guerrilla struggle is a rehearsal for the final confrontation when it will not be individual factories occupied tactically but the whole employing class expropriated strategically. Each occupation symbolises that eventual take over of the means of production and ending of exploitation. Occupations are not a shortcut to some easy form of 'workers' control' eliminating the necessity for protracted war to overthrow the class enemy, smash the capitalist state and establish a workers' state. They are part of the training by which the revolutionary force to carry out that working class mission is mobilised and committed.

Occupations as developed by the engineers for offensive action have as yet involved only a minority of the working class; but they may prove as significant an advance in this era of intensified class conflict as the rise of the shop stewards movement. Certainly the industrial scene in Britain will never be the same since workers out of their class ingenuity first turned a boss's factory into a workers' stronghold.



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

RECORD—BREAKING

In the first five months of this year there were 14,401,000 days of strikes, more than in any full year since the General Strike of 1926. A total of 723,400 workers were involved, against 564,000 last year.

TUBE INVESTMENTS

'We could be facing an Upper Clyde situation here' said the works convenor of Tube Investments stainless steel tube plant at Walsall. The workers are determined to fight the planned closure of the plant. The firm is the largest single employer and the closure would add 950 manual and 500 clerical workers to the 4,800 already unemployed locally.

PLESSEY'S

On Thursday, 29th June the workers at Plessey's Upminster factory, mostly women, seized the keys and sat in for 2 days in protest against proposed redundancy. Plessey is threatening to close the Upminster factory completely, to move the winding section of the Romford factory to Ilford and its coil winding section to Titchfield. Also there is the threat of redundancies at its Ilford factory.

Already the east London Plessey workers at all the factories involved have held a number of mass meetings and stoppages in opposition to the company proposals, in which workers from the AUEW both Engineering Section and TASS, EEP TU and APEX were involved. As one worker told us 'This is the first time manual workers and staff have got together to fight the employer in this company'.

The way forward in this struggle can be best summed up in what the AEU convenor told the mass meeting of Plessey workers from all the east London factories, at which the Upminster occupation was announced — 'Action is the only way we are going to achieve victory'.

MANAGING ON THE DOLE

Spare a thought for the poor management consultants. After years of advising on which factories to close and which men to sack they face — redundancy. P-E Consulting Group, one of the big four in Britain will be cutting its numbers down to 300 by the end of the year, from a level of 450 two years ago. For a long time it has seemed that the only positive thing management consultancy did was provide jobs for management consultants. Now even this has collapsed. Perhaps they can now advise on the most efficient way to stand in a dole queue.

SINGER

The six-week strike of 4,500 workers at the Clydebank plant of Singer Manufacturing ended with unanimous acceptance of an offer giving increases between 21 and 22 per cent.

NO TO PIT CLOSURES

A victorious struggle gives workers confidence and enables them to go on to new struggles. This is clearly shown by the miners' conference. Not only did this call for new wage increases, but the fight against the pit closures which had decimated the industry and turned mining towns into ghost towns was pushed forward. The conference said no pit should close unless for safety reasons or if the coal was exhausted. One delegate said that in the last ten years 700 pits had been closed but if the miners had shown the same militancy as they displayed over the wage claim many of the 300,000 mining jobs lost would have been saved. Publicly the Coal Board has plans for shutting only four exhausted pits this year, but miners suspect some 50 may go in the next two years.

OUT IN THE COLD

picketing has forced the Ford Motor Company to switch its arrangements for exporting tractors. For the past nine weeks dockers have been picketing Dagenham Storage, a subsidiary of U.K. Cold Storage. Ford, one of its biggest customers had been sending 50 'knock-down' tractors a day to be crated and shipped. The dockers have been demanding jobs at the depot for dockers on the unattached register. An offer of only eight jobs has been rejected and the Ford Motor Company has been forced to use alternative channels saying 'We want to stay out of this dispute absolutely'. Another concern being picketed in the fight for jobs for dockers is F.J. Robertsons in London. This is a cold store handling Polish bacon. The managing director fancies himself as a hero and says 'We are not going to be leant on by militant elements'. Our advice to Mr. Robertson is to learn the phone number of the Official Solicitor. Alternatively he could get in touch with Ford and learn how to lean under pressure.

STANMORE ENGINEERING

BOSSES OWN THE LAW

Workers at Stanmore Engineering (Wembley), occupying their factory in pursuit of a living wage, have been cut up by the law.

As reported in the July 1st Worker (From the Workers), the employers were scared to death by the tough fight of men who would no longer accept low wages and lousy conditions.

The bosses therefore went to court and demanded an injunction embracing every aspect of the action — occupation of the factory, picketing, even standing around on the pavement outside. The court, as ever the bosses' tool, granted the injunction on 26th June.

As soon as bailiffs and police had cleared the factory of workers, a lorry appeared to cart the machines away. The bosses were well pleased with their coup. Still they have one problem — they've got the machines but no one to work them! The case, coming after the Industrial Relations Court rulings on picketing, represents yet another step in the direction of the Corporate State, and is being fought by the AUEW in this light.

determined

The workers at Stanmore Engineering are not demoralized. They refuse to go inside the now empty factory, but picket outside. One worker said: 'We've been out so long now, we're not going to take any miserable offer they may make. We want the full claim. It'd be better for the whole place to close down than work there for £15 a week'.

The bosses' tactic is to wear the men down, making them lose heart. But the workers are determined to see the struggle through to the end. After all, capitalism has not yet learned, nor ever can, how to operate plant without labour power.

PALACE PAY

Government industrial workers from naval dockyards, ordnance factories as well as those who repair and maintain Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Houses of Parliament, demonstrated outside the Civil Service Department during talks on their wage claim. The secretary of the co-ordinating committee for the 194,000 industrial civil servants described the £1.50 offer as 'an insult'. Especially insulting when you consider how much the occupants of Buckingham Palace and Parliament get for doing absolutely nothing of any use.

BRITAIN'S COLONIAL WAR IN DHOFAR



War Enters Eighth Year

Britain's partially secret war in the Dhofar province of Oman — a sheikhdom in SE Arabia has entered its eighth year. Ever since 1964, and even earlier, an army, airforce and even a navy, equipped, officered and directed by Britain's Ministry of Defence, has been waging a colonial war of the modern sort. The latest weapons, including napalm bombs, the latest armoured vehicles and helicopters are being deployed against a people's guerrilla force, considerably inferior in weaponry but considerably superior in politics, morale and leadership. So it is not surprising that the 'rebels' or patriots are winning and the casualties among the British officers, either seconded or 'on contract', i.e. highly paid mercenaries, are increasing and the puppet troops are getting demoralised.

Britain's autumn offensive Routed

The victories scored by the Dhofar People's Liberation Forces have been mentioned in the Worker from time to time (see June, 1971; Feb 1972). Last November the British autumn offensive against the liberated areas was a flop and the liberation forces, under the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf (PFLOAG) were able to chalk up tremendous successes against British-trained commandos and their British officers. British fighter planes were shot down, helicopters destroyed, 11 British officers and many puppet troops killed; and a great deal of military equipment captured. Most important of all, the liberated areas of Dhofar were kept secure through tremendous heroism of the ordinary men and women and young people who have flocked to join the liberation forces. Persons who were shepherds and nomads only a very short time ago, women heavily veiled and enslaved, have become new people, learning the politics of revolution and people's war from the Front.

May Victories

Not only was the offensive overcome but the Front has maintained its record of successes. This May chalked up many victories, a transport plane was brought down and commando units ambushed. Even the Sunday Times man had to admit (June 25) that the 'rebels' have succeeded in detaching the Jebel (the hilly area) from the plains around Salala.

Imperialist Conspiracy Against

South Yemen

Confronted by this obviously popular 'counter-insurgency', British imperialism has had to look around for other ploys. In that high-priest of Arab reaction — the King of Saudi Arabia — and its US backer — it has found allies to attack the People's Democratic Republic of South Yemen (formerly the British colony of Aden). There have been intrigues and conspiracies attacks and subversion to overthrow the left-wing government of South Yemen not only to get rid of a progressive regime, but one that is the strongest rear for the Dhofar liberation forces.

But as the speakers at the grand mass rally in Aden to mark the 7th anniversary of the founding of PFLOAG on June 9 said: as long as the liberation struggle involves the mass of the people and as long as it is a protracted war in which politics and not guns are in command, the victory of the peoples of Oman and Dhofar is assured despite all difficulty and conspiracies.

LEADGATE ENGINEERING

WORKERS OCCUPY !

In January 1969 Stibbe Engineering bought a 10-acre site and buildings at Leadgate, which belonged to the NCB, for the give-away price of £75,000. The buildings were furnished with all types of new machine tools up to an estimated cost of half a million pounds. The land, buildings, and machinery were subsidised by maximum Government grants (tax payers' money).

After three years operational time, June 1969 to June 1972, during which period the Company received Training, Regional Employment and Operational grants (also the qualifying period for the exemption of grant repayment for the majority of the machines) the Stibbe Engineering Board took the decision to close the factory without any prior consultation, leaving 290 jobless, in an area with an 8 per cent unemployment figure.

Some six months ago, the Company bought a 10-acre site in the Leicester area and when questioned by the AUEW members at Leadgate as to whether the Company's intention were honourable, they stated it was to house the machines from the Leicester establishment. It is quite clear from information now to hand, that the Company had made up their minds some six months ago that all the machines from the Leadgate factory would be transferred to Leicester.

The North West Durham District Committee and Executive Council have endorsed the action of the members occupying this factory to resist the Company moving machinery to Leicester. Bearing in mind the hardships that will be caused to the families of the members involved in this struggle, the District Committee have set up a fund to give financial

Note: Keeping up the pretence to the last, only six weeks before the closure the firm described the Leadgate operation as 'a real success story for the group'. Even the manager only got ten minutes notice. He is now also sitting in.

KNOCKED 'EM IN THE OLD KENT ROAD

The 150 men and women at Briant Colour Printers have taken full control of their factory in the Old Kent Road, London and are now publishing their own paper the B. C. P. Workers News from which we take the following reports on the course of their struggle.

Within 24 hours we had organised the following:-

Duty rosters for men in each department round-the-clock; duty rosters of pickets on all gates, doors and danger-points; that all management up to director level should work under the direct control of the F.O.C.s and Committee; supply of materials, new work, liaison with existing clients to arrange payment for work in progress; arrangements for sleeping accommodation, food, entertainment whilst off duty etc.,

We then denied access to the premises to all directors and executive personnel — non-Union of course. We also denied access to the liquidator,

N.J. PENNINGTON, F.O.C. S.O.G.A.T

To be told that you're out, to leave the premises immediately in such a

way, with no offer of discussions, and no logical reasons given, and with no mention of redundancy payments is beyond the realms of moral decency. The ironical thing about the present situ-

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

AS a regular feature of our paper we print interviews with workers involved in class struggle, so that we may learn from each other's experiences in different sectors of what is all the same fight. These articles are reports from the front in the guerrilla war the working class wages daily with the employing class and the capitalist government which serves its interests.

An interview with Mr. J. Roston, A.U.E.W. North-West Durham District Secretary, and Fred Carlyone, Works Convener at the occupied factory of Leadgate Engineering Ltd., County Durham, where 300 jobs are in jeopardy.

Q. Why occupy rather than picketing?

A. By occupying rather than picketing we're able to keep a more watchful eye on what goes on.

The company has been in production up here for 3 years and has had the benefit of full Government grants. Last month they made a profit of £6,500. Just two weeks ago they received the Queen's Award to Industry! Yet they say we must lose our jobs because of lack of orders. We feel this factory could still be made a going concern.

The company have built a new factory in Leicester and were intending to move the machines there in October. By occupying we are making sure that nothing goes out of the factory, including two new lorries intended to move the machines; these are all under lock and key now.

Q. How are you organised and how is your morale?

A. At the moment we are still in production, although nothing is going out. We are occupying 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 4 hour shifts.

The morale is very good. We are determined to come out on top. We've got the full support of the staff.

As we are still in full production the lads time is fully occupied. Because our wages are worked out from the previous month, we are still being paid our full basic wage, so at the moment we're o.k. financially.

Q. What were the events leading up to the occupation?

A. On Monday, June 5th the company notified shop stewards of the closure of the factory on June 30th, due to 'postponement and cancellation of orders.'

We held a meeting to discuss this situation, and decided that we couldn't allow these 300 jobs to be scrapped and suggested to the lads that we occupy the factory.

At a mass meeting the following morning there was a unanimous vote to occupy and begin a work-in.

We informed the management that their locks were coming off and ours were going on.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

A. We are prepared to carry on this occupation indefinitely. Our notice will run out on June 30th, when the works will be officially closed, so in the meantime we are just making very sure that nothing goes out.

After the 30th June we will take stock of the situation and decide what action to take from there.

ation is that in the last nine months orders have built up to such an extent that work has had to be turned away,

SOGAT DIV. A. M.O.C. C. Brazil.

We are fighting for our rights — The right to work — We cannot all be rich and unfortunately we cannot live on fresh air, this is why we are making this stand. There are about thirty women workers, most of them in the one Chapel. Most people are under the impression that women are conservative in their attitudes and are not interested in Unions and militant struggle. There has never been any problem here. All the women are active union-members. They are not the sort to grouse when others go on strike — Some people just don't understand anyone else's struggle. The Miners wives were a good example to everyone during that strike. We have to stand firm against our boys at the top. Somebody, somewhere has been making money at our expense. We hope we have your wholehearted support and fight with us until we have our jobs back again.

ENGINEERS STRUGGLE INTENSIFIES

The factory based struggle of the engineering workers is continuing to advance. In factory after factory the workers on the shop floor open new fronts in the battle against the employers. All over Britain the 'grass roots war' is beginning to unfold in ever developing forms, demonstrating the ingenuity and courage of our class

MIDLAND CAR WORKERS

As well as the GEC strike, Coventry also saw action at the car plants over the engineers claim. 2,500 workers walked out at British Leyland's Court House Green engine factory over piecework rates as part of the claim but returned after a few days for further talks. Jaguar car assemblers also went on strike. 3,000 Chrysler engine and transmission workers rejected an offer of 4p an hour on top of their £1.03 rate and demanded the full 15p an hour of the national claim. They finally accepted a £3.60 per week increase, after a secret ballot conducted by the Electoral Reform Society. Workers must decide their action collectively at mass meetings not by secret ballots whether organised by the Electoral Reform Society, the Union, the employers, or the state.

A FLOOD

The US government tells us in this presidential year about reducing its involvement in the Vietnam war. The truth is that the beautiful land and people of Vietnam are being subjected to wanton destruction and war escalation. The US government's talk of 'peace' and 'goodwill' is merely a shroud of deceit and is belied by American action.

In one day in early July, 320 air strikes were made against North Vietnam alone. How, in the eyes of the Vietnamese, can US imperialism appear on the wings of a dove. It appears and reappears as a merchant of death cast in the image of phantom jets and B-52's.

Residential quarters have been a prime target of attacks since early spring. Extermination raids have been launched against Hanoi, Haiphong, Viet Tri and other populous areas throughout the North. Hospitals, clinics, farms, living quarters have been wrecked; streets bombed and rocketed. The most malicious US endeavour has been to release floods of destruction by attacking North Vietnam's dykes and dams.

At the moment it is the flood season in Vietnam. From mid-April to the end of June, 79 attacks were made on dykes and the irrigation network damaging 34 portions of dykes. The aim: to cause natural disasters by unnatural means. And when the local people began to busily repair the damage, more US planes were sent in to attack them. For example, on June the 14th US aircraft wrecked the dyke on the Ma river in Thanh Hoa province. Dozens of repair workers were killed and wounded as the US planes attempted to protect their dirty deeds.

Fail, escalate.... Fail, escalate.... such is the logic of US imperialism. Contrary to its hopes it has succeeded only in releasing a flood of enmity and fighting throughout

floods. Meanwhile, in response to the biggest naval forces ever mustered by the US in the war, the North Vietnamese armed forces have knocked down 260 planes and captured several pilots, all in the past 3 months. Fifty times have US destroyers and cruisers been set on fire. The militia and the homeguards in North Vietnam had to their credit 15 aircraft downed and 3 warships set ablaze. A momentous event occurred on June 27th. It was then that the 370th US war plane was claimed after 8 years of airwar.

Fail, escalate.... Fail, escalate.... but more desperate and vicious each time. Defeated on the southern battlefield the bully Nixon tries to find an easier prey in the North. Vainly he attempts to avoid the blows. Vainly he attempts to bolster his southern puppet. Vainly he tries to pressure the Vietnamese

OCCUPATION AT MOLINS

660 Grade V skilled workers staged a sit-in in support of their claim for improved wages and conditions. The claim was for £6.00 per week increase and that the working week should be reduced from 40 hours to 35 hours without loss of pay, having already established the 4 weeks holiday.

The Company had offered an increase on the base rate and varying increases on the bonus rate which amounted to approximately £2.70. They also offered to commence discussions in November 1972, which it was maintained, could lead to a reduction of one hour in the normal working week, subject to changes in working practices being agreed to. It was not possible to reach agreement on such a proposal, the workers being determined to obtain a much higher increase, in recognition of the value of their skill and experience to the company, to maintain and improve their existing standards and to take into account the increased living costs and combat the effects of the Common Market, the floating £ and all the rest. They realise that the way to combat unemployment is to fight for shorter hours.

The sit-in is being carried out on a rota basis, with 25 per cent of the workers occupying their shops at any one time on a 24-hour basis.

Following the Company's decision to lay off 259 non-craft workers, they decided to join the sit-in with effect from Tuesday 4th July.

Similar action was taken at the Kingston, Surrey, factory and subsequently followed by the Saunderton, High Wycombe factory.

The members' action has been endorsed by the London South District Committee of AUEW and approval of the dispute has now been given by the Executive Council of the Union.



Guerrilla fighters pledge to defend their liberated area at a ceremony to celebrate the formation of a guerrilla team in Quang Tri Province.

into accepting his conditions for negotiations.

And all the time talk of withdrawal. An indication of the US policy of escalation is the ever-increasing use of Thailand to pursue the war in Indochina. It is from here that aircraft take off day and night to bombard Vietnam. Air bases are proliferating here. Servicemen forced out of Vietnam have now gone to Thailand. More than 10,000 US forces have arrived in the last two months and more are expected shortly.

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP

155 Fortess Road, London N.W.5.
MON. 10.30am-4.30pm
TUES-SAT. 10.30am-8.00pm

The British Working Class and its Party, CPBML Programme, printed pamphlet8p
Lenin's classic 'What's To Be Done?'35p
Teach-yourself Chinese, 2 Vols.,
paperback, from China 60p

WESTINGHOUSE CHIPPENHAM

At the end of last month, the employers managed to lock-out the workers at the giant Westinghouse Brake and Signal Company plant at Chippenham. This was the employers' counter attack to the workers surprise occupation, that had been launched in early June, in pursuance of the engineering claim. However the workers not to be intimidated replied with vigorous picketing. All lorries were being turned away, and cars entering and leaving were being searched.

At a mass meeting on July 7th, the 1,600 workers on strike overwhelmingly rejected the employers offer of £1.80 a week more, for women and £2 for men. The workers reaffirmed their demand for a £6 a week, shorter hours, and longer holidays. The struggle goes on.

GEC COVENTRY

7,000 workers, mainly women, at the eight GEC telecommunications factories in Coventry returned to work after a 12-day strike. An earlier offer of £2 had been rejected by the workers, pushing for the national engineering claim. The deal ac-

cepted after a secret ballot includes a £2.25 increase for skilled workers and £2 for other grades and women, with further increases of 75p and 50p respectively in October. Negotiations on equal pay will begin in September.

MANESTY MACHINES LIVERPOOL

At Manesty Machines in Liverpool, 212 men have been on strike for 2 weeks in pursuance of the AUEW pay claim. So tight has been the picket line that even the GPO vans have not crossed it. Part of the giant Reynolds Chams, which holds a near monopoly on drive parts for machine tools, Manesty Machines last year made a profit of £800,000 - which represents 50.3% return on invested capital, according to the convenor.

Of the 18 firms in the Engineering Employers Federation on Merseyside, the biggest 5 have already settled. At Wingrove and Rogers, which has not yet learnt the lesson and settled, the men have been in occupation for 11 weeks as we go to press.

POLICE STATE

Some of the mechanisms of State surveillance have been brought to light recently. Reports reveal that the police have for several years informed certain employers (primarily in the Public Sector itself) of even the most trivial offences committed by their employees. Doctors, dentists, civil servants, nurses, teachers, bus drivers and conductors and even Christmas postmen are amongst those most likely to have the police lead

detailed circulars to their employer if any misdemeanour is committed. The existence of such a system has often been denied by the Home Office.

Some employers even feel this to be inadequate - The Inner London Education Authority for example each week searches through nearly 300 newspapers to ensure that it does not miss anything involving its teachers which the police may have overlooked!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 14th FRIDAY. Public Meeting. The Building Industry. 7.30 p.m. at Bellman Bookshop.

JULY 21st FRIDAY. Public Meeting. "China Today" by a speaker who worked many years in China 7.30 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop.

July 29th-Saturday. Public Meeting organised by the C.P.B. (M-L). 5pm at Stage Centre, St. John's Church, Bursage Road, S.E.18. (Near Plumstead BR)

August 4th Friday. 7.30pm at the Bellman Bookshop: Meeting on Turkey today with a speaker from the United Patriotic Front of Turkey. Organised by the Communist Party of Britain

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