

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist - Leninist)

March 23rd 1978 No 11 5p

WORKERS NEED REVOLUTION REVOLUTION NEEDS ITS PARTY

The Party's tenth birthday

"APRIL has always been the month of rebirth, of life renewing itself after the dead time of winter. Our ancestors marked the Easter festival and May Day with celebration of the abundance and fertility of nature and man's power to endure.

"Christianity borrowed Easter with its theme of death and rebirth. But Christianity is a passing phase and Easter will be celebrated long after that particular religious episode has been forgotten.

"At Easter 1968 the British Working Class gave birth to its political party the Communist Party of Britain Marxist Leninist. The date will go down in history as indicating a stage in the ideological development of a people.

"This was a birth, because never before had there been a Party absolutely identified with the class interests of the working class.

"It was also a rebirth, because the revolutionary character of the British working class has never been in doubt. The question was not whether but when.

"April in capitalism is a bitter season, 'the cruellest month' because it should be the kindest. Our winter of

wage slavery has lasted very long. The modern wasteland created by Capitalism is not dependent on the seasons; April can wash away the detritus of winter but not the scars left by Capital. The blight lies heavy on us, morally and intellectually as well as materially. Waste of land. Waste of resources. Waste of intellect. 'They make a desert and they call it peace,' said the Roman.

"In the last decade there has been a worldwide rebirth. We in Britain are a part of this process, as are the new Marxist-Leninist parties in many countries. The CPBML has grown very rapidly both numerically and ideologically. In relation to the tasks which lie before us, however, it is both small and backward. Yet this Party is the most precious possession of the British working class for it embodies the class aspiration to end for all time the exploitation of man by man, to enter upon the new day of Socialism."

We wrote these words on the occasion of our Fifth Birthday. On our Tenth Birthday we re-dedicate ourselves as fighters in the ranks of the world revolution as British Marxist-Leninists.

Who is to rule Zimbabwe? Only the people can decide

ONLY one day after the signing of the Salisbury agreement, Bishop Muzorewa spoke of civil war upon his arrival in London airport, thus betraying the true nature of the agreement between Smith and three self-styled 'leaders'. Less than a week later Smith troops and airforce invaded neighbouring Zambia, killing and maiming peasants near the border.

No wonder there were no celebrations outside Government House where Smith hugged his new lieutenants.

The agreement has elevated the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe from white versus black rule to a fascist imperialist rule versus a democratic progressive rule.

The agreement followed the failure of the Smith regime to

defeat the liberation forces. The increasing dependence on native soldiers whose loyalty to the racist regime was under question forced the Smith government to include under its umbrella those African 'leaders' who share his fear of the liberation forces. Orders to the Rhodesian army will have the respectability of emanating from black generals and black ministers. Oppression becomes respectable now that it is directly by black rulers and black police.

The main support for the agreement is coming from the British government. Dr Owen has given a de facto blessing by first refusing to condemn it and then by inviting the three black signatories to address the UN on behalf of Smith.



The 1916 Easter Uprising challenged British Imperialism in Ireland. From its inception the CPB(ML) has demanded "British Troops out of Ireland". Photo shows an early CPB(ML) demonstration in support of this demand.

Engineers' strike threat succeeds

THE two-day strike threat of the engineers to back their claim for new minimum rates and other benefits forced the Federation of Engineering Employers to agree to their demands.

The employers had been resisting on the grounds that the claim was in breach of the Government guide lines and if they accepted it, their mem-

bers might be subject to Government sanctions. Now to avoid industrial action the employers are prepared to sign an agreement with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions meeting the claim in full.

On March 16 a joint deputation from the CSEU and the EEF presented their agreement to the Employment Secre-

tary so that it can be submitted to the Cabinet committee on pay policy.

Just as the strike threat made the employers agree to a settlement, so the Government's recognition of the response of the engineers to any attempt to oppose the agreement will almost certainly keep them from raising any protest.

ZIONIST 'PEACE' SPELLS DEATH

THE Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon is the other side of the 'peace moves' started only a few months ago, in December 1977. The senseless murder of innocent civilians on an Israeli bus and on the road to Tel Aviv by a small group of Palestinians was used as a pretext for all-out invasion, an invasion that must have been planned a long time in advance.

Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese villages and towns were extensively bombed from land, sea and air up to the very outskirts of Beirut. The result was the slaughter of scores of men, women and children. The so-called military camps and 'terrorists headquarters' turned out to be simple villages as was witnessed by reporters

on the spot. If it was not for the evacuation of border villages to the north the Zionist plan of massive slaughter would have succeeded. So intent were they on such a plan that refugee convoys of trucks and cars have been attacked by Israeli commandos along the road to Tyre and Beirut.

In spite of the huge force (over 20,000 troops with artillery, tanks and air cover) deployed by Israel against an estimated guerrilla force of 2,000, the Lebanese and Palestinians courageously resisted the invaders.

True to the Zionist expansionist principles, Begin declared Israel's intention to annex a 6-mile zone of south Lebanon under the guise of securing Israeli borders. If anything, it is the borders of

neighbouring countries that need protecting. Far from being insecure, Israel has consistently expanded its borders at the expense of Jordan, Syria, Egypt and now Lebanon.

The question for the Jews in Israel is how long will they continue to shed their blood as their Zionist government leads them from one bloody war to another fostering enmity and hatred with neighbouring peoples. No advance can be made, no peace will come to the area without the overthrow of Zionist ideology by the Jews in Israel. Neither will progress be achieved if the Palestinians are their oppressors by indiscriminate murder of Israeli Jews, the very people they must aim to unite with in their common struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

1900 - Rail workers use ingenuity and courage to fight bosses' laws

THE TAFF VALE episode is not the most glorious of episodes in the history of the working class. But it was, nevertheless, of crucial importance.

In August 1900 workers on the Taff Vale railway in South Wales, members of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants struck for higher pay and union recognition. Like many others of the period, it was a bitter dispute. Two men were imprisoned for 'unlawful damage' of company property, and 400 fined for breaking their contracts. A scab 'free labour association' was brought in to break the strike. And the company sought an injunction against all picketing.

The men fought back. The ingenuity remains an example to the class. They avoided set to confrontations with the police. They used railway signals to confuse the scabs, and to send messages to each other. They greased the lines at the top of the steep Welsh hills, so that those trains running skidded at the top, making it possible to uncouple the wagons and send them hurtling back down again. Even so, the odds were against them and after a month they decided to withdraw without victory.

But the boss wasn't satisfied. It was after the strike had finished that the legal blows began to fall. Already the employers had succeeded in whittling down trade union rights in the years before. Trade Unionism had once again become a 'civil conspiracy', and picketing virtually illegal. As a judge told a leader of the Fancy Leather Workers in 1899, "You

cannot make a strike effective without doing more than what is lawful. "And now in July 1901, nearly a year after the strike, the Lords decided that the ASRS should be made financially responsible for any losses incurred by their bosses during the dispute. The Lords were, they said, totally opposed to the creation of "numerous bodies of men, capable of owning great wealth and of acting by agents with absolutely no responsibility for the wrongs they may do to other persons by the use of that wealth. . . "They were not, of course referring to the capitalist class but to the trade unions!

The Times blamed the unions for Britains alling competitiveness; and Sidney Webb, the 'cleverer than thou' Fabian 'socialist', advised the TUC that collective bargaining was out of date anyway and that the answer to all future disputes would lie in statutory regulations of wages and conditions.

The immediate response of the unions was weak and faint hearted. The Miners wanted legal clarification. The Engineers wanted the possible fines to be reduced to an agreed maximum. Sexton, of the Clothiers, told the TUC that the Taff Vale judgement was "a blessing in disguise, and will tend to strengthen executive control and minimise, if not kill, irresponsible action in the localities." Bell, of the ASRS, itself agreed.

The Cotton Factory Times, organ of the Spinners and Weavers, blamed 'the ILP and Socialistic men' for unoff-

icial strikes and hoped that now unions would appoint more 'intelligent officials'.

The fruits of this retreat from principle would soon become apparent. Whilst the TUC of 1902 decided not to press for the repeal of the decision despite growing rank and file pressure, the attack was mounting. In the first weeks of 1903 the unions were stunned when damages worth £42,000 were awarded against the ASRS, and similar judgements were pending against weavers in Blackburn and others.

The shock waves still affect us today. Within a year affiliations to the Labour Representation Committee (precursor of the Labour Party) had doubled to just under one million. From now on direct political action by the organised working class, previously the dream of socialists as a means of advancing sectional union interests (like the miners), became a reality. The Cotton Factory Times, so smug before, now shouted, 'justice is slumbering'. The TUC moved from accommodation to outright opposition to the law. Agitation mounted for another two years, but it wasn't until the elections of 1906 when 40 Labour members were elected along with many more Liberals specifically pledged to overturn the Taff Vale decision, that victory was in sight. Despite numerous manoeuvres by the new Liberal Government, it was forced to give in. Trade union rights were, once again, restored, and alongside them a new political party had gelled . . . the Labour Party.

A fulfilling life for Albania's people

THE foundation of all prosperity is work. A country which forces people not to work is creating poverty. But it would be wrong to compare capitalism and socialism merely by comparing which system produces more material wealth more efficiently. To reduce socialism to such a narrow 'economic' question is akin to those who argue that unemployment is necessary because a firm hasn't the money to pay the wages.

The Albanians have achieved full employment - and they are the first to point out that such an achievement is not the be all and end all of socialism, but an expression of socialism in practice. It is first of all an ideological question. Do we regard man's talents as we should regard the Earth or the Sea, to be used by all for the good of all? Do we regard work not only as a means of making money but essential to prosperity and to the fulfillment

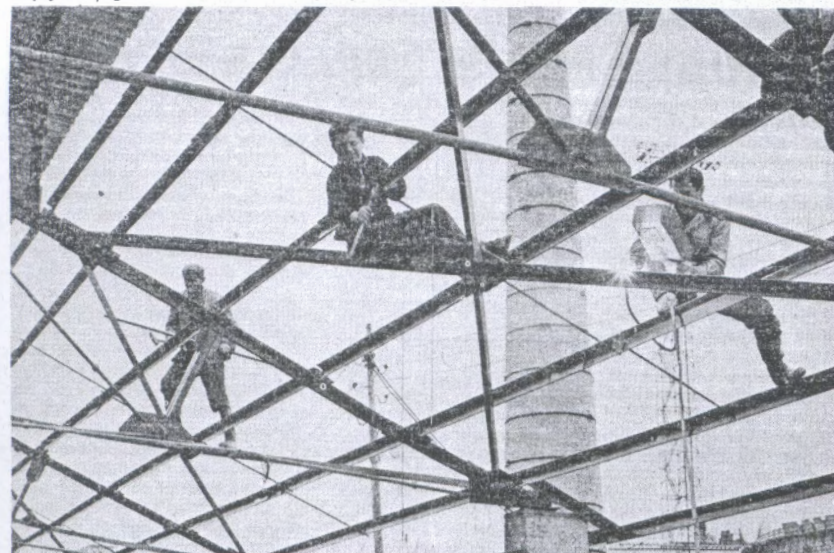
and development of human beings themselves? And when we look at wealth, do we turn a blind eye to the greatest asset of all - human intelligence, skill and emotion - and see only those material goods which can pass hands for cash?

Gaining the right to work for all is more than a moral rejection of the cash nexus philosophy of capitalism. It is a straightforward question of who has power - capitalist or proletarian? Over 30 years ago the Albanian people

drove out the Nazis and others oppressing them, seized the factories and farms and built their own government and army. They were led by a Marxist-Leninist party. Since then all production has been planned democratically according to long and short term needs, and not according to the anarchic dictates of profit maximisation.

Population has increased greatly, but production even faster. For the Albanians the fact that a quarter of a million youngsters will soon be reaching working age is an opportunity to open new fronts in health, culture, industry and agriculture. It is certainly not a disaster or a crisis. Further growth and development are assumed in planning. Population and production grow with each other - as does the standard of living and educational standards of the people. In fact education has seen perhaps the greatest advances. . . and all workers have been guaranteed the right to exercise their skills in compliance with the professional and cultural knowledge they have.

The full utilisation of the talents of all the people (46 per cent of the workforce are now women, compared with 4 per cent before the revolution) is not only the end but the means of socialism. Work for all means taxes for no one, and health and education for everyone. And no inflation. That is of course, if exploiters have been crushed and the dictatorship achieved. It has in Albania.



Albanian workers building a new factory. Unemployment does not exist in this socialist country. In Albania production for need, not profit, means full employment, not human waste.

ACCORDING to the parliamentary politicians the world-wide economic recession has caused inflation. This has sapped investors' confidence, crippled industry, hit exports, drowned the pound and, along with a dozen or more ills, inevitably led to unemployment.

In such a situation, says the Labour Government, we are "forced by circumstances beyond our control" to bind and gag the trade unions until inflation is "beaten." The Government, however, is willing to allow bigger increases for workers who are happy to make productivity deals based on a substantial loss of jobs.

Fewer and fewer workers are induced to seek higher wages if more and more workers will join the dole queue. And this, naturally, will open the way to ending unemployment.

It's only "commonsense" after all - social-democratic commonsense. And we should have none of it. An economic system in irreversible decline cannot be resuscitated by reform.

SOME people say that Britain should be for the British. Of course this is so, but who are the British people? The working class in all its diversity and variety - white, black, male, female, old young, skilled and less skilled, 'blue' and 'white' collar, Scottish, Welsh, Cornish - all belong.

There are those who tell the blacks to 'go home'. In their prejudice they don't even know what they are saying. For home is Britain, and as British people they have the responsibility to stand up for their rights and make this country a worthy one to live in. The first task? To be rid of the real aliens - aliens in morality and interest - the international capitalist class.

NO sooner has the recent struggle for education in Oxfordshire come to an end than the Council have opened up a new front. It has decided that a league table of examination results from the county's secondary schools should be published. Is this the first step in a return to "payments by result", or is it an attempt to make schools select themselves for closure as the school population makes a further decline? Whatever the reason the Divisional Council meets soon to consider going into formal dispute over this matter.

THE African patriot, Robert Sobukwe, has died while under detention in Kimberley, South Africa. He was the leader of the anti-pass law campaign which the fascist South African Government tried to put down with the brutal Sharpeville massacre in which more than 200 unarmed people were killed or wounded.

The movement which Sobukwe helped to inspire with his example of courageous defiance of the racist authorities continues to develop and during this last year reached new heights in Soweto and other townships.

EDITORIAL

THERE is a spectre haunting European capitalism - the growing organised militancy of industrial workers. In Britain, France, Germany, the workers on whom all society rests, engineers, miners, printers, transport workers and others, are fighting against their employers, which today, particularly in Britain, means the state. Therefore, though the strikes, 'go slows', banning of overtime, 'sit-ins' may appear to be only about wages and conditions they are in reality against inflation, unemployment, the right of the employer to treat workers as waste material to be expeditiously destroyed. The struggle is against the system, capitalism, and workers do not need revolutionary catch phrases to know that.

European workers are promised slow starvation today and a world war tomorrow to be fought for the third time on the soil of Europe. This is the new Fascism, much more subtle than that of Hitler or Mussolini. Lenin's demands "Bread, Peace and Land" (or work) are all that workers ask for because they are too modest, they should demand the earth and all its fruits. Instead they are asked to sacrifice all three today, to be ready for what? For a re-division of the world into new sections as when the Pope drew a line across the globe and everything to one side was to belong to the Portuguese Empire and all the rest to the Spanish Empire.

Now, giving up the struggle to survive and becoming slaves to their exploiters, abandoning national sovereignty, workers are asked to accept Common Market bureaucrats, NATO generals and under the leadership of International Imperialism led by US Imperialism march in a new crusade to destroy Russia and, quite incidentally, all Europe. Even "Blood and Iron" Bismarck would blench. In such a project, first enunciated by so-called Communists and taken up with enthusiasm by capitalism - after all, the sale of arms is the last flourishing export business of Britain - the war would be fought by civilians; they always die in wars, never 'leaders'.

But just as the bourgeoisie started to dig its own grave when it created the Proletariat, such an adventure would mean the end of capitalism. Industrial workers as individuals, and as a class, do not accept self made 'leaders'. The last European 'leader' was Salazar, it is doubtful if there will be another. "Hail to the chief" is not a phrase that comes easily to the tongue of an industrial worker.

So the answer for Capitalism is simple. Get rid of the majority of the class which is such a thorn, keep a minority as slaves and destroy the rest. Miners and engineers of the USA are following the pattern of Europe. Perhaps even the Toyota workers depicted as "undead zombies" will follow suit. European workers will not allow 2000 years of work and struggle to emerge from the slime of barbarism, to be lost. The advocates of the total destruction of Europe, by collaboration and war, are the new barbarians.

Defiance not deference

THE latest 'great debate' in the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) is about 'industrial democracy'. Several members believe that 'participation' is ever so progressive and see it as a way of removing conflict between employers and the union. Some even think it represents the triumph of union power. But NALGO, along with every union in Britain, must reject this pseudo-democracy.

'Industrial democracy' is a departure from traditional trade unionism. If implemented, then inevitably NALGO's autonomy, democratic structure and bargaining function would be substantially weakened. After seventy-three years, in which NALGO has rightly prided itself on its independence and democracy, it would bring about the end of NALGO as we know it.

'Industrial democracy' may appear a progressive measure but really it signifies another aspect of a current trend whereby trade unions are being diverted from their proper role of defending and improving members' pay and conditions. Instead, they are becoming incorporated into the machinery of government.

We should do everything in our power to resist the establishment of a corporate state in Britain. Italian trade unions lost their independence and function - and much else - when Mussolini 'invited' them to join his Corporations of employers, employees and state representatives to man-

MONOPOLY TURNS OFF THE LIGHT

RESEARCH to develop efficient electric lighting has been pursued by leading companies in Britain, US and USSR since 1921. The results have apparently resulted in dozens of patents, but the consumer has never seen the products on the market.

An engineer looking into this paradox, has produced evidence of the fabrications the companies are building to suppress the manufacture of certain lamps - such as the double coil lamp and the selective emitter filament. These lamps, with indefinite luminous life, could effectively be produced to last a lifetime at low cost. The lighting industry with this axe, hanging over it is, according to David Meiklejohn, leading light engineer, fostering protective practices and the production of obsolete and inefficient light bulbs at unnecessary cost to the consumer. He alleges further conspiracy in subversion of research goals and money being poured into obtaining patents to suppress the new lamps.

This and other extensive information has been put to the commons select committee on Science and Technology - brave attempt to open up another of capitalism's sores.

Independence is vital to NALGO and all trade unions. Resistance to 'industrial democracy' should form a uniting link for all shades of opinion.



In 1954 when the US and British Governments wanted to re-arm Germany as an anti-communist force, the people of Britain were opposed. Picture shows the people of Scarborough demonstrating outside the Labour Party conference.

Jobs fight in Fforesthalls

FACED with a growing threat on the future of local government departments, the Swansea Branch of NALGO has instituted a policy of non-cooperation.

In November the council announced its intention of concentrating the future work of its Building Department on the repair and maintenance of its council houses, while running down the capital works side of the department's activity, involving 70 redundancies.

The council have denied the Building Department the new housing scheme at Fforesthalls and trimmed the repair and maintenance budget for the coming year to £2.4m, £213,000 of which has been awarded to private contract work already.

With this in mind a branch meeting of NALGO, when faced

with the creation of posts in the Housing Department which duplicated work done in the Building Department, decided to black the posts as a means to preventing any council move to close the Building Department. This move was coupled with a boycott of the council's intention to bring in outside management consultants to review staff in the authority, work normally done by the administration department.

This beginning must be built on to develop a campaign along with other local authority unions to win back work lost in the Building Department, and just as important to prevent the council's present use of the Job Creation and Work Experience programmes as a temporary workforce to cover up the long list of unfilled vacancies in the authority.

APRIL 1978 sees the 10th Anniversary of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). The Party was born of the class struggle in Britain but it also grew out of the furor of polemic within the world communist movement.

As our Party has grown in experience, it has formulated out of the analysis of class struggle in Britain and out of the revolutionary needs of the British working class a clear understanding of the issues of war and peace in a world divided by class - the working class with its liberative mission of establishing socialism and the capitalist class inevitably driven towards fascism in its last ditch stand. This understanding set forth in the Fourth Congress document is our contribution to the struggle of our working class brothers in other lands: it is incorporated in this year's 'May Day' slogan:

One world, Two classes

Workers throw off your chains!

Nature of an M-L party

IN MARCH 1917 the Bolshevik Party appeared to be a relatively small party. Yet by October of 1917 this party, under the leadership of Lenin, had more than tripled in size and was leading the workers and peasants of that vast land to build the first socialist country in the world.

The speaker at a recent meeting of the CPBML stressed the crucial importance of a Marxist-Leninist party for achieving socialism. The essential ingredient of any genuine party, she said, was its thorough understanding and application of the philosophy of dialectical materialism to the conditions of its own country.

Materialists see ideas as reflections of social conditions. By learning and understanding natural and social laws the people can use them to attain social and economic progress - which necessarily involves revolution in capitalist countries. But also,

it was said, it is impossible to know the laws of nature and society without studying dialectics - the theory which explains the nature of change. Only by seeing things in perspective, understanding what is dying and what is growing and why, can we distinguish between the superficial and the fundamental.

Good examples of undialectical thinking were provided by the meeting. One was the assertion that people who worked in offices or schools were 'middle class' and not workers at all. Another was the division of the world into three categories of nations, forgetting about the struggle between classes within nations.

Why, it was asked, did the people of countries like the USSR allow socialism to be snatched from them by people who had siezed and betrayed the ideals of the Party they had belonged to?

Steelmen resist destruction

LEADERS of 27,000 craftsmen in the steel industry were supported unanimously at a meeting in Sheffield of 200 delegates representing 12 unions of steel workers when they announced their refusal to negotiate a pay settlement in exchange for jobs.

This was just part of the preparations of steel trade unionists to "resist to the end" cut-backs which will threaten the steel industry's future. The Government, in spite of promises to the contrary, has decided to scrap all investment plans for increasing output and to abolish another 40,000 jobs.

The first major confrontation between unions and the BSC has come at the Shelton plant, Stoke-on-Trent, where 2,000 steel workers are digging in to prevent closure. Two months ago these workers voted overwhelmingly to keep their jobs and refuse redundancy payments.

Connolly

ON March 17th there was a meeting on James Connolly at the Bellman Bookshop. The speaker gave an account of his great contribution to the class struggle both in Britain and in Ireland. The meeting paid a tribute to his theoretical work on Ireland which clearly shows that nationalism and socialism are inseparable.

His clear analysis of the position of Ireland has lessons for us today. The situation in Ireland has not fundamentally changed. British imperialism still controls the destiny of Irish workers.

The CPBML has always held that Ireland should be free; that the struggle of Irish workers is the same as the struggle of British workers.

The meeting, mainly through contributions from the floor, showed that Communists can have no sympathy with terrorists who kill and maim members of the working class.

Connolly's work on the great imperialist war was also discussed. He did everything in his power to oppose war while encouraging revolutionary struggle.



Teachers of Cheviot Middle School, Newcastle upon Tyne, leaving the school at lunch time in connection with the sanctions being imposed to back their pay claim. The teachers' work-to-rule has had such a powerful effect that the employers are falling over themselves to withdraw with dignity.

NUT decisions crucial for education

SOON delegates from the teachers' union, the NUT, will assemble at Blackpool for their annual conference. They will decide the policies of the union for the coming year.

The opposition to the Government currently displayed by the union over pay must be consolidated and advanced. For the life of the union, independence is everything.

Teachers are facing big problems and they must face them on behalf of the whole working class. There is the threat of closure of schools and many thousands of teachers are on the dole.

Investment in education is

dangerously low and the effect of this is similar to that of a starvation of industrial investment - slow death.

Teachers have not escaped the consequences of the pay policy that has been allowed to operate for too long in Britain. Like many unions the NUT voluntarily went along with the Government's plans and its members have suffered the resultant cut in living standards.

The way forward is clear. Teachers must demand an immediate return to the living standards achieved in 1975 and they must vow never to connive again in a social con-

tract. The conference must declare itself opposed to school closure and opposed to the criminal run-down of school staffs. No transfer of teachers from one school to another, whether compulsory or 'voluntary'.

The conference has an opportunity to signal a new advance in education. Foremost on the agenda is a call for a maximum class size of 25. If the National Union of Teachers can march united behind that banner, the counter-offensive on behalf of education will have begun, and none too soon.

STUDENTS FIGHT CUT IN NUMBERS

THE governing body of the Polytechnic of Central London has accepted the directive of the Inner London Education Authority to reduce the number of overseas students studying at the college. The assurances made by the PCL are the same as those offered by Thames Polytechnic; the ILEA has therefore withdrawn the threat of a £50,000 fine on both colleges.

A strike which was rapidly called by the Students Union met with the support of the National Union of Students in Further and Higher Education, the GLC Staff Association and the National Association of Local Government Officers. The vast majority of students stayed away from college in protest at the attack on their education and many were present on picket lines.

Over the past month the Students Union has been operating the tactic of 'rolling occupations', lightning short-term take-overs of School administrations. In addition, library work-ins, canteen boycotts and a day's strike by students on secretarial courses have been a constant reminder to the college authority that students are angry.

The policy from ILEA directs that no more than 25 per cent of the students' on

any one course shall come from overseas; the term 'overseas' refers to any student who is neither English nor Welsh. The fact of the matter is that there are several courses in British education institutions which exist only because there is a demand from overseas. These tend to be the courses

of importance to industry - engineering, in particular. The ILEA dresses up its directive, describing it as a means to encourage home students to take up further and higher education. The true purpose of the ILEA directive becomes clear - to cut student numbers, cut courses, cut colleges.

Biography of Kim Il Sung

"BY every crafty means, the imperialists of Britain, America and France aimed to turn the threat and the military forces of ferocious Germany away from their own countries to the Soviet Union. What they hoped for was that Germany and the Soviet Union would destroy each other in the war, thus fishing in troubled waters, to leave the world for them to dominate. They also hoped to ally themselves with the victor and obtain rich spoils of war. All this testified to the fact that the contradictions were increasingly complicated among imperialist powers that lived only on aggression and plunder, such as Britain, America, France and fascist Germany, Italy and Japan."

This was written in the first volume of Kim Il Sung's biography. The book gives a detailed account of the successful struggles of the Korean people against Japanese imperialism. Kim Il Sung correctly predicted the future. He said at the time that

"while fascism runs rampant over the globe and the fatherland is suffering the tortures of hell the growing revolutionary forces will ultimately triumph and fascism will be defeated everywhere."

The book is of immense value in understanding the problem of workers today threatened with a similar situation, but this time with the US in the lead for reaction (3 volumes, 50p a volume, 80p including postage.)

Autonomy the key for NUS

THE National Union of Students meets in Conference in Blackpool at the beginning of April. A packed agenda includes resolutions on grants and education cuts, union autonomy, racialism, education and the further education sector of the union.

It is a telling time for the NUS, for this conference must brand all its resolutions with the mark of a true union, an organisation fighting in the interests of its membership. Many students felt that the last national conference represented a retreat from that idea, when attention was diverted from the crucial issues of a decent standard of living, the independence of the union and the future of education. Persuasive phrases such as 'public accountability', 'democratisation of education' dissipated the energy of the national union, disaffecting members who know that the only way to ensure the survival of education is to fight and fight hard.

The focal point of the whole conference will be the debate on union autonomy. Last conference narrowly adopted the view that students unions should accept the interference of external government bodies in the decisions taken by their members and the allocation of finance. On that occasion, conference concentrated on Government threats of even greater constraints on union activities. Many of the resolutions submitted to this conference view the matter from a different angle. This conference must recognise that independent unions are essential to the success of any campaign that it conducts, are thus the central interest of its membership and it must fight for that independence with every weapon that it possesses.

The resolution on grants calls for an increase that will see a return to the 1962 value of the grant. Since that date, when the present system of grants was introduced, the value of the award has declined drastically. The early days of the grants campaign brought some success, staving off complete penury among students. However, the administration of the grants system, with its means testing and dis-

cretionary awards for non-degree students, has meant that fewer and fewer receive the full grant, even then an entirely inadequate sum. A renewed campaign for full grants for all full-time students is aimed not only at securing a decent standard of living for students. It is the key to the fight against increasing tuition fees and declining student numbers, for the grant, even by Department of Education and Science definition, includes the price of tuition. The absence of a grants campaign of any force has resulted in an inadequate fees campaign and disabling weaknesses in the fight for the further education sector.

The debate on racialism will probably generate most heat. Again last conference backed down from its previous stand against the propagation of racialism in rescinding the policy of 'no platform' - refusing students union facilities to racist speakers. The concentration of attention on the student and school-student body by organisations such as the National Front demands an unequivocal resolution from NUS conference.

Colleges all over the country have been subjected to raids by these organisations, when individual students have been attacked and union property destroyed and defaced. In taking up the battle in their colleges, students must not make the mistake of believing fanatics like the Front are the sole manifestation of racialism. It is carefully fostered by the government and not just the 'opposition'; only division within the working class can weaken the class.

This must be the conference when NUS stands up. Policies on grants, education and racialism must be adopted that reflect the interests of the membership, but above all, NUS must equip itself with the weapon that will translate those policies into achievement. Only the assertion of the union's independence and autonomy will lend any realism to its other resolutions and win the commitment of its membership and the respect and support of the rest of the working class.

Books, pamphlets

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW 5
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