

THE WORKER



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Government guidelines breached at Mackies and Fords

WIDEN THE GAP!

ALTHOUGH the trade union movement has decided on a return to collective bargaining the Labour Government is determined to maintain a third year of wage restraint and has already shown its intention to take measures to ensure that its guidelines are not breached. In ignoring these Government-fixed guidelines and insisting on setting its own, the organised working class is at once carrying out its usual class struggle of fighting in defence of its standard of living and also embarking on the political struggle to defy the Government which speaks only for the interests of capitalism.

Mackies

In conformity with what have been saying about the need for workers to stop walking away from their unions and get down to the task of making them carry out the job they were set up for, the 3000 workers at Mackie, the Belfast engineering company, have demonstrated the success of this correct method of struggle by forcing through a 22 per cent wage rise against the whole weight of the capitalist state machinery. They were assisted in this victory by the Vietnamese, for whom a major export order was intended, who offered the export credits the Labour Government refused as a sanction against the company for giving way to the workers' demands. The workers at Mackie went through every stage of union machinery to press their claim successfully and got the AUEW National Committee's support with a resolution against the social contract in May which specifically condemned the Government action against the AUEW workers at Mackie.

Ford

In spite of the vacillation of the Transport and General Workers Union 'leadership', which said it 'did not know what to do' about a settlement which breached the Government guidelines by securing a general increase of 12 per cent - and nearly 14 per cent for skilled workers - the Ford workers themselves have

shown their good sense by voting overwhelmingly to accept. The AUEW stewards at Fords had already said to hell with a ballot and welcomed a settlement negotiated with Ford management by Reg Birch which, as we said in last week's WORKER, "knocks the Government guidelines and makes it possible for other workers elsewhere to secure even higher settlements". The big vote in favour of acceptance by the dayshift workers at Dagenham practically assures that 57,000 workers have smashed through the Government's lines and formed up on the other side for further struggles. The first workers in the motor car industry to act on the lead

taken by Ford workers will probably be those at Vauxhall.

Leyland

In spite of the confusion introduced by the Transport and General stewards at Leyland who urged workers to vote against the company's bargaining scheme which was the answer to their own demand for 'parity' (see THE WORKER No. 20), the tool-room workers have withdrawn a strike threat which would have harmed the company without any material benefit to workers. Now Leyland workers following the lead of Ford workers can go ahead and, ignoring Government demands and regarding the Ley-

land company as theirs to save from capitalism, take whatever they can get, bearing in mind the need to restore for the general good considerations of skill.

Other workers

West Midland lorry drivers have secured an increase of 15 per cent from the employers against a background of Government pressure and arm-twisting, while in another area 3,000 workers employed by the British Oxygen Company have taken industrial action after rejecting a 10 per cent offer.

Among the most important claims in the arena of government-employment is that of local authority manual workers for a basic wage of £50 per week and of firemen in Manchester and Liverpool who, supported by their wives, have demonstrated for their claim of a 30 per cent increase. The Police Federation claiming rises of between 74 and 104 per cent also finds itself in the unusual position of threatening strike action.

In the sector of nationalised industry, as in that of government employment, the Government reckons itself in a particularly strong position to enforce its own guidelines. Last July the NUM Conference voted

for a 90 per cent increase although attention has been temporarily diverted by the decision of the executive to resurrect the question of area-based productivity schemes.

Union negotiators for 29,000 train drivers and other skilled workers in British Rail have tabled a pay claim which has been described as "well above the Government's 10 per cent", maintaining their right to bargain on behalf of those who have suffered a drastic loss of purchasing power and making clear their opposition to any incomes policy.

After a disastrous period not only of a fall in the standard of living but, more serious, of a deterioration in the organisation and democracy of our trade unions, we must now return to making our unions do the job for which they were created. We ignore any guidelines set by a Government which has shown its enmity and contempt for our class by rendering two million of our brothers unemployed, and fight along our own guidelines of demanding adequate pay for the skills we possess and a decent standard of living for our families - not just for those of us still in work but for our whole working class.



In only two years since liberation, the people of Kampuchea have achieved a most significant aim - self-sufficiency in grain, won through their concentration on the development of cooperative agriculture on a large scale. The picture shows agricultural cooperative members with newly-reaped paddy rice in north-western Kampuchea, (picture by Hsinhua News Agency). See article page 2.

The weekly 'Worker'

AFTER nine years of publication first as a monthly, then as a fortnightly, THE WORKER is now a weekly. During this period we have brought all the various operations - designing, plate-making, printing, under our own control, making ourselves completely self-reliant. The whole complicated business of writing, producing and distributing a newspaper every week is the work of unpaid volunteers who carry out this task over and above their normal full-time jobs. That itself if you think about it, is a complete negation of capitalism and capitalist ethics.

In the Editorial of the 100th issue of THE WORKER at the end of 1974 we said: "In formulating a consistent line by distilling the experience in struggle of the entire working class the CPB(ML)

is distinct from all other parties, whether of the right or the left, which present a grab bag of ideas, opinions and illusions. The line of the CPB(ML) is a mass line developed through democratic centralism."

And what is a line? It is the concentrated expression of the interests and demands of a particular class and a guide to the actions of that class in achieving its proper ends.

THE WORKER is simply the CPB(ML) talking to the working class. We are glad that through no other support but that of our own class we have been able to double the extent of that revolutionary conversation!

THE WORKER now costs:
5p a week.
£2.50p for 6 months.
£5.00p for 1 year.

Belgrade meeting for limiting human rights

THE FINAL act of the Helsinki meeting held 2 years ago has opened in Belgrade. The conference on security and cooperation in Europe, in which 35 nations are taking part, is making 'human rights' the central theme. It is important to note that the only state in Europe which implements 'human rights' - Albania - is the only country which is not there discussing it.

The British Foreign Minister, on behalf of the Western powers, stated that a vital condition for championing human rights in Eastern Europe was the continuation of detente itself. "Progress in arms control was the barometer of detente," he said, "and in the past 25 years East and West had made steady progress in managing the mutual threat presented by each other's nuclear weapons. The question now was whether the two sides could bring within manageable bounds the mutual threat presented by the ideological struggle." This means that it is necessary now for detente to be world-wide.

Let there be no confusion what the conference means when talking about detente. Detente is an imperialist understanding to oppose revolution throughout the world.

Just as NATO was set up to crush revolution in Europe so detente, it is hoped, will do so world wide.

In our pamphlet "Congress 76" we state "... Everywhere in the capitalist arena the imperialist powers compete and collude in the suppression and exploitation of the people with the connivance of each national bourgeoisie. To be free people have to take themselves out of the capitalist arena and into socialism." When a new revolution takes place in Russia then there will be no mention of detente.

Whatever is reported to be discussed at Belgrade the central issue is certainly not one of human rights. The main aim is that of curbing revolution. Human rights is true liberation, will be achieved within this one world with the strong development of Marxist forces. We, the working class, will ensure this by making revolution where we live.

As Lenin said, "There is one and only one kind of internationalism indeed: working wholeheartedly for the development of the revolutionary movement and the revolutionary struggle in one's own country. ... Everything else is deception and Manilovism, sentimental day-dreaming."

People's politics guide growth in Cambodia

POL POT, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, recently gave a press conference during a visit to Peking. He outlined the great achievements of the Cambodian people before and after the liberation of their country in 1975. He explained that their struggle had always been brave, but nevertheless beset by failure.

"Finally, we came to see that the fundamental reason for the failures lay in the absence of a political party to lead the revolution and a correct political line to guide it. The lesson learned is of crucial importance for our revolution. Consequently, we set up a committee in 1957 to formulate the line and policies of the party."

By analysing the concrete conditions in Cambodia at the time, the Party formulated the tasks for the national democratic revolution. "By carrying out the national revolution, we mean to combat imperialism, win liberation and independence of the country and liberate the people, the peasants in particular. The revolution has continued to make progress since we found this correct line and followed it."

An important decision which came from their growing success

was to do with the economy.

"Analysing the concrete situation in Kampuchea, the CPK Central Committee decided in 1973 to establish cooperatives in the liberated areas, because this would enable the people to handle the economy themselves and solve the problems in the peasants' livelihood and at the same time benefit the efforts in support of the front."

Pol Pot stressed the importance of the development of a revolutionary army which was self-reliant and could fight in a guerrilla fashion. "Our party called on the army units to solve the problem of equipment self-reliantly and stressed that they must capture weapons from the enemy to arm themselves. During the five years of war, 80 per cent of the weapons in the hands of the revolutionary army were captured from the enemy. Many divisional units had been formed in the large administrative regions by 1974 but guerrilla operation remained the principal form of warfare. This made it possible for the regular forces to concentrate their strength to wipe out the enemy and capture major communications lines and strategic positions." (Cont. on p.4)

A fraternal letter greeting the weekly 'Worker'

DEAR Comrades,

To mark the occasion of the weekly publishing of The Worker, the London branch of the Uniao Democratica Popular convey to you our comradely greetings.

The Uniao Democratica Popular is a Portuguese anti-fascist and anti-imperialist people's organisation committed in struggle for a People's Democratic Republic in Portugal. The UDP has the support of the Portuguese Communist Party (Reconstructed), the only Marxist-Leninist organisation in

Portugal.

In Europe only the proletariat and the working people, guided by the example of the People's Republic of Albania and led by their truly Marxist-Leninist parties will rise in their own countries to smash their ruling class and the reactionary forces of NATO and the EEC.

In the daily struggle against imperialism for national independence and socialism, revisionism will also be exposed and defeated.

Revolutionaries in Britain

Albanian people build prosperous future

RECENTLY published figures show that the Albanian population has almost reached 2½ million. This is 2½ times the population of 1938. A falling death rate coupled with a rising birth rate (30 per 1000) and a much extended life expectancy are all a result of the vastly improved standards of living and health care under socialism.

There is now one health centre for every 650 inhabitants and one doctor for every 800 (compared with pre-liberation figures of 1:20,000 and 1:8530). This level of health care places Albania among the foremost countries in the world. Just one indication of its success is the eradication of previously common diseases such as malaria, syphilis, cholera, smallpox and plague.

Despite its fast growing population which means an ever expanding workforce Albania does not suffer the evils of unemployment. Nor are the improved living standards solely a feature of the developing industrialised areas. Socialist planning has ensured that not only has the economy expanded on all fronts to absorb the growing work force but that there has been an even development of both agriculture and industry. Albania has thus avoided the mistake which other industrialising countries have made in allowing a massive exodus from rural to urban areas with an accompanying decline in the agricultural sector. Thus the population is evenly distributed throughout the country and standards of living together with



Women play a major part in the building of socialist Albania. (Picture by Nick Birch.)

educational facilities and other facets of cultural life have been developed in a conscious well-planned manner.

Thus Albanians look to the future with optimism and anti-

clipation of a faster growing population coupled with even greater increase of their productive forces thanks to the all round development of the country along the road to socialism.

Police shield Grunwick

WITH 6000 pickets gathering once again outside Grunwick film-processing firm in North London it is clear that only the massive police force deployed around the factory is keeping the firm open. It is no longer a question of blocking or stopping water and electricity supplies. The Government, the parliamentary parties together with some reactionary organisations eager to develop their paramilitary wings are determined to keep Grunwick open even if they have to drop men and supplies by helicopters.

The Government must be forced to withdraw their mass police picket from Grunwick. This may only be achieved by action at the place of work. Grunwick is not a Mecca to which the faithful come on a pilgrimage to cleanse themselves of their sins with business as usual when they go back to where they came from.

Failure to carry out such industrial action on as wide a

scale as possible will lead to a defeat for the strikers at Grunwick.

Far from such a brave struggle as that at Grunwick bringing about an advance in our understanding, it is now being argued that the law should be amended so that union recognition may be enforced upon an employer by the state. What is given with one hand can then be taken away with the other. Such state-imposed unions would be the first step to state-controlled unions and must be categorically rejected. A weakness to enforce the union on an employer must not be turned into the strength of a Big Brother State.

Commandos- a new 'legitimacy'?

'SOMALIA has set a valuable precedent', commented THE TIMES on the German commando attack on the hijacked Lufthansa airliner at Mogadishu airport. The previous precedent was the Israeli raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda where Israeli planes and commandos violated Ugandan territory, murdered Ugandan guards and attacked an airport building. This latest "valuable precedent", though carried out with the consent of the Somalian government had a new and 'valuable' ingredient, namely the cooperation between West Germany, Britain, USA and France. Britain, this oldest imperialist power, provided the necessary technology and experience. The Special Air Service gave valuable assistance. They provided the 'stun grenade' which played a vital role in the attack.

Musical chairs

OUR contention that there is absolutely nothing to choose between the various capitalist parties has been borne out by the fact that their members have become practically interchangeable. Prentice and Johnson move from Labour to Tory; Ha'n moves from Liberal to Labour and Jimmy Reid moves from the 'C' PGB to Labour.

Mrs. Thatcher should take a leaf from the notebooks of Indian bourgeois democrats and offer enough back-bench Labour MPs jobs in a Tory Government to lure them into crossing the floor so that she can become Prime Minister without the bother of an election. It won't make any difference to us. We're fighting capitalism whoever speaks for it in Westminster.

Revolutionary greetings,
Uniao Democratica Popular
London Branch

in Germany?

EDITORIAL

WE HAVE frequently said that capitalism is in absolute decline and that in Britain, the oldest capitalist country, the capitalist ruling class is preserving profits by destroying Britain.

If that is so, we workers cannot sit back and wait for capitalism also to destroy itself so that socialism can begin. Here and now, under the rule of capitalism we have to start saving Britain for socialism.

Once it may have been enough to fight in an organised way for a better life under capitalism: but that is not enough when capitalism is cutting away the industrial base of Britain from under our very feet. Once it may have been enough to fight for higher wages: but now, in industry after industry (the motor car industry is only the latest example) we have to decide whether we want to save that industry or let it be destroyed - whatever we may eventually decide to do with it under a planned system of production for people's use. We have to make sure that the class enemy is not allowed merely to pretend to save it - at our expense - and then destroy it when it suits them. We have to prevent them from using our desire to save an industry to blackmail us into accepting ever lower standards of living, since, like the terrorists they are, they are always prepared to blow up anything if they can get bigger profits elsewhere. And we have to use our own organisations, our unions, for these purposes and never their organisations, joint negotiating bodies, workers' participation councils', two-tiered boards of directors or anything else they devise to bypass our trade unions.

Class point of view

This presents our class with far more complicated problems than we have ever had to face before. But there is one rule for cutting through all complexities. Look at every problem from a class point of view - whether it is unemployment, the destruction of the health service, education, housing and industry. See it as a worker, as a member of a potentially all-powerful class. See that we are facing a vicious enemy who is intent on destroying us. Find new ways, based on our own class strength and unity, of turning their weapons against them.

Our unions, in that we made them ourselves, to serve our own class interests, are the organisations we use in our struggle to save Britain. In so far as we let the capitalist class determine how our unions shall function - by fixing wages by government fiat, by setting up 'impartial' tribunals 'above class' on industrial matters, or by passing disenabling legislation to be enforced by their judiciary - then the unions can become the capitalists' instruments for our own destruction.

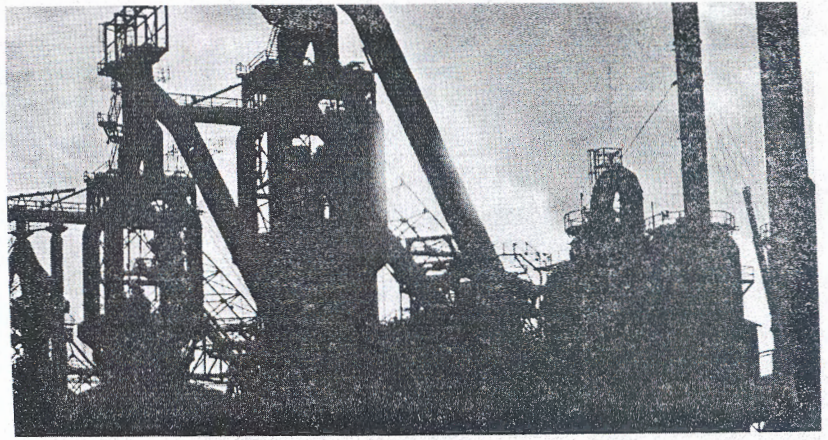
Working class democracy

The democratic centralism of our unions by which we freely and democratically decide on a line of action and then unite behind a leadership of our own choice in order to execute policy is good sound proletarianism. The phoney democracy of the mass vote which replaces participation in the mass life of the union, replaces proper organisation and leadership, the phoney democracy of eve-of-strike ballots or ceding our decision-making to Parliament, these things are bourgeois democracy and fatal to the survival of our unions.

We have to learn to see everything through this double perspective of class. We have, as never before, to learn to think as workers, to organise as workers and to act as workers.

Now that THE WORKER is a weekly paper, we can devote ourselves more profoundly to analysing in a class way these complicated issues facing us. We promise you that we will never run away from them, because only in finding the revolutionary answer to these day-to-day problems here and now will we ever be able to make a revolution. Saving Britain from capitalism is the road to socialism. If we wait for socialism, it will never come.

Capitalism heading for steel war



IN THE context of its enormous trade deficit the United States steel industry is about to file charges against the British Steel Corporation for, allegedly, dumping subsidised steel on the US market. The same complaint also names Japan and the EEC steel exporters as guilty of this offence: and a West German steel combine has levelled a similar charge against four French steel firms.

European steel makers, including Britain, have proposed to curb sales in the US if Japan will do likewise, but this proposal has met with a hostile response in the US where there is growing pressure for more protection. The older industrialised countries, where capitalism is in its second childhood are screaming for the kind of trading safeguards that once were justified on the grounds of protecting 'infant industries'.

At the International Iron and Steel Institute's annual conference at Rome last week it emerged that a radical shift of world steel-making from the industrial to the 'developing'

nations is taking place and is expected to continue at a faster rate. A representative of the Nippon Steel Corporation said that, "A developing country with a population of 8 million is big enough to have its own integrated steel works". Of course, Albania with a considerably smaller population has its own integrated steel works, but then it has the tremendous advantage of not being part of the capitalist world!

At this conference in Rome the representative of the World Bank warned 'developing' countries not to embark on large scale steel works because of the catastrophically falling price of steel as a result of the already excessive world steel-making capacity! Excessive capacity refers, of course, to profit-making possibilities, not the needs of the people.

Familiar to us in Britain is the demand in the United States for import controls to keep out textiles and television tubes. Probably there also the same nonsense will be talked about the impossibility of preventing the dumping of foreign textiles, say,

when US imperialism has dumped its goods on foreign countries - as if the textile workers of Asia benefit from the profits made by their own bourgeoisie.

Import controls like everything else have to be seen from a class point of view. If we workers block foreign goods to preserve our own industries and make Britain more self-reliant, that is one thing. To expect our bourgeoisie here to implement a rational scheme of import controls for such a purpose would be ridiculous. Our own steel industry is being run down to suit the overall monopoly capitalist interests of West Europe and already some 30,000 skilled British steel workers are slaving away in steel mills in Germany!

We have frequently said that the only way we in this country can help those fighting for national liberation is to make a revolution here. The only way we can help fellow workers abroad is to defeat capitalism here and make Britain self-reliant. (Picture by John Sturrock, Report)

100 per cent union participation

IF ANY topic could guarantee the self exposure of hypocrites it must be the 'closed shop'. Our efforts to achieve and maintain 100 per cent trade union membership is what the emp-

loyers call closed shop and is enshrined as a legal term in the latest legislation. Just as the original combinations for defence and the first strikes organised were, in the employers' ideology, 'Restraint of Trade', so now the logical outcome of hundreds of years of trade unionism - 100 per cent membership - is, according to the masters, an infringement of their right to manage. If that does not sufficiently impress us they will talk of infringement of the 'right of the individual not to belong'. This unique 'individual right' begins and ends with trade unions - we never hear of it being applied to the individual's right not to pay income tax, nor do the harangues extend to the 'individual rights' of judges not to belong to their professional association.

Unions

We must be particularly clear on the question of 100 per cent membership. What we mean by membership is the most positive commitment of the members. There is a philosophy which looks on trade unions as a kind of Christmas club - you pay so much in and hope to gain the prize at the end of the year. This is a complete distortion of how unions came into being and grew - workers joining together

to defend together against the power of the capitalist. Only if we understand this can we continue to make our unions defensive organisations against the social democratic attempts to subvert them into part of a corporate state - whether through 'participation in management' or a 'social contract'. Let us have full participation of the membership in autonomous trade unions and we will secure our main defence against fascism. We must make 100 per cent use of our trade union machinery where we work and not get side-tracked into 'ad hoc committees' which are only a symptom of decay.

What really gets under the employers' skin is not the 100 per cent organisation of workers but any organisation at all - in their view our freedom would be best left for them to determine. For us it is a simple question of being stronger if united and of knowing that we cannot benefit from efforts we have not taken part in. It is also a question of dignity; we will not be forced to work with those who have benefited from our struggle but will not join or will oppose. Naturally, such a philosophy will be alien to those whose ownership of the means of production allows them to live off any labour but their own.

Executive committee for capitalism

THE MEASURES being taken and threatened to enforce pay guidelines which have no legal backing give a good indication of the role of the Government as the 'executive committee of the capitalist class.'

When capitalism was in the ascendant, during the laissez-faire period, the best government was considered to be the least government and all forms of government 'interference' were decried. But in its absolute decline capitalism has to rely more and more on government, not only to take over and let the public pay for those industries which are necessary but no longer profitable, but also to admonish individual capitalist enterprises in the interest of the capitalist class as a whole. Mackie is a case in point. Speaking on behalf of capitalism's need to keep wages well below rises in the cost of living, the Labour Government treated this private firm, with

its threat of sanctions, exactly as it would treat Leyland or any other industry in the nationalised sector which got out of line on wages.

Indeed, the Government uses our money on a massive scale to wield an influence over even the big multinationals in the interest of capitalism in general. The giant American company, Mobil Oil, chose to extend its Coryton refinery in Essex, rather than build somewhere else in Europe, because of the enormous subsidy offered by the Government. Now Mobil tells the unions that defiance of the 10 per cent guideline could mean loss of the subsidy and abandonment of the project. The bitter irony for the workers is that the expansion has not even yielded any increase in jobs!

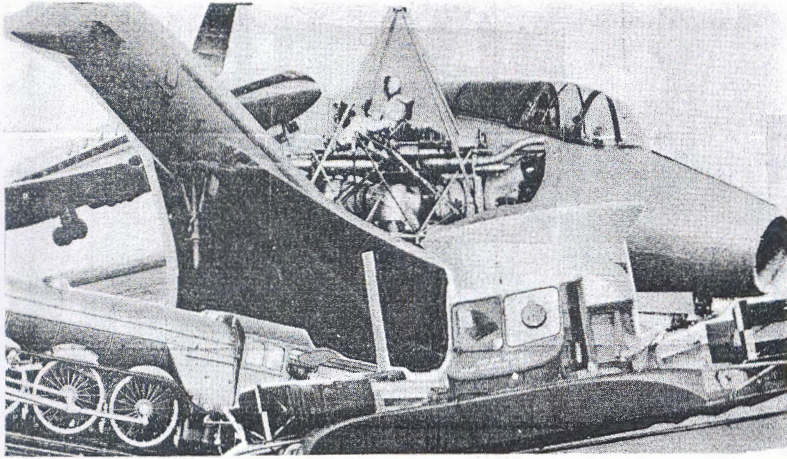
Construction companies like Babcock and Wilcox, Parsons, Foster Wheeler and many others are similarly situated, being dependent on the nationalised

electricity industry for contracts; and a host of other small firms declare their inability to bargain freely due to their dependence on government orders and state grants and subsidies.

What this means is that taxes collected from the working class are used to finance industries too unprofitable for capitalist investment (and then they have the nerve to make a profit on nationalised industries out of us who support them!); and this nationalised sector can then be used to discipline individual capitalist firms which might try to seek immediate advantages for themselves at the expense of the capitalist class as a whole.

And then revisionists, Trotskyites and the pseudo-left generally are so stupid or venal as to call for more nationalisation as a step towards socialism! It is a step toward corporatism, toward fascism, which is simply capitalism in extremis.

The outlook for British science



Without basic research Britain cannot maintain her inventive lead.

THE ANNUAL Report of the Science Research Council for the year 1976-77 paints a gloomy picture for the future of scientific research in Britain. Four years ago the SRC's budget was expected to rise by 12 per cent in four years. This of course would not have kept pace with inflation and would have been a cut in real terms. The reality however has been an 8.4 per cent reduction! A huge cut in real terms. The Council is so short of cash it has given up planning future large projects. When those projects now under way are completed scientists will have nothing to turn to. Prof. Sam Edwards, outgoing Chairman of the SRC stated, "There is no purpose in spending public money doing outline planning and being unable to finance it."

Government proposals for further reductions in allocation will mean further substantial reductions in research. Nuclear Physics and Astronomy are bearing the brunt of the attack. This policy if continued would

relegate Britain to the second division in these areas. It would be "a strange act of cultural cowardice and impoverishment" for a developed country such as Britain to withdraw from basic research on high energy and nuclear physics state Professors William Burcham and John Polkinghorne.

The SRC plans to cut its expenditure on nuclear physics by 5 per cent a year between now and 1981, but if more money is not made available by the Government even this level of cutback will not be sufficient, and expenditure will have to be cut by 6½ per cent per year. Expenditure in 1981-2 would be about £33m compared to £43.4m in 1977-8 (nearing a 33 per cent cutback before taking inflation into account!). £20m of this will go to CERN, the European Research Centre. Even this money will be totally wasted if the money is not there to pay for British scientists to devise and build experiments to allow them to use the time the SRC subscription buys at CERN.

The real questions are: why have our rulers decreed cutback instead of expansion in scientific research, a basis for advance in any industrial country? Why have they declared that we shall be reliant on foreign facilities which could be cut off at any time? Why contribute huge sums to CERN, when a shortage of Government money has forced the SRC to shut down our national facilities? The NINA and Nimrod Accelerators are to be

abandoned before their useful scientific lives are over, and when, with the pursuit of the quark, scientists may have peeled off the final 'layer of the onion' to reach the basic building blocks of nature.

We say No! Britain must aim for self reliance and self sufficiency in scientific research. Only socialism will achieve this and put scientific research in Britain in its rightful place in the forefront of service and advancement for mankind.

What is regional aid?

WHEN Ford announced their recent plans for investment in a new factory in South Wales, certain newspapers advanced as a reason the regional development grant that the company will receive from the government.

Indeed, it has been pointed out that these grants come straight out of the hands of the working class and represent a subsidy by the working class to big business. However, these grants are not a deciding factor in the Ford, or any other, case Ford can choose to invest in Britain because cheap labour is available and the surplus value that the company can expropriate is large.

That South Wales is chosen is not surprising as the company sees an opportunity to weaken the organisation of its workers at the traditional centres of motor vehicle production and exploit the labour forces weakened by the closure of traditional industries of South Wales.

The regional development aid is a mere bonus to capitalism; a method by which the state, in the name of social justice, can extract surplus value from the working class and hand it over to capitalism.

The fact that the regional aid is never used to benefit the working class, the regions, or the nation as a whole, is evidenced by the effects that such aid has had. Capitalists in the areas considered well-off are encouraged by the organisational strength of its work force to seek alternative labour and regional aid provides just the encouragement needed. As a result, areas are denuded of industry, like London.

The effects on these areas considered in need of aid are in some respects worse. Capitalism, with its eye for the greatest immediate profit, does not seek to rebuild the decayed areas of

Self-sufficient prospects for vegetable production

IN BRITAIN we grow 85 per cent of the vegetables we consume and the ability to be fully self-sufficient is easily within the grasp of this already advanced sector of British agriculture.

Vegetable production is highly mechanised and responds quickly to research work. Such work at the National Vegetable Research Station into the production of autumn sown bulb onions has recently led to a dramatic increase in the acreage of onions grown, resulting in a decrease in imports from 203,000 tons in 1970 to under 150,000 today. The yields of many vegetable crops have been greatly improved by breeding new hybrids - at the National Seed Development Organisation and other research stations - and by utilising new growing techniques. Such research is vital if we are to become self-sufficient in vegetable production, but cuts are being made in all aspects of this work, and one Experimental Horticultural Station has already been closed.

Of the crops that are grown, a significant proportion is often wasted. For example a recent survey by the Potato Marketing Board showed that 20 per cent of potatoes were so damaged

during harvesting as to be unfit for marketing; a further 5-10 per cent are lost through bad handling, packing and deterioration in storage. Further losses take place in food processing such as canning and freezing. Not all waste is suitable for human consumption, but could however be used for animal feed, instead of importing cereals.

The fundamental cause of wasted vegetables is the fact that crops are grown for profit rather than to provide the country with food. Stories of cabbages being ploughed in because the price is too low are common and many other crops meet a similar fate. Under a planned socialist agriculture the gluts and shortages typical of vegetable production under capitalism would not occur, and if a surplus did occur due to our unpredictable climate, it could easily be processed or used for animal feed.

Britain will never become self-sufficient in vegetables under capitalism simply because it is not profitable and the EEC with its Common Agricultural Policy is an ally in this respect. There is no place for the self-sufficiency of individual countries in the CAP, and imports from less efficient producers such as France and Italy are encouraged, thus undermining our own production. The possible entry of Spain into the EEC, already our largest supplier of vegetable imports, poses a further threat.

To be independent Britain must produce all its own food, and vegetables are a vital part of our food requirement. Production techniques are already advanced and the workforce is highly skilled, but we must have socialism to make Britain self-sufficient in food.

Labour's changing

LOOK at the Labour Party on the issue of the EEC. The rallying call is now to be 'change from within', presumably in the same way as Labour Party 'socialism' has changed British Parliamentary Democracy from within; by orchestrating the greatest campaign of attacks on the British working class through the greatest cuts in public expenditure and real wages ever witnessed.

Cambodia: continued from page 2

He then spoke of two major victories for the Cambodian people since liberation in April 1975. "After the nation-wide victory in the revolutionary war, though there were many complex problems, the initiative is in our hands. We have successfully safeguarded the fruits of revolution, the people's revolutionary state power and democratic Kampuchea. Factors for our success are legion. One of the important factors is the evacuation of city residents to the countryside. This was decided before victory was won, that is, in February 1975, because we knew that before the smashing of all sorts of enemy spy organisations, our strength was not strong enough to defend the revolutionary regime. Judging from the struggles waged from 1976 to 1977, the enemy's secret agent network lying low in our country was very massive and

complicated. But when we crushed them, it was difficult for them to stage a comeback. Their forces were scattered in various cooperatives which are in our own grip. Thus we have the initiative in our hands. The enemy dare not attack from outside..."

"The second success is the solution of our people's livelihood. Our 1976 harvest can in the main meet the people's needs for livelihood. After the war, we must first of all solve the problem of grain and the problem of people's livelihood. A guarantee is thus provided for defending the people's revolutionary political power and democratic Kampuchea... We are convinced that under the leadership of the party and with the masses fully mobilised, the situation will grow even better. Although there will still be difficulties on our road ahead, our future is bright."

Public Meetings

LONDON At Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5, 7.30 pm.

- Fri October 28 What is Trade Union Sovereignty?
- Fri November 4 Housing in London: for people or profit?
- Fri November 11 The erosion of civil liberties.
- Fri November 18 NATO, capitalism's policeman.
- Fri November 25 Albania, an example to the world (organised by New Albania Society).

LIVERPOOL At AUEW office, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 8 pm.

- Tue November 8 Meeting to celebrate 60th anniversary of the October Revolution.

BRIGHTON At Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Rd., 8 pm.

- Thur November 10 Skilled youth the key to the future.
- Thur November 24 Socialism - people not profit.

LEEDS At City of Leeds School, Woodhouse Lane (opposite Merrion Centre):

- Fri October 28 Revolution not Devolution.
- At Northern Star Bookshop, 18a Leighton St., off Great George St Leeds 1, 7.30 pm:
- Mon November 7 60th Anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.
- BRISTOL** At Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, Fri October 28 No guidelines but our own. 7.30pm.
- Fri November 25 One world divided by class.
- Wed December 14 For an independent Britain: No to devolution, No to the EEC.

MANCHESTER At Millstone Pub off Oldham Street, 7.30 pm.

- Thur November 19 Smash the Labour Party.
- GRAVESEND** At the Terminus, Stewart Road, 7.30 pm.
- Wed November 30 Britain One Nation.

"ALBANIA TODAY" - the theoretical magazine from Albania - is now available on subscription from the Bellman Bookshop. The subscription is £2.40 a year for six issues, including p+p.

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