



GOVT SELLS BRITAIN SHORT



The workers of Corby demonstrate to protect their livelihood as part of the overall community campaign to save the Corby Steelworks. See page 4 Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

THE TORIES announce the removal of all remaining restrictions on currency exchange controls. Labour blathers about 'confusion of priorities'. We conclude however, that, on the contrary, the Tories prove once again that their priorities are crystal clear. Their objective is the absolute subjugation of British economy to the needs of finance capital in search of the highest rate of profit.

To quote the Treasury statement, the removal of exchange controls is "a long overdue expansion of personal freedom... a removal of restrictions on decisions to invest abroad by people of this country". They are not concerned with the effect of the balance of payments or exchange stability - for this read instead "to hell with jobs, skills, industry in this country". We see clearly the return of British capitalists in the City of London to centre stage as the world's financial centre: and Britain entrenched firmly in her traditional role as a large-scale exporter of capital.

Even the commentators in the financial press appear naively bewildered at the breakneck speed with which the Tories have dismantled the controls which have been progressively tightened since they began as a war measure in 1939, subsequently confirmed in the Exchange Control Act of 1947. The approach then was one of 'tit for tat': direct investment abroad in

factories and plant had to be justified by the effect on direct promotion of UK goods and services; part financing of investment abroad had to be justified by a pay-off to Britain in the form of improvement of exchange rates.

Throughout the 1960s these controls were tightened, but not surprisingly, one of the central obligations in joining EEC was to 'liberalise our country'. We see clearly the return of British capitalists in the City of London to centre stage as the world's financial centre: and Britain entrenched firmly in her traditional role as a large-scale exporter of capital.

A confusion of priorities? Hardly. Merely an unequivocal statement of the intention to pursue the destruction of Britain and her people unhampered by 'petty restrictions'. The flight of capital away from Britain follows pell mell.

The Times returns - defeat for all Press Barons

AFTER almost a year's absence, THE TIMES will soon be printing again. And what is more will be produced by the same workers who were told a year ago that they would have to bow down to the technological desires of their masters and accept a management dictat on how they would work, what they would work with and how many of them would find work. Already the reverberations are spreading far beyond Gray's Inn Road.

It is said the battle was about "new technology". More correctly, the new printing and typesetting processes involved formed the battleground. The battle was one of power, the power of the chapels against the power of the employers.

It was a battle that had been fought, and won by the

employers, in other major newspaper publishing centres of the world. In America there were bitter and, literally, bloody battles at the Washington Post for example, which left printworkers weakened and divided. This too was the hope of the Times management when they issued their ultimatum last year.

It was to have been a short sharp battle. The plan had already been decided - lock out as many as possible and leave them to fight among themselves. Age-old craft tensions and rivalries, it was thought, would see to it that by Christmas 1978 most would have settled as the chapels destroyed themselves in internecine warfare; while the bosses waited.

In the end, things turned out quite differently. As the months progressed, union

solidarity grew. And when the management attempted once again to divide with the so-called European edition of THE TIMES, the plot backfired disastrously for them. The prospect of picket-line battles between printers and journalists evaporated as all refused to work on this scab paper. There then began the painfully slow process of the disintegration of the employer's carefully laid plans.

The company boasted at the beginning that there were £100 million of Thomson North Sea oil profits to finance the lock-out. Never in their blackest nightmares did they imagine that the dispute would wipe out no less than £30 million. And all for nothing.

In fact, they got worse than nothing. THE TIMES will go back into production with a workforce which has in one

year stood firm against more threats of closure and final deadlines than most workers experience in a lifetime, and come out victorious in the end. Even more, inter-union solidarity has been immeasurably strengthened. £30 million is a lot to pay for a defeat. Do not be surprised if management heads begin to roll even before Christmas.

But the biggest defeat has been that to all newspaper proprietors. In the beginning, they looked with envy at THE TIMES, seeing in the imminent defeat of the printworkers there a defeat for all printworkers in Fleet Street. The boot is now on the other foot, and the Fleet Street bosses will now all be wary of precipitating a dispute over new technology, let alone inciting a lock-out.

Without doubt the victory

at THE TIMES is a tremendous one. Time will show whether it is historic. Amid all the celebrations and the newly acquired confidence, workers in the Street must know that the war is a long way from over. The hatred of the employers for organised labour redoubles with each blow they suffer. In the end, it is them or us.

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The Week

Historic Notes

US capitalism, which has borrowed the "social contract" from Britain to try to damp down wage demands, is now importing the idea of "worker participation" to give the working class in the United States the illusion of having a say in what happens to them during the oncoming depression. Chrysler, which is just about to go under altogether, has invited the union leader of the car workers onto the Board - presumably to join the other directors in going down with the ship.

The Government has been forced to drop proposed changes in legislation which would have prevented women in small firms from returning to work after having a baby. Opposition from the TUC and the public made them abandon this part of their reactionary line that "a woman's place is in the home, and nowhere else". There is ONE woman in the country to whom we would be glad to see the line applied!

The CBI is considering whether to set up its proposed insurance fund against strikes in an overseas tax haven. The relaxation of exchange controls will doubtless aid their plans for making war against workers. The absolute impartiality of British law is shown by the fact that, with the removal of exchange controls, a dustman no less than a banker is entitled to take a couple of thousand pounds pocket money on his next holiday in Ibiza.

The Post Office is threatening to remove from country areas telephone boxes which do not take in as much as £100 a year. People living in rural areas have already seen a decline in the number of village schools, bus services and so forth as a result of county council spending cuts. Now they will have to face the prospect of being unable to phone for help in an emergency. It just shows how the Post Office in pursuit of profits is degenerating from any role as a public service. How much worse will that be when it is split up to put the lucrative returns of telecommunications in somebody's private pocket. In town and country we will probably have to call in at the Post Office ourselves to pick up our letters.

A confidential circular of the European Parliament has forecast that Britain's contribution to the EEC budget will amount to one fifth of the total £11 billion by 1990. This is the amount British workers have to cough up in taxes to pay the EEC to destroy their jobs in steel and shipbuilding, to fish out British territorial waters and to provide cheap butter and wine to the Soviet Union. Surely we can think of something better to do with our money than that.

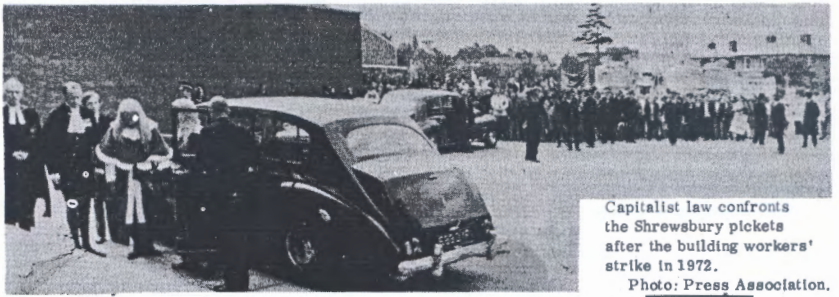
Loud cheers from the public gallery greeted the announcement that the Child Development Centre at Charing Cross Hospital has been saved from closure. Dr Hugh Jolly, consultant paediatrician and director of the Centre, expressed his appreciation of Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Area Health Authority: "They have been guided by the needs of the area and not by instructions from the Government."

"The government newspapers have been recommending the Parliament to pass a law to put an end to these Unions. Better call for a law to prevent those inconvenient things called Spring Tides." William Cobbett, 'Political Register', December 1833.

The cry that the Unions are "too powerful" is as old as capitalism itself, for it was a petition from a group of employers in 1799 pleading against "a dangerous combination... among the journeymen millwrights within the metropolis... for enforcing a general increase of their wages," which prompted Parliament to pass a law making it illegal for any workman to join with others to secure an increase in wages or any improvements in conditions of work.

Such was the threat to the profit system posed by collective bargaining that for twenty-six years this Combination Act remained on the statute book. That eventually repealed in 1825 was in no way a change of attitude by the employing classes, but rather of the defiance of the law by the working class which made its continued existence counterproductive. Far from dying away, trade unionism flourished, openly in some parts of the country, and solidarity was strengthened. In 1810 alone the London goldbeaters sent donations ranging from £5 to

Laws will never stop trade unionism



Capitalist law confronts the Shrewsbury pickets after the building workers' strike in 1972.

Photo: Press Association.

£30 to eight other unions. However it was the escalation of violence in industrial disputes and the development of the very conspiracy which the Combination Act was intended to root out which frightened Parliament into repealing it.

Repeal did not bring an end to capitalist assaults on the trade unions as the case of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and countless similar episodes have demonstrated, but at no time since their infancy in the early days of capitalism has the question of the trade unions and the law so preoccupied Government and Parliament than in the present decade of accelerated capitalist decline. It was just over ten years ago that the Labour Government issued its white paper, 'In Place of Strife', many of whose proposals and all of whose attitudes are reproduced in the present Government's

planned assault.

When the Government attempted to implement its proposals in the Industrial Relations Bill, the trade union movement forced it to drop it in 1970. The Conservatives, however, given confidence by their 'mandate' from the electorate were not so timid, and undaunted by a series of one-day strikes had by August 1971 placed an Industrial Relations Act on the statute book.

It was only then that the trade unions really mobilised their strength. The TUC advised its affiliated unions to boycott all the machinery connected with the court and some, led by the AUEW, refused even to recognise the authority of the Industrial Relations Court. The court's prestige never recovered from the humiliation of committing three dockers to prison for contempt of court, for defying its order to stop picketing of some

premises they had blacked. It had to witness their release five days later on the orders of the Official Solicitor because of a planned one-day general strike called by the TUC as the opening salvo of a campaign for their release. The Act, already rendered unworkable by the self-conscious action of organised workers, was finally repealed in 1974.

As the new barbarians prepare to make yet another attempt to limit the power of collective bargaining, we must be mindful of the lessons these episodes can teach us. They show clearly that the Government is nothing but the executive committee of the capitalist class and that its laws exist primarily to protect and enhance profit. They also show that only through their own organisations, and not through Parliament, can the working class protect its interests.

Strategic arms limitation will not stop nuclear threat

As we have said in the WORKER recently, the threat of nuclear war is increasing, despite the projected agreement in the SALT treaties to limit the number of such weapons.

The following is an account of technological refinements which the USSR and USA are currently engaged in producing, in order to make their existing strategic nuclear forces more effective.

These are taking place despite the SALT treaties or perhaps their development is even stimulated by SALT, because the eventual limitation of numbers of weapons

creates a desire to make the existing weapons more effective. Indeed it could be argued that the SALT treaties are of mutual benefit to the USA and USSR as it narrows the field in which they have to concentrate their resources. For when it is remembered that the combined nuclear arsenals of the two blocs, both tactical and strategic, amount to the equivalent of 16,000 million tonnes of high explosive, or put another way, to the equivalent of 1,300,000 Hiroshima bombs, then there can be little point in increasing the number further.

It is worth looking at the

provisions of the SALT treaties. The first SALT treaty consisted of a restriction of unlimited duration on the deployment of ABM systems (see inset for explanation of abbreviations) and a five year interim offensive arms agreement limiting the deployment of ICBS and SLBMS - this expired in October 1977.

The second SALT treaty (as yet not ratified by the US Senate) has mainly been an elaboration and extension of the second part of the first treaty. It places a limit on the number of strategic delivery systems - that is ICBM launchers, SLBM launchers, long range bombers and Cruise missiles of a range greater than 600 Km.

The second treaty also allows each side to flight test and deploy one new type of ICBM equipped with up to 10 MIRVs. It is from this point that SALT is likely to act as a spur to technological development, since every effort will go into making the new missile system as sophisticated as possible.

The expected developments will take place in the accuracy of the warhead, the ability to retarget missiles rapidly, the means of propulsion and in introduction of mobile ICBMs.

The above are the type of technological advances that have been happening since nuclear missile systems were first deployed, and are now being driven to higher levels of sophistication. A major departure from previous ideas however is the concept of the mobile ICBM.

The much vaunted Cruise missile will also enable strategic warheads to become mobilised since they can be launched from moving aircraft which, of course, can

be dispersed over any country of the world at will.

Finally submarine nuclear warfare is also undergoing changes. Despite attempts to make submarines more invulnerable, the general trend of technology is in the opposite direction.

Until recently the deployment of strategic nuclear weapons has been based upon the policy of mutual assured destruction. This quietly innocuous sounding phrase, it could almost be something to do with an insurance policy, means that each side can absorb a surprise nuclear attack on its major population centres and still have sufficient strategic nuclear forces left to do "unacceptable damage" to the other's cities.

The maintenance of a submarine nuclear strike force has been crucial to this policy, since this has generally been assumed to have been invulnerable to attack and can then do the "unacceptable". The major consequence of these technological changes, described above, is that hitting cities will no longer be the objective in nuclear war. Instead the emphasis will be placed on neutralising the "enemy's" nuclear forces and other military installations. While this may at first seem welcome, its implications are that, for the military planners, a nuclear war becomes more of a practical reality rather than the ultimate step previously envisaged. As with the deployment of neutron bombs and tactical nuclear weapons the nuclear threshold is lowered just that uncomfortable bit more.

The whole policy of a balance balance of terror between two



ABM	Anti-ballistic missile
ICBM	Inter-continental ballistic missile
SLBM	Submarine launched ballistic missile
MIRV	Multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle,
SALT	Strategic arms limitation treaty

Editorial

THE Government's policy on the arts is exactly like its policy on education, health, industry or any other department of human service and endeavour - big talk about creating the economic climate in which these things will flourish on their own, with no need for much or any state aid, and then feigned surprise at discovering that in the ruthless process of creating the climate the very thing which was supposed to flourish in it has been destroyed.

This is because the Government's real purpose is the much simpler one of making sure that in a declining economic situation the capitalist class will retain and even increase its wealth and power at the expense of the working class. A change in the tax structure and a freeing of the economy from certain controls, which are described as putting incentives back into the system, turn out merely to put money taken from millions of workers' pockets back into the pockets of the few who are rich already. Inflation, which the last government blamed on workers' greed, is doubled in a few months time by the present Government because it devalues the wages in the workers' pocket and enhances the value of the capitalists' property. So-called monetarist policies of "sound budgeting" are only an excuse for cutting public expenditure, which is publicly subscribed of course, on the people's needs, like health, education and so forth, in order to increase public expenditure on capitalist needs, like a strong army and a strong police force.

To prove that it really is as simple a class question as this the Government is also determined to weaken and then destroy the trade unions which are the working class's main defence against naked class exploitation.

The Minister responsible for the Arts may speak in more refined tones than the shop-keeper's daughter who has to keep remembering her advertising agent's advice not to scream like a harridan, but the message is the same. Before the election he condemned the Labour Government for allowing inflation to threaten with collapse the "whole system of support for the arts in Britain" and promised that a Tory Government would leave "arts spending unaffected by across-the-board public expenditure cuts". But in a recent statement in THE OBSERVER (October 14) the Arts Minister has expressed his approval of the first Tory budget in which "every spending department, with the exception of the Home Office and Defence, had to cut back" and warned that the "arts world must come to terms with the situation and accept the fact that Government policy in general has decisively tilted away from the expansion of the public to the enlargement of the private sector." The Arts Council he once said ought to have an immediate increase of £10m has already been cut back by a 2 per cent retroactive cut and is, no doubt, on the list of expendable Quangos to be destroyed altogether.

If the arts in Britain had to depend for their support on the taste, judgement and generosity of business men and coupon-clippers, the country would rapidly sink into uncultured illiteracy. The only show they are willing to sponsor is a Tory Government performing on their behalf in the House of Commons. Not every one would find a dialogue or duet by St John Stevas and Margaret Thatcher an adequate substitute for Shakespeare of Britain.

Avon teachers to confuse the axe men

EXTREMELY important steps have been taken in the battle against education cuts in Avon recently. At meetings of the local associations of the NUT all over the country, large majorities have passed motions calling for a half-day strike and demonstration against the cuts followed by more prolonged strikes in the event of any member receiving notice of dismissal.

All those who are in any way concerned about the nature of the education service provided here have been incensed by the decision of the county council, led by Gervase Walker (who is also chairman of the national body, the Association of County Councils, and obviously intends to give a lead there too) to cut a further £4m from the current budget. This is intended to include among many other items, the loss of 406 teaching posts, a marvelously enthusiastic response to the Government's call for economies in the 'interests' of the country!

Efforts are being made to inform the public in detail of the reasons for the action and to enlist their support. At a meeting of around 2000 parents and teachers in the centre of Bristol, there was discussion of the effects that these devastating cuts would have; many parents expressed their

sympathy and support, and a motion pledging that support was passed overwhelmingly (only one miserable vote against!).

In various parts of the city, school NUT groups are combining to produce information bulletins on the cuts in particular schools in each area, and many public meetings are being arranged.

While action is going forward county-wide on the motions concerning half-day and more prolonged strikes in the event of dismissal, where members feel more confident further action will take place:

- many schools will refuse to cooperate in any changes of timetable resulting from cuts, for example some heads have decided to combine first and second year sixth forms into one large unit;

- members have agreed to reconsider any goodwill actions which paper over cuts;

- an imaginative motion calling for rotating strikes, which will cause minimum disruption to pupils and teachers, but utter confusion at County Hall as schools all over the county close for one day each in turn, was passed by a very large Bristol Association meeting and ratified by the national action committee of the NUT.

LABOUR CAMPS FOR KIDS

THE TUC has a slogan - "Forward to the '80s not back to the '30s".

Unemployment, and the closure of social services are not the only shadows of the thirties. Another threat, from Whitelaw, is labour camps for young people not old enough to be sent to our disgusting and overcrowded prisons.

We can put aside platitudes from crass overfed reactionaries about a "short, sharp shock". Whitelaw knows very well that such methods have been tried and failed in the past. These camps are an experiment of a different kind, in introducing terror to try and control a youth who have no respect for an increasingly vicious and derelict society. Neither can the camps be separated from other threats - jury vetting, the violence of the SPG and detention without justification as permitted by the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Such developments are ignored at our peril. It is no protection to say: "But I am an honest citizen, I have nothing to fear from the state." Thatcher showed her intention to increase state violence against citizens from the moment she arrived and increased the pay of army and police. Honest citizens were subject to mass arrests when the people of Southall demonstrated against the National Front; scarcely a family is unaffected, while the SPG remains. Whitelaw's labour camps for the young are the thin edge of a very nasty wedge - we should not let him drive it home.

The Worker

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imperialist powers, mainly for the purpose of keeping their respective spheres in order, is completely hostile to the interests of workers everywhere. We have to say no to nuclear weapons of any sort.

Caught in this escalation of Britain's own 'independent' strategic nuclear force. This is at present built around Polaris, which, in terms of the technological advances described above is now obsolete. To maintain a strategic force Britain would have to plump for the new American Trident series of SLBMs (this is besides any tactical missiles that may be deployed). Estimates of the cost of just four of these missile carrying submarines (the likely number to be bought) including support and training could amount to a staggering £6000-8000m. Remember "Ban Polaris", although it may not roll off the tongue quite so easily it is just as more essential to say "BAN TRIDENT"

Using the law against trade unions

THE SUCCESS of the print unions including SLADE, in their battle with TIMES management no doubt prompted the Minister of Employment to launch a vicious attack on SLADE for their methods of recruitment. He had to admit that the union was acting within the present law so the Department of Employment has published a plan for changing the law on "coercive recruitment".

Meanwhile, taking its cue from the Minister's remarks, an organisation calling itself the Freedom Association is instituting a criminal proceeding against officials of SLADE for allegedly using "blackmail" in canvassing for members.

"Coercive recruitment" means effective recruitment. Trying to make it illegal is like the Government's determination to introduce legislation making effective picketing illegal.

At the time of the lorry drivers' strike last winter, it was sometimes agreed to let essential supplies through picket lines, providing any financial advantage from this permission was paid to charity. Out of some such case a district officer of the TGWU has been fined £750 for "extortion".

The judgement has encouraged the assistant director of the CBI in Scotland to urge employers to take unions into court more frequently.

Pleading 'special case' wont stop cuts

ONE YEOVIL headmaster has recently written to all parents of his pupils urging them to protest against proposed cuts in education services, and a march organised by the local NUT and Parent Teachers Association was held.

The attack on education in Somerset includes a proposed reduction of 257 teachers, 153 primary school assistants, a reduction in school meals and milk to save £500,000 together with an increase in school meal prices. Reduction in the county's education

budget of between five per cent and 7 per cent is hoped for by the County Council.

Some argue that Somerset is a "special case" because it has not spent as much on education as other local authorities. The failings of the past, however, are no basis for a special treatment claim in the present circumstances. Furthermore, it implies that some cuts are justified; the opposite argument must be put, no special cases, we demand that our money is used on our education.

Social worker cut backs in Devon will lead to tragic incidents

DEVON SOCIAL workers decided at a well attended meeting to ban all stand-by duties from November 1. Acting with commendable speed and directness the social workers, members of NALGO, responded to their employers' decision to cut emergency standby by manpower by half.

The decision by the County Council was taken without a hint of consultation, thus underlining the ruthless manner in which the

Government's plans of destruction are being carried out at local level.

Under the proposed new system social workers would be expected to cover two divisions instead of the previous one. They naturally feel that there could be Marla Colwell style incidents arising out of the overstretching that will follow. Their tactic is simple: either restore the cuts or no standby at all.

Attack on civil service unions earns few friends for Whitehall

A MINISTRY of Defence report has just acknowledged that the Government cannot even rely on the loyalty of its own Civil Servants. That is, the loyalty to accept meekly the 3 per cent cuts in the service already being made, and the enormous cuts projected for the future, which could be 20 per cent.

The civil servants know where their loyalty lies - they will use their unions to fight all the cuts. This is why the Government report admits that suggestions it has considered to curb strikes will meet with emphatic union opposition. The suggestions included:

1. pay restraint in the public sector through the restriction of Government funds,
2. the conclusion of a "no-strike" agreement with the unions.
3. a merit payment for "loyalty",
4. the payment of allowances to key workers in return for a readiness to do overtime to "maintain operational and safety services" (for instance during a dispute, which could mean scabbing),
5. the employment of "non-unionised support services" (blacklegs)

The proposal to lay-off white collar civil servants without pay when one section is in dispute is an obvious counter to the success of the unions' guerrilla tactics of taking out just one key area of

workers. The unions' reply to this Government move will have to be equally effective.

The recent activity of the civil service unions in industrial struggle should stand them in good stead for the coming onslaught by the Government. The CPBA and SCPS have banned overtime and refused to cover for unfilled jobs since the 3 per cent cut in funds was announced six months ago. Government departments employ about 3½ per cent of the total British workforce - about one third of these in south east England. At the recent conference of the South East Region of the TUC delegates discussed what action unions were taking and what the effect of these cuts would mean. The measures proposed by the Government threaten the working class by cutting Health and Safety visits to factories, limiting the assessment of the safety of nuclear development, cutting Health and Safety research, cutting funds to the Commission for Racial Equality, and cutting Customs and Excise checks, e.g. on EEC goods being imported.

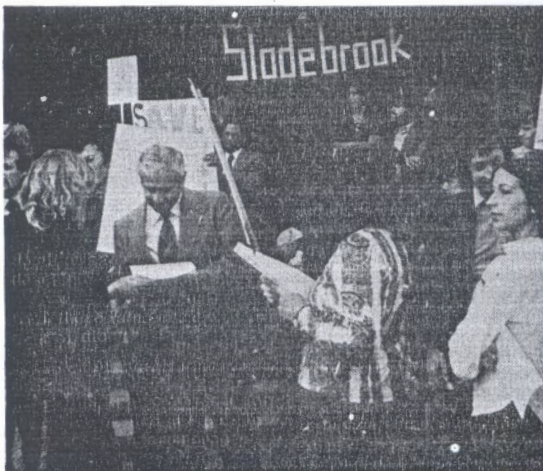
Customs and Excise workers have been quick to respond to the threatened 20 per cent cut in manpower and the abolition of their bonus for uncovering contraband - thereby forcing the Government to think again.

No redundancies in teaching

THE National Union of Teachers has announced that it is to hold a special national conference on December 8th to mobilise its members against cuts in education.

In preparation there will be a consultative conference on November 13th. From this meeting and doubtless from suggestions expressed to the Union's action committee which is drafting proposals, motions will be put to the decision-making body in Blackpool.

The main issue for the special conference will be teacher redundancies. The meeting will be an opportunity for delegates to strengthen their resolve to maintain all jobs whether these are threatened by redundancy or redeployment, compulsory or



Brent Teachers demonstrate against the cuts in education in July this year. (Photo: The Worker)

It has been a fundamental principle of the NUT, since its inception, that there is no conflict of interest between the education service and the profession. Teacher's jobs are not the individual prop-

erty of the present holders, to be sold for good terms or to be negotiated away, and it makes no difference to the rising generation of teachers and their pupils if a job is lost compulsorily or by voluntary connivance.

Corby-the flame of resistance to industrial destruction burns on

CORBY'S candle, the flame which burns continuously above the steel works, is under threat of extinction. British Steel under the chairmanship of the accountant Charles Villiers, has decided that it is no longer "profitable" for this integrated steel works to operate, and tries to confirm the date of closure.

Keeping this candle alight has become the symbol of a campaign to retain steel making, not just in Corby but in Britain as a whole, for the next step will be to declare other plants similarly "unprofitable". It is thus also the torchlight to everyone who is concerned to fight the longterm rundown of Britain's industrial base.

community fight

On November 1st there is to be a marathon demonstration through the streets of this Northamptonshire steel town. Shops will shut, factories will close and the steel works will cease production for at least four hours. Workers from all over the country are expected in their busloads and trainloads to protest against the closure. The campaign to defend Corby steel has grown enormously under the organisation of ROSAC - Retention of Steel-making at Corby. The campaign has drawn support from all sections of the community, which faces an unemployment rate of over 30 per cent if BSC gets away with its murderous policies. ROSAC started as a small organisation attracting 350 people to its meeting of January this year. Since then, there has been a march to London and a demonstration in July when 500 steelworkers presented petitions at Westminster. On September 20th, 14,000 people (virtually half of Corby's adult population) were on the streets of Corby to make their views known. This time the target is 40,000. The whole community is

fighting: the NUT have produced a pamphlet in support of ROSAC's campaign, the steel unions and the Trades Council support ROSAC's position, a special record has been cut called "Corby's Candle" to help the event, the local police are sympathetic and the churches are holding a special service the day before about it.

This is in part a local issue, a community issue in the truest sense of the word; the injustice of tearing steel workers from Clydeside and Tyneside in the 1930s and 1940s, sending them to Corby to such a 'rosy future', and then telling them in the 1970s that they have to pack their bags again, is clear. The social consequences of the death of a town need no describing - just remember Jarrow, in a one industry town there is no escape; it is fight or die.

national

But this is also an issue for the whole of British steel, for Keith Joseph has announced that by March 1980 all steel plants must be "profitable". The price for steel is determined by a European cartel (which only BSC adheres to) and according to BSC's book keeping, there is no single plant that survives this test. If Keith Joseph is allowed to carry his threat of removing subsidies from these plants, not even the large coastal plants that are now coming on stream will be immune. Steel workers from Harlepool, Ravenscraig, Port Talbot and Llanwern show that they recognise this in sending deputations.

Why should Keith Joseph be so hell bent on destroying the steel industry of this country? It is not just him, of course but the EEC plan which he has embraced. The European Commissioner for industry has a two stage plan for European steel to cope with what he sees

as a world wide 'over capacity' in steel. First, European steel prices are to be artificially propped up for a period and imports restricted. Secondly, during this period all member countries have to make a permanent cutback in their capacity so that only a few plants remain to take full advantage of high prices. This would boil down to a couple of plants in the Ruhr. If the plan succeeds, steel making would stop in Britain, France and Northern Italy.

we need steel

Our economic system has decayed to the point where they cannot make a buck out of the steel we produce. Who dares talk of "overcapacity" in British steel when so much industry is in need of retooling, when so many hospitals are under equipped and when houses are in such short supply? We need the steel - shall we be forbidden to produce it? They say we can not afford to make steel, or to have a shipbuilding industry or to dig coal from the ground, is nonsense. How can we live as a nation without them?

The job of saving our steel industry is a job for the working class, through its own mass organisations, and cannot be delegated to any party, Parliamentary or otherwise. In Corby, the fight has already begun to keep steel-making going. Number 1 blast furnace is in a bad state of repair but BSC will do nothing about it. The skilled craftsmen: are acting autonomously, repairing it from materials they have begged and borrowed from other plants around the country, thus showing already who is really taking responsibility for the steel industry.

Their initiative and the working class solidarity shown at Corby today, are the sparks that can be kindled into another Corby candle - of the unextinguishable variety.

NO DEFENCE PERMITTED IN SOUTHALL TRIALS

LAST April much publicity was given to the anti-National Front demonstration in Southall, and especially to the clashes between demonstrators and police. In the course of those clashes, teacher Blair Peach was killed, and the slow inquest into his sudden death drags on.

Rather less publicity has been given to the proceedings at Barnet magistrates' court where, since July, those accused of offences at the demonstration have been on trial.

Lawyers and journalists observing the trials have noticed certain features:

- The accused were hauled off to North London, creating often insuperable difficulties for enquirers and witnesses.
- Defendants in magistrates' courts tend to plead guilty, whereas the vast majority of the Southall defendants protest their innocence.
- The conviction rate for offences of this sort averages 52 per cent nationally, but is 87 per cent for the Southall

accused.

- After the first 96 cases to be heard in full, 94 persons had been convicted and sentenced, 5 of them to jail. Bail was not granted to those appealing.
- In most cases, the word of one or more police officers has been sufficient to produce a conviction. Discrepancies in police evidence are excused by reference to the 'confused situation'.
- The 'confused situation' has not been accepted by the court as reasonable ground for claiming wrongful arrest.
- Evidence from defence witnesses, including medical workers, has been summarily dismissed. One defence witness was dismissed, bound over for £100 and reprimanded for daring to demonstrate and then speak in defence of a fellow demonstrator.
- Is a kangaroo court one which jumps to conclusions? Or just jumps? Or refuses to listen to defence pleas? Or jumps defences? or does it just run wild?

Childrens dinner money stolen to finance private education

ONE OF the most shameful Bills to come before Parliament in decades of shameful legislation was published on October 26th. The new Tory Education Bill plans to scrap right of needy schoolchildren to free meals at lunchtime. Up to half a million children stand to suffer under this provision and for many of these the lunch-time school meal is the only meal of the day.

To add injury to insult the Tories, with unparalleled duplicity, are also planning to provide money for other children to obtain a private education.

One quarter of the £220m the Government intend to cut from state education is to be spent on private schools in providing provision of assisted places.

The arrogance of this government of third rate talents (many of them the product of the more famous public schools) in laying such naked class legislation before Parliament is simply staggering. It is the boastful cry of those who would claim to be cocks of the dunghill. Let them beware lest their faces be rubbed into the mess they are creating. This petty and spiteful bill could be just one too many.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortress Road, London NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Clarion Books 5 The Precinct, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Market Place
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays
Liverpool Bookstall every Thursday Liverpool University

Public Meetings

Public Meetings in London will start at 7.30 pm

Fri Nov 23	Britain's Future, solely in the Working Class.	Bellman Bookshop
Fri Nov 9	Britain in the World Today.	Conway Hall
Fri Nov 30	Britain in the 80's, an Industrial Wasteland	Conway Hall

OXFORD

Mon Oct 29	Save Education	Cowley Community Centre, 8pm
Mon Nov 26	For an Industrial Revolution	Cowley Community Centre, 8pm