

# THE WORKER



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YOUTH is the principle target of the attack by capitalism on Britain today. The most devastating way to disable an established working class is to disable the coming generation. First, the young are relatively easy targets. Secondly, the young will eventually replace the old. Destroy the young and you destroy the future.

The present declining conditions of life affect us all. No one is untouched as factories contract and close; hospitals contract and close; schools contract and close. But the youth are particular victims. The infant child is the most vulnerable as health services decline; the child at school is subject to progressively crippling education cuts and young school leavers suffer the hopelessly depressing fate of immediate unemployment.

Rickets, a disease of growing children, is expected to flourish again. Widespread illiteracy threatens, and many young people languish without skill and without a root in work.

But the assassination is still

not complete. Young people, universally, are supposed to have wayward tastes in dress and music, are truants and incompetent, are muggers and football hooligans. Of course youth is not perfect. Of course there are young villains. But youth is subject to remorseless attack, and are punished again for having been under attack. Will eventually a war be declared necessary to rid us of them?

Two thousand years ago King Herod ordered the slaughter of all the children of Bethlehem in order that the infant Jesus might be destroyed. The latter-day King Herod, fearful too that he might be supplanted, turns upon the children.

And this is a question for the whole working class, the question of youth. There has been too much indifference. There are workers who are prepared to accept "natural wastage" and so while keeping their own job intact are gaily prepared to curtail employment opportunities for those who come later. There are parents who encourage their children to stay home from



school and, as school fees become more expensive, allow them to exist on sweets and potato crisps. Most importantly, the voice of the organised working class has been largely muted and indeed has connived in the attack on youth.

Such is not the tradition of the

working class. There is a history of struggle and concern for the young. Diverse skills have been developed, and an organisation for the advance of class interest has been erected. The responsibility of the aged is to pass on their heritage and this means principally by example. The responsibility of

the young, trustees of posterity, is to learn this heritage and learn it quickly. In activity throughout the country they have demonstrated such willingness.

But all of us have been born too tolerant. We have not been angry enough. Defend our youth, for youth is the future of Britain.

## SKILLED YOUTH THE KEY

ESTABLISHED as a temporary body in January 1974 the Manpower Services Commission aspires to become a permanent feature in the education of young people between the ages of 16 and 19. In its report to the Government in May the Commission proposes to increase its budget by £200m to finance a variety of courses and projects.

The courses run by the Commission through its agencies such as the Training Services Agency are designed to fulfil narrow aims well below the accepted standards of education in the established further education sector. It employs instructors in place of the skilled and trained Further Education

teachers, at lower rates with longer hours and inferior conditions of service, and often uses makeshift accommodation such as church halls. When these courses are run at further education colleges they are controlled both financially and academically by the Agency. Colleges running Agency courses

have their programme, planning and teacher establishment disrupted since these courses are temporary, depending on the good will of the Agency. These Agency courses are as much a threat to the skill and standards of further education as agency nurses are to the health service.

The high standards of education in skill, achieved in further and higher education over the last century and a half threatened. In its 3 years existence the Manpower Services Commission has succeeded in

undermining the established further and higher education sector. Using the cuts imposed by the government it has forced many colleges to lower their educational objectives in return for agency-financed courses.

The idea that by using agency funds colleges can bypass the cuts imposed by the DES is illusory and dangerous. The paymasters for both the DES and the Commission is the government itself. It is the height of self-deception to imagine that what the government takes in one hand may be re-collected from the other. The price to pay for such a transaction is nothing less than the destruction of further and higher education as we know it today.

The 120,000 young unemployed are used by the Manpower Services Commission in their attempt to dilute skills. Under the heading of 'work experience' unemployed young people are paid by the Commission to work for a period of six months. The employer pays no wages, only reaps the benefit of the extra working bodies. At the end of the six months the employer, having assessed the prospective employees, may offer them permanent employment. A free trial period such as never existed even under slavery! Last year 15,000 young people were recruited in these schemes. The Commission proposes to double that figure this year.

To 'help' the young unemployed to find jobs the Commission also proposes to run courses

in filling application forms, and answering questions at interviews. Thus while it is estimated that 450,000 young people will be out of work in 1978, each one would be an expert at form-filling and interviews.

Another scheme promoted by the Manpower Services Commission is 'work creation' where school leavers without work are given superficial or unsupervised jobs such as beach-cleaning or renovation, something that is more degrading and demoralising to a 16-year old than the dole itself.

It is not the ad-hoc and uncoordinated nature of the schemes promoted by the Manpower Services Commission that are wrong, but their very philosophy, a philosophy based on total subservience to the limited needs and profit-motivated desires of the employer on the one hand and disregard for the established standards of education on the other. That philosophy must be combated and defeated if education in skill is to survive.

Upon the shoulders of the delegates to the second Conference of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education falls the task of adopting a clear policy in response to the attack on Further Education by the Manpower Services Commission and its various agencies. This is the major task confronting the conference held in Harrogate over the spring bank holiday. Their lead will be a lead for the whole trade union movement.



Newcastle apprentices were among 6000 who demonstrated against threatened redundancies in the Parsons group of factories. They adapted football songs for the occasion. (Pictures by John Sturrock, Report)



## The conservation of capitalism means the destruction of Britain

UNLESS economic trends are reversed Britain faces three million permanently unemployed within a decade. This was said by Jack Wadsworth, Chairman of the Iron and Steel Industries' Training Board, at the recent Conference of the Conservation Society in Sheffield.

It was also stated by an agriculturalist at the Conference that land banks were robbing the

countryside of productive agriculture. In an area of Kent and Essex she had surveyed, only one third of the land taken out of agriculture during the last decade had been built on. The rest had gone to roads, open space and wasteland. If this loss were to continue at the same rate, the whole of Britain's farmland would disappear within two hundred years.

Also highlighted at the Conference were the contrasting good intentions and social democracy of the British working class. The Lucas Aerospace combine Shop Stewards' Committee have already developed products such as kidney machines and road rail cars which could be locally manufactured. But the Lucas management refuses to discuss the products with them.

## So far, but why no farther?

LAST TERM saw a great upsurge among students fighting proposed tuition fee increases, and Bristol University was in the thick of it. Two occupations and a General Meeting of 800 students voting overwhelmingly for continued direct action were the hallmarks of a new fighting spirit. Yet two months later, in the face of a morally bankrupt Discipline Committee, only handfuls of those self-same students were willing to carry on the actions. In the event, the potential threat of repercussive action from AUT members induced the University's Kangaroo Court to decide against expelling anyone for taking part in the occupations. But if it had been left up to the students, expulsions would have been almost certain, and as things stand there is very little pressure on the college authorities not to implement fee increases next session.

The reason why students turned away from the task was lack of commitment to education, and lack of conviction that to fight for it is the only course open to us. How could students man a goods picket of the University Senate House, and convince delivery drivers that they must not cross the picket line, without being convinced themselves that it is in the interests of the whole working class to fight for Higher Education? How could students fight to smash a

Kangaroo Court, knowing that to destroy it would be to end restraint and open the door to further and more effective action, so long as they were still afraid of what logically leads to all-out confrontation with the state over the future of education in Britain?

But if Bristol University students are not fighting today, they have not abandoned their policy of "No fee increases" and slipped into that shoddy compromise of accepting education cuts for everyone else so long as no one leaves their own college as a result of fee rises. What they are doing is to think more deeply about the long-term implications of the principled policy they already have. The NUS national demonstration in Bristol on May 18th against fee increases may have helped some to clarify their minds, for as the speaker at a meeting in the student union afterwards pointed out, the attack is not an economy measure, it is political, and the response must be political too.

The question of the future of education must be put to students now: is it they who must take the responsibility for it. And since commitment to progress these days brings students into conflict with the reactionary might of capitalism, then that only confirms the necessity for revolutionary struggle.

## Bexley teachers vote for action

TEACHERS of Bexley NUT, at one of their largest meetings for years, have overwhelmingly called upon their National Executive to support action against proposed redundancies and the poor level of supply teachers employed by the Authority. They propose not to cover for colleagues absent for more than one day, or for unfilled vacancies.

Bexley Authority claim that they have not sacked anybody - they have simply refused to re-employ a number of part-time primary teachers whose contracts are up for yearly renewal! They also argue that this policy is

better than making full-time teachers redundant, and so hope to divide staff.

But teachers realise that the penalty for accepting this lie will be further redundancies tomorrow, especially as Bexley is steadily increasing the number of temporary contracts offered to new full-time teachers.

However, there was not the same clarity on the wider question of cuts in teaching staff. Members deferred a decision to take action on cuts in staff in schools where no redundancies occur. It has to be realised that there is a great

danger in just making a stand on redundancies and accepting so-called "natural wastage". This would see the steady lowering of staffing standards and further the destruction of education in Bexley.

Every single cut must be fought, not just the worst. Education cuts must be resisted solidly whether they are announced as a direct budgetary measure or whether they are effected under the guise of comprehensive reorganisation as is also the case in Bexley. The Tory council at the demand of the Labour Government has submitted a comprehensive plan which involves the closure of two schools.

## Danish printers win redundancy struggle

Throughout the country, printers are faced with the crisis of the "revolutionary new technology", as the employers like to call it. Great advances have been brought about by the ingenuity and skill of workers, but capitalism seeks to put all technical progress to counter-revolutionary ends. Rather than shortening working hours, or producing more books at a cheaper price, employers are attempting to lay off large numbers of printers to break their union strength.

This crisis is not limited to Britain, and has just involved Denmark in a historic battle.

In January, the Berlingske Tidende, a highly respectable daily founded in 1749, tried to shed half of its 980 printers to introduce new technology. Who says workers are bribed by higher pay? Who says they will always grab redundancy money and run? Many of the men earn £12,000 a year. Some were

offered £9,000 a year until retirement age as redundancy pay. The workers refused, starting a go-slow which soon became a strike.

They were twice fined heavily by the 'labour court', and still refused to return. After a month, they were sacked; this led to a general newspaper strike lasting till the end of April. The only source of news was single-sheet wall newspapers, secretly printed and stuck up by hired schoolchildren. But as soon as its competitors came back into production, the Berlingske Tidende tried a higher level of strike-breaking, by producing a 16-page edition without printers. This led to a physical blockade of the newspaper building in the centre of Copenhagen, with four nights of bitter street fighting between thousands of demonstrators and police. The firm gave in.

Throughout the strike, as well as their own union funds, the printers have been supported by other Danish workers to the tune of £250,000 a week. The Berlingske Tidende has lost over £10 million. Advertisers have gone elsewhere. The management have admitted that their venerable newspaper has almost bled to death. Now, after four months strike, the paper has taken back all 980 men. Even if a number are still offered redundancy in the future (and the firm are trying for 250), the working class has emerged so much stronger, with the terms of existing redundancy agreements in other newspapers in dispute again. But no final success can be achieved while capitalism determines how the inventiveness of workers will be used. Revolutionary technology needs the revolutionary politics of socialism.

## Imperialism's new clothes

THE GOD-GIVEN right of United States imperialism to intervene all over the world has always been a cornerstone of its foreign policy. This intervention, often military, always oppressive, has ever been in the name of freedom and democracy. With Carter's foreign policy speech at the end of May, "freedom and democracy" again form the clothing for this particular wolf.

Henceforth, it seems, the "newly-influential" countries of the "Third World" are to join in the councils of imperialism; American is now "free of that inordinate fear of Communism"; "an exclusive alliance" among non-communist nations is no longer "enough". Human rights are the key - abroad of course,

not in America itself.

Human rights have become like god - everyone supports them and they justify anything. Like god they are the new excuse for world-wide intervention in the defence of imperialism. Already the USA is attempting to become the fairy godmother of liberation in Southern Africa, black power salutes and all.

Carter's speech was hailed as heralding a new era in foreign policy. The aim is still the same - preservation of the rule of capital - but now the wolf has donned sheep's clothing. What is heralded is not peace but a new era of meddling, interference and military aggression - and all in the name of "Human rights".

## EEC destroys pig farming in Britain

The EEC means that capitalists - Danish and Dutch - in connivance with the British government are out to destroy out pig-farming by subsidising imports. This pork is not "surplus" of course, but filched from the Dutch and Danish themselves. They, like us, contribute the exorbitant taxes which directly subsidise importers to the tune of a quarter of the wholesale price on the British market. Domestic producers are undersold and the profiteers are being compensated for their "losses" in a market which they are very successfully monopolising.

The monopoly, if established, will only mean even higher prices than before. Even supposing one can afford it, it is virtually impossible to find home-cured bacon in the shops. So quickly has a staple food been turned into a luxury, that twenty-four years ago a cooked breakfast

was usual for half the population. Now four-fifths of us go without. 45,000 jobs are directly affected in the British pork-processing industry, which is already suffering a shortage of pigs as British farmers go out of business.

British pig-farming has always been prone to glut and scarcity under capitalism, with a tendency to monopoly as the smaller producers went to the wall. Now the British industry as a whole is being devoured by its competitors, and any means fair or foul are being used. The Green Pound, say the EEC, is too "generous" to Britain. Hence their need to subsidise continental importers and declare illegal "forthwith" any subsidy by the British of our own industry. But the Green Pound costs the EEC money. A more "realistic" rate of the Green Pound is constantly called

for, which means, very simply, higher prices, especially of the feed-grain. Hence less consumption and production by another means. As with prices of butter, beef, cereals, sugar - whose EEC prices are higher than the world market while consumption within the EEC is thus restricted - so now with pork.

With the senility of capitalism more apparent than ever, there is a cry from some for a return to the so-called "free market" of the past. We must support every move which will preserve British agricultural production, but the struggle must be seen in its full context. It is a struggle to break completely the stranglehold of the EEC, that capitalist cartel, on our economy - a struggle to establish self-reliance and socialism in Britain.



In Albania, the energy and imagination of young people is fully tapped in the building of their country. In all areas of Albania's life, skilled youth is seen as the key to the future.



# Inner city decay is not an accident but a deliberate policy

Pictures by Nick Birch



IT HAS BEEN the conscious policy of capitalism to de-industrialise not only the inner cities but the whole of Britain. Why else the Common Market with whom Britain's trade deficit in 1975 was £2,300 million? Why else attacks on education - the very basis of an industrialised economy and skilled working class. Why else the destruction of the Health Service - the basis of a healthy and productive working class?

The Government has recently revealed its plans for the 'revitalisation' of Britain's decaying inner-city areas. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in the March Budget announced that £100 million would be made available to the construction industry in certain inner-city areas over the next two years. More recently, the Department of the Environment has said that

allocations to the Urban Aid Programme will be increased from the present level of about £50 million to £125 million by 1979-80, which will be channelled into five areas in London and the Midlands. Also, the Government is to introduce as yet unspecified measures to 'encourage industry to invest' in the inner urban areas. At the same time, development of the New Towns, designed to take up 'overspill' from the cities will be curtailed.

As London still contains one of the principal concentrations of industry in Britain, a brief examination of trends in the capital gives some indication of the scope of the problems which the measures are supposed to solve. London's population has been declining since 1939 when it was 8.6 million. By 1974 it had gone down to 7.4 million and the Greater London Council esti-



mates that this decline will continue to 6.4 million in 1981 and 5.7 million in 1991. If the outflow of population from London continues at this rate, in about 80 years there will be no one left in the capital!

Despite this rapid decline, there were still nearly 650,000 households in London in 1971 who lived in a home without one of the standard basic facilities such as a bath or an inside WC, whilst there were still over 200,000 households on the waiting list for a Council home at the beginning of 1975. At the same time there were over 8500 applications for temporary accommodation by homeless families in the first half of 1976 alone, and this figure excludes the unknown but undoubtedly high number of people who never apply to the Council if they are homeless because they know that they

would not be helped, such as single people and childless couples.

On the employment scene, the number of people working in London declined since 1966 by 19 per cent to 3.8 million in 1974, whilst in the manufacturing sector there was an average loss of 20,000 jobs each year between 1961 and 1972 and this rate is increasing. In fact, over three quarters of all redundancies were in the manufacturing sector in the seven years up to 1972 - that means 167,000 manufacturing jobs. A study of manufacturing jobs lost in inner London during 1971-73 showed that 42 per cent of jobs were lost because of plant closures and a further 24 per cent because production was transferred elsewhere.

Naturally, output of manufacturing industry is stagnant or declining: in 1975 output was

only 1.4 per cent higher than in 1970 compared to an average increase in output of 2.3 per cent per year between 1951-70. Indeed, output of crude steel in 1975 was only about three quarters of the output in 1970.

As against this frightening backcloth, the government's performance is clearly no more than an aside in the wings. Even the National Federation of Building Trades Employers described the Budget measures, in comparison to the value of work of £13 billion carried out by the construction industry in 1976, as amounting to little more than 'half a day's work'. Indeed, when one considers that as recently as July and December 1976, the government chopped spending on public works by a total of £870 million over the next two years, who could be persuaded that the government is serious in its claim to be revitalising Britain's urban areas?

## Health workers fight back

DESTRUCTION of services essential to the health of our class is being opposed by workers conscious of the need for their services, and that only our class can defend them. Actions against cuts have now involved at least half the hospitals in London according to COHSE. Elsewhere, at Hungerford, Boroocourt and Fairmile Hospitals, staff voted to begin a total ban on admissions because of concern for standards of patient care suffering badly from cutbacks in staff levels and increased workloads. As a union official there said, "Staff at the hospital realised that it is only by a determined stand against the cuts that we can hope to save the NHS from future destruction."

The tactics used in these struggles reveal both the ingenuity of the workers involved and their desire not to make the patients suffer. At Little Plumstead Hospital near Norwich, staff undertook a ban on overtime and on admissions, and a one-day walk-out and picket of Norfolk Area Health Authority, leaving skeleton staff - and won a promise of 62 more staff for the subnormality division, and a minimum of 50 hours of flexible overtime a week. At Calderstones Hospital, Whalley, the picture was one of gross under-

staffing, drastic decline in standards of patient care, and the magnificent average of 1½ nurses per ward per shift.

Staff have now taken a whole range of actions - a ban on admissions, except in medical emergency, a ban on unqualified staff in charge at night, all ward rotas to be strictly followed, and no 'acting up' or unnecessary paperwork. But some actions undertaken can only be described as pyrrhic victories in terms of health care provision: an example is Brookwood Hospital, Surrey, where action to reduce staff/patient ratios led to the loss of 115 beds.

Several lessons for our class are to be learned from all of this - that any gains made by the working class under capitalism are never secure, as the dismantling of our Health Service shows; that the only way to stop cuts is to fight them resolutely where they occur, relying on struggle, not social democracy; but most of all, that trade union struggle can only ever be defensive, and will never bring about and maintain the comprehensive Health Service worthy of the skills and aspirations of our health workers and our class - only socialism will do that.

## Sutton teachers continue action

TEACHERS in Sutton, have, since September of last year, been in action against the threatened loss of seventeen primary school teaching posts.

Although in the pleasant guise of "maintaining the staffing levels during a period of falling rolls", the threat was nonetheless clearly recognised by the teachers in primaries and secondaries alike as a massive attack on the education provision in the borough.

Action began. Teachers refused to cover classes for colleagues absent through sickness etc., and refused to teach oversized classes. Thus the borough's totally inadequate staffing levels, and the threat to make them worse were made public knowledge.

The borough, for the first time, began to run an adequate supply system - taking on otherwise unemployed teachers to "fill in" for absent staff.

Finally the borough capitulated, removed the threat of seventeen lost jobs, and the consequent damage to the schools, and agreed to employ three extra teachers in the primary sector. Though this still leaves an unsatisfactory staffing level, this has meant a real improvement. But further improvements are necessary. Thus, at their last

Association meeting, the teachers decided by a decisive majority to continue the action until the borough make formal provision for a proper supply staff, and agree to limit class size on entry to the schools.

## Who pays for what?

Changes in the rating system have been proposed by the government, while the conservatives have suggested local income taxes. But the important issue is not the divisive question over who pays the greater share, but where the resources are used. In the last financial year, 18 per cent of local authority expenditure was used to pay interest on loans - a massive £2,300 million. It may be asked why local authorities should need to increase rates in view of the serious cutbacks in local services (despite the principled opposition to those cuts by the unions concerned). This may be explained as the Treasury is requiring the local authorities to borrow long term rather than the cheaper short and medium term loans comprising the present debt profile. The prospect is an even greater proportion of local authority expenditure being used to service loans.

## Workers occupy hospital

HOUNSLOW HOSPITAL workers in Middlesex have followed the lead of workers at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in London, and have announced their intention to fight the closure of the hospital. They have occupied to enable them to continue to perform their duties. According to the Area Health Authority the hospital is already half closed but with the realisation that no other course remained open all but a few of the 85 medical and ancillary workers decided to defy the AHA and keep the hospital going. They now have official support from NALGO, the first time this union has given support to a work-in.

With the knowledge that the struggle to save the health facilities would be long and difficult the hospital staff made sure that they had support from other workers in the area. This has been forthcoming both from other health workers and from workers who supply the various other services that are needed to keep a hospital going, such as laundry.



# Big change in ASTMS

IN THE DECISIONS and atmosphere of the Annual Conference of ASTMS a crucial change distinguished it from previous conferences. No longer were delegates willing to defer important decisions to the National Executive Committee. No longer would they easily relinquish their power as they have done in previous years. Conference was the main policy making body of the Union and Conference would make the decisions.

The demand for a return to free collective bargaining was, as expected, overwhelming. What was not so expected was the realisation that this meant self-reliance, that they could improve their living standards only through their own actions. Few were prepared to entertain the idea that their sacrifices had accomplished anything other than a pervasive decline in their living standards, or that others could do the job better than they could themselves. The job they were talking of was gaining their just rewards through struggle, not collaboration.

The discussion of the Bullock proposals on Industrial Democracy took place in the middle of the Cup Final. Conference, however, remained in full strength and Bullock with its Worker Directors was rejected by over 3 to 2.

# Sladebrook inquiry report

THE INQUIRY into the allegations contained in an anonymous letter about violence and low attainment levels at Sladebrook High School reported to Brent Educational Committee on 23rd May.

There should have been no inquiry. The information necessary to refute the inaccuracies contained in the anonymous dossier was held by, or immediately available to, the Authority, and should have been published immediately.

Teachers had no opportunity to see the report, and contribute to its objectivity prior to it being made public. The Authority broke an agreement to provide copies to the teachers at the school before the day of publication.

The report records the following facts about Sladebrook which have already been pointed out in

# NALGO: Yes to independence

CONFERENCE delegates of the Local Government workers' union - NALGO - decide in Scarborough this month on issues vital to the union's future: whether NALGO will fulfil its role as an independent union defending its members' interests - or surrender this role altogether.

After previous indecision on the social contract, NALGO now sees that the contract leads to depressed living standards and that it does not improve unemployment, reduce prices or restore cuts. We must not hide behind the excuse "In a free for all, the weakest unions will lose out." We are dishonest if we deny that the wages of the weakest have always been determined by the level which the strongest achieve. And to imply that the fourth largest union in Britain is incapable of successful struggle, is absurd.

But a return to collective bargaining is not an end in itself because the social contract isn't really about wages. Which is why talk of "improving" it to allow for differentials is false. Capitalism must have the social contract to survive - but its primary aim is to weaken resistance from that enemy which most threatens its survival - us, the working class. If unions are prevented from fulfilling their main function - to fight for wages and conditions - capitalism stands a much better chance of getting away with the

cuts, unemployment and the run-down of production in favour of overseas investment. NALGO must assert its independence - so proudly held - from the Labour Party and say no to Government policies. Nor must it surrender its bargaining power to the TUC. NALGO members in the TUC hierarchy is not a substitute for unfettered struggle at our work place.

The union must fight for the independence to make its own decisions, must accept the constitutional sovereign power of its Conference to determine policy and later, if necessary, to change it. And it must allow branches the flexibility to determine the most suitable tactics to carry out this policy.

A united, strong, determined union must also take a lead in rejecting Bullock's industrial democracy - a ploy to get NALGO members to help employers out of a hole and suggest their own cuts.

The National Executive Council paper on industrial democracy concludes that NALGO should accept its principles. This is wrong. Industrial democracy is democracy in the interests of the employing class. Industrial democracy and the social contract are two sides of the same coin - attempts to get us to enfeeble our union. They would have the same effect on NALGO as a crewcut Samson.

Yet the report fails to support the conclusion of Sladebrook teachers that the establishment of the school should be maintained for 1977/78 to further the benefits of smaller class size. However, the Governors, having considered the report, recommended to the Education Committee that this policy, already held by the Brent Area of the NUT, should be adopted.

Further, in an apparent attempt to smear a school which has been very active in fighting cutbacks in education, totally unsubstantiated allegations of "disloyalty", of "acting without reference to the headmaster", "poor preparation of lessons" are made. Teachers should demand the withdrawal of these unsubstantiated accusations and fight even harder in their struggle to maintain their establishment and use falling rolls to improve class size.

# NUPE faces the issues

The 50th National Conference of NUPE has recently taken place. This proved to be a turning point in some of the policies the Union had been pursuing, as well as the amendments to existing rule. Although there was clarity of thought on some issues such as the need for an Annual Conference, free rule books issued to new members, candidates wishing to stand for the Executive Council issuing statements to support their seat, other issues such as the election of full-time officers and the abolition of bonus and incentive schemes caused much thought and verbal barrage.

The most important resolutions on the agenda were the opposition to any Social Contract and the cuts in public expenditure. Although Conference was resolute in its opposition, a clear resolution calling for the rejection of the Contract, irrespective of what the TUC decides, fell. A

motion calling for the rejection of the Contract because the Government had failed to keep their side of the bargain was carried in the vain hope the Labour Government can be pressurised into governing according to its "socialist" mandate, and totally denying its true nature.

The cuts in public expenditure were forcefully condemned, and a stepping up of the campaign against them endorsed. At the same time Conference was united in the total rejection of the call for a General Strike in opposition to the cuts.

Unemployment was also an issue where Conference was totally united, not merely because of the threat to NUPE members' jobs, but recognising the outright attack and proposed destruction of our public services.

# Conference review

THE INLAND REVENUE Staff Federation at their recent Annual Delegate Conference opposed any extension of the social contract. The way is now open for the union to decide on a pay claim, unfettered. The Conference also voted against the Hardiman Report on the dispersal of Civil Service jobs in London. This was a clear stand against another attack by the Government, challenging their self-proclaimed right to determine where we work or whether we work at all.

A motion welcoming the Bullock proposals failed to be endorsed by Conference, this despite the ideological handicap of living for 50 years with the Whitley system, which was a model for Bullock's corporatism.

In December the union will have the opportunity to consolidate the undoubted victories of the ADC at a Special Conference on restructuring the union.

The Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), comprising the clerical staff of the Civil Service, have voted against the social contract at their conference.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) made up of the Executive grades avoided the question of the contract and declared in favour of pay research as part of a return to free collective bargaining. The Conference also voted in favour of dispersal, the only Civil Service union to do so.

The Institute of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS) voted in favour of continued pay restraint.

There were no arrests outside the Police Federation Conference held in May when the Home Secretary came to address the delegates. Inside the Conference, delegates who had earlier voted by a very large majority for the right to strike displayed impeccable unity by receiving their guest in utter silence. Prospects of strike action might be frightening for the ruling class whose law the police are called upon to enforce, but they bring nothing but joy to workers everywhere.

The Executive Committee of the Tobacco Workers Union have voted (40 - 4) against any form of pay policy.

# Bookshops

- Belman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5**
- Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton**
- Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road St. Philips, Bristol**
- Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds**

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road London NW5 (Tufnell Park Tube) commencing at 7.30 p.m.

- Friday, June 10th "The decline of apprenticeship and technical education."
- Friday, June 17th "North Sea Oil, capitalism's salvation?"
- Friday, June 24th "Food mountains, want amidst plenty."
- Friday, July 1st "Save our public transport."
- Friday, July 8th "Socialism, not the Labour Party."
- Friday, July 15th "Revolution, not World War."



The AUEW National Conference in session. The Conference endorsed the decision of the Engineering section to call for a return to free collective bargaining, a worthy lead for the whole labour movement. Picture by John Sturrock (Report).

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