

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) No 17 Sept 12th 1977 3p

EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED UNITE FOR REVOLUTION

WINNING the Ashes and scaling mountain peaks are features of Royal celebratory years. The Labour Government's contribution to this one is reaching a new staggeringly high postwar peak in unemployment - well over a million and a half (1,635,950) according to the Government's own figures which cannot really be less than two million workers without jobs! That is two million workers denied the right to contribute their energy and skill to the well-being of Britain and suffering the frustration, waste, humiliation and hardship of the dole queue.

These figures were released just before the TUC Annual Conference, no doubt as backing for the Government's threat that if organised workers resort to collective bargaining to hit out against the lowering of their living standards, it will only result in even more massive unemployment. The Government is saying that every successful attempt to try to close the gap between rising prices and frozen wages will be paid for by making fellow workers redundant. This is like the Nazis holding innocent people as hostages and threatening to shoot a certain number of them every time there is resistance to the German occupation.

Unemployment, like inflation, is not something bad that happens to capitalism. It is something bad that capitalism does to us. It is brought about quite deliberately to weaken our unions and divide our class. By its uneven spread from 4.5 per cent in the southeast to nearly 8 per cent in Scotland, Wales and the north, it is a way of encouraging devolution and the regional splitting of the working class.

We quoted Reg Birch in the last issue on how unemployment is increased. "We've had lots of wage restraint in history but there is still capitalist society and it is still a stick dog. So whatever their concept of restraint, it never cured. All wage curbs ever did was to decrease the spending power of workers and create mass unemployment." Even bourgeois economists

know this. In explaining the failure of industrial production to recover they say: "The missing ingredient has been quite simply demand. Dramatic falls in purchasing power resulting from continuing price increases twice the size of wage rises were bound to depress consumers' spending. The effect of this on domestic demand has been intensified by the cuts in public expenditure, which have particularly affected the construction industry."

In other words, the very threat of greater unemployment which the Government is using to try to get us to accept another year of wage cuts is precisely what we are bound to bring about through a further reduction in demand if we comply.

Is there any likelihood of improvement in the employment situation? Not according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research which predicts that another third of a million people will be out of work by the end of the year. North Sea oil may attract hot money and make the IMF happy but it does not make jobs for many workers here.

What do we do about it? Do we plead with this Government for a policy of reflation now?

We do not ask capitalism for anything. We tell capitalism and its Government agents that we will assert our right to work. We will not permit ourselves to be split into employed and unemployed. It is up to the ingenuity of our class to work out in all areas of employment how we can involve in work those whom capitalism has made redundant.

We further say that through our unions in collective bargaining we will demand a price for our labour power which does not represent a fall in our standard of living.

If that is incompatible with capitalism, then these two simple and completely just demands, the right to work and to be adequately paid, have been turned by the failure of the capitalist system in its absolute decline into revolutionary demands.



Workers demonstrate in support of the work-in on the official "closing day" of Hounslow Hospital. (Picture by Laurence Sparham/I. F. L.)

Grunwick - lessons in capitalist law

IT CANNOT have surprised any politically conscious worker that the Scarman court of inquiry into the Grunwick case should have come up with a sop to the working class in the form of a recommendation that workers unfairly dismissed by the wretched little managing director of Grunwick should be reinstated. Nor can it have surprised any such worker that Grunwick's managing director, who has become the darling of all the most reactionary elements in the country, should have decided to flout the court's findings.

As for the application to the ACAS for justice for the Grunwick workers, after being tied up for more than a year in various legal toings and froings, it still awaits a final appeal decision by the House of Lords some time this autumn.

Whether we consider commissions, tribunals or courts of inquiry, whether we consider magistrates' courts, law courts, appeal courts or the House of

Lords, the legal institutions of a capitalist country like Britain are not there to secure justice for workers but to protect the property rights of capitalists.

Can we imagine a situation in which a worker could say: "I know the tribunal, or court of inquiry of whatever, has found against me in the case of my continuing to work at my job but I have decided not to accept its findings and will go right on working anyway"? Or, "I realise the court thinks I had no right to defy the police in trying to maintain an effective picket at my place of work, but I do not choose to accept the penalty imposed on me?"

This is what makes the whole question of the Bullock proposals or any other window-dressing scheme of worker participation so ridiculous. It is reported that the major unions have reached agreement about a common policy on the introduction of 'industrial democracy' and the appointment and relative numbers of worker-directors on company boards.

This is like the unions reaching agreement on the number of angels that can stand on the point of a pin for all the difference it makes to us in our class struggle with capitalism.

The Engineering Employers' Federation has just issued a report on Germany's system of 'industrial democracy'. They say "the success of co-determination in Germany" results from the fact that the unions there "challenge neither the making of profits nor the market economy and private ownership" and they accept the responsibility for enforcing on their members "legally binding agreements".

The only industrial democracy we are interested in is the democracy within our own unions, the better to defend ourselves against the class enemy and to hit back when we can and must. The only representation on the boards of companies we care about is our membership in the interests of the people when we have taken them over in our name.

Glorious second anniversary of Socialist Republic of Vietnam

ON SEPTEMBER 2 the Socialist Republic of Vietnam celebrated its second anniversary as a unified socialist state, although the August Revolution which proclaimed the entire land as the Democratic Republic of Vietnam took place in 1945, thus making Vietnam the first worker-peasant state in Asia.

Its subsequent history to free itself from the chains of successive imperialist aggressors should be well known to all, as the struggle of the Vietnamese people to defeat first France and then the USA became the epic people's war of our day.

However the apparent enthusiasm shown by the 'left' in Britain and other countries of the capitalist world for opposing the war seems somewhat lacking today as the Vietnamese people struggle to build socialism. That story is no less heroic and the enemies no less daunting than the saturation bombing, napalm and toxic chemicals, mass persecution and torture of the American "special war".

Even as the American troops and then the advisers took to their heels followed by the equally frightened hoards of domestic reactionaries like Thieu and co., the people of Vietnam under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam began the hard struggle to build a socialist land out of the ruins of war, total devastation of town and country, and, in the south, a colonial system where even the raw materials of industry were imported and the people, primarily small-scale peasants, were exploited, bombed and terrorised and uprooted to be forced into "strategic hamlets"

behind barbed wire - British imperialism's contribution to American counter-insurgency. On top of all that was the question of transforming the ideology of a people fed upon feudalism and colonialism and producing in the last phase an army of thieves, dope peddlars and addicts, prostitutes and mercenaries of every variety.

The immediate record of achievements has been good, as was revealed at the fourth Party Congress held early this year. The socialist transformation of the land has begun and the targets of the Second Five Year Plan - 1976-1980 - are being tackled with enthusiasm by the mass of the people. The aim is to build socialism throughout the land, for in their late President, Ho Chi Minh's, oft-repeated words, "Briefly and plainly speaking, the first aim of socialism is to liberate the labouring people from poverty, ensuring work and a decent, happy life for everyone."

Transformation

Just under a third of the total investments in the Plan are intended for agriculture which presents formidable problems as small-scale, backward peasant cultivation has to be transformed into collectivised, modern socialist farming. Over a third is going for industry, mainly heavy. The Vietnamese know that under socialism, with their own materials, including minerals and other commercially profitable materials, and a hard-working and clever people (their ingenuity during the war years was incredible) they have all that

is necessary for industrialisation. There is also a great deal invested in education, especially science and technical training and health and culture, for the moulding of socialist man is of prime importance.

Real socialism

To grow and build, not to retrench and destroy as in capitalist Britain, to employ the talents of all the people, especially the young, and not to dump them on the scrapheap of unemployment and above all to strengthen the power of the proletariat and not as here the dictatorship of bourgeoisie - these are the fundamental differences between socialist Vietnam and sham socialist Britain.

Le Duan, the Secretary-General of the Vietnamese Communist Party, in his Political Report to the 4th Congress, stressed the general line for the socialist revolution in the new stage in Vietnam's development - "to grasp firmly proletarian dictatorship, promote the right to collective mastery of the working people";... through the triple revolution - in the relations of production, in science and technology and in ideology and culture." We in Britain, who want the same goals, wish our Vietnamese comrades all success.

Decline of fishing industry

THERE is talk from Brussels that Britain and Italy have received most from the EEC in the last few years. But as far as Britain is concerned, more has been taken out too. Since joining the EEC, our fishing industry already in decline, has plummeted, while the prices of fish to the consumer have soared. Threats of imminent further unemployment will soon be realised. In the deep sea fishing ports the decline especially is so great that capitalists and their collaborators on the Humber are trying to make Grimsby the only fishing port on the river, meaning an end of Hull or vice-versa. Reports and findings of enquiries are being submitted to the central government on this score.

The British Trawler Federation has recently stated that new and more massive fish prices are on the way. The £1 a lb cod is evidently nothing. This they say is because of the scarcity of British fish which means that foreign imports will rise in price, instead of being dumped 'cheaply'. There is a drop in the total amounts of fish eaten, predicted, which in the case of fresh fish is particularly severe, being well over 10 per cent by 1981 as compared to now.

Unless Britain has control over its own fisheries and seas we on an island will eat no fish. But national sovereignty will not benefit the workers, or even be achieved unless they are in power. This can be seen in the case of the Japanese fishing consortium that has recently obtained fishing rights in Argentine waters and is seeking further rights within the limits of various other countries including Britain, South Korea and Bulgaria.



Albanian industry surges forward

THE TOPIC under discussion at a recent meeting held by the Exeter branch of the New Albania Society was 'Industry in Albania'. The speaker pointed out that this was an appropriate subject because it gave us the chance to analyse an expanding industrial country at a time when Britain is heading in the opposite direction.

In Albania the people firmly believe that socialism is impossible without an expanding industrial base. Only through industry can backwardness be overcome, knowledge advanced in leaps and bounds and the material forces released to allow for the building of a more equitable society. Only when man is involved in productive labour, does his education, culture and politics become liberated. The need for such advance and liberation is that only through being self-reliant can Albanians be independent and free.

Thus Albania's aim has always been to use her own resources both material and human. Typifying this is the Elbasan complex. Here, in a massive monument to socialism, Albania's first home-produced steel, pig iron and coke has resulted.

Hounslow fight for health

ATTEMPTS by the Government and the Hounslow Area Health Authority to close the two ward Hounslow hospital by August 31 have failed. Both workers and patients, themselves workers and residents of the area, have demonstrated in clear, unmistakable terms what they think of the Government's economy measures. The 'work-in' which began on March 28 is now in full swing.

Acting in unison and with the full backing of all the staff, health workers have not merely defied the authorities but have shown them what needs to be done and how it could be done. Nurses at Hounslow have, without exception, refused to accept transfer orders served on them. The transfers, the Health Authority maintains, are a part of the long term rationalisation programme and are designed to save money. In effect they mean down-grading staff and deskilling the workforce, the net effect to the public being a reduction in the standard of health-care and services.

Nurses at Hounslow are in no doubt as to what should be done. They will not abdicate their responsibilities towards their

Workers at Elbasan meet to discuss the production and development of their plant. (Picture by Nick Birch)

They put it like this: "This is the country's most important project where the basic material to feed our country will be produced." Compare that to the pre-war Albania; then industry accounted for a mere 4 1/2 per cent of the country's income. A country without an inch of railway now has 60 kilometers of track inside the Elbasan complex alone!

Naturally, contributions from the floor of the meeting turned to the differences between Albania and Britain. It became clear that the crunch was that in Albania the working class were in power and industry was expanding because workers would benefit. In Britain, industry is declining for precisely the same reason - workers would benefit. The skills, the education, the comradeship and the political understanding gained by British workers is the basis for the fears of the capitalists. Albania provides fuel to their fears. And so they destroy in order to postpone their own day of judgement. And so also the British workers must take up the Albanians' example and do away with a system that survives only by our willingness to put off the day when we take our future into our own hands.

patients to suit the arguments of the Health Authority. In refusing to leave the hospital and accept the transfer orders they have challenged the Government's economy plans and established their right to work commensurate with their skills.

The question facing health workers in Britain however is much wider than successful 'work-ins' or 'occupations'. While hospitals like the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the Weir Hospital and now the Hounslow Hospital have been kept open by the united and defiant action of the workers in them, other hospitals have been closed for want of organised resistance and collective action.

It must be remembered that plans to close down hospitals are not limited to the Hounslow area alone and the tactic of closing wards is not new; now we must seriously consider the tactic of opening wards.

As we say in our pamphlet "For Health - A Revolutionary Struggle": "The name of the game has changed from throwing spanners in the works to get what we want to taking the works over because that's what we want anyway."

Imperialism in Africa feeds on disarray, dissension, division

THERE is nothing Imperialism likes better than to see the people of African countries at each others' throats. It provides a great market for the merchants of death and their arms sales, and an ideal opportunity to muscle in and interfere in other peoples' affairs.

The recent border war between Libya and Egypt allowed the Russian-backed Muslim fanatics to throw their masses into a holy war against the corrupt US-supported rulers in Cairo. It must have made a change for Sadat from crushing food riots by his own people and making dirty deals with Israel over the heads of the Palestinians. To show the infinite mercy of Allah, Gadaafi gave his cannon-fodder executive treatment by sending those worst injured to private clinics in London!

Prosperity betrayed

Around the Horn of Africa Siad Barre dreams of a 'Greater Somalia' and takes advantage of the internal dissensions of Ethiopia to grab his neighbours' territory in the Ogaden. The self-styled 'scientific socialism' of the Somali rulers was of course considered of less importance than national chauvinism and the

battle cries of Islam. From playing host to the fallen President Podgorny and that travelling salesman of shoddy goods, Fidel Castro, Somalia is now on the receiving end of favours from the reactionary Arab rulers. One of whom spent some time off from the enlightened justice of the Koran (chopping off the hands of common criminals and flogging Dutch sea captains who like their alcohol) to spy, while hunting with his falcon, land suitable for a sugar plantation in the Juba Valley in Somalia. £88m worth of business will be paid for by the Abu Dhabi Fund and other Arab sources including Saudi Arabia, and the beneficiaries will be none other than our own British Imperialism. The Booker Agriculture International, together with its subsidiary Fletcher & Stewart, Sir Murdoch MacDonald & Partners, Wimpeys, etc. are all in on the deal.

There will be no possibilities of peace, or of prosperous economic development, for the people of Africa under rulers who are prepared to serve the interests of the local ruling class by selling their country's resources to the imperialist power that makes the highest bid. Many of them claim to be socialist yet their practice proves them liars.

EDITORIAL

THE USE being made by the Government of the National Front marches and the violence thus created is a subtle form of the use made by the Nazis of the burning of the Reichstag - to attack the working class and its organisations.

Following the riots sponsored and planned by the Government in Lewisham and other places, the traditional reactionary cry for 'law and order' is being mouthed by every bourgeois spokesman worth his salt. The violence of reaction is to be used to attack our hard-won liberties and bring about fascist rule.

Liberty is not something that was ever handed over to the working class by benevolent capitalism. Freedom like everything else is a class question. What is freedom for the capitalists is oppression for the workers, and vice versa.

Capitalists have always been free under capitalism. They have enjoyed the freedom to exploit, the freedom to make profits, to hire and fire, to close factories, to run the state and to control the government. Workers, on the other hand, have had to fight for even the most embryonic forms of liberty. The freedom to associate, to demonstrate, the freedom to combine, the freedom to strike were all won through bitter struggle. Nothing was handed out to us which we did not pay for in full with our sacrifices.

Reactionaries by their very nature never fought for freedom. The freedoms we fought for and enjoy today have nothing to do with the 'freedom' reactionary organisations such as the National Front enjoy. Reactionaries have these 'liberties' and more besides because it suits the capitalists and their government to bestow them.

We the working class make no apologies and need no excuses when in our fight for and defence of our own dearly-bought liberties we come face to face with, fight and smash the capitalist-delegated 'liberties' of reaction - like the 'liberty' to have only non-union workers in a shop that is being organised.

By the same token a ban on the 'liberty' of holding racist or fascist or anti-communist marches can have no force against our working class liberty, won in struggle, to march and demonstrate as an expression of our socialist aspirations. On the contrary, it strengthens our right by showing that a sham 'liberty' bestowed on reactionaries can easily be withdrawn when it suits a capitalist government to do so.

We know as Marxists that freedom is not absolute but relative to the opposition of classes. Our freedom as workers can only be safeguarded and extended by the curtailment of the freedom of those who exploit us and their hirelings.

Oxfordshire day of action on health cuts

THE political content and implications of the cuts are becoming very clear to health workers in Oxfordshire. The Area Health Authority has recently published proposals which give a clear indication of what the ruling class in Britain want to do with health, and how.

In the gloss over their proposed £3/4m. 'savings' they state: "Decisions must be made immediately so that savings, reductions and cuts in some areas can provide the revenue to maintain basic and top priority services." They then go on to propose cuts affecting even those services they define as priority. Closures of wards and hospitals are to take place, alongside reductions in the numbers of doctors, nurses, paramedical and ancillary staffs and special units.

They admit that "Across the board reductions of 10 per cent or so in magnitude would destroy the NHS as it is at present in Oxfordshire." They then go on to propose an overall 10 per cent cut in allocation for at least one hospital remaining open, and 5 per cent cut, plus less allocation for inflation for elsewhere.

Of course, they are attempting to make some areas of reductions 'more acceptable' than others by trying to divide them up into such artificial divisions as 'non-clinical' and 'clinical'. The direction

they are moving in becomes clear when they start discussing a return to a 'developing country' attitude which would involve starting to build again from the basic level with the broad assumptions of value to society - the young rather than the old, the working rather than the unproductive, the 'normal' rather than the 'deviant' and so on."

With this view in mind the attack on the staff is all the more insidious. The document asserts: "With good management and especially with full staff co-operation some of these decisions will have minimal effects on patient care." By means of moral blackmail, the attempt is to get the staff (who are described as the NHS's 'greatest asset') to aid and abet the destruction of health services in Oxfordshire --- although they are quick to point out that their 'greatest asset' "consumes by far the greatest proportion of our resources," hence the staff 'reductions'!

In other words, less assets, less resources, less services will provide a way out of the crisis.

Health workers must be clear on this. We are the resources, without which all equipment (even money!) is useless - and good health impossible. Every aspect of the service is depen-

dent upon our skill and labour, and every reduction here is an attack on the health service as a whole. We cannot allow rubbish about 'community' care (fine if backed up with adequate resources) and attempts to fill gaps created by cuts by the use of such charities as the Red Cross to be used as a means of undermining this basic understanding.

In fact, resistance has already started. The very notion of 'overspending' has been rejected, and a decision taken not to negotiate any reduction in staffing or services. ASTMS in particular has already voted to take "any action necessary to defend the NHS." A day of action is being organised to start the campaign.

What is needed now to boost it into the sort of offensive we need, is an explicit rejection of the ideas behind the cuts. We, the working class of Britain, have already 'built up from basic level', and we will decide who is 'of value to society'. The whole working class is of value, worthy of health - and all are productive. We built the NHS, now we must defend it. It is our skills which will carry a healthy working class onto socialism, and to control of our own health care.

HOUSING POLICY - THE GREAT LEAP BACKWARDS

THE LABOUR Government's Green Paper on "Housing Policy" in England and Wales was published in June. It was originally commissioned in 1975 to review housing finance but later its objectives were expanded to take into account the social aspects of housing. But what does it say?

There are two main themes running through the Review. One is that the national housing problem is now under control and, with a little help here and there, will soon disappear. The other is that owner-occupation should be pushed as the most attractive form of tenure over and above all others.

On the question of the national housing problem, the Government points out that, whereas in 1951 there were 750,000 more households than houses (including flats), in 1976 there were 500,000 more households than houses, ie there is no longer a housing shortage. It also maintains that between 1951 to 1976 the number of households living in physically unsatisfactory conditions (houses that are unfit for human habitation, overcrowded, lacking in one or more amenities or having to share amenities) decreased from 10 million to 2.7 million. These figures are necessarily qualified by the Government. For instance, it is stated that at any one time 300,000 houses are vacant either awaiting improvement/repair or because they are holiday homes or simply not let. In fact, a recent survey by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors found that, at any one time, about 5 per cent of the housing stock is vacant, producing a practical shortage of 500,000! Again, the national statistics related to physically unsatisfactory conditions do not include households living in unsuitable conditions eg children in high rise blocks; nor do they identify areas where problems are intensified. In

Wales 8 per cent of the housing stock is classified as unfit for human habitation and 800,000 households are living in such property. Houses in serious disrepair are also not included in these statistics. Department of the Environment figures show that between 1971 to 1976 there has been an increase of well over 100 per cent in the number of houses which require major repair. This deterioration in the housing stock significantly reduces the impact in the decrease in the number of unfit houses, and with the continuing cutbacks in housing expenditure, there can be no real commitment to improving housing conditions in the future.

Nevertheless, there is some meaning in the arguments put forward by the Government that the housing situation has impr-

oved over the last 25 years. Our class has not stood aside on the question. As with education, health and all social services, the working class has demanded that decent housing should be within the grasp of all, and not exclusive to the highest bidder. As a result, over the past 25 years the provision of council housing has greatly increased. Even today, when statistics show that our investment in housing as a percentage of the Gross National Product is far below many other European countries, our standards of housing are second to none.

However, what we must accept, and what the Government is determined to seriously underplay, is that the housing problems of this country are in no way resolved, and that the policy statement put forward by the

Government represents a continuing attack on our class.

There are still families living in appalling conditions. In totally unsuitable accommodation for their needs. There are still people without a permanent roof over their heads. Last year, 50,000 homeless people applied to councils for accommodation. The lack of provision of 'socially-owned' housing is such that most councils can only rehouse homeless people who have young children, or the elderly and sick, and one symptom of the Government's 'inability' to cope with the problem of homelessness is squatting. Presently over 1,100,000 people are registered on housing waiting lists and there are many more people living in poor housing conditions who never register.

What does the Labour Govern-

ment intend to do to improve the situation? Investment in housing, seriously cut back over the past few years, is not to be increased; cuts are to continue. Municipalisation and new house building has almost halted; improvement and repair works have been severely reduced. Standards of building and design are threatened.

The Review clearly does not encourage the acceptance of an increase in the provision of council housing as the predominant means of improving the situation. Indeed, there is a strong commitment away from the concept of 'socially-owned' housing and a refreshed encouragement to rely on provision in the private sector, the sector where housing is treated as a profit-making commodity, to play an important and powerful role.

The Government says that people should be given a choice of tenure and, along with home ownership, it pushes other hybrid forms of tenure such as equity-sharing (half rent/half mortgage schemes) and co-operative ownership. These different forms of tenure raise complex issues. In particular, the principles inherent in co-operative ownership have, in their idealism, an underlying socialist basis but, like worker co-operatives, they cannot survive in isolation from the rest of capitalist society. In other words, all forms of tenure, including council tenancies and home ownership, are totally subject to the domination and exploitation of the money lenders. (at present 80p in every £1 of council rents goes in interest charges to private financiers). The Government is not interested in whether or not the working class has a choice of housing tenure. They are interested in spending as little money on



Property on left owned by private absentee landlord; that on right, purchased and rehabilitated by local authority. (Picture by Nick Birch)

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Housing contd

housing as possible. Co-operative and equity-sharing schemes release the Government from management and maintenance responsibilities, thus allowing them to reduce staff and call on the tenants to undertake this work.

However, the most unpalatable aspect of the proposals put forward in the Review, and the greatest indicator that the Government is abandoning a housing programme based on 'social-ownership', is the acceptance of the sale of council housing, albeit subject to certain limitations. There are over six million council houses (including flats) in Britain which represent a vast national housing asset. There are a number of important reasons why council housing should not be returned to the private sector. The main ones are that council housing is allocated on the basis of people's needs and not solely on their ability to pay. A house sold is a house lost to the council for future allocation purposes. It is also generally houses in good condition in the better locations that are sold. This has two effects. Firstly, it reduces the choice for prospective council tenants and creates an imbalance in the council's housing stock. Secondly, rents are calculated on a pooled basis across a council's entire housing stock. It is the older, good condition properties that keep the average costs down. Once this type of property is sold, leaving mainly flats which are generally more expensive to repair, average costs will rise and either rents or subsidies will have to be increased. Selling off council houses is an expense that our class cannot afford.

The working class must accept that this social democratic Government and any other capitalist government that follows it has no interest in resolving the housing situation, as it has no interest in providing a decent health or education service. The Government in its Green Paper pays lip-service to tenant's control over housing. We as a class must accept the responsibility of taking over housing for our class not by tinkering about with democratic principles in an undemocratic society, as the Government would have us do, but by making revolution.

Crane Fruehauf

Management at the Oldham works of Crane Fruehauf, the articulated trailer manufacturers have locked out 500 of their employees for working to rule in support of a pay claim.

An AUEW picket is keeping

Anniversary of Mao's death

ON THE first anniversary of the death of the great revolutionary leader, Mao Tsetung, we can pay no better tribute to his memory than the recall some of the things he said out of the rich experience of the Chinese liberation war and revolution which have been an inspiration to communists the world over.

In 1946 Mao Tsetung countered the pessimism some people were feeling then about the danger of war. "The forces of world reaction are definitely preparing a third world war, and the danger of war exists. But the democratic forces of the people of the world have surpassed the reactionary forces and are forging ahead; they must and certainly can overcome the danger of war." At the same time he pointed out that it was possible for the imperialist countries and the socialist countries to reach certain compromises but "Such compromise does not require the peoples in the countries of the capitalist world to follow suit and make compromises at home. The people in those countries will continue to wage different struggles in accordance with their different conditions." Some Points in Appraisal of the Present International Situation.

Mao Tsetung spoke often of the struggle between the two world outlooks, the capitalist outlook of the bourgeoisie and the socialist outlook of the proletariat. The development of imperialism did not alter the basic class character of this conflict. "For instance, when the capitalism of the era of free competition developed into imperialism, there was no change in the class nature of the two classes: in fundamental contradiction, namely, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, or in the capitalist essence of society; however, the contradiction between these two classes became intensified, the contradiction between monopoly and non-monopoly capital emerged, the contradiction between the colonial powers and the colonies became intensified, the contradiction among the capitalist countries resulting from their uneven development manifested itself with particular sharpness, and thus there arose the special stage of capitalism, the stage of imperialism. Leninism is the Marxism of the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution precisely because Lenin and Stalin have correctly explained these contradictions and correctly formulated the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution for their resolution." On Contradiction

"There are two world outlooks and two methodologies, the proletarian world outlook and methodology and the bourgeois world outlook and methodology. These comrades often cling to the bourgeois world outlook and methodology and often forget the proletarian world outlook and methodology. The theory that weapons decide everything, the purely military viewpoint, a bureaucratic style of work divorced from the masses, individualist thinking, and the like - all these are bourgeois influences in our ranks. We must constantly sweep these bourgeois things out of our ranks just as we sweep out dust." The Situation and Our Policy after the Victory in the War of Resistance against Japan

"The class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, the class struggle between the different political forces, and the class struggle in the ideological field between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie will continue to be long and tortuous and at times will even become very acute. The proletariat seeks to transform the world according to its own world outlook, and so does the bourgeoisie." On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People

Oxford teachers win immediate victory

THE OXFORDSHIRE County Council in talks with the NUT agreed on August 26 to withdraw its proposals for making a number of teachers redundant on September 1. They have accepted the Union demands of June 9 that every teacher presently employed by the Council should be kept on and given a proper contract.

As a result of this victory the

out all hauliers. Management want to keep the settlement within the 5 per cent of the old Phase Two pay policy.

NUT has called off its strike action which other employees of the Council were threatening to join and which local leaders of the AUEW wanted to turn into a wider campaign of industrial action.

The Oxfordshire teachers will maintain sanctions as a continuing struggle in defence of educational standards and against the declining pupil-teacher ratio. They are prepared to carry out new, radical tactics in raising their fight for education to a yet higher level.



Based on this understanding of the two essentially different world economic systems, the socialist system and the capitalist system, and the two mutually antagonistic world camps, the socialist camp and the imperialist camp, Red Flag in 1963 in the polemic against revisionism, fought out under Mao Tsetung's ideological leadership, was able to point out the source of the mistakes of Togliatti and those who supported the European Common Market. They give "a long long list of so-called contradictions, or 'new contradictions'". Yet no mention is made of contradictions between classes, of the contradiction between the imperialists and their lackeys on the one hand and the people of the world on the other, etc. Togliatti and other comrades describe the contradictions 'on an international scale and in individual countries' as contradictions between the industrially developed and industrially underdeveloped areas and between areas of well being and areas of poverty." More on the Differences between Comrade Togliatti and Us by the Editorial Department of Hongqi, 1963.

On the question of the need for a communist party Mao said: "Why must there be a revolutionary party? There must be a revolutionary party because the world contains enemies who oppress the people and the people want to throw off enemy oppression. In the era of capitalism and imperialism, just such a revolutionary party as the Communist Party is needed. Without such a party it is simply impossible for the people to throw off enemy oppression." Rectify the Party's Style of Work

PUBLIC MEETINGS

NEWCASTLE ON TYNE

- Thurs Sept 22 Secure our Unions for further advances.
 - " Oct 6 'Worker' reader meeting.
 - " Oct 20 One working class - unity not devolution.
 - " Nov 3 'Worker' reader meeting.
 - " Nov 17 EEC shackles or self reliance - Learn from socialist Albania.
 - " Dec 1 'Worker' reader meeting.
 - " Dec 15 No advance without Marxism-Leninism.
- All meetings held at the Crown Hotel, Elswick Road, Newcastle at 7.30 p.m.

BOOKS AND BOOKSHOPS

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF THE REVOLUTION
Editorial of "Zeri i Popullit", Organ of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania. Price 12p (20p by post)

NEW PAMPHLET

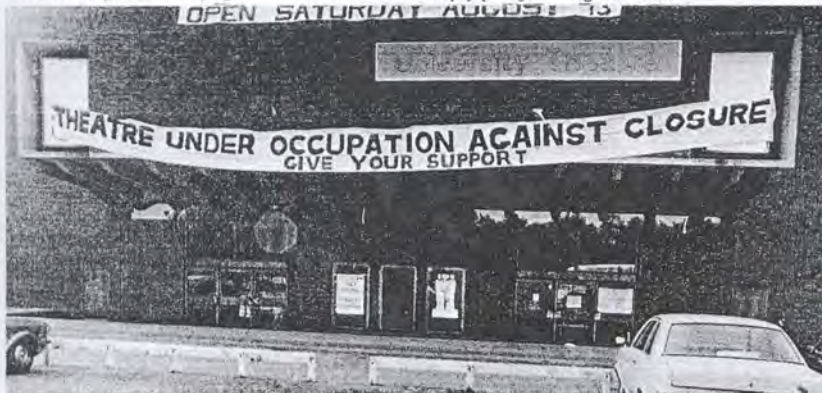
BRITAIN IN THE WORLD 1977

Can be obtained, price 20p from:

- Bellman 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

'The Worker' 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5
£2.50 for 24 issues (including postage)

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....



An attempt to close Newcastle's University Theatre and destroy an essential cultural asset of Tyneside's working class was met with a firm rebuff when members of Equity occupied the theatre in support of four demands: no removal of assets; re-establishment of the resident repertory company; maintenance of subsidy levels; adequate guarantees. (Photo Mike Laye/IFL)