

THE WORKER

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STEWARDS BACK STRIKE

RUSSIAN SLUMP

AEF SHOP STEWARDS from all Ford Plants voted overwhelmingly for strike action at a national meeting in London on January 31st, failing a satisfactory response to their wage claim.

The resolution carried by a large majority was as follows:

"This National Conference of AEF (Ford) Shop Stewards rejects the £4 wage increase offered by the Company as inadequate.

"We demand the immediate reopening of negotiations with the Company in order to secure an improved offer more in accord with the aspirations of the Ford workers to achieve parity and a £10 all round increase in wages.

"Failing a satisfactory response by the Company to this final attempt by the Unions to secure a better deal for all Ford workers we call on the Executive Council to support strike action by our members against the Company as from Monday 16th February."



Reg Birch, Secretary of the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee, being interviewed after the National Shop Stewards meeting.

in Britain of U.S. capital. It is on the men at Fords that U.S. capitalism has practised its own special 'know how' when it comes to dealing with workers.

Ford's a Crisis Point

Furthermore this is a situation in which Harold Wilson is over a barrel. If he stands aside while the workers at Fords get what is coming to them, he admits that his whole incomes policy was a fraud. If he steps in, he will have a large section of the working class gunning for him just when he wants a period of apparent prosperity and industrial peace to build up his election chances. It does not matter to Britain's capitalists whether Wilson or Heath looks after their interests in Westminster; but it makes a lot of difference to Wilson.

Workers do not have to make the capitalist system work and they don't win their jobs in a general election. They have nothing to lose and everything to gain in militant action. All power to them!

Employer's Last Chance

This postponement of action first mentioned for February 2nd gives Ford employers one more chance to meet the just demands of workers. It is essential that workers on their side should be quite clear that this kind of threat cannot be made unless they are determined to carry it through.

This point was stressed by Reg Birch, AEF Executive Council and Secretary of the Ford National Joint Negotiation Committee. Asked what the employers could do to avoid strike action he replied: "They could go into liquidation!"

No doubt most workers understand the strength of their position at Fords. They must make sure, as Reg Birch warns, that they are not sold short.

Ford represents a number of contradictions which workers can exploit to their advantage. In addition to the usual conflict between bosses and men there is the fact that Fords is one of the main footholds

EVER since the time of Khrushchev Russia has increasingly relied on the capitalist practice of using profit incentives to try to improve economic output. Now the Russian economy has moved so far along the capitalist road that it is beginning to display one of capitalism's most characteristic features — a slump!

Mr. Leonid Brezhnev (Times Jan. 17) announced in Moscow that the Russian economy was suffering from serious difficulties. He virtually admitted that "the goals of the economic reform adopted in 1965 . . . had failed to live up to expectations."

Among the difficulties spelled out in this report were "lag of development rates in a number of industries, the slow growth of labour productivity and production efficiency . . . In some places the construction of all sorts of administrative and other non-productive projects — often not even stipulated by the state plan — has acquired intolerable scope."

In the United States economists are also forecasting a major recession. Now we are getting a clearer view of what Khrushchev meant when he boasted of overtaking the U.S. In peaceful competition, Russia would have even bigger depressions!

SUPPORT FOR FORD WORKERS

THE following resolution was passed unanimously by the London North District Committee, AEF, representing some 30,000 workers, at a meeting on January 28th:

"This London North District Committee, AEF, congratulates our shop stewards and members at Fords for their determined stand for parity of earnings and the immediate implementation of equal pay for women; and in doing so we welcome with appreciation the principled decision of our Executive Council in giving a clear lead following the employers' rejection of our members' just claim.

"This District Committee therefore pledges its full support to all Ford trade unionists who are prepared to engage in an all-out struggle for the rate for the job, be it for men or women."

RECORD UNEMPLOYMENT

WILSON and Jenkins have practically dislocated their arms patting themselves on the back for their great economic achievement with the balance of payments. Indeed Jenkins had to dash off to the States and tell big brother how well he is doing.

But at the same time that the Labour Party is congratulating itself on this splendid victory comes the report that unemployment has soared higher than ever — to 629,000 or 2.7%. It is obvious at whose expense the 'great economic success' was achieved — the workers of Britain.

The main principle of the Labour Party after the war was full employment. But now a half million men out of work is accepted as normal. One day it will be a million.

The capitalist bosses need a big reserve army of unemployed to weaken the industrial strength of organised workers. The Labour Government are the recruiting sergeants.

See Page 3 "PARITY"

Editorial

From the inaugural speech of Reg Birch, Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), at the national conference of the Party January 17th and 18th.

We meet at a time when, internationally, the main enemy of the world's people, U.S. imperialism, has been defeated on the field in Vietnam but has not yet been driven out. At a time when the Soviet revisionists have broken all the bonds of socialist standards, collude openly with U.S. imperialism as an imperialist partner; whose actions on China's border, on Czech soil, whose threats to other nations like Albania and whose counter-revolutionary role in the countries striving for liberation against colonialism and neo-colonialism are becoming ever clearer to the workers of the world.

We meet also in the time of emerging people's struggles all over the

world, a time of heightened contradictions within and among the imperialist powers.

Above all at a time when great socialist Albania has completed 25 years of freedom, stronger than ever and unafraid, when the Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of China has just marked the liquidation of revisionists and capitalist-roaders, China who leads the fight for revolutionary struggle all over the world and stands ready to smash imperialist attacks from the U.S.A. or the Soviet revisionists or any of their satellites and allies, be it on both fronts.

In Britain we find the imperialists, the capitalist class struggling vainly to sustain its place as a power at the expense of workers in Britain and of all peoples in other lands where British imperialism still retains its colonial or neo-colonial hold. And now there is a special crisis with its first colony—Ireland.

Here in Britain it is as if the Second International were reborn. The social democrats, the Labour Government, are not only doing the bidding of the capitalist master but are becoming innovators. It is important to remember the change to Nazism in Germany,

the development there of the corporate state from Junker to Nazi, from Hindenburg to Hitler. Remember the Government in Britain is the the largest employer.

Everywhere now among Britain's 25 million employees, ten and a half million trade unionists, economic struggle is growing, strikes becoming longer, more intense and more numerous including fields untapped in the past, like the 49 thousand teachers.

There is a growing to political awareness among so many young ones. Trade Union labour lieutenants are being ignored as never before. There is fear about introducing anti-working class legislation for inability to enforce it.

The revisionist CPGB is without a purpose or line, save to appear as a left shadow of Labour. Trotskyists take advantage of the confusion to exploit dilettantism.

And through it all one brave band, one hope, our Party—small, as yet relatively ineffectual, plagued as all new born organisations with the advice of every passing stranger who would put us right. A Party exposed to all the manifestations of petit-bourgeois influence, groupism,

pseudo-intellectualism — those who would be the Roman Catholics of politics — faith not works.

Yet in spite of the burden of our own uncertainties, our need to know and study Marxism-Leninism much more to be able to apply its general truths to conditions here in Britain, we have our achievements. We are the first Party started by the proletariat, however few. We acquired premises in which to work, created a bookshop, produce a paper. We have made converts among students, lead and guided many industrial struggles and every industrial comrade is recognised for his leadership in place of work or trade union. Our paper THE WORKER is sought out by every Marxist-Leninist Party in the world and our Party enjoys relations of fraternal equality with China and Albania.

The Chinese and Albanian comrades are the banner bearers and our allies, the peoples everywhere struggling against imperialism are our allies too; but they cannot make our revolution for us. We have to do it ourselves, we the workers of Britain guided by Marxism-Leninism Mao Tsetung thought.

Now oilmen prepare for Nigerian boom

The repair programme had from the Saturn already been going on since last spring when Shell-BP at the coast. These fields are the only ones in the world.

This heading from the Sunday Times of January 18th proves that the capitalist press knew what the Nigerian war was all about - the scramble for Nigeria's oil by the capitalist countries.

THE NIGERIAN war is over. With the exception of Ojukwu, who flew off to a millionaire's exile, the political and military leaders of both sides have been embracing one another like long-lost brothers, which is not too surprising seeing that they all had the same training as British stooges at British public schools, universities, Sandhurst, etc. Anybody who believed what the Press says would be convinced that millions of Nigerians just took it into their heads to go around killing members of other tribes, that because of this obsession, armies fought for two-and-a-half years and millions died, and that if only the Nigerians had been as "civilised" as their leaders there would never have been any trouble.

The truth is that the war had very material causes and was based not on irrational tribal hatreds but on very rational calculations in an internal battle inside the most savage of all tribes, the international capitalists. Sometimes they fight out their battles with votes in City boardrooms, or with Stock Exchange manipulations, or with import restrictions imposed by the governments they control, as part of their "trade wars." Sometimes they use real wars. But always the losers among the bosses only lose the chance to make fantastic profits, while the real losers are the workers sacked in "rationalisations" after mergers, or the dead and starving in the wars.

BATTLE FOR THE OILFIELDS

The Nigerian war was basically a takeover battle for the oilfields in the Niger delta. These reserves of very high quality sulphur-free oil were controlled mainly by British or American firms like Shell, BP, Gulf and Mobil. Ever since "Independence" in 1960 Nigeria had been a typical neo-colony with British companies having the economic power, while the politicians fought for the role of chief puppet. The "divide and rule" policy used in all Britain's colonies and neo-colonies from Cyprus to Guyana, from Malaya to Ireland was used to keep the tribes fighting among themselves over £7 million of oil royalties from Shell-BP while £300 million of Shell-BP investments were left untouched.

But some minor oil concerns, especially the French who controlled only 7% of pre-war production, wanted a bigger share

of the loot and so they pushed "divide and rule" to its ultimate conclusion for their own benefit. The Eastern Region, containing most of the oil, declared independence as Biafra, offered a new distribution of oil concessions, and was rewarded with French and South African arms.

For the bosses a war has several advantages over an ordinary commercial battle. They can make money and exert political control by supplying weapons. The Russian imperialists used this method to move in on the Federal Nigerian side. In a battle by proxy between the major imperialist powers like the U.S. and Russia and minor ones such as France and Portugal, victory was bound to go to the big battalions and after Biafra lost control of the oil-producing areas the end was inevitable. Thus "Nigerian unity" in the sense of the right of Shell-BP etc. to exploit all Nigerians and not just a part of them was eventually preserved, and the French will probably lose their oil concessions as a punishment for falling.

CROCODILE TEARS FOR BIAFRA

All that is left is for the Press to publish pictures of starving refugees, pictures which serve the double purpose of allowing some to salve their consciences with charity, while for the vast majority the pictures serve to strengthen the impression that the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America do not work, are not potential allies of the British workers, exploited by the same enemy, the same bosses, but that they are layabouts forever holding out the begging bowl. Most of the "aid" in Nigeria as elsewhere, is either arms to keep the population in line or money designed to vanish into the pockets of local politicians and generals to keep them in line. The begging bowl image is also used to create contempt for all black people, thus aiding racism at home, another "divide and rule" trick of the ruling class.

The end of the Nigerian war does not mean the end of wars in Africa. There will be wars as long as imperialism exists. But in countries like Mozambique there are wars of a different kind going on, where people are fighting to free themselves from all imperialists, not just to replace one with another, and are relying on the people, not on foreign planes and pilots.

But the days when imperialism could do as it wished in the Middle East are ending. Many important successes have been scored in the anti-imperialist struggle. Today the heroic Palestinian people are fighting with arms in hand. They are defying every stratagem to suppress their struggle worked out in the corridors of the United Nations or by the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France in their secret "Four power talks." They are showing the way forward to the entire Arab people.

The people of Dhofar on the southern coast of Arabia are hitting direct blows at British imperialist domination and are proving that the end of British rule in the Arabian Gulf is not far off.*

The final destruction of British imperialism will be the task of the British working class. This class, itself exploited and oppressed by the British imperialist ruling class, is profoundly indebted to the Arab people and to all peoples around the world who, by fighting imperialism in their own lands, have given invaluable assistance and support to the British revolution.

* see Jan WORKER

THE VIETNAMESE WILL WIN

Prime Minister Wilson flew off with his Foreign Secretary to meet President Nixon on January 25. There was a time, not so long ago, when this faithful servant of U.S. imperialism, was not welcome at the White House and was snubbed by Johnson who said he did not welcome a British Prime Minister campaigning for votes on the steps of the White House.

Things have not gone well with either party since then and Nixon, even if not effusive in welcoming his guests, must know certain things from his loyal servant just as Wilson must find out certain vital facts about the real extent of US losses in Vietnam and at home.

Is the U.S. cutting its losses in Vietnam so drastically as to precipitate a major depression or is the present economic "recession" in the US not likely to reach such serious proportions as to jeopardise British capitalism tied hand and foot to U.S. monopolies? To what extent can U.S. imperialism, confronted with mounting defeats throughout 1969 in Vietnam, help British imperialism protect its interests in Asia as was Wilson's hope when he announced the departure of British troops East of Suez by 1970-71? When U.S. Vice-President, Agnew, recently visited Singapore he is reported to have declared that the USA might manage the British naval bases in Singapore after the departure of British troops. But will that prove any more reliable a protection seen in the context of the present shaky position of the USA in Vietnam?

BRITISH WORKERS SUPPORT VIETNAM

For us, who want to see the entire system of British imperialism destroyed so that the workers of Britain can become masters in their own land and establish a socialist state, the gloom that must envelop the Wilson-Nixon talks is a good thing. For us the great victories scored in 1969 by the heroic people of Vietnam are victories scored for the workers of Britain and of the entire world. The communique issued on December 31, 1969 by the People's Liberation Armed Forces of South Vietnam pointed out the major areas of success scored during 1969. Militarily the PLAF continued to maintain their offensive and inflict heavy losses on US, satellite and puppet troops. Whereas in 1968 630,000 enemy troops were put out of action including 230,000 US and satellite (from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, South Korea etc.) in 1969 the comparable figures (from incomplete statistics) was 645,000 including 235,000 US and satellite troops. Thousands of US aircraft were shot down in the face of accelerated US bombing of South Vietnam by B.52s. US losses in heavy artillery more than doubled including the destruction of nearly 10,000 tanks and armoured cars while the number of US warships and combat launches destroyed were around 1700 - nearly double the 1968 quota.

Last year was also a year of victories for the Vietnamese people on the diplomatic and political front. The establishment last June of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam showed to the world that far from being crushed as US propaganda continues to claim, the liberation fighters of Vietnam had so consolidated their victories as to be able to form their own government with control of more than two-thirds of the country.

The more defeats it encounters the more brutal has US imperialism become. Last year the world was shocked to hear of the hideous war crimes in the village of Son My but they were only part of an ever-increasing chronicle of atrocities being committed by the USA against the people of Vietnam. While Nixon proclaims the withdrawal of 50,000 US troops so as to "Vietnamise" the war (that is, make Vietnamese fight public opinion, in actual fact US casualties the conflict from a safe distance) and lessen US war casualties to appease US public opinion in actual fact US casualties have mounted so that US and puppet troops are being ordered to inflict even more grim reprisals on the people, termed "accelerated pacification."

UNTIL THE YANKS QUIT!

But no amount of bombing and killing will destroy the determination of the people of Vietnam. When their beloved leader, President Ho Chi Minh died last year, the entire population of Vietnam - north and south of the 17th parallel - pledged themselves to carry out his last directive: to persist in and carry through the war of resistance against US aggression to a finish - "Until the Yanks quit and the puppets topple."

February 15 is Vietnam's Army Day. On that occasion, when millions of heroic people in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and in the south will be rejoicing over current victories and renewing their determination to fight even harder, we in the CPB(ML) and all who stand by us, send our warmest proletarian greetings. The Vietnamese people will win!

Radio

(Note: All times of broadcasts are given in British Time)

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking:	
9.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.	32,45,47 metre bands
10.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.	32,42,45,47 metre bands
Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Tirane:	
7.30 a.m. - 8.00 a.m.	31.42 metre bands
5.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.	31.42 metre bands
7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.	31.42 metre bands
9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.	31.42 metre bands
11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m.	31.42 metre bands
(The 9.30 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium waves, 215 metre band)	
Daily Broadcast from Hanoi:	
9.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.	19 metre band

Liberation fighters in the Arabian Gulf in training against British Colonial troops and mercenaries.



Correspondence

(From a Comrade in the League of Communist Marxist-Leninist, Sweden).

We have a big wave of illegal strikes here. It started in November when the dockers in Gothenburg went on strike for a week to get two of their comrades, who had been suspended for telling a cheeky foreman to go to hell, reinstated. It continued on Dec. 13, when 5,000 miners in the state-owned iron mines in north Sweden downed tools against speed-up, cut down piece rates, unhealthy conditions in the mines, the bad treatment to which they have been subjected by the management. They are still out, refusing to go back to work until their demands are fulfilled. Since the strike is illegal - the law forbids all kinds of actions by the workers as long as an agreement is in force - and they refuse to let the union officials negotiate for them - they get no support from their union or the TUC. But they got a country-wide and very broad support from workers, civil service personnel, office workers, architects, doctors and even from part of the state church. Millions of crowns have been collected and they have got a lot of letters and telegrams of sympathy.

It is a case where the fight goes on between the workers on one hand and the social democrats, the trade union bureaucrats and

the Employers association (the monopoly capitalists) on the other. The latter gang is striving to get the workers "back to order," that is to have them go back to work and submit to the extra agreement that can come out of the negotiations between the TU-leaders and the state company.

Last week strikes flared up all over the country. 1,300 workers in the Volvo auto car factory in Gothenburg struck just before the week end. The result was that on Monday morning they were offered rises of 10-12 per cent and 35 per cent for those between 18-19 years and also a number of other improvements. Then over 1,000 workers in the Saab auto car factory sat down, also the workers in the ASEA foundry in Vasteras, the Electrolux factory in Mariestad, the Scania Vabis auto car factory in Sodertalje (2,300 sat down), the state telegraph factory in Vanersborg etc. Every news release on the radio tells about new strikes. In some places the workers have already got what they demand, in others negotiations are in full swing...

Our agitation against the collective agreement laws, against the bossy agreement concluded last year by the TUC-bureaucrats for all the workers and all the material we give about how this agreement ensures increasing exploitation and rapidly rising profits, might have helped a bit!

Anyhow the strikes keep us very busy. With Communist Greetings, K.F.M.L.

THE CPB(M-L) sends its warm revolutionary greetings to the Arab people on this day of solidarity with their struggles against imperialism. British imperialism has engaged in every form of aggression and deceit in order to maintain its hold on the Middle East. The seizure of Aden in 1839, the armed suppression of the anti-colonialist movement in Egypt in 1882, and the Suez adventure of 1956 all formed part of the same pattern of British imperialist aggression, aimed at keeping the Middle East as a transition point to the colonies of the Far East. With the discovery of oil in the Arab world British imperialism's greed knew no bounds. British and French statesmen rubbed their hands with glee as they divided up the Arab lands after World War 1. But how to retain imperialist control against the rising tide of anger of the Arab people? It was British imperialism which first devised with Zionist leaders the scheme to establish a fixed outpost of imperialism on Arab territory. And ever since, from the Balfour Declaration to the promised delivery of 200 Centurion tanks, British imperialism has been one of the most loyal backers of the Zionist state of Israel.

WILSON STARTS ELECTIONEERING

IN HIS speech at Swansea, this January, Harold Wilson has begun the Labour Party propaganda offensive for that traditional British quinquennial charade - the General Election. Therefore Wilson's speech had to try to foster the two main illusions that are necessary if the charade is to carry on as usual. First that the Labour Party is somehow different from the Conservative party, and second, that the Labour Government has been carrying out a policy in the interest of the majority of the British people.

In order to carry out the first of these tasks Mr Wilson describes the Tories as "baleful Bourbons," but fails to show where there is any clear difference between Labour and Tory policy. Of course all this is expected for the job of both the Labour and Tory parties is to prop up a decaying British imperialism, and to do this any government of either party must lick the boots of U.S. imperialism, must oppress peoples abroad, must carry out a racist policy at home and abroad, and must exploit the working class at home. So perhaps Mr Wilson and the Labour party too could be described as "baleful Bourbons."

In an attempt to create a high moral tone he said that the Labour government would set "an example to those whose system of civilisation is degraded by racialism and the denial of human rights," and indeed they have, by implementing an outright racist immigration policy. A blatant example is the case of the East African Asians holding U.K. passports where their policy was a straightforward violation of an international treaty on human rights to which Britain is a signatory. What better example could be given to racists?

In his speech Wilson deliberately evades the question of his anti-working class policies by hiding behind a smokescreen of statistics on "washing machines" and "TV sets." However it cannot be denied, in spite of all Harold's statistics, that through its prices and incomes policy the Labour Government has tried to keep down the standard of living of the working class in order to keep up the profits of big business, and that the Labour Government has got the TUC to take on the job of attacking the trade unions and militant workers in general.

Dollar Penetration of Britain.

THERE are now in Britain more than 1,600 subsidiary companies of U.S. monopoly firms and British companies with American stockholders. U.S. investments in Britain total more than 6,000 million dollars, or more than ten times the 1940 figure. Apart from Canada, Britain has become a country with the biggest U.S. investments, which account for one third of all U.S. investments in Western Europe or one tenth of all U.S. investments abroad.

87 per cent of the U.S. investments in Britain is concentrated in such vital economic departments as the manufacturing industry and petroleum refining and distribution. Products turned out by U.S.-owned factories like motor cars, sewing-machines, earth-moving equipment, domestic boilers, vacuum cleaners and drugs account for more than half of those made by Britain. Detergents, telephones, refrigerators, rubber tyres, watches and clocks made by U.S. owned companies account for more than two-fifths of the British market supply. At present, the main products of eight U.S. electronic companies in Britain occupy 20 to 80 per cent of the British market and offer stiff competition with the British products in other countries.

The export of U.S.-made electronic products from Britain is 20 to 40 per cent of the amount exported by Britain.

From 'Communist Review', published by Communist Party of New Zealand.

"Only Marxism-Leninism is based on and serves the working class. 'Right' and 'Left' deviations have in common a petty-bourgeois class base. It is impossible for them to serve the working class.

"Rights" and "Lefts" are both fundamentally right or reactionary. When it suits them, they act together.

The "Right" (social democrats, revisionists) expresses itself in class peace. It says: 'Be careful, don't go too far. We can negotiate with the enemy.' This equals no revolution.

The "Left" (various varieties of Trotskyism) expresses itself in sectarianism and adventurism. It says: 'Don't waste time preparing the masses for revolution. Start it now. Mount the barricades.' This too equals no revolution. It, like the "Right," only serves the enemy.

The only Left, without quotation marks, is the Marxist-Leninist Party."

After such a history of consistent attacks on the working class by the Labour Government, who will take seriously the calls that are bound to come from the "left"-wing of the Labour party, the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain, and the Trotskyites to vote Labour to keep the Tories out? We have already got the Tories in. It's just that they call themselves the Labour party instead.

The time has come to face the issue. The Labour party, just like the Tories, is a political representative of the capitalist bosses and no one can hide behind the slogan of choosing the lesser evil, because in the end they are choosing the same evil.

At the next General Election the true nature of Parliament and the parliamentary parties as tools to maintain the capitalists' right to exploit the workers must be fully exposed.



PARITY

THE CLAIM for "Parity," a claim that workers at Ford should be paid no less for similar work than Midland motor workers, is not new; but last year's successful strike at Ford gave workers encouragement to pursue this aim with greater enthusiasm.

The question every Ford worker should be asking himself is why such a claim. Because in finding the answer there are lessons to be learned. After all, those who get top wages in the industry did not get them by claims for "Parity." Parity to them would have meant going down not going up. The highest paid motor workers got to that position through being prepared to fight for demands they knew their employers could meet and to fight regardless of whether the struggle had the tag 'official' or not.

This is the key issue Ford workers must face up to, because some are now already qualifying the struggle for Parity on whether it will be official or not. If they will only fight an "official" battle, they have learned nothing from their own past history or from the recent struggles of other workers.

Fords are not only among the lowest paid workers in the motor industry. Wages at Fords of Dagenham do not compare favourably with wages of other engineering workers in the vicinity of Dagenham. They have come to this position through an obsession that the only successful strike must be an "official" strike. They tend to lay the blame for their position on the "leaders" - the Trade Union side of the N.J.I.C. Well, what did they expect from them, the famous Mathews, yes and Betridge? When and where did they ever lead a struggle?

If Ford workers had relied on their own strength, had not been so easily coddled with stories about Ford putting up the shutters and moving to Italy and such like, they would not have settled for 3d per hour rise when profits were running at over £18 per head of all workers employed; and they would not now be more than £10 per week behind Rootes.

Of course, there are those who will counsel that a £10 claim is extravagant, that it cannot be got in one go. Take something now and come back for more later. One thing is for sure. If Ford workers exert their strength and do not get side-tracked by considerations like "official" or "unofficial", they can achieve their aim in full.

If not, they will continue to lag behind and their claim for Parity will take its place with the time honoured claim for equal pay for women - something to claim but never achieve.

NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Professor Cyril Offord, F.R.S. (London University)
Secretary: Joanne Seymour.

AIMS: "To encourage friendship between the Albanian and British people."
"To disseminate knowledge about the country, its history, people and social development."
"To encourage personal scientific and cultural contacts."
"To study the political, economic and cultural policy of Albania."

Anyone wishing to become a member of the New Albania Society (annual subscription 10/-) should write to the Secretary, Miss Joanne Seymour, 217 Warburton Grove, London, W.11.

EQUAL PAY

Barbara Castle's Equal Pay Bill is being published as THE WORKER goes to press. It's aim, so it says, is to end separate rates for men and women. Pay must be the same for equal work and in job evaluation women are to be paid equal pay for equal work. This is to come into effect by December 1975.

This is an election gimmick if ever there was one! The Labour and Trade Union movement have had equal pay as a policy for a hundred years, but only now in the run up to a general election does there appear a bill. The sole purpose is to head off the struggle in industry where it counts and transfer the issue to the floor of the 'gas house' where it can be kicked about.

The promise of the Bill has done no service to the cause of wage equality. Claims in progress are being fogged off with the promise that "now at last something is being done there is no need to fight. It will be handed to you on a plate."

The employers are much happier to see this issue switched to the political arena than to face it on the factory floors. The issue is a political one, very much so; but workers must deal with the politics of it, not politicians. Because it concerns robbery of those who work by those who don't - and that's politics.

The employers hold up their hands and scream "we can't afford it. It will cost us a bomb." No worker, male or female, should fall for this. It is like the train robbers saying "We know we stole the money. We know we should give it back, but that is not good economics. It would cost us over 2 million pounds."

Well of course the State would never accept such a line. The train robbers were banished. The workers must never accept this line from the employers either. The employers are the biggest robbers of all. The workers must banish them also, and not through bills in Parliament.

School Students Support Workers

OVER THE past year, school students have organised themselves into the Schools Action Union, which recently held its first National Conference. Although many of the aims of the S.A.U. are concerned solely with school affairs, there is a growing feeling among the students that nothing can be done without the workers.

The S.A.U. is now opening contacts with communists, trade unionists and working class school students despite its main foundation in the schools of the petty-bourgeoisie. Many of us realise that unless these contacts are promoted and flourish the schools movement has little future. Realising this, the clear majority at the National Conference included these sections in its manifesto:

"SAU supports the interests of the majority of the population and commits itself to the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and imperialism by the working class and its allies, and its replacement by a socialist society under the authority of the majority of the population, the working class."

And:
"SAU condemns the manipulation of the existing education system whereby only 4% of working class students receive any form of higher education, only 17% of all students receive any form of higher education. These institutions are controlled by the ruling class and its allies, the bourgeois intellectual academic; and this constitutes the creation of a privileged elite for the purpose of continuing the exploitation of the working class."

"Steadily win over the bulk . . . of workers in trade unions and outside . . . build a strong wise party . . . to lead at all time."

V.I. Lenin

100 YEARS OF STATE EDUCATION

THIS, the Centenary Year of the state education system, is an unhappy one for the Labour Government if it sees continued militant action by many sections of workers including teachers, who have at last realised that other workers learnt long ago: that only militancy brings victory. Strikes by 7,000 teachers start again now in January in about 480 schools bringing the total of schools involved to more than 1200.

The strikes are in support of the interim wage claim of £135, a paltry sum. Plans for indefinite strikes in specific areas such as London or the North are ready. Some 550 of the 650 local associations of the NUT have volunteered to support. These could be followed by sanctions against examinations.

In struggle workers always learn and teachers have not been backward pupils. Some of them now appeal to branches of industrial workers for coaching in tactics. Many parents are active supporters, ready to demonstrate against the Labour Government and Short, the Secretary of State for Education.

James Connolly

WITH British imperialist troops occupying Ireland, revolutionaries everywhere will remember the great Irish leader James Connolly who died in the struggle for Ireland's liberation which will surely be won.

The poem quoted here shows Connolly's class understanding and devotion to workers who emancipate mankind in emancipating themselves. The photograph shows the Citizen Army which Connolly led into battle during the 1916 Easter Uprising.

BE MODERATE by James Connolly

*Some men, faint-hearted, ever seek
Our programme to retouch,
And will insist, when'er they speak
That we demand too much.
'Tis passing strange, yet I declare
Such statements cause me mirth,
For our demands most modest are
We only want THE EARTH*

*"Be moderate" the trimmers cry,
Who dread the tyrants thunder,
"You ask too much and people fly
From you aghast in wonder."
'Tis passing strange, for I declare
Such statements give me mirth
For our demands most modest are,
We only want THE EARTH*

*Our masters all, a godly crew,
Whose hearts throb for the poor,
Their sympathies assure us, too,
If our demands were fewer.
Most generous souls! But please observe
What they enjoy from birth
Is all we ever had the nerve
To ask, that is, THE EARTH*

*The "Labour Fakir" full of guile,
Base doctrine ever preaches,
And while he bleeds the rank and file
Tame moderation teaches.
Yet in his despite, we'll see the day
When with sword in its girth
Labour shall march in war array
To seize its own, THE EARTH*

*For Labour long, with sighs and tears
To its oppressors knelt,
But never yet, to aught save fears,
Did heart of tyrant melt.
We need not kneel, our cause is high
Of true men there's no dearth,
And our victorious rallying cry
Shall be "WE WANT THE EARTH".*



Even the Times blames the Government for its meanness and stupidity. But the Times puts the Government case for "ancillary helpers" (untrained, unskilled people doing skilled jobs in schools), retaining large classes and tries to set groups of teachers against other groups, beginners against experienced, men against women, primary against secondary. In fact, teachers are being asked to accept "productivity agreement strings." But the NUT stands firm and has rejected arbitration. Because of the beating he has taken from industrial workers, Wilson talks of flexibility in his wages and incomes policy. Teachers will have none of this policy. The very smallness of their claim makes them more fiercely determined to stand by it.

As an M.P. described to the House of Commons the cost of the proposed new system of state education: "If it is not cheap, it shall be efficient; if it is not efficient it shall be cheap." The employers and their servant the Labour Government are still trying to get their trained labour power, the workers of the country, on the cheap.

WORKERS and the COMMON MARKET

IT LOOKS as though Britain will soon be entering the Common Market. Those interests will it serve? The workers of Britain? The workers of Italy and France don't seem all that happy about their lot within the Common Market.

Wilson tells us whose interests he is serving when he promises British support for a European Industrial Reorganisation Corporation. Such a body would restructure industry in order to create "European trans-national firms."

This is in line with the whole strategy of Wilson's Government. Every economic difficulty is met by helping big British industry get even bigger. Internally this has meant all the mergers and closures at the expense of workers. Externally it means providing opportunities for British monopoly capitalists to join in the development of European cartels. Entering the Common Market creates favourable conditions for the further development of the corporate state in Britain.

The Common Market Concept

The Common Market concept bears a remarkable resemblance to Oswald Moseley's fascist idea of a United Europe - European colonial and ex-colonial powers banded together, with black Africa as their private area for exploitation, and thus able to stand up against the other two giant Imperialist powers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Everything that has happened in Africa from the Congo to the latest events in the struggle for Nigerian oil has to be seen in the light of European attempts to stamp out liberation movements and preserve Africa as Europe's backyard, in spite of increasing encroachments from both the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Inside Britain the fascist proposals for restricting immigration purely on the basis of colour were adopted first by the Tories and then even more rigorously by Labour. These openly racist measures not only fanned imperialist prejudices as part of the ideology of the developing corporate state; they also cleared the way for Britain to accept the Rome Treaty proposals about the interchange of European workers by denying that right to black citizens of the Commonwealth.

"Great Multi-racial British Commonwealth" Since the end of the war successive British Governments have boasted of the three interlocking rings of Britain's foreign relations: Britain was a part of Europe; Britain had a special relation with the U.S.; and Britain was the head of the multi-racial Commonwealth.

The most important of these links to begin with was the Commonwealth. In the early days of post-war reconstruction rubber and

tin sales from Malaya alone exactly balanced the loans from the U.S. to the British industry going on a peace-time basis. Because of the exploitation of Commonwealth countries Britain has enjoyed lower food prices than any other European country. It was the necessity to maintain the Commonwealth tie that made Britain reject at the beginning too close an identification with Europe.

What brought about a change in policy of both Tory and Labour Governments? British monopoly capitalism simply was not strong enough to maintain the level of investment and to police the British empire and turn it into a vast neo-colonial area for exploitation by Britain alone. Malaya, Britain's Vietnam, proved that the Commonwealth could only be defended with U.S. help. Britain was unable to supply the 'aid' and capital that was needed, and various parts of the Commonwealth had to look elsewhere for funds.

Relations with U.S.

The special relation with the U.S. was a legacy of the war-time alliance. As long as the U.S. was suspicious of European attempts to create a community with a sufficiently strong industrial base and a wide enough market to "close the technological gap between America and Europe," the U.S. regarded Britain as its man on the other side of the Atlantic to check efforts like those of France, for example, to free itself from dollar domination. That was why France was so opposed to Britain's entry.

Now of course U.S. capital has penetrated both Britain and the Six to such an extent that any arrangement among them can hardly constitute a threat to the U.S. And Britain's special relation? What's so special about having whole vital sectors of industry controlled by U.S. capital?

The Real Interest of the Workers of Britain

We speak for the real interests of the workers of Britain when we say we are against Britain's going into the Common Market, as we are against all moves by governments representing class interests hostile to those of workers. This does not mean, like some who oppose the European idea, that we want to see the Commonwealth maintained for imperialist exploitation. British imperialism is the enemy of workers in Britain and the peoples of the colonial countries of the empire. With them we will fight it always.

Nor does our opposition mean that we are narrow nationalists rather than internationalists. We will join with organised workers of Europe readily enough to fight against our common class enemy. We do not support the internationalism of big business uniting to exploit more effectively the workers of Europe and Africa.

FROM ALBANIAN PARTY PAPER

THE penetration of U.S. capital into the West European countries results in that in every capitalist country a fierce struggle is waged between two currents of the local bourgeoisie. One current stands for close cooperation with the powerful U.S. monopolies, while the other is opposed to this and strives for the development and strengthening of national monopolies.

The monopoly bourgeoisie is striving to shift the heavy burden of the economic crisis on the working masses. This is the way the Johnson administration acted when the dollar was in danger. This is the way the Nixon administration is acting now when inflation is overcoming the United States of America. This is the way Harold Wilson, too, acted, or the French government recently by the so-called measures of financial austerity. The working people, however, cannot tacitly consent to this intensification of capitalist oppression and exploitation. They are reacting. They go on strikes and hold demonstrations against the order in power. In order to impose on the masses the state of bell tightening, the bourgeoisie is resorting more to the club and less to demagoguery.

The political parties defending the interests of the working class, such as the new Marxist-Leninist parties and groups, are persecuted and outlawed, while the revisionist parties are not touched, for they have turned in fact into scabs, into allies of the bourgeoisie.

In conclusion, the newspaper writes: the new crises of the world capitalist system, whatever their nature, and the consequences they cause in the shattering of the rotten foundations of the exploiting capitalist order, once more forcefully confirm the conclusion of V.I. Lenin who had pointed out that "the general crisis of capitalism is not an immediate act, but a long period of tempestuous economic and political upheavals, a period of fierce class struggles - the period of the collapse of capitalism as a whole and of the birth of socialist society."

into a sharp weapon the hands of the masses." It reads in part as follows: Our great leader Chairman Mao teaches: "Liberate philosophy from the confines of the philosophers' lecture rooms and textbooks, and turn it into a sharp weapon in the hands of the masses."

The Tientsin No.2 Woolen Mill was the city's first factory in which the workers began studying philosophy, starting in 1958. For the past eleven years, the workers of the mill have defended Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and persisted in the living study and application of Chairman Mao's philosophical thinking in the three great revolutionary movements - class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment. They have constantly pushed forward the mass movement for the study of philosophy.

Liberation of Philosophy

Under the guidance of the party's general line for building socialism, Li Chang-mao and eleven other veteran workers of the mill in 1958 formed the first workers' philosophy study group in Tientsin.

These veteran workers had not had an education before Liberation. They attended an evening class for two to three years after Liberation and knew only a limited number of characters. At the beginning, they were afraid that their general education level might be too low to study philosophy. But they believed that since workers could overcome all difficulties in revolution and production, they could certainly do so in studying philosophy. They made up their minds to study it well. When they could not define "philosophy" and "contradictions," they went to ask a teacher of theory, of worker origin, who was then working in the mill as a selected primary unit. In accordance with the teachings of Chairman Mao, the teacher integrated theory with the reality in the mill, and gave the workers a lecture entitled "philosophy is not mysterious." The workers readily understood it and their confidence in study grew. They carefully studied Chairman Mao's philosophical works including "On Practice," "On Contradiction" and "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People." They integrated their study with practice and made rapid progress.

When the workers began to study philosophy, some bourgeois intellectuals said: "How can ignorant workers study philosophy? They can't handle it." Angered, veteran worker Liu Ching-ying refuted him: "Chairman Mao's philosophical works are written for the working class. They are the philosophy of the working class. One salient feature of dialectical materialism is its class nature and the other is its practicability. We workers have the greatest revolutionary spirit and the most practical experience. Why can't we study and understand philosophy?" The workers declared that they were determined to study Chairman Mao's philosophical works well and win honour for the working class.

Liberate Philosophy

(Extracts from an article in the "People's Daily" Peking, on turning philosophy into a sharp lesson in the hands of the masses.)

AN INVESTIGATION report on the study of philosophy by workers of the Tientsin No.2 Woolen Mill recently appeared in the "People's Daily." Entitled "Turn philosophy

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