

THE WORKER



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SOCIALISM OR FASCISM



20,000 workers march for the right to work

Unemployment and demonstrations

Unemployment is violence, the conduct of civil war by Capitalism against our class, the working class.

So it is murder' - Infanticide - Matricide - Patricide - Genocide of our people.

It is murder - by starvation, malnutrition, melancholy and demoralisation.

Hence demonstrations are necessary. They are necessary to remind us who have a job, of those without - to attack the employers and seek with that show of anger to 'intimidate' them in their malpractice.

But more still it is necessary to expose the social democrats, the Labour Government, the Labour Party and labour leaders, who espouse resistance to unemployment when a Tory Government reigns but accepts it when their owners, a Labour Government, impose it.

It must ever be remembered that the main task is not to expose alone such as Hesley, Wilson or Murray. We should

know that they are lackeys of capitalism, traitors to our class. But not to divert our energies either to shame them, implore them to change or worse still plead with them to 'lead' us out of our dilemma.

We must above all concentrate on the architect of this violence against us - Capitalism.

Nothing can resolve the question of unemployment within Capitalism, this system in which unemployment is endemic.

Repeal the 'Anti-Terrorism' Act

Home Secretary Jenkins has put before the House of Commons a bill which will put the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Temporary Provision) on a less temporary footing. A climate of hysteria and reaction is being created by the government and the mass media (not without the help of bombers and murderers) to facilitate the continuance of the Act. Just as the introduction of

Nothing else but the destruction of Capitalism will suffice.

In the only two Socialist countries as yet in our world is there no unemployment. In Albania and China.

The solution is clear. We must have socialism here. We must make revolution to smash capitalism, to end unemployment. And commence to build socialism.

This is the task of our party and of all active and militant workers now!

troops in Northern Ireland intensified the oppression of the people in that part of Ireland and increased the sectarian murder of civilians, so the Prevention of Terrorism Act did nothing to reduce the terrorism inflicted upon the people in Britain by those who we are informed are of Irish origin. On the contrary, such callous acts increased. (Contd. on P.2.)

Editorial

What makes the present crisis of capitalism different from crises of the past is that it is not primarily economic. It is much more a political crisis.

The major capitalist monopolies are still making huge profits - so embarrassingly large that profits have recently been re-defined to look more modest. But this profiteering can only be maintained by drastic cuts in the standard of living of the working class, by the flight of capital from those areas where the working class is strongest in defence.

The crisis is deepest in Britain precisely because, as we said in our Programme, *The British Working Class and Its Party*, adopted in 1971: "In every industrial country save Britain there is relative industrial peace. Here every agreement is but an armistice and tomorrow is the war." That is why the capitalist class in Britain is bent on destroying the organised working class, even if it means destroying Britain in the process.

But what is also being destroyed is any basis for social democracy. Social democracy is the political truce the organised working class made with capitalism while getting on with the economic struggle for improvements within the system.

Capitalism can't afford us

Capitalism can no longer afford a working class capable of defending its standard of living won in past struggle. Capitalism has thus been forced by the level of class struggle in Britain to make the tacit political agreement of social democracy unworkable. The fact that the present Labour Government has had to spell out the terms of social democracy in its "social contract" between Government and unions is like the explicit Bill of Rights it is proposed to fob off on the British people when those rights are already being whittled away. Neither is worth the paper it is printed on.

Don't vote : organise

Our Party, in pointing out that there could be no real contract between the working class and capitalism, was striking at the root of social democracy and its main political expression, the Labour Party. From the founding of our Party in 1968 our line on Parliamentary elections has been a consistent DON'T VOTE: ORGANISE FOR REVOLUTION. And that this slogan has formulated the developing experience of workers in Britain is shown by the fact that in every country in Western Europe the social democratic party has enormously increased its percentage of votes since the war, save only in Britain where, with a much larger electorate, the Labour Party's total vote in October, 1974, was below its vote in 1945.

A revolutionary party

The ending of social democracy because the working class repudiates it and the capitalist class can no longer afford it, is a revolutionary situation.

It is also a counter-revolutionary situation. The ruling capitalist class no more wants fascism than it wants massive unemployment but it can continue its political and economic domination in no other way.

The working class has no alternative to fascist enslavement but revolutionary struggle to establish socialism. Since the working class has no rational choice but socialism it can accept no leadership but that of its own revolutionary party the CPB(ML).

PRESS FREEDOM?

Freedom for whom

For months now we have been subjected to a saturation campaign by press employers for the so-called freedom of the press in defiance of 100 per cent union membership among journalists - a farce well exposed in Issue 22 of THE WORKER.

In press comment on the recent Fleet Street shutdown, the hypocrisy is played out once again. The engineers are 'depriving the public of the right to know'. In the most basic of struggles between employer and employee, over wages and conditions, the employees' interest receives no coverage whatever, and the employers' interest issues forth with a fanfare of trumpets, clothed in the noble attire of a 'defence of democratic liberties'.

In a recent article in THE TIMES, 'the freedom of the press' rises again in all its purity. The

'right of the public to know' is invoked to justify detailed instructions and lists of the candidates in a range of union elections who should be supported by 'moderates' in opposition to 'communist-supported' candidates. It is preceded by a hymn to the secret ballot as a more democratic means of election - because it appears to result in the election of those self-same 'moderates', not the 'communists'. To quote: "Possibly there are members of the union who do not read THE TIMES, still, those who do can, no doubt, wield a pair of scissors... If anything I have written should be even indirectly helpful in securing even one more vote for a moderate candidate in so crucial an election for a union with so traumatic a political history, I shall be well content..." Freedom of the press? For whom?

Democracy in the union

We reprint from the May issue of THE WORKER the following lessons on democratic elections in the unions based on years and years of class struggle.

"There is presently a furor in the Press about how Officers of the AUEW should be elected. They, the Press, clamour for a retention of postal balloting, in the name, of course, of democracy. They do not comment nor appear to have a view regarding unions who, in officiating themselves, have no elections whatsoever. We make the point that in their not commenting in regard to these, they are correct, for it is none of their business.

If we accept that the Press is a champion of democracy (which is not true, of course) then their view must be answered. Democracy should mean participation, mentally and physically. This is especially true and needed in trade union affairs. That is, participation by the members and only the members of the union - in this case, the AUEW Engineering Section.

The Press say that only the 'left' and 'militants' attend branch meetings, the place where a vote is registered and has been so, apart from the last five years, since the inception of the Union over a century ago.

It is argued by them that since others are so idle, so disinterested, they should be fed at home. The remedy for us is not to encourage disinterest, which serves only the employers, but participation and active interest of the membership, irrespective of view within the branch.

Even in Greece, alleged

Newham social workers' victory

Newham social workers have achieved a notable victory against a management attempt to cut staff and services. At the beginning of November all but two of the 70-plus social workers supported a one-day strike against a management plan to cut the equivalent of 2½ social workers from its day-time roll to

meet the £18,000 cost of a night-time standby duty team. NALGO blocked the advertised duty team posts. After the negotiations between Newham social workers' representatives and management, a spokesman for the social workers said "It has been agreed that we will have a standby duty team - with no deletion in day staff."

Death to the Hillman, Vive la Simca

The Chrysler crisis clarifies two things. Firstly, that capitalism is abandoning Britain, secondly that the calls for nationalisation only aid this.

The collapse of Chrysler bears very little relationship to the slump in the car market - Chrysler have never been serious in their aim of running Chrysler UK. Within two years of having bought the Rootes group, new signs were seen on garages which read "Chrysler" and underneath these signs could be seen new cars manufactured in France and called Simca. These cars were sold even though they were in direct competition with the Rootes cars at the same garage.

Did Chrysler anticipate mak-

ing a challenge into the British-car market as they asserted? In the ten years they have been in Britain they have produced one totally new car, the Avenger, hardly a breakthrough in design and left unmodified for seven years. Whole sections of the range have been dropped - Humber, Singer and Sunbeam now mean nothing.

And yet all the time the Simcas were pouring into the country in greater numbers, easier still now we have the Common Market. What need have Chrysler for an out-dated Hillman range when they can import the Simca range?

How do our social democrats and 'left-wingers' reply? "Nationalise" they shout in unison, and of course Chrysler join in the chant, for after their act of rape they wish to be paid.

Those who want to nationalise play into the hands of international capitalism. It is not just a case of capitalism going, but is part of the evacuation of capital from Britain to Europe by a bourgeoisie which has decided to destroy the most organised working class in the world. The logical conclusion to this nationalisation is twenty years in the future when we are left holding empty shells that once were factories, machines that were once competitive, skills which once were useful.

The task of the British working class is not to wait for that date in the future, but to seize now what is left of Britain.

British Leyland waves the stick

For Lord Ryder to make the famous statement "Stop this hoo-ha of unofficial strikes" shows that the arrogance of the employing class knows no bounds.

In a week where the capitalist press has harangued the workers at Leylands, when they have been threatened at Cowley that they will be sent home if they do not improve productivity, it becomes obvious that a concerted campaign of intimidation by press and the ruling class is being conducted against the working class.

The management threat that workers will be sent home and the strike by press operators at Castle Bromwich are all part of the same problem.

The argument is about managerial levels, in other words the greater exploitation of workers. A whole cacophony of sound is about to assault our senses about the need to reduce over-manning, something which we as workers never accept.

A report by union officials and management at Cowley about low production has just come out. It tells of numerous examples of materials of poor quality or unsatisfactory design. The main complaints in respect of body shells were the line up of drill holes, the position of nuts, spot welding problems and the receipt of wet and filthy bodies. Stores congestion and lack of replacement of automatic tools caused serious problems of production as did malfunction of plant.

There was a lot more in the report that makes it quite clear that the blame for poor output resides at the door of an inept and inefficient management.

None of this story was told in the popular press, just the endless slandering of workers. These are all the tactics of confrontation and workers have a right to be angry and a need to be ever vigilant against the increasing exploitation that the ruling class hopes to foist upon them.

Repeal the 'Anti-Terrorism' Act

(Contd. on from P.1.)

Capital punishment is drummed out by politicians and the press as a main issue to divert attention away from the attack upon our civil liberties.

Upon the passage of the Act through Parliament a year ago, THE WORKER wrote (Dec 13 1974) 'To use the Act, self styled as Draconian, in specious protection of British society is a lie for it will yet be used, unless it be abolished, against the struggle of the British people here.' In the past twelve months there have been sixty-nine exclusions, fifty-five deportations and a number of detentions without any subsequent trials.

The few MPs who stood up against the renewal of the provisions, faced as they were with the extreme reaction characteristic of all debate in the House of Commons on Ireland and matters related, must be commended for their bravery. Even such liberties will soon be threatened by a ruling class so anxious to restrain and undermine civil liberties. Preparation is being made to restrict trials by jury, increase the powers of the police and magistrates and to introduce a "Bill of Rights" to remove our rights.

In the name of our own freedom, the British people, must struggle to repeal these pernicious proposals. This is not to condone terrorism. It is to condemn British imperialism, our own government, for bringing back their oppression of Ireland to Britain on the excuse of halting those who only imitate their oppressors.

The Cuts: Brighton fights back

East Sussex social workers have intensified their fight against the cuts. In THE WORKER Issue 21, we reported how 53 Brighton social workers published an open letter to councillors and rate payers, opposing any cuts in services they offer the public. To the chagrin of the authorities, welfare cuts became a public issue.

Soon after, a specially convened meeting of the Brighton and Hove sector of East Sussex NALGO unanimously passed a motion against the cuts, which was later endorsed by the county executive. Then 56 Hove social workers also came out against cuts in an open letter supporting their Brighton colleagues. 109 social workers had

committed themselves to the battle against cuts.

After this pressure a meeting between East Sussex social services staff and some councillors was quickly arranged by management to discuss "curtailment". 160 East Sussex social workers attended and gave the councillors a rough ride.

The meeting was a marvelous display of mass anger at cuts and put the councillors on the spot, forcing them to pretend to agree with everything and to say they were against cuts. But three days later the Council's Social Services Committee decided in principle to make cuts by listing priorities in the event of the full council later deciding to make cuts.

Since then social workers have held a county-wide meeting, in work time, at which decided to continue the campaign against the cuts. And November 20th 50 East Sussex social workers staged a demonstration in Brighton, which included street theatre to convey to people the effects of cuts. On November 25th the Council's Policy and Resources Committee deferred the executive issue of cuts until February.

In Brighton the struggle against cuts has been broadened by Brighton branch of the CPB(ML) publishing a pamphlet called "Cuts: Brighton Fights Back", and the Trades Co organising an action comm to fight the cuts.

Hairdressers

As a regular reader of THE WORKER, I read an article in the September 24th issue of The Outworker, about sweat shop conditions in their own homes. Very true. How about the conditions in the hairdressing trade? I was appalled at the conditions one fifteen year old Basildon girl had to suffer. A Saturday worker, she works 10½ hours for £1-50 with no proper lunch or tea breaks (15p an hour!). I term that slave labour. In 1975, has the worker no right to justice? How long will this sort of work and pay continue?

Devolution or Revolution

The self-determination of the working class in Britain is the real issue being obscured by the current clamour of those demanding devolution for Scotland and Wales.

Opportunists of all shades have come together to press for separate Scottish and Welsh assemblies. Deliberately, they ignore the fact that the evolution of British capitalism along with the penetration of foreign investment has integrated and welded England, Wales and Scotland into one economic and political whole. The employers long ago united to exploit and attack the entire working class of Britain.

Factory closures and the run down of industry, redundancy and unemployment, hit at workers in London as in Swansea and Glasgow. The cuts in wages, health and education are not directed at workers on a regional basis but are attacks on all. Similarly, by defending their profits at all costs, the capitalists inflate the price of essentials as much in Hemel Hempstead as in East Kilbride.

Ironically, the Scottish nationalists, while laying claim to North Sea oil, painstakingly avoid any reference to the vast profits from Scotch whisky which are shipped across the Atlantic to US and Canadian distillery owners.

The workers, therefore, need to take on the entire ruling class without regard for ethnic divisions. The real question is 'which class has political and economic power?' It is class consciousness and class struggle which the "separate assemblies" bandwagon want to blur and blunt. They realise the extent of the disaffection of workers from the Labour Party and social democracy. So the Queen's Speech promises reform of Parliament and the shifting of some peripheral State powers to Cardiff and Edinburgh.

It is this nonsense which an unholy alliance of those really concerned with preserving capitalism had as being steps towards greater freedom and democracy for Scots and Welsh workers.

Iceland-stop gun boat diplomacy

The sending of British warships to Icelandic waters must be condemned as an act of aggression against the people of Iceland. Not content with presiding over the run-down of Britain's resources, the Labour Government is prepared to go to the brink of war in order to preserve the principle that the resources of the whole world belong to the capitalists to dispose of and destroy as they wish. In this action, the Government does nothing but harm to the interests of the British working class.

The ships were sent in, not to protect Britain's food supply, nor even to maintain the employment of the trawlermen. For while the Government is sending the Navy in, our own seas are being denuded of fish by huge super-trawlers vacuuming up fish for processing as fertilizer. The Soviet fishing fleet alone is swallowing 15,000 tons of fish a day, big fish and minnows alike, while other countries and other capitalists also with their factory ships have so depleted our own fish stocks that thousands of mackerel fishermen are now faced with unemployment while good eating fish is ground

up in the capitalist mills. What is happening to the mackerel will also come to the herring and the cod unless a stand is taken to preserve so that future generations shall benefit.

The Icelandic people have taken a correct position on safeguarding fish-stocks around their shores. In so doing they are preserving for the whole world an invaluable source of protein. In their search for quick and easy profits, the hyenas of the British Trawler Federation will kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, unless checked.

But there is nothing easy nor quick in the job of the trawlermen themselves even at the best of times. Now in the depths of a bitter winter they are hurled into the front lines as pawns in this scramble for the quick buck. In the long term too, there can be no work for the trawlermen in a sea without fish.

Rather than fighting the people of Iceland we should be setting up our own 200 mile limit and safeguarding our own fish-stock against the marauding bourgeois pirates - both our own and those from other countries.

South Wales clothing workers

About 1800 women workers at 10 clothing factories throughout South Wales have voted overwhelmingly in a union ballot to strike for a £6 wage increase after having been offered £3.60 by management.

This follows on from a 10-day 'unofficial' strike, which had previously been endorsed by national officers of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers. But it was the latter who told them to return to work before balloting themselves to make the strike official.

Unfortunately, most of the workers involved agreed to this and thus relaxed their 24-hour picket at all the factories,

except for 400 women at the Merthyr Kayser Bondor factory, who saw this as an obvious weakening of their fight against the employer and refused to return to work. They were soon re-joined by the workers of the 6 Northgate Group factories (subsidiaries of Courtaulds) who, on returning to work for one hour, walked out again after finding that supervisors had been doing their work, thus fortunately nullifying their previous decision to work before striking 'officially'.

The strike is part of a national one also involving 3000 workers at the Northgate Group's factories on Merseyside.

Albania.. dignity and happiness



DIGNITY AND HAPPINESS - Enver Hoxha among a group of the working people of Albania.

To celebrate the achievements of the Albanian Revolution, the New Albania Society recently held a public meeting in Conway Hall, London, commemorating Albania's National Day. Although the title of the meeting was "Albania shows Britain the way forward" the speaker began by questioning the correctness of this - has anyone ever shown the way forward for the British working class? If we can learn anything from the Albanians, it is certainly not that they are braver or kinder or more industrious, or more intelligent. Both Albanians and British fought heroically against fascism in the Second World War; both Albanians and British have developed their industry and technology with amazing skill and expertise.

And yet - no elderly Albanian will die of hypothermia this winter, and no Albanian child will be stunted by rickets, the poverty disease that is returning to Britain. No Albanian will go hunting for employment, rejected because he is too young, too old, too highly educated or too unskilled, rejected because capitalism in Britain no longer needs the working class.

In Albania towns are planned so that there are enough houses and flats for the people who are going to live and work there. In Fier the industry has been sited to one side of the town where the noise and dust cause the least disturbance, and the first part of the town to be planned was the town square with its cafes - where the people meet and relax in their leisure time.

But this care and concern for the people and their well-being does not result from greater 'kindness' or 'humanity'. The key to Albania's prosperity and efficiency is the socialist system and its philosophy - the philosophy of Marx which for the first time was based, not on an elite, but on the mass, the philosophy of the proletariat. The Albanians themselves have a philosopher equal to none, Enver Hoxha. His constant concern is with the details of every aspect of daily life; he emphasises again and again that decisions cannot be taken by the few but can be correct only when taken by the mass; that no-one can be an outstanding worker alone; work is done well only when it is done collectively.

It is this philosophy that has inspired the hatred of every western capitalist nation. The British government has never established diplomatic relations with Albania, and in the squalid Corfu incident, claimed at the International Court of the Hague, that tiny Albania - without ships or submarines - sank two British warships. The revisionist countries, too, hate and fear the courage of the Albanians. Enver Hoxha stood in danger of his life when he went alone to face the hostility of the revisionist leaders in Moscow in 1960.

A small country, peacefully building its own future - why such hatred? It is hatred based on fear, fear of the truth. If the British working class were told the truth about Albania in the media - that they have no inflation, no price rises, no income tax, no unemployment - we would learn the one thing that the Albanians can teach us: it is not necessary to live on our knees; no matter the dangers a people can stand alone and win.

While capitalism destroys our most precious possession, our dignity, in socialist Albania men and women have both dignity and happiness, and those rights are also ours.

We send our warm sympathy to the people of Saranda in Southern Albania for any losses suffered in the recent earthquake. The New Albania Society is sending a donation, contributed by those attending a meeting on Albania's National Day, to our friends in Albania to help in the work of restoration.

Vietnam shall be one

A historic meeting in Ho Chi Minh City - Saigon - between representatives from both northern and southern zones of the country, ended on Thursday November 20th with the announcement of an outline programme for the reunification of Vietnam. The plan includes general elections for a unified National Assembly. Everyone over 18 will be able to vote.

In their struggle to create a

unified and independent Vietnam, the Vietnamese people had to take on and defeat the massed force of US imperialism. It was a model and epic struggle, marked out by continuing courage and correct military and political thinking. The product of their struggle was to demonstrate that no imperialism can eternally separate the world and countries into East and West, North and South - whether it be Vietnam, Korea or Ireland.

Ireland..it must suit somebody

It must suit somebody to keep thousands of British troops in Ireland to maintain the partition of the country and to hold the ring while senseless acts of violence and reprisal are carried out, both in Ireland and in Britain. If it didn't suit anybody it wouldn't happen.

It suits British imperialism, for which a weak, divided Ireland and a weak divided Irish work force continue to be eminently exploitable - as has been the case for some 800 years now. It suits the British Government, which has in Ireland a place where the forces needed to uphold the capitalist system can be "blooded" and trained in low-profile, anti-populace warfare - such as might have to be fought against the working class in Britain itself.

But it also suits the Government and the Catholic Church in southern Ireland which find it easier to dominate and influence their remaining portion of Ireland.

It suits all the ignorant, degenerate louts of whatever stripe who defile the very name of liberation struggle by carrying out mad acts of sectarian violence knowing that they are protected from the full consequences of such acts by the sterile stalemate it suits certain interests to maintain. These acts themselves suit the British Government as an excuse for anti-terrorist measures which can be used against people other than terrorists if necessary.

It does not in any way suit the working class of Britain nor the working people of Ireland to perpetuate one day longer the unfair partition of Ireland by its occupation by British troops. The people of Vietnam have shown how false partitions imposed by imperialism should be dealt with. BRITISH TROOPS OUT!

Hull Printers Ltd, of Willerby, a major North Humberside printing firm, are to go out of business, with all workers made redundant. What makes this a case worth special attention in these days of 'workers participation' is that Hull Printers has been run on a worker-shareholder basis since it was founded in 1897. Twenty-two of the fifty-six employees and eight trade unions own shares in the business!

In defence of education

A sanction to be strengthened

A sanction is to be imposed by the NUT in an attempt to ward off teacher unemployment. The move is welcome and deserves the overwhelming support of all those involved. The action at present envisaged, however, will leave the strongest divisions of the Union on the sidelines. Only in the areas of the most backward staffing provision is

action proposed, and the action is confined to unemployment when a host of other questions require attention in education.

The sanction is one of "no cover" for absent teachers in those areas where the local authority is "underemploying" or is reducing its staffing standards as a matter of budgetary policy.

Bristol demonstration: unions unite

On Saturday November 22nd over 700 students, teachers and schoolchildren marched through the centre of Bristol to protest at the massive attack being launched against the education system. The marchers, having paraded through the main shopping centre, distributing leaflets and using a loudspeaker van as they went, returned to Queens

Square for a meeting on the cuts.

The march was organised and supported by a variety of unions in the education field - NUT, NUS, ATTI and AUT. Representatives also attended from Exeter, Plymouth and Southampton. As a demonstration of united opposition to the destruction of education, the march served as a valuable

The Government standstill on council spending next year is expected to add 5000 to the existing 3000 unemployed teachers bringing the total to around 8000 next September.

So the teachers have a cast iron case. They will have to be more audacious. But the tactic of sanctions, now established, will encourage that audacity.

rallying point. But if the campaign against the cuts is to be successful, then the ruling class must be made to shake in their boots. This will require more than just demonstrations, useful though these are in building a campaign. Guerrilla action in the seats of learning themselves will seriously challenge the capitalist class.



Hundreds of teachers, students and schoolchildren marched through Bristol on November 22nd in protest against the education cuts.

Avon: a serious response

On November 25th 160 NUT members met to discuss their opposition to the cuts in education threatened by Avon LEA. Amongst many proposals is included the closure of all 26 nursery classes, a 20 per cent cut in capitation, 10 per cent in heating and lighting, cuts in swimming classes "which would have a regrettable effect on child safety" - the list is endless.

The unanimous feeling of teachers present was that it was

their duty to defend education against all proposed cuts but there was confusion as to how this should be carried out.

Eventually an amendment was passed which committed teachers to being represented at a lobby of councillors when they make their final recommendations. The much more decisive call for all-out strike action on the relevant afternoon of the Council meeting was rejected.

However, teachers must learn quickly that severe attacks on our education service demand a serious response. It is imperative that we demonstrate our mass strength to the LEA and the Government and that we fight every cut within the schools.

Meanwhile those who do accept that this is the only way must ensure that representation at the lobby is total representation - not just one or two delegates from each school.

He who hesitates is lost

Finding themselves £1½ million in the red, Bexley Council announced that no replacements were to be found for teachers who resigned until staffs in schools had dropped to the 80 per cent mark.

The initial reaction from the NUT was good - they would neither accept this cut nor would they suggest alternative ways of saving money on education.

The employers backed down, but they must save money some-

how, so they proposed that if numbers dropped in primary schools, a certain measure of redeployment should be accepted.

At this point, the teachers wavered. A meeting of 150 were told by union officers that the choice was between transfers or the sack. They chose the "lesser evil", as they thought. In truth, it was no choice at all. Within a week, Bexley Council had taken advantage of the

union's retreat by a renewed offensive. They thanked the teachers for their cooperation by adding a 5 per cent cut in the teacher-pupil ratio to the staffing cut through fall in numbers, putting 200-300 more primary teachers on the dole.

It is no longer possible to delay with the excuse "Not all schools are ready to fight." Someone must lead the way. Now the teachers must engage battle after all.

In defence of the NHS

More and more over recent months the working class has been developing the revolutionary fight against Government cuts - attacks on our class by attacking all aspects of our health, education and welfare.

One of the most vicious cuts being imposed is against the health of our class. The National Health Service is being attacked by the Government on many fronts - cuts in the budget, closures of hospitals, cuts in staffing have all been reported in THE WORKER. But the situation is not all negative. NHS workers are opposing the cuts and fighting back to defend our Health Service in the face of the greatest, most widespread onslaught the Government has ever launched against our right to be healthy.

Junior Hospital doctors

The fight of the junior hospital doctors for better pay and reasonable hours of work has achieved a new clarity. They are now united in their demands and have a clear principle to fight for and, with the backing of the British Medical Association (BMA), a structure to fight through. The doctors themselves, by their determined militancy, have taken an important step forward in developing the BMA as their trade union. Any hopes Mrs. Castle might have had of the junior doctors' fight dissolving in confusion have foundered.

Instead the BMA has backed national industrial action which, in itself, amounts to a 40-hour week, and Mrs. Castle is faced with the prospect of not only paying up, but also of being forced to employ more junior doctors at the same time.

GPs back hospital doctors

A West London Area Health Authority has asked general practitioners to act as black-legs by working in hospitals while the junior hospital doctors

are taking industrial action. The rates of pay offered were at least four times as much as junior hospital doctors would have got for the same work.

The GPs' response was angry. One said: "We feel this letter is an attempt by the Authority to break the sanctions being taken by our colleagues. We will not co-operate with it in any way."

In South Wales medical practitioners have also condemned the use of GPs in the treatment of non-emergency hospital cases.

Consultants rooked by Castle

While the junior doctors are achieving a new clarity and determination, their seniors are losing sight of the real issues. Mrs. Castle seems to have succeeded in diverting consultants' attention and efforts away from the fight to defend the Health Service. THE WORKER has previously condemned the fight against private practice as diversionary and divisive, how much more so, in the present situation, is the spurious fight to defend it.

COHSE oppose hospital staff reductions

The Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE), representing 95,000 nurses and 70,000 NHS ancillary workers, including engineers and maintenance men, have warned that industrial action will be considered unless the Government agrees within a month on talks to avoid cuts in staff. COHSE will not tolerate further staff reductions, especially of nurses, which, they state, will soon become dangerous for patients.

DRYPOOL

Since the threat of closure was openly posed in early October the Receiver has given a temporary reprieve to 1200 jobs in the Drypool Group, Hull, plus 1000 more in connected firms. The Government's two-month delay in deciding whether to nationalize has compounded the air of uncertainty and driven away potential orders.

On November 17th, following a march through Hull, Drypool workers held a mass meeting to hear their representatives' report on discussions with local and national government officials. The meeting demanded that the Government form a holding company until such time as the Nationalization Bill is passed. The workers insisted that Drypool be kept

together - there must be no selling off of "profitable parts", leaving the rest to fold up.

At the moment two sources are capable of raising the necessary capital: the Government and foreign, mainly US, investors.

Later that week the Government announced its decision not to nationalize Drypool. Hull engineers have called a one-day strike and demonstration for December 2nd, in protest at this conscious destruction, against increasing unemployment in the area, and for the right to work. This is the direction along which action must now move, rejecting the path set by the Government in their meetings with the Save Drypool Campaign, a path of class collaboration.

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