

THE WORKER



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FIGHT FASCISM !

Capitalism invests in things, not people

At the monopoly capitalist summit conference in Puerto Rico the Prime Minister denied that the British Government would have to reduce drastically the public sector deficit. Within a few days of his return, Callaghan was saying that "he could not rule out further cuts in public expenditure next year." What more proof is needed that the meeting in Puerto Rico was directing its activity against the working class.

These cuts, over and above those already decided upon, are expected to amount to some £1000 million. The purpose of these cuts is to provide additional funds for investment in industry and at the meeting of the National Economic Development Council on July 7th, 39 sectional working parties are submitting reports asking for increased Government aid.

The slashing of public expenditure on such things as education, health and housing

in the interest of industrial profit, is justified on Callaghan's grounds that without profits there can be no employment. Neither he nor the TUC, which has said it agrees to the proposed cuts as the only way of reducing unemployment, seem to be aware that in the only countries where there is no unemployment at all, the socialist countries of China and Albania, there are no profits either.

Some members of the Labour Party are not happy about the cuts and they have resented the cavalier way in which the child benefit scheme was shelved, hence the rejection of the new 'social contract' by an eleven to eight vote on the National Executive.

But the new scale of proposed cuts is not the whole story. On July 1st the price code which some trade unions had tried to make the condition of their agreement to the 4½ per cent wage cut, was relaxed. The consequent rise in prices will allow industry to

take another £1000 million out of our pockets. That comes to some £2000 million taken from us to hand over to the employers in about a fortnight! We have often pointed out that the capitalists cannot afford the working class. We workers certainly cannot afford capitalism.

"Invest in Britain" Callaghan urged in the House of Commons, defending the changes in the price code as a contribution to this end. But for the Labour Government Britain means only the capitalist class and investment means increasing their profits. It certainly does not mean investing in the working people of Britain who produce the nation's wealth.

This is what makes the capitalist system as stupid as it is vicious. It always operates on the short-sighted basis of quicker profits by killing the goose that lays the golden egg for them. Will we always be that goose?

Editorial

What changed Hitler and his gang of street thugs into a political force was the payment of large sums of money into the coffers of the National Socialist Party by the Ruhr industrial barons in exchange for the Nazi promise to destroy the German trade unions. What sapped the will of the working class in Germany to resist the rise of fascism was massive unemployment and the demoralisation that goes with it.

The destruction or perversion of trade unions and the escalation of unemployment - these are the means capitalism in crisis uses to clear the way for the erection of a fascist state in which it can prolong its miserable life at the expense of the people.

The dreadful importance for us of the June 16th capitulation was not that a Labour Government in the interest of capitalist profit was able to fix the precise size of our wage cut but that, if we take the vote at its face value, we allowed the trade unions, which are our traditional shield, to be wrested from our hands and become a weapon against us in the hands of the capitalist enemy.

The terrible significance of rising unemployment, which must be Labour Government policy since it is the only thing that has grown during its term of office, is that millions of workers are rendered desperate by the loss of jobs or the fear of such loss; that our nation's youth are subjected to the humiliating and dispiriting experience of going straight from school, apprenticeship course or college to the dole queue and labour exchange; that when it is vital for us to be united, the shortage of work in a country where so much needs to be done can be used to stir up differences completely irrelevant to the crucial class question of whether we are going to go on being exploited or not.

These are moves to turn Britain into the seed ground of fascism. It will not happen here - unless we let it.

We must make our trade unions such that when the enemy lays his hands on them to use against us they blow up in his face. The unions must not be for us sacred cows which we preserve like exhibits of what bourgeois democracy used to be like, but the means we can employ today in prosecuting our guerrilla war against the advance of corporatism. As a maquis determined to resist fascism we will find in the unions our centres of recruitment, our communication system, our mobile base areas essential for our struggle.

Nor will we allow the class enemy to divide us into employed and unemployed, effective and non-effective with the latter an ever growing proportion. They can sack us from the factories they still own: they cannot dismiss a single one of us from the working class force we raise against them. We are the only gunk-antors against the demoralisation they seek to introduce in our ranks. We will invent our own means of healing the divisive wound of mass unemployment and making our re-knit force more solid, more united than ever.

Unemployed school leavers

The unemployment figures for June reveal that 122,905 school leavers have no job to go to. The overall jobless total is now 1,332,605 - the "official figures" - or 5.7 per cent of the working population, up 466,550 on the same time last year.

These appalling figures will increase still further as more leave school by the end of July. It is estimated that a half of the half million school leavers have yet to hand in their books: one in three will end up without work.

The National Council of Social Services has just revised and re-issued its "Youth Unemployment Pack" which was first brought out last November. At 60p, this booklet brings together information on benefits, national insurance, training schemes in other fields where young people can also be unemployed, further education opportunities so that the jobs they cannot get are more skilled, and voluntary work

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In socialism there is no unemployment - and no profits !

Viet Nam unified - a dream come true

The millions who gave their all, the countless heroes and heroines of the liberation war did not die in vain. The millions more who saw their homes destroyed, their children bombed or mutilated by napalm, fragmentation bombs and the other atrocities devised by US imperialism in the most savage colonial war of our times, did not endure suffering and torture, imprisonment in tiger cages and decades of hardship in vain. Their goal to free their land and reunify it has now been fulfilled. Exactly one year and two months since the victorious liberation army swept the American aggressors out of Vietnam and demolished every last puppet, through a miracle of rehabilitation and reconstruction, the men and women of Vietnam have been able to choose their representatives, 492 of them from all corners of the country, north and south, workers and peasants, soldiers and Party cadres, to form the National Assembly.

The first session has approved the unification of the country and is finalising the details for the new unified state which will incorporate what used to be the former Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

On Friday June 25th Comrade Le Duan, the First Secretary of the Vietnam Workers Party, made an important speech which provides the framework for the deliberations of the first session. The emphasis is on the new stage of the Vietnamese Revolution -- the building of socialism through



Harvesting rice in the southern part of united Vietnam.

out the country. Whereas before it was only in the north that socialism was being developed and the strategic goal for the south was national liberation, today's goal is the socialist revolution throughout the country. Peace has been fought for and established but it will have to be defended with the utmost vigilance. The two zones, north and south Vietnam, kept apart by successive conquerors for so long, have been re-unified. Now the task is to build socialism.

Socialist relations of production are spreading to the south-

to release a new energy for the transformation of an essentially colonial economy into a balanced socialist pattern in which industry and agriculture will be rationally fused. The revolution, as the Vietnamese comrades see it, is going to be a triple one, embracing the socialist development of production and technology, the development of socialist ideology and culture and the creation of new social relations which will produce a new kind of citizen. At the heart of this great endeavour lies the "collective mastery of the people through the

Ho Chi Minh: After independence "we will make Vietnam ten times more beautiful than it was before!"



Dictatorship of the Proletariat" under the leadership of the Party.

As the BS2s pounded and destroyed the houses and hospitals, schools and factories that the Vietnamese had built in the north, between the French and the American invasion, President Ho Chi Minh told his people that the Vietnam which would be built after independence would be infinitely more beautiful. May that be the future for the new Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



Spain - the fight against fascism

The world crisis of capitalism is manifesting itself in Spain as the most violent struggle there has been between the working class and people of Spain and the fascist government of Juan Carlos since the Civil War of 1936.

Nationwide strikes, mass protest meetings and demonstrations have seen the beginning of the Spanish peoples' demand for a new form of government, the most all-embracing call has come from the most advanced sectors: the call for a Republic, a federative, democratic republic.

At the moment there are over 1 1/2 million unemployed, especially in the textile and construction trades. In some parts of the South this figure reaches 15 per cent of the population. Industrial production has gone down, there has been one wage freeze after another and the peseta has been devalued. The crisis in the countryside has been exacerbated by agricultural imports totalling over 100 billion pesetas.

Meanwhile inflation continues to gallop at an annual rate of over 4 to 5 points higher than average OECD countries, and speculation, tax evasion and corruption have reached nightmarish proportions.

For the government of Juan Carlos I there is no way out. Promises of democratisation and a referendum about the future of the monarchy have led to a farcical situation, where a law passed last week by the Cortes legalising all hitherto illegal parties with the exception of the

Communist Party and separatist organisations like ETA, still leaves intact a law in the Criminal Code which bans them! Disunity exists between the various monarchist groupings, 'opposition' and right wing groups and parties and even Juan Carlos and his Minister Arias, who he is trying to set up as a scapegoat. Rumours still persist about the right wing military coup and new appointments are made in the army stationed outside Madrid.

As "Vanguardia Obrera" Organ of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Spain commented about a policy speech given by Arias on the proposed referendum: "A stone can never turn into a chick, however long the hen may sit on it. A fascist government can never transform itself through its internal momentum into anything other than an even more fascist government if that is possible. As for the future of the monarchy itself, we must strike at it to bring it down".

East Berlin -

The meeting of the 29 European revisionist "communist" parties held in East Berlin at the end of June turned out not to be the auspicious event its sponsors had hoped for. Instead, the final document, agreed after long hours of bitter wrangling was most notable for what it lacked. Even so it was the best that international revisionism could manage at a time when it is still impossible to convene a world-wide meeting to condemn

Puerto Rico summit - capitalism's council of war

The Summit of the seven western industrial nations in Puerto Rico has ended with rumours of a £1000 million cut in British government spending. This it is confidently predicted will boost the strategy of devoting more to industry. The main areas of the planned cutbacks are to health, education, roads and general social programmes. Quite how industry can be aided by sick, illiterate workers who because of cutbacks in roads and railways cannot travel to work is a mystery unexplained.

However, for once the proposals give an accurate reflection of capitalism. It is sick, ignorant and socially destructive.

While differing in their economic analysis and theories, politically these seven powers are united, for in reality the summit was a political one in an era of absolute decline of

capitalism and the rise of proletarian revolution. As capitalism slides further into this absolute decline, it lashes out more viciously at its gravedigger, the working class. This is the real meaning of the summit. It was a meeting aimed at launching and maintaining a war against the working class. And the British working class is seen as the main danger.

When the leaders of western monopoly capitalism talk about recession, deflation, depression and the rest of their economic verbiage, they mean more unemployment, rising prices, disease and illiteracy.

For the working class, the lesson of the latest summit is Revolution and self-sufficiency. We must strive for a time when the answer to economic problems is not more destruction and unemployment, but growth and prosperity.

socialist China.

Individually, these hardy advocates of "unity" in their own countries are prepared to sacrifice any principle in their search for agreement with social-democratic and right-wing governments, ready to renounce any pretence at revolution. Yet meeting together they could agree on nothing save a handful of modest and pious sentiments. The only significant unity was on the

right to differ in their roads to class collaboration. They would consent to nothing which they thought might be used against them at home in their campaign to become respectable.

The workers of the world are always more impressed by facts than speeches. So all the hoopla in East Berlin will count for nothing, since scarcely one week previously Poland had showed everyone what revisionism means, and it doesn't look too

EEC

PRODUCE LESS, EAT LESS

The drought is a good thing, so far as the EEC Farm Commission is concerned. It has cut back the unwanted increase in dairy production to 3 per cent. However, even this surplus of milk is a bad thing, for the last thing they would allow is to let people consume the extra. No - their answer is to produce less milk.

In France milk-giving cows are to be slaughtered to produce 10,000 tonnes of beef, in storage. P. Lardinois, the Commissioner plans to freeze financial aid to the dairy industry. Even the London "Economist" thinks that cutting milk prices might allow people to benefit from the food they have produced. But the Commission have instead adopted the policy with milk that they have with butter and beef.

The beef mountain now standing at over 300,000 tonnes is to be increased by 90,000, while the butter mountain stands at 400,000 tonnes. And now there is a skimmed milk powder mountain of over a million tons, which has gone on increasing in spite of "efforts" to reduce it. The latest plan to "eliminate" it will directly contribute to decreased food production in the EEC. They seek to enforce by law the addition of milk powder to animal feed. This will raise the price of feed well above the price in the world market - a method which, coupled with restriction of imports of non-EEC foodstuffs will only raise the price of meat and increase the slaughter of the animals for storage.

At present the Commission is bent on destroying the British Milk Marketing Board, a project so ludicrous that even the Tory politicians in Brussels have objected. Lardinois accuses the British of "monopoly", but the real crime of the British is to have produced more milk in Britain than ever before, and a 50 per cent increase in butter production. This has incensed continental dairy interests who are concerned that Britain may become less than 9/10ths reliant on imported butter. The real reason for EEC hatred, however, is that Britain is the country in Europe where all the milk is consumed - fresh or as butter and cheese - by the people, so that there is no surplus.

How long can we afford to delay the fight against the EEC and its catastrophic agricultural policy?

East Berlin - The lesson of revisionism

different from the capitalism we suffer here: price increases of huge amounts, and police action to curb demonstrations. The Polish workers were successful in their brave actions across the length and breadth of their country to stop these rises. So that is the real lesson to come from behind the Rusty Curtain last month - not "pejce" and "democracy" but class war against the oppressors is the road to liberation!

On the Industrial Front

Union branch ends political levy

Eastbourne Branch of NUPE has decided that it no longer wants part of members' subscriptions to be donated to the Labour Party. Members decided on this action to show their opposition to the Government's pay deal.

This decision was a clear rejection of the argument still too often put forward in the trade union movement that the Labour Party is "by right" the political arm of the movement. An argument usually only backed up by nostalgic statements about the Labour Party being the "son" of the trade unions and presenting it as a two-faced creature with the "good" face, the so-called "left-wing" membership trying to change the policies of the "bad" face, the nasty "right-wing" government.

Are workers prepared to carry on subsidising the pathetic actors of this lose-making pantomime? NUPE members in Eastbourne have said NO, unless by showing the way to all of us.

Taming the multi-nationals

With all the action by the Labour Government to rob the working class, by way of cuts in services and wages and rises in prices, of the funds for Britain's investment-starved industry, one might easily overlook the fact that Britain is the world's second largest overseas investor. That it why Britain has been very much involved in a meeting of the ministers of the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to lay down guidelines for the conduct of the multi-nationals.

It was Kissinger, in order to help cover up the Lockheed scandal, who was most insistent on very sharply worded provisions against bribery. But however tough the guidelines may sound they are 'entirely voluntary and have no legal force whatsoever.

If guidelines or even legislation had any effect on the multi-nationals at all, anti-trust laws would have killed them off long ago and there would be no such thing as monopoly capitalism today.

Equal pay act

Out of 4,000 complaints brought under the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts, a total of 1754 women have started industrial tribunal action in the four months since the acts came into force. Only 18 have been successful, 100 have had their cases dismissed, and 69 have been settled out of court (the Arbitration and Conciliation Service being unwilling to say in whose favour). The largest proportion have withdrawn without gain.

As THE WORKER has always said, equal pay can be gained for the majority of women workers only by struggle. Real successes for women have come when they have fought for their rights collectively, by union action. Legislation has tried to weaken such struggle, but has in fact shown it to be as essential as ever.

Basildon women strike for more

150 women from Stability Capacitors Ltd., a subsidiary of the Lucas Electrical Combine are on strike for £6 a week increase on their present wage of £27.50, for 40 hours work.

The convenor said "... they left us with no other alternative but to take this action because for months the firm has not taken our claim seriously. They keep cancelling meetings which we arrange to discuss the claim. When we do meet they claim poverty. They say they have only made £91 profit last year, so you see what we are up against."

"We have got good support from the delivery drivers, and from other workers in the factories in the area."

One of the pickets said "We have heard the management are surprised we have taken this action and can't understand such determination and solidarity amongst us, but we have just about had enough of them. Now we mean business."

The catering staff who are also on strike foiled an attempt by management to bring in a temporary canteen staff to work when the agency phoned the managers by mistake (who is also on strike). The managers contacted the convenor, who promptly put a stop to the move.

Park Lane College, Leeds

Teachers at Park Lane College of FE in Leeds are continuing their refusal to cover for the shortage of teachers. No elbow room is being given to the City Council's plans to cut the staff-student ratio further by saying 'you've managed in the past' and 'we've slashed budget, so we cannot afford to employ even the present number'. The Council has instructed all FE College authorities in the City to adopt the measure of lowering the age of fee-paying students from 19 down to 18, as well as increasing the fees to £150 - a 50 per cent increase. Not even discretionary awards will be available to the prospective student, a further £74,000 has been cut from the grants bill, this will mainly affect students at Park Lane and similar colleges. The students at Park Lane College of FE have mandated their Union to implement a fees boycott next September.

Teachers extend action

The National Union of Teachers will be taking action against education cuts in two more areas of the country, bringing the total number of areas operating sanctions to nine.

The two new areas are Bromley and Lancashire which are fighting plans which would result in worsening the pupil-teacher ratios in September.

The teachers will be refusing to cover for colleagues absent for more than three days where that absence is known in advance.

Teachers in Cumbria, Surrey, Leicestershire, Devon and Knowsley are already operating the sanction while in Sandwell and Oldham it has been suspended after the authority had agreed to improvements in the staffing position.

IRSF Conference leaves much to do

The Inland Revenue Staff Federation, the taxman's union, held its annual conference in Scarborough recently. The question of redundancies was a vital issue for all civil service unions and the conference left the union in a weak position. It opposed all compulsory redundancies, but not natural wastage or voluntary redundancies. In fact, conference went even further, almost welcoming voluntary redundancies provided that the civil service model redundancy agreement be implemented! We all know that taxmen are not the most socially useful group of workers, but this should not prevent us holding true to a strong working class line. All have the right to work and until socially useful jobs are available, then we demand the right to work in whatever job we do.

Internally the union strengthened its discipline and democracy. Conference reaffirmed its support of the closed shop, recognising the benefits of this to the whole membership. It also opposed any attempts to amalgamate the IRSF with other civil service unions, seeing that bigger doesn't necessarily mean better. The union has a strong unity of purpose and tradition of involvement, and delegates rightly judged that this would be lost by being part of one massive union amalgamation.

Unfortunately, however, delegates as expected voted in favour of accepting the Labour-TUC 4½ per cent deal. One delegate commented, "what purpose is there in retaining our democracy as a separate union, in affirming our decision that we make union policy, if on the other hand we give our union sovereignty to the Labour Party and TUC. We might just as well form one big union called the National Union of Britain with Callaghan, Healey, Jones, Scanlon and Murray as our executive. And that they can make all our decisions for us and we the workers of Britain no longer have any rights".

There is a growing swell of opinion in the union which sees through the sham policies of this government and which is rejecting the false alternatives of Labour and Tory. Let us strengthen this tide, this movement for progress.

IMPORTS-FACT AND FICTION

Since 1970 the volume of manufactured goods entering this country has increased 86 per cent. This figure describes the change in quantity of goods irrespective of changes in prices. The actual money value of imports went up from just over £2,000 million in 1970 to more than £6,500 million in 1975. The figure for the first quarter of 1976 was £1,800 million - which suggests an annual rate of £7,200 millions worth of manufactured imports for this year!

The deliberate treasury policy of progressive devaluation of Sterling (fuelled by the City, foreign bankers and, it appears, nationalised industries) has been

Unemployed school leavers

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which they can do while waiting for something that pays them a living wage. The idea is to allow youth to "survive" till times get better, to wait for the upsurge that will not come.

The youngsters themselves are going to have to take up the problem and that means creating as much fuss as they can. Their base must be the school they have just "left". In other words, "Don't move until you have somewhere to go." If you can't find work, return to school and say "Our education goes on".

Can the schools cope with the

extra numbers? Not unless they recruit more staff. Are there any teachers available? Yes, there are predictions of 20,000 newly qualified teachers who will not be employed in September.

It sounds simple but of course, it won't be. Today's youth face a completely callous government, one determined to break the dignity of workers before they are employed. The young workers will have to learn the arts and science of struggle swiftly. Let them create the biggest uproar. For them the alternative is to become the new untouchables,

Student teachers go to the people

Since the occupations of colleges by student teachers have ended, the activity in conveying the message of education cuts to the nation has been broad and brisk.

It has been estimated that if every class were to be a maximum of thirty, around 55,000 more teachers would be required. By September it is estimated that 20,000 young teachers will be on the dole.

Facts like these are being taken by students to their local

schools, to trade union branches of local industry. Shoppers and householders are being petitioned in an effort to widen the campaign for a decent education for all children.

Colleges have set up action committees organising local demonstrations, rallies, leafletting and publicity.

The question of education is one for the whole class. The students are inviting the whole class to act.

Chu Teh, one of the heroic leaders of the Long March dies. We join our comrades in China in Mourning the death of this great fighter in the war of liberation.



Part of the Red Army's 15th Army Group after completing the Long March in November 1935.

excused on the grounds that it will lead to export led growth 'Export or die' is once again being invoked as one more ideological weapon in the endorsement of the latest round of wage and public expenditure cuts. The truth of the old argument, 'Britain needs to export in order to import food and raw materials' is being perverted and turned against manufacturing itself.

During the period 1970-75, while imports of manufactures rose 86 per cent, imports of food, fuel & raw materials actually fell in volume terms! British workers were therefore being exhorted to work harder for the balance of payments to produce exports

which were not needed to balance a trade in raw materials, but an ever growing flood of manufactures drawn into Britain following the destruction of indigenous industries.

Another man's import has become another man's redundancy. If we consider the average money value of the annual production of a British worker is about £6,000 then the effect of importing £6,000 millions of manufactures is equivalent to the output of one million workers here. This is a rough measure of the sort of unemployment associated with the import of manufactured goods into a deindustrialised manufacturing country.

Blamed with praise

The World Bank, one of the many international capitalist institutions which is constantly worried about Britain's economy, has recently been handing out some praise. It is especially pleased with vigorous government action in a certain country to control inflation, and with "improved labour discipline". Its conclusion is that the country deserves increased aid.

The country in question is not Britain but India, and the measures taken by the Indian government, which so pleased the World Bank, are fascist measures. Opposition parties are outlawed, strikes are banned, there have been massive wage-cuts and sackings, collective bargaining has been abolished, prices remain high and living standards are declining.

The heavily-armed Border Security Force is now stationed in the cities as a quarter-million strong agency of repression. There are at least 200,000 political prisoners and widespread reports of murder and torture carried out by the police and security forces.

This is the price that the millions of Indian peasants and industrial workers are paying so that capitalism may survive in India. The price is too great, yet it is one which the workers of other countries may soon be asked to pay. The problems of Indian capitalism are the problems of British capitalism also. The solutions of the one may be reflected in the solutions of the other, though the means and the forms may be different. For workers in both countries, the choice is between subservience to fascism and the fight for socialism.

The emergence of barefoot, or 'farmland', doctors and the co-operative health system in China has removed the concentration of medical care and research from the towns into the countryside. Resources for research are no longer devoted to rare and difficult cases, but as a result of realising that medical and health work should serve the working people emphasis is now also on the cure and prevention of the common and endemic diseases in the countryside.

The barefoot doctors divide their time between agricultural and medical work, including professional training in regular hospitals. They learn to use many drugs and to combine traditional Chinese and Western techniques. Much attention is given to herbal remedies, which with acupuncture and massage, make up much of the treatment given. The experience of the barefoot doctors has enabled them to assist in the development of prescriptions and drugs for treating many common ailments.

Crimson Rain shows peasants enthusiastically building and completing a massive dam to assist them in their agricultural production and while this work is in progress their development of co-operative medicine. An outstanding young man is chosen by the village to train as a barefoot doctor. His understanding of the situation in which his people live and work enables him to win their confidence and accurately prevent and treat their ailments. He shows himself to be completely selfless in this task, struggling in fearful conditions to reach the sick. At the same time the doctor shares the work of build-

ing the dam and is eventually honoured by his fellow workers at its ceremonial opening.

The film pays due tribute to the revolutionary line of the Chinese Communist Party. Under its clear guidance, medical care has become the concern of and for the whole people.

Medical workers from Tientsin regularly make the rounds of mountain villages which suffered from an acute shortage of doctors and medicine in bygone days.



NALGO

NALGO, the union of local government workers and Britain's largest white collar union, showed a new seriousness at its Conference recently, reflecting the weight of the decisions that our Trade Unions make these days. NALGO recognises the potential strength it has in the working class movement - and that it has a responsibility to assert itself in that movement.

NALGO members have been getting more involved in industrial action, the most recent cases being the gas workers and social workers. But the Government cannot afford to have strong Trade Unions and the attack on union independence will first come in the form of an offer of "industrial democracy", already hinted at by Michael Foot in his Conference speech.

But NALGO recognises the importance of independence. It decisively rejected a motion calling for an investigation into affiliation to the Labour Party. And the outgoing President's speech contained pertinent references to the dangers of a Government embrace. He said: "In NALGO, we have always shown a rather independent spirit and have resented attempts to join governments in the job of governing. We have felt that governmental overtures or embraces might turn out to be those of the devil and that in the end we might find it hard to escape his clutches. ... Can we be too involved in government? Are we ever in danger of placing ourselves in irons? What price free negotiations when you are a party to an agreed policy?"

NALGO Conference 1976 clearly showed the two tendencies within the union - the social democratic tendency to capitulate to Government policy, and the revolutionary tendency to retain independence and to continue the fight against all cuts.

COACH DRIVERS

The contradictions inherent in EEC membership are becoming increasingly evident to British workers. Now it is the turn of coach drivers, particularly those engaged in tourism, to realise that all is not gold that glitters from the direction of Brussels.

In February 1977 new EEC regulations will come into force restricting the hours of overtime on which coach drivers in this country are traditionally dependent to make up their pay to anything approaching a living wage. But with the basic wage rises limited to 4½ per cent, with or without Healey's derisory tax concessions, coach drivers' overall pay will be cut by about one third.

Where else but under a dying British capitalist system could the carrot of shorter working hours turn into the stick of wage cuts to beat the workers into submission? And this in an industry earning £1750 million per annum according to the latest official figures.

It is not simply a question of pleading a special case for coach drivers. All workers in tourism must take a hard look at the Government-TUC alliance and recognise its policy not simply as an attack on wages but as a further measure to emasculate their union, the TGWU, and through "official" collaboration as the biggest step yet towards the corporate state and fascism.

Union members everywhere have yet their old power to say "no" to whomever they please, be it Tory, Labour or their own "leaders". By implication in this present situation that "no" to exploitation is a "yes" for socialism.

'THE WORKER'

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In Brief

There could be no more dramatic demonstration of changes in Africa than that white mercenaries are having to plead for their lives. It used to be African liberation fighters like Dedan Kimathi who were sentenced to death by the imperialist powers like Britain.

Struggle for power

As capitalism prepares the rundown of British industry, so it requires less electricity.

Recently, the Central Electricity Generating Board announced in a document that it would not need to order any more generating plant until 1986 at the earliest, as Britain would not need any more electricity generating capacity until the 1990's.

The CEGB's announcement is no sudden panic to balance out over-capacity, for what have we

been told for the past two years 'Save It'.

Evidence of the desire to run down capacity has been seen for some time in the malicious devices that the CEGB, as agents of the state, have employed at power stations in North Kent, resulting in a series of simultaneous disputes. Workers at Grain, Littlebrook and Belvedere power stations have been insulted and provoked by their employers in an effort to slow down production and reduce the workforce.

On 30th June 100 construction workers at the Grain power station who had gone on strike in response to the employer's attacks over protective clothing, bonus schemes and Sunday working, were sacked when they refused to bow down to an ultimatum to return to work. Now they are outside the gates and the CEGB hold the initiative. Having foreclosed the virtual collapse of the plant manufacturing industry, the CEGB are only too happy to hold up any work already in hand.

Clearly, in situations like that at the Grain power station, workers' tactics must be the safeguarding of jobs and the staging of a fierce, united offensive from within the gates where they are stronger.

Fight for the right to work! Prevent the destruction of Britain and its industries by capitalism! Save the power stations for socialism!

Library cuts

Not surprisingly, Britain's public libraries are also suffering enormous cutbacks under the ruling class's programme of destroying our country. Many libraries now close on Saturday afternoons - always their busiest times. Earlier weekday closing or complete shutdowns of smaller branches have occurred, due to reductions in staff. A quarter of library authorities have slashed book buying funds at a time when book prices have been rising by about 40 per cent.

Shame on those librarians who at a recent Library Association meeting in London maintained that they should "learn how to cope, feeling that since cuts were inevitable, they were better made by librarians than by others".