

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain(Marxist-Leninist)

Sept 5 No17 1976 3p

OUR REVOLUTIONARY TASK

TUC 1976 -Paper Congress

Following the shameful decision of the 16th June, this year's TUC takes place with the key issue of wages swept under the carpet. Only a few motions have been submitted to the preliminary agenda in clear opposition to wage restraint - for instance, that from the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union. In contrast, motions on cuts, unemployment and economic policy far outnumber those calling for a return to 'free collective bargaining'. Yet, however they are eventually separated in debate at this year's congress, in reality all these issues are indissolubly linked together. Thus there can be no real opposition to one in isolation from all the others.

With the terms of the social contract having been broken by the government no sooner than they had been revised for a second or a third time, this year year's congress could only avoid ignominy by the complete rejection of the social contract. Yet rejection on paper in Brighton is no substitute for real opposition anywhere else in Britain. One principled struggle against the pay policy now, would be worth any number of 'critical resolutions' to a TUC.

The main themes of last year's congress were: the need for continued support for a Labour government; acceptance of wage cuts as the only alternative to inflation and thus higher unemployment, and the hope that these together would provide a path to industrial recovery - none of which were even remotely correct then - still less now!

In its dealings with the TUC the government has been dominated by the growing fear about the industrial decline in order to pose as saviour of manufacturing industry. This has dominated social contract thinking: "We must build up British Industry, especially our manufacturing industry," says Mrs Shirley Williams in the White Paper, 'The Attack on Inflation: The Second Year'.

Official documents documenting industrial decline abound. The TUC has outlined the position in its economic review for 1976 - the contraction in the manufacturing workforce - capital investment in manufacturing still at an all-time low - (in fact, in the last year the social contract just £1.0 million, compared with a record volume of investment going overseas of £2000m) - record postwar unemployment - and so on and so on. The conclusion? Britain's future depends on a reversal of this decline.

Yet when divested of its hypocrisy the government's so-called 'economic strategy' amounts to the very opposite of a manufacturing renaissance. Far from being a preparation for a rebirth, its latest prescriptions, which have been endorsed by the TUC General Council, have the same geriatric character as all those pronouncements made by countless Labour and Tory politicians who have presided over the rape of Britain's industry since the war. "Industry must be permitted to expand its funds for investment and offer the prospect of an adequate return on

investment once undertaken."

The absurdity of these words is that when translated they mean only one thing - a concerted attack upon the real force for genuine industrial recovery in Britain - namely, the British working class. They mean still higher unemployment, lower wages, more and more cuts, less health, no education and training or job prospects for the young - further industrial speculation and decay passed off as 'rationalisation' or 'technical change' - in short, the destruction of Britain, its people and their skills. The complete opposite in fact of the 'spring board to future prosperity' which last year Len Murray promised was possible if we were 'realistic' and tightened our belts just once more.

Whether in this form, or in the form of pressing the government to adopt an 'alternative strategy', the philosophy of social democracy is completely bankrupt. Its spokesmen, Murray, Jones, Scanlon and their entire retinue, can advocate no course other than abject surrender - complete acceptance of more and more reactionary measures - servile collaboration with a dying system, garnished every September with more pious resolutions and wishful thinking.

We can and must challenge capitalism's crisis - and soon. We continue to adapt to it at our peril. All those who will oppose this reactionary government must work out the only real 'alternative strategy' - Revolution: to save Britain from capitalism, cut through the humbug of the TUC and fulfil the lofty aims of our great labour movement.

To every delegate To every worker in Britain

The 'left' and the right of the labour movement argue about such things as unemployment, nationalisation, import controls, free collective bargaining and so on; but they largely agree on the responsibility of loyalty to the Labour Government. All debate and struggle is thus channelled within the confines of social democracy. Once our working class agrees to be so imprisoned, it is like restricting arguments to the quality and design of our prison uniform.

Our task, the task of the working class is to change the direction of the struggle. The struggle of yesterday produced the crisis of today. The struggle of today has to produce the resolution of that crisis - revolution tomorrow!

The Labour Government has set itself the task of destroying Britain in the best of capitalism. We must set ourselves the task of destroying the Labour Government and, with it, of destroying capitalism. We owe no loyalty to those whose own loyalty is to our enemies, monopoly capital.

Every struggle must be conducted within this strategy - a strategy for revolution. All members of our working class must be self-reliant in applying this revolutionary line formulated out of its own experience of class struggle by its own proletarian Party.

We the oldest working class are called on to resolve the oldest polemic in philosophy - between idealism which is the essence of social democracy and materialism which is the essence of Marxism-Leninism, the true ideology of the working class. Social democracy operates with illusions of reformist 'redistribution' while leaving intact the reality of those capitalist relations of production by which workers are exploited. Marxism-Leninism is concerned with the revolutionary change of the material foundation of society, eliminating relations of production based on the exploitation of man by man and replacing them with the co-operative fraternal relations of socialism.

That revolutionary change is our historic task. In the land where capitalism was born capitalism must be buried.

Hospital Doctors Win

Hospital doctors have won this round of their struggle for improved pay and conditions. The Labour Government has been forced to withdraw its proposed wage cut for sickness, holiday, and study leave.

This heartening success was not achieved by the sweet voice of reason alone. In response to the call for support of the BMA negotiation, the tactics of militant industrial action, strikes in some hospitals and "emergency only" in others, were adopted.

But this is not an end to struggles in the NHS. For as long as the ruling class attacks and the working class defends its health service, there are bound to be more disputes, and they will be more difficult and more bitter.

As the run down of health services continues there will be more unemployment. Already thousands of qualified nurses are unable to work in hospitals. The doctors' successful fight against a wage cut is an example for all other health workers.



Albania - a bright future - see article page 4.

"ALBANIA - EDUCATION FOR REVOLUTION"

In This Issue

- Housing ...page3
- Trico ... page4
- International . page2
- Ford ... page3

Illusions of non-alignment at Colombo conference

The idea that it is possible for a nation to be entirely independent politically from both the capitalist and the socialist choice, attempts to obscure the fundamental truth that the political alignment of any nation is determined by whichever class is dominant within that nation. Those countries which falsely pride themselves on 'non-alignment' are subjected to the struggle between class forces just like any other and their choice will reflect the underlying class allegiance. Just as they are not immune to their national class struggle - so they are not immune to the expression of it on an international scale.

This was clearly shown at the recent conference of so-called 'non-aligned' countries held in Colombo. Though their non-alignment in the sense of belonging to neither the capitalist nor the socialist is an illusion, the 85 attending countries on the basis of their common experience

of the imperialist exploitation of their economies were able to reach agreement on such economic questions as debt relief and the indexation of commodities.

The political debates were confused by another sense of 'non-alignment' connected with the historical origin of this particular grouping of countries at a time when the main imperialist power in the world was the US. At that period 'non-alignment' meant, primarily independence from US domination, hence Pakistan's exclusion from the group. Now that the USSR, following on the internal betrayal of socialism, has become one of the two main imperialist powers in the world, being under the dominant influence of one rather than of the other can hardly be classed as 'non-alignment'. In this sense only self-reliant development, developing one's own resources in the interests of one's own people, can be described as 'non-aligned' progress.

The Chilean people fight against fascism

We have recently heard from our fraternal party - The Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile - about the struggle, against very great odds, that the working class of Chile is conducting against the fascist junta. Only those trade unions which are completely obedient are allowed to exist and new rules are continually drawn up to smash the most elementary rights of the workers. The Party on its part is determined not to allow the fascists to impose their own servile make-believe unions. There will be only one trade union movement and that led by the workers themselves. Such determination requires great courage in the Chile of today and it is with great sorrow that we publish the news given to us by our Chilean comrades of the assassination of Guillermo Arevalo, trade union leader and member of the central committee of the Party at the hands of the fascist regime. We extend our fraternal condolences to the Revolutionary Communist Party on their great loss.

Today all sections of the Chilean people are rising up

against the junta. ANCHA, the main anti-fascist united front outside Chile has published the programme of the People's Front for all the hundreds of thousands of Chileans now in exile. The seven points include the struggle to overthrow the fascist regime and regain democratic rights such as freedom of speech, press etc., the struggle for increased wages and pensions, for the continuation and deepening of agrarian reforms. The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile, in their important analysis of the fall of the Allende government and the way forward wrote in 1974:-

"The Chilean people must map out their own destiny, and they will know how to do this. Experience has shown that the people alone are the main protagonist and motive force of history. For this the people must count in the first place on their own forces and not have confidence in the demagoguery of the reformist bourgeoisie."

We are sure they will. Long live the Chilean Revolution.

RESISTANCE AND REPRESSION

In Rhodesia where there has been an increase in the activity of the Zimbabwe Liberation Army, the security forces of the Smith regime crossed into Mozambique, attacked a refugee camp of people who have fled from racist oppression and indiscriminately murdered more than 600 defenceless men, women and children in a criminal atrocity as brutal as any carried out by US troops in Vietnam.

In South Africa where school children and students, both white and black, have been protesting against the vicious educational policies of apartheid and have been supported by thousands of black urban workers in a three day strike, the police force has terrorised the townships with indiscriminate firing

in which more than 250 have been massacred since the unrest broke out in June. The police minister, Kruger, spoke for the whole racist regime of Vorster when he blustered: "I'll teach the black man in Africa his place."

Thus in southern Africa we see the truth of the statement that where there is resistance there is repression. When resistance calls down on itself the counter-action of savage violence, as it inevitably will, only Marxist revolutionary leadership and organisation can enable the resisting masses to withstand the brutal reprisals of the oppressive governments and go over to an offensive themselves which will sweep away those governments and with them the whole exploitative system of world capitalism.

Commission confirms army torture

What has been common knowledge to the people of Ireland ever since British troops went into the streets of Northern Ireland in 1969, namely the systematic use of torture by the army and its puppets against detainees, has now been confirmed by the European Commission on Human Rights.

The report by the Commission found torture, inhuman and degrading treatment being practised on several counts. They include sensory deprivation caused by hooding the subjects, dressing them in loose-fitting clothes and subjecting them to 'white noise'. These techniques described by the Commission as a refinement of methods of systematic torture used throughout the ages were specially taught by the British army to the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Several years ago and following the outcry by the Irish and British peoples against the inhuman methods used by Britain in Ireland, a committee was instituted by the British Government to enquire into such 'allegations'. Its report known as the Compton Report not surprisingly found no evidence for torture, just 'ill-treatment'. Who but the British bourgeoisie can think of such fine distinctions?

Dry Humour

That highly sensitive instrument, the Pound Sterling, which can even record by dropping several points a whispered conversation among workers about the possibility of a strike, has been measuring by a further decline the extent of the drought - which is also causing the trade gap, unemployment, lower wages and higher prices.

Perhaps the pound should be given to the world as a delicate scientific measuring device since successive capitalist governments have rendered it practically valueless as a measure of labour.

During the Second World War, the ruling class decided not to put all their eggs in one basket and rely solely on cane sugar. The British Sugar Corporation was formed to refine beet, and farmers were encouraged to grow beet.

However, Common Market entry saw our bosses reversing this policy, to rely on one crop, and cane refining was to be virtually phased out in favour of the beet crop grown widely throughout the EEC. (In other words there was a guarantee to import sugar beet from the EEC and restrict cane imports.)

Against this background Tate & Lyle workers began their struggle for the right to work. With the axe ready to fall the drought has given Tate & Lyle workers a little time to catch their breath because the dry weather has brought about near failure of the beet crop and made our bosses think again about putting all their eggs in one basket.

Korea US Imperialist Troops Out

United States imperialist belligerency in moving two aircraft carriers and other elements of the Seventh Fleet into Korean waters, and in strengthening the US airforce stationed in South Korea shows that no more than in formerly divided Vietnam has it been possible for the US to establish a self-sustaining colonial government in the face of a people's determination to be united and independent. The measure of US failure to turn the occupied South into a viable state (is the presence of 40,000 US troops disguised as UN personnel, and massive military equipment which can be used either to threaten the Democratic People's Republic of the North or to maintain the repression of the people under the puppet regime in the South. The cause of the present muscle flexing and huffing and puffing of the US is that with the further development of a socialist economy in the North and the further economic and political degeneration of the colonial South, the desire of the whole Korean people for liberation and reunification has reached new heights to be met by the US occupiers with a greater show of force.

Twenty three years ago the Korean people inflicted the first major defeat on US imperialist forces, masquerading with their allies like Britain under a UN banner as a result of a trick vote in the Security Council. The US not only wanted to turn all Korea into their Asian colony: they

wanted to use Korea like Vietnam, as part of a steel ring around the People's Republic of China to choke to death this great new socialist country - like the intervention of the imperialist powers after the October Revolution in the USSR. The Korean people under the leadership of their Communist Party were not only fighting for their own independence but also to prevent a US invasion of China and the Chinese people volunteered in their thousands to help their Korean brothers turn back the US aggressors in a great act of proletarian internationalism.

After the US defeat in Korea, just when they were embarking on what was being called "the American Century", the search for scapegoats on the home front to blame for the military humiliation led to the McCarthy witch-hunt.

We fully support the Vice Premier and Foreign Secretary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in his denunciation of US imperialism and his declaration on the present situation. "In order to remove tension in Korea and accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, the war provocative measures of the imperialists in South Korea should be stopped forthwith. All means of war including nuclear weapons introduced into South Korea should be removed, all foreign troops withdrawn, all foreign military bases dismantled and the Korea Armistices Agreement replaced with a Peace Agreement."

Russian Invaders Still Occupy

Eight years ago, on August 21, 1968 Russia invaded Czechoslovakia to protect its imperial interests. The Dubcek revisionists were more interested in linking up with western capitalism than remaining within the Russian empire. Our Party was one of the first to publish a statement attacking Russia's 'act of imperialist aggression against the people of Czechoslovakia'. The statement went on to say that from the time that the Khrushchev revisionists replaced the workers' state in the Soviet Union with something they called "the state of the whole people", they had begun to erode the dictatorship of the proletariat. Today there was a bourgeois dictatorship in the Soviet Union and hence its foreign policy was the very opposite of the foreign policy of Lenin and Stalin which had been based on proletarian internationalism.

When the Russian imperialists occupied Czechoslovakia they said it was only "temporarily" to "normalise" the situation. Eight years after they are still occupying the country and Russian troops and tanks have increased. The Albanian Telegraphic Agency recently reported that there were now six divisions of Russian troops inside the country. New military airports were being constructed along with many new motorways. As in other countries in the Warsaw Pact Czechoslovakia's transport arteries have to be made uniform with all the others to facilitate the movement of Russian tanks.

For this naked suppression of their freedom the Czechoslovak people have to pay through the nose. Every year more unequal trading agreements are drawn up by the present puppet regime of

Husak. Billions of korunas - the country's currency - have gone into the coffers of the Kremlin to finance "joint projects" all of which are being constructed in the Soviet Union. While the price of Russian oil has increased three times in the last two years Czechoslovakian goods exported to Russia - both heavy machinery and light consumer goods such as furniture, textiles, shoes and even school equipment - are sold at less than they would fetch globally.

Inevitably the standard of life of the people which used to be one of the highest in Europe has been going down. Equally inevitably the people hate the occupying troops and have never ceased showing their feelings so that at a recent meeting of the political department of the Warsaw Pact members held in Bulgaria the Russians demanded that Soviet soldiers, stationed in Eastern Europe, including Czechoslovakia, must be treated as friends!

The western press makes much of Dubcek and his allies forming an united opposition. But there can be no retrogression in the name of 'freedom'. As our Party statement said, "The 'freedom' and 'liberation' Dubcek is advocating which has been hailed by the bourgeois press in the West is bourgeois freedom, bourgeois liberalisation. . . Our support is for the working people of Czechoslovakia who will surely learn from their recent experiences. . . and reestablish the dictatorship of the proletariat so that their country can go forward in the great company of the peoples of China and Albania and all others who firmly reject the vicious exploitative system of capitalism and take the socialist road . . ."

Shipbuilding in Bristol- to be destroyed by Capitalism?



Jobless top 1 1/2 million

Even by the Government's own figures, and they have a number of ways of concealing the true state of affairs, unemployment has now reached over 1 1/2 million - the highest since the Great Depression. Wilson and other Labour Party pundits have always been fond of saying that strikes in defence of wages, by pricing workers out of the labour market, could cause higher unemployment. But at the very time when the number of jobless has reached such heights, the number of strikes and hours lost through strike action is lower than at any time since World War II!

Housing in Bristol it's cheap but not cheerful

Perhaps the Government has been providing such poor, mean housing of late to make its moratorium on subsidies for future housing programmes more acceptable - like using the excuse of dangerous invalid tricycles to completely starve the disabled of means of transport.

The Labour Government always claimed to have housing as one of its top priorities. In Bristol massive housing programmes were planned, the aim being to house 7000 people within 3-4 years, starting from the regrading of 4 sewing machine mechanics to completely starve the disabled of means of transport.

So the Department of the Environment relaxed its previous definitions of "reasonable minimum living conditions" and "minimum environmental standards" in order to make projects financially attractive to the capitalists and maintain a pretence of building.

Most Local Authority depart-

ments must have gone along with these cheap quickies, otherwise we would not have to look at or live in these miserable chicken hutches they call houses. In extreme cases, such as St. Annes, Bristol, 350 people will be housed on a site where from 1950 to 1975 80 people lived in "temporary prefabs" - and this was called an emergency measure then.

When these new houses are built, the inhabitants will have the pleasure of looking over their fences into the largest paper bale storage yard in Bristol, which is only bearable when it is dry, dark, windless and Sunday.

So the fight is not only against cuts in housing, but also for high quality work according to up-to-date technology and standards. Otherwise we will have to waste human energy, time and money pulling down all substandard dwellings - after the revolution.

FORD SUPERVISORS HIT UNEMPLOYMENT

At Fords, Halewood, 800 supervisors, members of ASTMS, are on strike for better manning levels and improved facilities for union representatives.

A second strike by 200 assembly plant maintenance men over the regrading of 4 sewing machine mechanics was certainly well-timed.

It came at a time when Fords are trying to make a concerted push in Europe to capture an effective share of the market and need all the production they can get hold of.

The strike by supervisors over manning levels is an effective struggle against unemployment. Sparked off by management asking supervisors

to look after more and more operators in their transmission plant at Halewood, the dispute is spreading rapidly throughout the rest of the Halewood plant and Ford plants up and down the country.

Supervising more operators than normal equates to fewer jobs. One supervisor was covering up to 80 operators.

In anticipation of additional supervisors being recruited from Fords manual workers we can only expect such a dispute not to be wasted by the manual workers absorbing the jobs of anyone who takes a supervision job.

For every extra supervisor let there be an extra man off the dole.

Last month the 'Miranda Guinness' was launched from Charles Hill's Albion dockyard in Bristol. She is the end of a line stretching back over 156 years of shipbuilding at the yard.

Bristol has been a traditional shipbuilding port for generations and it is ironic that the magnificent 'Great Britain' built here nearly 200 years ago is berthed just up-river from the Albion yard.

The decision to close the docks to commercial traffic was taken in 1971 with the passing of the Bristol Corporation Act. The intention was to use the land for commercial and leisure development. The Labour council agreed to pay Charles Hill millions in compensation for the loss of a business they were already running down. Now five years later the development plans have been shelved and the area sinks even faster into decay.

At Charles Hill's 100 out of the 228 workers face immediate redundancy and the remainder have only work until the Miranda Guinness is fitted out.

So far union activity has been concentrated on putting pressure on the council to reduce their compensation payment to the company, but more is needed to save these jobs.

It is true that the yard has been run down over many years and that the equipment and machinery are outdated but the skills of the workforce are not, and they must be fought for. The workers must demand the right to work, building ships here. They do not have the right to allow this industry to be destroyed. In their fight they must demand the solidarity of the whole class in saving industry for the future of Bristol and of Britain.

Out of their own mouths

Jack Jones at the 1975 TUC: "If we did not support the Government then the crisis would have been worse. Either we trust the Government and the General Council or not - that is what it really comes back to. Our support is necessary to give it strength."

Compare this with what he said to the 1973 TUC: "Unions must be free to represent their members. Restrictions and restraints in their efforts are characteristic of fascist society and are intolerable to a free trade union movement."

Unhousing the workers

As part of the cuts imposed by the Labour Government a strict limit to house building by local councils is reducing still further a building programme that was already completely inadequate to meet the needs of the millions of homeless and badly housed in the country. In spite of promises to the contrary whenever the negotiation of some phoney 'social contract' was in the offing, the Government is savagely slashing the rate of council house building, already down by 10 per cent, by another vicious 20 per cent.

The full significance of the public expenditure cuts as they affect housing programmes is spelt out in a confidential letter from the Department of the Environment to housing authorities ordering councils to halt plans on any house building for which contracts are not yet signed and to stop buying any land for future housing. The letter even withdraws consent on future projects already agreed to. This means that no council in the country has a building programme beyond its present commitments.

Just like the sacrifice of the right of collective bargaining, this does not represent some temporary hardship to be borne by the working class just "until times get better". As we have pointed out frequently and as is becoming ever more clear, the crisis of capitalism is absolute and the measures taken against the working class to enable capitalism to survive are absolute also. It is openly being said that "the country cannot in the future support a local authority house building programme as in the past". The Department of the Environment's Review of Housing Finance to be released in October is expected to argue that in the future tenants will have to make a completely realistic contribution to the cost of housing for any programme to continue at all.

This review will reflect the thinking of a report prepared inside the Department of the Environment (as reported in the Sunday Times of August 22) which argues that there really is no shortage of housing at all. The problem is one of availability. There is plenty of living space but the homeless are just too damned poor to be able to acquire it. As far as London is concerned, always thought to be the crucial area of homelessness, there has been such a destruction of jobs and so many people are having to move away, partly because of bad housing conditions, that the problem is fast disappearing. In the long run, the report shows,

there can be no housing problem because those without houses will either go away or die of exposure.

In fact we are seeing the beginnings of the end of council housing as we have known it in this country. In addition, the Minister of the Environment is finding further cuts to make up Hesley's £1 billion by stopping councils from lending people the money for mortgages to the sum of £276m. They will have to get their mortgages from the building societies instead. But the societies have already made it obvious that they are not willing to take on the kinds of people buying the kinds of property who depended on the councils.

Even the Government's claim that it is providing any additional subsidy to keep rents in check during the period of wage restriction is untrue. As the Minister has said: "There is no limit on the rate of increase that a local authority may wish to make in respect of the rent of any individual dwelling. Indeed we have given local authorities entire freedom to decide such matters." In fact, Hesley has decided to chop £365m. from housing expenditure by 1978-9 the bulk of which will be at the expense of subsidies and will entail rent rises on the average of £2.50 a week.

As London Tenant, the newspaper of the Association of London Housing Estates puts it: "Never, in the history of public housing has council tenants' standard of living been so hammered in so short a period by so many Government ministers!" And Shelter describes the whole Labour Government housing policy as "a cynical betrayal". In the ten years since Shelter came into being to alleviate the problem of homelessness, the number of the homeless has more than doubled!

In every district of the country the disastrous policy of pretending that the housing problems of the inner cities must be solved at the expense of allocating resources elsewhere when there is no intention of doing anything about the inner cities either is beginning to make itself felt. For example, all the District Councils in Oxfordshire have waiting lists for council accommodation approaching 3000 families for each council area. Yet the building programmes of these areas have not exceeded 250 a year and are now threatened with more severe cutbacks. A recent report by the County Council Research and Intelligence Unit showed a need in Oxford alone of 800 houses just to meet the most exigent needs of the present.

Culham College to go

The latest victim of the Government's attack on education is Culham College, a teacher training college near Abingdon in Oxfordshire. According to Fred Mulley, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, the cause of teacher education would best be served if Culham College closed.

A letter from the DES to the college added, "In coming to this decision, the Secretary of State fully recognises the capable and enthusiastic work of the college and its staff in pro-

ducing teachers of calibre, particularly for the handicapped." It is this latter field of special education of the handicapped, which has made Culham renowned.

This decision will also mean the loss of 180 jobs of full- and part-time staff over the next three years. One of the workers there described the impact of the closure on the local community as 'traumatic'. In this country area those who are made redundant will find it virtually impossible to find alternative work locally.

Trico Dispute Equality is only gained through struggle

The Industrial Tribunal was set up by the state to protect the ruling class from workers' demands. Since pressure from workers forced the concessions of an Equal Pay Act, weak and riddled with loopholes as it is, the Tribunal has been used by employers to make sure that Act is totally ineffective in the majority of disputes.

If it was thought that workers would be taken in by the logic of capitalism as peddled by the tribunal then the workers on strike at Trico's - the wind-

screen wiper factory in Brentford, Middlesex - have gone a long way towards dealing a hammer blow to that idea. They made the important decision to boycott the Tribunal and have consistently stated that they will rely on their own action and not on patently unjust Tribunals.

It was no great surprise to the strikers, therefore, to hear that the Tribunal has upheld the firm's plea that equal pay should not be paid. The Trico women are standing firm,

just a 're-inspector'. Therefore his job is more responsible and should be paid more. 2. A woman whose job it was to check shoes in a shoe factory claimed equal pay with a man who also checked shoes. NO said the Tribunal, you cannot have equal pay; you only do the first inspection, while he has the responsibility of checking the shoes before they finally go to the customer.

Equal Pay

Compare these two cases brought before the Industrial Tribunal:

1. A woman whose job it was to check glasses on a conveyor belt claimed equal pay with a man who also checked glasses on a conveyor belt. NO said the Tribunal, you cannot have equal pay; the man does the first inspection and you are

Polish Workers under revisionism

A group of workers has been put on trial in Warsaw for the strike they carried out on June 25th with thousands of other workers in the large Ursus plant on the outskirts of the city, to express their indignation at the rise of food prices.

In order to suppress the strikes and demonstrations in Warsaw and other Polish cities the revisionist regime resorted to exactly the same repressive measures against the workers as are used in the bourgeois countries of the West. Police forces were sent in and in places like Radom City they opened fire, killing workers.

Also, just like the bourgeois countries and completely unlike such socialist countries as China or Albania, Polish workers suffer from the inflation which their state capitalist bureaucracy creates or passes on from the rest of the capitalist world.



A delegation of the CPB(ML) invited to China by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party recently returned home. The delegation saw the Chinese people at work and at leisure and were impressed by the massive achievements made in the building of socialism.

There was a profound political exchange which will be of mutual benefit to the two parties.

The delegation is pictured with Chinese comrades in front of a monument to revolutionary martyrs in Nanking.

Albania-Education for Revolution

(A member of the delegation of the CPB(ML) who recently returned from Albania describes education advances made in the only European country where the working class is in power)

Viewed statistically, the Albanian achievement is staggering. The number of teachers has increased by 21 times since 1938, the number of pupils in secondary schools by 65 times, and the number of students by 482 times since 1946.

At the time of liberation in 1944 the standard of education was abysmal, the result of the reactionary policies of the Zog and fascist regimes. In 1938 there were only two secondary and no technical schools. Eighty per cent of the population and ninety per cent of women were illiterate.

The Party of Labour of Albania saw the rapid development of education as a major priority, for political and ideological, as well as social and economic reasons. Socialist revolution requires well educated, thinking people, skilled and conscious workers in industry and agriculture.

Since 1944 education in Albania has developed in four stages:

1st stage, 1944-1948. The struggle against illiteracy was paramount. The Party raised the call: "More bread and more culture for the people", "Education for all", and "No illiteracy in the new Albania".

Elementary education was made free and compulsory: equal provision was given to both sexes; and a national, secular state system was established.

2nd stage, 1949-1955. The next goal was to extend the education system throughout the country, even to the remotest mountain villages, and to make available everywhere the 8-grade schools (15-19 years).

By 1955 a complete education system had been built, in a matter of eleven years. For the first time in the history of

the country schools had been put at the service of the people and of socialist construction.

3rd stage, 1956-1965. The new system of education had been established in the nick of time. Its full resources had soon to be mobilised in the Party of Labour's struggle against growing Soviet revisionism. It was vital to educate young people in the Marxist-Leninist world outlook, to develop in them a good attitude to work and socialist property, to fight against bourgeois ideas of self-interest and careerism. Ties between school and work were increased with pupils performing ten days of useful work during their holidays.

4th stage. Since 1966 emphasis has been on the need for the further revolutionisation of education. The system of education in any country, the principles, moral and attitudes to life taught in schools, will depend on which class holds state power, bourgeois or proletariat.

In Albania, a socialist country, the aim is to train not merely specialists but first of all revolutionaries, ready to build and defend socialism. The school relies on a revolutionary triangle of learning, physical labour and military training. All are linked to and by Marxist-Leninist ideology, the backbone of education.

By linking school closely to production, with physical labour, and to the need to defend the country and socialism, by military preparedness, a never-ceasing campaign is waged to eliminate bureaucratic, technocratic and intellectualist tendencies, to get rid of ideas that manual labour is inferior, that 'experts' should hold power because they 'know best'. In this light, it is the responsibility of the whole community to look after the schools, by direct working class control and by encouraging workers to come back to school in evening institutes.

The campaign to eliminate old ideas has meant a thorough-going sweep, a complete revolutionising in form, character and content.

The idea that school is the only place to study has been overturned in favour of the principle that study at work and in life are equally important. A practical result has been to free textbooks of the clutter of unnecessary information. To understand the principles of mechanics basic theory must be studied at school, but details of operation can be better learned by taking part in the use of a machine in a factory.

Education in Albania is not designed to manufacture qualifications as the passport to comfortable careers, but to produce revolutionaries who will serve the people. Young people engage in national youth actions, in building railways and hill terraces, in campaigns against old religious ideas, for the emancipation of women.

By law they must take part in physical labour and military training for two months each year, both boys and girls. One example will make the revolutionary perspective clear. In remedial education, in addition to extra help from teachers, each slow learner is assigned a more advanced pupil as his assistant. They work together after school, and the better pupil will pass his end of year assessment only if his teachers and his classmates are convinced that he has done his best to cure the other child's difficulties.

In Albania the education system is preparing young people for a life as thinking, self-reliant revolutionaries. The achievements of the Albanian people should both inspire and shame us. Only a socialist revolution can now enable the British people to reach the levels and standards of education in Albania, once the most backward, now the most progressive country of Europe.

CELEBRATE SOCIALISM ! ADVANCE NOTICE

IT WAS POSSIBLE, IS POSSIBLE AND WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SMASH CAPITALISM AND ITS STATE AND TO ESTABLISH REAL WORKERS' POWER.

COME TO OUR MEETINGS TO CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION AT CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, HOLBORN, W.C.1, ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8th AT 7.30pm, AND TO CELEBRATE THE GREAT BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION AT CONWAY HALL ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5th AT 7.30pm.

Organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

NEW PUBLICATION

CONGRESS '76

DOCUMENTS OF THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)

Available from the following bookshops :-

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW 5

Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.

Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol

October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool 2.

Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds.

WORKER: NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regrettably, the new round of increased postal charges has forced us to raise the annual subscription rate of the Worker. It is now £2.50 for 24 issues (including postage).

'THE WORKER'

155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5.
£2.50 per year (including postage).

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