

THE WORKER



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Members of the Post Office Engineering Union demonstrating in London as part of the action to advance their demand for a 35 hour week. This demand as an improvement in living conditions is gaining support as many recent trade union conferences have shown. The Post Office management is resisting the claim for reduced hours without loss of pay on the grounds that it is in breach of the guidelines which the POEU is correctly ignoring. Photo John Starrock (Report)

If you vote, you vote for Capitalism!

LABOUR'S holding the seats at Moss Side and Penistone makes an October election even more likely. And the pre-election period sees all sorts of moves to weaken and deflect the labour movement's decision to opt for collective bargaining.

The TUC-Labour Party document, "Into the Eighties: an Agreement", which is to replace the discredited 'social contract' with an 'economic contract' which is the same betrayal of working class interests. The effort will be made in the TUC General Council's report to the Congress in September to swing support behind an 'unofficial phase four', Callaghan's punitive 5 per cent limit, in exchange for the illusion of having a say in the formulation of a new Labour Government's policies.

The ridiculous stand of the general secretary of the

NUR, that railwaymen would accept tight pay control imposed by a Labour Government but not by a Tory Government, is about as sensible as though we workers should agree to cut our throats when asked to be one agent of the capitalist class but refuse indignantly when asked by another.

The general secretary of the T&GWU, formerly clear on the correctness of the labour movement's commitment to collective bargaining, has begun to hedge. "There will be no agreement between the TUC and the Government on pay, but there will certainly be an understanding that the Government have a right to govern and to go over our heads on the sort of settlements that ought to be arrived at." To say that we have a right to collective bargaining and the Government has a right to prevent us from exercising it is as

ridiculous as the statement of the railwaymen's secretary.

The only right line for us is that taken by the miners and the engineers: set your own wage demands and fight for them. Other unions are also following this sensible, honourable and necessary course. The National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers are calling for an increase in minimum wages from £43 to £80, a 35 hour week, longer holidays and better overtime pay.

That is the real battle for us workers, the fight against the class enemy over wages and conditions. Which party represents that class enemy in Westminster is utterly irrelevant. Vote for higher wages now in the only way we can - by using our united industrial might against the capitalist boss today and against capitalism itself tomorrow.

European Monetary Union

CALLAGHAN'S apparent dragging of feet over Britain's complete involvement in a European monetary union dominated by West Germany has no more real resistance in it than Silkin's apparent opposition to putting the fish of British territorial waters at the disposal of other EEC countries. Like the Common Agricultural Policy, all these things were accepted by both

the capitalist parties when we allowed them to take us into this club for elderly decaying capitalists.

Indeed, in the House of Commons Callaghan said that if the new monetary scheme turned out to be in Britain's interest, he means in British capitalism's interest, he would cheer it. "Of course," he said, "it would mean surrendering power,

like joining NATO." He went on to point out to the critics of EEC membership in his own party: "This House would have to decide whether it wished Britain to remain poor and independent or sacrifice some power to be more prosperous."

It is obvious that this

(Cont. on page 4, Col. 1)

Albania and Vietnam will continue building socialism and supporting revolution despite China's suspension of aid to both countries

IN A statement on July 12 the Albanian telegraphic agency announced that China had severed all economic and military aid agreements and credits, withdrawn all experts from Albania and had left incomplete a number of important projects. The announcement accused China of "unilateral and arbitrary action" and "a conscious and premeditated step to aggravate relations between the two countries, to damage the economy of socialist Albania and its defence potential."

In a note on July 6, 1978, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam revealed that "the Chinese Government on May 12, 1978, and on May 30, 1978, decided to cancel the major part of its complete factory aid projects for Vietnam. Now on July 3, 1978, the Chinese Government has decided to cut all economic and technical aid to Vietnam and withdraw all Chinese technicians working at the remaining Chinese aid projects in Vietnam."

In a commentary on this cutting off of all aid NHAN DAN (the People's Daily of Vietnam) stated on July 7: "It is natural that the Vietnamese people are indignant at this treacherous act. But they do not confuse the ruling circle with the genuine revolutionaries and with the fraternal Chinese people who have united with them in fighting for the victory of the revolution of each country. The Vietnamese people have not forgotten and will never forget the valuable support and assistance given them by the Chinese people who... made such an important contribution to the success of our people's resistance against US aggression. Neither will we forget the bright examples set by many Chinese specialists and workers who for the common interest and friendship of our two peoples worked devotedly for Vietnam until their departure."

As a reminder that under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam the Vietnamese people had accepted boundless sacrifices to defeat "the ringleader of the imperialist aggressors of our time at the southern gate of the People's Republic of China" the commentary quoted Premier Chou En-Lai's words: "The Vietnamese people are waging a war of resistance and are shedding blood at the front line against the United States. This is a very great support for the Chinese people and the socialist revolution and the construction of socialism. The Chinese people must thank you, comrades."

In 1963 the editorial departments of the major Chinese newspapers, the PEOPLE'S DAILY and RED FLAG, in "The Origin and Development of the Differences between the Leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Ourselves" commented as follows on the Soviet Government's unilaterally cutting off all aid to China, breaking all contracts and withdrawing Soviet experts: "Completely disregarding the principles guiding relations among fraternal Parties and countries which were laid down in the 1957 Declaration, the leaders of the CPSU, eager to curry favour with US imperialism, engaged in unbridled activities against China... They thought they had solved their internal problems and had 'stabilised' their own position and could therefore step up their policy of 'being friendly to enemies and tough with friends... In June 1959, the Soviet Government unilaterally tore up the agreement on new technology for national defence concluded between China and the Soviet Union... In July (1960) the Soviet Government suddenly took a unilateral decision recalling all the Soviet experts in China within one month, thereby tearing up hundreds of agreements and contracts... Apparently the leaders of the CPSU imagined that once they waved their immense political and economic pressures, they could force the Chinese Communist Party to abandon its Marxist-Leninist and proletarian internationalist stand and submit to their revisionist and great power chauvinist behests."

HISTORIC NOTES The Chartists and the Vote

THE WEEK

THE CHARTER, a massive petition presented to Parliament in 1840, 1842 and 1848 had six main demands: universal manhood suffrage, voting by ballot, equal electoral districts, no property qualifications for MPs, MPs to be paid, and annual general elections. Millions of people united behind these demands.

Amidst all the disputes within the movement itself the underlying demand for equality was a driving inspiration. The Chartist Sheffield Workingmen's Association, for instance, formed itself: "because the members despair of ever obtaining social and political equality, except by their own exertions. The working classes of this Kingdom produce the wealth which is at the disposal of the capitalists, and the glory that belongs to the nation, and yet they are oppressed by unjust and unequal laws, and injured by the degrading forms and customs of society."

But as early as this the quest for the vote was used as a red herring. Trade unions tended to stay aloof from the Charter, and in 1842 workers in the Stalybridge Mills, ignoring the Charter, came out on strike for more money. Their slogan became famous. "They that perish by the sword are better than they that perish by hunger."

Brutally treated by the authorities, the men and women stayed united but not passive. They marched instead. Not to Westminster or to the top of the hill as they would be advised today. No. They marched to other mills all round Lancashire, winning their support one by one. As each new factory stopped work the plugs of its boilers were pulled out - to ensure no scabbing. Some 50,000 workers were soon involved in the 'Plug Plot' as it spread to Yorkshire and the West Riding. Parliament sent troops to crush the strike, and on

top of this the workers had to suffer the haranguing of the Chartists telling them to go back to work and wait for the Charter to be granted.

Two years later, Marx, who had paid close attention to the struggles of the Chartists wrote about the vote. Pointing out that government only arose because society was divided by class antagonisms, he decided that "all struggles within the State, the struggle between democracy, aristocracy and monarchy, the struggle for franchise etc., etc., are nothing but illusory forms in which real struggles of different classes are carried out among one another." Every problem, conflict or evil created by capitalism would be mirrored by the state in a law - a law to regulate, a law to ameliorate the effects, but always a law based on the assumption that the cause (capitalism) would continue. And so, he went on, as the role of law

and government increases, the illusion arises that the state is the fount of social progress. Those who get involved in trying to run the capitalist state, he went on, suffer from this illusion, and see the solution of social ills in overcoming "accidental or intentional defects of administration." In doing this they fail to "grasp the general principle of social ills in the existing organisation of society", i.e. the continued exploitation of workers by capitalism. All laws, he pointed out, assume that this exploitation will continue. The more acute, the more vigorous the thinking is within these assumptions, "the more it is incapable of comprehending social ills."

Marx, basing himself on the experience of the Chartists and other struggles in Europe had analysed the strength and fundamental weakness of the way of thinking that became 'social democracy.'

THE BEAUTIFUL Milk Marketing Board advertising of free school milk for children seems to have had little effect on hard-hearted local authorities. 25 authorities are so far against free milk, 23 for. Over half of the 105 authorities haven't yet bothered to decide!

JUST HOW much the government is opposed to a shorter working week is shown not just in their treatment of the POEU claim. Local authorities are doing all they can to renege on the agreement for 42 instead of 48 hours forced on them by the firemen's strike. Renewed calls for action are being considered by the FBUI.

FROM Manpower Studies at Sussex University comes a prediction that unemployment will rise to 5 million in Britain.

THE GRUNWICK strikers are to look for new jobs. The lesson of Grunwick for workers is that assistance for a struggle from the outside is no substitute for strength within the factory. The courageous strikers of Grunwick had too little support from inside.

FOR a number of years successive governments have stonewalled all attempts to introduce a citizens radio band into this country. Usually resorting to technical arguments such as that the radio spectrum is already overcrowded. A recent House of Lords debate on the subject shed fresh light on what is the real objection when a government spokesman said, "I think we have seriously to consider the enormous disadvantage of having a vast army of people who can communicate with each other very easily..."

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND

AT A SUNDAY demonstration at Hyde Park, organised to protest at the mistreatment of political prisoners in Northern Ireland, only one Trade Union banner was displayed. This was in marked contrast to a nearby demonstration on Chile, at which Trade Union banners formed the main body of the protest. Of course the Chilean struggle is a valid one but conditions of occupation, torture, sentencing without trial by jury and a remand system, which is in effect internment without trial, are continuing in Ireland without the working class seemingly making any definite stand.

It is convenient for the Imperialist warmongers that they can direct attention to the conditions in Russia while practising the same techniques themselves in Ireland. Ireland is a training ground for the British Imperialist army which will one day be used against us, the British Working Class, in our struggle for revolution. Using the continuing violence in Ireland as a convenient excuse, the Labour Government introduces "Emergency" measures whose main force is undoubtedly to be used against us the British Working Class.

All the more reason why now we should demand Troops Out of Ireland to give the Irish people the chance to determine the shape of their own future.

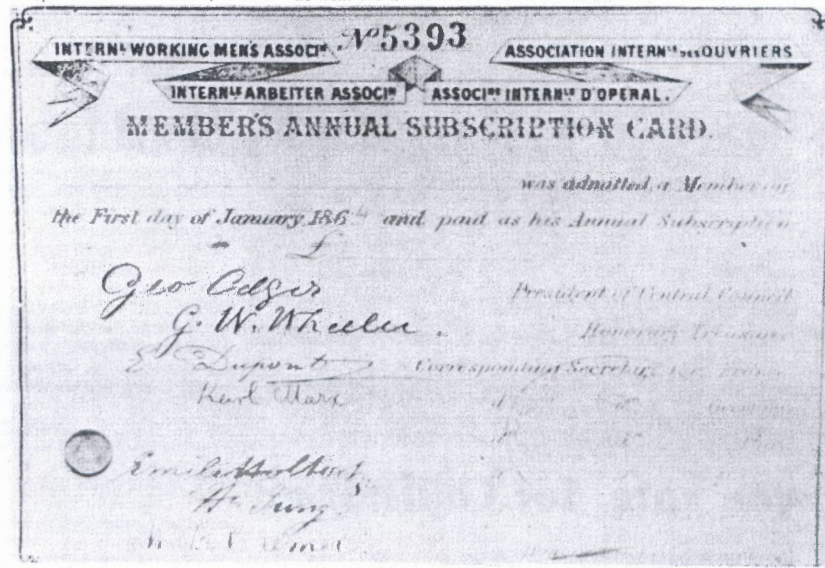
Troops shoot boy

THE BRITISH army in Ireland has shot a boy of 16. According to the police the boy was not involved in 'terrorist' activities. The boy's father informed the police about some terrorist equipment found on a graveyard adjacent to his land. The army was sent to investigate and guard the graveyard.

John Boyle went off to help his brother with the harvest, found himself without much work and his curiosity led him to the graveyard. The army shot him dead.

The security forces are carrying out instructions to extend the scope of the Special Air Services - the 'kill don't question' policy that led to this boy's death.

How long are the British working class going to allow such gangsterism in our name?



Glasgow deprived of the 'Apollo'

A PARTICULARLY mean closure took place in Glasgow last week when the Apollo theatre was sold off to Mecca for conversion to a bingo hall.

The theatre, a venue for rock bands, attracted thousands of Glasgow's young people to every concert held there. Again, the

real motive for closing - profit, was obscured by much inane talk about the cost of installing fire precautions.

Meanwhile, ever mindful of Scotland's attractions as a centre for the "tourist industry", plans to restore completely the Grosvenor Hotel (this time gutted by

fire) were proceeded with.

Its 18th century facade is to be entirely restored using modern plastic fibre techniques, the cost to be borne by a large insurance company who can afford to do it and, of course, be handsomely rewarded by the charges made for luxury bedrooms.

Nato: An alliance for Capitalist war

"I PARTICULARLY welcomed the assurance given by President Carter when he announced that the number of US troops in Europe would increase by more than 8000 in the next 18 months and also that there would be substantial reinforcement plans for Europe."

These are the words of the General Secretary of NATO at a lecture earlier this year. They clearly show the nature of this warlike alliance of capitalists. The statement he made is particularly revealing about the fawning attitude of the European bourgeoisie to the US ruling class with which they are allied. War seems to be the only future envisaged.

"In Europe, in addition to the indigenous forces, are the equivalent of 5 US divisions with powerful air and naval forces in support, totalling nearly 300,000 men. The US provides 10 per

cent of Europe's land forces, 15 per cent of its naval forces, and 25 per cent of its air forces... NATO's defences are far from negligible. In the centre 33 well-trained, well-equipped German brigades, plus the US 7th Cavalry, the BAOR, the Belgian and Dutch corps, together with the Canadian brigade... With the lead coming from President Carter, the US has pledged itself to make the necessary extra efforts and looks to its European and Canadian partners to do the same. Indeed a whole series of special short-term improvements have been agreed... Allied holdings of anti-tank guided missiles will have increased at the end of 1978 by about 47,000 to reach a total of about 107,000."

In all this Britain plays an important role: "The arrival of reinforcements from the North American continent and the United Kingdom will continue to

be speeded up." How dare it be suggested that the British working class should be a party to such an imperialist war effort?

The figures on the build-up of anti-tank weaponry are also interesting. So much for the argument that the Neutron Bomb was essential to ward off tank attack on a defenceless Europe. And indeed, most disturbing of all, is the call for "modernisation of Theatre Nuclear Weapons", that is, weapons which will actually be used in battle, rather than deterrents. The NATO Secretary addresses the Soviet Generals when he says that the United States would not allow "the cream of its forces to be overcome in Europe without using tactical nuclear weapons." This overt threat to use nuclear devices is particularly vicious, as we cannot believe that it is directed towards anyone other than the European working class.

THE EEC commission has decided that the vinegar on our fish and chips is to be replaced by EEC wine vinegar. A great mountain of the stuff is to be exported to us in order to save our health from the nasty diluted acetic acid we use now.

The trouble is that wine vinegar doesn't go with fish and chips. What does the EEC know about the traditional English dish?

TEACHERS at Southway School, Plymouth are showing their concern for education in a truly positive manner. Told that their school staff numbers were to be reduced by 6 from September, they voted unanimously to ban teaching classes of more than 30 pupils and not to cover for staff expected to be absent for more than one day.

A spokesman for the NUT said "if the result of this worsening of staffing is larger classes, then this action is a direct statement by the union that we are to have no part in this deterioration of standards. This action is not merely about saving teacher's jobs, but also with the maintenance of standards."

With teachers like this education will be saved!

EDITORIAL

THE FIGHT for the thirty five hour week is in danger of being drowned in the great flood of diversionary argument about it. The importance of a shorter working week is certainly not lost on the employers. The CBI and EEF have both declared against it, as has the Labour government. Naturally, for it is a reduction of the time during which surplus value can be extracted from workers. We must be equally clear on our part as well.

We want shorter hours because it is an increase in the time we claim as our own. To attempt, as some will do, to tie the 35 hour week with unemployment, is pure hypocrisy. On the one hand it is a refusal to tackle unemployment seriously, and on the other hand it panders to the idea that 35 hours is not really long enough for a person to work and therefore needs bolstering up with the pretence that it will help those on the dole. For their part the employers are threatening to increase unemployment if we should demand a 35 hour week. They are convinced by the argument that goes something like this - "If the hours of work were reduced to nil, then everyone would be unemployed, wouldn't they?"

The government thinks the same and says that any reduction of hours should be self-financing, that is, that we should pay for the privilege of not being exploited a full 40 hours a week. Not that the argument was any different when the fight was for a 40 hour week or a 48 hour week, or before that the 9 hour day, the 10 hour day or any other limit that we have put on our exploitation in the past.

We should get the so-called technological revolution into perspective and not base our campaign for shorter hours on that either. There is big propaganda going on about micro electronics reminiscent of all the chat about automation 20 years ago. We should understand that industry in Britain is being dismantled not 'revolutionised'.

There is in fact a counter-revolution - the planned destruction (the only thing the capitalists have ever been able to plan) of our basic means of production, when new technology should mean a better life for all. But in Britain today, technology is introduced not to provide a better or cheaper service, but part of an overall requirement of the British ruling class to destroy the working class. Containerisation of ships did not provide us with cheaper or more efficient transport but had got rid of a lot of organised dock workers. New technology in Fleet Street did not give us more or better or cheaper newspapers, but did succeed in creating unemployed print workers. The new exchanges the Post Office wants to introduce won't make 'phone calls any cheaper or have a longer lifetime of service than existing machinery - but it will put a lot of skilled workers on the dole.

The destruction of industry from ship-building to medicine, from steel to education, requires for its success the destruction of our class. First they must destroy our will to fight! We will fight for a 35 hour week because that's what we want. For a number of years it has been the policy of many trade unions and this year it is a policy of most unions. But a policy is no good left in a conference report - it must be put into practice. And it will matter little what anyone else thinks if we decide to implement that policy now.

We won't wait until the end of the century as the employers have suggested - nor will we follow the 'adventurism' of the TUC General Council that first we will have a 38 hour week and then maybe... We're the people who work the hours - we're the people who'll decide how many hours we'll work...

Extra misery on the dole

THE CIVIL and Public Servants Association are determined to stop the Department of Employment's scheme to have those on the dole sign on fortnightly.

There can be no doubt that the reduction in service for those on the dole queue would mean ultimately a still longer queue, for the result would be a cutback in labour. Both the Department of Employment and the Department of Health and Social Security are notorious for their inefficiency and this is primarily due to a shortage of staff, although regional staff complements are compiled in such a way as to make it look as though numerically offices are overstaffed.

Staff at the Department of Employment care very much about the service they offer. They are convinced that fortnightly signing will cause greater hardship than already exists.

But to fight for a better service for unemployed workers is surely not our aim, or next we shall be advocating greater unemployment to secure jobs for civil servants. Only by looking ahead can we envisage that our skills could be of any use at all, although such a society would surely have no unemployed. But no matter. We

are skilled in dealing with people and their welfare problems and our skills could be put to better use than they are at present.

The government is looking ahead, of that there can be no doubt. Soon perhaps we shall be fighting pilot schemes for six monthly signing for as far as the government is concerned unemployment is here to stay and since our entire economy is being run down and our capital exported why bother to have people signing on as available for work when there is no work for them to do.

WHAT would you think of a man who out of choice only used six of his ten fingers? And if he then decided to cut the ones he didn't use off?

This is what capitalism does with steel. In the last half of last year only 60 per cent of steel-making capacity was in use in the EEC. And they want to destroy the "surplus" steelmaking capacity.

Davignon, a viscount and EEC commissioner for industry, is

Struggle for democratic rights in Spain

THE BARRICADES and clashes of the last week in Northern Spain are a testimony of two things. Firstly, the struggle of the people in those parts against the 40 years of fascist rule and, secondly, the farce of the 'democratisation' of Spain in the last two years by those same fascists who so faithfully served with Franco and US imperialism.

That two years after the installation of 'democracy' in Spain workers should still be demonstrating as they did in the bullring in Pamplona for political amnesty for trade unionists illustrates how little, save for surface scratching, Spanish capitalism has changed. Further proof is found in the fact that the commander of the civil guard in the Navarre region where the trouble started, major Avila, is a leading member of the Spanish Nazi party - Fuerza Nueva.

It is now clear that the civil guard used live ammunition to break up the demonstration in the bullring - this resulted in one death. The second death of the

week on Tuesday came about when police used a machine gun against demonstrators; three others were seriously wounded.

By Wednesday there were demonstrations in various Northern prisons - large demonstrations to demand the withdrawal of the civil guard from the regions.

The new constitution being prepared by the government in Madrid with the collaborationist 'Socialist' and 'Communist' parties, will formalise the autonomy already granted in the form of a regional generalitat in the Basque region. Both the new constitution and the limited autonomy, still linked to the forty years of fascist oppression of all the peoples in Spain, have been exposed in the last week, in that whilst 'autonomy' has been granted, the forces of law and order are still controlled by central government.

The Basque region has a long history of fighting fascism and Franco. It is therefore not surprising that this region has maintained its demands for amnesty,

not allowing the old fascists in 'democratic clothing' any breathing space in their offensive against the working class, the trade unions and the Republican forces. The general strike on Thursday, called to demand the removal of the armed police and the resignation of the police commander and government ministers, paralysed the whole of Northern Spain, closing even bars and restaurants. San Sebastian was sealed off by barricades on most roads stopping the arrival of more police as banks and police stations were attacked amidst demonstrations.

The events in the North show that a growing number of people recognise that, despite all the talk of democracy, the reins of power are still firmly with the ruling class and that after the police terrorist attacks in Renteria on Friday the working class in opposing the police (and thus the state and central government) are moving from calls for a separate Basque solution to a solution throughout Spain.

Students' Union autonomy attacked

THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Students has announced that it will seek postponement of the Department of Education and Science proposals for the financing of Students' Unions. Among the constituent organisations of the NUS, however, there are moves to seek an Extraordinary National Conference in the autumn to reject the plans of the DES.

The complexity of these proposed arrangements will pose problems enough, but it is the intention behind the DES document that is of greatest significance. It represents an attempt to limit the functions of Students' Unions, to prescribe their activities by re-

stricting and monitoring their expenditure and the introduction of a model constitution formulated by the Government. It is hardly surprising at a time when public expenditure cuts are so damaging that a concerted counterattack is feared by a Government which says that Students' Unions should be accountable to the public, yet deems that it shall not be held to account for the destruction of education. The proposals are designed to facilitate further that destruction by removing a source of opposition. Without an autonomous Union, the ability to fight for conditions in education will be near impossible.

The proposals will stifle the Students' Union initiatives designed to benefit their members.

The paper from the DES is couched in woolly and superficially conciliatory terms. The proposals set up a machinery for long term control of Students' Unions. The only reply can be their decisive rejection. A Conference resolution is but a part of the assertion of the independence of the National Union of Students. The real point will be made by campaigns mounted on the issues facing the movement - grants, cuts, tuition fees - the use of union autonomy in defence of the Union's membership.



Steelworkers demonstrate against closure in 1973

(Photo: Press Association)

Capitalism destroys the European steel industry

WHAT would you think of a man who out of choice only used six of his ten fingers? And if he then decided to cut the ones he didn't use off?

This is what capitalism does with steel. In the last half of last year only 60 per cent of steel-making capacity was in use in the EEC. And they want to destroy the "surplus" steelmaking capacity.

Davignon, a viscount and EEC commissioner for industry, is

angry because his plans to limit production in Europe have been thwarted by some firms still anxious to sell steel. Undeterred, he wants to reduce production from 32 million tonnes to 28. His plan for Europe is widely destructive. It envisages a halving of European shipbuilding capacity, a one fifth cut in synthetic fibre production, and much more.

In Belgium, for example, where 46,000 are employed in steelmaking, they want to sack

a quarter of them. At the end of last year 60,000 American steelworkers were laid off, 20,000 EEC steel jobs had been axed, at a rate of around 3,000 sackings a month. 100,000 EEC workers were on short time.

Only if you believe in the shibboleth of profit can you believe that there is "too much" steel. Because steel is no longer profitable, they want to destroy it - everywhere. British Steel Corporation lost £95 million in

1976-77 but in the half year 1977, £204 million. But all the others are as badly, if not worse affected. The corresponding figures for Italsider are £88 million and £211 million, for Cockerill (Belgium) £31 million and £60 million, Usinor (France) £146 million and £107 million, and so on. In the madness of modern capitalism, because production itself means "loss", the solution is to stop all production!

Lambeth act against teacher transfer

THROUGHOUT Lambeth during the last few weeks there have been struggles in numerous schools against the transfer of teachers.

In the primary sector in Lambeth the reduction in the school roll has been devastating and demonstrates the effects of the deindustrialisation of London, with hundreds of families moving from the inner city areas. In Santley school in Brixton, a social priority school, the teachers, parents, governors and many other interested members of the local community have come together, since the school was told they had to lose two teachers at the end of this school year, to mount a campaign to retain their staff. They are working together to show how the reading ages and general attainment levels have improved dramatically with smaller classes - and that if the classes were to become even smaller this could only be to the advantage of all concerned, especially pupils.

The educational case to be presented to the ILEA is a sound one and will make the Authority's job of cutting the

service even more difficult. The Authority has been forced to meet a deputation from Santley, the results of which are yet to be finalised.

Another school in Brixton, Effra, have also fought along the same lines and have not resorted to arguing about numbers with the Authority. In Henry Fawcett school the governors have written to the ILEA pointing out that falling rolls should be viewed as an asset to education and not a problem.

Mentioning just a few of the Primary schools in Lambeth still shows how much anger there is at this blatant attack on the education service. Many parents now fighting for better education for their children realise the need not to miss this golden opportunity given by falling rolls to improve standards, and are actively supporting the staff in their struggles to achieve smaller classes.

In the secondary sector there have been marked achievements also. Here campaigns involving teachers, parents and local community groups have taken up the fight to keep teachers in the schools.

FOR the representatives of capitalist countries like Britain and the US, with their millions of unemployed, their youth on the dole, their slums and ghettos, their inadequate and rapidly declining public services, to point the finger of accusation at another country for breaches of civil liberties is so ludicrous that the whole world ought to laugh these hypocritical, 'holler-than-thou' enemies of the people into final ignominy. It is not by accident

that at this time you cannot do anything without meeting propaganda in some form or other against the Soviet Union, especially its treatment of the so-called dissidents. Why?

By pointing out the repression of another imperialist power they hope we will forget oppression in Britain.

The question is not of dissent but rebellion. It is not a question of "human rights" worked out by

There have been deputations to County Hall and numerous letters from governing bodies etc. In Tulse Hill school staff have presented a detailed analysis on the detrimental effect losing a teacher will have on the education of the children. The case, which involves the Art Department, has been presented to the ILEA and has the full support of the Local Association which is doing all in its power to help them in their struggle. Stockwell Manor school was due to lose 8.9 teachers at the end of term, but after protests from the Union members they are now losing only four.

By the constant monitoring of the situation in Lambeth, the Local Association has taken the lead in resisting the transfer of teachers. The Association has now set up a working party on falling rolls realising that the situation will not correct itself. All members of the Association will realise that fighting the closure of schools in Lambeth is very much on the agenda. In a small way, perhaps, many have started to fight back.

states whose history of oppression and exploitation both at home and abroad is second to none in the history of mankind. The question for the working class in the Soviet Union is revolution. If the "dissident movement" ever had any impact on the working class it must by now be dissipated as western imperialists have virtually taken it over and as their most outspoken leaders are more interested in fortunes abroad than human rights at home.

Albania recalls independent struggle

IN JUNE of this year Albania celebrated the centenary of the founding of the Albanian League in the town of Prizren. A report of a speech by Ramiz Alia, Central Committee member of the Party of Labour to mark this event has just been published and is now available in Britain

The League was formed at a Conference called by Albanian patriots to meet the threat of Albania's dismemberment by the European powers at the Congress of Berlin. Albania had entered the fifth century of its bondage to Turkey and the League realised that Albania's salvation did not lie in swapping one set of foreign rulers for another. Nor was the answer to re-establish a backward, feudal, even though independent, Albania. The line that won was that the only hope

lay along the road of the advanced European states. Inspired by the ideals of the French revolution and the anti-Ottoman uprisings in the Balkans the League assumed a purely Albanian character, rising above religious diversions. It was no mean achievement for those times.

Albanians measure the importance of the League not by the length of its existence but by the influence it exerted on the subsequent battles for freedom. Its platform for an independent Albanian state remained the basis of the programme of the Albanian National Movement during the period up to 28th November 1912. On that date the independent state was formed but it was not until the founding of the socialist state after the National War of Liberation against the Italian and German

fascists that the League's aim was finally secured. As Enver Hoxha put it, the road and struggle of the Albanian patriots "was not an easy road, not the road of trickery, of fear of and submission to the stronger. . . . So it is today. The Albanians are not teaming up with one set of imperialists in order to fight another.

The pamphlet is obligatory reading for those who wish to learn of a landmark in Albanian and European history - for which other nation in Europe can say that it has achieved the independence the league of Prizren set out to achieve a hundred years ago? Ramiz Alia: The Albanian League of Prizren - a Brilliant Page of our History Written in Blood.

Available from Bellman Bookshop, price 10p.

(cont. from page 1) Emu - The bird that will not fly

promised prosperity is not for the workers of Europe since the EEC has meant even greater unemployment, the wasteful creation of mountains of food and lakes of drink, and the catastrophic destruction of whole industries, like British steel and shipbuilding, to be followed by aerospace and others. It should be equally obvious to Labour critics of EEC that their objections remain completely ineffective as long as they are imprisoned in a capitalist political party which accepted

all these terrible implications for British workers when they plumped for membership of this European capitalist combine to begin with.

And now it is on to the Bonn summit where the European monetary union, Carter's promise to strengthen the dollar by an energy-saving programme at home and mutual agreements to curtail protectionism all pave the way for West Germany to assume the dominating capitalist role in Europe, flanked by the US and Japan. Thus the

capitalist powers meeting at Bonn, in the interests of world capitalism, would bring about what Hitler failed to do by military aggression.

Are the workers of Britain simply going to stand by and let it happen? The oldest and best organised working class in the world could wreck all these capitalist plans for shoring up their position in a period of general decline by taking Britain out of their club of decrepit exploiters and along the independent road to socialism!

WORKER LETTER

Dear Editor,

The latter part of July has always been reserved for Glasgow's Fair Fortnight, and this year's holiday is awaited with eager anticipation by Scottish workers and their families.

For some, however, the break will be seen as a brief respite from the struggle to halt the continuing cycle of factory closures and redundancy.

In common with industrial areas throughout Britain industry in Scotland is again under the severest attack.

To end the deliberate, systematic destruction of our industry and skills we need to begin building our mass resistance movement now. Is the coming winter to be as grim as it now looks?

Steelworks are being closed at a rate equal only to the rate at which they sprang up during the years of the industrial revolution. If we permit, Singer will celebrate 100 years on Clydeside by paying off in excess of 1000 workers, while at Sinwood the general consensus is that Chrysler have a burning ambition to end car production there.

We don't 'trust' the British

capitalist any more than we do the American. How can we when in their avaricious drive for profit they have so callously overfished the herring stocks in the sea so that a vital natural resource like fish now stands on the verge of exhaustion?

Can we entrust them with the job of exploiting that other natural resource of the sea bed - the oil? Won't they do with oil what they have done with herring - enrich themselves greatly and us not at all?

At least after ten weeks of organised struggle the bakery workers in the West have seen the first cracks appear in the employers' united front against them. We are encouraged to believe that their action is for nothing more than consolidation of the £6. But many of the leaders at plant level will have none of this. They point to the recent closures at Spillers and quite correctly argue that increased production with fewer jobs means greater exploitation of those kept on the pay roll.

This lesson could be well learned by the steel men of Glengarnock and elsewhere.

From a Glaswegian worker.

Workers demand rights

THERE has been a strike at John Harvey's, the bottlers of Bristol Cream Sherry, for the past seven weeks.

It is a dispute between J. Harvey's Management and ten AUEW maintenance fitters over the (non) recognition by the company of their union and for full negotiating rights.

It is not an inter-union dispute. The T&GWU workers in the factory are in agreement that the AUEW members should have negotiating rights, and a petition was signed by the large majority of the production workers who are members of the T&GWU to this effect.

The issue has gone to the TUC where Executive members of the AUEW and the T&GWU came to an agreed formula where the AUEW could have such rights. It was not everything the ten AUEW members wanted but it would have been a basis for resuming work. This agreed formula for the resumption of normal working was put to management by the local T&GWU full-time officials but was flatly turned down by the management after discussions lasting three

days. In fact the firm offered terms which were worse than the conditions under which they had been working before they came out on strike.

Following the shop stewards' quarterly meeting in Bristol where stewards pledged their support after hearing a report from the AUEW shop steward at Harvey's, a mass picket took place outside the gates of the factory. Many of the local firms were represented on the picket line including WD&HO Wills, Rolls Royce, British Commercial Vehicles and BAC, and many lorries were turned away from the gates.

The names of firms whose lorries crossed the picket line have been noted, and will be stopped from delivering to any factories where the AUEW is organised. The T&GWU members realise that if Harvey's get away with their attack against the AUEW then their own union will be the next in line of fire. The men on strike are determined to see this through and the growing support they are receiving in the Bristol District will sustain them in their resolve to win.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
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Liverpool bookstall - every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool
Hull Bookstall - Old Town Market, Saturdays 9.30-4.00

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