



UNITE TO FIGHT CUTS



The shape of things to come? When these teachers demonstrated against Margaret Thatcher's policies at the Department of Education in 1973 few would have imagined that the Thatcher Axe would have extended to the then Prime Minister Heath and with increasingly disastrous effects to the whole of British industry and society. At that time, Health, Welfare, Literacy and well nourished bodies were still looked on with favour and the cutting of school milk created an uproar. Today, nearly three million people in Britain live below the official poverty line. No worker is more than one wage packet away from a precarious existence and everyone's job is under threat. Cuts in small doses have not produced the wished for political indifference to the massive attacks now taking place. Workers are now fighting back with the understanding that the real British disease is capitalism.

As the engineering workers' strike enters its third month many companies have left the Engineering Employers' Federation and settled with the unions so that production can be continued.

GEC, the second largest company in the Federation has questioned the effectiveness of the employers' organisation of national negotiating procedure. There have been feverish denials that GEC is considering leaving the Federation. The employers have had to hold meetings with the clearing banks and financial institutions to explain why the blitzkrieg against the unions has become hopelessly bogged down.

Employers' fear

Those firms that leave have seen and are afraid of the politics involved in the EEF's opposition to the claim. These politics are that British trade unions must be smashed and that the engineering unions, particularly the AUEW, being the most experienced, must be smashed first.

Lockout fails

The EEF considered that the AUEW must be weak because of leadership changes. In their estimation the members were divided. How wrong they were. The very fact that they call for a national lock-out, Rolls Royce in the lead but none as yet following, is proof enough that they are suffering.

Non-interference?

The Government keeps saying, "We're not interfering." This non-interference of the Tories is like their fighting inflation by increasing it from 10 per cent to 17 per cent.

It is like the way they don't interfere with the hospital closures they have ordered or don't interfere with investment in British industry by encouraging the export of capital.

They also didn't interfere when they split the Post Office

down the middle and no doubt the cuts in maternity benefits and rights of mothers are not interfered with as they are axed.

We should remember the non-interference they applied in Spain before the war and at Munich.

Now Rolls Royce, run by the Government, has been so fierce and brave and applied a lock-out rather than interfere in the strike. One gets the feeling that if this Government carried on not interfering at this rate they'll be worn out by Christmas!

Wishful thinking

The hysteria in the more popular of the businessmen's press continues still. One columnist, having been to Australia recently and closely observed Thatcher's mentor, Frazer, was allowed half a page in a Sunday paper to indulge his fantasies. He exclaimed, "Into the jaws of defeat ride the strikers." His advice to Thatcher was: "Given a modicum of skill - which means having the patience and prudence to do and say nothing at all until the decisive moment - she (Thatcher) will be able to take the credit for the most significant trade union defeat since 1926." Wishful thinking indeed.

Destruction

At the same time as the EEF is trying so unsuccessfully to adopt this pose of strength and aloofness, a report from the Bank of England Bulletin shows how far skilled rates of pay have fallen in engineering. The report shows that the relation of skilled pay to the average has dropped from over 120 per cent in 1970 to about 110 per cent now. This erosion of reward for skills is destroying skills very rapidly. There were 42,000 redundancies in engineering last year and the EEF has announced it is preparing to ditch a further 6500.

There is no doubt among engineers that skill must be saved and that it must be paid for. The present national strike clearly shows that only workers have a vested interest in British industry.

Their gamble.

The employers are far more interested in shutting up shop and gambling for gold, than in production. Engineering really is a bit tiresome for the whizz kids of today. One has to invest in the long term and there are always years to wait for the new product to come to market. The destruction of engineering in Britain is an admission by capitalists that they are no longer capable of running anything more productive than a casino.

It is a sign of the decline of a class that has ruled Britain for 200 years. It is a signal to the working class that revolution cannot be forever delayed. We must seize the assets of our skills and organisation and save Britain from destruction.

Important

New Pamphlet

CONGRESS 1979

Discussion of the British
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p&p 40p.

**In this
issue**

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The Week

THE ITV dispute is in its seventh week and workers are set to reject the employers' latest offer. Now the advertising agencies are becoming increasingly vocal about their plummeting profits. They derive their income from commission paid on advertising revenue. As the large agencies concentrate on television advertising, the strike has meant that they are receiving no income from this area.

Nor will their problems be over when ITV resumes transmissions. Market forces reign supreme in this industry, and so the increased demand in the weeks before Christmas will mean that advertising time will be much more expensive. Even those advertisers who booked time months ago could fall victim to a form of legalised "gazumping", whereby a higher bid from a rival can secure the time.

No wonder that television workers are adamant that the companies are quite capable of meeting their claim in full.

8 MEMBERS of the National Union of Teachers recently took on the strength of County Hall and successive government education cuts in their fight to save jobs in their school. As a result of mobilising parents, teachers, the local community and their union, the staff of Newington Green Infant School heard on Tuesday that they had saved a teachers job and achieved one of the best pupil-teacher ratios in a primary school in Inner London.

AS NOTTINGHAM, amongst others, make firemen redundant, figures issued by the British Insurance Association showed that fires in Britain last month caused £30.2 million in damages, a 75 per cent increase over the same month last year.

THE TORY Government seems all set to buy the American Trident submarine-launched missile as a replacement for the ageing Polaris. To re-equip the present fleet of missile submarines will cost between £2200 million and £2900 million at today's prices. Perhaps this is where the money from education and health will be spent?

THE DEPARTMENT of the Environment is recommending some relaxation of the restrictions on dumping nuclear waste. Low-level waste, with an activity of less than one hundred thousandths of a micro curie per gram should be exempt from controls, they say, and the duty to accept radioactive wastes should be extended to all licensed operators of land fill tips. It is typical of capitalism that in an industry where the dangers of contamination are potentially high, that the disposal of waste should be open to even more abuse.

NATO- military and economic rape of Europe

NATO is an armed organisation, the capitalist class roots of which lie as much in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 as in the events of 1949 when NATO's existence was formalised: it is the armed organisation of capital against the working class in Europe.

Before the end of 1945 the US, through the Marshall Plan (a plan for the economic penetration of Europe), and the Truman doctrine (the US declaration of a world wide crusade against Communism), found itself in the position of having to buttress capitalist Europe against the movement of the working class to socialism which had made substantial progress during the war. It was not long before Truman had to admit that the Truman doctrine and the use of Marshall aid were indistinguishable one from the other and from the general aims of the US Government. As the contradictions in Europe became sharper with the

strength of the progressive forces in Europe, America was forced to move her policy of containing communism from the "periphery" (ie Indochina, China etc) to the heart of Europe, and a military organisation, embracing all the capitalist controlled countries including Germany (despite pretences that Germany would never be re-armed) with America and her Atom bomb at the head, was inevitable.

The US and Britain wanted a military organisation because they could predict only a dismal future for an unaided capitalist Europe. Firstly the economies of these countries were in a shambles. In addition, for example, Czechoslovakia had voted in a communist government in February 1948; the communists were growing stronger in Italy (where America used its armed forces and Marshall aid to pervert the results of the elections held in

1948) and Greece was in the throes of a violent national liberation struggle against the Greek ruling class and monarchy. Clearly the development of events detrimental to capitalism world wide necessitated a military organisation where the capitalist class could safeguard its interests.

When in 1947, at the Paris Conference, Molotov had condemned "the creation of a new organisation standing over and above the countries of Europe and interfering in their internal affairs down to determining the line of development of the main branches of industry in these countries" he was talking about the Marshall plan of which NATO was to become the military extension.

Marshall Aid was refused by Eastern European democracies and in the spring of 1948 the USA declared that its borders lay on the river Elbe. After years of "isolationism", the USA made a

military pact with France, Britain and the Benelux countries and broached the question of rearming Germany. The US also wished to include such countries as Canada, Portugal, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Italy. Obviously these countries could contribute little or nothing to ground defence, the US wishing their inclusion in the pact in order to use their territory for air and sea bases. The US was extending her borders and even talk of the Elbe was dropped. The Americans also entered negotiations with Francoist Spain to establish a military presence. Here they could hardly claim a Soviet threat as justification since geographically Spain and the USSR are far apart, US involvement in Spain should be seen as important in view of the possible advent of popular governments in France and Italy, the precedent having been set in the Spanish Civil War.

Kampuchea still desperate for aid to survive

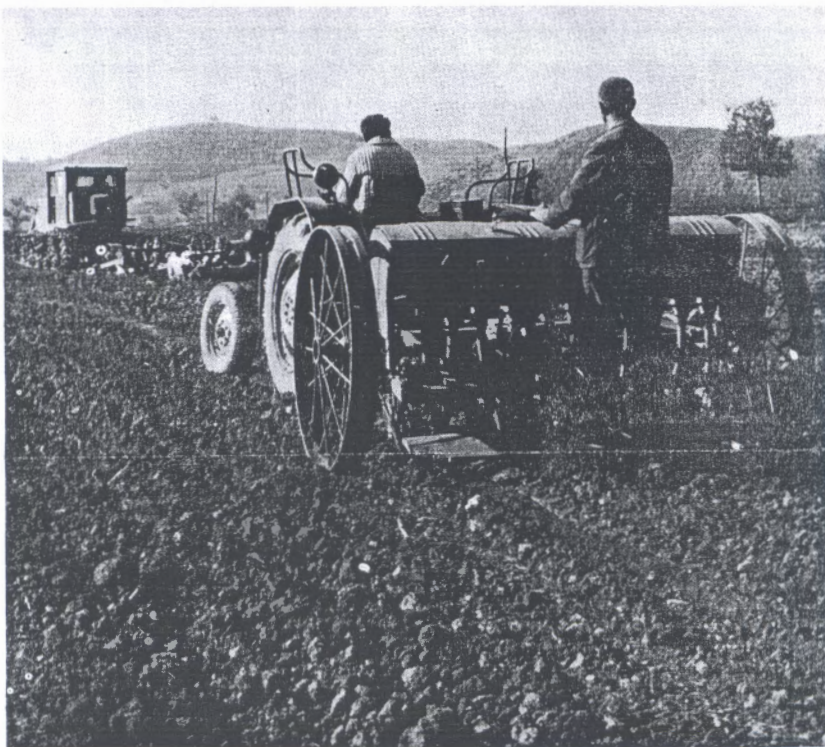
THE LIES that are shrouding the real situation in Kampuchea are made at the expense of the lives of millions of people. Those who are party to genocide would still have us believe that if it wasn't for "the aggressor", Vietnam, stopping aid, the International Red Cross and UNICEF could have sent in relief supplies to help the 5 million Kampuchean people that have so far survived the famine in which over 2 million have already died.

We are now told that the International Committee of the Red Cross has negotiated an agreement whereby they and UNICEF can go into Kampuchea with their representatives to distribute supplies.

Journalists now allowed into Kampuchea are coming back with a totally different story to that of the official line taken by the USA and its allies. One British journalist, reporting in The New Statesman, makes it clear that Vietnam, far from being "the aggressor", is the only country so far which is aiding the Kampuchean people in their plight. Vietnam has sent in supplies totalling 10,000 tons of rice seed, 20,000 tons of rice, 9,000 tons of fuel and 5,000 tons of consumer goods, such as condensed milk. And this, only up to August 1979. Further supplies have since been sent in.

The Vietnamese have also organised a scheme which 'twins' their provinces with provinces in Kampuchea. Under this scheme, each Vietnamese province sends to its 'twin' a percentage of its produce. This, from a country, that is still recovering from the ravages of twenty years of war waged by those same aggressors, the US and its allies, now joined by China, which are currently blocking aid to Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese and Kampuchean have said all along that relief can come without any conditions. In Phnom Penh the Vietnamese Ambassador stated: "We welcome all humanitarian aid. At present we have one grain of salt to share between two poor peoples (the Vietnamese and Kampuchean)." But in Britain the Tory government still recognises Pol Pot and has stopped all aid to Vietnam, currently Kampuchea's life line.



Socialist agriculture in Albania has no doubts where its priorities lie. Production is geared to meet the needs of the people and not to provide vast profits for a few.

EEC destroys our food industry

THE COMMON Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the cornerstone of the EEC - some 70 per cent of the European budget goes on agriculture. In 1973, Britain's year of entry, we contributed 167 million pounds to the EEC. In 1980 our contribution is expected to be well over a billion pounds. To this direct contribution, add what we pay in higher food prices - 317 millions in 1978. The working class pays for the EEC. In return we get less food, higher prices, fewer jobs and the destruction of British agriculture, the most efficient in the world.

The CAP is based on one guiding principle - the production of food for profit. Price fixing keeps the prices of EEC food artificially high and the supply of food artificially low. CAP depends not on the consumption of food, but on the storage and destruction of food. It guarantees higher prices (target prices) to producers, and promises to buy surpluses at a percentage of the target price (intervention price).

The effect is overproduction of commodities with the highest target price. These support prices are between 2 and 5 times higher than world market prices - wheat 2 times higher, sugar 2 1/2 times higher, butter 4 times higher.

During its first two years of membership in the EEC, Britain's food prices rose by 40 per cent. There is no escape from paying the price of food fixed by the EEC. When world market prices are lower than those of the EEC, a levy brings the price of the produce from outside countries up to the level of EEC prices. The only escape is to get Britain out of the EEC.

While our food gets dearer, the shape of the European landscape is changing. It is growing mountains of beef, butter, sugar and barley. In February 1979, the mountain of common wheat was one million fifty thousand tonnes, beef mountains 254,000 tonnes, butter mountains 250,000 tonnes - just a few of the so-called food

surpluses. Last year 201,000 tonnes of vegetables were destroyed or allowed to rot - the cost of this destruction, 16 million pounds. This is only a fraction of the cost of disposing of EEC food surpluses - estimated at 1860 million for 1978.

Sometimes the food is not destroyed but used as animal feed or dumped in non-EEC countries, a practice disastrous to the local farming population of those countries.

Britain could be self sufficient in food production, but the EEC is not concerned with the self sufficiency of individual nations - it is concerned with specialisation and dependency - ultimately to enhance profit.

Why do we have such huge mountains of food? What kind of a surplus is this? Food mountains grow not because we do not need more food, but because we can't afford to buy it. How can you describe an economic system that prefers to feed animals before its people?

Medway hospitals hit by more cuts

Editorial

IT IS ALL-OUT, gloves off, no holds barred, naked class war which this Government is waging against British workers. When Rolls Royce management responded to the engineers' two day a week strike with a complete lock-out, the Government backed them up by preventing the Department of Health and Social Security from making the usual arrangements for dealing with workers' claims for supplementary benefits for dependants. As the chairman of the Rolls Royce shop stewards said, "This is an attempt to starve workers back into the factories by depriving their wives and children of the benefits they are entitled to."

The Confederation of British Industry has been preparing to maintain high profits in the arena of collective bargaining, which the labour movement has restored, by calling for a radical change in their favour of the whole balance of industrial relations. They are planning to set up an insurance scheme to pool resources and protect individual firms from the financial impact of strikes. They are asking for workers to be rendered incapable of striking which, it is claimed, they can do because of pay rises in the past, because of wives' earnings and because of supplementary benefits for wives and children. The Government is only too glad to comply.

Prior has introduced proposals to make it possible to penalise workers for resorting to tribunals against advice, to exempt smaller firms from unfair dismissal provisions for the first two years, or from being obliged to take women on again when they have been off to have a child. On the assumption of the infinite mobility of labour the Manpower Services Commission has submitted a report to the Government on the "scandal" of the number of jobs available in the London area when so many are on the dole in the country at large. This fails to take into account things like the impossibility of finding housing in London and so forth.

Margaret Thatcher has just issued a warning that any demands for higher pay this winter will be met with rocketing unemployment. Our living standards, she illogically declared, have fallen because workers have become so obsessed with incomes, which is to get cause and effect completely turned round.

As the TUC General Secretary has said: "The Government's monetary policy and cuts in public services have undoubtedly changed for the worse the climate for collective bargaining; but workers are unlikely to be persuaded by choruses of fine speeches by Government ministers that they should accept a massive wage cut."

What this amounts to politically is an exposure of social democracy - the idea that gains can still be made, or gains of the past can be defended, by reforms within the capitalist system. Parliament, which is the field of social democracy, is irrelevant to the present struggle of the labour movement because nothing can happen in Parliament which will stop or even moderate the Government's vicious assault on our class. Our labour movement cannot delegate the struggle, either economic or political, to any other body than our own trade unions.

Attack on job protection

BRITAIN has one of the worst provisions in Europe for maternity leave, pay and job protection. Yet for the Tory Government it is not bad enough.

They propose that:

- Woman working in firms with fewer than 20 employees will no longer have the right to return after childbirth to their former job.
- When it is not "reasonably practical" for a woman to return to her old job she can be offered alternative employment. And if the job is so repugnant or badly paid, what then?

The aim of all these proposals, like the temporarily shelved idea of finishing the school day early, is to embark on a campaign to ban women from work.

Patrick Jenkin, Social Services Secretary (whose department was cruelly represented by the Tories themselves as a crippled child in their recent party political broadcast), has openly suggested women should stay at home rather than go out to work.

The attack on existing rights does not stop at women. Industrial tribunals are a notoriously unfair way of settling disputes between employer and employee in the employer's favour. Nevertheless, the Employment Secretary's new proposals are that employees who bring a case "unreasonably" against an

employer should be fined. The present minimum award for unfair dismissal is two weeks' pay - a derisory compensation for the loss of livelihood. This, they say, should go, so that a man may be adjudged unfairly dismissed and receive no compensation at all.

All this is bound up with a sinister drive to set up a new sector, the so-called small business, where worker's rights will be completely absent. It is in the smaller firms first that women would lose their right to return to employment. If a new firm is set up, it is proposed to allow it to trade for two years quite exempt from any form of unfair dismissal procedures.

As the Tory government brings forward its legislative proposals, so a clearer picture emerges of what they would like for Britain. A complete destruction of British industry and the break-up of the large centres of working class organisation, positive discrimination against child-rearing, the destruction of education to provide an illiterate workforce, of which no more than a fraction will work in the so-called "new technology" areas. Most, if they find employment at all, are to do so in what the ruling class hope will be disorganised, demoralised, Victorian sweatshops. So they hope, to rule a nation of slaves.

OVER four hundred people turned up recently to fill Chatham Town Hall in a protest meeting over the proposed cuts in health services in the area. Successive governments have spun the lie that funds should be diverted from the supposedly "wealthy" areas in inner London to the "underprivileged" areas such as Kent and the Medway. The blatant truth of their determined attack on all health care was shown yet again when within weeks of the Minister's suspension of the Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Area Health Authority, the announcement was made that the Medway Towns were to lose four wards and a hospital.

Not that the government was ignorant of the state of things in Medway. Successive Ministers of Health had been briefed for the last ten years and some had even visited Medway's hospitals. But again, the same advice: "Write to your MP, sign a petition to send to the Minister, or tell the Area Health Authority to

close hospitals elsewhere.

In fact, Kent is 25 per cent below the national average for hospital beds, and Medway is the worst part of Kent. The meeting was a lesson to local trade unionists not to invite the quacks of Westminster again, not to waste time but to get on with the job of stopping closures.

This crisis has been forced by Government demands that no District be overspent by the end of this financial year. So Medway has to make up £200,000 in the next six months. Since the Government failed to provide extra funds to pay for increased costs of fuel and supplies, VAT, and the wage rises justly won last winter, sick people in Medway will be dead people before the year is out.

The Area Health Authority stated only a year ago that Medway urgently needs more surgical wards, more psychiatric wards, more convalescent wards, and a new hospital at Sittingbourne. Now they are planning to close a

surgical ward, a psychiatric ward, a post-operative block, an orthopaedic ward, and Sittingbourne's only hospital.

The public was informed that waiting lists would rise to two years from one year at present, and that they would have nowhere to put patients admitted from the casualty and emergency centre. The two surgical wards in the Medway Hospital are always so short of space for emergency operations that patients have to be moved out to the orthopaedic ward, the post-operative block nearby, or to Sittingbourne, even to the medical wards, and discharged as soon as possible for home nursing. Now, these very wards used to take the overflow are the ones to be closed. And these same wards take the overflow from medical wards during 'flu and bronchitis epidemics (158 patients transferred during one winter).

In Sittingbourne, too, the people have been active, and the Trades Council has offered to organise a picket to prevent the closure from 1st November. The future existence of these wards and the lives of many people this winter will depend absolutely on the resistance of the local trade union branches, and especially the hospital workers themselves. It is excellent news that COHSE's national executive has promised occupations to prevent hospital closure.

LATEST...

N LONDON itself, the latest news of cuts is in the Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Area Health Authority, amounting to £6 million - including the closure of Putney General, Wimbledon General, St. Benedict's, Tooting, and Cumberland Hospital, as well as the children's neuro-surgical ward at Atkinson-Morley Hospital, the muscular dystrophy unit at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, the Belmont Children's Unit, a female surgical ward at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, and a residential home for disturbed adolescents at Sutton. Other cuts will be in administrative costs and health education. The first reaction of staff came at St. Benedict's, Tooting, where NUPE and COHSE staff walked out and held a demonstration.

Fighting Back

A Lewisham Campaign against the cuts has been mounted, supported by the Trades Council and has NUPE and COHSE members. A march organised by the Campaign was held on September 29th at Ladywell Fields.

Protests and industrial action at the Royal Free Hospital have marked the proposals for cuts in the area.

So... for the Government and for Capitalism there is no time to loose... the 'books must be balanced' at all costs - even the cost of human life. So urgent is the task that even the statutory right of the CHCs to be consulted about the cuts is being ignored. And for us the task is more urgent still, we must stop these cuts. We must fight at all levels to prevent the destruction of our health service which we fought for and won so dearly.

THEIR

WEALTH FROM HEALTH



TEACHERS REBEL

FACED with cuts of £2½ million this year (and much more to come) involving over 60 compulsory redundancies, Humber-side Division NUT has called on all its members to refuse to cover for unfilled vacancies and absent staff, given its Associations the go-ahead for half-day strikes and meetings, and sent to the National Executive a request for rolling strikes. This is a new tactic for English teachers (though used with some success already in Scotland) and may well be the drastic but flexible action necessary to fight compulsory redundancies which Humber-side is one of the first NUT Divisions to have to face.

Certainly teachers in Humber-side see themselves in a situation of all-out war. County education officers have banned the sending home of pupils due

to union action and are compiling lists of NUT members who obey their union's policy. Threats of docked salary and prosecution in the courts for breach of contract are being made. Headteachers who refuse to adjust timetables to absorb unfilled jobs are likely to be disciplined. The Authority, scared by the public outcry at its savage plans to destroy education (including the shutdown of all adult education and the axing of school crossing patrols) is attempting to intimidate teachers into submission. Humber-side NUT is determined to stand firm. At the same time as voting for action the Division has thrown back in disgust the employers' invitation to take part in discussions on how to make redundancies.

We will not be party to our own execution.

More laws against workers? **BOOK REVIEW War Poetry**

THE WORKING class and their organised trade unions have been insulted again at the latest conference of police superintendents.

As if to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Metropolitan Police Force, the conference decided to press for a new law on picketing because it was argued that present picketing is too "damned effective". Among the amazing suggestions from this body were these: informing the police of the intention to picket; limiting numbers; and

wearing arm-bands. Pickets would be arrested if these requirements were not met.

These far-reaching proposals even offended some of the delegates to the conference. Some speakers from the floor felt that confrontation with the unions would be the inevitable result.

It is becoming clearer by the day that any action by the working class is to be illegal if it is to be of any use. For centuries the laws on picketing have had this aim. These present proposals

are even worse. They hope to stop labour demanding its rights. They vainly hope the people of Britain will support them. The fact that the TUC represents 12 million people appears to have escaped their notice.

The TUC at this year's conference was unanimously against any further restriction of labour by law. In particular, opposition was voiced against the Special Patrol Group, a group formed for violent assaults against pickets.

COMPARE this by Siegfried Sassoon:

"If I were fierce, and bald and short of breath,
I'd live with scarlet majors at the Base,
And speed glum heroes up the line to death. . .

And when the war is done and youth stone dead,
I'd toddle safely home and die - in bed."

with this by Rupert Brooke:

"If I should die, think only this of me.
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England."

Alas, my generation of schoolgirls rose to the false heroics of the beautiful young man Brooke and his ersatz patriotism. The true poets understood what such a war was about, the destruction of hundreds of millions of human beings for the vanity or ambition of a 'leader', king or prime minister.

Now we have monsters declaring they are the expression of the people. Such wars are a quicker way of reducing unwanted population than starving the old, putting at risk the lives of babies, ignoring the sick. Today, the 'leaders' from the extreme 'right' to the extreme 'left' are pressing for a world war which should give them statues and honours and get rid of the awkward sections of the population.

Only the poets have written the truth about war:

"My son was killed while laughing at some jest, I would
I knew
What it was, and it might serve me in a time when jests
are few."

was from Rudyard Kipling. The greatest of the war poets, Wilfred Owen, wrote,

"What passing bells for those who die as cattle?
- Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid fire
Can patter out their hasty orisons."

Jon Silkin has done a service by collecting these poems. He also brings together the 'explanations' of the poets by people who lived. The poets need no 'explanations': they were for life not death, humanity not cruelty and the myths of glory, patriotism, bravery, necessity were not for them.

The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry
Edited by Job Silkin

£1.25 plus 20p postage and packing from:
Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW5

Police in action on picket line at Pilkingtons.



TUC letter on apartheid **PUBLIC MEETING**

THE FOLLOWING is the text of the letter sent by the Secretary to the TUC General Council of the Foreign Secretary.

"I wrote to you on September 5 to inform you of the total opposition expressed by our Congress to the proposed tour in the United Kingdom of a South African rugby team. This matter was considered again today by the General Council.

"The General Council have asked me to write to you again today to ask the Government, even at this late stage, to make further efforts to prevent the tour from taking place. To allow the tour to proceed will not only be a grave affront to the victims of the South African Government's apartheid policy, and to the public in this country and abroad, but may also jeopardise Britain's position in the international sporting community."

"The General Council also decided to advise affiliated unions that, if the tour goes ahead, they should consider how best they may limit the aid and assistance available to the tourists, and to urge trade union members to boycott any matches in which the tourists take part."

LAST FRIDAY saw the first in the autumn series of public meetings to be held in the Bellman Bookshop.

Entitled "Tories attack the young, the old and the infirm", the speaker presented a very detailed synopsis of the callous Tory attack. Not that the cuts affect these groups alone: one of the main features of the meeting was, as speaker after speaker pointed out from the floor, the sheer extent of the cuts, affecting everyone, everywhere

The audience was told that this was to be a very different meeting from those held to highlight the cutbacks presided over by a Labour Government. Then at least lip-service was still paid to the idea of retaining some sort of Health and Education system. Now, however, it is to be a fight for survival and for our dignity as a class.

Not that the working class shows much sign of bowing to the Tory attack. Union after union in the public sector, united as never before, are joined in opposition to the Government. It is not surprising then, said the speaker, that the Government should combine the attack on public expenditure with an

attack on the democratic basis of trade unions. They are under no illusions as to who their class enemy is - neither should we be.

One speaker pointed to the fact that in Greenwich all the unions working in local government are meeting together for the first time ever in response to the Tory attack. This is the sort of unity that is needed. After all, it is the concern of everyone, not just those workers who work in the services concerned, that the Health Service and Education System be saved from extinction. The working class must stand together: that is why it is important that the NUT should be organising to save the steel industry in Corby and why everyone must support the struggle of the engineers in their head-on fight with the EEF.

Already there are some notable victories. Lewisham and Haringey Councils have been forced, by organised opposition, to refuse to implement the Tory cuts. More councils will follow if the wave of protests continue. But we must take the battle further. . . All out opposition to the cuts must be the order of the day.

Public Meetings

Public Meetings in London will start at 7.30 pm

Fri Oct 12	Education attacked from nursery to college.	Conway Hall
Fri Oct 26	The Party of the British Working Class.	Bellman Bookshop
Fri Nov 9	Britain in the World Today.	Conway Hall
Fri Nov 23	Britain's Future, solely in the Working Class.	Bellman Bookshop
Fri Nov 30	Britain in the 80's, an Industrial Wasteland	Conway Hall
CROYDON		
Mon Oct 8	Discussion Group 8 pm	Federation House Elmwood Road

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
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