



NO! TO THE CUTS

'Who'll look after the kids?'

The working class has found a leader. One vote, and only one, was registered in opposition to the "Economic Review", a document of utter surrender to the Labour Government, presented to the General Council of the TUC on February 26th. The lone opposition to the Labour Government's attack on employment, wages, education, health, housing was declared by Reg Birch of the AUEW and Chairman of the CPB (ML).

In a shameful display, all other members of the General Council endorsed the "Economic Review". The vote had come only a few days after a Government White Paper had announced cuts of £5000million in public spending.

Endorsing Unemployment

The "generals" of the General Council came from far and wide amongst the working class and arrived with reputations of "Left" and "militant" and "communist" and "moderate". But despite some early bravado, by the end of the day these phonies had all turned to endorse 1½ million unemployed and the emasculation of a country.

Many "leaders" were quick to boast, "None of my members will be made redundant". Perhaps so, but what of those yet to enter a job. Can the working class be allowed to gradually die off and then there will be none?

Keeping the Labour Government

Others talked of "enemies of the working class". Keep this Labour Government, they bleated, and unemployment will be kept below the 2 million mark. But what's the big difference between one million and two million unemployed? And when the figure finally lurches convulsively past the 2 million mark will we then be urged to keep a Labour Government to keep it below 3 million? The position is ludicrous. Again, the whole working class can be gradually eaten up. The Labour Government has declared itself for unemployment. Are we agreed or not?

Approving Illiteracy

The most abject posture was adopted by the representative of the teachers, supposedly a "spokesman for education". The "Economic Review" gave the stamp of approval to the reappearance of rickets and illiteracy. And the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers gave his stamp of approval to the "Economic Review". Will the ranks from whence he came allow him to return peaceably?

True Voice of the Working Class

The decision of the General Council, an inconsequential body, is of little moment. The scandal is that the working class can send such representatives to speak on their behalf and accept such a decision in their name.

What is good is that there has now clearly emerged from the Labour movement the true voice and conscience of the class. Every worker can point to the vote against the "Economic Review" and say, "That is my stand, too".



Over 30,000 students marched in a two mile column through London, demanding no cuts. For the first time ever the NUT gave unstinting support. It was reported in the press that the Government wanted to stop students claiming any form of supplementary benefit at any time but did not push the point since they feared a long controversy. This massive demonstration showed that when the working class are united in action they are a fearsome sight indeed to the capitalist class. It is now up to the NUT and NUS at their forthcoming conference to increase their vigilance and militancy against the expenditure cuts which threaten the future of the British working class.

HEALEY'S SAVAGE CUTS

What kind of society decrees that its working people have no right to employment, homes, education, health? Capitalism in Britain has decreed exactly this barbarity.

On February 19th Healey delivered the White Paper on proposed reductions in Government spending for 1977-78. The proposals are savage. They will slash education by £618m, housing by £365m, roads and transport by £506m, health by £152m, nationalised industry by £324m, food and agriculture by £205m.

In education this means specifically an abandoning of nursery schools, a monstrous reduction in further education, an increase in the cost of school meals by a third, and virtually no more research. For the health service this means existing services will be further reduced, and only the "needy" will have the chance of new hospitals - who "needs" a hospital more than another when

he is sick? The transport cuts means a massive decrease in local road-building and maintenance, and public transport will suffer badly. Just to make us feel more secure, the Government proposed an increase of £39m in Social Security. This is simply a promise of unemployment and poverty to come.

These proposals were announced shortly after that of a "Price Check" system which purports to be a curb on prices while actually being a guarantee that certain prices will rise 10 per cent over a year. In the same week came a "promise" of tax concessions if we will accept further wage cuts - Healey calls them wage restraint. These are all part of the pretence by the Government that the crisis is an economic one, to be "solved" by economic measures. It is not economic, it is political, as they know - a question of their political domination

in fascism or our working class dictatorship in socialism.

This White Paper confirms the Government's long-term strategy of destruction of our class. This is not the butcher's knife but the executioner's axe. The proposed cuts are for 1977-78, while now at the start of 1976 we are asked to accept cuts for the sake of the future. What future? Clearly they have none in mind for us.

For them the time is opportune for a fresh wave of attack. We are now told officially that our standard of living has dropped by 5½ per cent over the past year as a result of the £6 limit, although we know this is an underestimation. We have accepted the £6 limit, and failed to challenge previous cuts as we should have done. Even though we have fought and won in individual sectors, this was not enough. This attack is more vicious than before, and there will be worse to come if we fail to resist.

NO TO THE CUTS

Who Will Speak for Education ?

The Government White Paper on Public Expenditure has produced the most dramatic change in fortunes that education has had to face since the Geddes axe. The cuts were immediately described as "catastrophic" by the General Secretary of the NUT who said, speaking of the previous cuts, in his executive committee, that he would expect the Economic Review of the TUC to urge their restoration and if it did not he would argue the matter in the General Council. Instead the Economic Review gave "wholehearted support" to the Government, and this when the General Council was considering the most recent cuts. Why was it left to an engineer on that council, singlehandedly, to defend education, while the General Secretary of the NUT remained silent?

From every school in the land, from every association and division in the NUT there

must now come a storm of protest. Support has been given in our name for the cuts. This support will stand unless it be repudiated. The erosion of democracy, for Union Conference has registered opposition to education cuts, in a democratic organisation is primarily the responsibility of the membership. It is never enough for them to blame 'leaders'.

For all who work in

Britain there are now only two roads. One is to revolution. The other is to hell. This road is paved with the 'good' intentions of an inadequate response to the attack of successive governments.

"There is a willingness to accept some cuts so long as certain areas remain intact. The most vociferous protest has only come when jobs are

threatened. . . . Some say that to oppose all cuts is "divisive" and opposition should be confined to the most outlandish. They are like those who peel an onion layer by layer whilst claiming to protect its essential core - soon there will be none left!" (For Education - A Revolutionary Struggle - CPB(ML) Pamphlet)

Kent Marches Against Cuts

Last year the Canterbury and District Trades Council established a Steering Committee against Public Expenditure Cuts. This Steering Committee called a demonstration for Saturday, February 14th, the weekend before the County Council's budget meeting, against the cuts which threaten everything the working class has ever fought for.

One hundred and fifty workers marched through Maidstone, to a sympathetic reaction from those on the pavements. Workers from NALGO, NUT, NUR, ASLEF, NUS and NUPE, together with members of the Council for Educational Advance, attended the demonstration and rally. This demonstration is just a beginning.

Leicestershire Teachers' Sanctions

Teachers in 30 schools in Leicestershire are applying sanctions in opposition to education cuts and the decline in staffing standards. The teachers, fully supported by the NUT, are refusing to stand in for colleagues who are absent for more than three days, nor will they cover for unfilled posts.

Leicestershire County Council has decided to leave 250 teaching posts unfilled and

nearly all of the county's 88 secondary schools will each stand to lose 2 teachers from their staffs.

Surrey teachers are likely to emulate their Leicestershire colleagues. Surrey County Council has decided upon cuts of £2 million in the education budget and this will mean, in particular, closure of Surrey's remedial centres, and poorer staffing standards in schools.

Editorial

No to the Cuts

In a capitalist society like ours the government can only be the executive power of capitalism.

In this present crisis, unlike previous ones, not even lip service has been paid to equality of sacrifice over the whole of society, that excess profits should be taxed, debt charges scaled down or sumptuary laws imposed on conspicuous private expenditure.

From the start it has been made perfectly clear that the crisis is about the threat to profits represented by an organised working class and that the only salvation of the capitalist system is in ending that threat by whatever means necessary.

The social contract has never been anything but the working class's acquiescence in having its standard of living severely cut in the interests of higher profits for capitalists. "Humble yourselves," the capitalists said through their servants in the Labour Government: "give up what you have won for yourselves by your organised strength and we may consent to invest in your country again. We may put our money back into British industry - unless, of course, investment possibilities elsewhere should still seem more lucrative." The social contract is nothing but the working class's obeisance to capitalism.

The recently announced cuts in public expenditure, slashing education, health and the social services, are simply the latest instalment of the consequences of the working class's agreeing, by default of active opposition, to this social contract. Nor will that be the end of it. Plans are already afoot for a more severe restriction in wages when the £6 limit runs out. As soon as the cuts in public expenditure already announced have bitten deep into our social existence, new cuts will inevitably follow until the whole fabric of the welfare state lies about us in ruins.

This degradation of our class, this depression of our standard of living, will end only in complete fascist enslavement unless we force on the class enemy our active resistance. And that resistance can only be successful as we come to realise that just as capitalism's only salvation is our destruction, so our only salvation is the destruction of capitalism - its revolutionary overthrow and replacement by socialism.

Our whole class is under attack: our whole class has to resist on that sound proletarian principle that an attack on any section of our class is an attack on all. Attacks on our class as producers, by cuts in wages and loss of jobs, or as consumers, by cuts in housing, health and education, must all be met by the deployment of our united force in an active defence which is a revolutionary offensive.

In the TUC General Council when it came to a vote on Healey's cuts only one voice was raised in uncompromising rejection - the one Marxist-Leninist member of the General Council. That action by the Chairman of the CPB(ML) is the leadership which the working class must appreciate as the standard around which it can rally in the great movement to roll back the capitalist counter-revolution.

Housing for the Many or Profits for the Few

Only under capitalism do you have the paradox of a steadily worsening housing situation in spite of huge outlays of public money. This is because the largest proportion of housing costs, 70 per cent of current local authority expenditure on housing, does not go to the building of houses at all but to debt charges - that is, to capitalist profit. Indeed, if all new building of houses stopped completely tomorrow, this burden of debt charges, because of re-financing, would go on increasing indefinitely.

This is the nature of the capitalist system generally. All those aid schemes to developing countries like the Colombo Plan, long ago founded completely under the rise of interest rates on loans, the same debt charges that rob people of new houses here in Britain even while they have to pay more in taxes to go on providing profits on houses which have fallen into disrepair and are hardly habitable.

This is the background to the war the Housing Minister has declared on Council tenants in London by endorsing the decision of the Westminster Council to raise

rents by a maximum of £3 per week in April. The extent of this attack on living standards can be appreciated since one third of the people of London are council tenants.

A demonstration is being organised by the Association of London Housing Estates for March 27th to denounce these rent increases coming on top of heating, lighting, transport and other increases.

In a letter to the Minister of Housing the Organising Secretary of the ALHE points out: "It is no answer for you to argue that tenants who have difficulty in meeting these increases can make use of the Rent Rebate Schemes. Our members recall your determined stand against 'means testing' during the struggle against the Housing Finance Act when Anthony Crosland described 'means testing on so vast a scale as an appalling reversion to Victorian ideas of pauperism (which) will deeply embitter millions of tenants whom the Government are forcing to apply for rebates and to submit themselves to means tests.' Now (that Labour is in power) the boot is on the other foot."



British Achievements - the Seahorse

One of the effects of capitalism's crisis is that fewer goods are travelling on the high seas. While this has had a devastating effect on shipbuilding worldwide - a 20 per cent cut-back in tonnage launched - for Britain it is the pretext upon which the government will obliterate much of what little remains of shipbuilding. Even in 1955 Britain produced over a quarter of new tonnage launched in the world. By 1973 it was less than 4 per cent - employment in the industry fell from 130,000 in 1955 to 69,000 today. Orders for new ships in 1975 were down to 87,000 tons compared with 863,000 tons in 1974.



In Doford engines over the years. It gives mechanical balance, so necessary in view of the huge re-ciprocating masses involved.

As shipbuilding has been destroyed, so has marine engineering. This industry builds the massive diesel engines which drive cargo ships and tankers. In 1960 there were eighteen builders of marine engines, now there are only seven. Nicknamed 'cathedrals' because of their size, these engines evoke a sense of the sheer physical grandeur of great engineering. They symbolize the skill and ingenuity of our class.

Sea Horse is an attempt to develop the old idea of the slow-speed marine engine, for medium speed use; to give higher outputs from fewer cylinders at higher rpm from lower grade fuel oils, thus allowing for smaller engine compartments in ships and more cargo space, etc.

Doxford's of Sunderland, Britain's only indigenous slow-speed diesel builder (other factories manufacture foreign designs under licence) have developed a new engine in conjunction with Hawthorn Leslie of Newcastle. It is called the Sea Horse. It completed its main running trials in 1975, but has not yet been installed in a ship. It is an ingenious turbo-charged two-stroke diesel design with opposed pistons in a common cylinder connected to a common crankshaft. This is a well-proven principle which has been embodied

The great achievement of Sea Horse is that it has succeeded in achieving much greater fuel economy from low-grade fuels. This is of significance for the shipping barons since the 'oil crisis'. Higher fuel costs for steam power have given a new lease of life to the slow-speed diesel which previously was thought to be becoming obsolete in favour of steam turbines. Now the position is reversed and diesels must operate efficiently on poor fuels.

In turn, however, poor fuels mean greater piston wear and higher maintenance costs. 'Brutal' ship owners want an op-

erating life from an engine in which the piston slides up and down the cylinder wall for a total distance equal to 15 times round the equator! Research and development workers at Pallion, Sunderland have made advances here too, by developing a piston ring design which gives maximum lubrication with minimum wear.

Despite all these technical advances, the whole Sea Horse project may be threatened by the axe which the new nationalised industry management will wield throughout Britain's marine industries. The Financial Times (5/2/78) estimated that up to 10,000 will be sacked this year, and another 20,000 by early 1980.

The greatest recession in new ship orders is amongst the vast carriers (principally tankers) for which the Sea Horse has greatest application. These vessels are highly profitable for their owners when full; half full they run at a loss and many are now lying idle throughout the world.

Will the Sea Horse ever go to sea? British shipowners are fast deserting British shipbuilding and are placing orders elsewhere. Over the past five years orders for British owners averaged 3.7 million tons per year, 37 per cent of which were placed at home. Last year the figure was 350,000 tons, only 38,500 of which were placed in British yards (i.e. 11 per cent).

Sea Horse, like all marine industry in Britain will not be smashed. The struggle for shipbuilding is part of the class struggle for the industrial future of Britain - for the skills upon which that future depends.

NALGO- the Way Forward

On 19th February, on the same evening that the capitalist press was bedecked with banner headlines announcing Healey's plans for cuts in 'public spending' the Metropolitan District Council of NALGO met to discuss motions for this year's Annual Conference.

Significantly the major item on the agenda, a motion put forward in the name of the whole Council (as opposed to individual branch motions) called for an end to this union's involvement in the social contract, resolving to withdraw support from any wage restraint policy and also calling for NALGO to table a motion at the 1976 TUC 'calling for an end to co-operation with Government policy'. The members of the council, representing London's 80,000 NALGO members voted overwhelmingly in support of this motion.

After a year chequered with many brave local struggles in defence of services and jobs, but also too many compromises, jobs were allowed to disappear through 'natural wastage' despite a union policy of accepting no cuts of any kind in jobs or ser-

vices. The shameful spectacle of NALGO's General Secretary seconding Jones's betrayal of the working class at last year's TUC and the responsibility which all members must bear for allowing such a betrayal to be carried through, still hangs over us.

Yet now there are the seeds of a growing realisation that unless we take up an active defence of all public services for which our class has fought, unless we fight for the right of all our members to work until they are ready to retire, at the same time having jobs to offer the rising generation, unless we struggle against work overloading, dilution and deskilling, we and the services we work in will be decimated.

Passing motions in our unions is a small but important first step. For them to be really effective all active class conscious members must take the struggle back to their branches at every step of the way. Policies to be properly carried through have to be known and understood by the mass of the membership. Without this understanding and the participation it involves we cannot truly advance.

We must advance.

Danger to Civil Service Unions

The internal attack on our class organisations, the trade unions, is developing more and more facets. One of the latest ideas to arise is that amalgamating unions automatically creates a larger (and therefore better?) fighting force against the increasing ruling class attack on our class.

The latest unions that are suffering such internal problems are the Civil and Public Servants Association (CPSA) and the Society of Civil Servants (SCS), two of the largest of the Civil Service unions. Recently a joint statement has been issued, purporting to be a 'discussion paper' from a joint working party outlining the benefits of such an amalgamation, but in fact being virtually a blue print for such. The main benefit the statement presented in its case was the ensuing reduction in administrative costs!

There are, however, other reasons being presented for amalgamation. The social democrats think that the increase in size will be a good

thing in itself. They forget though, that the size of a union alone has never been the factor determining the extent to which a union looks after the interests of its members.

So-called militants amongst this section of our class believe that amalgamating the CPSA and the SCS will lead to a 'percolation of militancy' (their militancy!) through the ranks of the 'poor reactionary' SCS! They forget (or more probably never learnt) that the existing organisations are a reflection of what sort of organisation the mass of the membership feel they need and cannot be imposed, and that changing the organisation doesn't necessarily bring about a change in thinking. Moreover, the SCS has been one of the few unions to oppose the £6 limit, and is striving to declare a firm opposition to cuts in public spending. This proposed amalgamation will cause weakness because it would be made in weakness, which is just the sort of thing the ruling class wants.

De-skilling the Working Class

The Association of Patternmakers and Allied Craftsmen carried out a survey between 1972 and 1974, concerning members who resigned during that period. This was part of an investigation by the National Economic Development Office into the shortage of skilled engineers generally.

34 per cent left the industry over poor prospects and insecurity, 20 per cent left over low pay, 31 per cent over no work available, 7 per cent over bad working conditions and 24 per cent for other reasons.

The report says a disturbing feature of the patternmakers study is that around half the workers took new jobs where their skills and apprenticeships were totally wasted. The jobs that they had gone into were mobile bread salesmen, gardeners, musicians and entertainers, farm labourers, clerks, laundrymen, postmen. One man said he solved his boring

conditions by leaving to read gas meters, another said he has overcome insufficient job satisfaction by becoming a prison warden.

Among the conclusions that have emerged in the report is that earnings of skilled workers have declined relative to unskilled since 1967. The percentage for skilled workers is now lower than it has been at any time in the last 20 years.

Other men made very apt comments. One said that having been made redundant three times in 10 years he had to take other work. Another said selling car parts made him £60 per week, patternmaking £34 per week, and yet another said he had found better prospects and money working in Woolworths.

Shortage of skilled engineers, says the report has been a major factor behind the failure of British industry to capitalise fully on the last two industrial booms.

Teacher Training Cuts

Long before the present Labour Government's devastating education cuts, teacher training colleges had been feeling the edge of the knife. In 1971 the James report outlined plans for college reorganisation that involved a small cut in the number of future teachers. This was followed, in 1972, by Margaret Thatcher's White Paper, absurdly called 'A framework for expansion'. The paper 'expanded' down the target for trained teachers by 1981 from 528,000 to 510,000. In 1973 Barber announced a cut in education and library budgets of £183 million. This trend continued throughout 1974 and in the December of 1975 the Government stated its intention to cut education budgets by £500 million.

Outright Closure

In a pathetic attempt to justify the vicious cutbacks, the DES issued its infamous figures in March 1975. They stated that, as a result of a falling birthrate, schools would need only 60,000 extra teachers by 1981 instead of the predicted 114,000. They concluded, therefore, that 30 teacher training colleges would have to be closed. In London alone 6 colleges have already, or will be closed - Furedown, Maria Assumpta, All Saint's College, Colonia, Avery Hill Annex, Brentwood Southend Annex. In all, this means a loss of at least 1,500 student places. If college reorganisation, or mergers, had been carried out in

a thorough way as approved of by the NUS this would have meant an improvement for many teachers training colleges. It would have put an end to the montechines, the rather narrow institutions solely devoted to teacher training. It would have established large colleges catering not only for teacher training but also for many other faculties, achieving an overall higher academic standard as a result of more resources and a wider choice of subjects. But reorganisation has been rushed through in a climate of diminished finances and facilities, making any really effective changes impossible.

Economic saving and administrative convenience has completely overridden the crucial considerations of educational standards. The large number of London colleges merging with polytechnics and university colleges have had practically no say in the final decision of re-organisations. The real meaning of mergers means a huge cut in student numbers and a decline in educational standards as a result of poor resources and worsened staff-student ratios. The present number of teacher training students in London is about 20,000. This figure will be halved by 1981, many colleges achieving their reduced targets much sooner. The individual student unions involved are in danger of becoming weaker through hurried merger-negotiations and becoming annexed into large multi-site colleges.

The Fight to Save Trawling

Humber Saint Andrews Engineering, the Hull ship repair and maintenance firm, is to close down. This means 300 workers, mainly skilled trawler engineers, will join the 120 made redundant last year.

The parent company, British United Trawlers, says it has plans for another of its subsidiaries, Hellyer Bros., to set up a new firm, Hellyer Associated, to continue ship repair and maintenance. This stratagem appeals to the employers in a number of ways. For one thing, only 270 men will be re-employed. More important, against a background of severe unemployment in Humber-side shipbuilding, the bosses' manoeuvre is an attempt to undermine the security of those in a job, and destroy the union organisation built up over the years at Humber St. Andrews.

The unions (AUEW and GMWU) are utterly opposed to the closure plans which would mean the continued destruction of shipbuilding skills on Humber-side and give further impetus to the decline of the trawling industry. This is why why opposition in words must be translated into opposition by action.

The workers at Humber St. Andrews are in a position to deal a counterblow at the decline of marine engineering and trawling, of the area, and of Britain. They must also give a jolt to the opposition to the slow murder of Drypool, and the proposed redundancies at CD Holmes.

MOSCOW MEETING

In the disarray of voices at the Twenty-Fifth Congress in Moscow where representatives of many so-called 'communist parties' have heard Brezhnev boast about the extension of Russian imperialism and cover up the failures of the Russian economy at home there is one voice that has not been heard - the voice of Marxism-Leninism the voice of the working class in its conscious rejection of capitalism and all forms of exploitation.

Such a Congress cannot but remind socialists of such shameful events in the past as the Twentieth Party Congress in Moscow when the renegade Khrushchev heaped obloquy on the great revolutionary leader, Stalin, in the futile attempt to bury Marxism along with the bones of Stalin which were thrust into a relatively unmarked grave.

Socialists also remember another Moscow conference, 'the meeting of 81 communist and workers' parties in 1960', when Albania's great revolutionary leader, Enver Hoxha, with the support of Chinese comrades exposed the anti-working class nature of revisionism which was restoring capitalism in the USSR as the base for a Russian imperialism; every bit as aggressive and reactionary as anything in the days of the Czars.

Recently published in Albania the 19th Volume of the Collected Works of Enver Hoxha gives not only this great speech unmasking the revisionist splitters of the world communist movement but also all the fascinating behind-the-scenes activity of that Conference. Most of the material is also available in the November-December 1975 issue of Albania Today (which can be obtained from the Bellman Bookshop).

Enver Hoxha's speech was rightly described at the time as 'an everlasting monument in the history of the international communist movement, an exceptional contribution of the Party of Labour of Albania and Comrade Enver Hoxha to the defence of the purity of Marxism-Leninism on a world scale.'

What Enver Hoxha said then, in courageous defiance of that assembly of revisionists presided over by Khrushchev, remains true now that the Soviet Union has utterly abandoned the road of socialism and taken its place alongside the United States as a sharer of and competitor for world hegemony.

'Imperialism', Enver Hoxha said, and it applies equally to the US or to the USSR, 'has changed neither its skin nor its nature. It is aggressive, it will be aggressive while even a single tooth remains in its mouth... Therefore we continue to insist that it must be made clear to the peoples that there can be no absolute guarantee that there will be no world war until socialism has triumphed over the greater part of the world...'

'We should further promote class struggle in capitalist countries as well as the national liberation movement of the peoples of colonial and dependent countries. The labouring masses of the world, led by the working class and guided by the communist party, should make life impossible for imperialism, crush its fighting and economic potential and proceed to the destruction of the old power and the establishment of the new power of the people.'

That is the world context of our struggle against the ruling capitalist class here in Britain. And in connection with that struggle Enver Hoxha reminded us in his 1960 speech that because of the vicious greed of the exploiting class 'no people, no proletariat, no communist or workers' party has ever assumed power without bloodshed, without violence...'

He also referred to the bargain between Khrushchev and Eisenhower at the Camp David talks intended to deprive China of the atom bomb. 'We think China should have it... and then we shall see whether the US imperialists (and now the Russian imperialists too) will dare to brandish their weapons... We Marxist-Leninists will never attack first with the bomb we are opposed to war; we are ready to destroy all such bombs; but we must have it meanwhile for defensive purposes...'

'The imperialists and their agents accuse China and Albania of being warlike and opposed to peaceful co-existence. Why? Because we do not open our borders for them to come onto our land and graze freely. The time has gone forever when the territory of Albania could be treated as a medium of exchange between the great powers...'

That speech was made over 15 years ago but its great message is as true today as it was then - that only in predominantly socialist world will there be peace, that the surest way to prevent world war by the imperialists is to wage revolutionary war against the imperialists, that any country no matter how small can defend itself from the imperialists or their agents by its organisational and ideological readiness to wage peoples' war. That is what keeps Albania free to build its own socialist society. That is what threw the US out of Vietnam.

Rationalisation

Trade Unions in the shipbuilding and aircraft industries have begun a series of meetings with Government ministers over the shape of worker participation in those industries when they are rationalised.

Redundancies have already been announced by BAC. They want to sack 1200 workers between now and May.

In shipbuilding the chief executive-designate of British Shipbuilders (hatchet man would be a more appropriate title) said 'Employment levels are far too high at 60,000 workers and will have to come down.' So much for rationalisation.

Trade unions in the shipbuilding and aircraft industry would be far better off having meetings of all workers in those industries to determine how they are going to fight redundancy now.

Public Meetings

The series of public meetings being held in London deals with the theme: WE MADE BRITAIN: WE MUST SAVE IT. The meetings are held on consecutive Fridays, at 7.30 pm at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, Tufnell Park, NW6 (Tufnell Park tube). You are warmly invited to attend. Titles of the meetings are as follows:

- March 12th - What is working class philosophy?
- March 19th - On defence and attack
- March 26th - The way forward to win
- April 2nd - 60 years after the Easter Rising

Bristol Mainroad Books

April 3rd, 3 p.m. - "Fight the Destruction of Aero-Space - Save Britain from Capitalism."

Liverpool October Books

March 10th - One Man's China, Part 1: Felix Greene's great film One Man's China, Part 2.

FROM CHINA

Cards, Papercuts, Posters, Scrolls.

Obtainable from:

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW5.
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St Philips, Bristol 2.
October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool.
The Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, off Great George Street, Leeds.

China's Energy

The Chinese are happily once again out of step with Western gloom, for last year saw once again a 20 per cent increase in the production of oil.

The Chinese people's confidence in never-ending world energy resources goes deeper than her oil and coal reserves. It is based on a dialectical view of history which firmly believes in progress. They believe that in addition to existing resources, new energies will be discovered to serve the people. Mankind is great and his energies of a human, as well as a material nature are inexhaustible.

The Chinese do not deny the problems of pollution, energy wastage and nuclear power but are rightly convinced that while these problems are maximized under capitalism, they can be kept under control by a socialist society. In addition China is optimistic because the world's resources are forever being newly discovered whilst others, solar energy and deuterium (heavy hydrogen) are almost unused. Due to human progress these will be developed as man moved from burning wood to using nuclear power.

This confident outlook has enabled China's production of oil to leap from 20 million tons in 1970 to an expected 200 million tons by 1980. Her railways have expanded to assist oil production and China now exports oil to Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and the Philippines.

Railroading the Cuts

The Government's tactics in running down British Rail is the same as that used against the postal services - hike fares to the point that few people can afford to ride on the trains then cut the number of trains on the grounds that people are not using them.

The Environment Secretary has said that British Rail must raise productivity and not look to the tax-payer for help. In the



present climate there are 'no soft options' he told the Labour Party's Parliamentary Transport Committee.

What everybody has carefully forgotten to spell out is how much is still being paid to former shareholders in compensation. Since the railways were nationalised and what a pig in a poke was bought in terms of worn out obsolete stock - to say nothing of the enormous cost of going from steam to diesel and then to electrification, with all the profits of that exercise going to Metropolitan Vickers and the Brush Co., and the running down of British Railway Workshops. All those working in those workshops at the time knew that the obvious thing was to go straight from steam to electrification.

When Croxland says that 'everywhere the search is for higher productivity and greater efficiency on which our economic survival depends' all he means is that more sackings in British Rail are on the way.

The NUR Executive has decided to reject a call for a one day strike over the increases in fares and the planned cuts and have decided instead to ask other rail unions to join them in an approach to the Prime Minister. This is like going to an arsonist when your house is on fire.

ASLEF have done no better, refusing to commit themselves industrial action in their campaign against fare increases and service cuts.

Meanwhile Southern Region train drivers are asking bookshop office staff not to implement the increased fares of up to 17½ per cent due to start on March 28. Many commuters will have to change their minds about drive who are taking the line that 'if increased fares will drive away passengers then we have to prevent such increases.'

Slashing Steel

While Sir Monty Finniston was trying to gloss over the great rift which exists between management and workers as he inaugurated the new blast furnace at Llanwern, workers at Port Talbot were voting to reject all forms of redundancy suggested by the BSC. This decision was taken at an aggregate meeting of AUEW members employed at the Port Talbot works.

In South Wales the BSC is determined to end steel produc-

tion at Ebbw Vale and Cardiff and although it wishes to step up production at Llanwern and Port Talbot, it wants to do so with fewer workers. This has been rejected at Port Talbot.

At a time when demand for steel in Britain is no longer met by home production and foreign steel has to be brought in the Government wants to close down more plants producing this vital commodity.

Britain could be self-sufficient in steel but this does not suit Brussels which has ordered the run-down of our industry. Ever obedient, the Government, unless it is prevented, will carry out these orders to the detriment of our people.

Steel-making requires a high level of technical skill - skill which we need to preserve for a socialist Britain. We need to preserve the steel-making skills of our plane makers, another industry threatened by the Government.

On top of this there is the human misery which will inevitably result if the Government policy is implemented. Unemployment in South Wales is high. There are no real alternatives to jobs in steel for workers in Ebbw Vale and Port Talbot. The prospect for those thrown out of work is one of years on the dole - a prospect which becomes bleaker once the pittance received as redundancy payments runs out.

Capitalist Corruption

The current spate of 'amazing' revelations of bribery by US corporations should surprise no-one, for capitalism itself is totally corrupt. It has 'solved' philosophical questions which have puzzled wise men for centuries by reducing standards of morality to the chatter of a cash register. All the latest revelations do is to confirm this trend, and show that, as capitalism declines, the corruption and decadence increases. If nothing else, the extent of the bribery - involving in the US alone at least 50 companies who have admitted 'malpractice' involving amounts in excess of \$350 million - proves once and for all that this is the rule, not the exception.

Now the Lockheed Corporation of America is being pilloried by the world. Its top executives have been forced to resign - their crime was being found out. It is ironic that bribery should be held against the instead of the fact that the product sold to European air forces - the Starfighter Jet - has notched up over 100 crashes in the West German air force alone without ever having engaged in actual military conflict. With a performance record like that, how else do you sell something?