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EDITORIAL

This new 'Workers Notebook' is being launched at a time of great difficulty for our class. Unemployment rapidly approaches 2 million.... Inflation spirals in spite of all the many 'promises' that it is under control.... The pound in our pocket buys less and less.... We see factory closures, housing projects disappearing, and increasing cuts in health, education, and social services.... And these problems are not peculiar to us in Britain. The crisis is now affecting all countries in the Western World.

What sense are we to make of it all?
Why is it happening?
How can we defeat it?

* *

We believe the answers lie in the very nature of the system we live under; that without the working class mobilising itself to understand and change this system, there can be no solution; that in this process, we will rid ourselves once and for all of crises, of poverty and want, and build a decent future for all workers.

* *

We make no bones about it...We are Communists, British workers who believe in the working class and its power to create the future.

What is a Communist ?

No word has caused more confusion than the word 'Communist'.

There is hardly an event that has not been blamed on 'the communists'...

Whenever workers go on strike or fight for anything, its 'the communists'...

The word strikes terror in the hearts and minds of bosses, employers, the rich...

Pick up a newspaper, or listen to the radio, or watch television....there are always anti-communist articles, opinions, or views...

We are made to believe that Communists are always wrong and bad, that Communism is evil...

But we never hear what Communists have to say about these comments, and when we do, it is all the more confusing because two people calling themselves 'Communist' will say and do different things...

.Blasted Communists
want to change
my way
of life!



Whole countries call themselves 'Communist' yet here again, they say and do different things...Take the Soviet Union, for example;

The Soviet Union claims to be a Communist country, but despite her heroic past, in reality, the working class is no longer in power, workers today are exploited for profit as we are, Russian domination in different parts of the world oppresses small and less developed countries, and the very name and traditions of international 'Communism' are abused and distorted. This retreat from 'Communism' cannot be justified, but it must be understood if workers in other countries are to learn from it.

If what we say is true, it follows that we should no longer call the Soviet Union a 'Communist' country.

* *

But in the face of such confusion, how does one establish the truth about Communism or Communists?

The answer is by deeds, by practice...by looking at what people do.

We believe that practice establishes all truth, not what people say so much as what they do, and like anyone or anything else, we Communists must be judged by our practice, what we do.

* *

The Labour Government calls itself 'Socialist', but its deeds are to attack the working class and organised labour. Its practice is not Socialist, no matter how loudly or how many times they try to proclaim the word....

Hitler called himself a 'Socialist', but his deeds were to smash the German working class and murder millions of men, women, and children....

4
By the same reasoning of practice, workers must judge Communists, by our deeds, on the shop-floor, in working class organisations and struggles, wherever workers live, work and fight, both nationally and internationally.

* *

We Communists believe that our present social system is not the 'natural order of things'.. it is not 'human nature' as such.

Like everything else, it has a beginning and it will have an end.

We believe that the ills of Capitalism, its regular crises, inflation, poverty, unemployment, the exploitation of workers are basic aspects of the system itself; that by their very nature, they cannot be reformed,...but they can be prevented through a fundamental change of the system, through revolution.

Only the working class, the vast majority of people, has the power and the need to change it, for as Marx said a long time ago....," we have nothing to lose but our chains ".

It is not a group of people plotting that produces revolution, but the masses of workers who, through their struggle to survive, determine that they are no longer prepared to live in the old way.

* *

This is what Communists fight for - a Socialist Britain, not the Labour Party distortion of Socialism, but a revolutionary working class democracy.

It is not a 'foreign' ideology, as the Torys or National Front would have us believe....It belongs to the working class.

* *

It is not brought to British workers from 'outside'...It grows through our own struggle to survive, and how we build that future depends on us, our historical experience and traditions. But we can learn from the struggle and experience of workers in other countries, for we share, as workers, an international identity.

* *

In particular, we should learn from the struggles and achievements of China and Albania in building Socialism. Though different in many ways from our country and culture, their successes, their achievements, their mistakes are guides and lessons for us on our own path, and their solidarity and friendship a vital strength and unifying force in the world today.

* *

This 'Workers Notebook' is part of workers' struggles in Britain to build our own future. We welcome articles, comment, letters and criticism.

POEM TO THE T.U.C.

Whenever our overcoat is ragged
 you come running up and say: this can't continue,
 you must be helped in every possible manner.
 And, full of zeal, you run off to the bosses
 while we who freeze are waiting.
 And you come back and in triumph
 show us what you have won for us:
 a little patch.

Fine, that's a patch all right
 but where is
 the whole coat?

Whenever we cry aloud from hunger
 you come running up and say: this can't continue,
 you must be helped in every possible manner.
 And, full of zeal, you run to the bosses
 while we who starve are waiting.
 And you come back and in triumph
 show us what you have won for us,
 a crumb of bread.

Fine, that's the breadcrumb
 but where is
 the whole loaf?

We need much more than patches,
 we need the whole overcoat too;
 we need much more than the breadcrumb,
 we need the loaf itself.
 We need much more than a job,
 we need the whole factory and the coal and the
 ore and power in the state

Fine, that's what we all need
 but what
 do you offer us?

(Written by Bertolt Brecht under the title
 "Song of the Patch and the Overcoat")

Do you

know

That Sir Humphrey Brown
Chairman of the
nationalised British
Transport Docks Board,
is to have a salary
increase of £3,387!

This is only a 24%
increase on his present
salary.

His new salary will be
£14,145.

Yet another example
of our so-called
'social contract'.
We, the workers, are
most in need of wage or
salary increases, yet
we foolishly still
believe that somehow
restrictions on our
wages will benefit us!

* * * * *

That thousands of home
sweatshops still exist
and that they haven't
changed their features
of the most naked
exploitation.

Home workers are kept
in isolation from each
other..very convenient
for their employer;
There is less risk of
organising or fighting
for better conditions.

We talked to one home
sweatshop worker.
She makes bathchains
using nuts and screws.
She told us.....

"I don't know who the
other workers are or
where they live."

"A representative just
comes, delivers the
stuff, collects what
I've done, and hands
over the wages.
Its difficult to ask
for better money when
I'm on my own."

"I get 10p per gross.
It takes me 2 weeks to
make 50 gross. I get
£5 for 2 weeks work!
I haven't had a rise
for 6 years!"

* * * * *

WHAT IS

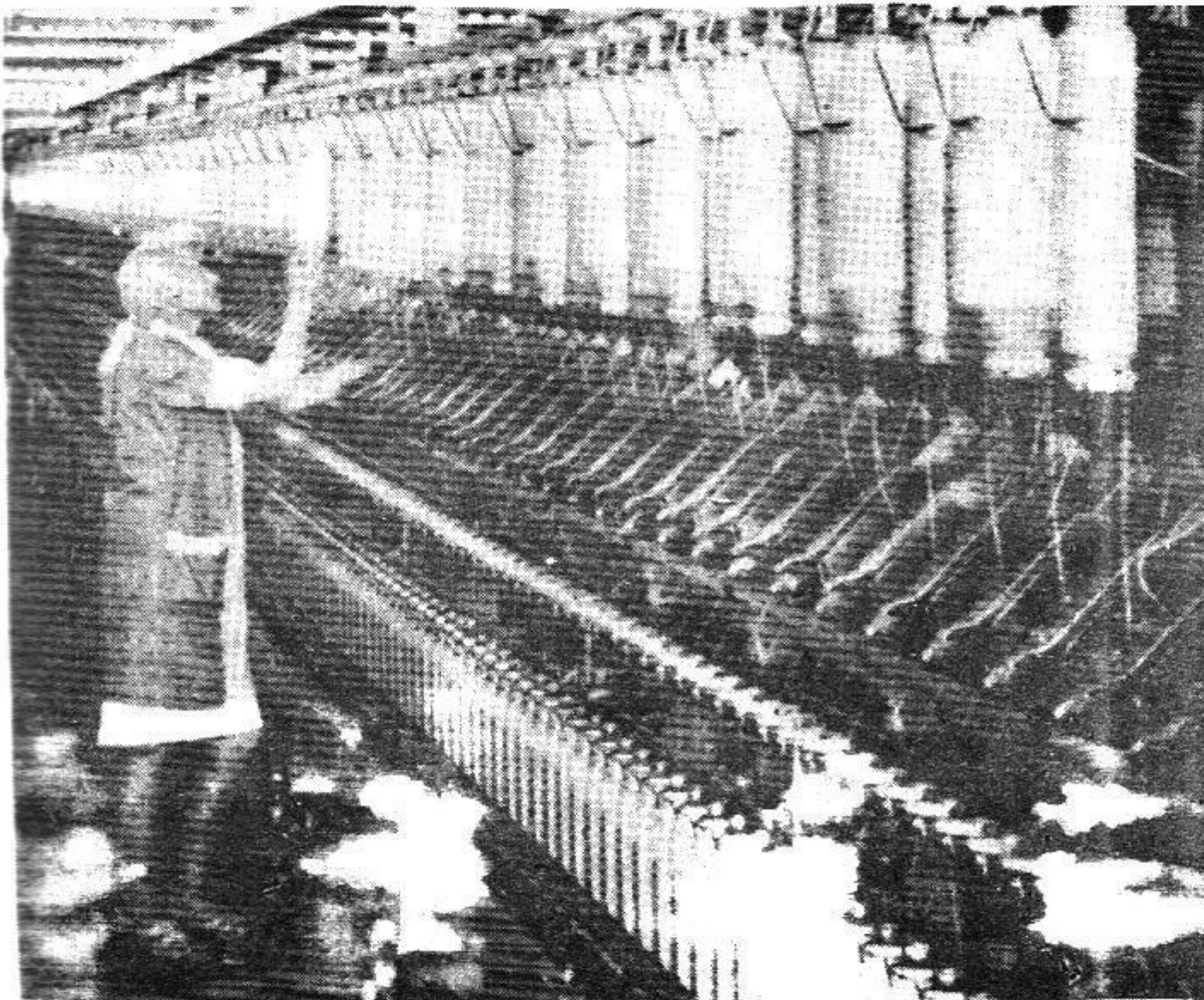
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The closure of 7 plants making 4,200 workers redundant - after the failure of this huge concern's attempts to make Unions agree to new productivity levels - is not a new tactic facing the working class. The past history of this concern has been one of threats, cajoling, and splitting Unions to get higher productivity, less jobs, and even wage cuts.

But now Courtaulds is acting at a time when the Textile Industry world-wide is hit by a capitalist crisis of overproduction. In the world there is too much fibre, too many textiles, and too many garments being produced for people able to buy them.... (while millions go without clothes!)...., so the price of these products has dropped. This has dramatically affected Courtaulds since over 50% of its products are sold abroad, while inside Britain, Courtaulds's prices are being undercut by cheaper and better imports.

Courtaulds is by no means bankrupt. It is one of the 12 biggest, most profitable British capitalist concerns. In 1975-76, its turnover was £1,134 million; its exports were up 30%; and it made profits of £48,300,000 before tax. Although exports were up, the profits had, in fact, fallen from £118,200,000 the year before! They were having to sell at lower prices with lower profit margins.

COURTAULDS



CLOSED

FOR

BUSINESS!

What Courtaulds is now doing is typical of a capitalist monopoly struggling for greater profit.

'STREAMLINING' - Their Solution

It is carrying out what it calls a new 'streamlining' operation.

.....it is running down and closing plants and factories which produce those goods hardest hit by the drop in prices (such as garments and fibres). Already last year, it closed jersey factories in Canada, other fibre and textile manufacturing plants in France, and two yarn-spinning plants in Australia.

.....it is threatening closures to try to get new productivity levels and redundancy policies accepted, and thus to increase the exploitation of those workers left. It has already reduced its workforce in Britain in 1975 by 10,000 to a total of 113,770.

.....at the same time, Courtaulds is busy investing huge sums in new plant and machinery. In 1975-76, for the second year running, it invested more than £100 million, so the value of plant has risen by 3/5ths to £500 million since this time in 1975.

Workers Pay.....

Courtaulds hopes to reduce the cost of production of its goods and keep up profits by exploiting fewer workers more intensively on modern machinery.

This is what 'streamlining' means.

The fact that they are taking away the work and livelihoods of thousands of workers is irrelevant..And they do not care!

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF CAPITALISM.

* * * * *



THE BREAD WAR

The fight of deliverymen to avoid

a 50p loaf and many redundancies

In these days of rising prices and hardships for our class, it seems strange to see working people, like the bread delivery drivers, refusing to deliver bread to shops selling below 18p.

No end of slandering has been launched against both officials and members of their Union by the mass media in a concentrated effort to isolate and blacken the drivers' struggle.... Shots of Trade Union officials bawling down the price of bread owners to .."put their price .."....and interviews with .. who can't afford bread, and ..

And did the supermarkets go to town! For them it was a chance to turn things upside down, and make it look as if they, the supermarkets, were really concerned about people.

But there is much more to this than meets the eye...

SUPERMARKETS DECEIVE....

Big supermarkets have no intention of helping the poor. Their seemingly cheap bread in fact conceals very high profit, thanks to the generous discount granted to them by the large and powerful bakeries. This was made possible by the 'friendly co-operation' of the Labour Government, and their Minister, Roy Hattersley, when he abolished the maximum discount limit on bread.

The large bakeries and supermarkets work hand-in-glove to streamline work production and distribution with the aim of making higher profit, one consequence being redundancies among deliverymen..

Another result is bankruptcy of small bakers and corner shops, who cannot compete and get squeezed out of business.

Once the big supermarkets have squeezed out all competitors, and have a monopoly of the market, they would be able to force their 'plastic' bread on people at sky-high prices...and since we all need bread, we would be forced to buy it!

This is why the deliverymen are on strike.. to defend their jobs, and the price of bread.

As Brother Jackson, Secretary of the United Road Transport Union, said on the 10th of January, when he issued a challenge to the Prices Minister to debate the row in public.....

" Mr. Hattlesley's insane scheme could have led to a 50p loaf and many redundancies "!

SUPPORT....

Despite all the propaganda against them, the deliverymen are beginning to win wide support, and rightly so!

They have also won the support of the Bakers Union. The General Secretary, Sam Maddox declared...

" profit should be put back into the industry ".

But significantly, they have also won some support from small shopkeepers, who have been forced to oppose the big monopolies.

This is an important step, for it would seem that, at least on this issue, these small owners are seeing their interests with those of the workers against the big companies. It is not often that this occurs and it should be strengthened?

It is a lesson which other small shopowners should learn.

In the final analysis, the success of the deliverymen's struggle cannot depend on them alone. All workers should support them both directly in solidarity and action, and indirectly by learning from them and waging their own struggles against redundancy, unemployment and high prices in their own industries.

Capitalism, with these hardships, its products, survives longer, with new hardships, each time we remain silent and inactive.

A DOG'S LIFE IF YOU'RE LUCKY!

In a time of rising inflation, when the workers of Britain are blamed for it and are forced to 'tighten their belts', it is instructive to look at the recent Agricultural Wages Board's decision on this year's pay.

This employer-controlled body has ruled that whereas our agricultural workers are entitled to a princely rise of 5% this year, the farmers' dogs are to have their allowances increased by 15% !!

OUR WELFARE STATE

WHOSE WELFARE ?

~ ~ ~

Some thirty or so years ago, an obscure Greek immigrant, known to us as Prince Phillip, came to these shores. Unlike some more recently publicised immigrant arrivals, he was not provided with hotel accomodation or social security benefits. Instead, he was eventually given several palaces and around half a million a year to maintain himself and his family!



This immigrant, who would otherwise have become unknown, which is the usual fate of redundant Greek princelings, has now made his mark on history by joining the fox-hunting set and the yellow press in the 'view halloo' after so-called welfare 'scroungers'.

Between them all, they are attempting to re-define the word 'scrounger' to mean almost everybody who can't find a job. The reason Phil the Greek will hit the history books is of course because he is a member of a sick, uncaring class.



The rest of the gang, the Tory MPs, the gutter press, the two-faced businessmen, have no such excuse for thoughtlessness. They are taking part in a coldly calculated witch-hunt with the twin intentions of driving a wedge between workers and the unemployed, the so-called 'shirkers', and of forcing the unemployed to accept any job - even on starvation wages.

Their cleverness in this, is that despite their usual allegations of 'laziness' among British workers, they are actually using the workers' dislike of real shirkers and scroungers, which is a healthy class outlook, and trying to pervert it against millions of genuine cases. They are playing upon the unease and strain that most of the unemployed feel in being out of work.

Ennals, the Minister responsible, is already committed 'in principle' to the taxing of dole money. Even in these degenerate days, by what 'principle' can an alleged 'socialist' justify 6,000 extra bureaucrats to tax subsistence level benefits, which these unemployed workers have been paying for the whole of their working lives?

This is not a principle of Socialism.

If a man on the dole, ignoring his short-lived tax rebates, and his earnings-related supplement, (if he should be so lucky), gets less for working, then it is obvious to anybody who has ever been unemployed and suffered its hardships that the wages offered are not enough to maintain him, and that when at work he is being taxed on less than subsistence wages.

18 Even such 'achievements' of welfare provision as the family income supplement do not 'supplement' the family income. On the contrary, they subsidise the employers of cheap labour, as do other provisions like the Temporary Employment Subsidy.

This is what the 'Socialism' of the Labour Government is reduced to - a system in which workers' taxes are used to pay the wages bills of employers.

Lets look at some facts, taken from the 'Economist', Jan.1st,1977 and from an Independent Television documentary on the 20th Jan.,1977.

The FACTS about Welfare

****The number of families with incomes below the poverty line rose by almost half in 1975. Now, almost $\frac{3}{4}$ million families live below the 'defined' poverty line. In most, the breadwinner is unemployed.

****1 in 5 out of work get no money from the state at all. These are mainly the longterm jobless, who claim no benefit or those who have a wife or husband to support them.

****Only 0.16% of those on supplementary benefit each year, are 'scroungers'.

****Less than 2% of those claiming benefit get as much money as they did when they were working!

****Flatrate unemployment benefit for a single man is £12.90 per week....; for a married couple, with 2 children, it is £27.50 per week.

****Immediately after losing your job, if you're lucky, you get Earnings Related Supplement. It is paid to between 1/5th and 1/4 of the unemployed. It can't amount to more than £12.18, and, together with the flatrate benefit, can't be more than 85% of your last year's income. It runs out after 6 months.

****Flatrate unemployment benefit runs out after 12 months.

****Supplementary benefit is paid to those below the poverty line. Half the unemployed draw supplementary benefit, but the life is far from 'luxurious', as its been suggested.a man with a wife and 2 children, who has been unemployed for 9 months after 30 years with British Rail gets £39 per week - 1/2 his former wage.

****Those over 12 months unemployed get only supplementary benefit. About 420,000 unemployed are solely dependent on this.

....a woman with 5 children, whose husband has left her, gets £23 per week for them all!

....a man unemployed for 18 months, with a wife and 4 children, gets £40 per week.

These are the facts about so-called
'scroungers' ...

Much more important and widespread, however,
are the 'dodgers'...the wealthy capitalists
who evade paying taxes...

We hear little about them in the press,
yet according to the Treasury Minister in
parliament, these dodgers cheat the
country of £650 million a year!

Last year, surtax payers managed to avoid
paying more than £60 million!

Up till October, 1975, capital gains tax
payers avoided £68 million!

To make matters worse, Prince Phillip
himself has a tax free £65,000 a year!

For the rich, the tax 'dodgers' methods are
well established...

Recently, the British Institute of
Management's quarterly journal advertised
a special meeting for..'Tax avoidance for
private companies and their directors'....
The cost of the conference was £54 per
delegate, presumably tax-deductible!

Such is our so-called Welfare State.
Far from changing the capitalist system,
or improving it, the Welfare State has
merely changed its form, its appearance...
the grim reality of poverty and
exploitation remains.

* * * *

Do you know

That planning of industry under capitalism is doomed to failure.

Workers at British Leyland complain that large numbers of Landrovers, Rangerovers and the new Rover 3500 are scattered over the Solihull site, all waiting for rectification and completion.

Due to the weather the condition of many of these cars is now deplorable.

Still, the plant goes on churning out as many cars as possible, regardless of their quality.

How often have we heard 'poor quality' being blamed on the workers!

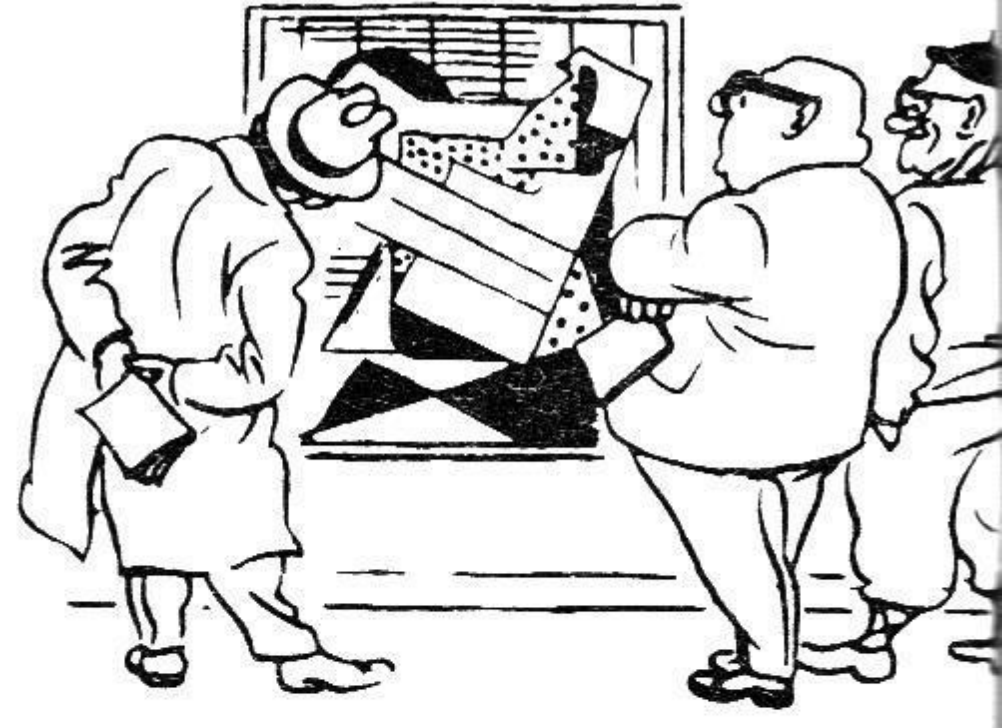
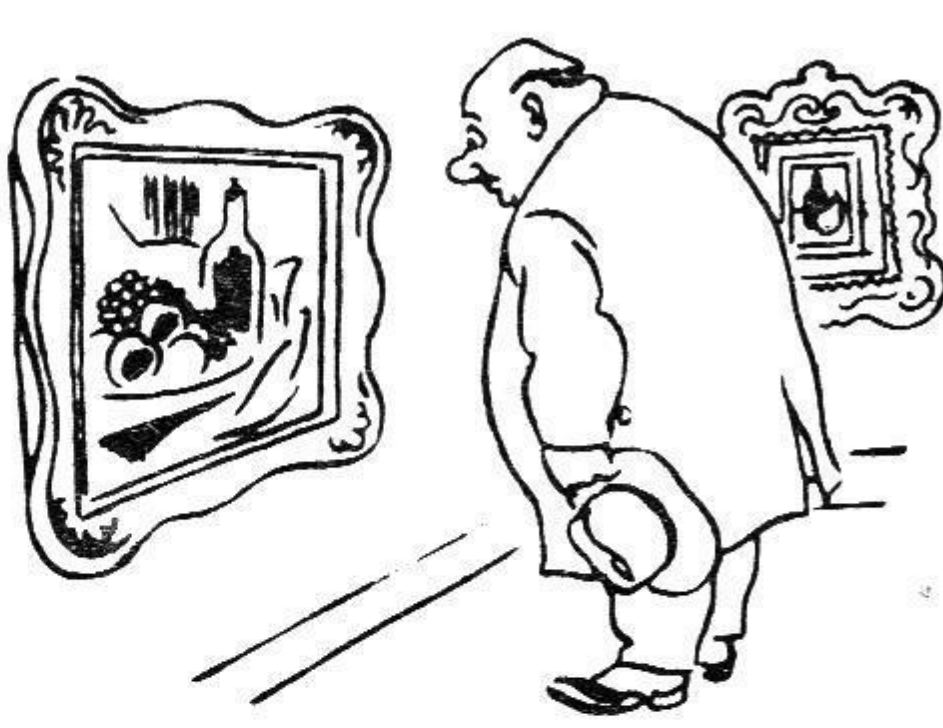
That in most NHS hospitals, meals for patients are ordered from each ward according to the number of patients.

Meals come in big trolleys, but as the condition of patients varies, together with their numbers, there is generally a small amount of food left over.

This food goes to waste. None of the nursing or the domestic staff is allowed to touch it. It is thrown away rather than be eaten!

Staff caught eating have in some cases been treated as thieves and even threatened with dismissal.

This is a small example of the way the health service treats its health workers!



Historical Notes

1.

ON UNEMPLOYMENT

1800 - 1939

End 18th Century - start of 19th. Rise of British capitalism created unemployment. Peasants were forced off the land by the enclosure of common land; handicraftsmen were unable to compete with mechanised factory production and were made unemployed.

1811-26 Widespread unemployment and starvation among handicraftsmen led to the Luddite Movement, which smashed up the new machinery in Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

1830s Uprisings and demonstrations in countryside and towns against the Poor Law, which shut up the unemployed like criminals in workhouses.

1880s Of 7 million industrial workers, 1 million were unemployed.

1884 Workers of the East End of London marched against unemployment.

1885-86 Unemployment demonstrations in Northampton, Birmingham, Grimsby, Manchester, Hastings, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leicester, Yarmouth and London.

- 1886 Autumn - Unemployed demonstrate at Lord Mayor's Show.
- 1887 Weekly protest meetings in Trafalgar Square for the homeless and unemployed.
- 1888 New police powers to break up demonstrations
- 1893 1,300,000 unemployed.
- 1905 Silent demonstration by 3,000 women workers to Westminster against unemployment.
- 1907-09 Deep economic crisis. Numerous demonstrations of unemployed all over the country.
- 1918 World economy in a new, deep capitalist crisis. In Britain, unemployment rose on a new scale.
- 1920 London District Council of the Unemployed formed.
- 1921 February - 1 million unemployed.
- 1921 June - 2 million unemployed. The National Movement of the Unemployed was formed, with 300 to 400 local committees.
- 1922 The unemployed brought their strength to the working class movement by actively picketing in a number of disputes.
- 1929 2nd Labour Government came in.
- 1929 July - Minister of Labour had deputation of representatives of the unemployed removed by the police.
- 1929 October - Wall Street crash.

- 1930 December - 2,300,000 unemployed.
- 1931 September to October - Movement of unemployed, civil servants, teachers and other public employees against cuts and unemployment begins to spread. Mass demonstrations in Scotland, Wales, the cotton towns of Lancashire, the Midlands and London. Violent clashes with police. In October in Glasgow, after clashes with the police, a demonstration of over 150,000.
- 1931 3,000,000 workers unemployed.
- 1931 Autumn - Government cut unemployment benefit by 10%. The means test was introduced cutting all benefit from hundreds of thousands of workers.
- 1931 November - Means Test brought into operation.
- 1932 Countrywide demonstrations...
 March - 100,000 in Tyneside.
 September - three day battle in Birkenhead between unemployed and the police, who made night raids on working class homes.
 October - National hunger marches on London. Demonstrations of 150,000 and street battles. Wal Hannington, leader of the National Movement of the Unemployed jailed.
- 1932 Only 12.8 million workers of a total workforce of nearly 20 million were insured against unemployment, and most of these, not enough.
- 1934 January - National hunger marches. 2,000 participate and win sympathy from rest of public.
 April - Government restores the 10% benefit.

- 1935 December - Still 2,000,000 workers unemployed.
- 1939 1,750,000 unemployed until they were drafted into the army..
2nd World War..

* * * * *

This is the first of two articles giving notes on the history of unemployment. The second will bring the perspective up to date.

What the notes in fact show is that we have never been free of unemployment.

The economic system of capitalism needs and creates a permanent 'reserve army' of unemployed workers to pull into the economy in a boom and to keep wages down. Capitalism does not want nor is it able to get rid of unemployment, it creates it, whatever its Party political representatives may be or what they may even want - Labour, Liberal or Tory.. To get rid of unemployment we must get rid of capitalism!

Life under

SOCIALISM

Work conditions in ALBANIA

Socialist Albania is the only country in Europe today with no unemployment. The right to work is guaranteed to all by the Constitution, the law, and the economic system. Before the working people took power in 1945, around 59% of the working population was unemployed.



ALBANIAN MINERS

Right to work guaranteed

Any violation of the right to work is a breach of the law and is severely punished.

Anyone over 15 is eligible for work.

Women workers are not allowed to work in places harmful to their health, e.g..... mines, oil wells, metallurgical furnaces.

The right to work according to your skills and profession is guaranteed: there is no discrimination.

The Albanian socialist economy is planned. It is not subject to the crises we know, which result in good plant, machinery and labour being closed down.

The labour force is developed in all parts of the country so that there are no depressed regions.

There is no capitalist boss with the power to throw workers onto the street any more. The factories are run by the workers, themselves.

Managers are elected by them.

The unlawful dismissal of a worker is not tolerated...If it does happen, the worker is returned to his job, and the factory representatives penalised.

Dismissal of a worker for health reasons is not permitted. The enterprise is responsible for finding more suitable work and for making sure he receives medical attention.

If due to the introduction of more modern machinery, some jobs are lost, the enterprise must find other jobs for the displaced workers...

The working day is 8 hours...and 7 hours for night shifts (though the worker is still paid for 8).

Overtime is rare. It is unnecessary, since wages are sufficient.

In law, no-one is allowed to work more than 180 hours overtime a year!...this is approximately 3 hours per week!

Those under 18 work a 6 hour day.

Some workers, e.g., in underground work or in jobs harmful to health, have their normal working day cut to 5 hours per day, with no reduction in pay!

There are reductions in working time for workers attending evening classes, again with no reduction in pay.

Women with babies are allowed $\frac{1}{2}$ hour intervals every 4 hours to feed them in the creche provided by most factories.

They are paid the normal 8 hour day.

Foundry workers at the furnace work $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, then rest $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour away from the high temperature. They, too, are paid for the full 8 hours of their 8 hour day.

Holidays and time off

According to law, all workers are entitled to daily rest of 16 hours and over the week, 36 hours uninterrupted. They're entitled to 12 working days as annual paid leave, as well as several public holidays.

Teenagers get up to 24 days annual paid leave.

But workers in 70 different fields, such as mining, metallurgy, tanning industries, tobacco, cement and glass factories, brick kilns, oil refineries and printing processes, workers of infectious disease wards and psychiatric hospitals, etc., especially where the work is particularly strenuous or a danger to health, get extra paid leave lasting from 3-36 workdays a year.

Most workers spend their holidays in hotels all over the country, in the mountains or by the sea, run by the Trade Unions. The worker and his family have only to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the hotel costs: the state pays the rest...and the worker is on full pay for his holiday.

" Like the chewed up
stump of a fag,
we spat their dynasty out! "

(Myakowsky)

RACIAL IDEAS ARE FALSE AND VICIOUS !

.....SOME FACTS.....

- **** The total black population of this country is 1,750,000 people out of a total population of 60,000,000.. that is, 3.2% of the total!
40% of these people were born in Britain, so they are British subjects.
- **** In 1975, 40,000 more people left Britain than came in...
- **** In 1975, three times as many immigrants came to Britain from Australia, New Zealand and Canada than from India, Pakistan, Bangla Desh and Sri Lanka!

** There has always been bad housing and a housing shortage. This condition existed long before the arrival of black immigrants. Glasgow has probably the worst housing record and there are hardly any immigrants living there.

** Poor working class areas under capitalism are always overcrowded, but there is never any overcrowding in the 'suberbs'. At any one time, there are around 800,000 fully furnished houses standing empty because their owners are staying in their 2nd or even 3rd home, or living abroad on extended holidays.

* * * * *



HORRORS
OF
FASCISM

FIGHT FASCISM !

In Britain, over the past 15 years, extreme right wing organisations have become actively involved in every day political issues.....

Who do they represent?

Who backs them?

What is their ideology?

Are they a danger to the working class?

Where is their breeding ground?

How do we fight them?

What follows is the 1st of a series of articles attempting to answer these questions.....

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE PAST ~ ~ ~

We can learn from the historical experience of Italy and Germany after the 1st World War.

In both countries, a severe economic crisis followed on from the war. At the same time, the working class movement was becoming stronger and more determined. In Italy, workers occupied and ran factories with a workers militia to defend their occupation.

* *

In Germany, a revolutionary tide was released as a result of their defeat and the suffering which the mass of people had to go through.

But at the time, no working class party led the working class forward.

It was this vacuum that the fascist parties took advantage of. In Italy, with Mussolini at their head, their main backers were the big industrial industrialists like Pirelli (rubber and cable co.), Ansaldo (munitions), Agnelli of Fiat, Benni of the Employers Federation and Guiseppi Volpi di Misurata, the industrial tycoon.

Fascism posed as friends of the working class..It rode on the tide of working class activity, but this was a smokescreen behind which the terror squads attacked and smashed working class parties and trade unionists.

* *

The combat terror squads were armed and trained by professional officers. The General Staff of the army even issued a circular instructing Divisional Commanders to support the fascists.

Between January and May, 1921, the Italian Socialist Party claimed that the fascists destroyed 120 labour headquarters, attacked 243 socialist centres and other buildings, killed 202 workers (plus 44 killed by the police), and wounded 1,144.

The police arrested 2,240 workers. No fascists were arrested for these crimes. By the time Mussolini took power, 500 labour halls and co-operative stores were burnt down, and 900 socialist municipalities were dissolved.

Having come to power, Mussolini began a 'parliamentary' campaign to encourage and satisfy his backers.

* *

Similarly in Germany, the Nazi Party was backed by the big industrialists like Krupp and Thyssen and the German Banks. Here too, they came to power on a tide of terror against the working class and its organisations. Nazis were allowed to carry weapons and destroy workers meetings, while the police stood by. Thousands of workers and communists were arrested, but never the fascists.

* *

In Britain today, how far are we away from the Italy of the 20s, or Germany?

The National Front is following the same path traced by their historical predecessors.

Racialism is one of their weapon to divide and weaken the working class. They too, are posing as friends of our class, but behind the smoke screen, are already apparent the terror squads. Equally right wing fascist groups are training 'private armies' to 'save the working class from communism'.

They have a 'foreign' ideology - that of fascism!

It is alien to the working class of Britain, yet it already has big financial and industrial backers.....

The question is..Will we allow one of the vilest episodes of history to be repeated here?

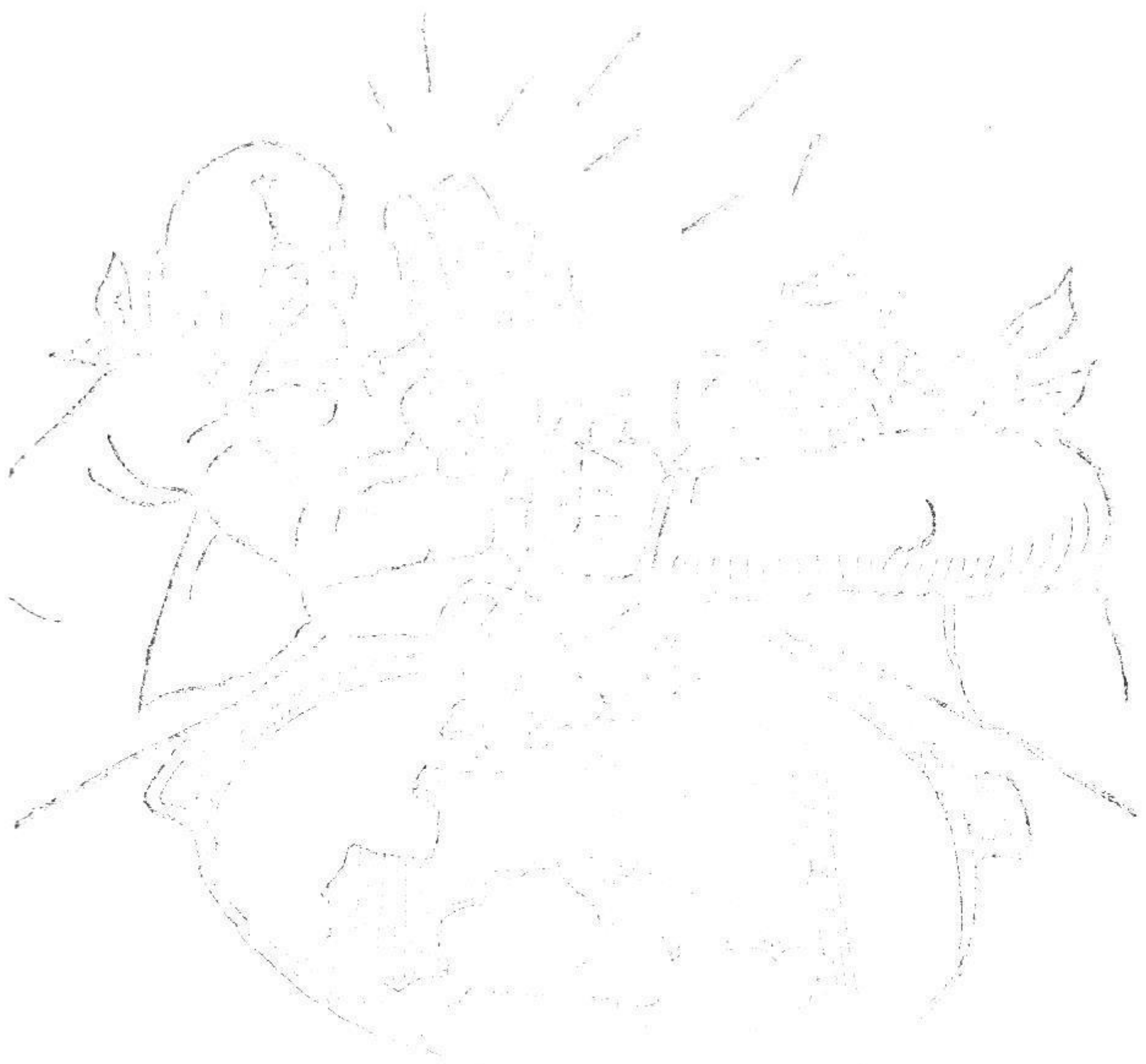
Fighting it, defeating it, is one of the biggest problems facing our class today.



An anonymous poster from Germany 1923..
Translated, it reads,
" No, I will not
be intimidated "

INTERNATIONAL

COMMENT



Super-powers

America and Russia are, industrially, the most powerful countries in the world. They are referred to as 'super-powers' because of their capacity to dominate, and to a large extent control, other countries within their respective spheres of influence, economically, politically, and ideologically.

Today, the rivalry and fierce competition between them for markets, raw materials, the export of capital, and the domination of the world, especially Africa, Asia, and Latin America, is the greatest threat to the international working class movement.

This was not always the case. More than 20 years ago, the Soviet Union was actively building Socialism, and the difference between her and the USA was the difference between Socialism and Imperialism. At that time, the Soviet Union was a great ally of the international working class, and she played a significant role in strengthening the struggle of people all over the world against Imperialism.

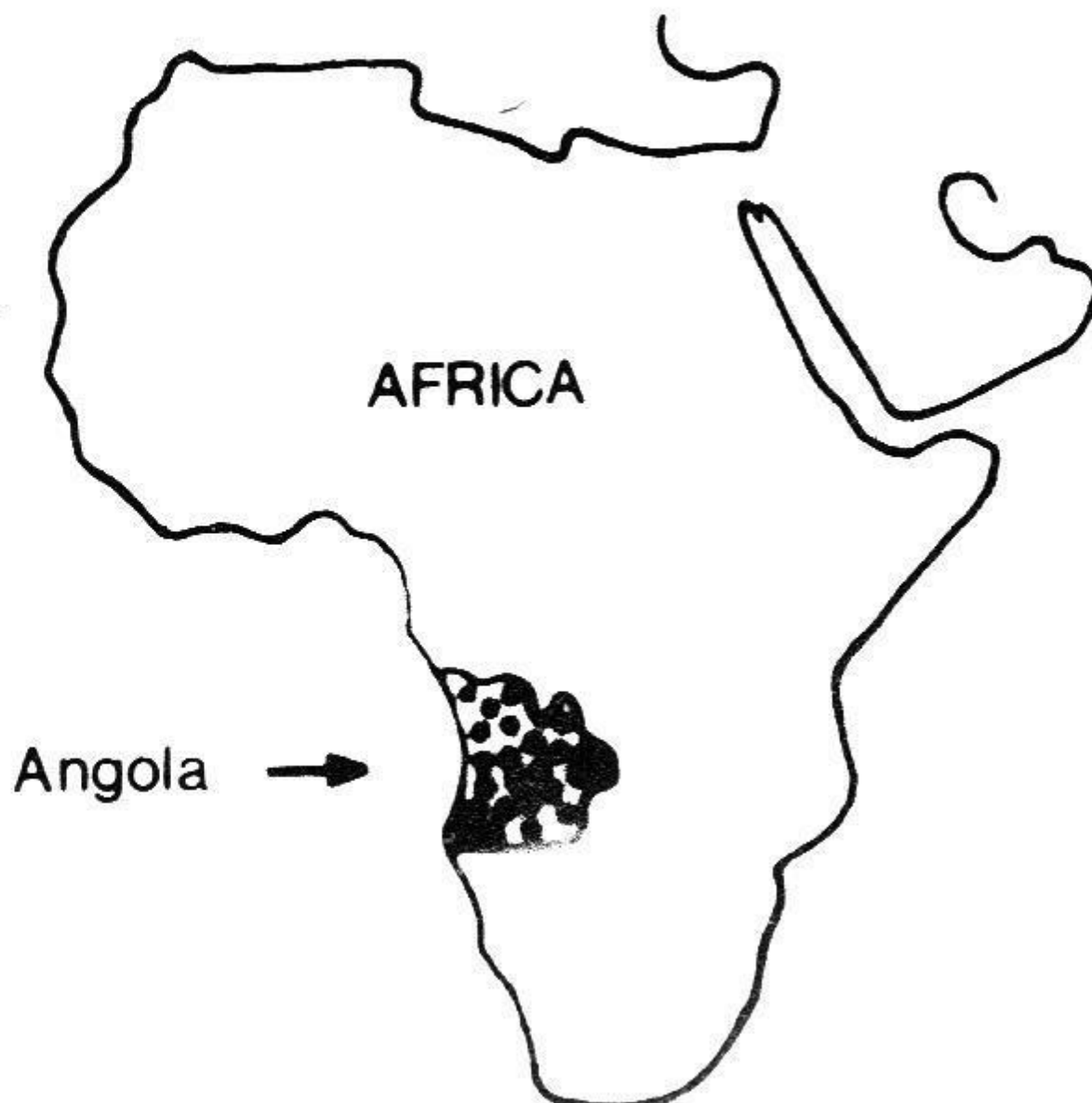
But over the last 20 or so years, there has been dramatic changes in Russia. Both internally and externally, we have seen a gradual return to capitalist methods of production, the working class has lost control, and all the problems of capitalism are beginning to appear. She is now confronting the world as a new Imperialist power, as aggressive as America, but more dangerous because her imperialist activities operate under the pretence of helping the international working class and oppressed peoples.

She still talks the language of Socialism and Marxism - but her deeds are the opposite.

This abuse of peoples' struggles to gain footholds for economic and political exploitation of the countries concerned, is the most shameful perversion of all that Communism stands for. It must be exposed!

...★ Angola ★...

INDEPENDENCE ?



The central problem of all National Liberation struggles in the world today is leadership - not individual, but class leadership, both practically and ideologically.

When the working class leads the struggle of classes which fight for their liberation from foreign and super-power domination and political control of their country, this very struggle degenerates into a fight for a national, capitalist 'democracy', instead of an independent Peoples' Democracy.

Angola is a country which is typical of this problem.

In Angola, the industrial working class has always been small in numbers and ideologically weak. As a result, from the beginning of organised struggle against colonialism, the movements of National Liberation have been led by intellectuals and small businessmen - the petty bourgeoisie.

Even so, no-one can deny their achievements....They were able to unite the peasantry and workers in a common struggle against colonialism; they brought organisation to the masses, built a peoples' army, brought a degree of education and health to the countryside, and political organisation.

But, under their leadership, we have also seen the betrayal of the struggle back into the camp of foreign political and economic control - back into the camp of imperialism. For all its achievements, Angola remains a battleground of super-power domination.

The peoples' fight for independent Peoples' Democracy is degenerating into the struggle for National 'Democracy', with the various organisations MPLA, FNLA and UNITA relying on aid and support from different parts of the imperialist world.

This has led to much confusion both inside Angola, and outside in the world at large.. a confusion which only serves to maintain the situation.

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We should not be fooled by the presence of Cuban troops among the MPLA. Without the Soviet Union, there would be no Cuban troops.

This support when seen alongside American support to the other organisations reflects super-power ambitions. Both America and the Soviet Union share a common wish to control and stabilise Angola for their own ends.

Angola is potentially one of the richest countries in Africa - a potential base not only for raw materials, but for the domination of the whole continent. Moreover, any successful revolutionary independent movement would have far reaching consequences on the rest of the African continent. This they both fear.

The tragedy is that by committing itself to the Soviet Union, the MPLA has in effect tightened the chain of exploitation on the eve of what should have been national liberation. Similarly, by committing themselves to the 'West', other organisations have done much the same.

We shall always salute the people of Angola for their heroic struggle for independence. It has given oppressed people all over the world heart and courage....But that very struggle is not over....The enemies the Angolan people set out to defeat over 10 years ago, have still to be destroyed.

* * * * *

Rebel Girl

There are women of many descriptions,
 in this queer world as everyone knows,
 Some are living in beautiful mansions
 and are wearing the finest of clothes,
 There are blue-blooded queens and princesses
 who have charms made of diamonds and pearls,
 But the only thoroughbred lady,
 is the Rebel Girl.

Yes, her hands may be hardened from labour,
 and her dress may not be very fine;
 But a heart in her bosom is beating
 that is true to her class and her kind.
 And the grafters in terror are trembling
 when her spite and defiance she hurls..
 for the only thoroughbred lady,
 is the Rebel Girl.

Chorus

Thats the Rebel Girl, thats the Rebel Girl,
 to the working class she's a precious pearl.
 She brings courage, pride, and joy..
 to the fighting Rebel Boy.
 We've had girls before, but we need some more
 in the 'Industrial Workers of the World'...
 for its great to fight for freedom
 as a Rebel Girl.

* * * * *

...★Poland★...



WORKERS BETRAYED.....

Events over the last year in Poland show clearly that there is no Workers Government there. However 'socialist' the Government says it is, what it does is anti-working class (much like our Labour Government here) and the Polish workers would seem to know it!

Last June, the Polish Government suddenly announced huge price rises on food and fuel of up to 100%. Factory workers all over the country went on strike in protest. Workers from the Ursus factory near Warsaw, a factory jointly run with (UK) Massey Furgussen Company and financed by Barclays Bank, held up the Moscow-to-Paris Express train. They would only release it when prices were lowered.

In the Baltic ports, dockers refused to load food onto ships bound for Russia. At Radom, workers went on strike. With local housewives, they went on various demonstrations which turned into street battles when police and troops were brought in. Some workers were killed, hundreds hurt, and many arrested and imprisoned.

Although the Government afterwards tried to brush aside this working class protest as that of a few anti-social elements, that very evening, the Premier, Jaroszewicz, appeared on television announcing the cancellation of price rises.

1971

This was the second time the Polish Government has had to back down over the past 6 years.

Its last unsuccessful attempt to raise prices was in 1971. It met widespread strikes of workers in factories and docks. Government buildings were burned down and a Russian merchant ship was set on fire in Danzig (or Gdansk) harbour.

The Government sent para-military forces into

Warsaw factories to break strikes and troops shot into crowds.

The price rises had to be withdrawn, and Gomulko, Secretary of the ruling United Workers Party since 1956, and other Government ministers, had to resign.

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DEBTS

Behind the actions of this so-called 'Workers' Government, is an economy which is clearly not planned to meet the needs of the working people...And it is now in crisis - up to its neck in debt!

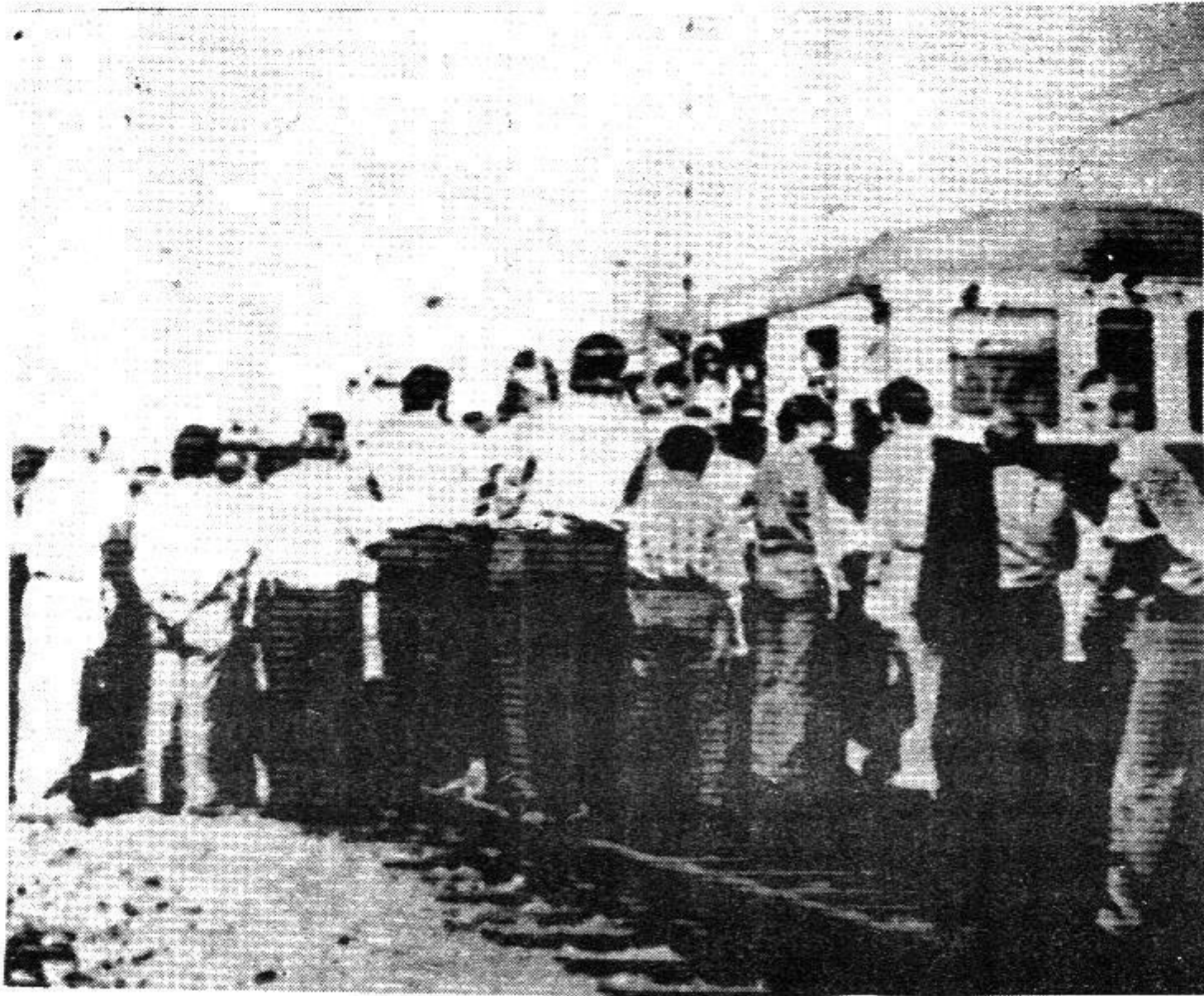
SOVIET UNION

The ruling class of Poland has sold out the country's economic and political independence to the Soviet Union. The new constitution of January, 1976 recognised Russia as a permanent feature of Polish life.

As a member of Comecon, Poland is used by Russia as a reservoir of coal and some agricultural goods. (Poland is the 4th largest coal producer in the world!). Russia controls the monopoly of 90% of Comecon's raw materials - including petrol, oil, coal, iron ores, and grain - and can fix the price as high as she wants.

Poland's only source of oil is the Soviet Union, who has forced Poland into huge debt by selling oil at much inflated prices: the price doubled in 1974, and rose another 50% in 1975.

The Polish ruling class and Soviet Imperialism work together in creating such economic dependence. To dampen the 1971 crisis which showed a working class militance dangerous not only for the Polish Government, but also for Soviet interests, Poland took a huge loan in foreign currency from Russia. But, if needed, Russia could back up its financial 'aid' with military 'help': there are 2 Soviet tank divisions in Poland!



Polish workers
grab train

AMERICA

While being mortgaged to Russian imperialism, Poland is increasingly becoming the prey of Western imperialist powers. They are being invited to invest money and get profits out of Polish workers in such joint projects as the Ursus plant.. And Poland is raising loans from them as well.

Since the 1971 crisis, industry has been re-equipped and expanded, so that now, about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the machinery is less than 5 years old. Much of this has been imported from the West. Official figures show 12,300 million dollars worth!

CRISIS

These growing links with Western imperialism have helped to deepen the Polish economic crisis. Prices of imports from the West have risen while exports have fallen, so Poland now has a large trade deficit; in 1975, it reached 3 billion dollars (3 thousand million). To cover the deficit, Poland has borrowed more from the Western big banks.

This crisis has been made even worse by the state of Poland's agriculture, which is now incapable of providing for its own people. 80% of the land is still privately owned by 3½ million peasants, too poor to afford modern machinery. Usually Poland must buy grain from Russia, but in 1975, she had to buy from the USA, with Soviet subsidies. These grain imports pushed up Poland's total debt to western imperialism to 8 billion.... (8 thousand million)...dollars.

THE BEGINNING

With the economy in such a state, it is the Polish workers who must suffer. They face a hard winter, queueing for bread and meat, while coal, of which Poland has so much, is being rationed.

Yet working class resistance is growing. The strikes and riots show this. A workers defence committee has been set up to help

those in jail or standing trial.

An underground Marxist-Leninist Communist Party has been formed and is trying to rally the working class around it, to once again establish the working class in power, and build an independent socialist Poland.

FORUM



FOR DISCUSSION * * * *



The views opposite are not necessarily the views of the CWM, but we hope that they will stimulate thought and discussion among readers and workers' discussion groups. We would welcome comments and your own conclusions.

: : : : : :

" All literature is shaped by its surroundings and though people who love art like to claim that literature can sway the course of world affairs, the truth is that politics comes first, and art changes accordingly. If you think art can change your environment, you are talking like an idealist. Events are seldom what men of letters expect. That is why the so-called revolutionary writers before a great revolution are doomed. Only when the revolution is beginning to achieve results, and men have time to breathe freely again, will new revolutionary writers be produced. This is because when the old society is on the verge of collapse, you will often find writing which seems rather revolutionary, but is not actually true revolutionary literature. For example, a man may hate the old society, but all he has is hate - no vision of the future. He may clamour for social reforms, but if you ask what sort of society he wants, it is a utopia, impossible to achieve..Or he may be tired of living, and long for some big change to stimulate his senses, just as someone already stuffed with food and wine eats hot peppers to whet his appetite. Then there are the old campaigners who have been rejected by the people, but who hang out a signboard and rely on some new party to win a better status for themselves. "

(Lu Hsun 1929)

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FOR SERVICES RENDERED _____

Professor Milton Friedman wins Nobel Prize....

It would appear that to win a Nobel Prize, one must significantly appease monopoly capitalism.

A Nobel Prize was recently awarded to an American economist, Professor Milton Friedman, a man who was economic advisor to the military junta in Chile. Like other capitalist economists, his only cure for a prosperous capitalist economy is at the expence of the workers and peasants..

* *

Professor Friedman attacks British workers as 'lazy', and says the British system encourages it.

Perhaps the learned Professor should come and see for himself just how 'lazy' the British worker is with his antiquated machinery and plant, and his incompetent and divorced from reality management. Or perhaps he should look at the figures of monopoly capital going abroad when it should be being invested here!

He is correct when he says Britain is in industrial decay, but this is not new, and he deliberately fails to mention that it is British capitalism in decay.

His solutions are to attack everything the working class has fought for and won.

We have witnessed the catastrophic effects of his policies in Chile....., does he intend to implement them here?

Notes / Meetings

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The success and value of this 'Workers' Notebook' depends on you, the reader...

We welcome articles, information, letters, comments, and above all, criticisms.

* * *

Please send all contributions to:

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WORKERS NOTEBOOK is published by the Communist Workers Movement, (CWM), a new national Marxist-Leninist organisation which has been formed with the intention of uniting with other Marxist-Leninist organisations and the working class at large towards the formation of a revolutionary working class party.

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