

# Finsbury Communist

AN ANTI-REVISIONIST JOURNAL

Nº 187

AUG 1980



## LET THEM MOVE?

Mrs. Thatcher has now urged the unemployed to move to where jobs are available.

When the Left regards emigration to Britain as a panacea for the problems of the poor countries, it looks plausible, liberal, and multi-racial. When Mrs. Thatcher extends the principle to Wales and the North of England, it is beginning to look callous and idiotic. Where is the process to stop? When everybody is jostling around the last few spare jobs?

The whole history of emigration has been that of breaking up the communities the emigrants have left; and breaking up the communities they have entered.

The Government also say that productive industries in Wales, the North, and elsewhere are becoming unprofitable because workers are continually demanding wage increases and there is not enough cash available for re-equipment. The truth is that industries have been, and are, being squeezed dry by taxes and rates in order to keep the parasitic non-productive sector. If productive workers did not have to pay taxes, they would not need to ask for wage increases. If productive industry did not have to pay rates and taxes, there would be plenty left for re-equipment.

The Left continually talks about the productive working class being the core, vanguard, and suchlike waffle.

Until the productive workers organize themselves, and those who are on their side, to demand political concessions, such as tax exemption, for themselves (not for nurses, teachers and other tear-jerkers), the only thing of which they will be the vanguard is the dole queue.

## KESKIDEE

Keskidee, the black cultural centre off Caledonian Road, receives substantial grants from Islington Borough Council and from the Arts Council. We hear that, not only is Keskidee £80,000 in debt, but that some expensive items it has purchased are not available for inspection. However, Islington Council's grant of £43,000 a year is to continue although, to quote the Islington Gazette "the council is to keep a tight hold on Keskidee's purse strings".

A large number of Islington's middle class councillors have never done a hard day's work in their lives. Yet they have comfortable life-styles.

Most of the world's blacks are living at, or below, the breadline. Our councillors assuage their consciences by giving grants to black organizations out of the rates. They are a soft touch for somebody else's money.

Middle class and upper class people are quite right to be conscience-stricken. Their life-style owes everything to exploiting the working class at home and the poor countries abroad. Keskidee's council estate neighbours, nearly all white and working class, are not yet educated enough to appreciate black avant-garde theatre.

Subsidising arts and culture is always a bit of a cheek, since it forces ratepayers and taxpayers to pay for something they may not want.

In the case of avant-garde, liberation or left-wing culture, not only is it a cheek, but it is harmful to the subsidized organisation itself. The godfathers from the council and the Arts Council are able to exert pressure through their control of public money. What sort of person will agree to such control in order to get his hands on some unearned cash? The question answers itself.

The harm does not stop there. The subsidized organisation is given an unfair financial advantage over unsubsidized organizations.

Spare cash attracts eccentrics like jam attracts wasps. Hence the weird character of many subsidized avant-garde productions. The smart eccentric submits something which appears to be deeply allegorical. It means different things to whoever is looking at it.

If there is a need for Keskidee, why is it not located in a black area where it could answer the needs of the people in its productions? Black people are very generous to organizations which they themselves want, create, support, and supervise.

Then, if our middle class councillors and officers wish to salve their consciences by providing some unconditional extra cash out of their own pockets, the genuine independent organization might find a use for it.

## HOME RULE FOR FINSBURY

The campaign to give Finsbury back its own council is, we hear, going well. This will bring local government back closer to the people.

However, as power and cash will continue to be delegated to councillors and officials, there will still be a need to keep one's eyes open. But it will be easier to see what is going on. The following is a case in point.

Allied Breweries have been granted council planning permission to put up an office block which will shut out the light from Compton Street and the adjacent area. The idea "evolved in discussion" (to quote a council planning officer) between Allied's architects and Islington council's planners over a period of a year before Compton Street residents were asked for their opinion. No report is available of the discussions. "Left wing" councillor King and "right wing" councillor Hyams railroaded the proposal through the planning applications sub-committee, although the great majority of Compton Street residents objected.

The environmental health department do not want to know anything.

All this is about par for the course. The curious thing, however, is that, according to all reports, Allied Breweries are short of cash and have no new developments in mind; and, just after a public fuss was created regarding their proposed new office block, Allied sacked 26 architects, 12 surveyors and 11 clerical staff at 4 days' notice.

---

## THE REHABILITATION OF TITO

In 1948 Tito was the pariah of the International Communist Movement, the alleged representative of the rich peasants, who had sold out to US imperialism. The self-management economy was denounced as the restoration of capitalism. Titoite plots were discovered in nearly all Eastern European countries. Many comrades were hanged or locked up.

Now we learn from all sides, including Marxist-Leninist, that Tito was quite right in standing up for Yugoslavia's independence and that self-management is quite a good idea.

We also see how Russia's international slander machine moves into action every time Russia, or one of its allies, wants to justify invading another country.

This makes it hard to believe that there was no such thing as Soviet Russian imperialism before the death of Stalin.

## TWO, THREE, MANY PROGRAMMES OF A NEW TYPE?

The ultra-left Revolutionary Communist League of Britain and Communist Workers' Movement have now amalgamated into one organisation, the RCLB.

However, they still have their two separate political programmes on sale.

The RCLB is fond of berating the poor old Mensheviks. Yet even the Mensheviks insisted that members of their organisation should agree with the party programme, not just one of the programmes.

This is not the first time that the RCLB have made history. The Liverpool group of its predecessor, the Communist Federation of Britain (M-L, of course) disagreed among themselves in 1970 whether to ask Liverpoolians not to vote at all or to vote Labour. So they distributed two different leaflets.

Was that not confusing, somebody asked. Not at all, answered the quick-witted CFBers. We distributed them in different parts of the city.

The CWM's programme is a fascinating little document. It contains demands for no fewer than 60 reforms. Typical of these is the demand for a pension of 75% of average salary payable at age 55. Why not 100% at age 50? There is no mention of how these demands were worked out. So we cannot tell how a doubled pension for nearly a double period is going to be paid for when there will be 20% less workers to pay for it. It can't be by increased productivity since another demand is for "No productivity deals and speed-ups".

### A NEW PAMPHLET

We have been sent a review copy of "Is China Still Socialist?" (35p from Nottingham Communist Group (NCG) Flat 2, 10 Villa Road, Nottingham NG3 4GG or, no doubt, from Colletts.)

NCG's answer is no. Its evidence lies in China's "importing vast quantities of advanced technology"; in the fact that "at present all enterprises, apart from certain state-authorized exceptions, are obliged to make profits"; payment "according to work done" in agriculture; "professionalism and expertise in command" in science and technology; "modernisation" of the armed forces.

The NCG's alternative policies for China are unclear. Even more unclear is whether alternative policies are workable under present Chinese conditions or are acceptable to the Chinese people.

This, of course, is the key question. Any fool can appear more progressive by saying that the time is ripe for more radical policies, whether it is or not.