

CLASS STRUGGLE

No.11 April 1977 MONTHLY

FIVE PENCE

LABOUR - BEST BOSSES' PARTY

Bosses & union leaders line up to support Labour

Labour's parliamentary 'crisis', as expected, did not end up in an election. A meaningless agreement with the Liberals was made. Labour ministers agreed to tell them in advance what Labour was going to do, and to 'listen' to the Liberal views. This patched up a parliamentary majority to get through Thatcher's motion of No Confidence. Even so, the 'crisis' brought all the capitalists and opportunists out into the cold light of day.

BOSSES SUPPORT FOR LABOUR GOVERNMENT

After Thatcher announced her intention to challenge the government, the City page of the London 'Evening Standard' said, "Shares had an attack of the jitters today that Mrs Thatcher might soon succeed in her goal of ousting the government".

Another 'Evening Standard' report said, "The city made it abundantly clear today that it wants a Labour government not a Tory government".

On Tuesday March 22nd, the 'Evening Standard' went on: "Hopes that the government will hold on to office boosted shares on the stock market today".

The 'Evening Standard' and the stock market were certainly not alone in their support for Labour. The 'Sunday Times' editorial on March 20th was headlined: "KEEP LABOUR IN".

The 'Financial Times' on March 24th explained the bosses' view that there were "advantages in having the government remain in office".

WHY THE BOSSES WANT LABOUR

The 'Financial Times' made the reasons for the bosses' support for Labour clear. It said: "a Labour government is probably better placed to secure an acceptable agreement with the TUC". This is what the bosses expect to gain from Labour - a third phase of the social contract, and Healey's capitalist budget. As the 'Sunday Times' pointed out: "There are two reasons why the government should be given a little longer. The first is ..the achievement of another phase of the incomes policy...the government is pinning everything upon it, and so is the international financial community". The second reason "is that Mr Healey has not yet produced his budget". (cont'd on p2)

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JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST FEDERATION OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)

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The 'Observer' also agreed that Labour is the best bosses' Party: "Mr Healey, given a well judged budget," (which of course, the bosses are expecting) "still appears to have the best chance of getting some kind of incomes policy".

Bosses' support for Labour is well founded! In the midst of these events, it was announced that over the last year real wages have been cut by 5%. So profits are up and wages are down. This is what the bosses and their papers mean when they say it is in the "national interest" to "keep Labour in" and praise Labour's support for the "National Economy".

UNION SCABS SHOW THEIR HEADS

Len Murray, the head Labour traitor of the TUC, said on March 21st: "We want this present government to stay in office to do the job that it has begun."

A joint statement by the Labour government and the TUC leaders went on: "the closest working relationship with Trade Unions has been a great service to the national economy".

To the working class it has meant rising unemployment, wage cuts, rent and rates rises, cuts in health, education and welfare, and throughout this, the TUC scabs have used deceit, trickery and even force to divert or suppress the struggles of the working people. In the threatened seamen's strike it was the TUC who made the threats on behalf of the bosses; only last month the bosses, unions and government lined up against Leyland workers.

LABOUR, TORY - BOTH BOSSES PARTIES

No wonder the bosses, the Labour government and Labour Party TUC traitors were terrified of an election. Working class opposition to Labour is widespread and growing. Yet the old cry that we must keep a Labour government at all costs is being raised again. The so-called Labour 'Left' trooped dutifully into the parliamentary lobbies to cast their vote expressing 'confidence' in the anti-worker government. The TUC will try to make more sell-out agreements with the government. They will bring out their 'big stick' that if we don't accept another anti-worker agreement the Labour government will fall. They will make yet more false promises to reduce unemployment. Already they are saying that the Tory leadership is the most reactionary since World War Two. True the Tory Party is a rabid anti-worker

Party, but it is a Labour government that has led an all out attack on the working class. In reality there is nothing to choose, despite Labour's 'left' words; but when Labour attacks workers it get TUC support! Workers should oppose both these bosses' Parties.

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

'Left' Labour's 'big stick' is more and more like a damp twig. Workers have had enough of Labour. The fight against the social contract is stepping up, the fight for the right to work is growing. There is no trust in the Labour Party union leaders. Labour is the best bosses' Party and its record proves it.

Yet, in this situation, the working class has no Party to call its own. A motley crowd of so-called 'lefts' pretend to oppose Labour, but when it comes down to the crunch these opportunists try vainly to maintain illusions in the 'possibilities' of Labour. The working class needs its own Party to lead and unite the struggles of the working class. It needs its own Party to shine a light on the opportunist tricks of the reformists who pose as socialists. It needs its own revolutionary Communist Party to lead the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system and its state, and to lead the struggle to build socialism.

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY!

* A worker, who in four years at the Ford, Halewood Body Plant, had an 'unblemished' disciplinary record, was granted written permission by management to go home early - at 12.30, lunchtime. He completed his quota of work ahead of time and left for home at 12.20, 10 minutes early. The security guards stopped him as he passed through the gate and reported him to the management - who the following morning suspended the worker for 1 shift, for "misconduct".

"ONE OUT, ALL OUT"

The 35 workers on his section responded by striking immediately. The remainder of the 1500 workers in the plant rallied behind them with an overwhelming vote to strike in support. "ONE OUT, ALL OUT" was the call.

United and militant action like that of the Ford workers will continue to grow, as the bosses tighten up on 'discipline' and step up their exploitation in the face of the deepening economic crisis.

PROFITS FOR BOSSES— PLESSEY WORKERS FIGHT FOR JOBS

Last month the Liverpool Labour Party District Committee, the Liverpool Trades Council and several Labour MPs called for the nationalisation of the telecommunications industry in a last-ditch attempt to divert the rising militancy of workers who have been protesting against a recent wave of redundancy notices, particularly in Plessey's.

The telecommunications industry as such is not "in a mess" as far as the bosses are concerned - it makes massive profits from its work force - but layoffs and sackings have made life for the workers "a mess".

Nationalisation is just another form of capitalism - state monopoly capitalism. The practice of the Post Office over the past few years shows how nationalisation really works in the interest of the ruling class.

The relationship between the Post Office and the private sector of the telecommunications industry is a close one. The Post Office commands two-thirds of the output of these firms - GEC, STC, Plessey and Pye - and strictly controls what they produce.

The introduction of the TXE 4 exchange into the Post Office from 1971 - 1975 led to the loss of 14,000 jobs, because less people are required to operate it.

Between 1975 and 1977, the PO cut back its expenditure by 40%, causing immediate layoffs in the private sector. These firms still however managed to cash huge profits. Plessey's laid off 5200 men and profits rocketed up £10 million to £38 million.

Adding it all up and including the postal service, the Post Office axed 18,000 jobs and directly caused the loss of another 20,000 in associated industries. All this within 4 years!

Then in 1976 after announcing £147,900,000 profits, it slashed its expenditure over the next 3½ years by £220 million. The immediate effect was redundancy notices and an expected loss of yet another 20,000 jobs by 1978.

To add insult to injury, Ken Corefield, the managing director of STC, let it be known that whereas TXE 4 axed 60% of the telecommunications workforce, the introduction of the new telecommunications system, System X (currently being



Staff pickets (above) locked out management, at Edge Lane and Speke, Liverpool. At Kirkby, workers staged a work-in. More and more Plessey workers are demanding united action by hourly-paid workers and staff to fight for the right to work.

developed at a cost of £100 million) will only require one-tenth of the present labour force.

The rationalisation of telecommunications in the interests of the big companies' profits, the profit seeking of the Post Office, and the introduction of new technology is a direct blow at the working class. The dole queue has lengthened, prices have gone spiralling upwards - telephone charges quadrupled in 4 years, letters about to go up - and the future looks bleak. And Labour MPs, and the revisionist 'CP'GB calls for more of this quack medicine - Further nationalisation, and quick introduction of System X - their words of socialism are but fig leaves to cover up state monopoly capitalism.

PLESSEY WORKERS FIGHT BACK

The latest wave of redundancy notices has been in Plessey's, who aimed to make 4000 workers redundant: 2080 in Sunderland, 1278 in 3 Liverpool plants and 700 installation workers. 400 Kirkby workers occupied their factory for 2 weeks. ASTMS staff workers in the Edge Lane and Speke plants in Liverpool locked out the management, but have temporarily suspended the lockout during talks with the bosses. The bosses are

(cont'd on p.4)

RATIONALISATION IS LABOUR'S PLAN

One of the main priorities of the present Labour government has been its Bill to nationalise the aircraft and ship-building industries. It is claimed by Labour, especially so-called 'left' wingers, that this is a socialist measure. In reality, the facts show quite the opposite. Labour's plan is part of their scheme to save capitalism - in this case by rationalising two major industries.

In the world market, capitalists of both industries face increasingly intense competition as the world demand for new aircraft and ships falls. For example, the demand for new ships over the next 4 years is expected to be only 37% of that of 1973-74. This would mean making more than half the workforce in ship-building redundant. While in the Aerospace industry, one of the four firms to be nationalised, British Aircraft Corporation, has already announced more than 1½ thousand redundancies at its Filton, Hurn and Weybridge plants - because of falling orders.

Like British industry generally, the aircraft and shipbuilding industries have suffered in recent years from a lack of investment. The bosses have sought higher profits through greater exploitation of workers abroad. The aim of the bosses' Labour government, through nationalisation, is for the state to provide the capital investment - £65 millions in shipbuilding for instance - and by rationalising and

modernising each industry, make them more profitable and more competitive in the world market. In other words to make tens of thousands of workers redundant.

It is always claimed by Labour, especially its 'left' wing, that nationalisation will save jobs. But yet again the facts prove the opposite. Lord Beswick, named by the government as likely boss of the nationalised aerospace industry, says "I have steadfastly refused to give any guarantee that every job at every site can be secured". In fact ask any miner if nationalisation has saved jobs in his industry and he will tell you that in ten years up to 1974 the workforce has been cut by half. Any railway worker will answer that 167,000 jobs have been lost over the same period on the railways. While a steel worker would reply 32,000 jobs lost.

Experience has shown the working class that nationalisation by the bosses' state does not move us any nearer to socialism, rather it is aimed at strengthening the state's grip over the economy in a vain attempt to hold off the economic crisis. Far from saving jobs - it actually reduces them. Labour's 'socialist' measure is once again revealed to be no more than state monopoly capitalism. Workers are increasingly seeing through this double-talk and will continue to fight for the right to work against the bosses and their state.

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PROFITS FOR BOSSES - PLESSEY WORKERS FIGHT FOR JOBS

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making great efforts to split the fight-back on a plant by plant and union by union basis. They have offered different redundancy terms to Sunderland workers, and offered some Speke workers jobs at another Liverpool factory, Edge Lane, where they are planning 600 redundancies!

Plessey workers are more and more demanding the unions take joint action, and stand up to the bosses' tactics. As one shop floor Plessey worker said: "The only way we'll win is if hourly-paid and staff at all factories fight together".

LUCAS WORKERS RESIST REDUNDANCIES

On February 16th workers at the Lucas Aerospace factory in Broadgreen, Liverpool flatly rejected a management proposal to slash the workforce by 500 (plus a further 250 redundancies in Birmingham, and 280 in Burnley). This rejection was supported by the national Combine Stewards Committee. (see Class Struggle 10).

Faced with the militant response at Broadgreen, the bosses answered by setting up a 4-man Investigation Committee (3 members from the staff side plus the chairman of the stewards committee), to tour other factories in the Lucas group looking for work. This, they said, could save jobs. But who would really benefit from this scheme, management or workers?

Firstly, why do they need a committee anyway, when the bosses surely know what work is available? Will management "arrange" the tour to support the argument for redundancies?

Secondly, if they find work, will it mean Lucas workers at Broadgreen competing with other factories or outside contractors for it? When factories and workers are divided, it's the bosses who gain!

Thirdly, how much of the work will be non-aerospace work? Less specialised work pays lower rates and needs fewer and less-skilled workers to do it!

Workers should be very wary of getting involved with management schemes like this. The Broadgreen stewards committee showed the way forward on February 16th: national united action to oppose redundancies and fight for the right to work. Let the bosses solve their own problems!

NATIONALISATION - NO SOLUTION

The bosses are the main enemies of the Lucas workers, and their schemes must be exposed and resisted. But the workforce must also beware of those in its own ranks who try to divert the struggle against redundancies.

In July 1974 the Lucas Aerospace Combine Stewards Committee passed a resolution calling on the government to nationalise Lucas Aerospace. This demand may be brought up during the present struggle as a solution to the redundancy threat.

BUDGET LIES

Healey has promised to cut taxes. When you read this the Budget will have been announced. In fact year by year the Government raises taxes. Test this out against Healey's so-called 'cut'.

If you're single: has he raised your present tax free allowance from the present £735 to £1010? If you're married: has he raised it from £1085 to £1315? Has Healey done this, without increasing VAT and other taxes on goods in the shops? Only then would he have returned allowances to what they were in February 1974 when Labour won the election. Even to get back to last year's tax allowance Healey would have to have raised a single person's allowance by £110 and a married couple's by £165.

Inflation means that more and more of your wages are taxed, even when they are worth less. Everyone, on average, is paying nearly three times as much tax as they were four years ago. 'The Times' had to accept that this "rate of increase far exceeds the rise in average earnings."

Governments have taken even more from us in tax than have rising prices. In 1963 the average wage was £18. Since then it has risen by about £50. Yet after prices and especially tax how much do we have left? According even to Government figures, we are left with only £2 out of the £50.

In the last four years living standards have fallen severely and in the next year the official estimate is that the fall will be another 4p in the pound.

Healey's blustering tax cuts are part of the Social Con-trick. Healey's tax 'cuts' are just a little more bait before the hook again goes through our throat. We won't be caught again. ■

But, as the article on the opposite page shows, nationalisation under capitalism means rationalisation, and has nothing to offer the working class.

It doesn't matter whether Lucas is owned by the bosses or the bosses' state; the only way to protect jobs is to Unite and Fight!

NO COLLABORATION WITH THE BOSSES OR THEIR STATE!

ORGANISATION AND RESISTANCE - THE KEY WEAPONS! ■

KICK THE SOVIET PIRATES OUT!

Stop Soviet fishing in European waters!

In March the USSR fully exposed its imperialist intentions on the high seas. On March 1st, following a decree issued by the Soviet government, taking "temporary measures for preservation of marine resources and regulation of fishing off the coasts of the USSR", the Soviet navy forcibly kicked Japanese fishing boats out of the new "Soviet" waters, despite the fact that these waters are only a few miles away from four northern Japanese islands, which the Soviet Union has illegally claimed as its own!

Nine days later, on March 10th negotiations between the Soviet Union and the European Economic Community were broken off, as a result of Soviet insistence on its "traditional fishing rights" in west European coastal waters. The Soviet imperialists claim that the 200 mile economic and fishing zones being established by other countries are "part of the high seas", and that the Soviet Union is entitled to draw on "the unused portion" of fish in the zones.

The seas and oceans have always been an arena of fierce contention for imperialists. These two actions of the Soviet fascists, show that they are no different from earlier colonialist pirates, and are determined to carry on with their tyrannical policy of "what is mine is mine, and what is yours is mine too". Our reaction to this superpower piracy must be quite clear. There should be no more Soviet fishing in European waters. All Soviet trawlers should be kicked out.

THIRD WORLD LED STRUGGLE FOR 200 MILE LIMIT

It was the Third World that led the just struggle for 200 mile economic and fishing limits. Last year at the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, many small and medium sized countries demanded that a new law, which would protect the sovereignty and national economic interests of all countries, be introduced. The two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, demanded that their navies should have the right of "free navigation" in the territorial waters of other countries, that they should have the right to carry out "scientific research" anywhere

on the seabed, and that their trawlers should be allowed to fish in "traditional waters", and catch "any stock" not fished by the coastal states.

As the conference went on, the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, found themselves increasingly isolated, and the Soviet representative complained that he had "scarcely seen such an international conference which indulged in political debate instead of discussing legal stipulations". The developing countries quite correctly retorted that the making of the Law of the Sea was no technical matter, but a political struggle for sovereignty and survival.

Throughout the struggle, Britain, like most of the smaller capitalist powers, vacillated, arguing first one way, and then another. This was because Britain wanted to continue to plunder the resources of countries like Iceland, but at the same time was worried about the increasing Soviet exploitation of British waters.

When Iceland declared its 200 mile fishing limit, the Labour government sent in gunboats to help British trawlers fish illegally. The Icelandic people heroically defended their just demands and won. It was struggles like this, that meant that Britain and other West European countries, had to protect their own fishing grounds, and on the first of January, the EEC established its own 200 mile limit. This action was correct, but so far Britain has cringed in the face of blatant Soviet violations of the EEC decision.

SOCIAL IMPERIALISTS PLUNDER RESOURCES - LABOUR CRINGES

In January, Labour said that the USSR would be allowed to catch 55,000 tons of fish in the first three months of the year, and announced sternly that "anyone who breaks our law will be dealt with". But after the Soviet Union had completed its catch within 18 days, and continued to fish, the British government's attitude changed. British gunboats arrested Danish and Scottish trawlers off the south coast, but David Owen, now the British Foreign Secretary, said, "in the case of the Soviet Union, we are dealing with one

(cont'd on p.?)

PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT - A WEAPON OF STATE REPRESSION

This month the Labour government renewed the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). This Act allows the State to deport people to Northern Ireland without producing evidence against them; it allows the police to arrest people and search premises without a warrant, and to hold people for up to five days without making a charge against them. The Labour government claims that the PTA protects the safety of men and women in this country by helping them to track down 'terrorists' more easily. Facts show that this is a lie. In reality, the PTA is used as a weapon to frighten people from standing up for the right of the Irish people to decide their own future.

PTA - AN ANTI-PEOPLE WEAPON OF THE RULING CLASS

What are the facts? In the last two years years, 2251 people were arrested under the Act. Only 5% of them were actually charged with anything, and a half were charged with crimes which have nothing to do with terrorism - such as "wasting police time"! And the Home Secretary himself has said that those actually charged could have been caught within the already existing laws. So even by their own admission, they do not need the PTA to catch people.

The real purpose of the Act is to intimidate men and women who stand up for the Irish right to self-determination. For example, the police can pick up a man or a woman and hold them for five days without making any charge, and then

KICK THE SOVIET PIRATES OUT!

(Cont'd from p6)

of the most powerful maritime nations in the world", and Britain left the Soviet trawlers alone.

The Labour government should stop this contemptible crawling. The Soviet Union is plundering our natural resources and challenging our independence. We should follow the heroic example of the Icelandic people. All fishing licenses to the USSR should be withdrawn, and the Soviet social imperialist pirates kicked out of European waters. ■

release them. When the "suspect" is released, he finds that his employer has sacked him because he wants nothing to do with 'terrorists'. Many people have been picked up under the Act but have not reported it to anyone for fear of being branded as terrorists.

As well as getting people kicked out of their jobs and livelihoods, the police also try to create divisions among working people by pinning the 'terrorist' label on innocent people. For example, one woman in Southampton was charged with harbouring a suspect and had to report to the police station 96 times under the terms of her bail before the charges against her were completely dropped. She was lucky not to be charged with "wasting police time"! Such a tactic aims at branding a person and dividing the working class.

The PTA was originally rushed through the House of Commons after the Birmingham bombings. There was just indignation among working people against these bombings. The working class will never approve acts of terrorism against ordinary men and women. But we must also set our faces like stone against any attempt of the British ruling class to turn such anti-worker acts to their advantage. If the British ruling class really had the interests of the people at heart they would end their interference in Ireland. Instead they carry out their own terrorist policies and trample over hard-won democratic rights.

UNITE AGAINST COMMON ENEMY

The PTA has also been used against British trade unionists and journalists. In Ireland the British State has built up an arsenal of terror and repression which they use daily against the Irish people. They will also use it against anyone in this country who seriously challenges their rotten system. The way forward for the people of Britain and Ireland is to strengthen our unity, to fight for the right of the Irish people to decide their own future, and stand shoulder to shoulder against our common enemy: the British ruling class. ■

LEYLAND WORKERS OPPOSE BOSS UNION LEADERSHIP COLLABORATION

When Leyland toolroom workers dealt another blow at the Labour government last month, the Labour leaders responded with a vivid display of their class nature and support for state monopoly capitalism.

The Leyland strike was a direct blow at the social contract, wage cuts and the virtual elimination of differentials, and at the sell-out trade union leadership. The bosses and the opportunists try to divide workers over such questions as differentials. The bosses say that unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers have different interests. In fact all workers have a common interest and a common enemy - the capitalists that exploit them all. In any company the workers strengthen themselves most by agreeing reasonable differentials among themselves, and waging a common struggle on a joint claim against the bosses. The social contract and the failure of the AUEW leaders to represent them led Leyland toolroom workers to take direct action themselves. The course of the struggle proved that the Labour trade union leaders act in the interests of monopoly capitalism, not the working class.

SCANLON GETS THE BIRD

Scanlon himself made a direct bid to stop the strike. Confident that his social democratic trickery would confuse and divide the workers, he attended a mass meeting of 3000 toolroom workers in Birmingham on March 11th. Laying it on thick, he made promises and threats of disaster in the same breath; but his speech was drowned as chants of "scab" and "go home you bum" rose to drown him out.

Furious, the Labour leaders of 21 unions lined up with the government, the Leyland bosses and the National Enterprise Board with threats to stop investment on the new lines, and to break up the company.

The trade union leaders went so far as to pledge support for the bosses'

The revisionist 'Communist' Party could only rustle up an apologetic criticism of those trade union leaders who acted as outright lackeys of the bosses:

"Neither will statements from trade union leaders, who go along with management's handling of the dispute, help to ease the situation." That is the Morning Star's response to union leaders' support for the threat to sack 3000 members of their union!

decision to sack all the workers if they did not go back to work.

AT WORK - UNION LEADERS STILL LINE UP WITH THE BOSSES

After gaining some partial concessions the toolroom workers returned to work on March 21st, only to be greeted at work by further combined attacks on them by the bosses and union leaders. On return, each worker received a letter from the joint management council, which is made up equally of Leyland bosses and union leaders. The letters repeated threats, and demanded increases in productivity and an end to industrial action of any sort. Labour's plan for "industrial democracy" and nationalisation are shown here in practice - bosses and union leaders working together against the working class, making profits from the labour of the workers in state-run monopoly capitalist combines.

THE FIGHT TO SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT CONTINUES

The leaders of the toolroom workers said during the dispute that they did not want to break the social contract. In fact the Leyland stewards committee as a whole has already come out against it. The joint action of all sections of Leyland workers against the social contract, with an agreed pay demand that takes into account the interests of all, is precisely the weapon that will end the wage cuts inflicted on all workers.

A WORKERS' NOTEBOOK

AS UNEMPLOYMENT AND CRISIS DEEPENS, certain Labour and trade union leaders say the answer is more money from the government. However, the Labour government itself has recently released figures showing how useless this is for the working class. In the past three years £8,500 million, nearly £200 for every man, woman and child in the country, has been pumped into manufacturing. Over the same period unemployment has leapt from 600,000 to 1½ million. You can't pump up a burst balloon.

ON THE 28th FEBRUARY, THE MINISTRY OF Agriculture brought out a damning report on its own Government's record. It showed that because of ever rising prices, families last year were able to eat less beef, potatoes, lamb, bacon, poultry, fresh and canned fish and fresh green vegetables.

Yet 66p a week per person more had to be spent: that is £3.30 a week more for a family of five. More money for less food!

Since then food prices have continued to spiral upwards with tea and coffee prices leading the way. The estimate is that a shopping basket costing £10 in December 1975 will cost £15 in December this year.

DESPITE A SLIGHT DECLINE LAST MONTH, there are still 5.8 million unemployed workers in the Common Market. These are the official figures and undoubtedly understate the position. Britain's rate of unemployment of 5.6% is not the highest; the Belgian rate is 7.5% and Ireland about 10%. With stagnant production and constant pressure by the bosses to raise productivity, fewer workers will produce the same number of goods and unemployment will rise still higher.

When Callaghan visited President Carter in the US he admitted his fears about the future for what he called "the economic prospects for the West". He said, "worsening unemployment and inflation...can lead not only to disillusion among our young people. It can lead to changes in political stability. It can lead to changes in political systems." So it will!

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF US PRESIDENT CARTER is trying to spend its way out of the crisis. In 1977 Carter is planning to spend \$70 billion more than the government's income. This deficit will be added to in 1978 by a planned \$60 billion. By then the total national debt of the US will be \$785 billion. So each American will bear a debt of \$3500. But putting the richest country in the world in hock has done nothing to help the unemployed. It has done everything to fuel inflation and line the pockets of the financiers who receive the interest payments on this growing US debt.

LAST MONTH ALL THE MAIN HEADS OF STATE OF the main African and Arab countries gathered in Cairo for the first time. The aim they stated was to 'promote co-operation by reason of our joint struggle against domination and exploitation' against imperialism, colonialism, racism and Zionism. Eleven million dollars were given to African Liberation movements by the Arab countries.

One delegate commented that this was a very important first stage in uniting their 400 million people to rely on their own efforts. The superpowers are on the way out.

THE PRESS ARE ALWAYS TELLING THE 'LAZY', 'strike-prone' British worker about the 'hard working', 'loyal' Continentals. None more so we are told than the Belgians and the Dutch. Not so widely reported have been two national campaigns waged by our fellow workers in these countries over the last two months.

In Holland, after a three week strike finally involving thirty thousand workers each day, the employers had to accept the workers' demand for automatic wage rises for each cost of living increase.

In Belgium huge strikes have been declared involving half-a-million workers at a time, to protest against unemployment and rising prices. The first strike, involving transport and local government workers, brought the railways to a halt and closed municipal offices across the country.

"IS THE CORPORATE STATE ALREADY WITH us? The official list of the press and public relations officers in government departments and nationalised industries, now includes details of the press offices of the TUC and the CBI". Quote from The Guardian 4.3.77.

ROMANIAN PEOPLE OVERCOME EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

Last month Romania suffered from a massive earthquake; the capital, Bucharest itself badly shaken; many buildings including blocks of flats collapsed. The Romanian people heroically set about rescuing people from the debris. Day after day, workers and students worked round the clock, pulling people from the wreckage for days after the event.

The bourgeois press, whilst being unable to deny the great mass struggle to save victims of the earthquake made dire predictions that Romania would now have to accept 'aid' from the Soviet Union, with strings attached and would become a satellite of the Soviet social imperialists. The Romanian people, though, are far stronger than the bourgeois press believes!

At a press conference Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian President, stated that the Romanian people would overcome the disaster "relying primarily on their own efforts". He stated that Romania would welcome foreign aid, but only if there were no strings attached. Romania, he stressed, "was determined to maintain its national sovereignty and independence". A foreign ministry official said that aid had come from several countries who agreed to these terms, and added that: "no aid has been received from the Soviet Union".

MESSAGE FROM CHINA

Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, sent a message of sympathy and solicitude over the casualties and damage, and condolences to the bereaved families.

"The heroic Romanian people have been tempered and tested in the course of overcoming several serious natural disasters in the past", he said, and expressed his conviction that "the Romanian people will certainly surmount the difficulties".

The Chinese Red Cross Society also sent a message of sympathy and support, and contributed 20 tons of medicine and half a million yuan (about £150,000) in order to "help speed the efforts of the people".

Revolution

THEORETICAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE CFB(M-L)

Building the revolutionary Communist Party to lead the revolution is the central task for all genuine Marxist-Leninists in Britain today. 'Revolution', the theoretical journal of the CFB(M-L), has been founded to be a sharp weapon in the struggle to build that Party.

Issue Number Four is now out. The issue contains:

GRASP DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM!

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