

# THE WORKER



Published by Communist Party of Britain Marxist Leninist

DECEMBER 1970

Price 6d

## KILL THE BILL - SMASH CAPITALISM

### RULING CLASS'S INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL ATTACKS

The present Government's Bill attacking trade unionism, like the previous Government's "In Place of Strife", proves that the capitalist class is in trouble.

Where formerly the capitalists could live with trade unions—even if they found them a thorn in their flesh, now they are demanding state intervention to crush trade unions.

This represents a major step in the move from bourgeois democracy to the corporate state. It is a step dictated by the weakness of British capitalism, not by its strength.

But that the ruling class would consider so rash a step is also proof that the trade unions have been failing the working class. They have been content to live with capitalism. They have tried to stand still and have inevitably been pushed back. They have betrayed the Tolpuddle martyrs and all the other workers who have fought and suffered for the realisation of working class strength through organisation.

Now the truce is over. We in the CPB (ML) welcome the forthcoming struggle. Neither we nor the workers whose party we are have ever feared conflict.

We will not have Tory legislation or Labour legislation against workers. Nor will we have the TUC General Council acting as a semi-governmental body to deal with such legislation.

And certainly our Party does not believe that the TUC General Council nor the Labour Party intend to put up a real fight on this issue. Workers will not be fooled by the shadow-boxing of the Shadow Cabinet. Barbara Castle who is supposed to be leading the Labour resistance paved the way for the Tory Bill with her own attack on the trade unions. In the Labour policy for industrial relations which she drafted she openly supported state intervention. "The state," she said, "had to act at times to contain the disruptive consequences of the struggle for those not immediately affected." This is exactly the attitude of Victor Feather who at the TUC Conference stated that "one man's strike was another man's lay-off".

We will have no such 'leaders' betraying the struggle before it even begins. We consider a 'token strike' as calling for the most timid response from the working class, showing no confidence in their courage and tenacity.

### ENTIRE WORKING CLASS



**Workers all over Britain, like this mass meeting of dockers at Liverpool during the July dock strike, will now be involved in the fight to defeat anti-trade union legislation.**

This anti-working class Bill gives workers the opportunity not only of joining struggle but of raising it to a higher level. The struggle cannot be merely economic because it is against the capitalist state. It is a political struggle and there can only be one goal for workers in political

struggle—to overthrow the capitalist state and set up their own. To end the dictatorship of the capitalist class and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat.

It will not be an easy struggle. It will be hard, bloody and protracted. But the workers of Britain can ac-

cept no less with dignity and pride in their united strength. We are fighting for our birthright. In the unity that will be forged in struggle to defeat this attack we say:

**IT'S RIGHT TO STRIKE - TO STRIKE DOWN CAPITALISM!**

## HEATH AND WILSON AGREE

Heath and Wilson broke off their shadow boxing in the House on November 26th during the debate on the Government's industrial proposals and fell into a loving clinch. Both agreed wholeheartedly in condemning strikes being planned by trade union militants against the Government's anti-trade union legislation.

Wilson declared: "I have made it clear that I support the TUC's condemnation of these strikes for political purposes."

Meanwhile Barbara Castle, the Labour author of anti-trade union legislation in the last Government, was accusing the Tories of being motivated by "spite against

the trade unions" in their Bill. It's like Wilson's retort to the charge that Labour had led the way in cutting back the social services. "But we did it reluctantly," he said.

Heath, Wilson, Feather, Carr and Castle can perform whatever gyrations they like in the Parliamentary ballet. Workers know that they are all puppets manipulated by the capitalist class enemy. Workers will not be distracted by these dumb shows from their real battle with that class enemy. And they will certainly not let any of the puppets, calling themselves Labour or TUC or what-not, assume the leadership of their struggle.

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BILL

Dec. 8th

Among activities all over the country on Tuesday, Dec. 8th, protesting against anti-Trade Union legislation there will be a rally in London commencing at:

**KINGS' CROSS**

9.30 a.m.

of militant workers who will demonstrate their determination to make Dec. 8th, only the first step in a fight that will not end till the Bill has been thrown on the rubbish heap.

# FUTILE SAVAGERY

## DESPERATE PLIGHT OF U.S. IN INDO-CHINA

Nixon's vicious bombing raid on North Vietnam, like the Hollywood fiasco of the attempt to release US prisoners of war, is a symptom of US imperialism's desperate contradiction.

The decision to withdraw US forces from Vietnam has been forced on the American Government by the realisation that, from the point of view of imposing its will on Indo-China, US imperialism's war of aggression has been lost. But it is still impossible for the US ruling class to face the consequences of such a major defeat. Hence these acts as futile as they are savage, like the attack on Cambodia, the renewed bombing raids on the North and the stupid bravado of the commando attack on an empty prison camp.

Nothing the US does in Indo-China can go right for them. The Cambodian attack spread the war over the whole of Indo-China and great victories are being won against the US and its puppets in Cambodia and Laos. The much vaunted "Vietnamisation" programme, the old theory of letting "gooks fight gooks," looks ridiculous when the CIA itself admits that the puppet regime and army are riddled with those sympathetic to the liberation of Vietnam.

At the end of World War Two the US emerged as the greatest imperialist power of all time. US capitalism seemed set for

reducing the whole world to tribute in what was being called "the American Century." Then the colossus stubbed its toe on little Vietnam and fell flat on its face. People all over the world under imperialist domination have taken courage from the magnificent example of the heroic Vietnamese people.

British Governments, whether Labour or Tory, have slavishly applauded every act of savagery and aggression carried out by the US. A few bleats of anguish have occasionally been emitted by so-called "left" MPs but nothing has prevented successive governments from taking a line of aiding and abetting US actions in Vietnam and the rest of Indo-China—a line which the workers of Britain have rejected over and over again in resolutions and demonstrations.

The latest example of this slimy servility of British governments is this statement of Heath's lot on the bombing of North Vietnam:

"Operations of this kind have taken place before, the possibility of peace has long existed at the Paris talks and the responsibility for the continuation of the war in Vietnam and all that that entails rests primarily with North Vietnam."

The excuse for the bombing raid was that the North Vietnamese dared shoot down a US aircraft over their own territory.

# DELEGATION TO CHINA

An invitation from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has been accepted by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and a delegation is visiting China at the end of the year.

The delegation is headed by the Chairman of the Party and includes members of the Central Committee and Secretariat. They welcome this opportunity of discussing with Chinese comrades problems of mutual interest.

China is the bastion of world socialism. Basing themselves on the principle of proletarian internationalism the Chinese people and leadership are the staunch friends of revolutionaries everywhere.

The creative development of scientific socialism by Chairman Mao Tse Tung and the rich revolutionary experience of the Chinese people are an inspiration and guide to all Marxist-Leninists in the task of building revolutionary movements in their own countries.

# TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHINESE WORKERS

In the 21 years since the socialist revolution was victorious in China the United Nations has pretended that the world's most populated state did not exist. Year in and year out the General Assembly voted in favour of US imperialism to keep the Chiang Kai-shek puppets in possession of China's seat. This year however, for the first time ever, the US failed to obtain a majority. By 51 votes to 49 with 25 abstentions the General Assembly voted to expel the Chiang rump and seat the People's Republic of China.

One would suppose that now the rightful government of 700 million people would be able to take its place in the UN. But no. The US managed through its clients, including double-dealing Britain, to vote for its earlier resolution that the seating of China was an "important" question and could only be resolved by a two-thirds majority being in favour of China. Since that was not obtained the Chiang puppets continue to occupy China's place, though not for long.

But such a trick cannot hide the obvious truth—that socialist China is not just here to stay but is leaping forward by giant strides. The world's largest socialist state is making socialism a huge success despite the lies and propaganda of all the imperialist powers including the Soviet Union.

The proletarian cultural revolution was supposed to have been a great set-back for China's agriculture and industry etc. But it was that very same revolution producing the most massive class struggle between two clear-cut political lines that has enabled the Chinese working class today to take the lead in developing a booming socialist economy. By defeating the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and his ilk in the Chinese Party and government and by implementing Mao's socialist line, the Chinese workers and peasants have not merely scored a political victory for socialism but have also laid the foundations for the most tremendous achievements in all fields of economic, social and cultural development.

Since political work is the "life-blood of all economic work," the successes achieved on the political front, which resulted in the defeat of revisionism and counter-revolutionary attempts to keep the Chinese people dependent on foreign help, have truly generated the workers' initiative.

The famous bridge over the river Yangtze in Nanking was built by workers who were prepared to overthrow the renegades who kept on blocking all progress by repeating imperialist lies that such a bridge could not be built and by defeating the Soviet revisionists who thought that by exporting, faulty steel they would frustrate socialism. Instead the Chinese proletariat, led by the party and guided by Mao's brilliant leadership, used their initiative to become self-reliant and finish not just the bridge but thousands of other developments that the traitors said could never be done.

Today China has a motor industry where none existed even ten years ago. She has built the most modern automated machines. The workers of China have taken the lead in smashing the myths of depending



LET THEM TRY THEIR WORST — ANOTHER U.S. PLANE SHOT DOWN BY THE VIETNAMESE, BRINGING THE SCORE TO MORE THAN 3,000.

## CELEBRATE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

Ten years of brilliant victories against U.S. genocidal war leading to formation of Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam in June 1969.

### SPEAKER FROM HANOI

"Khamduc", a new film from Vietnam about the recent capture of an outpost by the liberation forces after bitter fighting.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19th, at 7.00 p.m.

155 Fortress Road, NW5.  
(Nearest tube Tufnell Park, also buses 27, 137, 134)

Admission 4/-

Organised by Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

# PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION WHAT NEXT?

INTERVIEW WITH ABU OMAR, MEMBER OF AL FATAH AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

**THE WORKER:** What is your appraisal of the war launched against the Palestinian revolution by King Hussein and Jordanian reaction?

**ABU OMAR:** The movement was subjected to an all-out attempt at liquidation. It was not our strategy to have such a confrontation with the government. The pressures on the King as a result of the settlement, especially from the United States, were such that an all-out attack was inevitable.

Certain actions of the fedayeen may have given the King a pretence behind which he could launch the attack. This has resulted in self criticism. There has been a lack of self discipline, especially with respect to the army. This is natural among an oppressed people where the soldier exists as a symbol of oppression; but many ordinary soldiers are sympathetic to the revolution and can be won over. The action of certain groups had a similar effect, for example calling all power to the resistance, when the resistance was neither ready to, nor capable of, taking power. The highjackings also acted as an excuse the King could use for intervention.

Even though we knew the confrontation was coming, it was important not to start the battle ourselves. The military basis of our forces in the cities, mostly the Militia, meant we had to be primarily on the defensive, especially in Amman. In the north the character of our actions could be more offensive.

What surprised us was the ferocity of the attack. The bedouin were told that they could loot as much as they wanted. The shelling was indiscriminate, and followed by rape and looting.

Our action was in self defence with the aim of crushing the enemy. We were not able to do this. Nor were they able to crush us. The result was a type of stalemate, from which the Cairo agreement followed. The agreement represents a partial retreat by the King and, as such, is adequate for the time being.

There are now many police state attacks, and a general repression directed against

the Palestinians. The government objective is to make the existence of the Palestinians so unbearable that they would opt for a puppet state of Palestine, either in Jordan or on the West Bank, which would be dominated by the US.

The outcome of the war was the unity of the people. All forces are now under one command, and we are in the process of politically evaluating what happened. It is not yet clear what forms the new unity of the groups will take organisationally. We are strengthening our work among various segments of the Jordanian population and army. Many soldiers are now beginning to join the revolution. Our work in the countryside is being completely reorganised. We are in the process of building our forces as fast as possible. We are also building our ties with progressive forces at Arab level and at the international level. It is important to increase unity and transform democratic centralism into a reality in order to defeat any further attacks that are launched against us.

**THE WORKER:** How do you view the nature of the future Palestinian state—as a socialist state led by the workers and peasants, or as a capitalist one?

**ABU OMAR:** We are a national liberation movement not a proletarian party. We are a national liberation movement in very difficult circumstances, standing against imperialism, Zionism, and their allies. Inevitably through carrying out a strategy of armed struggle through a protracted people's war we come into conflict with the agents of imperialism within the Arab world. Furthermore from a class position, as the nature of the protracted war becomes more apparent, segments of the bourgeoisie are beginning to fall away from the resistance. Since we are opposing Zionism and imperialism we would, inevitably through victory, create its antithesis which ultimately means socialism. As a national liberation movement for whom liberation is so far away, there is no necessity at this stage to determine the final form of the state—just as with the NLF in Vietnam whose political

programme at this stage is not specifically socialist. In our case, after unity is achieved, there may emerge some form of political programme providing the basis for our activity in the next phase. We are very much concerned with maintaining the front form of organisation for all segments to participate in.

**THE WORKER:** How do you face the problems of fighting as a people in exile with the consequent problems of relations with the governments of the states the Palestinians are refugees in?

**ABU OMAR:** By depending upon the support of the masses of the people in the Arab world, with assistance from friendly governments and foreign countries of which China has been the most important.

**THE WORKER:** The capitalist press in Britain has suggested that Peoples China gives most of its support to so-called "extremist" groups like the Popular Front. Is this so?

**ABU OMAR:** This is of course false. The vast majority of aid goes to Al Fatah. Links between China and Al Fatah go back to before 1967, as early as 1965 we were in contact with them. Now of course all aid goes through the Central Committee to all the revolutionary forces. Our relations with Albania are also very good. We had a delegation that visited Albania a few months ago, and a women's delegation that we sent has only recently returned.

**THE WORKER:** Recently the London North District Committee of the AEF passed a resolution supporting the just cause of the Palestinian people. Many sections of the organised working class have already expressed their support for the struggle of the Vietnamese people, but this is, we believe, the first trade union resolution of support for the struggle of the Palestinian people made in Britain. Do you regard this as significant?

**ABU OMAR:** Yes I think it is very significant and an augury of things to come.



on foreign experts and on those with college degrees. They have set before themselves the task of applying the most important political lesson—that the people are the motive force of history—to achieve industrial and technological successes through the mobilisation of the masses—not by the hundred but by hundreds of thousands. Throughout China's iron and steel mills, mines and factories, communes and engineering works the basic principle being applied is to develop the creative genius of the masses by applying the principles of scientific socialism to all problems. The spectacular success of China in the development of nuclear power and its first man-made satellite—something that imperialist Britain has not yet achieved—is not simply a question of technology but of politics in command, the politics of Marxism-Leninism, of Mao's line.

That is why the imperialist powers are in such a fix. On the one hand the booming industrial and agricultural conditions in China have created the possibility of profitable trade which British firms, like West German, French etc., are only too anxious to do. But on the other this is not just any other industrially advanced land; it is the largest socialist state which has made its socialist revolutionary principles the bedrock of all its work.

# The N.U.M. and the miners' strike

Report from a Yorkshire miner

On November 26th the results of the ballot on acceptance of the National Coal Board's latest offer were published. 65% were for accepting an £18 minimum for surface workers, £19 for underground workers and £26 7s 6d for coalface workers. The original claim was for £20, £22 and £30. South Wales and Scotland were strongly against acceptance while Kent was evenly split. This result shows the way that ballots (this was the second ballot on this pay claim) are used to weaken the working class. Last year the NCB and the National Union of Mineworkers were taken by surprise by the sweeping strike over surface workers' hours which forced a £15 minimum wage and one-and-a-quarter hour cut in hours for surface workers.

This time the union leaders were determined not to "let things get out of hand." They planned to secure this leadership by talking militant at the start and then slowly defusing the miners' anger. First of all Lawrence Daly, the General Secretary of the NUM, came round to the pit union branches, gave fiery speeches about sticking up for our rights, how we ought to have £20, £22, £30 in all the coalfields and quoting Shelley.

The miners' general mood after the speech was "Why the bloody hell didn't he come round last year when we were on strike? No matter what you say, we don't trust the executive." This reply was the old, old story of him being a prisoner of the executive.

It took the executive six weeks to get the ballot papers printed, (cooling off period) and distributed, but about two weeks for the acceptance or not of the Coal Board offer. Most pits had an overtime ban before the ballot.

For historical reasons, Nottingham, Leicestershire, Durham and parts of Derbyshire are not very militant. It is this area that helped break the 1926 strike with the breakaway Spencer Union named after Spencer, the boss of the Notts Miners, who was bought by the coal owners. The Notts miners' wages and union funds are way above the rest of the country, because they have accepted the line that productivity comes before miners' jobs.

After the ballot there was anger and frustration at being out-manoeuvred by the NCB and the National Executive. Then some pits in Scotland came on strike, that was the spark that got the strike rolling. The Doncaster area pits came out, then they sent pickets out to other parts of Yorkshire and brought pits out in the Barnsley, South Yorks, North Yorks Areas, usually against the hostile branch union officials' wishes. While Union officials from Malby, South Yorkshire were at Barnsley (Yorkshire NUM Headquarters) telling the other pit delegates all the Malby miners were going to have was an overtime ban, the afternoon shift were deciding to come out.

I was at Barnsley picketing outside the

Continued on page 4

## COUNCIL WORKERS: UNITY AND MILITANCY WIN

Fifty stillings for all employees, extra increases for shift and part-time workers: these were the main gains of the council workers' strike. Far more important and not to be measured in economic terms is the improved organisation at local level.

It is important that council workers do not let things slide back to the old level but keep a firm grip on the collars of their respective union leaders. They should keep their forces intact for the even greater struggle against the anti-working class Industrial Relations Bill.

The main gain was the hole bashed through the Government's wages policy. It was a set-back for the Government. But it was not a defeat. Only the united working class can do that. The capitalist press have tried to imply that it was a defeat, with a view to putting the working class off its guard.

### THE ENQUIRY

There is little doubt that towards the end of the strike the situation was looking grim for the Government. The workers had stood firm and reports in the press on the sewage situation were suddenly conspicuous by their absence. It is quite possible that the Government commanded the press to be silent because leaking sewage was beginning to have a real effect.

It is also probable that the Government, in spite of criticism of Jack Scamp who led the enquiry, engineered the settlement. They were faced with a strike of 70,000 council workers with another half-million working to rule; and the miners were all set to stop work which would have meant another

quarter-million workers out in defiance of their wages policy. It was, after all, no skin off Jack Scamp's nose since he does not rely on enquiries to make his dough. Jack Scamp is no friend of the working class. He has always been willing to do the governor's dirty work.

The Government realised that there could be no settlement for much less than 55s and so they arranged a tactical retreat.

### LEADERSHIP?

A very important part of the original demands was allowed to go by the board—namely equal pay for women. The union negotiators settled for some vague promise of talks next year. So that, in fact, women received 7s 6d less than the men. Even worse was a lack of explanation from the union leaders—no apology or reasons why it was not tactically possible to press the strike all the way home. Just silence which amounted to a meek acceptance of a second-class membership.

At a meeting in London on the day after the settlement Alan Fisher, of NUPE, said that they did not expect an offer as high as 50s from the enquiry. He also said at the same meeting that they would have looked wrong in the "public light" if there had been no return to work after an enquiry, thus making nonsense of the previous claim that the unions would not be bound by the findings.

Only through the united fight of the council workers themselves were such gains made. That is the lesson for the further fights ahead.

## LONDON TRANSPORT

The "no profit" myth

London busmen recently put in a claim for an extra £5 per week and shorter hours. The reaction to this by the GLC (in the person of Horace Cutler, rent raiser) was that it would force them to put fares up by 20% to avoid subsidising London Transport.

### What are the facts?

A look at the facts and figures shows the real truth. London Transport could afford to pay all workers more per week and still show a profit!

The myth of London Transport's non-profitability has been built upon last year's published deficit of £11 million. This includes nearly £12 million in interest charges. Before interest payments L.T. made a profit of £700,000. As from January 1st, when the GLC took over the LTB, the debt and hence the interest have been reduced by 90%.

### The massive fares increase

In the past 15 months the fares have been raised three times. The first two at the end of the last year were justified on the grounds that they would make a profit of £2 million for GLC in 1970. For some reason, to increase the profit by £1,300,000 the fares revenue was increased by £9 million! Allowing for increased operating costs and smaller interest charges, these fares increases would have produced a profit for 1970 of £4 - 5 million.

But this does not seem to be enough for the GLC. In August Londoners saw the highest increase in fares ever—over 20% on average. For the rest of 1970 this will bring in another £6 million and £15 million for next year.

### The massive profits

This year London Transport will make £10 million profit if their own figures are to be believed. Next year it will be nearer £20 million. It could be even more. With three fares rises in 15 months who can say there won't be others next year?

London Transport say that the busmen's claim will cost £6 million in a full year. If they pay up, next year's profits will be cut from £20 million to £14 million. Is a profit of £14 million so low as to warrant another fares increase.

The millions of pounds profit (now over 3/- in the £ of what is paid in fares) may well be explained away as "capital expenditure". But this is just a matter of where the profits are going—to the GLC or back into London Transport as a source of greater profits in the future. And we can be sure that any such expenditure will only go on 'sound investments' which will reap a nice profit, and not on improving the appalling rush-hour conditions in which millions of Londoners must travel to work.

### Don't hesitate

London Transport workers should not hesitate in their demands for higher wages and shorter hours. The London Transport system depends on overtime to keep most services running, and the workers depend on overtime to take home a living wage. "Public" transport in London today is being run in just the same way as all other businesses in Britain—for profit. The workers, both those who work for London Transport and those who travel, are paying.

And so it is with all the "nationalised" industries. Ours is a "mixed" economy in the sense that the capitalists take the profits and the public, made up primarily of workers, take the losses.

## CAPITALIST CONTRADICTION

Lord Kearton in addressing the annual meeting of the Institute of Directors was forced to draw attention to one of the major contradictions of capitalism, a contradiction which Marx analysed correctly and which capitalism can never resolve.

He pointed out that in many industries companies of very considerable size are necessary in order to function effectively. And at the same time he had to admit that Britain which has more than its share of huge companies has a very poor record of industrial performance over the last few decades.

An obvious example is the aircraft industry. In the manufacture of aircraft engines, a field where Britain in terms of skill and experience should hold world leadership, one company after another has merged into one single giant—Rolls Royce. These mergers at the cost of many skilled workers' jobs were carried out in the interest of efficiency and yet today Rolls Royce has to beg the tax payer for £42 million to keep going. So it is with GEC and all the other giants.

Monopolisation is not a sign of capitalism's strength but of its weakness. The basic justification for capitalism is that industrial efficiency and consumer satisfaction are best served by the rigorous competition of the market place. But as Marx showed in Capital the falling rate of profit under conditions of competition drives the capitalist into seeking ever greater monopolisation—which introduces more problems, more contradictions.

The equivalent development on the political side—the corporate state—is also a sign of capitalism's weakness. It is the last phase of capitalism and dangerous as cornered rats are dangerous.



## ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Strikes are now taking place at a level not seen since the days following the First World War. In October the time involved in strikes was nearly 50% higher than in October 1969. And in the month of October alone there were more days of strikes than in the whole year of 1950. The number of sympathetic strikes is almost five times what it was five years ago.

The Minister of Employment, in a speech last month, said that in the first nine months of this year there had been 3,196 strikes, 42% up on the same period last year, giving a total of 7.5 million days of strikes. "This sounds awful and is awful" he said. "Awful to who? Awful to the industrialists he was talking to—which is why the government is preparing its bill to attack trade unionism. Mr Carr talked about 1970 being the worst year for strikes since 1926, the year of the General strike. An encouraging thought, as long as we remember that the difference between victory and a 1926-scale defeat will be made by politics—ours or theirs.

not left voluntarily by then, there would be negotiations over the issue. An overtime ban will continue.

### TELEVISION

3,000 ITV technicians went back to black and white working only. The TV companies had refused to meet a claim for an extra 5% because of extra work involved in colour work. The TV companies still have their "license to print money" but this only makes them more determined to part with as little as possible.

### DOCKS

London dockers in the Stevedores union were staging once-a-month 24-hour strikes in support of their demand to hold union branch meetings in working hours.

### ARTIFICIAL LIMBS

1,000 artificial limb makers voted by 339 to 287 to accept a 13.5% pay offer on November 19th. This ended a nine-week strike for a 20% increase on their present £20 earnings. They were supported by limbless ex-servicemen who denounced the Department of Health as being "absolutely responsible for the serious inconvenience and hardship being experienced by the limbless". Just as in the council workers strike, all the hardships were the responsibility of the employer for not meeting the claim.

### CHRYSLER

Shop stewards at Linwood, Scotland representing 6,000 workers demanded increases of £10 a week to reach parity with workers doing similar work at Ryton, Coventry, as well as a reduction in hours from 40 to 35, longer holidays and increased overtime rates. The company has offered an extra £3 a week.

### ANTI T.U. BILL

Industrial action against the proposed Bill started on November 12th with a one-day walkout by 500 workers at British Leyland's S.U. Carburettor factory in Birmingham. The management replied by a circular in pay packets saying "this sort of strike is really nothing to do with our operations and should never happen". But what are the operations about except making profits? And what is the Bill about except safeguarding those profits? The company urged its workers to make political points by working, lobbying M.P.s and writing to newspapers. Paperworkers decided to join the protest strike on December 8th, thus shutting down the national newspapers. One day less of propaganda for the bosses and it makes the inevitable denunciations of the strike as a flop seem pretty feeble. 10,000 Birmingham lorry drivers are to hold a one-day strike against the Bill on New Years Day. It all helps, but why don't they, and everyone else for that matter, strike then to make Jan 1st an official holiday South of the Border as well, and use against the Bill?

## Radio

(Note: All times of broadcasts are given in British time)

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking:  
9.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. 32, 45, 47, m/bands  
10.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 32, 42, 45, 47 m/bands

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Trans:  
7.30 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. 31.42 metre bands  
8.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands  
9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands  
11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 31.42 metre bands  
(The 9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium wave, 215 metre band)

Daily Broadcast from Hanoi:  
9.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band

# IT'S A LONG WINTER!

December is the month which starts winter in earnest. Soon we'll be having our first taste of the icy winds and short days that follow on from the new year.

For building trade workers, wage packets will once again be racing the thermometer to see which can fall lower. The long, not-so-hot summer of overtime and the 'good crack' of the Lump will be over. In its place will come the bare week, wet time, and for a large number of site workers a seasonal place in the dole queue. To save their profits the employers will put their sites into hibernation. 'Worker' readers should notice the employers' Press doing the same thing with stories of brick-layers and chippies making £60 to £80 per week.

The construction industry is the biggest productive industry in Britain. Yet over 80% of companies in it employ less than 25 men. When winter comes this situation has two main effects, much the concern of building workers.

Production on site tapers off due to bad weather. Because of this the small contractor decides to cut his costs. The result in the site canteen (if there is one) is that playing cards are exchanged for ones containing National Insurance stamps. So many are sent down the road to return only when 'things pick up'—and those kept on are expected to keep their noses clean and settle question of a lighter wage packet with the wife!

In the second place winter aggravates the bad conditions that exist on most sites all the year round. The uniform of the building worker is not the boilersuit of his brother in the factory. It's the old Sunday suit or whatever part of his own wardrobe he considers appropriate for wearing on site. Rain and sleet reduces such clothing to a shambles in record time. Even the donkey jacket (as reluctantly provided by the big firms only) will double its weight in a downpour. Wellingtons, if they are supplied, just don't stand up to the hammering they get on a big, fast-moving site. They are, not

surprisingly, the cheapest and shoddiest type of footwear the gvnor can lay his overhauls on. On tubular scaffolding they are dangerous and always they are unhealthy for the feet. So the workers fork out again—this time for a pair of tough boots which can cost from £3 to £6.

It is true that building workers are badly off because of being slow to learn the lessons which workers in manufacture, for example, learned ages ago. Trade union membership amongst site workers is less than a third in the small shops, and not much more in the big concerns. Instead of doing the work that needs to go into fighting for better pay and conditions, many building workers have opted for the short-lived, burnt-out benefits of labour-only sub-contracting (the Lump). The miserable pennies of a plus-rate and the relative isolation of sites have also contributed to weak union organisation on building contracts. With full-time officials more concerned with keeping workers to a 'Erberts agreement (one which will give a craftsman £20 and a labourer £17 per week by the middle of next year), site workers will be made increasingly aware of the successful pay battles being put up by other badly paid sections of the working class. Pit-workers, for example, are beginning to see that their leaders' claim of no strikes for 44 years is nothing to be proud of. Yet building workers receive the same wage and their industrial death rate (300 killed last year) is far higher than that amongst miners.

There is a song about building workers called MacAlpine's Fusiliers. Although the words don't say so, the idea of site workers being an army is a genuine one. They are part of an army of workers who are now taking up their class weapons to battle with the employers. We have a bit to go before building workers start converting their trowels to swords, but that won't always be the case. Meanwhile... how about those waterproof trousers the gvnor refuses to issue...?

# Greetings to Albania

Greetings on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of Albania. The Secretariat of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) sends its warmest fraternal greetings to the Party of Labour of Albania in celebration of 26 years of socialist advance.

We hail the steadfast and determined struggle of the Albanian Party under the brilliant leadership of Comrade Enver Hoxha which has kept the banner of socialism flying high despite every kind of provocation by imperialism and Soviet revisionism. Surrounded by US and Russian imperialist bases, threatened by nuclear missiles, the people and Party have refused to be intimidated, refused to compromise, refused to deviate from the hard revolutionary road.

Today on the eve of the 26th anniversary of the founding of the socialist state the Albanian workers and peasants, under the banner of Marxism-Leninism, have scored

tremendous victories in industry and agriculture. Not material incentives but socialist emulation, not dependence on experts but the initiative and self-reliance of thousands of workers have led to the transformation of a backward, semi-colonial economy into a modern balanced socialist economy. All branches of industry and agriculture are booming and targets of the 4th Plan have already been fulfilled and over-fulfilled.

Most important of all have been the tremendous strides taken in the formation of the new socialist man and woman. We who live in the midst of capitalism's decadence salute the creation of a new society and a new morality not based on the exploitation of workers but on their liberation. Every socialist victory in Albania encourages us as we start on the long and arduous road to smash British imperialism.

Long live the People's Republic of Albania!  
Long live the revolutionary friendship of the Albanian and British working class!



Albanian youth, ready to defend their socialist country, march in anniversary celebrations

# OLD BOY NETWORK

In a recent WORKER editorial (October 1970) attention was drawn to all the phoney kinds of participation by workers in management which are floating about. They all have one thing in common—giving workers the illusion of having a say in industrial affairs while capitalists go on their merry way exploiting the hell out of them.

The latest form of this kind of deceit is popularised under the slogan "involvement at work" as set out in the TIMES of November 23rd. The idea is that workers who become "involved" will take an interest in the well-being of the firm they work for (meaning more profits for the employer); will become concerned in the industrial health of the nation (meaning more profits for the employing class generally); or will take more pride in the exercise of their craft regardless of pay and conditions (more profits again).

What it comes down to is letting workers have a finger on the knife which cuts their throats!

"Involvement at Work" is the title of a two-day conference attended by a cross-section of industry from senior management down to (or up to) shop stewards which was convened at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in November. Those debating the question of this kind of involvement on the first evening were the Duke of Edinburgh, John Partridge, President of the CBI, and Jack Jones, General Secretary of the TGWU. Now what could be the common ground which would allow these three even to discuss

a question concerning workers? Whatever it is it won't have much to do with workers' real interests!

In the TIMES article publicising the Conference contributions were printed from Robert Carr, Victor Feather and Lord Robens. And what have they got in common? Perhaps Lord Robens revealed this with his hysterical outburst against militant miners when he began to babble about dark plots to take over the country.

Workers will take over the country. But it won't be a conspiratorial putsch. It will be when a revolutionary movement including the working masses who make up the majority in the land, led by a revolutionary party, wrest state power from a greedy, vicious incompetent capitalist class.

Meanwhile workers must ask themselves if would-be leaders who put their heads together with the Duke and the President of the CBI over the question of how workers can be fooled into working harder for less are the best people to take up the fight against the Government's Industrial Relations Bill which attempts to turn trade unions into an obedient sub-division of the capitalist state.

Only the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) will make no concessions in throwing this anti-working class measure on the rubbish heap where it belongs and sees the utter defeat of the Bill as a step in the protracted political struggle of dealing with the whole capitalist class in the same way.

# Conditions of Catering Workers

Among Britain's lowest paid workers are the women working in hotels and restaurants. To add to their problems, they are hampered from organising in unions and lack the organisation needed for strike action. A spate of abuse was heaped upon some waitresses by a manager who overheard them expressing the need for a union.

For example, in most BR hotels the rate is very low; £1 (recently 17s 6d) for the first three hours and 3s 6d for any time worked after this—even, as often happens, the evening's work extends into the hours after midnight, making the use of a taxi home necessary (which more than uses up the 3s 6d "pittance"). The boss even keeps the tips ("gratuities")!

At some hotels and restaurants the rate has only recently been raised from 3s to 4s per hour and this under the most intolerable sweat-shop conditions.

The bosses and their underlings in this business have, in most places, not perfected the more subtle methods used in other industries. The finger pointing at the door and the "Get out!" shout still signal instant dismissals.

With TWO-THIRDS of Britain's workers still unorganised, these workers must go ahead and fight for Trade Union rights, and organise to be able to use that effective weapon, the strike. Ultimately, these capitalists, who are squeezing the last drop out of these workers and trampling them underfoot, must be completely defeated by the working class.

# MINERS' STRIKE REPORT

Continued from page 3

NUM offices on Monday, 9th November, where the pit delegates and the area officials met to discuss the strike action and whether to make it an all-Yorkshire strike. Schofield, York General Secretary, also National Vice President was in the chair. Most delegates wanted the strike to be made all-Yorkshire, but the chairman refused to accept the motion all day long. Delegates asked for him to be removed from the chair. He refused and in the end things stayed as they were with 43 for the strike and 33 against. If it had been the other way round, Schofield would have accepted the motion. Schofield and his cronies split the Yorkshire miners down the middle, but the miners are now united in hatred of the NCB and the misleaders.

The miners' political views are no longer in the same old groove that they have been in for years. The economics of everyday life are forcing them to look to fresh political fields. The Labour Party has no longer the same hold on the miners but also there has been nothing yet to replace it. What's absolutely great is that they no longer accept the status quo, e.g. union rules, and the 'Labour' establishment.

The grievance the miners feel very deeply about is the fact that national and area officials are elected for life, and are not subject to any recall or re-election.



# MEETING OF WORKERS TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANTI-T.U. BILL

## PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS!

Illustrated books for children from China

Collections of drawings, photographs and articles on the arts from China and Albania

Open evenings Monday to Friday 6 - 8 p.m. and all day Saturday.

**BELLMAN BOOKSHOP**

155 FORTRESS ROAD  
TUFNELL PARK NW5

We need your help to make THE WORKER a success.

We need your criticism, comments and financial support.

Contributions in the way of articles or money should be sent to:

THE WORKER  
155 Fortress Road  
London NW5

If you would like to subscribe to THE WORKER for a year, please fill in the form below, accompanying it with a cheque or postal order for 10s covering the cost of 12 copies and postage.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....