Chairman Mao Tsetung died at 00.10 am on September 9th, 1976

GREAT SADNESS
AND A
NEW RESOLVE

On the death of Mao

All men must die, but death
can vary in its significance.
The ancient writer Szu-ma
Chien said, 'though death
befalls all men alike, it may
be heavier than Mount Tai
or lighter than a feather.'
'To die for the people is
heavier than Mount Tai,
but to work for the fascists
die for the exploiters
is lighter than a feather.'
His own death is many
times heavier than Mount
Tai and the hearts of the
world’s workers and peasants
are heavy with this loss.
But Mao Tsetung has also
said: "Countless revolution-
ary martyrs have laid down
their lives in the interests
of the people, and our hearts
are filled with pain as we
living think of them - can
there be any personal intere
then, that we would not
sacrifice or any error that
we would not discard?"

Workers everywhere will
feel as their response to
this loss, which fills our
hearts with pain, a quicken-
in of revolutionary zeal
and this is the way a lasting
monument will be raised to
this great

R. Birch for Central Committee, CPB(M-L)
The Great Revolutionary

"How is Marxist-Leninist theory to be linked with the practice of the Chinese revolution? Is it by shooting the arrow at the target. As the arrow is to the target, so is Marxism-Leninism to the Chinese revolution."

---Rectify the Party’s Style of Work 1942

"What is a true bastion of iron? It is the masses, the million upon millions of people who genuinely and sincerely support the revolution."

---On Correcting the Bad Style of Work 1938

Philosopher who served the people

In one of his philosophical essays Mao Tsetung answers the question: where do correct ideas come from? "Do they drop from the skies? No. Are they innate in the mind? No. They come from social practice, and from it alone, they come from the three kinds of social practice, the struggle for production, the class struggle and scientific experiment."

Our correct ideas come from the experience of working people down the ages in their productive efforts and in their struggles against oppression and exploitation.

"The class struggle is by no means over. The class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, the class struggle between the different political forces and the class struggle in the ideological field between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie will continue to be long and tortuous and at times will even become very acute. There are still a number of people who vainly hope to restore the capitalist system and they fight the working class on every front, including the ideological one."

---On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People 1966

"The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is in essence a great political revolution under the conditions of socialism made by the proletariat against the bourgeoisie... It is a continuation of the prolonged struggle waged by the Chinese Communist Party and the masses."

---1966

On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao announced to the world the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

"Our principle is that the Party commands the gun and the gun must never be allowed to command the Party."

---Problems of War and Strategy 1938

"Weapons are an important factor in war, but not the decisive factor. It is people, not things, that are decisive. The content of strength is not only a contest of military and economic power, but also a contest of human power and morale... The richest source of power to wage war lies in the masses of the people."

---On Protracted War 1938

"Our arms are guerrilla tactics. They consist mainly of the following points: Divide our forces to arouse the masses; concentrate forces to deal with the enemy."

---A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire 1930

Cultural Revolution: Monument to Mao

The Proletarian Cultural Revolution is the great socialist monument to the creative Marxism-Leninism of Mao Tsetung.

The October Revolution established the possibility of the working class seizing state power as the condition for building socialism. It was the Proletarian Cultural Revolution which established the possibility of the working class being able to hold onto that state power once seized and, with vigilance, defending socialism against class enemies within and without.

In dealing with these great issues Mao Tsetung profoundly deepened and enriched Marxism-Leninism. As he says of the period of socialist construction: 'Socialist society covers a considerably long historical period. In the historical period of socialism, there are still class, class contradictions and class struggle between the socialist and the capitalist road, and there is danger of the capitalist restoration. We must recognize the protracted and complex nature of this struggle. We must unite with our vigilance. We must conduct socialist educ-
HULL FISH BOBBERS

We reported in THE WORKER (issue 16) how the boomers who unloaded fish in Hull, when their boat had been harpooned, answered with offers to take the money to save jobs. But the local employers were not amused and with their plans nonetheless. This showed the boomers that no victory was yet won.

They turned round and imposed a two-week strike. It is now on for a week. After a two month dispute, during which the management made desperate attempts to bring the workers in, the fish are still being unloaded. Transporting fish across Britain to Hull and encouraging

ISK OF GRAIN

The struggle for the building of the Isle of Grain continues. The 860 men sacked by Babcock and Wilcox - agents of the Central Electricity Generating Board - have now been out of work for 14 weeks. So far, 107 have been supporting 38 others who refused to work with glass in their hands, a new type of insulative clothing. A continuous picket of the site has been effective in preventing materials from leaving the site. All work will soon grind to a halt.

A demonstration called by the Isle of Grain Joint Shop Stewards Committee is expected to attract three-quarters of the workforce during two hours to discuss the situation. This was supported by about 600 men, including 200 from the nearby BP oil refinery, who stopped work in sympathy.

The dismissed workers now have a cast-iron case. A report from the Industrial Hygiene Unit, called for by the workers, stated that glass fibre dust levels on the site were three times as high as the maximum set by law - a situation that, the safety of workers has never before been damaged by such a substance. The company of Babcock and Wilcox have refused to redress the situation or to return the men to the measuring stations. When confronted with its report, they laid down their conditions for a return to work: a new system of work, a new, much weaker, scheme for the workers to be imposed. The workers won a week's strike, however, and have now established a new market for their product, the ETC. A guarantee over quality need to be made by the company. The move is so clear that the workers of the Isle of Grain must now take all their strength to continue the struggle. Only a successful struggle can now bring their just battle to a successful conclusion.

Veto US Imperialism!

The US Government will veto Vietnam's admission to the United Nations because the Vietnamese are unable to account for all the soldiers killed in Vietnam. An American general at war for the US agrees that the Vietnamese are to blame for the brutal crimes against the world's people. The military and capitalist profits has the colossal cheek to try to justify this exclusion. In our view, Vietnam is not sufficiently 'peace loving and humanitarian' for membership.

The people of the US who repudiated the vicious war in their name must demand their Government for this act of spite against the Vietnamese people.

Brent nurses

At the Central Middlesex Hospital, Brent, in London, the nurses have stopped work in sympathy with the sacked workers of the Isle of Grain power station. The Economic Union, whose rating gives employees the right to refuse to work with glass in their hands, has now been loaded so as to reduce their strength to a minimum. The nurses have begun to fight back - higher wages, better conditions, a new rating.

The dismissed workers have been despatched by the National Union of Electricians, who have started a new Union. They are presently donning their own rating. This is a revolutionary awakening.

Equal Pay-Dialectics of Legislation

The Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts came into effect in December 1975. The Equal Pay Act had in fact been on the statute books since 1970 but, obstinately to give the employers time to adjust to the requirements of the Act, its effective date was delayed for six months. This delay has served the interests of the employers. We have been excluded from the protection of the Act in detail and exploit all the loopholes. During this five-year period the employers have been busy making sure that the conditions of employment and the status of male workers so as to make it impossible for us to compare our jobs with those of men, either on a basis of similarity or under a job-evaluation exercise. For instance, the number of jobs done by both men and women has been reduced so as to avoid direct comparison, the terms and conditions in our bargain have been changed so that different firms within the same group of firms have been able to operate different standards. We who cannot draw a comparison at their own workplaces within the group of firms in which we are employed have been led so as to re-grade jobs to the detriment of the women. They have been able to discriminate against women in the rate payable for jobs within which the Equal Pay Act have made it easy for employers to use the loopholes and avoid giving women equal pay.

The WORKER issue 14 reported that within four months of the Act's becoming enforceable 40000 complaints had been received from women workers. 1700 of which were taken to industrial tribunals. It should come as no surprise to the working class that out of these cases only 18 have won their rights through the courts:

No 2) The Equal Pay Act is not the solution to the problem, and fight with tenacity to win. We know our rights and will fight for them. The tribunal, despite the boycott, heard the case and predictably found against the workers. The Act is an insult to our struggle. We will be fighting back.

1975 saw a glut of Acts relating to the welfare of women and employment issues to general. Besides the Equal Pay Act and the Sex Discrimination Act, there were the Social Security and Pensions Acts, the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Employment Protection Act. The trade unions movement has been to the past always been on its guard against laws being used to neutralize struggle. The law has been an instrument of the bourgeoisie. We cannot give up on our struggle. The law of the land is not the law we fight for. The tribunal, despite the boycott, heard the case and found against the workers.

The Equal Pay Act...
Working class morality and the TUC

At Brighton, at the Trade Union Congress of 1976, delegates of the organised workers of Britain raised and took firm decisions on such moral questions as the need to re-assert the safety of fellow workers against the vicious depredations of employers, the need for an understanding of equal pay for work of equal value regardless of sex, as the demonstration of the socialist and the positive re-affirmation of the brotherhood of the working class, as the demand for higher pensions and better conditions for the old and better opportunities both for young men and for women. They were not primarily concerned about their own wages and conditions, but about the wages and conditions of their particular members. They were concerned about the social wage of all — that is, the quality of life enjoyed by all workers in this country — part of whose vast majority of the population.

What this reflects is the working class morality which has developed in the last few weeks. There are other places of work in direct opposition to the capitalist ethic of individualism. There are places where the working class morality, born of the conditions of social labour, is based on a recognition that work not only is unity their strength but their very survival, that an attack on one is an attack on all and no real advance is possible at each other's expense. It is the site where a fish individualism of the official morality of bourgeois society cannot exist. It is the actions of the scab, of the boss's man in their midst.

But it has never been so obvious as it is today that none of these developments can be sustained if the working class morality in a decent social wage for all can be realised in capitalist society, in the capitalist order of the world. It is the exact equivalent of the check on the forces of production that can make the struggle for creative energy of the best trained and organised workers class in the world — by the relations of production — the prison of capitalist class exploitation in which millions languish without jobs and the capabilities of those who do work is based on production for profit instead of production for the satisfaction of human needs.

With the speeches of the representative of the Labour Government as chairman of the TUC joining together to talk about the 'indissolubility' of the so-called 'social contract' between Labour Government and trade union movement, which simply means the indefinite subjection of the trade union movement to the interests of capitalism, the whole structure of the modern exploitation by the illusions pious hopes, wishful thinking and shabby compromises. Hence the long discussion on the question of whether workers' participation should go to the 'nationalised' industries or to the private sector as well, which showed no conception of the nature of state industry under capitalism and assumed that workers and capitalists in the same sector could agree on how to run a private industry for profit.

This idea of the social contract making working class morality as disintegrated as the false humanism of the bourgeoisie. Max Weber has spoken of this: 'As for the so-called love of humanity, there has been no such all-inclusive love since humanity was divided into classes. All the ruling classes of the past have been advocates of creating this, and so were many so-called agogos and wise men, but nobody has ever really practised it, because it is impossible in capitalist society.'

To do so and we must will the means. Only in recognising that working class morality has to be revolutionary, that one way to bring about the conditions in which it can flourish can we prevent the capitalist order of the world from being as empty and dishonest as bourgeois morality.

Kissinger props up Fascism

In the next few weeks, Kissinger, as emissary of American imperialism, will attempt to define and order the political future of Rhodesia, Namibia, and South Africa. Armed with a battery of economic bribes, hailed by western capital as 'progressive' and 'civilized', he will employ his personal gimmick of 'shuttle diplomacy', developed over Middle East conflicts in recent years.

Yet against the rising tide of exploitation and the organised armed struggle by the South African people against the apartheid regime they face, Kissinger's 'peace initiative' is clearly exposed for what it is. His 'peace' is in fact a request to come to an understanding of the world: he will try to control the South African people, and the other African countries hoping to avoid the potential human cost in confrontation of a situation of economic sanctions under US support, terrifying threats are opened up to them. Once having opened the door to intervention, economic and political leverage, they will find 'that is not peace' that will be brought to South Africa and to that extent the confrontation will have a more destructive effect on people of Africa.

On the other hand, it has been almost universally accepted that the need for active struggle strongly developed. But the action planned for 21st September will be almost worthless unless they acquire further clarity on at least two more aspects of the crisis.

Oxon strike

In an unprecedented display of Oxfordshire unity, four thousand cleaners and other workers who are members of NUPE, and two thousand workers who are in NALGO, are to join the three thousand teachers by walking out of their work-places on September 21st. They face the same threat as teachers. The Council has already frozen all job-securing for its manual employees and now proposes compulsory redundancies. Departments like the Social Services face complete collapse. Already the pressure of work on social workers brought about by this has produced a statement from the Controller of Social Services that there is 'a high risk of tragic mistakes and errors of judgement'. Even so the Council plans to cut a further £250,000 next year.

Already important lessons have been learned by teachers and other employees of the Council. Their confidence in the efficacy of consultation with the employers, assiduously built up over a period of years, has been totally smashed in a matter of minutes, and their consciousness of the need for active struggle strongly developed. But the action planned for 21st September will be almost worthless unless they acquire further clarity on at least two more aspects of the crisis.

The Daily Jang

When the workers of the "Daily Jang" decided to organise themselves they started a struggle that could have endangered their whole livelihoods. In the precarious situation of having their work permits revoked, with their families in Pakistan open to forms of intimidation from the employers, they are showing a lead to other members of the class who are resistant to struggle and are acting as a reminder to those of us who already have Trade Union rights that these rights are not won easily.

Having won recognition for IGOCAT in early April but not getting the benefits of that recognition in terms of hours and wages, they continued to strike until July and it was only a matter of hours before the strike was declared official.

The management says that as a supplement to their wages the workers receive, and medical benefits for their families in Pakistan. One worker says "In the inherent contradiction to this is the fact that the workers here have been deprived of the minimum union rate."

On 3rd August the workers and management went to arbitration, the workers won their demands, agreed a date to restart work, only to be told 2 days later that the owner in Karachi, who also owns a string of other papers, could not afford to accept the terms. Some days after the workers entered the buildings in Rjenton, London, and within 3 hours produced a strike edition of their paper in Urdu and English, which also proved where the creative labour power is — in the hands and brains of the workers. Two days later they began a total occupation.

They are still there. The withdrawal of medical benefits, the attempt to revoke their work permits which are issued for one period, one person, one place and one employer, has only hardened the determination of these workers. One word, as summed up as this: "For 30 years I have been a tool of the capitalist, today I am still a ragas. But now it is my duty to fight the class war." The word "War" means "War", and indeed the war must be made daily.

Seamen Becalmed

Ten years ago, the then Labour Government smashed the seamen's strike, using all its force and every smear tactic known. It was then that the famous dictum, "a tightly-knit group of politically motivated men" was used, by Harold Wilson, to describe seamen's strike and discredit the executive of the National Union of Seamen.

Now, ten years later, Economic Committee of the TUC does the dirty work for capitalism and their success in this will come to the extent that the seamen, on the ships as much as in their executive, lack the political motivation to steer themselves out of their present predicament.

The seamen find themselves victims of their own policies and self-defeactions. Like many others, they thought they could support the Social Contract in principle, and even in practice, should the need arise, in practice. They will find that impossible.

The Social Contract is not about 6% or 45 per cent — the figures that are presented, but the principle that once the Labour Government has with the TUC their force, the contract will abide by it and that the General Council shall enforce it and decide its interpretations.

To that extent the decision by the seamen to take industrial action from their claim contained the seeds of an attack on the corporatist principles underlying the Social Contract. Hence the vicious reaction by the bourgeois press and social democratic parliamentary parties, who had defined their threats and pressure and had voted in their thousands for action.

Those among the seamen who have not yet done so must come to realise that they cannot fight with their feet in two camps. Either they accept the dictated of the capitalist state, or they accept the Social Contract and all consequences of the seamen's strike, with the百货 list price of both worlds — bitter opposition from the bourgeois state and self-imposed restrictions on fighting it.

Meeting


Meeting: Fri. Oct. 1: The sacrifice of the next generation - no future without Marxism, Bellmans Bookshop, 155 Fortesque Rd, NW1, at 7.30 PM.

Meeting: Thurs. Sept. 30: Beize the unions. 8 pm, Amcoats Hotel, Great Amcoats Street, Manchester.

Meeting: Fri. Oct. 1: From workshop of the world to factory floor, 7.30 pm, Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Bricks, Philips, Bristol.


Meeting: Oct. Books: Set a fire in the mind, 7.30 pm, Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, Bristol 2.