

THE WORKER



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NO GUIDELINES BUT OUR OWN!

Guidelines : from workers at Ford

THE Ford wage claim is of special importance because it is the demand of the largest group of workers in this new period of 'free collective bargaining', so setting the stage for those to follow. The claim is for 15 per cent, modest enough and not calculated to restore past losses, much less advance wage standards. In reply, Ford's offer varies from 7 to 8.5 per cent all told, plus a holiday bonus from £34 to £50 and 2 days extra holiday after 2 1/2 years' service - the last a good qualification for burial time for those foolish enough to work there so long and lucky enough to survive it.

The claim and the reply are interesting. Now that the dust of the Social Contract phases 1 and 2 and the TUC sport about honouring the ending of phase 2 are ended, we enter into the period of bargaining misnamed "free" and "collective", because in the outcome bargaining always depends on the strength and determination of those engaged in it.

The working class has convinced the Government that they will not accept a phase 3 of the Social Contract, though they so lamentably accepted phases 1 and 2. The Government's reply once again is that inflation can only be reduced by austerity on the part of workers.

Even classical economists are now doubtful that keeping workers in a state of malnutrition is the recipe for prosperity. But the present government cannot be convinced. So the guideline is "no more than 10 per cent" which in reality is only 4 to 6 per cent because the 10 per cent is based on the gross of all hours worked, including all premium payments, even holidays.

In spite of the furore against "government interference" it is necessary to remember that the Government is a capitalist one and is given its instructions by capitalists. Like all recent governments it is especially lick-spittle to USA capitalism, therefore the reply of Ford's Britain was framed in Detroit and the voice of Henry Ford corresponds exactly with Henley and Callaghan, who echo the USA and all capitalists.

It is of course another attempt to smuggle a further incomes

policy social contract - 1, 2, 3, 4 phases, or any other euphemistic phrase to cheat workers; and since the British Government is the largest single employer it has a vested interest in this swindle in order to further the interests of its master, capitalism.

There is all the more reason then to understand the artfully contrived diversion about breaking through phase 2, which had not 12 months to run anyway unless some workers had not commenced phase 2 initially. So it was dying, and to shout for opposition to the 12 month rule was to introduce a "12 month rule by suggestion" thereafter in all new bargains struck. That is to say that having made a new wages settlement after phase 2 we are being indoctrinated "not to be free" and not to come back again before another 12 months have elapsed. Beware of this yet!

The extinction of phase 2 will leave unions uncluttered and able to return to bargaining when powerful enough to do so, so the chatter about "12 months period" either in indignation or ignorance is only harmful. Let it remain deceased, do not resurrect it in confusion!

As for Fords, there is not evident great interest or indignation from the workers. The employer is giving a pretence of dealing with the differential question, playing games. Outsiders who do not work there bring their own brand of ignorant impudence. Truanting schoolboys parade outside the negotiating venue with banners proclaiming "£15 not 15 per cent" - a species

of imbecility without parallel.

The workers at Fords know that they are in the first gambit by employers and if they settle short they present a charter to engineering employers elsewhere,

Cont'd. on page 4



Ford workers traditionally set the pace for engineering wage claims in the motor industry. Picture by John Sturrock (Report).

Guidelines : Mackies

A RARE event! Four thousand workers and the employers of Mackie & Sons, the Belfast engineering company are standing firm by a deal they negotiated for a 22 per cent wage rise. And such a cry of anguish is rising to the heavens!

Government spokesmen, with their usual urbanity, say, "No more than 10 per cent or we are back to the jungle of 1973-4 when unprecedented wage increases were a rampant weed choking the British economy,

bringing inflation, losing exports, destroying the balance of payments and making old age pensioners suffer by edging the price of a standard loaf of bread to £1

Belfast workers, who like all the Irish have the god-given gift of direct speech and beautiful diction, invite the television interviewers to be quiet a little. The AUEW shop stewards and local officials refuse to accept any arguments that they should re-negotiate downwards.

The government is now punishing the employers by refusing export credit guarantees with the unspoken threat of redundancy or closure of the factory. After all the babble we have had to endure from experts of the media, MPs, Cabinet Ministers and other non-workers about the tea-drinking and idleness of British workers losing export orders and bringing financial ruin, it is worthy of note that Mackie & Sons is engaged in work for overseas customers.

Of course, erecting and equipping a jute mill in Vietnam might not be wholly to the taste of some politicians. It is rather humiliating though that the Vietnamese, according to 'The Times', have offered to help the employers themselves.

We need not be too jubilant about the declaration of the Council of the Confederation of British Industry that they have decided to give full support to any companies placed in an impossible position because of union or government pressure. After all, as a Mackie worker said, "When we were the lowest paid in Britain no one worried about that, neither government nor employer cared."

Only the unity and strength of Mackie workers working with their union will bring victory. The 'eccentric', 'paternal' Mackie family may also have to thank those workers.

The 28th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China

A great day in world history

OCTOBER 1, 1949 and the formal proclamation of the largest socialist state in the world - the People's Republic of China. That was an event to savour, especially for those who were aware of the enormous obstacles that had to be overcome by the Chinese Communist Party and its victorious army - the People's Liberation Army. Never before had a socialist victory been achieved on such a scale with a numerically tiny proletariat in alliance with millions of peasants. The genius of Mao, who had pronounced much of the strategy and tactics of the prolonged revolutionary war, and the socialist clarity of the Party backed by the courage and determination of the great people of China made for the ignominious defeat of the USA through its creature, Chiang Kai-shek and the rump forces of the Kuomintang.

It was great to be in China that first day of October but it was not a little ironical to be in the United States where the entire media, taking its cue from the witch-hunting government, had imposed a blanket of lies on everything emanating from or about the Communist advance in China. Indeed only a few days before the complete and utter rout of Chiang's men the American Press was loudly beating



Mao proclaims the founding of the Chinese People's Republic in Tien An Men Square, Peking.

the drum for the great achievements of "democracy" in China and the difficulties facing the "reds". But China's reds won and the face of the world changed. To the starving millions of

Asia it was a fairy tale that had come true when the victories of the battle front were transferred to the building of a new society where no one was going to be hungry or wretched. Despite the

weight of the USA, Marxist ideology had triumphed in a country with very little industry or modern technology. When the American ruling class, determined to make the American Empire a

reality, attacked the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, and the cringing Labour Government of Britain acquiesced along with other US supporters in the United Nations, it was left to the newly established socialist state of China to go to a fraternal socialist country's aid. It is good to remember that glorious page of proletarian solidarity when Chinese volunteers and Koreans held the aggressors at bay and forced them to retreat despite napalm and germ warfare, foreshadowing the victories of the Vietnamese.

The energies of the people, unleashed and harnessed through the correct application of Marxism, reached new dimensions during the proletarian cultural revolution when ideologically and in practice the masses took on the task of developing the dictatorship of the proletariat so that the working class could be in control of whole areas of society in fact as much as in name.

The struggle against revisionism both internally and worldwide went hand in hand with the fight against imperialism. That zest and determination to fight the class struggle and support socialist movements throughout the world were the true inheritance of the international communist movement.

Mountains mountains everywhere...

THE 1975 White Paper "Food From Our Own Resources" in outline presented the Labour Government's '5-year plan' for British agriculture. Calling for a 'continued growth in the net product of the agricultural industry of about 2½ per cent a year', it has become a testimony to the bankruptcy of capitalist planning and capitalism itself.

But once again, the Common Agricultural Policy has put its worst foot forward (when did we ever see its best?) and is well on the way to creating another mountain. This time, it's not butter, nor apples, but sugar.

Good harvest

The problem arises because of a disastrously good harvest. An unusually wet summer in Europe led to tragically swift growth of sugar beets in the sodden earth. The result is an embarrassing surplus.

Faced with a falling sugar price, the European Commission will have to take swift action to stop the rot. The idea that cheap sugar, or cheap anything for that matter, is desirable for consumers has long been considered in Brussels to be obsolete. So in the next twelve months millions of tons of sugar will be bought into intervention, that is, taken off the market and piled up in several sugary mountains.

Where to site these mountains might be another problem. The beef and pork mountains have already become so large that there is no room left in the Community to store them. In September, German officials had to arrange for thousands of tons of pork and beef to be stored in special Community depots in Austria and Switzerland.

Transport of surplus beef and

pork may soon keep railway and shipping companies in business. Ireland has 60,000 tons of beef in storage - enough to feed the whole country for a week, though obviously beef is not meant to be eaten - and the Dublin government's warehouses are full to bursting. Irish surpluses, mountains within mountains, are being packed off to Britain, France, Holland and Belgium.

The whole business has created unfortunate side effects, not least for the poor pigs who are caught up in a vicious spiral over which they have no control. When pork prices started tumbling earlier this year, European farmers decided en masse that breeding pigs was not profitable.

The mass slaughter which went on throughout the summer resulted in such an enormous number of 'unwanted' pig carcasses that even Brussels was shocked. And as dead pigs fought for space with dead beef, someone had to lose out. In the end, both, expelled to Switzerland.

To slaughter animals in order to feed people is one thing. Only an EEC could kill them solely in order not to feed people.

Who's afraid of the National Front

THE NATIONAL Front, banned in Manchester by the Government, are planning to hold a rally in Reading.

Any Front march or meeting is provocative. They represent all that is anti-working class. They are fascists. But let us not get carried away. We must never lose sight of the main contradiction for our party and class - that is the irreconcilable struggle between the interests of labour and those of capital. Our own ruling class, its affairs directed by the Labour government, backed by military force, is our main enemy. Is it surprising that capitalism spews up such a wretched gang as the National Front? As Brecht said of Hitler, "... Do not rejoice in his defeat. For the bitch that bred him is still on heat..." (Arturo UI)

We know that the bourgeoisie, faced with a militant, organised, disciplined mass of workers, will not simply slink away, accept defeat, and passively hand over political power. They will employ all the tactics and strategies of naked terror and brutal repression at their disposal.

They are past masters at the game. They have ample records from their inglorious campaigns

in far-off lands, and in some not so distant. The physical threat posed by the National Front is puny in comparison.

But capitalism has another ally, the pseudo-Marxists who take it upon themselves to 'smash the Front' with much clamour and provocative action. The Government, orchestrating from behind the scenes, is then able to step in and pose as custodian of peace and good sense. And so, no Front marches no marches at all. No meetings at all. No assemblies of more than one person.

The working class will not be diverted. It will deal with the clumsy fascists of whatever source. In the thirties women poured the contents of chamber pots on to the fascist heads.

But we do not forget the bitch that is still on heat. It is that bitch which must be put down.

Who are the patriots?

The former chairman of the British subsidiary of the American firm Ronson had this to say of the appropriate attitude of an executive of a multinational company: "He must set aside any nationalistic attitudes and appreciate in the last resort that his loyalty must be to the shareholders of the parent company and he must protect their interests even if it might appear that it is not perhaps in the national interest of the country in which he is operating. Apparent conflicts may appear in such matters as the transfer of funds at a period of national crisis, a transfer of production from one subsidiary to another or a transfer of export business."

Telegramme to KPDML

Marxist-Leninists in West Germany have organised a mass meeting and demonstration on October 8 in protest at the decision of the Christian Democratic Union, one of the two major capitalist parties forming the West German Government, to attempt to have the KPDML, the Marxist-Leninist Party of West Germany, banned.

This is part of the counter-revolutionary campaign being waged throughout the capitalist world against the vanguard of the working class.

A cable has been sent from the CPB(ML) to our comrades in West Germany expressing our solidarity with them in their struggle against this fascist, anti-communist move.

No honour among thieves

IT IS not surprising that the efforts of the international business community to agree on a code of conduct to check the growth of bribery in world commerce has run into difficulties. Lord Shawcross, the former Attorney General, who is chairing the Commission of Ethical Practices set up by the International Chambers of Commerce wants companies to adopt tough rules outlawing bribery, extortion and secret 'slush' funds.

He is backed by British and American opinion because it is thought that such a code would look good on paper. Continental business men on the other hand see no need for such lip-service to ethics in commerce and question the competence of the Commission anyway.

Where in fact would you draw a line between giving a client an expense-account lunch, providing him with a call girl or handing him a large sum of tax-deductible cash? Trying to clean up the expense-account world of gifts in kind, special favours and all the other forms of business corruption would make clearing out the Augean stables seem like a bit of light dusting.

The same difficulties apply to the provisions for making "insider share dealing" illegal in reforms of company law to be introduced in the next session of Parliament. "Insider" dealing means letting friends and relations in on some new issue or some new fiddle which is found to result in quick profit-making. Cracking down on it would be like trying to put an end to tips for the Derby. In any case, infringements of company law which may yield millions of pounds in embezzled funds may only attract a fine of £100!

The whole capitalist system from the very start is founded on the theft of the products of unpaid labour. Trying to introduce any morality into the process is a real task of Sisyphus.

EDITORIAL

Where are we now?

The working class has at last extricated itself from the social contract and entered the arena of bargaining. We are not concerned about any 12 month rule: it is 12 years of wage restraint we have to end. We are not concerned about any Government guidelines: it is the disastrous decline in our living standards we have to put a stop to.

The Government claims great success for its policies - a balance of payments surplus, a rise in the FT share index and a pat on the back from the IMF. If only workers will go on accepting wage levels which amount to wage cuts! Last year according to the Government's own figures the cost of living rises were 8 per cent higher than wage rises.

The Government policies may have been a success for capitalists who have been reaping enormous profits. For the working class and for Britain, with nearly 2 million unemployed, with production down on last year and with the continued erosion of Britain's industrial base, it is a calamitous failure.

What do we do now?

We fight over wages and conditions as we have always had to do, using guerrilla tactics and basing the struggle on our union organisation at our places of work.

But we have to recognise that the class struggle we have been waging over pay and conditions for many many decades finds us today fighting a losing battle, with unemployment much higher than the levels we declared "intolerable" last year. That struggle is obviously not enough. We cannot go on trying to live with capitalism. We have to smash it. The tactical struggle goes on but it can only make sense now as part of the strategy of revolution.

The social contract could not have prevailed against us if our working class did not still believe in the Labour Party and the Labour Government. We say: Down with this Labour Government.

Unemployment can go on at such levels because our working class still believes that things are better under a Labour Government and that it will do something for us. We say: If this appalling waste and degradation of our class brothers really is intolerable, we have to end it ourselves, whatever capitalist government is in power.

Capitalism will never stop trying to impose wage restraint on us - even if it takes fascism to do it. We say: Don't just fight over the drabs and drabs. Take it all. Take it all because it's the only way we'll get anything. It's the only way we can end wage slavery.

Some people say the international pressures of the so-called 'superpowers', particularly the Soviet Union, will force us to make common cause with our own bourgeoisie. We say: International economic pressures will make our working class revolt against the bourgeoisie. We say: The only superpower is the working class, the world proletariat. But only by revolution can it come into its own.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Fruehauf

THE LOCKOUT at the trailer manufacturer, Crane Fruehauf, near Oldham, is still on. The AUEW members there were locked out after they started a work-to-rule in a campaign to raise their basic pay of £47 a week by another £20. The firm say the percentage increase is enormous: the workers say the wages themselves are derisory. A strike of 700 workers at the firm's Norfolk branch is now taking place in support of the same claim as the Oldham men.

Extra bitterness has been added to the lockout by the firm's refusal to pay the men the average of £70 each holiday pay which is now due to them. Sick pay too is being withheld, and the firm is aided by the Department of Employment's decision to refuse unemployment benefit to the locked-out workers.

Myson Hull

AN ATTEMPT to restore living standards after three years of pay restraint has led to a bitter dispute at Myson Radiators, Hull.

In response to the welders' and testers' demand for a 53 per cent wage increase, which includes a three year old parity claim, the management put forward an unacceptable produc-

tivity deal, to which the men replied by cutting production drastically. They were taken off pay for refusing to work the normal production targets in their piece rate system.

This action by the management lasted a few days, and at a mass meeting it was decided to return to work at the 'management's discretion', to allow their pay claim to be negotiated.

But the return to work was disrupted by the management declaring their dissatisfaction at the men's productivity, and promptly took them off pay, thus breaking off talks before their inception.

The situation is still unsettled and before it can be resolved more clear sighted and decisive action will be needed.

Cambs cleaners

SCHOOL cleaners in Cambridge have felt the ruthlessness of the government's policy of cuts in public expenditure. They struggle now to defend themselves from this attack by capitalism and are gaining support from other public sector unions. The council try to disguise the attack and would like the cleaners to collaborate in their own destruction. The school cleaners and caretakers organised in NUPE will have no truck with this.

Firstly they were instructed to reduce the standards of

Workers in Sussex fight for safety

OVER the past few weeks, workers in various parts of the public sector in Sussex have been taking action to preserve and improve safety standards, both for workers in the sector and the general public.

Busmen, for instance, recently went on strike over faults, especially in the steering and suspension, in Southdown's Daimler Fleetline buses, which made the buses dangerous and a strain to drive. The dispute began in Worthing, and quickly spread to Brighton: similar buses in Bognor Regis and Chichester were blacked as well.

The determined stand quickly led to victory, and Southdown's management have now agreed to withdraw the buses from service for modification. As one of the workers put it, "Of course it was right for the men to question the suitability of a type of bus for the work it's meant to do; they, as the people who operate them, are well qualified to judge".

A further gain from the victory was an unprecedented degree of unity between the various union branches in the dispute. Now the

busmen are determined to use their combined strength to oppose the bus cuts and fight for their colleagues' jobs at country garages, which are small and weak on their own.

They are also planning to oppose the extension of one-man buses, which the management want to introduce to save money. The busmen are not prepared to sacrifice the quality of service they provide and undermine their health with the added strain that this form of working inevitably puts on the drivers. In the same way as over faulty buses, they are challenging the management's right to take decisions about their jobs.

Railmen have also begun to take action to ensure that safety standards on the railways are adequate. Because of undermanning and low basic wage rates, many workers are forced to work excessive overtime to maintain the service. The problem is particularly acute amongst guards and signalmen, and the NUR are worried that it is only a matter of time before the strain will lead to

an accident and loss of life.

In view of the adverse social effects of overtime and the high unemployment in Brighton, the NUR is seeking to increase the manning levels. Through pressure from the union, a number of jobs which were allowed to remain vacant have already been filled.

Most recently, firemen have worked to rule for a week, only answering emergency calls and doing essential maintenance, to protest over the proposed £108,400 cuts in the Sussex fire service, including the closure of Hurstmoor fire station. The seriousness of the situation was emphasised by the union area secretary, who said that, "cut-backs in the fire service have now reached a point where any further reductions will result in the loss of life".

The firemen are now awaiting the outcome of a County Council decision on the fire service budget, to be taken on October 4th, before deciding upon further action.

Ford comes to Britain for skill

THE need for skilled men has made a mockery of Henry Ford's threat, delivered only seven years ago, to pull all his company's operations out of Britain. Ford is to build a new £180 million plant in South Wales.

Needless to say, the new factory is being hailed as our great salvation, the coming of the New Jerusalem, with Henry Ford playing the part of Jesus Christ in this new spectacular. What are the cold realities?

Firstly, although the decision was made in Michigan, USA, it is clearly stated by Fords that all the finance will come from British sources. Since South Wales is a "development area",

£36 million of the cost of the factory will come as a direct government grant - the maximum 20 per cent possible - while the remainder can be offset against tax liabilities. That is, the cost of the project can be deducted from future profits before these profits are subject to corporation tax. For plant and machinery, this can be up to 100 per cent, for industrial buildings 54 per cent. Thus, of the £180 million a substantial proportion will come from the British taxpayer, direct.

Secondly, the coming of the plant will make little impact on unemployment which is 8.8 per cent and higher than the national average. Of the 2500 to be employed 1000 jobs will simply be switched from the Dagenham engine plant. It is predicted also that many of the men employed will be those that the British Steel Corporation is attempting to dismiss, which incidentally will mean another subsidy for Fords in the form of a retraining grant from the European Iron and Steel Community.

Thirdly, there will be little prosperity for the 2500 to be employed. A factor which influenced the choice of South Wales was the lower wages there. And the Prime Minister has enjoined us to preserve such conditions by maintaining "reliability and good industrial relations."

Fourthly, the new plans for Ford are intended to tie us more closely to Europe. Fords wants to produce engines in Britain and run down body plants and assembly. Engines involve the highly skilled work and also can be easily stockpiled, so making it easier for the employer to stave off industrial action. Already one third of Fords UK sales are imports and even half

Many hundreds depend upon the ferry to get to work each day. Last year an attempt by BR to axe the ferry was averted by a local campaign.

Now, while BR, like all capitalists, care not for the welfare of the working class and claim that the boats are safe, the workers have taken action. They have refused to operate the dangerous boats.

the "British-made" Fiesta parts are imported.

So Britain can expect no prosperity from the intentions of Henry Ford. It is he who expects to reap the £150 million worth of exports which are likely to be produced at the new works.

That Ford has to come to Britain for the necessary skills is a tribute to our working class. The weakness is that we wait for Ford to take the initiative and allow Ford to reap the profit. Why not take the resources for ourselves?

The Taylor report on governing bodies

WE ARE shortly to witness yet another attack on teachers if the report of the Taylor Committee on Governing Bodies goes through.

Its main recommendations are that School Governing bodies should consist of four equal parts - parents of children attending the school, LEA members: school staff (always including the headmaster) and co-opted representatives from the local community. This body, it is suggested, should not only set the particular aims for the curriculum but should consider the suitability of new educational methods and ideas and decide whether or not these should be implemented in the school.

If these recommendations are accepted then the Report is undermining the professionalism of teachers. The headmaster's role will be confined to rubberstamping decisions made by the governing body: teachers will be told by lay people what to teach and how to teach it. We cannot allow this to happen. Teachers are trained people who possess certain skills in order to do their job - which is teaching children. If they are to be directed in this by others without these skills, it would be a total abuse of their abilities. We cannot allow our skills to be insidiously undermined by well-meaning liberals. As a working class, we must stand firm on the issue of professionalism, whatever our job.

Understand the past to change the future

"HISTORY is bunk." So said Henry Ford, proving himself to be not only a vicious employer but also a stupid one. Those who, like Ford, choose to dismiss history so lightly, will no doubt ignore three important recent publications from Albania by Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania.

The pamphlets serve to deepen our understanding of the world political situation, and especially the growth of revisionism. In the early 1960s, and in addition offer us greater clarity in analysing Britain and our world today.

"Kruschev Kneeling Before Tito" deals with the visit of Kruschev to Yugoslavia in 1963 and reveals the true nature of that exercise. "The first main



Enver Hoxha conclusion to be drawn from Kruschev's visit to Yugoslavia is that, by completely rehabilitating the Tito clique and uniting with it, the Moscow revisionist group has committed itself even more thoroughly to the camp of the enemies of Marxism-Leninism, of socialism and peace, and plunged even deeper into

the mire of betrayal."

"The Crisis of Italian Modern Revisionism" contains two articles from 1964 and 1962 on the ideological deterioration of the Italian Communist Party: "... to prove that it is characterised by flagrant departure from the fundamental teachings of Marxism-Leninism about the class struggle, the socialist revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat..."

Finally, "Conversation with Chou En-Lai" is part of the minutes of a conversation between Enver Hoxha and Chou En-Lai in 1965 on the occasion of the latter's second visit to Albania. It contains an incisive account of the nature of the opposing forces, exploiter and exploited, at that time, and deals particularly clearly with the question of Europe.

These are pamphlets to be read and studied by all who seek to understand the past and change the future.

All are available from CPBML bookshops. Price 12p each plus postage.

Measuring the real profits

A MATTER of concern for capitalism at present appears to be how to measure profit in these days of inflation - that strange affliction which befalls capitalism precisely when a cut in working class living standards is required - but which nevertheless leaves no mark on capitalists' wealth.

The stalwart reactionaries of the policy-making bodies of the accounting profession (despite the overwhelming rejection by the members of that profession of their first attempt) press on with schemes to produce profits 'adjusted for inflation' and reveal their source of inspiration when they state, 'If we do not introduce inflation accounting, the government will legislate for it and we as a body shall lose our credibility'.

The question which has been asked by many is why such a fundamental change is required, particularly if inflation is to fall

as the government has promised, and as it is common knowledge that all major companies include consideration of inflation in their commercial decision making.

The bourgeois myth that profits are the result of buying cheap and selling dear is perpetuated and consolidated. The basic principle that capitalism seeks to embody in its inflation accounts is that their profits are smaller than we in our foolishness think because though the commodity is sold for more than it costs capitalism to produce, the poor capitalist must pay for the next commodity that he purchases to perpetuate the cycle of accumulation. It must be recognised by the working class that, whether there is no inflation or inflation of 10 or 20 per cent, there is no change in the real value of the commodities themselves, and the capitalist will take the same profit in surplus value in the next cycle.

IN CAPITALISM'S END IS ITS BEGINNING

IN WRITING about the history of capitalism Marx describes the transition from the early period of primary accumulation to the period of bourgeois democracy.

"The daily compulsion of economic relations completes the subjugation of the worker to the capitalist. The direct use of force, apart from economic conditions, goes on, of course, from time to time, but has now become exceptional. In the ordinary course of events, the worker can be left to the 'natural laws of production', this meaning that he can be left to his dependence on capital - a dependence arising out of, and guaranteed in perpetuity by, the conditions of production themselves. It is otherwise in the early days of capitalist production. Then the rising bourgeois needs and uses the State authority to 'regulate' wages, to restrict them within the limits suitable for the making of surplus value, to lengthen the working day, and to keep the worker in a proper condition of dependence."

With the absolute decline of capitalism the bourgeoisie must once again call on the State authority to regulate wages and fix the limits suitable for the amassing of surplus value. This abandonment of bourgeois democracy to return to the conditions of the most primitive phase of capitalism is fascism.

The sanctions applied by the Government to Mackie's remind us of the Statute of Apprentices passed in the reign of the first Elizabeth according to which ten days' imprisonment is to be the punishment of one who pays higher wages than those fixed by law, but twenty-one days that of one who receives them! The only difference is that the sanctions applied by this Government are quite illegal since there are no statutory wage limits.

(Capital. Everyman Edition, p. 817; available Bellman Bookshop)

CPBML announce autumn series of Public Meetings

LONDON At Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N.W. 5, 7.30 pm.
 Fri October 7 Enver Hoxha, great Marxist, staunch friend of the working class.
 Fri October 14 Now weekly: The Worker, Britain's revolutionary newspaper.
 Fri October 21 Britain in the World, 1977.
 Fri October 28 What is Trade Union Sovereignty?
 Fri November 4 Housing in London: for people or for profit?
 Fri November 11 The erosion of civil liberties.

CROYDON At Federation House, Elmwood Rd., West Croydon, 8 pm.
 Tue October 11 Socialist advance: Albania shows the way.
 Tue October 18 Bolshevik revolution: the lessons for Britain.

LIVERPOOL At AUEW office Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 8 pm.
 Tue November 8 Meeting to celebrate 60th anniversary of the October Revolution.

BRIGHTON At Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Rd., 8 pm.
 Thur October 13 The Labour Party Road to the Corporate State.
 Thur October 27 The fight for wages - right or wrong?
 Thur November 10 Skilled youth the key to the future.

LEEDS At Northern Star Bookshop, 18a Leighton St., Off Great George St., Leeds 1, 7.30 pm.
 Fri October 14 Britain in the World.
 Fri October 28 Revolution not Devolution.
 At City of Leeds School, Woodhouse Lane (opposite the Merrion Centre)
 Mon November 7 60th Anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Increasing trend of overseas investment

IF PROPERLY managed, the present increasing oil revenues could present us with exciting prospects of regenerating industry and better health and education services. Instead we are told that now the oil itself presents new problems, by causing the pound to rise in value, thereby decreasing the competitiveness of British industry, so that at the end of the oil boom Britain could be left poorer and even more run down. So where are the plans to re-invest in basic industry, to invest in new and more skills to man these industries, to improve our working health, and to research into new energy production and conservation after the oil runs out? As capitalism continues to founder in recession, these plans do not exist

and figures on investment show the real intention of British capitalism.

In 1976, during which industrial investment fell by 7 per cent from 1975, the lowest investment levels for a decade were recorded. However, figures recently released from the Department of Industry show a massive increase in direct investment overseas - by £800 million - so that the net outward flow of direct investment was more than twice the value of that coming in. Obviously capitalists know their own interests, when they can realise returns of well over twice those earned by domestic industry.

Meanwhile with a projected 10-15 per cent growth in industrial investment for 1977, already revised to a lower 6-10

per cent, firms are hedging their bets by indulging in a spate of mergers which are easier, take less time and provide more certainty than investment programmes in new plant and facilities, quietly forgetting once again their great god of competition.

A further flood of investment abroad threatens later this year. According to the terms of entry into the EEC, Britain should have freed direct investment into the EEC by the end of 1975. This deadline has twice been postponed due to balance of payments problems and is now set for the end of 1977. It could be postponed again, but eventually Britain will have to comply and these funds will be free to move to wherever the takings are greatest.

Oxfordshire criteria go national

OXFORDSHIRE teachers have left their employer in no doubt about how seriously they regard its policy of undermining educational standards.

On 31st August the spectre of redundancy was removed when the County Council agreed to keep on all those teachers whose fixed-term contracts were due to have expired on that day. As its side of the bargain the National Union of Teachers agreed to suspend the programme of strike action which it had planned for this term, but at the same time made it clear that only one aspect of the dispute had been settled and that other forms of action would be revived or initiated in the new term to deal with the substantive issues in the dispute.

No doubt the Council calculated that teachers would no longer be ready for battle now that the immediate threat to their jobs had passed, and that their action would quickly collapse. No doubt they cynically thought that teachers were not seriously concerned about the wider issue of educational standards for the children of Oxfordshire. If this has been so, they have been made to think again in the best manner possible.

Teachers are refusing to teach classes which in their judgment are too large, are

refusing to cover for colleagues when they are absent for more than one day and are refusing to accept a workload heavier than last year. Their most effective sanction is a new one, the refusal to accept a worsened pupil/teacher ratio. Because teachers in the NUT and NAS/UWT are working to last year's staffing standards hundreds of children are sent home daily. In the meantime strike action has only been suspended. Teachers

are in no mood to wait indefinitely for concessions from the Council. Already one Association in the county has voted with a massive majority to call on the Executive to name a day for the resumption of strike action.

Oxfordshire has set the standards for all teachers. Already the class size figures which Oxfordshire teachers find acceptable have been adopted as national NUT policy.

Bexley sanctions

IN the London Borough of Bexley, members of the National Union of Teachers are acting to resist the government attack on education. After an overwhelming ballot in favour, the teachers are now refusing to cover for vacancies or absent colleagues in 15 secondary and over 40 primary schools.

This follows the sacking of part-time teachers and the failure of the Authority to employ an adequate number of supply teachers.

Some primary teachers are strengthening this sanction by taking action on class size, a step all teachers will soon have to take to make 'no cover' effective. Meetings with parents are now planned in the hope that they will support the teachers and join the struggle for education.

Strict enforcement of sanctions is now the order of the day.

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and encourage the government to press on with its aim to smuggle in a phase 3. This struggle is particularly important because of the new Ford factory in Wales, subsidised by British workers to the extent of £73 million. The Americans must not be allowed to use this as a weapon to lower wages or cause redundancy in Dagenham or elsewhere.

Remember, Ford workers, you are not alone. Workers at Mackie, Heinz, Tate & Lyle and the Road Hauliers are not confused. They have their own guidelines and reject all others. Do likewise!

LATEST: Ford's management have come up with an improved offer ranging from 9 to 12.2 per cent; but they have been told this is not enough and sent away to think again.