

THE WORKER



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FIGHT EVERY SINGLE CUT!

The cuts have nothing to do with restoring Britain to economic health. They are part of capitalism's attack on the British working class. Britain's becoming a great nation, strong and self-reliant, depends on its working people and it can never happen if those people are bleeding to death from the cuts already suffered and yet to come.

Why is world capitalism, at present in the guise of the grey IMF men, backing the ruling capitalist class of Britain in condemning the British working class to death by a thousand cuts? Although the British working class has so far acquiesced in the defeat represented by the 'social contract', it is by no means certain that they will so passively accept the third annual round of de-skilling and destructive cutting Callaghan is already demanding. As we put it in the last issue of *THE WORKER*: Will the workers of Britain allow their children to be neglected and themselves to become unskilled, unhealthy and unemployed just to preserve capitalism?

As long as there is any doubt, capitalism's war against the workers of Britain will continue. The capitalist system in absolute decline can allow no pockets of resistance to hold out anywhere.

For us workers of Britain, then, there are only two alternatives - abject slavery under a system that can no longer afford to treat us as human beings or class war to establish a situation in which there are no cuts.

In this situation of general attack by the ruling class on workers our strategy must be to halt this onslaught. 'There shall be no more cuts' must be our call.

It is no longer just a matter of marching up and down Westminster as the culmination of one campaign to be followed by another six months later. Our tactics must be to fight every single cut here and now, where they occur, when they occur. One day we will have to march



up Westminster not to march down again.

Thousands of workers will strike on November 17th against any further cuts in public expenditure.

Public Sector

Public sector unions are now facing the reality of the govern-

ment cuts. They are having to decide how to fight them, despite the lack of opposition to the government's plans at this year's union conferences.

They are coming together for a lobby of Parliament on November 17th, as well as taking individual action like an overtime ban in the Department of Health and Social Security, lightning ambulance men's strikes and so forth.

The acknowledgment that the

cuts are not just a sectional matter is a great step forward. By doing this the unions involved are showing the way to fight an attack on the whole working class. They are saying that a job lost anywhere is a loss for us all. No section of the class can now afford to be isolated, as the hospital ancillary workers were 3 years ago, nor can we afford to let them be so.

Yet, there has been no clear unmistakable opposition to the

social contract even though the General Secretary of the CPGB has pointed out that there is absolutely no evidence to show that by cutting public expenditure, investment is increased elsewhere. To agree, as most unions did, to wage limitations cannot be used as a bargaining counter for jobs. We only get wages and jobs by fighting for them.

November 17th can be an assembly of our united strength to raise a mighty shout against cuts, and to demonstrate for the health, education and employment of the whole class.

NEC

The Labour Party's National Executive Committee has voted to back the lobby on November 17th opposing further cuts in public spending - even though this is a flat contradiction of Labour Government policy. The working class must create a rallying point outside the parliamentary arena around which all those determined to resist any further sacrifices in the name of capitalism can gather. That is the real meaning of the November 17th protest.

Nalگو

The Emergency Committee of the National Executive Council of NALGO has authorised its entire membership to participate in the November 17th action against cuts. This means, in effect, a full day's strike by all members outside London and a half day's strike for London members.

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Bolshevik Revolution marks a giant step forward for the whole of mankind

The October Revolution in Russia in 1917 ushered in a new historical era - the era of working class revolution. Previous to that event, government in every land had been the preserve of the exploiters upholding their system. The October Revolution blazed a new trail, overthrowing exploitation, and is a clear demarcation point.

Certainly the capitalists of the world were scared by this new development. They quickly forgot their internal dissensions evident in the First World War and amassed 19 interventionist armies which invaded Russia in the hope of overthrowing the fledgling Soviet rule. They failed. The Russian workers and peasants fought off this challenge and went on, subsequently, to rapidly industrialise their country and collectivise their agriculture. The Russian people led by their Bolshevik Party under Lenin and Stalin were the first to prove in practice the tremendous power of a dictatorship of the proletariat.

Mankind owes them an eternal debt.
Sacrifice & Betrayal
Nor shall workers ever forget the monumental sacrifice they made in the Second World War

Socialism cherishes the lives of people

By a delegate who visited Albania this summer

In socialist Albania, where the working people are in power, medicine and health are developing and expanding all the time. We saw this for ourselves when we visited a hospital in Gjirokastra this summer.

This hospital was built in 1950 in a country region which before Liberation was extremely primitive in terms of health care, and contaminated with widespread disease. Now this hospital has become a centre of medical science for South Albania, and every village in the area has its own outpatients clinic and ambulance.

Doctors rotate between the hospital and the countryside clinics, which ensures that everyone benefits from the skill of the most highly qualified doc-

(estimated at 20 million deaths) to rid the world of the most inhuman, aggressive brand of capitalists ever known, the Nazis of Germany. The Red Army of those days and the name of Stalin who commanded them will always be venerated.

The tragedy has been the subsequent betrayal of the aims and spirit of the October Revolution which occurred first during Khrushchev's rule, and now Brezhnev's. It has led to the restoration of capitalism within Russia and the emergence of a new ruling class which has captured the 'Communist' Party for its own purpose - to destroy any hope of advance to communism. But the Bolshevik tradition refuses to die; the heirs to this tradition live on; subversively within Russia itself, openly in those two great Parties, the Communist Party of China and the Party of Labour of Albania.

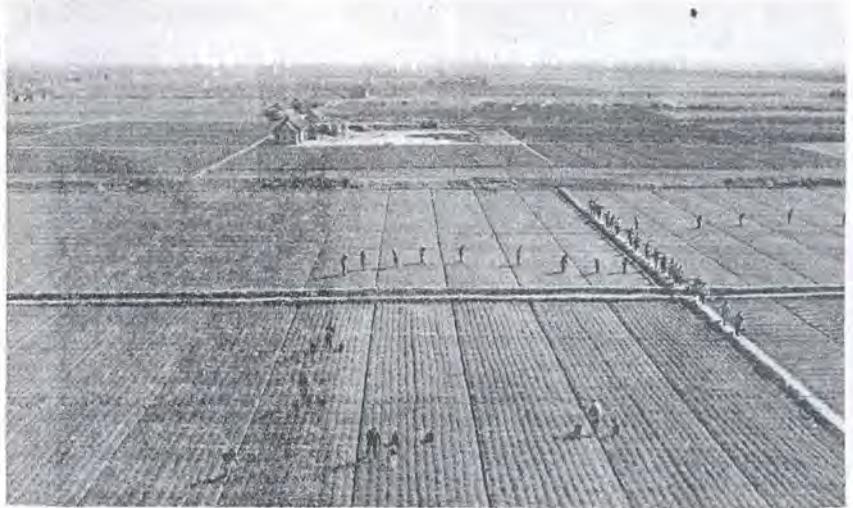
Spirit of October

Within Britain, too, the spirit of the October Revolution is needed. The Bolsheviks' call in 1917 was "Peace, Bread and Land" and "Power to the Soviets" - the one was dependent on the other. Similarly our Party's call "Save Britain - through Revolution".

tors. Among the medical staff great emphasis is laid on health education of the population and preventive medicine. As a result, many diseases which were prevalent before 1944 have been totally eradicated - malaria, TB, diphtheria, typhoid, syphilis, even measles.

Our hosts gave us many impressive facts about health care in their hospital but perhaps none was more telling than this: where before Liberation there was only one surgeon in the whole of Gjirokastra, now there is no waiting list for the operating theatre. All receive the highest standard of care, immediately.

For us who saw this magnificent hospital through British eyes the lesson was clear. Capitalism kills, socialism expands, cherishes and protects the lives of its people.



Fertilizing and harrowing wheat fields at Yankou People's Commune in Hai'an County, Kiangsu Province. (Photo: Hsinhua News Agency)

Away with Russian imperialism

The economic crisis of the capitalist class in the USSR has led to attempts to exploit its empire more viciously. The overall strategy of Comecon put forward at its 24th session is the USSR's long term programme based on the "Brezhnev doctrine" of "limited sovereignty" which was used as a justification for the rape of Czechoslovakia.

This programme of "economic integration" based on a 15-20 year period, has drawn up agreements in the field of capital investments and technical and scientific collaboration. It is permeated by the objective of making the Comecon countries economic and therefore political appendages of the USSR. Many big industrial projects are underway, almost all on Soviet territory, though they are jointly financed by all the Comecon countries. One such project is an asbestos complex with a capacity of 500,000 tons. Thus the Soviet Union robs its neighbours of capital investment, at the same time freeing its own capital for investment in armaments.

Russia puts forward the view that such integration will lead to the Comecon countries reaching in the near future, "equal levels of economic development". Reality shows the opposite and indicates a widening gap in their comparative economic development compared to the Soviet Union. In 1960 the Soviet share in industrial production within Comecon was 69.5 per cent, by 1970 the Soviet share was 76 per cent. During the same period the share of East Germany fell from 8.7 per cent to 3.4 per cent and that of Czechoslovakia from 7.5 per cent to 4.2 per cent. The other countries with lower levels of industrial development also suffered decline.

With the markets of these countries as well as their productive branches under its control, the USSR compels them to sell their goods to it for low prices while buying raw materials from it at high prices.

Visiting the harvest in Kiangsu Province

From a member of the CPB(ML) delegation to China this summer.

The busiest time in the Kiangsu countryside comes at the beginning of August and we were lucky enough to see it.

The first rice harvest had not yet finished being threshed when the manuring and irrigation and transplanting of the second crop had already started.

It is heavy work, but certainly not lonely. All available man- and woman-power is thrown into the work. Workers from the commune factories make for the fields, leaving a skeleton workforce behind. Schools have a special harvest holiday, so that the children can help. Help they do, and also pace themselves and take their due share of leisure: little brown heads bobbed in every pool we passed.

Meanwhile, the main square of the brigade area was covered with grain and straw. The People's Liberation Army men had come in to thresh, and although the temperature was nearly 100° Fahrenheit, the haystacks were growing, and the grain was being taken to the forecourt of the health and education block for sifting and raking.

For all their labour and determination, the people see to their physical needs too. A fourth meal is eaten each day. Long rest periods are taken, which coincide with the hottest part of the day. The brigade canteen ensures that extra work doesn't have to be done at home.

As well as harvesting and planting, we saw their livestock: pigs, angora-rabbits, poultry (kept in pre-Liberation peasant huts), their mortuary, their research station where new strains of rice are developed and tested, the barefoot doctor and his clinic and their classrooms for nursery, primary and secondary aged children. Each age group put on a performance for us, culminating in the Little Red Soldiers' magnificent performance of Wu Shu - the Chinese martial arts - with perfect precision.

They fed us - a magnificent repast, everything grown or raised by the brigade. And they showed us their exhibition of the development of their brigade.

Kiangsu is a fertile province, watered by the Yangtze and drenched in sun all summer, but it became clear to us that this is not just a beautiful natural scene, but a socialist landscape. Rising ground has been levelled, water tamed and channelled for irrigation, fields fertilised and avenues of trees planted. Previously the victim of flood and drought, year after year, since Liberation this area has become a larder producing two, sometimes three harvests a year. And all thanks to the revolutionary spirit and work of its people.

'Psychops' and class war

Capitalism has no illusions about the rising intensity of class struggle and will stop at nothing to protect itself against attack from the working class.

Recently the news has leaked that for the past three years 262 senior civil servants as well as 1858 army officers have been trained to use "psychological techniques for internal security purposes and against subversive groups." Training courses run at Old Sarum in Wiltshire and called "psychops", short for

psychological operations, are designed for "counter-insurgency situations" or, in other words, the prevention of a socialist revolution.

Supposedly for training civil servants who work in Northern Ireland where psychops has direct links with the Army's HQ at Lisburn, it has actually been admitted that many other civil servants who do not work in Northern Ireland have attended the courses, including senior people from the Home Office.

One of the concerns of psychops units is the spreading of propaganda. Undoubtedly capitalism will use increasingly cunning ways to fill the minds of British workers with ideas that communism is an evil system that brain-washes people living under it!

EXHIBITION

Monday 29th November - Saturday 18th December

ALBANIA-TODAY

The exhibition will consist of many recent photographs, charts on production achievements, literature, art works, cultural and historical displays. Albanian music will be played and there will be slide shows.

Polytechnic of Central London (Main Entrance Hall)
309 Regent Street, London W1. Open ALL DAY to 8 pm.
Oxford Circus Tube No. 137 and all Oxford Circus buses.

AND YESTERDAY

Organised by the New Albania Society.

'THE WORKER'

155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON, NW5.
£2.50 per year (including postage).

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

The building industry and construction for socialism

The recruitment of craft apprentices into the building industry looks likely to be as low as 10,000 for 1976 - a drop of 3000 on last year's figures. The overall unemployment figure in the industry is around 250,000 out of a workforce of 800,000 (direct labour i.e. not including lump). In the southern region, including London, 45,000 operatives are idle, whilst the figures for London alone, released by the Department of the Environment to the London Building and Civil Engineering Joint Committee show that nearly 21,000 unemployed men are chasing 1870 jobs. This means that for every vacancy there are 10 men ready to fill it.

The cuts in housing, health and schools have had the effect of making the number of new contracts started fall steadily. The result is that Wimpey, Bovis and McAlpine are turning their backs on the home industry to seek work abroad.

Ironically at a time when unity is essential and the need for a vigilant and conscientious approach to trade union organisation is imperative, the opposite has happened. The lack of involvement of lay members in their branches and shop stewards committees is apparent on most sites. The employers have wasted no time in taking advantage of this. Consequently, whereas the normal hourly bonus on well-organised sites last year was 60p to 70p per hour, this year disputes are taking place to secure just 40p.

A gloomy picture, but within the industry there are the workers to change this situation. A movement not just amongst lay members but including full time officials as well is emerging. After reeling back from the initial blow, the workers in the industry are now preparing the fight back. The first stage of this is a realisation amongst active trade unionists within the industry that branch life needs to be re-kindled. Without this, any real fight back is out of the question. It requires a new vigour and the class consciousness that created trade unions in the first place.

Whilst workers in the industry demand the right to work, this must be coupled with a realistic view of the situation. Centre Point is still empty, the millions made in the 1960's by land and property development are being invested where capitalism can be sure of a higher return; yet hospitals need to be repaired and new ones built, the numbers of homeless and badly-housed grow each year, factories close down and are not replaced, children are still taught in Victorian schools. There can be no return to a building industry based on the profits from property speculation. Workers in the industry must demand the right to build not for the profit of individuals but to build for the needs of the people.

Comparisons of unemployment and vacancies by craft:
London area - August 1976

	Unemployed	Vacancies
Carpenters	1,058	271
Bricklayers	533	148
Plasterers	298	72
Painters and Decorators	2,250	339
Electricians	473	55
Plumbers	956	106
Glaziers	59	7
Heating and Domestic Engineers	139	28
Other craftsmen	1,743	137
Total craftsmen	7,511	1,163
Others	13,343	707
Total	20,854	1,870

Grunwick strike goes on, action by postmen

There was a new turn in the 13 week old strike for union recognition at the Grunwick Processing Laboratories in Willesden when post office workers refused to cross the picket line to deliver post to the company.

This sympathetic action on the part of fellow workers was serious because the company depends on a mail-order business and could be forced into liquidation in a very short time by a ban on postal deliveries. The ban was lifted when the Grunwick management finally agreed to go to arbitration over the recognition issue.

As soon as the postmen took their decision to act, there were howls of dismay and charges of illegal conduct from Tory MPs who raised the matter in the House of Commons as a dire threat to law and order. They were well aware of the industrial leverage that can be brought to bear by post office workers or, indeed, other workers in the public sector, who choose to support with sympathetic action fellow workers in dispute with their

employers.

If a postal worker obstructs the delivery of mail 'contrary to his duty' he is liable, according to the 1953 Post Office Act to a fine or imprisonment or both; but there can be no doubt about the results of trying to enforce it in a case like this. It would be the imprisoned dockers all over again with the whole working class involved.

The Times comments that "what is so disturbing about the present case is that the postmen's own interests are not directly involved at all". That is precisely the importance of the action. It is an example of class solidarity which cuts right across the bourgeois morality of only looking after number one. No wonder it has thrown such a scare into employers and their representatives in Parliament.

Latest: Grunwick management which for 10 weeks refused to comment, to talk to the press, or discuss the question in any way, may now be going back on its willingness to go to arbitration. The strike goes on.

No end to struggle throughout Wales ...

In Clwydd

The Council's plan to cut £531,000 off the education bill is meeting with stern resistance from teachers in the County. The announcement that 100 fewer teachers would be recruited and staff-pupil ratios allowed to deteriorate has resulted in industrial sanctions by teachers. Classes of over 35 pupils and of absent colleagues will no longer be taken. Teachers are also refusing to make good the loss. The Council's economies are also affecting swimming lessons and evening classes. Wage cuts have taken place in regard to youth leaders and evening class lecturers.

In Dyfed

Six public sector unions in the County have joined forces against proposed cuts of £43m in Council services. UCATT members in Haverfordwest were responsible for forcing the local Health Authority to install extra beds in a new hospital and have been in the forefront of the campaign to save the County hospital in the town.

On November 2nd 1000 students picketed Camarthen County Hall against what is virtually an attempt to emasculate any future resistance by student unions, which have been in the front of attempts to preserve education in Dyfed, by stifling the funds on which they depend.

Parents have again been in action in the County. Despite the reversal of the Council's

decision to cut nursery and under-five schooling, the result has meant in some areas that children would not be able to start school until September 1977, some of whom would be approaching 6 years old.

In one such area, Swies Valley Llanelli, parents lobbied educational authorities in order that children could start school in January instead of September.

In Gwent

Industrial action which has already occurred in three educational establishments in the County is expected to grow unless the Council fills existing vacancies. GMWU cleaners at Pontypool College of Education are refusing to undertake excess duties caused by vacancies; and strikes at Fairwater Comprehensive School Cwmbran and Aberystwyth Secondary School by canteen and cleaning staff will continue to be staged unless present Council policies on vacancies are changed.

...to say nothing of, North West Kent

As well as the bitter struggles being fought by power station construction workers at Grain and Littlebrook, 400 men engaged on the building of the second Dartford Tunnel came out on strike on October 22nd. They were backing a claim for an extra £20 a day by 150 face workers who have to work waist deep in water,

...nor in Avon...

Avon County Council, with a bit of window-dressing by saving school crossing patrols and discretionary awards for later, propose to go ahead with £2m cuts in education.

Apart from looking for savings in such things as new books, swimming lessons, increased fees and more textured vegetable protein, the cuts mean an "inevitable" reduction in staffing. First in line are part-time workers, 90 teachers are to be made redundant or have their hours cut, school meals, clerical, general and nursery assistants could account for another 200 lost jobs, three-quarters of this section are part-time workers. Every emphasis is made about working less than 21 hours, so as to avoid redundancy payments. At every turn their interest is in the treasurer's purse, not in the value of the job we do.

The list doesn't stop here but goes on to take account of cuts in higher education and the administration of the whole sector.

NALGO have resolved to reimpose an overtime ban that two months ago forced the Authority to step down over making nine catering staff redundant, and to look for further steps against compulsory redundancies.

Not umpires but defenders

An agency of government which has been invoked ever more frequently, is the 'independent umpire' - the tribunal or commission. Although at first glance such bodies appeal to our British sense of 'fair-play', they are a deception.

The Worker has recently exposed the way in which the 'Equal Pay' tribunals work. Industrial Tribunals are no different. 1000 men at the Isle of Grain power station site (N. Kent) were refused any social security payments after receiving their cards from employers Babcock & Wilcox. "You're still in dispute," they were told, even after 19 weeks and a Health Inspectorate finding against the company's position on work with glass-fibre. Still no money. "If we were still

STUDENTS

With the new academic year barely a month old vicious new attacks are planned on education. The latest victims of the attack are overseas students, student teachers and women medical students.

Overseas students

The latest plans to place stricter controls upon the entry of overseas students on British courses is a crude use of racialism as a weapon to destroy education in this country. Because of the action of students and teachers many of the London Polytechnics have ignored the JLEA's attempts to encourage them to reduce the number of overseas students in their colleges. It is generally realised that the attempts to limit overseas students are but thinly disguised ways of ending courses and closing colleges.

At the LSE overseas students have launched a campaign against the proposed 80 per cent increase in fees. When a deputation met Ralph Dahrendorf and reminded him of his previous statement that he believed in the principle of free education for all he replied that "he could not afford the luxury of principles." When further questioned he stated that since only the "privileged few" studied at the LSE they would have no difficulty in meeting the higher fees. This epitomises the attitude of the bourgeoisie to education that it should only be for the "privileged few" and that the skills and intelligence of the working class should be attacked by cutbacks and destroyed.

Teacher training

The Department of Education plans to cut down teacher training places from 57,000 to 45,000. The excuse used is that of a falling birth-rate. The militancy which student teachers showed when they occupied their colleges earlier in the year must now be matched by the whole class. The reduction in teacher training places will result in the closure of still more schools and colleges.

Medical training

A strongly worded document called "Women in Medicine" bemoans the fact that the increasing number of female medical students leads to women doctors who because of marriage fail to practice. This absurd argument is both sexual discrimination against women and an attack upon the health and education of our class.

working we could be fined £400 a man under the Health and Safety Act," the men told an Industrial Tribunal. Did the men get justice? The Tribunal adjourned because it couldn't decide the issue.

The Price Commission recently found TV rental firms had used various excuses to increase their profit margins hand over fist. But do the prices come down? Not a chance. In fact one company, British Relay, has permission to increase its prices by between 5 and 9 per cent next month.

Such tribunals and commissions are far from independent. There is no body in the land which can claim to be above the interests of the ruling class or the working class! Such machinery is designed to absorb struggle, to take the steam out of our grievances and to put the seal of 'legality' on their defence of the employers.

Not umpires then, but defenders.

The Isle of Grain and the truth about the fight to save our power stations

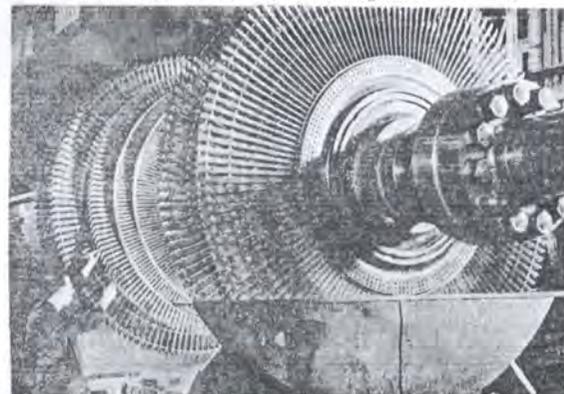
In the process of running down British industry, capitalism requires less electricity, except that which it is able to export for higher profits. Thus, the Central Electricity Generating Board has made clear its opposition to the proposed Drax 'B' power station in Yorkshire. But what of those power stations under construction? The clear strategy of the CEBG, as the agent of the State, reported in *The Worker* (no. 14), has been borne out by all subsequent events. The CEBG has no desire to see these power stations completed for electricity supply to British industry.

At Littlebrook power station on the Thames, a completed section lies idle, and at the 'D' section a dispute provoked by the sacking of a shop steward (not the first of

£4 million for the takeover of an American crane firm. Along with the abandonment of the British construction industry, such firms seek higher profits abroad.

Since the 1000-man workforce came out on strike, the employers have shown no interest in negotiating a quick return to work. On one occasion several weeks ago, Babcock's executives did not even turn up to a meeting with national union officials - they were abroad. By acting in the interests of the CEBG and prolonging the stoppage, Babcock does not lose financially because it is linked by a "cost reimbursable contract". The CEBG, achieving its aim, remains silent while workers foot the bill as taxpayers.

During the course of this



its kind) remains unsettled. 150 scaffolders are on strike.

Construction work at the Isle of Grain in Kent has been held up for 5 months now, due to the failure of employers to settle a dispute involving one thousand men. For the past month, there has been a total shutdown affecting 1700 workers. Here the construction firm, Babcock and Wilcox, acting as the CEBG's agent, provoked the strike, by refusing to supply protective clothing subsequently declared necessary by a Health Inspectorate, by cutting a £4 a week bonus from wages, and stopping Sunday working. It is not through lack of money that Babcock made these attacks, for they have recently been bidding

struggle, collaboration between employers and state agencies can be seen clearly. Babcock sacked all thousand men after they went on strike, and sent them their cards through the post. But the Departments of Employment and Social Security have not paid any benefits on the grounds that the men were still in dispute! Such an attack from both sides attempts to demoralize the men or force them to take another job - if they can find one!

At the Industrial Tribunal the workers have claimed unfair dismissal, with the irrefutable case that, in view of the Health Inspectorate's report, they would have broken the Health

and Safety at Work Act by continuing to work; however, the employers claimed that the men "dismissed themselves" by taking strike action. (Who sent them their cards through the post?) And they have been able to utilize the Tribunal to prolong the dispute still further. Each man is to be treated separately, with no test case! One thousand men are to be dealt with on an individual basis!

But during all this time, the strength of the picket lines has been vigorously maintained. Workers in all sections of the power stations have shown great solidarity. Above all, the clarity of the workforce has increased. The men are now aware that they are not just fighting one employer over protective clothing, but are taking on the CEBG and the whole corporate policy of rundown in the fight to prevent the destruction of the electrical power supply industry.

This heightened understanding and the escalation of the picketing has brought about a situation that the CEBG have been unable to play down, and they now suffer enormous embarrassment.

In the present negotiations, the employers attempted to use the situation to force the men to accept a loss of tea and lunch time - and fiercer discipline. Unsuccessful, and resigned to a return to work, they now attempt to break the unity of the workforce by dividing the work undertaken by Babcock into four smaller contracting firms - the very system abandoned a few years ago in the hope that one large firm would be able to exercise great control!

Whatever formula capitalists adopt, there can be no peace between employers and employed as long as workers continue to struggle. Indeed, under capitalism, there can be no end to class struggle as long as there is a working class with a will to win. With an increased understanding, workers at the Grain will continue to fight to save our power stations.

The Labour Government deciding that the industrial democracy bill offering us 'workers' participation' will not be obligatory only permissive, so that the employers only have to throw dust in our eyes if they want to.

And now everybody, the Governor of the Bank of England, the CBI, and Uncle Tom Cobley and all, telling us that they made a slight mistake a while back. Things aren't getting better after all. They're getting a lot worse! The shut-down of Britain as more and more capital is exported abroad goes on and on.

The only way we can open up Britain and get this great big hump off our backs is to revolt. Every worker knows instinctively what is wrong and what we have to do about it. Don't hesitate to give Macmillan and all the rest of those in the privileged class some substance for their worry about a red menace.

Engineering Worker,
London.

What makes NHS the Pound go down

The government may well be wondering whether or not it did a wise thing when appointing the Royal Commission on the National Health Service under the chairmanship of Sir Alec Merrison.

Appointed to consider in the interests both of patients and of those who work in the NHS the best use and management of the financial and manpower resources of the NHS, the Commission hopes to report in two years' time, but Sir Alec is already beginning to make his position clear. He has said that the Commission will not feel inhibited from expressing its views if it feels that something is going astray.

We may guess at such views - and the government may shudder - if the guide to those wishing to give evidence is at all indicative of things to come. The guide says that it is clear that the potential demand for health care is almost infinite and that there are no universally acceptable criteria for deciding the best use of NHS resources. Surely not a statement to be much appreciated by a government trying to cut the Health Service, which takes as its criteria the abandonment of this country by the ruling class and a consequent lack of demand for a healthy working class. Our class demands health care - as much as we need; our class, the vast majority, can set up the most widely acceptable criteria for the use of NHS resources and the increase of those resources as we need.

The Commission's guide goes on to state that it is essential that people should feel that they have some influence over the use and distribution of available money and that the NHS should be responsive to the public's wishes. The working class will support the Commission in these sentiments also. We built the NHS, we keep it running, our skills and the future of our class are partially invested in it. It is ours. We must not only have some influence but all influence.

To find the real reason for the drop in the pound we need only see whom it hurts the most. Certainly not international financiers, including pre-eminently the British; they make profits either way, joining with the rest in selling Britain short. Those most damaged are the British working class who pay for the drop by meeting the higher prices of all imported necessities and by becoming the cheap labour supplying goods to the rest of the world, mainly Europe, with even greater profit margins for the capitalists.

The fall in the pound is part of capitalism's attack on the workers of Britain. It will be used as a further excuse by the Labour Government for imposing on the working people of Britain even greater cuts.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

At the Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Friday Nov 12th, 7.30p.m. "The Cuts: Socialism and Self-reliance or a Wasteland?"

Friday Nov 19th, 7.30p.m. "Capitalism, a dying system."

Friday Nov 26th, 7.30p.m. "One World, One Enemy"

Friday Dec 3rd, 7.30p.m. "What are We To Do?"

Bristol

Friday Nov 12th, 7.30 p.m. "Revolution - to save Britain for Socialism". Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Rd, Old Market, Bristol.

Friday Dec 3rd, 7.30 p.m. "No Profits - No Unemployment in Socialist Albania". Main Trend Books.

Brighton

Wednes. Nov 24th, 8pm "For a Self-Reliant Britain". Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Rd

Wednes. Dec 8th, 8pm "The Working Class in Control". Brighton Workers' Bookshop.

Two report-back meetings by members of a CPB(ML) delegation to Albania in summer 1976.

Bradford

Friday Nov 26th, 7.30 p.m. Communal Building, Room 2, Bradford University.

Friday Dec 11th, 7.30 p.m. Park Lane College of F.E., Room 102 (off entrance hall), Hanover Way, Leeds.

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP

155 Fortess Rd, London NW5 THE WORKER, £2.50 per year
Selected Works of Enver Hoxha Vols 1&II £1.50 each

LETTER to The Worker

Dear Editor,

Oh the poor hump on my back that gets bigger and bigger every month and every year, with balance of payments problems, the collapsing pound, lack of work and, on top of it all, Macmillan worrying about a red menace. Would that be me?

Varley eastingating car workers for not turning out enough; Callaghan praising them for increasing output by 32 per cent since last year but ought to be praising foreign car manufacturers even more since he lets even more of their products in.

Working in a factory beleaguered by estimators who have torn the guts out of every job they did when they were on the shop floor and are trying to get us to do the same.

Constantly being told, when worrying how to make ends meet, that because we are so greedy we are ruining Britain; constantly being told, as dole queues lengthen, that we over-man jobs and are naturally

lazy; being threatened by Callaghan, as we are faced with higher mortgage charges, 15 per cent, increased electricity and gas bills, increased fares, that we are going for the third year in succession to have to accept a wage freeze for the good of the country.

The Labour Government and the TUC supporting them unquestioningly, wanting nothing but an indefinite continuation of the same.

Those workers not in hock to the money-lenders, i.e. the building societies, are paying higher rents and rates to Councils or landlords. Councils allowing so much work to go out to private enterprise that the estimated bill for putting right shoddy workmanship by fly-by-night sub-contractors is estimated at £30m. New bureaux are set up in town halls to tell people what their rights are in dealing with shoddy workmanship while the very people who could put it right are out of work.