

THE WORKER



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USA TAKES OVER LABOUR GOVERNMENT?

FORD'S FOREMAN HEALEY CURBS BRITISH WORKERS

Ford, sticking to the guidelines figure of 5 per cent, is not knuckling under to the Labour Government out of fear of sanctions.

The Labour Government has been knuckling under to Ford and all other big capitalist employers in its whole policy of pay restraint.

"IT'S not an offer, it's an insult," insisted the worker at Ford, Dagenham, as he walked out of the gate, along with 999 workmates. By Friday lunchtime, following initial negotiations on September 21st, 1000 were on strike at Daventry, 2000 in Basildon, over 2000 in Swansea and 11,000 had left the Halewood plant on Merseyside. In all, 35,000 Ford workers walked out.

Management's offer of 5 per cent and future talks on productivity has received its reply. The stoppage of work is a very eloquent and serious reply indeed. It overshadows all future negotiations, impressing on management the seriousness of the claim. Ford workers, through their trade unions, seek £20 across the board, improvements in shift pay, longer holidays and improved pensions, together with their demand for a 35 hour week. Ford management cannot plead poverty with pre-tax profits last year over £246 million in the UK alone. The wage claim could quite comfortably be paid out of that huge profit without Ford putting their prices up. But they will put them up, for it is capital that fuels price inflation.

The management knows it can pay workers, who pro-

duce the profit, far more than 5 per cent, but to do so, says management, would not be "socially responsible". That remark was made tongue in cheek.

But Ford workers have been in this position before. The three week strike of 1969, which opposed penalty clauses against strikes, effectively undermined the then Labour Government's "In Place of Strife" proposing the same. Even then, Ford management and the Labour Government were working together to deal with trade unionists. In 1971 there was a nine week strike against another derisive Ford offer and the Tory Industrial Relations Bill (much the same as Labour's effort in 1969). In early 1971 Ford workers, and the postmen, upped the tempo of resistance to Government and employers. In 1977 Ford workers undermined the 10 per cent guideline but not so many followed their example.

Now Ford workers have set a cracking pace for collective bargaining, the policy of most trade unions and the TUC. As the last ten years have shown, when Ford workers unite in struggle against Capitalist Government and Employer they present a formidable force to those who stand in the way.

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Voting for action at Ford

Dagenham workers rejecting the 10% guidelines last year. This year strikes are under way. Said the Chairman of the union side "it's getting so that to mention free collective bargaining is to sound revolutionary." (Photo: John Sturrock, 'Report')

Council workers' claim vs guidelines

WHEN Callaghan spoke to the APEX Conference on May Day he brought bad news covered in sincerity. But his main concern, he said, was "the plight of the low paid". Less than five months later we can see the measure of his sincerity.

Local authority manual workers have lodged a claim through their unions, NUPE, TGWU and GMWU, for substantial improvements in wages and conditions. The workers involved want the minimum weekly rate increased from £42.50 to £60, with proportionate increases for other grades.

They also want a 35 hour working week and a fourth week's holiday. Were all these demands agreed to, the label 'low paid' would still apply.

What is the stance of the Labour Government? Very predictable. Only those paid less than £44.50 are low paid! All the rest of us are relatively 'well paid' and

bound to 5 per cent guidelines. If we got 2 per cent over last year's guidelines we get 5 per cent minus 2 per cent under Phase Four. No self-respecting trade unionist will wear this.

'Spot of bother'

The local authority manual workers, over a million of them, have been insulted by the Government's attitude towards them, and strikes are likely towards the end of October. NUPE has instructed its area committees to make preparations now for that outcome. The secretary of the trade union negotiators has said that unless 5 per cent guidelines are forgotten quickly there is likely to be "a spot of bother this winter". That's what is called an English understatement.

Under Phase Three, local authority workers got 10.7 per cent. In addition, the amount of wage drift from that deal is estimated at about

2½ per cent. If we say then that the total was 13.2 per cent then under Government dictat the settlement this year should not exceed 2.8 per cent! As NUPE's assistant general secretary said, "The Government's guidelines mean that we could end up in the ridiculous situation where our members owe the Government money. If Jim Callaghan thinks that public service workers will meekly accept this situation he is living in a dream world and may end up in the embarrassing situation of taking on some of the lowest-paid workers in the country."

Callaghan sincerely cares for capitalism, the system which has as a condition for its existence a low paid working class. No politician can nurse capitalism and care for the 'low paid'. When local authority workers strike against low pay just watch the Labour Government condemn them. If you vote, you vote for capitalism and low pay.

Framework for imperialist oppression not peace

THE CAMP David 'Framework for Peace' is not intended to free the Palestinians but to secure their chains. The intention behind the agreements signed by Carter, Begin and Sadat is to legalise the expulsion of the Palestinians from their land and secure their oppression by international guarantees.

The so much talked about security of the states in the Middle East is for Carter and his 'two friends' the security of imperialist interests, the oppressive regime in Egypt and the security of the imperialist base in Israel. As for the people who live there, they did not even have a look-in at the talks.

The "return of Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty", part of the "framework for an Egypt-Israel peace treaty" is riddled with numerous conditions, exposing how skin deep the newly found

friendship is. There are conditions for stationing Egyptian troops near the border, provisions for stationing United Nations troops and early warning stations. Sharm el-Sheikh is to have UN troops stationed there following the withdrawal of Israeli occupying troops.

Unlike those stationed in Sinai following the 1956 invasion of Egypt, the agreement states that UN troops stationed in Sharm el-Sheikh may only be removed by a unanimous vote by the five permanent members of the Security Council of the UN.

As for the West Bank, the 'Framework for peace' anticipates a state of continued presence of Israeli military settlement and a 'strong local police force', together with joint patrols by Israeli and Jordanian forces to secure the border and 'continued liaison on internal security between

Israel, Jordan and Egypt'. Israel today, unable to do it itself, is trying to get the Palestinians in the West Bank and Jordan to police its super ghetto, the West Bank of Jordan.

Not that Begin and Sadat did not have a price to pay for their agreement. The hatred Sadat now enjoys from the people of Egypt and the other peoples in the Middle East is comparable only to that awarded to the notorious Nuri Al Said of Iraq in the forties and fifties. Yet another Egyptian Foreign Minister has resigned. Has Sadat any friends left apart, that is, from Carter and Begin?

Begin had to expose the real nature of Zionism. Those young 'pioneers' misled into settling at the borders for the greater glory of God now realise that they are no more than cannon fodder for the glory of imperialist interests in the Middle East. Who but a

fascist lacking in even the rudiments of humanity would place babies and children as a front line defence of state boundaries.

The Palestinian people have survived many conspiracies to annihilate them, from the Balfour Declaration onwards. They will undoubtedly survive this latest plan. The grin on Carter's face will not last very long. Let the imperialists realise that this is not the first time an Arab ruler has stabbed the Palestinians in the back. The only difference is that Sadat is doing it in the open.

After the euphoria of 'instant peace' has died down, the people in Israel will come to realise where their real interests lie, with the Palestinians and other Arab Peoples. That might as yet prove to be the breaking of the stranglehold Zionist ideology has on the majority of the Jews in Israel.

THE WEEK

MORE news of the destruction of Britain: a government report wants two and a half thousand dockers out of work, half the workforce of London's Upper Docks. A Commons Committee calls for 50,000 jobs to go in the railways.

AN ALTERNATIVE use of Colleges of Education has just been found at Culham, Oxfordshire, the new home of the EEC's JET nuclear research project. The buildings are to be used as a multi-lingual school for EEC employees. Local children will not be admitted. How small is the concern for British education is shown by the Government's failure to fill 1500 vacant science posts in secondary schools, 970 applied for retraining, 147 found jobs.

TELEVISION viewers will remember the extraordinary report of how our refuse is disposed of - carted by road from North to South, East to West, as local plants are insufficient. At Bristol, for example, where the last dump was closed (on health grounds!), the local incinerator at Avonmouth has had 500 tons in excess of its capacity delivered to it each week. In the warm weather, mounting rubbish has been poisoning this beautiful city with its stench.

THE Society of Authors, 3000 strong, has applied for recognition as a trade union, while the Writers' Guild, already affiliated to the TUC, has won its first major victory by reaching minimum contract terms with the employers. Writers show more sense than the Police Federation, which has decided to shelve its campaign for the right to strike and TUC membership.

NOT far behind Ford, we hope, will be British Leyland workers. There is no disunity of narrow sectional claims at Cowley. Craftsmen and production workers of the Transport and Engineering unions have combined to demand a basic pay rise from £73 to £100 a week.

EVEN prisons can't be properly managed by capitalism. After hideous overcrowding, 'open' prisons, they now put prisoners to work outside the prisons for less than a pittance. But Oxford trade unionists have protested and are demanding that all work should be paid at the going rate.

NATO war exercises currently taking place in Germany have claimed 13 lives so far - among them 5 German civilians.

GRUMBING over money is even heard in the Vatican, where traditionally workers received a month's wages on the election of a new pope. This time they received less in the interests of economy. Its city bank is reported to hold deposits of £1000 million.

The struggle for freedom in Nicaragua will go on

THE CURRENT setback to the popular movement to force the resignation of Nicaragua's president, General Somoza, should not lead anyone to think that the people's forces have been permanently stilled. The fight against the Somoza family has gone on in various ways and at various levels ever since the present dictator's father was installed by the US Government over forty years ago.

Here, as in the rest of Latin America, the unflinching support given by the United States to repression of popular movements has earned the bitter hatred of the people. For all Carter's pretences towards support of humanitarianism the USA provides nearly all the arms, know-how and money in order to provide Central and South America with

a motley crew of uniformed and be-medalled dictators whose personal wealth generally surpasses the combined income of the rest of their fellow citizens.

Nicaragua is a good example of both US double-dealing and of its final futility against the conscious force of workers and peasants. Many of the towns in Nicaragua had been preparing for an insurrection for over a year, and the organisation and efficiency shown during their brief liberation in such towns as Leon, Esteli and Matagalpa was most impressive.

The capital city, Managua, has special difficulties in organising as it was destroyed by an earthquake in 1972 and never rebuilt while millions in foreign aid went straight into Somoza's pocket. When the Managua Chamber

of Commerce voted by a wide margin to support the general strike the entire country was solid against the government; 90 per cent of the country's commerce and 75 per cent of its industry came to a halt. This was the second general strike in the past year and followed the successful trading of some government officials for the release of 59 political prisoners.

General Somoza has compared the recent action by the people with the historic Tet offensive in Vietnam, bragging at the victory of his American trained and equipped army over workers and peasants armed with home-made rifles and kitchen knives. He ought to remember that although the Vietnamese lost the Tet offensive they went on to win the war.

HISTORIC NOTES Levellers as pioneers

THE LEVELLERS are usually presented as being a small fringe group of extremists having only an insignificant role in history. Yet in truth they had at the time of the Civil War by far the largest, best organised party in the country, the first democratic party in our history, with strong links with the masses and the first soldiers' councils in history, not seen before or since until the Soviets in Russia.

Although they acted in the interests of all classes of working people, the Levellers were composed almost exclusively of the more independent class of workers, craftsmen, apprentices and small traders, men whose traditional status and livelihood were under attack by the new capitalist order.

The rising merchants had become more divided from the master craftsmen and journeymen as the wealthier masters had ceased to work at or even manage their trades, especially in London which had become more capitalist than anywhere else in England. This gave rise to a separate class of journeymen who could never afford to become masters as they had in the past. So a division of interests occurred within the Livery Companies.

Small masters and craftsmen were still members of the companies, but no longer did they have any control over trade: the large merchants had usurped the right to nominate the officers who fixed wages and prices.

The question of suffrage was very real to these men as they fought for an equal voice in the companies and the right to run them in their own class interests. The battle raged during and after the war, ending with the defeated workers leaving to form their own distinct class organisations, the Trade Unions.

Very aware of their downgrading of status and economics, these workers formed the backbone of the Leveller movement. Many joined the army during the war to fight their enemies and ensure that the post-war settlement restored their rights.

The landless urban and rural proletariat never joined the Levellers -- they were so abysmally poor and dependent on their masters that they could not afford the luxury of holding their own opinions.

In the country the existence of base tenures meant that the peasants dared not oppose their landlords. These base tenures were lands held on the condition of fines for commutation of service, fines extracted on the renewal of a lease, the threat of non-renewal of lease, raised cost of lease, etc. If a peasant did not follow his landlord's wishes completely, he ran the risk of having his lease terminated or the price of it raised by several hundred per cent.

As long as these were the conditions of holding land, democracy and freedom of speech could not function, so the Levellers made the abolition of base

tenures one of their main demands, repented in every petition.

But apart from this demand, the Levellers had a complete lack of any agrarian programme, which was necessary for the link with the peasantry which would have made them an invincible force.

The civilian Levellers were pioneers in the organisation of modern working class parties. They had their own newspaper, a party colour (green), indirect election of leaders and regular subscriptions which paid for the printing of petitions and propaganda, and for the roving missionaries.

Women had total equality in the party. Once, they collected 10,000 women's signatures on a petition which 1000 of them presented to parliament.

It was in the Army, however, that the Levellers were most active and powerful. As they said, the New Model, "no mercenary army", was composed of men who "made some conscience of what they did." So they had their own ideas when, after the defeat of the king in 1647, parliament voted to disband most of the Army, send the rest to Ireland, make peace with the king and settle the Presbyterian religion on the country.

These were soldiers who had joined up voluntarily in many cases to fight for a cause. Four-fifths of them were literate and thus able to read Leveller literature for themselves and debate

for what they were fighting. They were certainly in no mood to see the country return to an intolerant right-wing Presbyterian dictatorship presided over by their class enemies, the big merchants and usurers, still less force this same dictatorship on the Irish who were fighting for their freedom.

This, coupled with the fact that parliament offered only 6 weeks' pay to cover 48 weeks' arrears, ensured that only seven per cent of officers and a handful of soldiers volunteered. Instead, they drew up a petition for back pay, an end to the press gang, allowances for war widows and orphans and indemnity for acts of war.

Parliament branded the petitioners as enemies of state, to which the officers and men replied by electing representatives called Agitators. 2 per troop, levying subscriptions (4d per man) and voting to resist disbandment.

Parliament then sent men to seize the army's siege train and munitions, but the Leveller soldiers attacked and took them for their own use. The soldiers then abducted the king from parliamentary custody in order to prevent a counter-revolutionary restoration, and helped the peasants petition for an end to tithes, an end to enclosures and an end to rotten boroughs.

The stage was set for a full-scale confrontation. Next week, Historic Notes follows what happened.

EDITORIAL

HUA Kuo-feng, representing the anti-Marxist regime which has taken over in China, was rapturous on his recent tour about developments in the bureaucratic capitalist countries, Roumania and Yugoslavia, just after cutting off all aid and credits to socialist Albania. He had cordial talks with the Shah of Iran while the armed forces of that western imperialist-backed dictator were shooting down revolutionaries and working people in a dozen Iranian towns.

In place of the anti-imperialist, pro-working class policies of socialist China, the present regime seeks co-operation with US imperialism, with the big international bourgeoisie of western Europe and with any little fascist ruler who does their bidding.

These 180 degree turns in China's foreign policy are thoroughly analysed in the editorial of ZERI I POPULLIT (People's Voice, organ of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania) published on September 8rd.

The present 'leaders' of China are seeking the help of US imperialism and of other reactionary forces like the EEC to oppose the imperialist expansion of the Soviet Union. But this has nothing to do with defending other countries from the threat of Soviet expansion or with any principled stand for Marxism-Leninism against revisionism. Otherwise the Chinese leadership would not have turned against Albania, the most resolute defender of Marxism-Leninism and of their national integrity against imperialist expansion from any quarter.

No, these 'leaders' who have taken over since Mao Tsetung's death are not interested in preventing the Soviet Union from threatening other countries: they want to take the Soviet Union's place as an imperialist power for themselves. The problem is that their schemes for arming China, not for defensive but for offensive war, will not mature for some time. Meanwhile they hope to embroil the US and western Europe, on the one hand, and the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, on the other, in a mutually-destructive world war. The Balkans are regarded as a 'powder keg' for this purpose, just as European and US imperialists have always done, and the Chinese revisionists no doubt think that some 'crown prince' can easily be killed to spark off a general war in Europe. But the people of the Balkans will not mistake the fire-brand Hua Kuo-feng brings from Peking to set the war cauldrons boiling for an olive branch.

During his visit to Roumania and Yugoslavia Hua opportunistically adapted his anti-Marxist world outlook to that of his hosts, talking about "the non-aligned world" instead of his usual "three world view". Of course both of these terms are bourgeois inventions for the purpose of counteracting revolutions and liberation struggles.

The whole world must know and rest assured that Albania does not stretch out a begging hand to any imperialist power and that Albania's borders and territorial space are inviolable. It is only on the same basis that the people of China can defend themselves and safeguard their revolution - by continuing with the building of socialism and by preparing to protect their land and their great achievements by defensive people's war which has proved invincible. The attempts of the revisionist usurpers to organise a war somewhere else until they can 'modernise' China's arms to make war themselves are creating the gravest dangers for the people of China.

CUTS IN EDUCATION

Wasted Skills

SCIENTIFIC research is an essential part of any country's prosperity and progress but unemployment among British researchers in universities has trebled in a year. People with five degrees cannot get jobs and are apparently of no further use at the age of 45. Leading scientists can be invited to conferences abroad but find themselves on the dole queues at home.

Temporary research students who depend on private donations or Research Council grants are seriously affected by inflation and cuts. When the money runs out these highly skilled workers are unemployed and many years of expensive training is wasted.

Since redundancy and unfair dismissal payments are also expensive many of the researchers in work have been asked to sign away their rights to these payments in exchange for a very dubious extension of their contracts.

Are we still to believe that economic recovery is just around the corner if only we accept the Labour Government's 'guidelines'? Are we still to believe that this government has done a great job in lifting us from the morass when the people with the greatest skills cannot find jobs?

No to rundown

THE GOVERNMENT has thrown out plans to introduce comprehensive education in Dartford, Kent because under Kent County Council's plan all the eight Dartford secondary schools would remain open as separate comprehensive schools. The Labour Government wants to close one down and "link" the other seven to form just three schools! This is a blatant example of the way the demand for comprehensive education, in itself a good thing, can become an excuse for the further destruction of education.

Mrs Williams, Secretary for Education, says the proposals are "too big", "too costly" and "too slow". Perhaps she should ask the workers of Dartford about the first two, and see whether they want a school closed. As for the latter, the Tory proposals suggest 1986 as the starting date for the scheme. Mrs Williams says her scheme could start in 1981.

Now is the time for the people of Dartford, and especially teachers and parents, to make their views absolutely clear to Government and Council, Labour and Tory, alike. Let us demand, "No to school closure, No to rundown - implement the Council's plan now, not in 1986!"

The Old - casualties of capitalism's cuts

IN THE name of better health care for the elderly, it is being proposed that Oxford loses its community geriatric hospital, the Cowley Road Hospital. The Oxford Area Health Authority is trying desperately to cook its books and open the new John Radcliffe Hospital on a shoestring without extra funds from the government. To achieve this it intends to cut other services and move the geriatric patients around like pawns and fit them into corners of other general hospitals.

Some of the patients in the proposed reshuffle are destined for the Young Disabled Unit at the Churchill Hospital. Although not yet operational, this is badly

needed for those for whom it was originally intended.

At a crowded public meeting organised by the Community Health Council, the overwhelming opinion was that the Cowley Road Hospital was needed and was here to stay, but that the extra beds were needed too, to help overcome the acknowledged shortfall of 200 geriatric beds in central Oxford.

Trade Union representatives reaffirmed their position of defence of the Cowley Road Hospital and therefore the defence of the health service. The new John Radcliffe Hospital is desperately needed, but not as a trade-in for other parts of the service. Workers must fight for

them all.

The Oxford Health Service branch of ASTMS has also demanded that the Area Health Authority finds the funds from central government to keep the Cowley Road Hospital open and has committed itself to support the workers of the hospital in whatever action they decide to take to defend what is theirs.

While two million people are forced to vegetate in the dole queue when they are able and want to produce wealth, then we should be under no obligation to listen to phoney "economic" arguments like, "Where is the money coming from?"

We will care for the sick and the old. Capitalism can vegetate.

Defence Ministry outflanked by unions

BY spending £1000 million on new tank production the British bourgeoisie shows it is more attached to war preparation than we care to think.

It also views any threat to military organisation, in the form of trade unionism, however small its effect may be, with fear. Two recent events illustrate this.

For some ten weeks '85 steelworkers, members of the AUEW, have been on strike at four American Airforce bases in East Anglia. The proposed new piecework system would almost halve wages. But rather than capitulate

to the Union they imported a squad of 30 Italian workers, complete with full police escort. 11 pickets have been arrested. The Italian Federation of Metalworkers has demanded that none of its members cross picket lines while the AUEW spokesman said that unless they were kept off the bases "there will be strikes on every major construction site in the country."

Further evidence of panic has come from the Ministry of Defence which has refused the ASTMS the right to advertise in a service newspaper. The ASTMS

is among 20 unions approaching the Ministry with the demand for organisation. The Defence Secretary has reversed his previous welcome to unions. Perhaps the content of the banned advertisement is in part the cause. It reads: "Trade unions for service personnel operate in Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark. Norway has organisations for officers and other ranks (conscripts excluded). In West Germany all ranks may belong to special branches of existing trade unions which are able to bargain about pay, welfare and accommodation."

Capital axes steel and our prosperity

SOME small comfort to the steelworkers at Shelton to have it announced that they will be getting 'record' redundancy payments. Their nest egg won't last long. The skills of the men and the productive capacity of their plant will be lost to Britain for ever.

Decline breeds decline. 200 white collar employees of the British Steel Corporation in London face the sack as their jobs disappear. This follows the cutting of the steel research establishment in Sheffield, and precedes the closure of Bilston and Glencarnock. British Rail is now asking for talks about a further 8000 redundancies in their freight section because of the fall in custom from BSC, and the British coking coal industry is 'desperately trying to get out of the 'doldrums' after BSC's consumption of coking coal has fallen from 15 million to 11 million tonnes.

Struggle in Dominica

WITH the replacement of the Balaguerist dictatorship by the social-democratic government of the Revolutionary Party of Dominica as a result of a series of fraudulent manoeuvres during the May 16th presidential elections, a new situation is rapidly developing in the Dominican Republic. Following the promulgation of a General Amnesty and the release of all political prisoners the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Dominica (Marxist-Leninist) has decided to close its office in Paris and is urging all party members in exile to return to Dominica to struggle for socialism there. Under the prevailing conditions in Dominica such a move is the only possible one and in congratulating the WPD(ML) on their correct stand we wish them, and the Dominican people, every success in their revolutionary struggle.

Not long ago some clever men were saying that the way to save Britain's steel industry was to concentrate on what 'we are good at', leaving countries like India and South Korea to take over our bulk steel production. The real content of this 'advice' has recently become apparent with reports that imports are undermining even this part of our industry. The other side of this fence is that increasingly, high quality scrap, a crucial raw material for Britain's industry, is finding its way abroad.

It is no comfort to us that the BSC wants to reduce paper 'losses' by selling off their profitable subsidiary, Redpath Dorman Long, to that shark of sharks, the National Enterprise Board. Nor is there any hope in participation in the Corporation's phoney 'workers on the board' scheme - over which too much energy has

been wasted bickering about who shall waste even more time and energy sitting on it.

Such cosmetic changes will do nothing to save an industry the British people need as much as we need food. Import controls are at best a temporary respite. The fight for jobs in one sector cannot be separated from another. We are talking about a whole economy, an integrated economy. The heartless and meaningless criteria of 'financial viability', competitiveness and 'productivity' merely provide an excuse to run down and destroy real resources.

We must fight for our jobs, not because they may make money for our employer, but because the working class needs industry. These basic necessities cannot be discarded as 'unviable' as capitalism would have it for it is capitalism that makes them 'unviable'.

Economy of the U.S.

THE capitalists' political leaders throughout the world are stepping up their attack on the working class who, according to them, are causing this troublesome inflation business. While giving guns and financial support to the fascist regime in Nicaragua, President Carter wants to be fair to both business and labour in America when he announces his inflation fighting programme which will follow the usual capitalist model of wage and price guidelines.

Speaking to the United Steel Workers' Convention, Carter chose a significant metaphor to describe his intentions: "I will announce a strengthening of our limited arsenal of weapons against inflation." It is no coincidence that capitalists strengthen and extend their actual military hardware at the same time as they make such economic propo-

sals. An economy madly built on profit hoarding for a few, turns vicious when it is threatened by its workforce. It has to invest in guns to protect itself from the organised discontent it has caused by investing in guns at an earlier date at the expense of schools, houses, education and a responsible industrial and agricultural system.

Carter openly lied to the American people during his election campaign when he said he would never impose wage and price controls. He's lying to them now, when he says that such controls do not lead to unemployment. The American working class must fight to save free collective bargaining. They should follow the lead of their comrades in Britain and better still take one step further and understand that for as long as the so-called 'social democratic' state remains, so will the force that threatens the future of the working class.



Enver Hoxha, General Secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour, is a native of Gjiakrastra. Not surprisingly, when the town's favourite son returned for a visit recently, he called in on a few old friends. There were no placards against unemployment or complaints about price inflation. Socialist Albania solved those problems years ago. (Photo: Zeri i Popullit)

Poverty doubles in period of social contract

A PAMPHLET entitled 'the rising tide of poverty' produced by the Child Action Poverty Group outlines only too clearly the plight of the lower paid workers in Britain today.

It was this section of workers that capitalism was to have us believe would benefit most from wage restraint. It was suggested that their position would improve only if the better organised workers were to limit their wage claims to the Government guidelines.

Yet the analysis produced in this pamphlet shows that in fact the opposite has been the case. Thousands more families are today unable to make ends meet because their income is below the poverty line. Without taking into account the unemployed, the number of full-time workers

earning below this figure more than doubled in the period from 1974 to 1976, going from 130,000 to 290,000 - 890,000 including their dependants.

In one area of Manchester, represented in parliament by Mr. Harold Lever, millionaire, Labour member and economic adviser to the prime minister, more than half of the local families survive on supplementary benefit.

Until the economic system that produces poverty is replaced by socialism, the problems brought to light by this pamphlet will always exist, even more so in a Britain whose industrial base is being systematically run down.

For the present workers have only one defence against this, their trade unions.

Troops Out Now!

A RECENT opinion poll found that 55 per cent of the respondents wanted British troops out of Ireland. Surprising, in that the British working class, through the trade union movement, has not taken any concerted stand on Ireland.

The poll also found that nearly half the sample thought this withdrawal would lead to increased violence. Labour's Roy Mason and Tory's Airez Neave agree that British troops must remain in Northern Ireland to safeguard British Imperialism's interests. Their pretext is that removing the troops would result in a blood bath. It is the presence of British troops which causes the violence. Pull them out and the illegal and unjust line drawn across Ireland will be rubbed out and the people can solve their own problems.

It is now up to the British working class to forget about opinion polls and begin to voice their beliefs through their trade union organisation to demand: British Imperialism out of Ireland!

Report from new series of meetings

DON'T VOTE - don't vote for capitalism. That was the message that came over loud and clear from the first of the Autumn series of public meetings organised in London by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

The meeting, held in the Bellman Bookshop, discussed the subject which is probably looked on by many workers as the most boring in the world - Parliament. Yet the meeting was full of interest, and questions and contributions continued long after the speaker had introduced the topic.

The main point the speaker dealt with was the class nature of Parliament - did it belong to the working class or was it, as he put it, an "alien organisation, created by our enemies." He began by outlining how parliament had developed

historically first as a mere council of the king, later as a weapon in the hands of the rising bourgeoisie and land-owners against the arbitrary power of a monarch.

Parliament developed into a cosy three-cornered affair between aristocracy monarchy and bourgeoisie, a situation that was dramatically altered with the arrival on the scene of the working class. Dealing with such events as the Bristol Riots of 1831 and the campaigning of the Chartists, the speaker showed that Parliament was not something foisted on the working class. On the contrary, the working class chose to take part in it.

But examples from all over the world also showed, as was said in the discussion afterwards, that the bourgeoisie will always try to force Parliament on a working class

if there is no other way of involving workers in the running of capitalism.

Nothing can alter the class nature of Parliament, the speaker said, and it would be wrong for a Marxist-Leninist party to attempt to persuade workers that they could vote for revolution by voting marxist-leninists into Westminster. "We talk about our unions, our party, but never our parliament."

From the floor, speaker after speaker stood up to say that the answer to the problems of the working class lies within themselves, not within a bourgeois parliament. We had to give the drift away from bourgeois politics, which is taking place before our eyes, a positive, a revolutionary direction. Don't vote for capitalism, organise for revolution!

WORKER LETTER

Dear Worker,
Today my local paper ran a story about the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The story had an all-too familiar ring about it. All operations in the orthopaedic department except accident cases have been halted for lack of staff. Family doctors can no longer refer patients for surgery in this department. Many people are waiting over 12 months for operations already.

This story isn't just about a temporary deficiency in the health service. The pamphlet "For Health - a Revolutionary Struggle" says, "The ruling class is in crisis, and the strength of the organised working class has been the main cause of that crisis. Industries everywhere in Britain are shedding manpower, while capital is exported abroad to seek quicker and easier profits there. Not only are healthy workers no longer required: a dignified working class that claims the right to an effective and freely available health service is anathema to those who seek to destroy our skills and industry, and with those our being."

So we are facing the wholesale destruction of the NHS in Britain.

Already our class has fought many long and courageous battles for the preservation of the service. The skill of our doctors and nurses and the level of our technology hold great potential for the future. We have only to look at Albania to see what can be done when all people are treated as a 'precious resource': planned prevention of disease, a quick and efficient treatment of illness and a caring environment for the disabled.

This could be ours. But to do this the fight must be taken further than the isolated struggles of individual hospitals to survive. I quote again from the pamphlet, "The name of the game has changed from throwing spanners in the works to get what we want to taking the works over because that's what we want anyway... To fight for a truly comprehensive health service our fight must be revolutionary. We must fight for socialism."

From a Worker reader, Leamington Spa

No sugar on this pill

THE British Sugar Corporation, 17 per cent of which is owned by the Ministry of Agriculture and to which Whitehall appoints a managing director has gained a temporary victory over its 5,500 workers. Prior to the phase four white paper with its 5 per cent limit BSC had agreed to give its employees a 9 1/2 per cent increase. Gallant Mr Silkin of the Ministry of Agriculture rushed in to start renegotiations and prevent red faces. The forecast of a bumper beet crop facili-

tated the company's sudden, devious attack which takes the form of a self financed productivity scheme. The basic rate will be set at 5 per cent, but if the workers work harder they might reach the 9 1/2 per cent bracket, which they had already negotiated. When Nature works a bit harder in the future and damages a beet crop many workers at BSC will find themselves threatened with redundancy, the company will have made enough profit this year to be able to sack them next.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon bookstall Tues Fri Sat Marketplace
Liverpool bookstall - every Saturday at Paddies Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool
Hull Bookstall - Old Town Market, Saturdays 9.30-4.00

'The Worker' 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5
 6 months £2.50 (including postage)
 1 year £5.00 (including postage)

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

Public Meetings ALL START AT 7:30pm
 'THE autumn series of public meetings in London organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), will commence on September 22nd, 1978. The venue of the meetings will alternate between BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 Fortess Rd, NW5 and CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square, WC1

Oct 6	Conway Hall	Albania - Beacon of Marxism-Leninism
Oct 20	Bellman Bookshop	British troops out of Ireland; US Bases out of Britain
OXFORD		
Oct 10	Cowley Community Centre, Oxford	Don't Vote for Capitalism
BRISTOL		
Sept 29	Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, Bristol	Closures and the Run down of Industry.