

# THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

May 17th 1973

No.10

## TWO MILLION OUTLAWS

### WORKERS MARCH AGAINST THE CAPITALIST STATE IN MAY DAY'S POLITICAL STRIKE DEFYING THE WAGE FREEZE LAW



### Rolls Royce for sale

Bids for Rolls-Royce Motors having failed to reach the reserve figure, the sale goes on in the form of a flotation of shares to the public. One thing is for sure: there will be very few worker shareholders. Thousands of Rolls workers already own worthless shares in the old company and are most unlikely to fall for that one again. Any monies raised out of the sale of the company will go to pay the creditors. There will be nothing left for the worker shareholders.

#### We can't buy out the employers

All the Rolls workers have for their shares is a lesson. It is that if workers are going to own their enterprise it will not be by buying shares in it. Owning shares did not stop the Company from going bust.

Whichever way one looks at the Rolls-Royce situation there is no escaping fundamentals. This is worth bearing in mind with all the hot air about "workers control", and the arguments about nationalisation versus private ownership.

Trotskyites and other "lefts" continually peddle the notion that the workers have an interest in nationalisation, hence the call for the whole of Rolls-Royce to be taken into national ownership. The aircraft engine division of Rolls-Royce is already nationalised. Who would argue that the Rolls workers in the nationalised part are in a more favourable situation than those coming under private ownership? Better wages? More job security?

#### The redundancy stakes

Anyone who would argue job security under nationalisation must have failed to note what has been happening in nationalised industries over the years. If anything there has been less job security in nationalised industries than in the so-called private sector. The gas industry, the railways, the steel industry, electricity, coal industry — all have produced their quota, and more, of unemployment.

continued on back page.

### COURTS BACK DOWN

The High Court ruled on April 26th that the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers was entitled to call on its million and a half members for a political strike on May Day against the Government's wage freeze. This decision was upheld by the Appeal Court, Lord Denning presiding.

The case came up when 20 members of the AUEW working at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell and the REME Command Workshops at Warminster applied to the Court to order the withdrawal of strike notices. They argued that the proposed strike was political and illegal and should not have been summoned without a secret ballot of all members.

It was the contention of those bringing the case against the AUEW that the instruction from the National Executive Council calling 'on all members of all sections to cease work for the whole of their first normal shift following midnight on April 30th' was 'ultra vires' because the Executive Council only had the right to call a strike if there was no time to hold a ballot. But this was a mistake on the part of the plaintiffs who did not know that according to rule 7 of the Amalgamated Union the National Executive Council, 'in pursuance of policy determined by the National Conference, should have power to order, sanction and terminate a strike.'

The second point made against the Union was that the strike was political, not in furtherance of an industrial dispute and therefore, under the terms of the Industrial Relations Act, illegal. But the High Court, subsequently supported by the Appeals Court, argued that since a freeze, such as that against which the strike was directed, did involve or contemplate disputes between workers and employers the stoppage could be construed as an industrial dispute.

So the injunction against the AUEW's strike call brought by the twenty trouble makers was refused by the highest legal authority. Instead of using the 20 members' objection as an excuse for trying to halt the Engineers' determination to show their solidarity on May Day with their fellow workers against the Government's anti-working class policy, both Mr. Justice Phillips of the High Court and Lord Denning of the Appeals Court employed all their legal cunning to find for the AUEW. Why? Why would the bourgeois courts support a union in an

Reg Birch, chairman of the CPB(M-L) addressed the Party's public meeting on May Day. Below are parts of his speech

We say in modesty that the road that begins today is our work. We said it would be a long road, a hard road. But the weather today is revolutionary weather — no longer the climate of capitalism. The capitalists have found the working class too expensive to bear.

Our class has entered a new arena. It has thrown off the notion of gradualism, of evolution, and spewed out the poison of social democracy.

For those who recently have fought hard and long and have not won, it does not mean they have lost. The retreat of the hospitalworkers was a piece of wisdom. Their need to retreat is a measure of our lack of solidarity with them. But the question still remains. Capitalism will be defeated by the tenacity and stamina of the working class alone.

act of political defiance against the capitalist Government?

The main reason was that it was known that no legal action would cow the AUEW into calling off the strike. It would be remembered how the AUEW reacted to the fines imposed by the Industrial Relations Court by half a million workers up and down the country downing tools and costing the employers millions of pounds in lost production.

The courts have already seen the short-sightedness of trying to use against organised workers provocateurs like Goad or Langston. Just recently the same Lord Denning described Andrew Shute, who had been paid by his employer, Cory Lighterage Co., to stay at home since refusing to remain in the TGWU, as 'a man determined to make trouble'. And on the basis of this description the Company has tried to persuade the Dock Labour Board to allow them to sack the man even though according to the Industrial Relations Act non-membership of a union cannot be grounds for dismissal.

The truth of the matter is that the courts exist to protect the profits of employers, not to enable workers willing to scab on their mates to get in on the act. As was said during the AUEW strike hearing 'if it was the employers who had brought the case, the Union might have had a very difficult row to hoe.'

But if workers show the same spirit of resistance as the engineers did, it becomes a very unprofitable business for the employers to take them to court.

# MAYDAY '73

## Message from Greek Marxist-Leninists

In our country, for the sixth year, May Day finds our people in complete opposition to the fascist regime. The call of May Day for our people is a call for resistance against their oppressors, against their murderers and the murderers of all the revolutionary people of the world, the American imperialists. It is a call for the organizing and developing of the struggles against fascism, against the Greek reactionaries and for an independent, liberated and a people's Greece.

of illegality, have been at the forefront of recent struggles. The daily struggles in the last few months of our heroic youth have proved to the fascist military regime that they can no longer hold our people under daily terrorism. The workers have assisted these struggles of the students, by becoming conscious that the only way to progress and a better life for our people is the overthrow of the fascist regime.

Already our people break the barrier of terrorism. The Greek revolutionaries, the Greek Marxist-Leninists, who are struggling under harsh conditions

On this May Day the Organisation of Greek Marxist-Leninists send warm fraternal greetings to the British working class which has a long tradition of struggle against capitalist exploitation and oppression.



Hundreds of workers gathered together in a mood of optimism and determination to celebrate May Day with the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist); to hear speakers on the advance of our class, reflected in the foundation five years ago of the Party and in the growing acceptance over the past year, in section after section of the class, of the line of protracted struggle, of guerrilla struggle, argued by the Party as the only way forward. They heard of the surge of revolutionary movements and movements for national liberation on all the continents of the world, of the foundation of new Marxist-Leninist parties in many countries, in a world made brilliant by the example of great China and tiny Albania and the glorious victory of the people of Vietnam.

## ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

May Day, with strike action by millions of workers, did not mark the end of the struggle against the freeze. The struggle continues. New sections of workers are coming into conflict with the freeze, with the law, with the government. Each new battle piles on the pressure, raises the cost of the freeze for the employers and their government. The working class, using guerrilla tactics, avoiding the dangers of an all-out confrontation, is wearing down the enemy, sapping the enemy's strength. There is no easy way out - for the workers or for the employers. The press obediently tells us that it is all over and the TUC and the government can go back to their cosy chats.

Not much consolation for Ford, where the workers are still rejecting the £1 plus 4% deal. Not much consolation to all the employers who still have to face new claims way above the Phase II limit.

The working class has no time for cosy chats with Heath. It is talking to the employers in the language they understand best - industrial action.



### Harland and Wolff

2,500 Belfast boilermakers are continuing their fight for an £8 increase, to give parity with the £38-£39 paid on Clydeside. Following a nine-week overtime ban, the company sacked the boilermakers and threatened to put the whole 10,000 workforce, the biggest in Northern Ireland, on the streets. The company offer is within the Phase II limits. Management claim the workers cannot have higher bonuses, despite their higher productivity, (which has led to two boilermakers doing the work of five) because actual steel production has not risen enough. The workers point out that this is due to management incompetence causing bottlenecks and refuse to be the victims. After all the headlines about the Maritime Fruit orders meaning 'a Bonanza for Belfast' the workers are demanding to see the reality of this in their pay packets.

### British Steel

Steel users all over the country were affected by the 5 week stoppage of blastfurnace at two Scunthorpe plants. At the new £230 million Anchor steel plant, a new method of steel-making involves filling 'torpedo' ladles at the two existing plants and the workers claimed and won special payments. At the same time there is a dispute over negotiating rights for 'middle management', between the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the Steel Industry Management Association. BSC was acting tough over these issues, hoping to force the union to back down on one in

to the Industrial Relations Act and other government policies. They refused to leave the question to the executive committee, confirmed the union's deregistration, rejected the empty call for a General Strike, and called for 'a stronger and more united TUC policy to defeat the Act'.

### Lee Beesley

At the Gloucester electrical contracting firm of Lee Beesley, part of the European Ferries group, 6 TASS members are in the 4th week of a strike for more pay. Four out of six are called trainee draughtsmen although they have been doing the job for between 2-3 years, their take home pay is £15-£17. They fight for regrading to junior draughtsmen and the TASS minimum rate of £34-£36 for workers 21-23 years old. Their picket of the factory gates stops steel and electrical switches

Various tactics have been used by the employer to split the strikers e.g. offering 3 of the lowest paid £3 per week extra plus £1 and 4%, plus a review of conditions in the office if they return to work. This was rejected. Most recently they were finally given their cards, not that it made any difference, the pickets are still out.

### South Wales miners

After all the glib talk about the miners' ballot proving that even these militant workers have accepted the government's pay freeze, comes the unanimous demand from the South Wales annual conference for increases between £15 and £18 a week, plus an extra £1 a shift for working afternoon or night shifts. So much for 'Heath's victory'.

### Ford guerrilla action

Guerrilla action by Ford workers continues to bite deep into company profits. In just one example, at the press shop at Dagenham, a man was disciplined for not carrying out instructions, resulting in a strike lasting for several days, and the loss of about 2,000 vehicles. This kind of action may not be as spectacular as calls for an all-out strike, but the workers can keep it up indefinitely, spelling it out to Ford that keeping within the Phase II limit on wages is going to cost them far more in lost production than it would to meet the original claim.

### Electricians

At the biennial policy-making conference of the Electricians, delegates rejected Chapple's criticism of 'blind resistance'

## Bristol May Day action

Despite valiant attempts by the local capitalist press to play down the strike, large numbers of Bristol workers came out. Rolls Royce manual workers were out 100 per cent as were other engineering shops in the town. The city buses were non-existent and some ETU members struck. Many ASTMS members struck as did some

University lecturers. Postmen refused to cross picket lines. Many students came out in support of the grants demands.

An open air rally organised by the Trades Council was followed up by a demonstration round the town. The action on May Day was significant for the centenary year of Bristol Trades Council.



The demonstration at Bristol

## Brighton

This May Day was a major step forward for the working class of Brighton. The new mood of mili-

tancy throughout the country was reflected when the biggest demonstration for many years, over 1,000 people, marched through the town in a mood of anger and determination to break the freeze.

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order to get negotiations on the other. The only result was a marathon dispute. There have been many disputes in the steel industry over representation of 'middle management' (really just another section of workers). The victories that have been gained have strengthened trade unionism. The tragedy is that far less effort has been applied to the fight against redundancies.

### Rubery Owen

2,300 Rubery Owen car-component workers in Staffordshire ended their five-week strike after being offered increases of £4 a week for indirect workers, £1 for pieceworkers already on £48 or above and £2.50 for other pieceworkers. The management had originally proposed a scheme that would have 'improved the position of the lower-paid', the main effect

being to cut some pieceworkers' earnings by up to £13 a week. This scheme, nicely calculated to fit into Phase II's £1 plus 4%, together with another to switch more workers away from piecework, had to be dropped as a result of the strike. Overcoming resistance from some of the non-pieceworkers who had been conned by company 'redistribution to the lower-paid' propaganda, the strikers cost the motor industry some £30 million in lost production before forcing a decent settlement.

### Occupation

250 engineers at the Llanelli cable manufacturing company, Bowden Controls, occupied their factory for a week after 4 workers were suspended as a result of a work-to-rule imposed as a protest over delays in pay negotiations.

## N.U.T. CONFERENCE

The National Union of Teachers Conference was held at Scarborough from 20th to 26th April. Its theme was the devaluation of teachers, seen in a deteriorating standard of pay, long hours, more and tougher problems to deal with. More skill is required than ever before, while the price teachers command for selling their labour power is steadily being reduced. Correspondingly, the Government is embarked upon a strategy of reaction, containment and indifference to working class education. The White Paper on Education, with black humour sub-titled 'A Framework for Expansion', expresses contempt for both teachers and children. The rate of production of new teachers is to be cut by 10% each year until 1981, many teacher-training colleges will be closed (resulting in 4000 redundant lecturers), while classes with 40 children will remain.

### The state is the main enemy

Conference identified the State as the main enemy. Proposals for participation in the running of schools received little support as it was generally felt that the resources and energy necessary for changing Acts of Parliament regulating school administration would mean a severe reduction in forces in the crucial and central battle against the State. Conference was, moreover, determined to forge a unity between headmasters and class teachers. This is no time for division in the ranks. 'Leftist' attempts to portray heads as the enemy were snubbed. It was pointed out that in rural primary schools 'privileged' headmasters have their own class to teach all day and must do their administrative work in the evenings, with no overtime pay.

### Delegates in control

In previous Conferences the Trotskyite faction had shown an elitist arrogance towards delegates, attacking them as 'reactionary fuddy-duddies' one minute, trying to hoodwink them into supporting their sectional 'line' the next. Teachers are past masters at spotting tall stories and were not so easily fooled. As a result the 'Left' was brought into disrepute. This Conference showed the mass of delegates fully in control, fiercely repudiating any hint of commandism from either Executive or adventurists. Thus a major electoral reform was forced through against the platform, making Executive members much more accountable to the local associations. On the other hand, where the Executive was able to exploit a fear of 'being taken for a ride' by Trotskyites, reactionary decisions were taken. Conference decided not to join the May 1st stoppage, and agreed that no local association should take industrial action without the prior approval of the Executive.

### Overcrowded classes

The lesson is clear. Sectarian action alienates the mass of teachers and creates a reactionary backlash. Those who leapt up demanding 'All out on May 1st!' got no backing because the line had not been won in the branches. On issues like overcrowded classes, inadequate buildings, poor conditions of work, and under-staffing at a time of mounting teacher unemployment teachers are quite prepared to go into action. Conference listened to reports of guerrilla struggle on overcrowded classes in Birmingham, Croydon, Blackpool, and Harlow.

### Militant motions passed

Conference approved militant motions giving full union backing to teachers who refuse to teach classes of over 30 children or refuse, after 1975, to take part in procedures for selective schooling. It gave full support to the London teachers in their struggle against Phase II. It demanded full nursery schooling for all children, and not the cut-price variety offered by the Government. It approved talks between the NUT and other teachers' organizations with the object of building a united front against the Corporate State offensive. It re-emphasised the NUT's complete opposition to the Industrial Relations Act. The mood of Conference was confident and optimistic. There was no mention of 'professionalism', but plenty of admiration and a sense of common purpose with other public sector workers. Delegates, from their own experience of the injustice and class bias of Phase II, were under no illusions about the 'National Interest'.

The Conference approved the salary settlement within the government's freeze policy. But this is not the end. The next claim is but a continuation of the present one. The experience learned by teachers in struggle, together with the many positive aspects emerging from the conference can serve to build up our forces in schools and our NUT Associations ready for a campaign that we should prepare for now.

## TRICKY DICK DOES IT AGAIN

He produces anarchy itself in the name of order, by rubbing off from the whole machinery of government the veneer of sanctity, by profaning it, by rendering it at once nauseating and laughable.

(Marx on Napoleon III).

It is as if Martin Bormann were to be found and charged with a parking offence. Nixon faces "The most damaging political crisis of his career", not for bombing Vietnam, but for bugging Watergate. Nixon's spy satellites circle the globe every 90 minutes, the C. I. A. has agents spying, killing, bribing and drug-running from Laos to Los Angeles; telephone tapping in the U. S. is a growth industry. But

when a rival faction of imperialist politicians gets bugged - then the lid blows off. And when, in self-defence, they all start washing each other's dirty linen in public, the truth can vaguely be seen through the smoke of burning secret files.

Of course the British do things much better. It is now being blandly denied that the 'Parliamentary File' in the Poulson case ever existed and the whole thing is being passed off as a storm in a coffee-pot.

Doubtless Nixon will survive - who in their right mind would demand honesty as a leading qualification for leading a gang of war criminals? If all else fails he can always appoint his dog Checkers as head of the investigation.

# WORKERS AGAINST THE LAW

## You don't win if you don't fight

The Commission on Industrial Relations has reported on the first year of the Industrial Relations Act.

It was working class militancy in industrial action which brought the Act into existence as Government backing for hard-pressed employers. It was working class militancy which also made the Act largely inoperative during its first year.

The report shows that short, small strikes declined during 1972 while larger, longer strikes increased. As workers were drawn into major class conflicts with employers and Government minor strikes were swallowed up in the bigger battles. Days lost through strike action rose to 23 million, a 76% increase over the previous year which itself had been one to frighten the employing class.

There was also a much higher proportion of "official" as opposed to "unofficial" strikes, which only means that a terminological distinction dear to the framers of the Act was not going to stand in the way of workers determined to fight.

### Railmen and dockers

The two main occasions on which the Act was used were in

connection with the railways and the docks. In the first case a secret ballot imposed on the railwaymen under the terms of the Act merely confirmed their overwhelming determination to resort to strike action. And in the second the imprisonment of five dock stewards, far from preventing strike action, closed down every dockyard in the country - to say nothing of forcing the Government to invent a legal fiction for springing the five dockers in the face of massive working class anger.

### Engineers fight back

In the field of union membership and closed shops which the Act was supposed to sort out in the employers' interest there were cases like that of Goad, the scab who wanted to get back into the AUEW, and Langston, the troublemaker who wanted to get out of it. The AUEW stuck to its principles and refused any recognition to the Industrial Relations Court and when fines of £66,000 were imposed for contempt, a call from the leadership brought half a million members into industrial action and cost the employers heavily in lost production. The cases of

these individuals were quietly dropped and similar cases (See "Courts Back Down") have not been taken up.

It was also the intention of the Act to encourage legally binding agreements between employers and workers which could be taken to the Industrial Relations Court in cases of infringement; but workers have refused to enter into such agreements and have prevented employers from demanding them.

The lead in the fight against the Industrial Relations Act has been taken by the engineers on behalf of the whole class. Having launched a guerrilla struggle against their employers during 1972, they used the same tactics against the Government over the raid on their union funds by the Industrial Relations Court. While the Act has been rendered inoperative by the working class, it is still on the statute books, still there to be invoked whenever workers slacken vigilance or lower their guard. This is a protracted struggle. You don't win if you don't fight. And you have to keep on fighting to consolidate any victories which are won.

## THE OIL LAIRDS ARE MOVING IN

Bank of America, the world's biggest, have settled firmly in Edinburgh - just part of the financial leeching on to the exploitation of the natural resources of the North Sea.

It was clear from the start that the rat-race for plunder of the oil was a game in which the

big international companies would share the benefits, while the working class gained nothing - with the workers directly involved gaining nothing without a hard fight (against danger, make-shift housing, long hours etc.). This is coupled with the fact that 70% of the oil companies needs are supplied by foreign industry.

Over £800 million per year is the estimate for revenue from taxes and royalties in 1980 - the output will match that of Texas in its heyday. But while the banks and financiers gleefully sip their cocktails at the prospect of milking the boom, wor-

kers will not, like slaves, meekly sweat in the supply industries lining the pockets of these barons; just the thought of wage freezes and rent rises in the midst of such profits raises class feeling to boiling point.

Although afflicted with the highest unemployment in the country Scottish workers will not see any pipeline supply vessels (cost £25 million each, can lift 1,000 tons) - most will be built in the USA. And most of the 40 service ships will be built in USA or Norway. And big Steel orders have been made from Japan... In fact it can be forecast that the ferocity of competition in conditions of world shortage could leave the area a polluted wasteland when the bonanza dies down in a projected 20-30 years.

All the arguments of the Nationalists amount to a redivision of

the spoils among a different set of capitalists; the only solution for workers is to struggle to smash down the plunderers of our resources - through our Party to establish socialism, which alone could direct our oil for peoples benefit.

## Britain's new riot gas

In his speech at the UN Heath declared that the major threat now facing western capitalist nations was civil war.

But civil war is class war, and the British ruling class is already preparing new, more vicious weapons to use against the working class. The latest of these is a new riot control agent, currently being tested in the US, to replace CS gas.

Northern Ireland, the army's training ground for future confrontations with the British working class, has shown up the 'weak points' of CS. In riot control terms, its basic weakness has been its delivery as gas. Water cannon and rubber bullets can be aimed with some degree of precision, but the effectiveness of CS for dispersing crowds depends entirely on which way the wind is blowing. The new agent, code-named CR, can be dissolved in a liquid for spraying or in a kind of jelly to make foam riot barriers.

Senior officers in the army have also been 'concerned' about recent reports of rioters developing a tolerance to the gas; there is evidence that if a person is sufficiently determined to remain exposed to CS, even when the peak of discomfort has been reached, some of the symptoms wear off slightly. CR is said to have a sharply increased 'discomfort factor' - the official term - and acts more quickly on the skin than CS. It is also believed to have more severe and longer-lasting effects on the nose and throat.

## 'The English disease'

On the eve of the massive strikes on May Day, the *Times* carried a public relations exercise aimed at convincing foreign capitalists in the EEC that the situation in Britain as they see it - "strike-prone British workers" - is not as bad for investment prospects as it seems. The essence of the argument was that British workers, although they take industrial action more often than the workers in the rest of Europe, have fewer paid holidays and get paid less, and therefore investment in Britain is not so bad a prospect after all.

The author, in a desperate effort to give a boost to capitalism in Britain on its death-bed forgoes an important fact. Workers do not strike because they fancy a couple of weeks unpaid holiday, but because they are not prepared to see their standard of living and their working conditions deteriorate. We have learnt that militant action against the employers

is the only way to protect our rights.

The article explicitly ignores "strikes not connected with terms or conditions of employment" - what it terms "political strikes". No longer are workers merely fighting the effects of capitalism on their lives (decreasing living standards, etc.); they are more and more taking action against the capitalist state itself. The AUEW action last year against the Industrial Relations Act, action which has effectively repealed that Act, and the May Day strike against the state's wage freeze are indications of the rising political consciousness of the working class. The disruption on May Day is chicken feed compared to the guerrilla action to follow.

The reluctance of foreign capitalists to invest in Britain is indeed a compliment to the political consciousness of the British working class.

25 years ago on May 15th, 1948, the state of Israel was established. This came after a long period of direct British rule over Palestine during which Jews from Europe were encouraged to settle in Palestine. Many of the native Palestinians were driven from their homes by terrorist attacks on Arab villages. Immediately after May 15th, the new Zionist state waged a war on the Arabs which resulted in the occupation by Israel of large areas of Arab land and the expulsion of one million Palestinians from their land into the destitution of the refugee camps. May 15th has since been known as Palestine Day.

Israel came into existence to serve as a base for imperialism in the Middle East. The importance to the imperialist powers, first Britain and later the USA, of the rich oil fields of the area and the huge profits derived from them, gave rise to their attempt at political domination

of the area so that they could carry out their plunder of the Arab oil without interference. The main part of their strategy was the creation of a state which would act in the interests of the imperialists when these were threatened. This Israel has always done. Notable examples are the Suez aggression of 1956 where Israel led the attack on Egypt, and the June 1967 war where Israel tried to crush the growing movement of the Fedayeen. The Palestinian revolution is aimed against this imperialist base in the Middle East.

Despite some setbacks, the Fedayeen have not been crushed. Attacks on the Israeli military forces are carried out daily and several victories have been scored. The struggle is a protracted one which has as its goal the liberation of Palestine and the establishment of a democratic non-sectarian state of Palestine free from imperialist interference.



Fighters of the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces storm into an enemy fortified camp in Prey Veng Province

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wed. May 16th 7.30pm Public Meeting on Palestine organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Imperial College, Mechanical Engineering building, rm 542 Exhibition Rd SW7. (Sth Kensington tube).

Fri. May 18th 7.45pm Public Meeting on Albania, with a speaker who recently visited Albania, and slides. Bristol University Union, Queen's Rd, Clifton.

Sat. May 19th 11am 2nd hand books and stock clearance sale, at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Rd, NW5.

Fri. May 18th 7.30pm Vietnam - Anniversary of Ho Chi Minh's Birth Bellman Bookshop, 155. Fortess Road, NW5

Fri. May 25th 7.30pm Public Meeting on Albania. Bellman Bookshop.

Fri. June 1st 7.30pm Public Meeting on Albania. Report from CPB ML delegate. Camden Studios, Camden St, NW1.

Fri. June 8th 7.30pm Public Meeting - Marxist Philosophy Bellman Bookshop, 155, Fortess Road, NW5

### Rolls Royce, from page 1

In terms of wages and conditions some of the worst apply in nationalised industry. In all the talk about the lower paid workers the public services, gas, rails, post office are to the fore.

In private or public industry the workers get only what they fight for. In Rolls-Royce - the private part or the nationalised part, the fact that the workers have established a reputation for skill and quality of product second to none in the world has no bearing on their wages and conditions or job prospects. It is repeatedly said that the name of Rolls-Royce is a signal of all that is best in engineering skill. That did not stop it from going bust and never will.

Of course it may be argued as the revisionists would argue, that what is needed is "a Labour Government committed to Socialist policies". Like nationalisation and co-partnership this has been tried before with results familiar to all.

There is no smooth, slick and easily worked out formula. Such formulas involve living with capitalism and all that that entails.

We say that none of the formulas whether they be promoted by Whitehall, Transport House or King Street have any relevance

unless we ignore all past experience. There is no substitute for struggle. It only involves a question of type of struggle, correct tactics and leadership.

Above all it is a question of power and that is a question of politics. Rolls-Royce workers will get no solution to their problems from those who created the problems in the first place.

The programme of our Party and our most recently produced pamphlet on Guerrilla Struggle makes more interesting and fruitful reading not only in respect to Rolls Royce but to British industry generally.

Scarcely anything ever trickles out about the war British imperialism is waging against the people of Oman in southern Arabia. The Worker has, from time to time, carried news about the great liberation struggle being fought by peasants and workers in the western part of this tiny Sultanate, by the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf. Recently there was some

## Latin America organises itself

By using the Panama Canal, a ship sailing from Liverpool to San Francisco cuts its journey by 5, 666 nautical miles. Approximately 10,000 ships pass through the Canal annually. The Panama Canal was recently the focus of a U.N. Security Council meeting held in Panama at which Panama demanded that the United States get out of the Canal zone.

When Vice-President Nixon visited Latin America in 1958 there were anti-American riots. He came close to injury as did Rockefeller when he tried a repeat performance in 1969. His plane was unable to land in three countries. The U.S. is again tempting fate.

The Latin Americans are uniting to defend their interests against the two superpowers. National resources and territorial integrity are demanded by these countries as their right. Latin America is underdeveloped, in particular, because of the expansionist foreign policy of the U.S.A. since the last century.

The U.S.A. has a military presence in the Panama Canal

isthmus of central America. During the Spanish-American war of 1898, the U.S.A. found it awkward to have its navy divided between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Therefore it engineered a revolt against Colombia, creating the state of Panama, and then made the weak Panamanian Government an offer it couldn't refuse. The building of the canal took the lives of over 16,000 workmen through malaria and yellow fever, yet it was never Panama that had control over it.

This is what Panama is challenging. Many U.S. troops are stationed there but as Panama recently pointed out, "It has not been sold, ceded or leased to the U.S.A. but has been occupied arbitrarily." The U.S.A., as self-elected world policeman, is used to doing this as the invasions of Cuba and the Dominican Republic proved. Its role has not changed but its heavy-handedness is mixed now with more subtlety. The recent admissions of interference in trying to influence the Chilean elections bear witness to this.

A country that regards itself as 'the biggest kid on the block'

invites resistance to it. Mexico, Peru, Panama and Venezuela have nationalised U.S. firms while Chile nationalised the International Telephone and Telegraph Co., one of the world's largest multinationals. Nine countries have declared 200 mile territorial sea limits to protect natural resources they rely on and, in addition, 20 countries have established a common power market to determine the price of their oil. Those countries which depend on banana and coffee production for their income are carrying out a similar policy.

At present, Panama is the focal point of the struggle. The campaign against U.S. military presence in the Canal zone is sharpening. China, itself the subject of unequal treaties by Tsarist Russia, is naturally a champion and ally of the countries involved in this anti-imperialist struggle. The super powers are opposed to such a campaign, but seeing as how it is directed against them that is understandable! Wherever we organise we help not only ourselves but all others fighting oppression as their struggle likewise helps us.

## OMAN - BRITAINS FORGOTTEN COLONIAL WAR

speculation in the British press whether Britain was about to pull out of Oman. But the latest news from the front seems to indicate that the corps of British officers in the armed forces, in the police, manning the fascist jails is no less, and the news of British soldiers killed in action has only recently been printed in the Observer (April 30). Lord Carrington's trip to the Middle East in which he had talks with the arch-reactionary ruler

of Saudi Arabia as well as the Iranian Prime Minister's visit to Britain, are part of Britain's new diplomacy to get others to help out in the counter-insurgency operations designed to hold on to the vast profits of oil companies. Thus Iran and Jordan are both supplying mercenaries to prop up the puppet Sultan of Oman but the mastermind continues to be that of Britain. British bombers continue to napalm villages and the British

R. A. F. base in Sallalah continues to be the centre of savage reprisals every time the liberation forces score yet another success in action. These successes have been considerable and the latest news we have is of a fierce battle on April 25th in which the Liberation forces inflicted considerable losses on the puppet army as well as launching artillery fire on the British air base.