

THE WORKER



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VICTORY FOR MINERS

Not by the Polls But by Class Struggle

Before the counting in the general election began it was already predicted that there would be a settlement of the miners' strike on the miners' terms, whichever capitalist party formed the new government.

On Friday, March 1st, as it became obvious that the election was going to result in a stale-mate, with Labour just barely the largest party, the Pay Board's recommendation of big increases for the miners was ready to be handed to whoever was going to be secretary for employment in the new government. It was thought that the miners, having won everything they demanded, might be back at work during the following week.

The utter irrelevance of the whole electoral jamboree was shown by the way the miners carried through their industrial action and are achieving victory regardless of the parliamentary Grand National photo finish!

Once again the government has been forced to pull a rabbit out of the hat. To cover up its defeat when mass action forced the release of the dockers from Rantonville, up popped the Official Solicitor. Now when the miners have got a firm grip on the government's throat, the Pay Board gets a note telling them that the Treasury, the Department of Employment, the Coal Board, and everybody else have got their sums wrong! Who produces the note? An 'independent expert' whose brother is a British Steel director, and who has a former colleague in his firm now working for - the Pay Board.

The 'statistical blunder' - the different treatment of holiday pay and sick pay in the miners' pay statistics compared to the rest of industry has been known for years. Without calculating any

percentage it is blindingly obvious that miners' wages are lower than the industrial average. But then the Pay Board gurus, the greatest experts on relativity since Einstein, have probably never seen a mining community and noticed that it is less prosperous than Coventry or Birmingham.

This is not the only escape route the government could have used. There was the winding time and bathing time loophole. But Heath thought that his introduction of the three-day week would break the working class resistance to the freeze, would turn people against the miners, and so that loophole was closed by the ever-obedient Pay Board. But the miners stuck to their guns. They were not diverted by the election farce. They made it clear that they wanted their claim



MINERS' PICKETS OUTSIDE BATTERSEA POWER STATION

met, whatever was decided by the Relativities Inquiry. And they turned the screw a little tighter by stressing that even the present full claim was already outdated by the soaring cost of living. So the Relativities farce is being turned into another face-saving Wilberforce award.

The government's 'discovery' of the error in the statistics came, not surprisingly, after a period in which coal stocks started a sharp nose-dive towards the 'danger level', in which steel production - the key to the whole of industry - is falling even faster, and in which

the miners and their allies throughout the working class have tightened their grip on fuel supplies. Dockers have refused to unload coal. Railwaymen and other transport workers have refused to solve the government's problems. Power workers have refused to handle picket-breaking coal. Clashes have not yet occurred. The government knew that any attempt to break picket lines could lead to another working class victory on the scale of Salfley Coke Depot - and would not help the energy situation in the slightest.

Now the government is direc-

ting its greatest efforts towards isolating the miners and their victory. The Relativities Board wants to isolate surface workers from underground workers, and on a bigger scale, the whole 'special case' argument is aimed at sealing off the hole the miners are punching in Phase III. The TUC has already lined itself up behind this strategy. We must break this attempt to hold down our wages while prices soar. The miners cannot win all our battles for us. We must fight against the freeze - fight where we are - fight in solidarity with the miners.

ELECTIONS '74- It's Stale, Mate

What was to have been the great diversion from class struggle into the parliamentary road has resulted in disarray for the ruling class, with the miners solid in their strike and other sections preparing to enter the battle.

Two Evils

We have always said that there was no difference between the two capitalist parties, Labour and Tory. The people of Britain have shown their agreement with that assessment by electing, within two or three, exactly the same number of candidates from these parties.

Labour's tiny lead over the Tories does not so much represent a choice of the "lesser of two evils" as an inability to decide

between equal evils.

In spite of the fact that the Labour Party got all the breaks during the election: the disastrous trade figures, the staggering rises in prices, food up by 53% since 1970, the massive unemployment brought about by the three-day week, and the intercessions of Enoch Powell and Campbell Adamson - in spite of the fact that the vast majority of the electorate is working class, the Labour Party was unable to win a majority of the votes. This is a measure of the extent to which the Labour Party has alienated the working class. It is also some measure of the working class's emancipation from the false ideology of social democracy.

Not Diverted

The real example for our class of the way to deal with the charade of parliamentary elections was provided by the miners. Nothing diverted them from the reality of class struggle and they have been able to score a signal victory against the class enemy - completely ignoring whether that enemy was represented in Westminster by Labour or Tory.

Already a new diversion from the real struggle is being proposed by social democrats. Since Labour will be operating a minority government, trade unionists will have to help them stay in power by not rocking the boat. Nothing would suit the employing

class better than to have workers refraining from industrial action to keep Labour in office!

In spite of the extension of polling hours, the ballyhoo of the pseudo left hysterically demanding votes for Labour and all the solicitations of the mass media, the Labour Party got over 5% less of the votes and the Tories 7% less as compared with 1970 - nothing less than an unpopularity vote for both bourgeois parties. Millions did not vote and even more abstained by voting Liberal.

Guerrilla

It is not Labour who will get rid of the Industrial Relations Act. The working class made it inoperative by their own action. It is not Labour who gave the miners the

rise they deserve. They won it themselves. It is not Labour who will enable workers to defend their standard of living from the onslaught of the capitalist class since it is a capitalist party itself. Only the working class fighting its own guerrilla struggle can win battles now and the class war in time.

The fact that a government without a working majority can carry on the administration of the capitalist system shows that the real force of the class enemy is not in Parliament and cannot be challenged there. It has to be met at the place of work where the working class's own real strength is.

So, after this farcical election, it's no change in the terms of our struggle. Let's get on with the war.

EDITORIAL

As We Were Saying

Phase III is not just a wage freeze. A curb on wages while prices soar is a wage cut.

The measure of the Government's success in cutting workers' wages is the enormous scale of profits made by the banks, by the oil companies, by ICI, by the whole finance and monopoly capitalist class.

During the election these stupendous profits were referred to from time to time but no party proposed to do anything about them. All the parties contending in the election are capitalist parties and capitalism has no other purpose than the amassing of profits for the owners of capital.

No-one is going to do anything about these profits but us -- the working class. These profits are our sweat and blood and only our collective strength and our political sagacity can limit this vicious exploitation.

The tremendous loss of production with the three-day week, with nearly a million workers permanently unemployed and another two million temporarily laid off, shows the lengths to which the Government is prepared to go in enforcing a wage cut.

The Way to Fight

Those 'leftists' who have been calling for a general strike are inviting workers to challenge wage cuts in the way the Government would prefer -- an all-out confrontation which they are geared up to withstand and which the workers could not at present sustain. Never fight the way the enemy wants you to.

Those opportunists who are urging settlements within Phase III are expecting workers to assent to swinging cuts in their wages. Every such settlement is a betrayal of working class interests.

Being lured into fights we cannot win or deterred from fights we can -- these are the two courses we workers have to avoid. The way they are avoided is by the use of guerrilla tactics.

Guerrilla tactics are appropriate whether the action takes a national form or is limited to a particular place or work.

The miners, employed in a nationalised industry, launched a national strike which they are strong enough to press home and sustain. But they must not be left to fight on their own. We cannot simply stand on the side-lines and applaud while they do battle for our class.

The railwaymen had the opportunity to wage a national struggle but wavered in the face of the General Election.

The engineers have hitherto passed over the glorious opportunity to fight in the present situation.

The teachers have succumbed to Phase III without entering the battlefield.

Uneven development exists within all these sections and guerrilla approach gives full reign for the strong to lead the weak and not vice versa. Meanwhile we welcome the newly emerging battalions of the working class (see Industrial Front).

Training for Revolution

We are in a revolutionary situation because we are coming more and more to realise that our basic demands for a decent life for ourselves and our children cannot be met within the capitalist system. That system has to be smashed and we ourselves have to assume State power to build a socialist society.

But the only way we can organise and train ourselves for that historic task is by fighting correctly now against attempts to cut our wages and impoverish us further. We only win skirmishes in this fight and build our forces for the ultimate battles to come by deploying our forces in such a way as to do maximum damage to the class -- at the cost of minimum damage to ourselves. That is the essence of guerrilla struggle.

It is the kind of struggle that enabled a little country like Vietnam to defeat a big powerfully-armed country like the United States and set about clearing up all the wanton destruction and making their little country "ten times more beautiful than it was before". It will surely, if we wage it correctly according to our conditions here in Britain, enable us to defeat our class enemy and embark on the exciting and infinitely rewarding task of clearing up all the waste and destruction of capitalism and making our country beautiful and prosperous and just.



More than a thousand workers took part in a protest march on Tuesday, 19th February against the sentences passed in Shrewsbury on building worker pickets. Contingents of building workers from Thamesmead, Barbican, National Hospital site, the Midlands and Wales swelled the ranks of demonstrators.

TUC TALKING

Our paper and Party have been quite clear from the start on the question of talks between the Government and TUC. There should be none.

The Government, this or any other, represents the class enemy. The TUC does not represent the working class, but even if it did its proper role would not be to engage in talks with the enemy to do deals for which they have no mandate.

The outcome of the recent series of TUC-Government talks amply proves our point. The apologists for the TUC made great play of the demands being put forward by the TUC as the price of cooperation in an incomes policy. Since these demands never had the remotest possibility of being conceded by this or any other government they were pointless.

The talks were nevertheless exploited by the politicians in an effort to show that the Government were reasonable men prepared to sit down and talk with the representatives of the workers and that only the intransigence of the TUC rendered the talks a failure.

Some of the strongest advocates of Government-TUC talks were undoubtedly using a ploy with an eye on the election. We pointed this out before the election was announced and have again been proved correct. The notion being peddled was that though the TUC could not reach any agreement with a Tory Government it would be able to do so to the advantage of the workers with a Labour Government.

There have been talks between Labour and TUC and the result - confusion.

Labour electioneers were quick to exploit these talks and laid claims to having reached a sort of agreement. This was of course challenged by the Tory spokesmen who demanded that if there was such an agreement then let's see it.

To hammer home their point they exploited the obvious contradiction. They were able to refer to a televised statement by no less than the President of the AUEW and then proceed to make as much hay out of it as they could. It seemed to puzzle some people that a member of the TUC talking team, also a prominent member of the Labour Party, should be in such a position of ambiguity, very much to the discomfort of his Party colleagues and the joy of his avowed enemies.

The plain fact is though that the TUC is in no position to do a deal on behalf of the working class with anybody. As one ex-Labour cabinet minister ruefully remarked "power is on the factory floor". That power is not handed to the TUC to play political games with.

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

At University College, Swansea, the post graduate teachers are continuing their strike and picket for higher wages and for Union recognition. The following is an interview with one of the striking postgraduates.

- Q: Why have you decided on strike action?
- A: Because until we took this action the college ignored us and refused to recognise our basic trade union rights. They still maintain outwardly that the strike and picket is having no effect on them, yet there has been a surprising number of meetings of the college authorities since we started.
- Q: How have other campus workers reacted?
- A: We think other campus workers are watching our dispute closely to see what lessons can be learnt from it. So far we have asked for no more than moral support and for undertakings not to scab.
- Q: What effect does the General Election have on you?
- A: We have continued our action. Incidentally, the Chairman of the college council is the local Labour MP. So far he has been extremely obstructive. Pressure put on him while he is fighting an election campaign could be very telling.
- Q: Why have you used the tactic of picketing?
- A: The experience of the striking post graduates at Edinburgh was invaluable to us. They pointed out the strength of the total picket. A University is a business like any other and needs scientific supplies, computer supplies, and especially paper to stay in business. By stopping these supplies and essential services such as the GPO engineers, food and oil, we can bring the place to a standstill. Pressure will come onto the college from three directions - financial interests outside the college, public opinion, and from the Students Union. We think the college will settle with us rather than face the consequences of closure.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During the present 'crisis', when the ruling class keeps telling us that we must all 'tighten our belts', three 'honourable gentlemen' were lunching together in the City. The cost - a mere £89.17.

This included:	Drinks at the bar	£ 15.00
	1st Course Poached Salmon	10.50
	2nd Course Saddle of Lamb	4.50
	Fresh Strawberries (from Mexico)	4.20
	Two Bottles of Champagne	17.00
	One Bottle of Claret	6.50
	Liqueurs	3.60

No doubt they spent their time complaining about the greediness of the miners and all the other trade unionists.

Train Drivers

After calling off their industrial action to help Harold Wilson in the election, the train drivers have now accepted arbitration on their claim for a better deal in the Rail Board restructuring talks. One retreat leads to another. One concession to social-democracy leads to another.

To accept arbitration is to accept the result. The way to fight is shown by the miners. You do not call your struggle off because of appeals from politicians; you make it clear that you will fight on until your demands are met, and if the employers need to save their face by holding an inquiry before giving in, that is their business. Arbitration may go side by side with action, but it is no substitute. Meanwhile the new annual pay claim for railwaymen is coming up. But restructuring was held up as the answer to poor pay settlements in the past few years. If restructuring is held within the Phase III straightjacket the battle to break through with the annual deal will be that much harder.

Zimbabwe

During the period from 22 November, 1973 to the end of January, the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) inflicted further devastating losses on the fascist Rhodesian government. They killed 110 troops, shot down 5 airforce planes, as well as destroying many bridges throughout the northern and eastern regions of Zimbabwe. On January 14, two troop carriers were blown up by land-mines and 25 troops killed in the explosions and following battle.

With the total collapse of the dictatorship approaching, the British and American imperialists are desperately trying to create a new puppet, in the shape of Bishop Muzorewa, to do their job. No matter what conspiracies and games they get up to there is no way the reactionaries can survive a properly conducted 'peoples' war; where the people rely on their own efforts to free themselves.

March, march to the war drums' boom,
Do not hesitate,
Cast your illusions to the winds,
We hold arms with the masses in the struggle,
And become tempered men of strong will.
Let us advance with firm strides,
And smash the Smith regime!
(from a Zimbabwean poem)

CPB(ML) MAY DAY MEETING

St. Pancras Town Hall,
Kings Cross
Wednesday, 1st. May, at 7.30pm.

From Labour Party
Speakers' Notes

"In recent by-elections it has been found that many voters are confused as to the real difference between Labour and Tories."

WHEN THE WHITEHALL FARCE WENT ON THE ROAD

Some of the sillier turns of the election follies

Was your election really necessary?

It was always obvious that if the miners stuck by their guns, the Government would get itself off the hook by some such device as the conjuring up of an "official solicitor" as they did back in 1972 to release the dock stewards from prison. The trick this time was the Relativity Board, an idea borrowed from Einstein which would enable the Government to produce extra money for the miners out of some metaphysical fourth dimension. But instead of clever sleight-of-hand the Board simply stated baldly that the Government could have given the miners more money all along, if there had been anybody in the Cabinet who could add and subtract, making an utterly pointless election even more so.

Who was that statesman I saw you with last night?

That was no statesman...

Wilson waxed eloquent over the great social contract Labour had arrived at with the TUC - a document of human rights which would have gladdened the heart of Rousseau. When Scanlon, the President of the AUEW, was invited on the box to comment on this historic agreement, he blew the whole thing sky high by saying that he had never heard of it. This caused such a furore in the Labour Party of which Scanlon is a member that he came back later to say that there was, he believed, some such contract but it was so unspecific as to be completely unmemorable!

Why does the TUC cross the road?

To stay on the same side

What the TUC likes to do is to talk to people - any people, the Government whether Labour or Tory, the CBI, in fact, anybody who hasn't got anything better to do than listen to them. They wanted to make it clear that they supported Labour, but would just as soon have the Tories in office if they could still be invited to No. 10 for chats. So they declared that they were absolutely neutral in the election, but on Labour's side.

I Say, I Say, I Say

When the Tories gave the 'C'PGB, the toothless, revisionist so-called 'communist' party, the

greatest blurb they had ever had by crediting certain of their 'militant' members with having forced the Election on the country, the 'C'PGBites fell all over themselves disclaiming any such role. They insisted that they were only good little social democrats humbly supporting the system with forfeited deposits - and the joke of it is, they are!

Sauce for the goose

Labour MP Reg Prentice spoke up indignantly about the Engineers' defiance of the Industrial Relations Act and said Labour would never countenance any contempt of the law of the land. When the Labour Party appealed to the Engineers for £100,000 to bolster up their funds for the Elections, the Engineers had to tell them that such was exactly the sum that had been set aside for Labour

but had been taken from them by the Industrial Relations Court. Of course the Labour Party could have asked Donaldson for a contribution.

Change without a difference

It was one of Labour's boasts during the election that, unlike the Tories, Labour would have no incomes policy. No. Instead they would set up a high-powered Royal Commission to examine all earned and unearned incomes. There would be a system of independent arbitration and conciliation to settle pay disputes. It is essential for Government to require both sides of industry to accept the verdict of the arbitrators. This arbitration body though financed out of Government funds would be quite 'independent'. In other words, free collective bargaining in which the Government would announce to workers what their bargain was!

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

The time for delays and diversions has gone. The fight to smash Phase III is too urgent. There has been no shortage of excuses. 'Wait until Phase II is over and get a Phase III deal'. 'Wait and see what happens in the election' - that social-democratic diversion. 'Wait and see what the miners get'. Wait and wait until the only thing that can possibly replace Phase III is Phase IV. The freeze has already lasted for a year and a half, during which prices have gone through the roof. The miners' struggle is the key to the situation. A victory for the miners is a victory for the whole working class. But

they must not be the gladiators fighting in the arena while the spectators cheer them on. If other sections do not wage their own fight against Phase III, the miners' battle is made more difficult, and their victory will be isolated from the rest of the class struggle.

The struggle against the three-day week is vital. The three-day week was imposed as part of the government's struggle to defeat the miners, to save Phase III. To fight the three-day week is to fight Phase III. But it is not the whole fight. We cannot let the employers get away with it by delaying our struggles until

things get back to normal'. We cannot put the clock back. The time to fight is now.

Journalists

Action by National Union of Journalists members has forced the vast International Publishing Corporation to leave the press lords trade union - the Newspaper Publishers Association. The journalists were fighting for 'house' agreements, which means local struggles breaking through the employers' defences. The NPA tried to hold the line but the IPC breakaway represents a clear victory for guerrilla struggle.

Vauxhall

The claim lodged on behalf of 26,000 Vauxhall manual workers includes a 'substantial' wage increase - basically parity with the Midlands where wages are some £6 to £8 ahead of Luton or Ellesmere Port - four weeks holiday a year, at a higher rate, guaranteed employment throughout the year instead of the present layoff provisions, and a 35-hour week.

Local Government

300,000 local government white-collar workers have lodged a claim for increases ranging between 20 and 26 per cent. In 6 London boroughs, an overtime ban was staged, beginning on Monday, 25 February, threatening the election count.

Laing scaffolders

200 scaffolders building a £10 million oil rig for BP at Teesside walked out for 24 hours over a long-standing demand for negotiating rights for the constructional section of the AUEW.

Scientists

32,000 scientists in the Institution of Professional Civil Servants announced a half-day strike on 6 March to force action on their claim for an interim pay increase. Many of the scientists had already taken action on a local scale.

The Director General of the Confederation of British Industry has called for the scrapping of the Industrial Relations Act which has "been surrounded by hatred" ever since it was passed.

No place in the sun for British Miners

Some of the recently published figures from the NUM paint an appalling picture. Since 1954 16,000 miners have died from 'the dust' or pneumoconiosis, and at present 35,000 men, some still working at the pits, are receiving benefit because they suffer from 'the dust'. Every year 600 new cases are confirmed. There are safety devices and maximum dust levels specified in the pits, but in the race to increase production the correct procedures are often ignored. Productivity has risen 100 per cent since nationalisation, but it is at a high cost - 23,000 killed by accident or disease, and 78,000 injured or suffering from 'the dust'. The total is nearly half the present work force.

The nationalisation of the coal industry in 1947 is still imagined by some to have been a socialist measure. But compare the British industry with the real thing - the Chinese mining industry, which came under the control of the working people in 1949. Government measures to combat silicon dust were introduced in 1958, and ventilating,

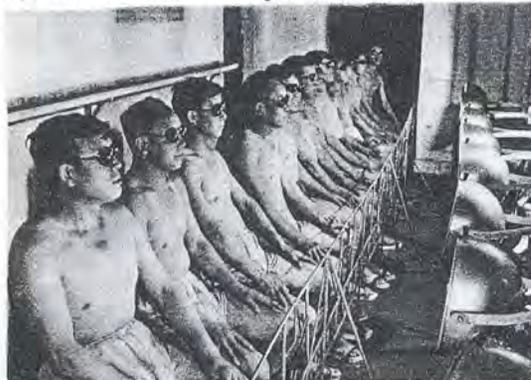
spraying and de-dusting devices were put into mines, as well as dust-suction machines. Each miner has an anti-dust mask. In Kailuan Colliery each miner now gets 6 to 9 cubic metres of fresh air per minute. Before liberation dust levels were up to 1000 milligrams per cubic metre of air; since 1958 the figure has been held at 2 milligrams per cubic metre. The most startling result of all - not one single silicosis case has been reported in that colliery since these preventive measures were set up. At the same time production has risen to many times the level of output before 1949. It is not necessary to kill 23,000 people to increase productivity.

Similar measures were taken in quartz powder factories, where silicosis is now almost unheard of, and other industries where there are dangers from substances such as lead, mercury or benzene. Lead poisoning, for example, has been virtually eliminated among printing workers in Peking.

The same care for the health of workers is shown in all kinds of factories during the hot summer

months. It is not only a question of reducing the temperature, but also of providing cold salted drinks and nutrition stipends free to the workers, and of giving medical checks so that people unaccustomed to working in the heat can transfer to other jobs or areas.

This kind of preventive care does not come by accident. There is nothing comparable in capitalist Britain. A world of difference divides medical care and preventive health treatment in a socialist country from our National Health Service, just as our nationalised coal industry is far removed from Kailuan Coal Mine. It is the difference between capitalism and socialism.



MINERS IN CHINA RECEIVING SUN-LAMP TREATMENT.

belt tightening???

The 1972 Census of Production reports that the value added by each manufacturing worker rose from £2304 in 1970 to £2918 in 1972. The average wage in the same period rose from £1218 to £1525. The value added per £1 of wages therefore rose from £1.819 to £1.913.

National Westminster Bank announced profits of £190 million for 1973. Barclays announced increased profits of £148 million, £54 million up on the previous year. ICI, Britain's biggest company, doubled profits to a record £311 million.

NUT conference

The NUT's acceptance of a 7% settlement within Phase III is a reflection of the lack of militant action in schools and local associations in support of the 25% claim. Words are not enough. We get the conference we deserve and putting all our faith in it diverts us from the real struggle.

Our fight is a continuous one. Problems of class size, conditions of work, salaries and pensions do not disappear overnight or surface only once a year at the negotiating table. This is no time to stop action and trust in Relativities Boards or other 'promises'. We did that over pensions and found the Government changed its tune at once. We can win nothing without struggle. We must take the initiative, strong schools and areas must lead in taking action. The 'non-cooperation' action of London teachers should be spread to other areas and intensified.

Many schools are now on part-time education - the paper covering the cracks has been torn away - but now we must refuse to live with the cracks and demand full-time education with a full staff or none at all. Only by struggle now will we develop strength to win our demands on pay, conditions, class sizes and pensions.

A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION

When the working class is not prepared to live in the old way...

On 24th February, nearly 140 years ago, six Dorchester farm labourers were arrested for forming a branch of the farm workers' union. And even though the bourgeoisie later successfully deported them, repression did not hold back the developing organisation of any sector of the working class.

The bourgeoisie, then as now, was responding in panic to the increasingly effective mass action of the class, action which led to the formation of the first national, indepen-

dent working-class movement in history, the English Chartists. The Charter of 1836 was, however, mostly a set of demands that the state should reorganise itself, with supporting pressure from without in the form of a General Strike. And this programme, although it led the working-class movement to great heights in 1838 and 1841, was never capable of sustaining an independent working-class attempt to smash the capitalist state.

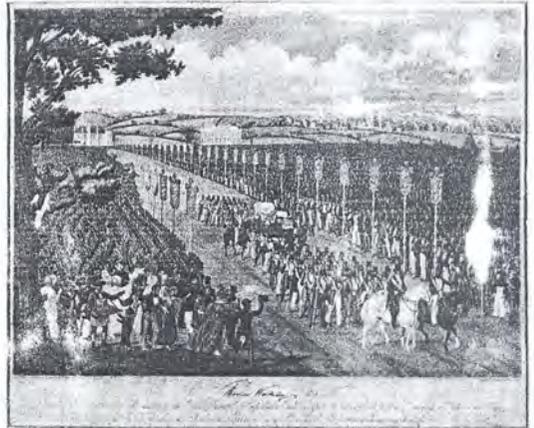
How much better a position we are in today, when our class

has got a programme and a strategy of protracted guerrilla struggle, which will enable us to move from successful local struggle, freeing our jailed brothers, to successful mass offensive against the capitalist state.

Essential for this offensive is the acquisition by the working class of a revolutionary ideology in which the CPB(ML) has a vital role to play.

"The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination, due to association... What the bourgeoisie, therefore, produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers."

Marx 'The Communist Manifesto'



Demonstration in Copenhagen, Field on April 21st, 1834, to demand the revocation of the sentence on the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

...And the ruling class can no longer rule in the old way...

'The Worker'

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- March 8th "ONE HALF OF THE WORKING CLASS"
 Women in class struggle - Meeting to celebrate International Womens' Day.
- March 15th "TEACHERS' STRUGGLE"
- March 22nd "THE MEANING OF IMPERIALISM"
- March 29th "MARXIST ETHICS"

The 6th Congress of the Albanian Labour Youth Union - Price 15p post paid.

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MAIN TREND BOOKS
 17 Midland Road,
 Old Market, Bristol.
 Open Wed 4.45 - 6 pm
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BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP
 37 Gloucester Road,
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 & Sat 9.30 am - 6 pm.

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 99 Mount Pleasant,
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 & Sat 9.30 am - 6 pm.

Elections '74

Despite the savage attacks that have been made upon the working class by the Tory government during the last three and a half years it is clear that workers have little faith in Social Democracy.

To the 22% abstentions must be added the Liberal vote which has become the throw away waste paper in parliamentary elections.

With eight and a half million abstentions, a massive 70 per cent of the electorate rejected the Labour Party.

Workers have shown that the fight against the NRC, the wage freeze, redundancies, and the three day week is at the place of work, where it has always been, and that the fight cannot be shelved by putting a cross on a ballot paper.

A revolutionary situation is one in which the employing class can no longer rule in its old way. Heaff agrees when he says, speaking for the capitalists. Britain "can no longer afford the handi-cap of industrial conflict".

In Britain, capitalism operates behind the mask of a "democratic" State. Everyone may vote and miners' sons can become 'MP's, but the State always serves the interests of the capitalist minority. However, the mask is beginning to slip.

Hounded by currency crises, shrinking markets, and the contradictions within world capitalism, British capitalism is in a tough spot. And the last thing it wants is a strong enemy at home. Hence the big showdown with the miners - a showpiece confrontation on which the Government has bid the highest stakes.

And, in order to crush us further, numerous attacks have been made on the working class rights and standard of living.

In the economic sector, inflation and the 3 Phases have priced decent food, clothing and housing further out of our reach. Without a 22 per cent pay rise each year, we take a cut in wages.

The State's expenditure on education has been withdrawn to the point where thousands of our children are denied full-time education. Schools are understaffed, art colleges and research establishments have been cut back, or closed down.

Towards a corporate state

In January, the Lords confirmed that the 1971 Immigration Act would apply to all those who had entered Britain between March 9, 1968 and January 1, 1973 and who, having stayed for a period of more than six months, were previously immune from prosecution. Thousands of immigrants, previously established in the country, are now living in fear of this retrospective legislation.

But this attack by the law on a weak section of the working class is a threat to the whole. What is not a crime today may

Our so-called free health system is now financed by a budget which this year is less than 2 per cent of expenditure on arms. Its efficiency is further undermined by the State's refusal to pay hospital staff a living wage.

The law has clearly shown whose side it is on. The Industrial Relations Court attempted to curb the fight through Unions. Last month, on charges of affray, unlawful assembly and conspiracy, picketing building workers have been imprisoned. The laws on assembly and on picketing are being continually re-appraised. And, to back this up, the 11th report of the Criminal Law Reform Committee recommends that hearsay evidence and statements by unidentifiable persons should be admissible in criminal trials, that the right of caution should disappear and that the number of cases tried by jury should be drastically reduced. So much for British 'justice'.

And don't forget, the police can now demand to search your home without a warrant. If you don't look the type to be keeping drugs, they can always suspect you of harbouring illegal immigrants in your potting shed...

become so by an appropriate law passed tomorrow. The precedent has been set.

The 'Amazon floggers' are clamouring for an end to social security payments for the families of strikers. The capitalists relish any move to hinder the ability of the working class to fight. They would reduce their workers to slavery and the worker's family to subordinate paupers.

Social security payments are only possible because of the taxes on workers' wages. So drop your

The military too have not been idle. March 1973 saw the expansion of a highly-paid, highly-skilled undercover branch of the special police. In September, production of a new rifle to re-equip the police began at the Parker Hale works in Birmingham - a weapon modelled on the US Armalite S.56, capable of firing bullets through walls. The Red Cross description - "It causes an extraordinary degree of suffering".

Police cadets began a series of manoeuvres in October designed to help them "handle actions by guerrilla organisations". And in November the Ministry of Defence authorised the use of CR gas in Britain to "help deal with terrorists".

As well as the training of 30,000 British troops in Ireland, the State implemented recently a sustained liaison between troops and police, as shown at Heathrow, aimed, in the words of the Home Secretary, to "deal with law and order".

The State is showing its true face, preparing itself for the battle it knows is to come. We must see to it that we understand the situation, understand who our class enemy is and how we must fight it.

mock outrage! It is we who are outraged that you threaten our children with starvation!

The job of the Government is to act as the General Staff of the capitalist class. At their immediate disposal are the 90,000 soldiers, 80,000 airmen, 48,000 sailors that are stationed in Britain. Plans have been drawn up for their use in the event of a national emergency arising from strikes in key industries. They might be used to attack pickets, to provide escorts for scab labour, and to act as scabs themselves.