NO RETREAT! ENGINEERS CAN SMASH PAY FREEZE

by ROGER COX (AEEF)

AS ENGINEERS IN BRITAIN'S KEY INDUSTRIES prepare for a showdown with the government's wage-freeze policy, their union leaders are already backpedalling on their call for a national strike.

The strike vote last Friday by the engineering union was greeted with a barrage of criticism from right-wing leaders of other unions. Instead of standing firm, president Hugh Scanlon and the other leaders of the AEEF now appear to have postponed the start of the strike from September 23.

And on Monday they will come face to face with their critics at the key meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The right-wing will put enormous pressure on Scanlon and company to either abandon the strike or, if the strike is called, to abandon the members of the AEEF before calling for a showdown with the arrogant engineering bosses and their backers, the Labour government.

But there is no need to hold a ballot. In the next few days, engineers should flood AEEF offices with messages of support for the strike.

The bosses final offer was lousy and was rejected out of hand by the AEEF. Britain's largest union, the AEEF, is now demanding a three-year 'package' deal with a 12% increase, two days extra holiday and a minimum salary of £1,175.

If the government pleads poverty, then the government must bear the cost of the escalating social crisis.

Rejection

A call for equal pay for women within two years was carried by delegates.

It was a decisive rejection of Mrs. Thatcher's promise of a seven-year programme and it acknowledged the example set by the Ford workers yesterday.

The general council was told that the new TUC general council would have full support for the unions taking industrial action to achieve equal pay.

The general council itself was cleared of any involvement in the scandal.

Docks leaflet slams invasion

from ALAN ROOD

BULL.- Thousands of leaflets in English and Russian attacking the occupation of Czechoslovakia are being distributed among the rank and file by the council of the International Socialist Federation. They were given out to Russian seamen at dock in Hull.

'Hands off Czechoslovakia!' is the headline written and translated by the dockers who backed the rejected Russian mission and who have been telling the public of the suppression of self-government in Czechoslovakia. The leaflets call for an international protest against the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Russian army and the imposition of the Russian government on the country.

The leaflets call for a demonstration on Saturday afternoon at the Docklands.

Eye-witness report from Prague - see page 3

CRUDE

Similarly, the Russian occupation of Czechoslovakia is seen as the latest in a history of foreign intervention in Europe. The AEEF has put down those who blame the government for the occupation and the Russian government for the conflict.

The government responded by dismissing the allegations as "false and malicious".

The workers' movement has been criticized for its support for the Czechoslovakian government and its opposition to the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Russian army.

"Our government has been condemned for its support of the Foreign Legion," said a government spokesman. "We have always been committed to restoring peace in the Balkans."
The press has condemned the Pope's attitude to contraception

— but he is just a scapegoat for the real merchants of hunger

The starving masses they need guns, not the Pill...

by CHRIS ARTHUR

_The anti-human character of the capitalist system. It has only one God — Profit — and this is the measure of all things, including human beings. Human needs enter into the system only in disguise, as demand._

If you are a politician who needs a bucket of coal, but haven't got the cash to address this need with dignity and respectability, to make it into the demand, then capitalisation does not recognise your need. It even makes you ashamed to draw attention to it.

**BUNDLE OF NEEDS**

**If you are a starving ex-miner or ex-worker who may wonder why you can't be given some of the billions of dollars worth of "surplus" food stockpiled by the American government. The answer is: "Let's see the colour of your money, fund! Are you a man, a fully qualified member of the market society? Or are you a population problem, a mere bundle of needs, a workless vagrant — about who should be ashamed of himself?**

**If you are a hungry Asian who wonders why the US government doesn't stop paying farmers to take millions of acres out of cultivation, you will be asked the same question as the bottom out of the oranges market? Where is the profit? Is that what you — a communist or something?**

A world capitalist order could easily support many times the present population. There are millions of acres of unprofitable land waiting to be developed. Even now, as the world enters the 1970s, the most serious problem facing agriculture in the world is overproduction, the lack of market for the products of an overcapitalist system. It is a matter of private conscience. An older woman with six children who has been taking the pill said she was praying for guidance, as she felt that by bringing more children into an already overcrowded world would be a sin in itself. The rhythm method...

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**Socialist Worker**

Paxton Works, Paxton Road, London N17. Tel: 01-988 4847


**WHERE WE STAND**

SOCIALIST WORKER is the paper of international socialism, a movement of revolutionary socialists who believe that the present world order is based on exploitation, unnecessary suffering and inequality. Its periodic suffers, wars and social degredation can be replaced by one based on a planned economy, where the production and distribution of goods are in the hands of the workers, those who produce the wealth and own and control the means of production.

The Socialist Worker opposes any incomes policy that will benefit the wages of the workers in order to boost the profits of the employers. We condemn any suggestion that the state should intervene in the economy. We support workers everywhere in their struggles for better wages and conditions and oppose all reactionary laws that threaten the liberties of the labor movement. We support all strikes in defense of workers' rights, in the demand of no victimization of trade unionists. Socialism shall be opposed with the time and to the workers. Stop shop stewards organizations tending to the material and cultural needs of the workers. The Socialist Worker supports the working class, the labor movement and the trade unions, in their struggle for better wages and conditions, for an end to racial discrimination, in a world united in defense of the workers' rights. We believe in the international solidarity of the working class. Communist Party of Great Britain. This issue is a special report on the world's major political and economic events, with additional articles and features.

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In London's grimy hell for working-class children

A GAP OF CENTURIES divides the archaic splendour of the Vatican and the overcrowded tenements of Kilburn, Notting Hill and North Kensington. The Pope speaks and millions of Roman Catholics — working-in-class, black and South American peasants and slums, and the artificial contraception in a moral sin.

The encyclical has provided new hell's - some private and intellectual for the parishioners of Father Weir at East Cheam and some public and vast material for the crowded slum dwellers of North London.

Many were unwilling to discuss the issues with strangers but some were equally willing to pour out their own experiences and fears. The Holy Father obviously doesn't understand our position," said one young Irishman newly married and determined to plan her family. We must get about £13 a week after stoppages and a third of that goes on rent. How can we afford children now? She said she would not confess during mass while she was using the pill which was an act of "private conscience."

An older woman with six children who had been taking the pill said she was praying for guidance as she felt that bringing more children into an already overcrowded world would be a sin in itself. The rhythm method...

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Send more details of the meetings and activities of International Socialism to: Please send more details of the meetings and activities of International Socialism to:

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Shrugged

I tried to contact the priests who work in the poor Catholic areas, but they were rarely "available." A few of the younger clergy shrugged their shoulders in resignation but the senior members of the Faith had no doubt. For them the ruling had clearly come as a relief. Asked about the problems of their poorer members they smiled at such gross materialism. "God will provide" was their slogan. The large families, sleeping four or five in a room, condemned by Roman Catholic intellectuals in Paul VI to increasing misery, seemed a devastating comment on Christian values. But many Catholics had clearly made up their minds on the matter and were not going to face the unwanted pregnancies and reinforced hardships which the church had condemned.
"Everywhere, slogans and posters...Russian tanks came trundling through with Viva Dubcek and Svoboda, which also was the Czech word for Liberty..."

BY ERIC PORTER

A Russian tank with Nazi emblem set ablaze by Czech demonstrators.

"We will never submit."

-Czech youth leader

Ivan Svitak, one of the leaders of the Czechoslovakian youth in the Communist Party during the November revolution and sacked from his job in November 1968.

When the Russians marched in he was on holiday in Vienna, and the next day he made the following appeal to his compatriots over Austrian television.

Today we are living in the second day in an occupied country. In a Soviet protectorate. We must see the reality of this occupation. We have nothing to dignify. The occupation regime is a police regime and nothing else.

We have to live in an occupied country and we know that we must resist. One doesn't discuss or negotiate with occupiers, one struggles against them.

The forms of struggle against the oppressors are many and varied, but one thing is certain: we will never submit.

There is another counter-revolution in Czechoslovakia. Are there no people in your land who resist, who fight? Yes, there are. But there were those who order the movements of the Western countries on the day when they prepare concentration camps.

What will oppose them? The people and the ideal of liberty, the freedom against the enemy, against which many powerful armies have marched in vain in the past. It is in the people who are the bastions of resistance against the occupiers. The people are the factory workers, the technicians, the engineers, the men determined to defend sovereignty, liberty and socialism.

What is the aim of our struggle? We are struggling for a free and sovereign state, for the freedom and friendship of the people.

We are rising against Soviet neo-colonialism.

Join International Socialism - for a real alternative to capitalism and Stalinism!

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Eric Porter, a member of the National Union of Teachers, was expelled from the Czechoslovakia with the London Cooperative Youth Chor at the time of the Russian invasion.

We did one concert in Prague on August 20 and as we were close to the Polish border they said come up and have a look. When we got there the Polish customs people were very friendly and invited us over to their homes and the crowd on the bridge gave a little impromptu concert.

This was at about 6 o'clock and the Russians came over at about 10 o'clock. The Russians were very friendly and the crowd on the bridge gave a little impromptu concert.

Speaking, crying

The next morning people were crying and speaking volubly in Czech. One of them said "Occupation Russian", I thought it was a little bit wild, that he must take it on himself.

Then our interpreter came back and said: "A terrible disaster has befell our country. The Russians have occupied it."

Many Czechs had grave doubts about the agreement signed in Bratislava. There was a general feeling of complete betrayal by the government.

In the Czech Republic, people were solidly behind Dubcek and to mention his name was almost like a sign of consent to one criticism of the new line but most people were prepared to let the talks fall in and the clash let them carry it.

The local radio station was taken over very quickly and, almost as quickly, the free radio station started operating.

The suggestion that the CIA had fitted this up is absolute nonsense. They were just trying to fit the CIA in with the most part of the Czech Republic.

Aerials were thrown up. You wouldn't dream of having one next day they were, they were sometimes even in the circle of the broadcasting equipment. It was very difficult for the government to broadcast and to broadcast.

There were very few stories of how the railway workers were hindering supplies. Free radio could not be delayed because it was carrying radar detecting equipment.

They would say on the radio: "The train only proceeded five miles today."

"Hurry!" Everywhere you went you could see people hanging around against their wishes.

The Russians looked young and very much like us. They said they did not know what was happening. They said they were still on manoeuvres and they did not know why they were there.

They said they were not content with and sending their goods to the Italian, and they said they were still on manoeuvres and they did not know why they were there.

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Morris men vote down bosses’ ‘mobility’ plan

SOCIALIST WORKER REPORTER

OXFORD: Workers at Morris Radiators last week voted down management conditions for the use of a local car-sharing scheme promoted by the local engineering union official, who urged them on.

The management's terms included major concessions of flexibility, mobility and loss of control over overtime, as well as acceptance of a 10% pay cut.

LET BATTLE COMMENCE

THIS IS THE FIRST issue of the new weekly Socialist Worker.

Producing a socialist paper is a hard job. The big boys who run society and who own the millionaires have huge resources at their command – machinery, office, staff, plus huge sums of money from advertising. We have none of these advantages.

But we think the struggle is worth it. If we can get an important job to do and unlike the bosses’ press we will do it.

The truth about your first Socialist Worker.

That’s something you never read about in the Fleet Street giants – whether they are consciously or not the “friends” of the working man.

BIG LIE

And we plan to provide you with the facts that will help you to understand the truth about society, and to give you the power to do something about it.

We will expose the lies of the bosses and their allies, and show you how they are kept in power.

We will show you how to fight back and win.

BIG SALE

There’s one other way you can help us. We hope you’ll give us your support by buying a copy of the paper for your factory, committee, or union, or yourself, wherever you are. We need you, big and small.

And if you and your mates want to contribute a small donation, then you will help us make our business a success.

As we said, this is the first Socialist Worker. Let’s hope it’s not the last.

Make sure you see Socialist Worker every week.

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1 envelope 6/9 for a year six months and up

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