



# ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT

THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL has taken the first step in what it sees as a protracted campaign to oppose the new Government's policy.

It has given a lead by preparing to table a motion of opposition at the September Congress. This is only a beginning. It is now up to the various unions to decide on their own policy and tactics, and turn the new will to oppose the Government into reality. The Initiative lies with all of us in our affiliated unions.

That the General Council should so oppose the Government is a welcome sign. The TUC does so knowing that many trade unionists supported the Government in the election, and knowing that it must take on the responsibility of reversing that support.

It is heartening to know that miners are to press for £140 a week for face workers and that Gas workers with British Oxygen are pressing for 30 per cent.

As struggle continues with the Civil Servants, Engineers, and in the Post Office, we must stand by last September's TUC policy of collective bargaining. We should prepare now for a campaign in each union and through the TUC to put that policy into effect.

We are under attack as never before.

## Oil exports for profit and war

WE DENOUNCE the Tokyo Summit, which pledges to run down British industry and export our oil, not only to the EEC, but to the beast USA capitalism, which although it needs it least, claims the major share of the world's oil.

Oil Shortage? Schools, hospitals and industries close, while the military planes go on flying. And North Sea oil has risen to a production level equivalent to 85 per cent of Britain's needs. Yet we go short because the Government allows, indeed encourages, half of that to go abroad.

The Government will do absolutely nothing to prevent this. Indeed, they have denied any intention of reducing the export of North Sea oil, even though empowered to do so by the 1975 Petroleum Act. The companies pay a mere 12.5 per cent in royalties on what they export. Even such a measure as making this payable in oil has been deferred until 1980. And now the Government plans to make the British National Oil Corporation even more openly the tool of international capitalism by the sale of its assets.

But it is clear from what the BNOC already does that it acts only in the interests of international finance. 75 per cent of BNOC oil is exported. 7 million tons annually go to the USA and 9 million tons to

the EEC (West Germany taking nearly 5 million of that alone). Only a fraction of the oil extracted from the North Sea is refined in Britain, let alone used here. And so tankers continue to foul our shores.

No wonder the EEC takes a "tough" line on reducing oil imports. They take ours, since that is no import, but belongs to them by the grace of the EEC.

They should not have any of it, not until our needs have first been satisfied. But instead it goes abroad. The NATO war machine is expanded, the tanks roll, the nuclear bombers wing their thousands of miles daily, while our essential services go short.

The Energy Minister Howell arrogantly refused even to meet the National Union of Railwaymen, whose demand is modest enough - simply that the Government ensure enough fuel to keep trains running.

British and EEC capitalism speak with one voice. Thatcher insists that living standards must fall as a result of oil price increases. Roy Jenkins, for the EEC, demands that wage rises shall not rise as fast as oil prices.

We demand our oil be used here for us in Britain.

We want more - more oil, more money, more industry. We can no longer let capitalism take all we have, we must take it for ourselves.



At the height of the successful struggle against the Heath Government, Reg Birch (then AUEW NEC member) addressing engineering workers at Tower Hill. Photo: THE WORKER

## Fight for wages in PO

THE POST OFFICE is being deliberately brought to the point of collapse as a public service. This despite turning in massive profits in the last two financial years.

Low pay means destruction of the service. This is why the employers insist on it. The Post Office itself stated "We need to recruit an extra 7000 postmen." 3500 to cope with the immense backlog and the summer holidays, and 3500 to make up numbers. "London alone is short of almost 2000." Yet the basic wage is only a pittance - £63 a week.

Post Office workers have taken the only course available to protect themselves and save their workplace - fighting for wages.

The lead has been given since April by the Society of

Civil and Public Servants and the Civil and Public Servants Association. Although their claim is based on traditional links with the Pay Research Unit and internal parity in the Post Office, in three months of industrial action it has been distilled to one simple attitude - no one is settling without a substantial increase.

Selective action has cost the employer over £600 millions in telephone billing revenue and the nationwide availability of postage stamps is now threatened. So far the only offer received is regarded as derisory, considering inflation - 9 per cent plus 5 1/2 per cent for an efficiency deal.

Bloodymindedness over pay was compounded when management suddenly announced that the Data Processing Ser-

vice had ceased to exist and will be merged with other parts of the organisation. An immediate walkout in Liverpool by Giro workers and meetings and walkouts all over the country followed. Giro workers decided to take the Post Office at its word and stopped processing any work not directly related to the banking business.

Meanwhile two other unions have current claims, the Post Office Management Staff Association, and the Post Office Engineering Union.

Increased wages are the first step to the recruitment the Post Office is so desperate to prevent. It is the key issue to bring unity to post workers and prevent the destruction of a national post service - the avowed aim of the present Government.

# The Week

UNEMPLOYMENT has gone down, they say. In fact it has gone up by 45,600 to 1.34 million. 104,500 school leavers were added to the register raising the number of unemployed school leavers to 143,800.

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THE LATEST sections of heavy industry to feel the threat of massive cuts are the Iron and Steel foundries. The demand for iron castings has fallen from a peak of 4 m tonnes in the 1960's to 2.7 m tonnes last year; steel castings have suffered a similar fall - from 1.5 m tonnes in 1970 to 1m tonnes this year.

At present there are 80 steel foundries in Britain, and this number could be cut to 30 if the plan for reorganisation and closure goes ahead. The problems of the industry are not peculiar to Britain, however, and the employers believe that their best hope lies with the EEC.

Let us hope that foundry workers will take up the lead of European steelworkers and fight this massive programme of destruction of a vital industry, for we can be sure that the EEC will certainly not work in our interests!

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BACK in the days when China was celebrating the victory of Chairman Mao's principle of maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in the hands of its own people and relying on their efforts, a well-known pamphlet was circulated world wide under the title "Hail China, a Socialist Country without Internal or External Debts". Today the present gang of capitalists are planning to run up a debt this year of nearly two billion pounds in trading deficits. They have negotiated loans from France, Britain and Japan of more than four and a half billion pounds, putting China in pawn to imperialism.

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AS US imperialism prepares to set up a military task force to be used to safeguard its interests (oil supplies) anywhere in the world, we have heard how they intend to overcome the effects of the 'oil crisis'.

One of the major motor manufacturers has announced that it will cease producing long distance buses; massive cuts are to be made in the already ailing rail network - lack of profits is the reason. But no efforts are going to be made to curb the real 'gas guzzlers', the private car. The total number in use will continue to rise.

Nevertheless, one official proudly announced that the average American car could travel 18 miles to the gallon (in Europe the average is 28). No wonder Carter gets offended when people accuse the US of not doing enough to use the world's resources sensibly.

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COMPLAINTS of wrongful conviction reaching Justice, an all-party law reform society, were more numerous in the last year than in any previous one. "Complaints which appear with monotonous regularity indicate police pressure and malpractice of various kinds, perjury by prosecution witnesses, undue pressure to plead guilty, failure to call witnesses, hostile judges and inadequate advice and representation on appeal."

# Historic Notes Stow's 'A Survey of London' 1598

"THE INHABITANTS of the towns about London, as Iseldon, Hoxton, Shoreditch and others had so inclosed the common fields with hedges and ditches that neither the young men might shoot nor the ancient persons walk for their pleasure in those fields; their bows and arrows were taken away and honest persons arrested". So wrote John Stow, tailor, freeman of the Merchant Tailors Company of London in 1598.

His indignation was shared by the citizens of London 'who', he wrote, "congregated in a great number and followed a turner dressed in a fool's coat, who was crying, 'Shovels and Spades, Shovels and Spades'. So many people followed it was a wonder to behold. Within a short space of time, hedges about the city were cast down and ditches filled up; such was the diligence of these workmen that soon all was made plain". Approvingly Stow

described how the King's Council had to accept the wishes of the people of London, so commanded the Mayor to see to it.

Stow was proud of London. He quoted Geoffrey of Monmouth the Welsh historian as saying that the city was founded by Brute descended from Aeneas the son of Venus, but as a sophisticated man agreed with Livy that this was pardonable as humans like to think of their achievements as more sacred and of greater majesty. He also pointed out that London was a town of note, founded by King Lud before the arrivals of the Romans.

His heroes are not the nobles but the citizens, the artisans, grocers, poulterers, fishmongers, tailors, goldsmiths, silk weavers, who used some of their wealth in creating beautiful buildings, schools for poor boys such as St. Pauls, bringing sweet water to the city and giving charity to the poor.

He would have admired but accepted as commonplace the heroism, the calm and the orderly re-generation of London by its citizens after the great fire caused by the Nazis. He would have had understate the new artisans, the firemen, the bus drivers, the builders who again brought sweet water and made all plain.

He would not understand or approve of the way London is under attack by governments, Labour and Tory and above all by Borough Councils, Labour and Tory. The wanton destruction of thousands of houses, the creation of places of desolation. He would have condemned the driving out of London of its trades and its tradesmen; he would scorn the idea that the city should become merely a seat of government or a tourist trap.

In a very modest way the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) has endeav-

oured in its pamphlet: "London Murder" to show how greedy rich men and foolish arrogant councillors have brought London and its citizens to their present sorry state. Reading Stow's "Survey of London" and the CPB(ML)'s pamphlet "London Murder" gives a glimpse of the dangers for London but also the capacity of its people to rebuild and recreate after disaster, natural or man-made.

For pleasure go back to Stow. Read how "in the holidays all the summeryouths are exercised in leaping, dancing, shooting, wrestling and casting the stone while maidens trip in their timbrels (whatever they were) and dance as long as they can well see". Read of the rebels Jack Straw, Wat Tyler, of whom Stow disapproved. Nevertheless he described Wat Tyler as a "rebel upon whom no man durst lay hand". That is not a bad epithet for a leader of the people.

## Summits plan decline

THE CRISIS and absolute decline of British capitalism has necessitated 14 budgets in 4 years. The working class has paid on every occasion.

Now summits are ten-a-penny - How many EEC summits have there been? Thatcher was in conference with Schmidt of Germany shortly after her election victory, met him again in Strasbourg in late June and met him in conference a few days later in Tokyo. Giscard and Andreotti of France and Italy were involved too. What can they all be talking about?

It is common knowledge that an international recession (the new word for "depression") will envelop the capitalist world by the end of 1979, and all participants in summitry admit there is no solution.

The US economy has never properly recovered from the Vietnam war which involved huge resources to no good purpose. The USA suffered its first defeat in war at the hands of the Vietnamese. Abundant resources in energy and technology were wantonly wasted. Revolutions in Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique followed. Iran has

produced problems for the US economy.

What the Shah did with Iran's oil revenue, by way of military purchases, has been repeated in so many OPEC countries. The OPEC oil price increases will benefit few people in Saudi Arabia, Arabia, Nigeria, or the United Arab Emirates, to name but a few. Look what happened following the 1973-74 oil price increases - the construction of hotels, conference centres, national airlines - hardly first priority for worker or peasant anywhere. An abundance of wealth all right, but hardly distribution of the wealth - the old problem about capitalism everywhere.

So the Tokyo summit has denounced the Geneva summit of OPEC countries. But it is not as simple as that, because, of the seven major oil companies that dominate oil production, five are American, one is British and one is Anglo-Dutch. They stand to make astronomical profits from the OPEC decision. Remember back in 1974, the case of the oil tanker which anchored outside New York harbour for 10 days until the price of oil was high

## Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortress Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5

### The Survey of London

By John Stow. Published by Dent. Price £2.75 (postage extra).

### London Murder

Published by CPB(ML). Price 10p (postage extra).

### The Police. Your Rights when Searched, Questioned or Arrested

Published by the National Consumer Council to accompany the BBC TV Series "For the Love of Albert". Price 25p (postage extra).

enough for it to dock. All quite legal.

OPEC capitalists may be ponces but so too are American oil capitalists. Aramco (the consortium of Exxon, Texaco, SoCal and Mobil) operates in Saudi Arabia. In January 1973, Aramco's price for crude oil was \$2.40, 79 cents of which was profit. Exactly a year later, following the 'energy crisis' of 1973, Aramco was charging \$10.83 a barrel, \$3.73 of which was profit. Summits are bad news for

workers everywhere. OPEC oil prices will add an extra \$15,000 million burden on to workers and peasants in the underdeveloped capitalist countries. A country like Britain will experience another 2 per cent on inflation and another 100,000 unemployed. President of the EEC, Roy Jenkins, regards it as imperative that consumers bear the brunt of it in higher prices and frozen wage demands. Thatcher finds herself in close agreement with him.

## Vietnam criticised by the real criminals

THE ONLY thing the seven governments at the Japanese Summit could agree upon was to join together to attack Vietnam again. Carter, whose government waged an aggressive genocidal war against the Vietnamese people for over ten years with a brutality only equalled by the Nazis, had the ignorance and insolence to criticise Vietnam strongly for "allowing the refugee crisis to develop". Thatcher, whose government supported the US in every act of callous mass murder and destruction, had the nerve earlier to call for a summit on the "refugee problem", a proposal which Vietnam promptly and correctly rejected as simply an imperialist move to get back into a part of the world where they have been thoroughly discredited.

The noisy imperialists Britain, the US and China have been shouting about Vietnam's alleged crimes against the miserable "boat people" as a cloak for their own crimes where refugees are concerned.

In 1954 when the Vietnamese people's first patriotic war of national resistance ended in victory over the French, the imperialists organised under the banner "god has gone south" a forcible migration of over a million Vietnamese people from the north to the south of the country, dividing families and creating economic havoc.

In 1975 in face of the total collapse of the US puppet administration the US imperialists invoking the threat of a bloodbath tried to induce the exodus of between one and two million refugees from south Vietnam. The rapid victory of the Vietnamese liberation forces prevented the carrying out of this criminal plan, but we remember the chaotic scenes as frightened people were bent back from the helicopters carting away America's defeated soldiers and we remember the shameful traffic in Vietnamese babies belonging to some of the 18,000 people forced to flee.

From 1978 on, the new reactionary gang in China, through rumours about an "inevitable Sino-Vietnamese war" and lies about the treatment of the people of Chinese descent in Viet Nam, induced hundreds of thousands to leave. Many of them were trained as spies, commandos and guides for the army of 800,000 with which China invaded Vietnam in February of this year, others joined the stream of refugees leaving China to go to Hong Kong.

British imperialism has been responsible for millions of refugees with its policies of partitioning and divide-and-rule. Recently Britain has used unemployment and low pay to drive thousands of skilled steel workers into the Ruhr and regularly exports skilled workers elsewhere, thus developing a special type of refugee - the man of skill who cannot find an outlet for his ability in his own country.

And these are the voices that are raised in condemnation of

Vietnam. Such sickening hypocrisy has not been matched in history.

On June 20 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam reminded the world that on January 12 it was announced that "those people wishing to go abroad for family reunion or to earn a living elsewhere would be permitted to do so after fulfilling the required procedures" and that on May 30 full agreement was reached by Vietnam with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on a seven point programme for facilitating an orderly and safe departure for those people wishing to leave.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will continue bilateral meetings with the south east Asian countries concerned "in a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding and respect for each other's legitimate interests". The imperialists who created the refugee problem to begin with can stay out.

## Editorial

LAST WINTER saw a massive rising against wage restraint, which destroyed the Labour Government. But no-one should imagine that such an offensive could be prolonged indefinitely. Nor is it likely that another such offensive can spring up overnight on such a scale against the new Tory Government.

The mass unity against Callaghan's brand of capitalism did not happen overnight. It was the culmination of months of debate and action, in all five years from 1974. So, too, with the unity painfully built up against Heath. His government's defeat was the result of not one battle but of many, a guerrilla campaign.

Now once again, after the defeat of one capitalist government, we face a new one. But with this difference, that it is more ruthless, more destructive than any before it. It is stronger in the support of the many workers who have voted for it. It has studied the lessons of the past. There will not be the blunders of the Heath Tories.

Is it possible to overthrow this Government as those that went before it? Can we defeat it? How? Under what leadership?

The campaigns against Heath's attempts to emasculate the unions and against Callaghan's wage restraint were not the product of any blueprint. Nor did workers spring into action in obedience to any orders.

Leadership came from those who struggled first, in the places where they were strongest. The AUEW against Heath to begin with stood alone, inspiring others to opposition as and when they might. Guerrilla tactics of widespread and relatively unco-ordinated attacks on employers, the 200 year old tradition of our class, were now used to political purposes, the defeat of anti-union legislation.

The movement against Callaghan began with the firemen, and was taken up by others. It found its highest expression in the clarity of political purpose of the last TUC Conference, where we spoke with one mind: NO wage restraint. This unity gave the impetus to the ensuing struggles, with all their diverse tactics, against the 5 per cent policy.

We had moved, as we had to, beyond mere guerrilla struggle. As we said then: "Our guerrilla struggle of the past, of advance and retreat, of getting it right and then getting it wrong, but somehow muddling through, is not going to be sufficient in the new phase we are entering."

### Organisation a weapon for revolution

The destruction of British industrial might is the aim of capitalism in its most brutal form yet, the Tory Government unleashing counterrevolution. Our resistance to that destruction is revolution. In the months or years ahead, although our trade unions are not in themselves revolutionary, we will have to use their organisational strength as a weapon in revolution.

Our campaign will have to be protracted. We will have to learn where it is necessary to retreat to fight again for we cannot afford to be weakened further by leading ourselves into defeats of our own making. Although the campaign will never cease being guerrilla in the sense of being based on the fight in each industry or workplace, we must go beyond this to strengthen the unity within our own unions, forge new links between different unions, create a higher unity, so that the rejection of the Government by the combined trade union movement, in its struggle and through the TUC, may be the beginning of the campaign, and not, as before, the signal for its conclusion.

The words of Mao Tse-Tung can be adapted to our struggle: "The development of guerrilla struggle into organised revolution does not mean the abandonment of guerrilla struggle, but the gradual formation, in the midst of widespread guerrilla struggle, of a main force capable of conducting revolution, a force around which there must still be numerous guerrilla operations." That force is none other than ourselves, the British working class Communists.

## Tourist trap

WE HAVE often stated that in its decline British capitalism has resorted to a vindictive destruction of real industry such as house-building and education in favour of cosmetic operations such as work experience and services to tourism.

For the past decade this about-face has been reflected in the so-called 'ganglion of tourism' debates at County Hall, headquarters of the Greater London Council. The blatantly capitalist interests of hoteliers, shopkeepers and tour operators have been pitted against the social conscience possessed by those who work for the Inner London Boroughs out of a sense of service to the resident community. And now the academics are muscling in.

The latest contribution is a paper from the University of Surrey, agreeing with the prevailing GLC policy that Central London should be regarded as "the showplace of the nation". The paper has the gall to state that "it is only through visitors that life in the Central Area can be maintained. Can it be supposed that the rightly prized physical fabric in Central London is maintained except for the principal benefit of visitors?"

It is no coincidence that in the same week news came of the failure of at least one major Central London borough, Camden, to make use of the improvement grants available in Housing Action Areas (the 1974 government priority areas) or to use its powers to acquire properties within these areas by compulsory purchase to force improvement of substandard houses. Nor is it a coincidence that Camden's greatest omission appears to be in the Seven Dials area which as any Londoner will tell you is embarrassingly conspicuous in the "national showcase".

Could it be that the working class should not even be seen, let alone heard?

Until the working class make homes and jobs our own responsibility by evicting the Tory-Labour-capitalist hydra, they will continue to be taken from us and offered to the highest bidder. Nor will such phrases as "our national heritage" so beloved in tourism circles, have any meaning for the working class until we seize it as our own. It is not enough to take pride in the past. Our task now is to make history, by making a museum-piece of capitalism.

## Tory philistines cut art by £5m

£5 MILLION is to be cut from the arts budget. St. John Stevas, now Art Minister, promised before the election that there would be no "candle-end savings". Too true—the candle itself is to go. There will be reductions in the annual grants to every national gallery and museum, £1 million off the Arts Council, and a £1½ million cut in the yearly allocation to the National Land Fund.

This means that when stately homes and collections are sold there will only be £4 million available to buy them. Major works of art are disappearing abroad at the rate of one a month, and this will be "greatly increased", according to the National Art Collections Fund.

The total lack of concern for our national heritage by the new government is shown in that there

will still not be money available for a Turner Gallery to house the work of one of our major artists. St. John Stevas said he thought the art world had been treated "very fairly". His new department would consist of forty staff, and be separated from the Department of Education and Science. This was good, as "there were more cuts to come, and the arts would benefit by being away from a larger department". In other words, the recent £55 million off education is only a beginning.

"When you get Government policy to cut back public expenditure and the government is elected on that platform, it is totally unreasonable for the art world to claim exemption. State-side expansion has come to an end. We must look to the private sector for new sources in money. That's where the possibilities

for the future lie".

For the Tory philistines, art is to serve a political aim. It has even become a weapon in their attempt to whip up war fever against the USSR. The Royal Academy, in desperate financial straits and forced for the first time in its history to auction some of its holdings, was to have sent a Michelangelo sculpture round the world. It would have returned for a time at least, to its birthplace, Florence. The tour was part of an exchange deal with the USSR, whereby masterpieces from Leningrad and Moscow would be on loan to us. The tour was cancelled by the government, and the exchange with the USSR has, of course, fallen through. Soviet and British people are to be denied an exchange which would have brought pleasure and enrichment to hundreds and thousands,

## Unemployment in SE - TUC calls for action

ON 23 JUNE, 200 or so delegates from union branches and trades councils in London and the South East met to discuss unemployment at a conference organised by the South East Regional Council of the TUC.

The rate of decline is severe in the South East. 16 per cent of its jobs disappeared between 1971 and 1976. Manufacturing industry is still very important in the South East, where more than a quarter of the country's manufacturing jobs are located. In the largest industries, electrical engineering, paper and print, and mechanical engineering, the loss of jobs was 19 per cent in five years, or 141,000 jobs.

In the past, increased employment in the service industries has outweighed a decline in manufacturing jobs, but this is no longer the case. Only three industries, banking and insurance "professional and scientific" (chiefly schools and hospitals), and "miscellaneous services", took on more workers, but not enough to compensate, and the net loss was 106,000.

Over half the new jobs over the five year period were in education and health. Government cuts will try to wipe out this gain. The other major source of jobs was banking and insurance, where computerisation will hit heavily, if introduced on the employers' purchase terms.

The number of local government workers fell 6 per cent, compared with an expansion of 6 per cent nationally. Despite the myth of an increase in bureaucracy, there was a decline of 2 per cent (11,000 jobs) in central and local government, hardly any of it due

to a move out of the capital.

Since the population of work age is growing, we will probably see more and more people leaving their London homes in enforced migration, in the desperate search for work elsewhere.

The discussion papers laid the main blame on capitalism's search for a higher rate of profit. "The private sector has failed Britain. Since the War, it has systematically undermined the country and the region by failing to invest our hard-earned wealth in British industry. Instead, capital has flowed out of Britain to countries where trade unions are weak or banned by law."

Many delegates spoke, and it was gratifying to hear so much good sense. In fact, the views expressed began to sound commonplace, and yet only a year ago, they were scarcely to be seen outside "The Worker".

There were many critics of the attitude which had prevailed in some unions that you must simply prevent compulsory redundancies, aim for natural wastage. The call was for "no job loss", and the sale of jobs for a couple of thousand pounds redundancy pay was rightly condemned as a betrayal of youth and the unemployed. The talk of an "unacceptable level of unemployment" was also wrong; the traditional demand had been for the right to work for all, and any unemployment was unacceptable. We must defeat the idea that there is no future for manufacturing in London. No marches or petitions were needed, but a mobilisation of all workers in trade union branches.



London destroyed.

Photo: Nick Birch



## Confed all set for action on claim

THE Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions annual Conference demanded a full settlement of this year's claim. The CSEU backed a motion from the AUEW calling for industrial action if the claim is not met.

The claim is for £80 minimum skilled rate, a one hour reduction in the 40 hour week and 2 days' extra holiday.

The CSEU and the 18 affiliated unions are preparing to send out instructions to the 2 million engineering workers involved to go ahead with a national overtime ban and a series of one day strikes to loosen the employers' grip on the money. Companies which settle the claim in full would be given dispensation from the dispute.

### Fight asset stripping

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions resolved to fight the bonanza of asset stripping and living off nationalised industry promised by the Tories.

## T&G ready to battle

TRANSPORT & General Workers Union delegates, meeting in July in Scarborough for their 28th Biennial Delegate Conference, will be reaffirming their stand against government interference in pay bargaining.

Motions are emphatic in their opposition to the Manpower Services Commission's "Work Experience" programmes which are seen not to lead to real jobs, whilst "Youth Opportunity" programme trainees remain ineligible for Trade Union membership, since they have not undergone a proper apprenticeship.

In the Passenger Services section, National Bus drivers will be drawing attention to the "enforced promotion" clause which job applicants must sign in order to get the job, without being told what work is involved. This includes such things as the operation of one-man buses, a type of productivity scheme which takes a job away from one man and gives it to another without pay.

Calls for reduction in Defence spending will be

The Conference warned the Government that its attempts to close shipbuilding would be opposed. Delegates accused the Government of setting out "to sell the seed corn."

The Conference was unanimous in support of a campaign to reduce overtime and cut the working week.

The CSEU endorsed a motion calling for an early introduction of the scrap and build policy and for more public sector orders and pledges from British shipping to place their orders in Britain.

Delegates did not believe that there was no subsidy involved in the recent deal with Finland for an emergency vessel for Shell. It looked as if the Shell contract was part and parcel of the Anglo-Finish offset deal under which Britain will sell jet training planes. It was calculated that material costs alone were £46 million. So how could Finland build the ship for £40 million?

coupled with the demand to provide alternative employment for all defence workers threatened with redundancy, and support for the as yet too isolated efforts of Lucas aerospace and Vickers workers to use their skills for peaceful, not destructive purposes. Delegates will further declare their hostility to the EEC and call for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland, and American bases from British soil.

All this is fine and good. But on some issues complete clarity has yet to be achieved. The motions on pay which declare themselves for collective bargaining, but in the same breath go on to devise a whole self-enslaving system of cost-of-living index-linked pay deals, an index-linked minimum wage, comparability studies such as Pay Research Unit - are less than progressive.

It is important to get it straight once and for all, before there is any backsliding, what collective bargaining means for the working class. It means that all can fight the boss.

## Nurses want more money now, not promises

THE CLEGG Commission on pay comparability was to report on nurses' pay in August. It has now announced that it is unable to do so until January 1980, "such are the complexities of the grades in the nursing profession."

The reference of the 1979 Nurses Pay Claim to the Commission was accepted with reluctance by all the unions involved. The Royal College of Nursing spoke of it as "jam tomorrow." What an optimistic forecast that now seems.

Some nurses feel that this delay will lead to a more sat-

isfactory, comprehensive report. It is difficult to see why. The complexities of grading in the Army and Police did not prevent this Government giving them an immediate pay rise. The Commission's report on the ancillary and ambulance staff is to be produced for August as planned. Can there really be doubt about the insult to the nursing profession?

And isn't it now clear that only willingness to take industrial action will move the Government?

April's increase has been

## Gas craftsmen throw out eight per cent

CRAFTSMEN in the gas industry are walking out on July 5th to protest at the 7 month delay in their wage negotiations and decide what action they should take. As members of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions the claim this year was for £80 minimum skilled rate shorter hours, longer holidays.

At the last meeting with British Gas in May the employers offered an increase in basic skilled rate to the derisory sum of £54.51, an increase of 8.4 per cent. Craftsmen in the industry are concerned that the low basic rates are leading to more and more contractors in the industry and a further run down of the direct labour force.

British Gas is probably the most profitable company in Britain with an annual profit in the region of £700m this year. British Gas also pays the lowest rates for skill in Britain and this is destroying the skills themselves. This is something the craftsmen are determined to stop.

## Miners must defend union

TRADITIONALLY the miners have been in the vanguard of resistance to any state attempt to weaken the ability of trade unions to defend the interests of their members. The declared intention of this government is to outlaw picketing and weaken the closed shop. Area Conferences have already adopted aggressive motions against such moves, mindful of the role such tactics played in the 1972 and 1974 actions. National Conference can give the lead to the rest of the trade union movement by endorsing this opposition.

Likewise Conference must reassess the wages question as the means whereby the NUM can strengthen itself and convert the defence of the coal industry into an attack on all capitalist governments.

Since 1974, passivity has dominated this issue. The Executive's present claim is a chance for members to reverse this trend and to oppose the divisive and deadly bonus productivity scheme - the spearhead of the state's present attack on the industry.

## Book Review 'The Police'

"THE POLICE - Your Rights when Searched, Questioned or Arrested", is one of five booklets produced by the National Consumer Council in conjunction with the BBC.

Did you know, for example, just how limited are the powers of the police to make you answer questions, unless they are arresting you? If you don't want to answer questions - maybe because you think they suspect you of something - you don't have to. You don't even have to tell them who you are.

Nor do you have to go to a police station unless the police are arresting you, and if you have gone without being forced and you decide after a while that you don't want to answer any more questions, they must either let you go, or arrest you.

It is not always easy to decide what is an arrest and what isn't. The booklet advises that if a policeman tries to arrest you, you shouldn't resist - it is an offence to resist arrest. But there is a useful list of what the police should and should not do, and even if you have been arrested you don't have to answer any questions or make a statement.

You have the right to legal advice before you say anything.

Other sections of the booklet inform you of your rights on fingerprints or photographs, identification parades, searches of your person and when the police can enter your home, to search it.

The final sections describe how to obtain bail if you have been arrested: the police and the motorist; and how to make a complaint against the police - a difficult procedure since the police are in a much stronger position than you are.

Along with the detailed and useful information, runs a sombre note: where the Prevention of Terrorism Act is involved, the citizen's rights are minimal - if they suspect you of being involved in terrorism you can be arrested without a warrant, detained for up to 7 days, and photographs and fingerprints can be taken which they keep even if you are not charged.

The message is clearly expressed: don't rely on fair play - "There are a lot of things that can go wrong in people's dealings with the police."



Police attack on Saltley pickets, 1972. Photo: Central Press Photos.

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