

THE WORKER



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THE STRUGGLE AGAINST PHASE III

SUPPORT THE MINERS FIGHT WHERE YOU ARE

The stakes get higher

EDITORIAL

The class war that began with the establishment of capitalism in Britain goes on - but at a new level of intensity, taking new forms.

The capitalist ruling class can no longer afford collective bargaining, which has been the accepted way for organised workers to sell their labour power to an employer.

In its place has been substituted payment by Government fiat, a further development of state capitalism and a change in the form of class conflict.

The wage bargain is now between the working class and the Government, already talking about Phase IV, to be followed no doubt by Phase V. Individual employers might sometimes come off badly in negotiations with a well-organised work-force. But the Government cannot afford ever to lose a single round. For the capitalist state to be defeated by the people is, from the ruling class's point of view, anarchy.

Government against the miners

We can appreciate this change in terms of the Government's moves against the miners - first the national lock-out to try to isolate them from the rest of the working class, then the rejection of the TUC's feckless offer to save the Government's face, now the massing of the state's forces, police, judiciary, etc., for all-out attack.

The miners are showing the same courage and solidarity as carried them to victory two years ago. But the Government has additional weapons now in the form of the Industrial Relations Act, and it thinks it has taken adequate precautions to counteract the tactic of flying pickets.

The miners must not be left to go it alone. Other sections of the working class, engineers, transport workers, white-collar workers too, must move into action at such times and in such ways as to keep the Government off balance and unable to mass its force for a crushing blow.

At this juncture, settlement within Phase III not only represents a serious cut in pay, but also betrayal of fellow workers in struggle.

A General Election?

If no moves on the part of the Government can make the miners surrender, the Government might once more propose a general election as a diversion from class struggle to the 'cozy' ways of social democracy.

Presumably, at that point, all the pseudo-left organisations whose only advice to workers has been to scream for a general election, or for a general strike to force a general election, will be satisfied and go into liquidation.

Workers and revolution

Such an election will be completely irrelevant to our working class struggle. It will change nothing - whatever label the capitalist government may have pasted on it afterwards.

We workers cannot opt out of this war. It will be long and arduous, but there is no alternative to fighting it through to the end. The class enemy will never cease attacking us until he is finally defeated; we can never rest from the battles we have begun until the capitalist system is smashed.

It is because the struggles we are involved in now are directly related, as never before, to that final revolutionary victory that we, rightly, call this a revolutionary situation.

It is as revolutionaries, conscious of our liberating mission and recognising only a revolutionary leadership, that we workers must take on the state that robs and oppresses us in the name of capitalism.

The confrontation between the working class and the government, fronting for the employing class, sharpens every day. Both sides are suffering casualties. Unemployment, officially registered unemployment, has reached 2.3 million, a level not seen since the early Thirties. With reduced wage packets, having to face prices that seem to double before your very eyes (the three-bob loaf of bread!) workers' living standards are at the very edge of the precipice. Meanwhile the small capitalists face bankruptcy, the fringe banks go bust, and even property values have taken a sharp knock.

Phase III means poverty

The symbol of the whole struggle is Phase III. If Phase III stands then the working class will have no chance of keeping up with the profit-crazed inflation (and the government's cosy distinction between 'domestic' and 'international' inflation cuts very little ice when it comes to paying the food bill). The government says over and over again that even Phase III is too 'generous' thanks to their crisis, so they will probably scrap the 'threshold' provisions, as the freeze has already scrapped so many other agreements.

They have already altered the basis of the retail price index, just in case they need to fiddle the figures. Certainly Phase IV is on the stocks, waiting for the right moment to be launched. Unless we smash government control of wages, they will be controlled right down to starvation level. This is not alarmism. Deficiency diseases like rickets have already begun to reappear.

Guerrilla strategy

The fight to smash Phase III is a protracted guerrilla struggle. Many workers have already weakened Phase III in deals which use loopholes, regrading, local bonuses and other manoeuvres, to win more money despite the law. But although weakened, the structure of Phase III still stands. Loopholes and small victories are valuable, but the class as a whole needs more than this to keep it afloat in the rising tide of inflation.

The miners' struggle has brought us to a situation of all-out

conflict. This is as much part of a protracted class war as the local actions we normally think of as guerrilla activity. Indeed, by our fighting short, well-prepared local battles, which inflict heavy losses on the enemy at the minimum cost to ourselves, we make it inevitable that the class enemy will launch full-scale attacks on us, in an attempt to stop us slowly bleeding him to death. In such situations the overall guerrilla strategy not only helps us to see the importance of the particular battle, but has also ensured that the enemy has been weakened in the past by our continual small-scale attacks. So we fight from a stronger position. Dien Bien Phu was a frontal assault - but in a guerrilla war situation, not World War I trench warfare.

Miners

The miners' overtime ban has served its purpose well, by bringing down coal stocks, by putting on the pressure, by making the miners' cause known throughout the country. It forced the government to counter-attack by imposing a three-day week - widening the fight to the entire working class. Now the miners strike, strike hard with a united campaign to win a living wage, to smash Phase III.

The miners' fight is the fight of every worker. A victory over Phase III will be a victory for every worker. The miners know well enough how to fight. The onus is on all of us, all the working class to support them. Faced with the example of the Shrewsbury

Three, we know the police will be attacking pickets. We must all fight where we are to aid the miners, to ban movements of coal, to resist the three-day week and other 'emergency' measures of the government.

In this situation, to attempt to isolate the miners from the rest of the working class is the government's strategy. For people in the labour movement to try the same tactic is treason. When Chapple claims that the Phase III settlement by the 100,000 power workers makes the miners' situation easier, he is lying. A fighting alliance between power workers and miners would have helped both to a speedier victory over Phase III. When Scanlon talks of an engineers' settlement 'to the limits of Phase III' he is also trying to isolate the miners, using the strength of plant bargaining as an alibi, not as a weapon. When the TUC talk of the miners as a 'special case' they are also trying to split the working class.

But the working class is united, it is angry, it will no longer accept increased suffering, increased exploitation, so that Carrington, Walker, Hyams, and the rest of them can continue to wallow in profits. The ruling class is dithering, unable to decide on its next moves. They are not just brushing their teeth in the dark, they are completely in the dark as to how to get out of the present situation, a revolutionary situation if we can all rise to the tremendous challenge that faces us.



The three-day week was launched by the Government as an attack on the whole working class — nothing but naked blackmail and coercion. Carrington's short-lived promises of a four or five day week prove that 'economic necessity' can be twisted into any shape needed by the political necessity. The new form of the three-day week, with Monday-Wednesday and Wednesday-Friday working admits the defeat workers have imposed over the issue of Saturday working. Workers have fought for their rights-for overtime rates on Saturday, and employers have more and more been buckling under pressure. While the Press has been burbling away about the Lancashire textile workers 'loyally' turning up on Saturdays, there has been near silence about the increasing numbers of those same workers who refused to work Saturdays until they eventually won the issue of Saturday rates.

On the Industrial Front

FORD

55,000 Ford manual workers lodged their claim for 'substantial increases (at least £4), a reduction in hours from 40 to 35, and improved lay-off guarantees'. The present lay-offs due to the Government lockout have already exhausted the existing lay-off fund. But lay-off pay is no substitute for the main issues of a pay claim. Direct action whenever lay-offs occur will win results with or without an agreement.

MINERS

700 miners at Hem Heath colliery, N. Staffs., went on strike after the NCB had accused craftsmen of deliberately damaging machinery.

RAILWAYS

The train drivers have declared a series of one-day strikes, all across the country. They are adding this to their existing campaign of banning overtime and rest-day working, aiming to force more money out of the Rail Board over the regrading talks, the key issue being the maintenance of mileage bonuses for long-distance trains. Meanwhile, although the NUR has been objecting to ASLEF ASLEF's action, the NUR members were themselves forced to follow ASLEF's example. They struck in protest when the Rail Board laid men off on Sundays because of the absence of drivers. The lesson is that to protect your interests you must rely on your own action, not the 'generosity' of the Rail Board.

CHRYSLER

140 Coventry millwrights enforced an overtime ban as part of their demand for staff status, meaning better pay. If the millwrights' repair and maintenance is done during normal hours production is cut, especially when 'normal' is a three-day week. The millwrights went on strike for half a Heath-style week on learning that foremen at the Stoke plant had been doing their work.

FLEET STREET

The employers are always trying to shift the burden of their crises onto the workers' backs. The current paper shortage has meant fewer pages in the newspapers. Although this may mean we have to read fewer lies, it also means lower earnings for print workers. In retaliation, NGA members at the Daily Telegraph have been taking industrial action.

WATER WORKERS

350 Birmingham Water Works maintenance men held a 24-hour strike as part of a mounting campaign against Pay Board delays which finally forced the Board to capitulate. On top of an offer of £2.25, the employers had offered 80p a week extra because of the 'anomaly' that was created when the freeze broke the usual links with the electricity supply manual workers, who agreed a deal immediately before the freeze was imposed. Gas workers have a similar complaint about the Pay Board's handling of their £1.05 'anomaly' offer. Water workers in several pumping stations in London, the Midlands and the North-East have been banning overtime. The Pay Board, with its love for long-term agreements giving more time for higher prices to eat away at wages, originally said that the 18-month electricity agreement is not comparable with the 12-month water or gas agreements, and does not justify the 'anomaly' increases.

POSTGRADUATE TEACHERS STRIKE

Postgrad students in British universities are currently expected to survive on less than £700 a year. Most supplement this income by part-time and low-paid teaching and demonstrating to undergraduates.

While postgrads are increasingly becoming involved in the national claim for 35% higher student grants, local battles for higher demonstrating rates are becoming more frequent.

Successes were scored in Sussex University last year, and recently Edinburgh won an increase

too. The latest action is at University College Swansea, where, as from January 21, postgrads have been on strike, demanding a pay increase from 75p to £3 an hour. The Pay Board oppose an increase beyond 87p.

The postgrad students, also members of ASTMS, have received full support from the other students, from ASTMS technicians and many of the lecturers, who are refusing to do work normally done by postgrads.

Daily bulletins are released on

the campus, where a joint Student's Union-ASTMS action committee has been set up.

Postgrads are clear that they, as everyone else, need a decent wage packet, and that the employers do not give them away. Action like this will also pile on pressure for increases in student grants, and give the Government further nightmares about our reactions if there are any attempts to replace grants with loans, as the latest Parliamentary committee has suggested.

Workers from many unions join the builders in a protest march through London at the unjust sentences passed on the building workers' pickets at Shrewsbury.



Brighton workers fight the three day week

As in many other places, bosses at Gross Cash Registers, Brighton are trying to take advantage of the three-day week to by-pass national agreements and weaken union organisation on the shop floor.

Workers in the auto-shop (on

which the factory depends for parts) have been engaged in a prolonged struggle over the issue of getting overtime rates for Saturday working. Using guerrilla tactics involving working-to-rule, banning overtime and eventually not turning up

at all on Saturday (19th Jan), they showed that they were prepared to stand firm in defence of their rights.

Management retaliated with a two-day lock-out of the auto-shop workers who refused to work on Saturday, trying in this way to iso-

late them and at the same time using the threat of factory closure and redundancies. But workers in other shops downed tools in support of the locked-out men and following negotiations, substantial gains were made on the numbers of hours paid

for the number of hours actually worked, although the issue of overtime payment for work on Saturday is still a matter of dispute.

Workers also showed their strength and fighting spirit by making sure that no victimisation took place

WHITE COLLAR WORKERS AND THE 3 DAY WEEK

One of the aims of the Government's attacks on the working class by trying to impose a three-day week is to attempt to swing public opinion against the miners. In this aim they have clearly failed for over the last four years more

and more sections of the working class have taken up the struggle and have found from their own experience who is to blame when 'crises' hit Britain.

The three-day week has merely thrown up new problems for all

sections of the working class - for some it will be to demand a full weeks pay, as white collar workers did at ICI, for others, especially amongst the white collar section, the three-day week will mean more work.

Civil servants are a good example. As unemployment increases, the same number of staff are expected to manage. This must be opposed and an increase in staff demanded and fought for.

But, above all, white collar

workers must not expect the miners to smash Phase III for them - they must take up their own claims and press them home - making it clear that the working class refuses to pay for the problems of Capitalism.

Electoral games

Our socialist line of guerrilla struggle is irreconcilably opposed to the capitalist line of using the Labour Party as balliff. Capitalism's present general offensive is spearheaded by Stage III, which it has to back up by lock-out, election scare, and promises to reassess pay relationships. It wants to shift our class from its working-class line of mass struggle onto the parliamentary road. The election scare was a ploy to test the mood of workers in struggle; the diehard reactionaries in the two bourgeois parties opposed this ploy because they could not see that the situation has changed.

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For the miners' continued application of guerrilla tactics has changed the situation. The election scare, promoted by Labour and Tory alike, was shrugged off contemptuously. The miners have scared the realistic members of the capitalist class from their traditional campaign of diverting workers from struggle by electioneering, to indecision. And the obscurantist members of the capitalist class have been forced to change their slogan from 'no election' to 'Labour can save us'.

So the ruling class is forced to see that it can no longer rule in the old way, as it has ruled since 1930. The workers have shrugged off election scares, and they have used that scare as a test of those who pretend to be part of the working class. For the capitalist offensive has stripped the heroes of social-democracy of their cover - they openly support Stage III. The Labour Party, 'left' and 'right', falls into line behind a statutory incomes policy.

Our class will not be defeated by election or by the capitalists' present offensive. The ruling class will have to change their line or offensive under our pressure, so Heath will decide not on a general election but on a general strike. His class and its allies, his fifth column of fake Marxists, will try to sting our class into clumsy action. Against this, we must step up our struggle where we are strong, develop class struggle everywhere and fight for the independent class policy of our class and its Party.

A new CPB(ML) pamphlet:
WHITE COLLAR - A MYTH DESTROYED,
A CLASS MADE STRONGER Price 10p

THEY NEVER GIVE UP

A CBI survey of member industries shows that while most workers are being paid for three days work (60% of normal), production is running at around 80% of normal output. The rate of exploitation has thus increased by one third.

OUT OF THEIR

OWN MOUTHS

"Unions and workers do not cause inflation by obtaining wage increases and have simply been used as scapegoats."

- Milton Friedman, American bourgeois economist.

"The Government thus faces what could turn out to be one of the most debilitating social conflicts since the war while it is in a position of relative weakness. This is nothing whatsoever to do with the irrelevant question of who may or may not win an early General Election, if there is one, since whichever party wins will be confronted with the same conditions."

-Financial Times.

THREAT TO EUROPE

Every passing day reveals more and more the ugly features of Soviet imperialism lurking behind its mesh of socialist rhetoric. Yet it is often supposed that the main sphere of Soviet expansion lies in the underdeveloped countries, where it can easily bring such backward states into a position of economic dependence upon it; while on the other hand it is assumed to be

on the defensive in Europe, in the face of the superior economic and technological might of the West.

However it is just this superiority which holds out the most glittering prize of all. It is by no means certain that the piecemeal incorporation of continental Europe into the Soviet Empire by military force might not, in certain circumstances, be the least dangerous

course for Soviet expansion, as well as the most profitable. The Czech events show how easily the Soviet army can effect such an operation.

It is well known that the Soviet Union has long been preparing for the social unrest and national disension in Yugoslavia that must follow Tito's death, when it hopes that

one or another of the ruling factions of the Yugoslav bourgeoisie will invite the Soviet army in to restore 'order' and save the 'national unity' (of course identified with its own class interests in the usual bourgeois manner). From Yugoslavia the Soviet Union would then be able to threaten Albania and Greece and bring its army right up to the Italian border.

Let any who doubt this possibility, consider the very advanced bridging equipment which the Egyptians bought from the Russians to ford the Suez Canal. Let them consider for what defensive purpose the Soviet army deploys such bridging equipment, such large mobile armoured formations, and such huge masses of airborne troops.

REPRESSION IN THE SOVIET UNION

The point about revisionist rule in Russia is not its treatment of enemies of socialism like Solzhenitsyn (who, like those reactionaries in the West who support him, openly prefers the Nazis), but its monstrous oppression of the Russian people. Revisionism must oppress until the people

overthrow it - it employs special camps and asylums for political offenders, it multiplies institutions, laws and rules to intimidate and harness the people, it prevents investigations into working conditions (a crime called 'grave incitement' and punishable by eight years imprisonment).

But repression calls forth resistance, working-class struggle, and national and social rebellion.

Workers have organised slow-downs, protest meetings and strikes, gaining in Kharkov, Kaliningrad, and Dnepropetrovsk city-wide support for their

demands.

National movements for regional autonomy are advancing in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Ukraine. The revisionist party has tens of thousands of troops stationed in the People's Republic of Mongolia (as in Czechoslovakia, Poland and East

Germany) for purposes both of suppression and aggression.

So revisionism knows no peace: any party which serves the few, the bourgeoisie, will not be tolerated for long by the revolutionary people of the Soviet Union.

Defending the Paracel Islands

In 1962 the capitalist propaganda machine lied and continues to lie about China's alleged "attack" on Indian territory. It was then discovered by reputable western journalists and backed up by historians that it was the Indian government which had adopted a "forward" policy and aggressed on Chinese territory beyond the Himalayas. A similar lie is now being peddled about alleged Chinese occupation of some islands in the South China Sea which are supposed to belong to South Vietnam. The truth is just the opposite. The Paracels - Hsishan Islands in the Chinese - have been Chinese territory for hundreds of years. Long before the establishment of socialist China the imperialists accepted Chinese sovereignty over these islands. During 1951, when the peace treaty was signed with Japan, it was stated that these islands should be restored to China. Chinese fishermen have been in the islands for centuries and recently, in the late 1950's Chinese cultivators were being commended by their government for trying to farm on very barren terrain. (Times Jan 17th.)

What possessed the Saigon puppets - one cannot designate them the government of South Vietnam as

2/3 of that area is under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam - to aggress on Chinese territory is puzzling. Some think it was to force the Americans to give more military help to Thieu and his gang; others suppose that the possibility of underwater oil in this part of the Pacific might have tempted these puppets into attacking Chinese territory.

However they suffered the same fate as the Indian reactionaries. Despite reconnaissance missions by American spy planes and bombing and killing of Chinese fishermen and cultivators by the South Vietnamese gunboats, Thieu & Co. had to give up their stupid attempts to occupy these islands. When they had suffered a telling defeat they decided to spread the lie that China had attacked them and even went so far as to take the matter up with the Security Council. That body is now too prudent to tangle with lies when it comes to China and the Saigon ploy was turned down.

The US has been caught on the hop as usual. Though the Paris Agreement bringing the war to an end is a year old the Americans have violated it and encouraged their Saigon puppets' illegalities.

ZANU PRESS RELEASE

British Imperialism at it again

In a statement released on January 15 the Zimbabwe African National Union condemned manoeuvres for some kind of agreement between the African National Council (ANC) and the racist Smith regime in Rhodesia backed by the British Government.

Bishop Muzorewa of the ANC has suggested the possibility of such a cooked-up agreement. He has criticised the 'Settler '74' policy (see WORKER No. 2) of importing a million whites because it 'was destroying the good will that had been built up among the blacks'. What good will has the Smith regime ever built up among the Zimbabwe people!

Bishop Muzorewa describes himself as 'not anti-European, anti-African or anti-anybody' - in other words a willing tool of the neo-colonialism which the British Government would like to substitute for the present direct, racist, colonial rule of the Smith

regime.

The ZANU press release goes on:

'The seriousness of Muzorewa's statements lies in the fact that they come out at a time when the British Government is in the middle of a manoeuvre to find a suitable formula to legitimise their baby in Salisbury. Shocked by our devastating military offensive in the north-western, northern, north-eastern and eastern regions of Zimbabwe, which has shattered the confidence and morale of white settlers, the British Government in collaboration with the Vorster regime in South Africa, is desperately seeking to create an African puppet regime in Zimbabwe which will protect their economic and defence interests not only in Zimbabwe but in the whole of southern Africa...

'The people of Zimbabwe do not want half-measures; do not

want to share power with racist white settlers; and do not want negotiation with rebel Ian Smith. The people of Zimbabwe want to see the immediate and total elimination of the colonial-settler system of oppression and exploitation; the prompt and complete restoration of their right to self-determination; and the reconstruction of their fatherland along socialist lines.'

The year 1973 saw the unification of the people of Zimbabwe behind ZANU and its military wing, the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army. Since the last rainy season, ZANLA has undertaken 55 major operations, killing 550 enemy forces and wounding many hundreds more, destroying eight enemy camps and releasing the inmates of a prison. They have also destroyed 20 military vehicles and shot down five Rhodesian airforce aircraft and two helicopters.

'Technically there are not supposed to be any military personnel or 'advisers'. But during the brief fighting to clear the islands the Chinese People's Liberation Forces captured some Vietnamese mercenaries and an American now disguised as an 'observer'.

The Chinese have given fair warning to Saigon not to undertake any more stupid manoeuvres. "China is a Socialist country. We never occupy other countries' territory, nor shall we tolerate occupation of our

territory by other countries... The personnel of the other side whom we have captured in the fight of self-defence will be repatriated at an appropriate time..." (Statement of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Jan 20)



Workers of Taching, China's leading oilfield, have achieved exceptional results in building this new oil-producing area. Crude oil began to flow only three months after construction started in April 1973. A number of pump stations and oil wells were completed. The opening up of the new oil zone has speedily increased China's crude oil output. Shown here are the 1205 drilling team, an advanced unit in Taching, who set a record in high-speed drilling to speed the opening up of the area.

1973-China scores further economic successes

Whilst capitalist countries throughout the world suffered economic crises, currency problems and the like, 1973 was another great success for Socialist China. China's planned economy made further progress in all major areas of production: the output of iron and steel and coal (someone should tell our ruling class that coal is of more use when you dig it up!) is now double the 1965 pre-cultural revolution figures; new oilfields have been developed (see picture) and the output of power is now 2.4 times the 1965 level; the output of China's light industry was on average 8% above 1972 production.

In addition, China achieved self-sufficiency in grain, more

than twice the 1949 Liberation Year amount was produced. While Capitalist currencies behaved like yo-yos, the Renminbi, China's currency, has remained one of the few stable currencies of the world. This stability is

reflected in the stability of market prices. For example the prices of daily necessities such as grain, cotton, cloth, edible oil, salt and coal have remained basically unchanged since Liberation.

'The Worker'

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CLASS AND PARTY ARE ONE

During the seamen's strike of 1966, Harold Wilson spoke of a 'tightly-knit group of politically-motivated men' within the NUS, whom he claimed were responsible for the militancy of that struggle. Today, Heath echoes those words when he talks of 'the forces working in our society

to undermine and destroy it'. Every gossip columnist of the Fleet Street gutter press joins in the clamour.

All are engaging in wishful thinking. It is the whole of the working class that is subject to exploitation, subject to the oppression required to enforce

that exploitation, and compelled to rise in struggle against it. To claim manipulation by militants is to deny these roots and moreover is an insult to our class. It is nevertheless true that the class demands its own leadership. It is true that Marxism-Leninism has had a

profound impact on the British working class. Their struggle gave birth to a Party and the Party's mission is to guide that struggle. The Party has an impact only because its line of guerrilla struggle was a child of the class and has been implemented by the class.

The importance of the genuine working class leaders is recognised by Heath. Thus he attempts to chop them off. The importance of the Party is recognised by Heath. Thus he attempts to drive a wedge between the class and its Party. This is the reason behind the Press hysteria.

The enemy prepares

To questions about whether troops would be used in industrial disputes the Home Secretary said on January 24th: 'It is a long-established principle in our constitution and practice that troops can be called in to aid the civil power.'

He also outlined the circumstances in which troops and police might co-ordinate their activities in the event of disturbances brought about by industrial action.

He described the information centre at Scotland Yard which is to alert police forces all over the country of plans for any mass picketing; but denied that there was any military connection with it.

He thought it was not necessary to seek additional powers to deal with 'political terrorism' at present but would not hesitate to do so if changed circumstances made them necessary.

On the basis of the miners' tactics in the 1972 strike the Central Electricity Generating Board has made secret plans to deal with a national strike. The plan includes distribution of stocks in advance and the supply of materials other than coal.

'We cannot disclose our other preparations to deal with picketing,' a spokesman of the Board said.

Plumbers and dirty tricksters

The charge that numbers of CIA agents had infiltrated the trade union movement to check up on 'subversive elements' was hardly refuted by the British Government. All it was prepared to say was that it accepted without question a statement from the US Embassy that there had been no vast recent influx.

Asked if they would deport CIA agents found to be working in this country the Home Secretary replied: 'No'.

The Times, which first printed the news about the sudden increase

in CIA numbers here, conceded that there was a case for the collection of information about British trade unions by 'friendly' foreign powers but piously hoped the CIA 'department of dirty tricks' would not intervene directly in this country's affairs.

Workers in this country are used to dealing with police spies, agent provocateurs and the like, whether operating on behalf of our native class enemies or those abroad. If the ruling class in Britain wants to handicap itself by accepting the assistance of the most notorious bunglers the world has ever known, that's its own lookout.

Nationalisation saviour of capitalism

Nationalisation is the cure-all held out to workers by the Labour Party at the present time, even though the Labour Party record of nationalisation shows how often they take their own medicine. Workers learned long ago what this cure-all really is. An NUM banner, made when coal was nationalised depicted the chairman of the NCB shaking hands with the secretary of the NUM, with the legend 'Nationalisation - key to progress'. In the years after, the nature of the progress was made clear, redundancies, pit closures, and the general running down of the coal industry in favour of more profitable oil, by Labour and Tory alike.

If nationalisation does not serve the people, then who does it serve? Not only does it not serve the working class, but it is an actual burden on us, it serves the capitalist class at the expense of the working class.

When an industry essential to capitalism is losing money and would close down under private enterprise, or is inefficient, it is nationalised in order to service the rest of Capitalism. The railways were nationalised at a time

when capitalism needed faster and cheaper transport. The railway companies were unwilling to pay for the standardisation, investment and integration necessary for efficiency, so the workers paid for it out of their taxes. Under capitalism nationalisation is rationalisation, paid for by the workers.

Workers continue to subsidise capitalism even after nationalisation not only by paying annual compensation to former owners and shareholders but by paying prices that private firms would not pay. Private industries use state owned firms as stooges, automatically charging higher for any commodity sold to them, as was shown recently when the Roche drug company was found to be reaping huge profits from the NHS.

Even the idea that conditions must be better in state industries, since the workers 'own' them is shown up by the present wage battles in the railways and mines, which the Government are using as a battleground, to defend phase three while a private employer would give way in the scramble for quick profits.

Capitalism kills

Over 1000 killed and 750,000 seriously injured - those might be the figures for the casualties of some international war. In fact they are the number of industrial workers killed and injured each year in Britain in accidents at work, killed and injured by capitalism, casualties of the class war.

That would be bad enough, but the victimisation of the working class does not stop with these appalling figures. Disablement benefits may come to only half the wage being earned, leaving families of those injured in industrial actions in dire penury. Death benefits for widows last only for six months. These figures can be compared with compensation for workers in socialist countries like China or Albania of at least 90 per cent of the full wage for those who are in any way incapacitated.

When it comes to employers' liability to victims of industrial accidents the situation is even worse. Only about 10 per cent of accident victims receive anything at all and out of an annual sum of some £60 million only about £30 million is actually paid out in compensation, the rest going to administrative expenses and insurance company profits.

Penalties for criminal negligence by employers in respect to safety are ludicrously small. Fines for flagrant flouting of safety regulation resulting in the deaths of workers may come to only a few hundred pounds - much cheaper than the cost of providing proper safety devices.

How long are we going to allow these crimes against our class to be perpetrated? It would be better to suffer casualties of this level in a revolutionary war to end exploitation altogether.

Fight for the salary claim

WHEN THE EXECUTIVE OF THE NUT RECOMMENDS A SETTLEMENT WITHIN PHASE III TO SUPPORT THE MINERS "BY NOT USING THEIR SETTLEMENT OUTSIDE PHASE III AS AN ARGUMENT IN THE TEACHERS' OWN CASE", IT IS BETRAYING BOTH THE TEACHERS AND THE MINERS.

THE ONLY WAY ANY WORKERS CAN SUPPORT THE MINERS IS BY HELPING THEM TO SMASH PHASE III BY FIGHTING IT THEMSELVES WHEREVER THEY ARE.

London teachers

The conditions of teachers in London are well known - overcrowding, staff shortages, low pay, etc. More and more schools are moving to part-time education. In Brent already Sladebrook, Copland and Woodfield (an ESN school) are on part-time education due to staff shortage. Many others are before review bodies for consideration. This has occurred because teachers at these schools and others have refused to take on the extra workload of covering for vacancies. This meant that periods for marking and prep were lost to cover, and such work had to be done at home as unpaid overtime. We should demand an adequate number of periods 'free' for marking and preparation (some primary teachers have none!) and there is no more reason why teachers should be prepared to lose

them for covering absences than vacancies. Supplies should exist for this.

In the forthcoming wages struggle, some of the tactics which have been developed in Brent can be usefully applied. Refusing to cover at all, refusing duties, not attending staff meetings after school hours. The list is limited only by our own ingenuity. The governing criterion is maximum damage to the enemy, minimum damage to ourselves. These are the tactics which should be used first. This is not to say that the strike tactic should not be used,

but it too should be used in a guerrilla way - don't let the authorities know in advance, in and out all the time to create maximum disruption.

As to part-time education, we must now develop to the level of saying 'no' to part-time education - full and proper education or none at all. As to the executive's recommendation for a settlement under Phase III, Brent has shown the way by a unanimous rejection of this and a demand for the pursuit of the claim in full. The fight is beginning, let's hit them where it hurts.

The teachers' 25 per cent pay claim is the rock on which our resistance to the employer must be founded. We can step no further backwards.

The Government has pursued a wanton offensive on education, lured deep by expectations of inertia amongst teachers. Wielding state power it has successively denied an increase on the London Allowance, ordered the plundering of our schools and colleges, further depressed the salaries of teachers.

London teachers have already responded with a rearguard action on their allowance and their local action has produced more teachers. Meanwhile, the pensions skirmish saw a partial victory when, faced with a teacher walkout, the Government was forced to recant. Today, with the threat removed, the Government seeks to deny what was won.

The Government fingers have now extended to the heart of every school and college. It is here that we can chop them off. Our demand is the full claim, a basic increase of £360 for every teacher. What are our methods?

There is only one way to launch the campaign and that is by implementing sanctions - refusing to work after normal hours, refusing ancillary duties, refusing petty economies and insufferable conditions of work, adopting an approach of non-cooperation. Such action involves minimum loss of pay, attacks the excessive demands made upon us, and builds our fighting organisation and spirit. It hits the Government because they cannot afford to have disrupted the preparation of the future working class. It draws to us powerful allies, for the remainder of the working class will not tolerate the Government's ambition of a skeletal education.

The action must begin in the schools and colleges because it can begin nowhere else. The sparks of local action can ignite a national conflagration. The Government will learn that it is easier to step into a fire than to step out of it.

Fight Now!
Implement Sanctions!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC MEETINGS AT THE BELLMAN BOOKSHOP - 7.30 pm.

Feb. 8th "CHINA: WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL BASE"

Feb. 15th "WHITE COLLAR WORKERS: A MYTH DESTROYED; A CLASS MADE STRONGER"

Mar. 1st MEETING ON IRELAND