

# THE WORKER



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## CAPITALISM'S ONLY ANSWER MORE CUTS IN WAGES

### Cowley dispute a matter of principle

The strike of the Engine Tuners at the British Leyland plant at Cowley in support of their demand to be reclassified as skilled workers, now made official by the AUEW, is a dispute that should have been resolved long ago. Engine Tuners elsewhere in the motor industry are classified as skilled workers. The fight for recognition of skilled status, and higher grading in the motor industry has been going on since the first car was built, always against the most bitter opposition by the employers. The status of being classified as a skilled worker has never been granted by management, and has always had to be fought for. No section of workers in the motor industry, or for that matter in any other section of Engineering, can allow management to determine a worker's right to be classified as skilled. Only we on the shop

floor have this right and must never relinquish it.

The warnings being issued by British Leyland management, which speak of the calamity that will befall the 10,000 workers at the Cowley plant, if the Engine Tuners do not return to work, is the tactic always used, sometimes successfully, by management in the motor industry. It is an attempt to isolate the Engine Tuners from the rest of the workers at Cowley. To this attempt to play one section off against another, the answer that should and must be given by those workers not yet involved in the dispute, is their unqualified support for the Engine Tuners now in struggle. Had this support been given at the start of the strike, it would have been settled the first day. We must learn the lessons, never can we stand by in the vain hope that

That is what is meant by a reduction in "privately financed consumption" which is called for by the Government's White Paper on Annual Public Expenditure.

And how is this cut in wages to be brought about? By an increase in "the burden of taxation" for the rest of the decade. For the next five years something like two thirds of any increases in personal incomes will be taxed away by the Government. There will be nothing 'voluntary' about it.

The way this has come about is that the Labour Government, faithful servitor of British capitalism, was faced with the necessity of cutting either Government expenditure or "privately financed consumption" (what we buy with our wages). But Government expenditure includes large dollops of funds to ailing capitalist enterprises - public money to make up for any dec-

line in profits and to solve "liquidity problems" which capitalists created for themselves by not investing in industry here when they could.

The setting up of the National Enterprises Board which is the means by which Government will funnel money out of our pockets into the gaping maw of the feeble, senile capitalist system means that public expenditure will be increased so private expenditure must be decreased. This can be done in two ways - by trying to persuade us to accept a voluntary cut in wages through adherence to the social contract, and already Healey is talking in terms of a social contract that cuts much deeper than just holding the cost of living flat level, or by taking a larger part of our wages away from us in taxes or by both!

And what kind of a glorious Britain can we expect to see at

the end of five years of wage cuts on our part and shots in the arm for British capitalism on the Government's part? An even more impoverished working class of whom a larger proportion are in dole queues or eking out a bare livelihood on social security payments of some kind, a capitalist system, still moribund, kept alive by our wage-slavery and the contributions the Government squeezes out of us to support the very system that robs us, all under the control of a 'benevolent' Labour dictatorship which, through its interference in industry and in our own lives, has engrossed all economic and political power in its bureaucratic machine.

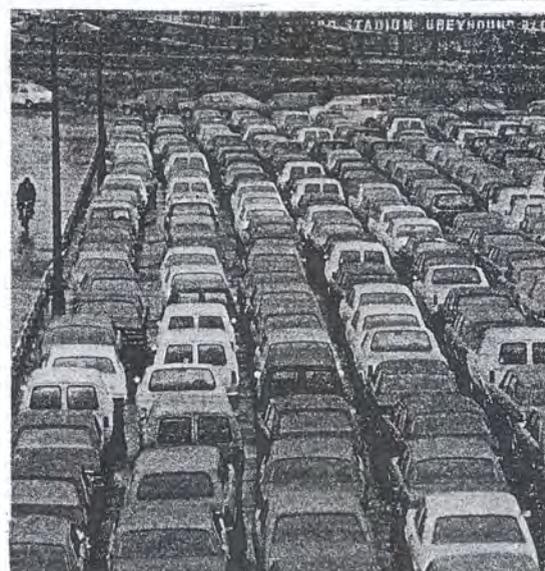
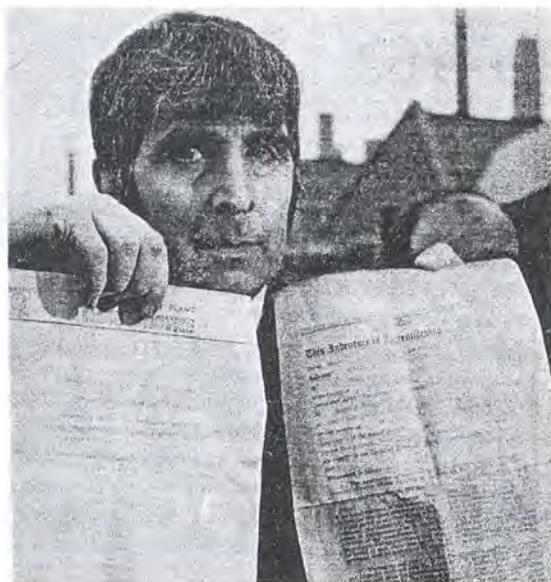
To hell with it! That is the road to fascism. Those who talk today of "workers' participation" and the "general interest" of the people are paving the way for the jackboot and open thuggery.

we will not be affected and watch a section of workers take a principled stand against the employer in isolation.

The intervention of Len Murray General Secretary of the TUC, and Jack Jones, at the invitation of Jim Mortimer, once the darling of the left, now chairman on the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, was certainly not done to assist the Engine Tuners to win their demands. The whole object of the exercise was to get a return to work. The very idea that the ACAS can be of any use to workers involved in struggle, is as phoney as those who produce it. The workers at Cowley, the Engine Tuners have given their answer, you can Arbitrate and Conciliate to your hearts content, we shall decide whether we are skilled or not.

On the instruction of the AUEW Executive the engine tuners have agreed to return to work pending a decision on their skilled status.

An AUEW shop steward, one of the engine tuners at Cowley, shown holding up his indentures of Apprenticeship and an internal memorandum on his qualifications. Leylands management says he is not a skilled worker but the rows of unfinished cars say different



## Who are the real patriots?

At the present time the bourgeois state is exhorting the working class to put Britain first, 'tighten their belts' in the national interest and revive that 'Dunkirk spirit' in this time of crisis.

Any workers who seek to defend their standard of living are accused of selling the country short. But their appeals to patriotism seem a little shallow when one sees their contribution to this national revival.

We see them selling off our industry and land to the highest bidder from abroad. The wealth of this country is the product of workers labour, it rightfully belongs to us and yet they are dispensing with it. Their claim to private property is a temporary

thing. They only hold it while the working class lets them. Ultimately it will come to us to hold in common in the interest of our class to whom it rightfully belongs.

How can that class, the bourgeoisie, which is motivated purely by a desire for individual profit, claim to be patriotic. Our class, the working class and its Party, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), are the only patriots. We believe in a Britain that will serve its own people, free from all foreign interference and control. All other parties subscribe to the imperialism of one power or another.

What we are seeing in this

country at present is asset stripping on a national scale. The engineering industry, the backbone of our production, is being run down. The capitalists are selling off our wealth. Our natural resources are being mortgaged. All this to save the capitalist system. To them their system and their profits will always come first. They are despoiling our country in their interest. They are selling our birthright, our country. At the same time they blame the militancy of workers for the present economic crisis. The blame for the crisis can be laid at one door, the door of the capitalist economic system itself.

## Workers and materials but no houses

It has been estimated that over 3,000,000 workers depend directly on the construction industry for their livelihoods. We now know that, over the past year, there has been a fall in the value of new construction of nearly 10 per cent. Of the more than 750,000 who are unemployed, some 200,000 are construction workers and most construction firms are at this moment working at three-quarters capacity or less. But already, a further recession has been forecast.

Last June, the building committee of the National Economic Development Office predicted an 11 per cent upturn in the value of new construction work for the coming year. Its figures have been proved to be ridiculously optimistic. Its latest half-yearly report, just published, is in contrast predicting a 6 per cent fall for 1975 and a further decline in 1976. It forecasts a 10 per cent fall in the public sector,

following the Labour Government public expenditure cuts and even steeper declines in the industrial and commercial sectors. And these figures are again optimistic - they assume an easing of inflation and a return to major growth in the capitalist world by 1976.

Meanwhile, there is an acute housing shortage. London alone is reckoned to be short of 130,000 homes; it was 106,000 in 1970. The Labour Government mortgage relief scheme, announced this week, will not help the homeless nor those who cannot already afford a mortgage. It is admitted to be a rebash of Tory proposals, long-term measures designed to help the sellers of higher-priced houses. Unless many more houses are built, it is more likely to initiate another spiral of rising house prices such as occurred in 1970-1972.

Houses are desperately needed, while the construction industry is working far below capacity. So where's the problem?

It's not a shortage of materials - last year, there was such a surplus of building materials that stocks were filled and production cut back or stopped. It's not a shortage of skilled labour - the GMWU expects 300,000 construction workers to be unemployed by the spring. The problem is the capitalist system of production, which serves the interests of a handful at the expense of the overwhelming majority. While they can make their profits, the capitalists will buy the materials and the labour power they need; but when profits dwindle, production ceases and the workers are told to join the dole queue. It is a system of anarchy, dedicated to profit alone, and it proceeds independently of real human needs.

So long as land is brought and sold for profit, so long as buildings are built and sold for profit, so long as men and women are employed for profit, there will be homelessness and deprivation in our cities.

## ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

The working class refuse to be tamed. 1974 was the second worst year for strikes since 1926. There were 14.7 million days lost.

In spite of Healey, Jenkins, and Wilson and the TUC's pleas for Class Collaboration, workers still recognise the employers as the enemy.

This enemy has never given us anything willingly except the sack. Every gain we have made has been fought for. Peace in industry is a myth.

### Chrysler

The American Parent Company has decided to run down its UK design and toolroom capacity and has already earmarked the French subsidiary SIMCA to manufacture its new European model.

The plight of the British operations was revealed by Mr. Don Lander, the managing director, who admitted that financial aid had been received in recent weeks from the American Parent Company but added that no more cash could be expected from that quarter.

Mr. Benn has written to the Chrysler Corporation in Detroit seeking information about the Companies operations in Britain.

Workers are on a three day week, with Linwood closing for a week and 5000 at Ryton are on a two day week.

### Engineers

National pay negotiations covering 1½ million key engineering workers and affecting as many again have opened between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, and the

Engineering Employers Federation. The claim is for a substantial increase, an extra five days holiday and equal pay for women. The present agreement concludes with a final payment in March.

While the prediction by Jakes, retiring EEF director-general, that there would be a statutory wages policy by Easter may or may not be wishful thinking, all engineers should now be thinking of taking action and pressing claims at local level.

The Unions and employers meet again in March and unless activity on the shop floor is stepped up by then, we know from past experience that the offer will be derisory.

### Victimisation at Rank Pullen Controls

Workers at Rank Pullen Controls Brentford have been on strike this week in protest against the sacking of their Convener.

The Convener has negotiated £10 in increases over the last 12 months and has been resisting job evaluation aimed at defeating equal pay for women.

Local support has been mobilised for the strikers, members of the AUEW, the Sheet Metal Workers Union and the EEUPTU who are united and determined that their Convener be reinstated.

### Hoover Perivale

As with many workshops a pattern had been set for wage negotiations to take place yearly at Hoover Plant at Perivale.

Negotiations took place for a Wage Agreement for 1975 with the craftsmen rejecting the offer made by the employer. These craftsmen were claiming that at the previous negotiations some 15 months prior, a clause had been agreed, that when legislation was terminated the employer would ensure that craftsmen would receive comparable wages to the better paid in the area.

With the stoppage of approx. 250 skilled engineers, the employer began locking out production workers.

Numerous discussions went on between the Employers and Trade Union Officials and Shop Stewards throughout this lengthy strike.

The workers' demand was for an increase of £4 to give £57 per week from January 1st, 1975. Following 13 weeks of strike action a return to work was agreed with the demands of the skilled workers met. The employer agreed skilled rate of £51.57 plus a lieu bonus £5.43 making £57 a week plus £100 for each worker.

## Editorial

As the working class becomes more convinced that only socialism can save Britain so the Government acclaim its efforts to save British Capitalism as 'socialism'.

Cuts in wages are presented as a 'voluntary agreement' between workers and Government: taxation exacted from workers to bail out ailing firms is called 'nationalisation'; and all kinds of schemes for fooling workers into thinking they will have any say in their own destiny are called 'workers' participation'.

The Labour Government is not the first to come to a sick capitalism's rescue with state capitalist measures and call it 'socialism'. National Socialism was the name the Nazis gave to German fascism.

## The capitalist crisis and its outcome

Socialism is the ideology of the working class, as capitalism is the ideology of the bourgeoisie. There can only be socialism when the working class has overthrown the bourgeoisie and assumed state power itself.

All over the world these two forces confront each other in class struggle. In fact, the crisis of capitalism arises out of the contradiction in the relations between exploiters and exploited, with the former constantly being driven to new stratagems as the latter increasingly organise themselves to resist exploitation. That is the basis for our saying that revolution is the main trend in the world today.

In Britain too, the crisis reflects the greater intensity of class struggle, with Government and employers having to devise new ways of beating down working class resistance to increased profits at their expense. The crisis can only end finally with the victory of capitalists or workers. But the final victory of capitalism is fascism; the final victory of workers is socialism. That is why we say that there is a revolutionary situation in Britain today.

## No short cuts

Socialism can only be established by the working class mobilising itself to raise class struggle to the level of revolutionary struggle. This can only be done under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Party.

There can be no socialism without revolution, and no revolution without correct leadership. There are no short-cuts, no easy paths to victory. The struggle will be protracted and hard, but the alternatives for the working class - fascist slavery or socialist fullness of life - make no other course acceptable.

Only in socialism can the working class save itself, and since the working class is not only the vast majority of the British people but the source of all wealth, only socialism can save Britain.

## Actions by art students

Students at the Gloucester College of Art, Cheltenham, have begun 1975 with a series of actions in support of their class interests.

As a result of occupying an empty county council-owned house they have won it as a student hostel accommodating 9 students. At another county council-owned hostel a rent strike is in progress against a 30 per cent rise. And ever since the January 20th, students have been taking action against price increases in the refectory. A boycott against the refectory was 99 per cent solid and when, even after this, negotiations over prices broke down, the students took over the kitchen themselves and have drawn up a plan for supplying low-cost food.

## IN BRIEF

### The roots of inflation

As Keynes, the economist and apologist for capitalism, put it in his *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* in 1936:

"The workers ... resist reduction of money wages whereas they do not resist reduction of real wages. Every trade union will put up some resistance to a cut in money wages, however small. But no trade union would dream of striking on every occasion of a rise in the cost of living."

### Participative planning

"Workers' participation" in itself is phoney enough but here is a form of it which does not involve workers at all:

"A new management development training programme, *Participative Planning*, has been developed by Business Planning and Development Inc, which can be tailored to suit senior, middle or lower levels. It is a method for obtaining participation quickly and easily without necessitating the appointment of unions or workers to the Board, which leads to improved operating performance in business and elsewhere. The system is based on creating a sense of participation through communication, as opposed to job enlargement or delegation of authority."

### Surprise

After talks with President Ford, Wilson has made the most believable claim of his entire political career. He said: "We did not disagree about a single thing!"

When the whale swallowed Jonah, Jonah disagreed with it and got coughed up. That will never happen in Wilson's relations with the US.

### Bangladesh

In Bangladesh the economy is in a worse state than when the country was initially detached by imperialism from Pakistan. The foodgrain gap is higher than ever before.

Jute production which accounts for 80 per cent of all exports has fallen by 50 per cent. Industrial production is still not up to 1969-70 levels although the population has increased by several million. Spectres of unemployment, hunger and death stalk Bangladesh on a large scale.



The Fourth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China convened in the Great Hall of the People, Peking, on January 13th.

## INDEPENDENCE OF THE COURTS?

Are the Courts an independent and objective arbiter in the perennial struggle between employer and worker? To quote Lord Denning about one trade union during a recent attempt by the union to involve the Courts in its dispute with the employers: "It reminds me of the French proverb - 'the animal is very wicked - when he is attacked he defends himself.'"

Lord Denning was dismissing an appeal by 6 members of NGA against the High Court's refusal to grant them an injunction against their employers. The proposed injunction would have supposedly prevented the employers from implementing a dismissal threat made by the employers association, the Newspaper Publishers Association, in retaliation to NGA industrial action in a pay-differential dispute.

Lord Denning added that the rule was that the Courts would not interfere in contracts of employment, except in the most 'exceptional' cases. Members of the working class will not find it hard to define such 'exceptional' cases. When the employer is the unfortunate animal under attack and demanding defence?

The action by NGA members in taking the case to the Courts embodies the same illusions about the nature of the State and its machinery as was illuminated in the recent parliamentary lobbies in support of the demand for the release of the Shrewsbury Pickets.

Long ago Lenin pointed out that "the content of imperialist politics is world domination and the continuation of these politics is imperialist war". Marxist-Leninists have stressed that this is just as true today, that US and Soviet 'detente' in words is designed to camouflage intense rivalry for world domination in deeds.

In the second series of Strat-

## THE ALTERNATIVE Socialism in practice

The Fourth National People's Congress of the Peoples Republic of China began its first session recently, and one of its first acts was to approve a revised and shortened version of the Country's constitution. It is instinctive to look at both the Congress and the constitution at a time when the Soviet revisionists have officially abandoned several fundamental principles of socialism in revising their 1936 constitution; the safeguarding of the dictatorship of the proletariat, for example.

China's National People's Congress is the highest state body, elected for 5 years at a time, and composed of deputies who are elected at lower-level congresses in the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. It makes laws, examines and approves state plans and elects the standing committee, or permanent organ of government. As at all levels in China, from cities and counties, through provinces and municipalities, to the National Congress, all elected officials are subject to criticism and recall by Congress. This is the democracy of the working people.

Both this structure and the constitution of China are based on the socialist principles of Marx and Lenin put forward in *The State and Revolution*; Lenin writes "The proletarian state is a machine for the suppression of the bourgeoisie by the proletariat". Socialism is still class rule, but not the "benevolent government" of Confucius's feudal minority, nor the "state of the whole people" as the Soviet revisionists claim. The necessity for vigilance against any comeback by capitalism is spelled out in the constitution, and the fullest democracy for the working people is guaranteed.

Landlords, capitalists, and convicted counter-revolutionaries are deprived of political rights for a certain time, and are given work on the principle "to each according to his work". The economic basis of China is collective ownership, either by the state or by a smaller unit such as a commune. Self-employed workers do exist, but are encouraged to join collectives. But as a leading member of the Presidium said, "In some enterprises the form is that of socialist ownership, but the reality is that their leadership is not in the hands of Marxists and the masses of workers". Therefore the constitution ensures that all officials, army men etc., take part in productive work and that state organs and personnel regularly study Marxism-Leninism, to discourage bureaucracy.

The other side of the coin is the freedoms and rights guaranteed to the mass, and their active participation in political life, for no laws can prevent the growth of bureaucracy, unless the people themselves are willing and able to expose and prevent such trends. Chinese workers have the right to own their houses, to be free from arbitrary arrest except on order from a people's court, the right to strike, speak, write and publish freely, to associate, demonstrate and to believe or not to believe in religion. "Speaking out freely, airing views fully, holding debates, and writing big-character posters" are encouraged and safeguarded by the state.

ogic Arms 'Limitation' Talks (SALT) US claims a cap is being put on the nuclear arms race and USSR asserts a new era of world peace is being ushered in. The facts do not bear out their words. The recent Ford-Brezhnev deal allows for expansion, more massive than before, in strategic planning on both sides - 2400 missiles of which

1320 can be equipped with multiple independent war heads. The areas where they contend grow in number - Cyprus, Middle East, the Indian Ocean - but in truth all are threatened.

Where does the Labour Government stand in relation to this warmongering? Wilson and Callaghan have scurried to

## More prisons for Northern Ireland

Lord Gardner's report on anti-terrorism promises more oppression for the people of Northern Ireland, and further attacks on democratic rights in Britain. Like the Parker report on the 'special interrogation procedure' two years previous, the present report unashamedly gives "rationale" to some of the most abhorrent policies of the British Government in Northern Ireland in an attempt to make them acceptable to public opinion.

The report finds detention without trial intolerable in a 'democratic society' and the interment hearings nothing but a farce, but it nonetheless endorses its continuation.

The report calls for more prisons to be built - a temporary prison for 700 and permanent one for between 400 and 500. *The Times*, taking its cue from the report, blames the Stormont and the post-Stormont administrations for this. Houses can wait (no blame is apportioned here) but prisons are vital.

The 'special status' of political prisoners comes under special attack. Even in the most oppressive regimes in the world, political status is given to political prisoners. The fact that this has been fought for every time does not make it any less an important principle. The report wants it to end immediately. The pursuit of political objectives thus becomes just another crime.

For Britain it calls for censorship of the press and the media. In the best tradition of double talk, the report on the one hand states that "there can be no question of introducing censorship in a free society in time of peace" and on the other hand "recommends that it be made a summary offence ... to publish anything which purports to be an advertisement for or on behalf of an illegal organisation or part of it."

The task of committees of enquiries set up by the government has always been to rationalise Government policies and give excuses for their oppressive measures, to make them seem more palatable to the working class. Far from opposing terrorism, Lord Gardner's report on anti-terrorism condones it. It is anti-working class, Irish and British, and pro-terrorism, the terrorism of British imperialism from which stems the terrorism of both the Provisionals and the 'Loyalists'.

## Take detente with a pinch of 'SALT'

Washington to assure the imperialists of profits from North Sea oil and have been acclaimed as supporters of US foreign policy. Meanwhile the RAF has to buy costly American electronic anti-missile equipment although ironically radar and aerial defence research was pioneered in Britain before 1939.

# EEC and the referendum

A spectre looms on the horizon for the Labour Party and the British ruling class - the EEC referendum.

Caught in its own contradictions, the Labour Party, due to the persistent opposition of the trade union movement to the Common Market has stumbled into the position of "offering" a referendum on the EEC. Why has this happened? The tactic was born out of social democracy's need to avoid the clear line of trade union opposition to the EEC. A phoney 'war' of renegotiation was entered into, and with every week that passes it becomes obvious that the ruling class is bombarding the working class mind with propaganda about the necessity of remaining in the EEC, the impossibility of survival outside; and that leading sections of the Labour Party will urge acceptance of the renegotiations, and approve entry. To counteract this, the working class will have to hew to its own interest and political line even more devotedly.

The EEC has been clearly recognised for what it is - a combine of monopoly capitalists, in an attempt to strengthen their power and overcome weaknesses. Across the whole map of Europe, the working classes from Merseyside to the Ruhr have all experienced the numerous vile offspring of this union of European Capitalism - widespread rationalisation, unemployment, rampant increases in cost of living and taxation, the constant attempt to divide the working classes of Europe through competition, etc.

As a result, the line of the British working class has been, and must continue to be, - no to the Common Market, out of the EEC.

The referendum - a departure from usual practice - has only arisen out of the disarray of the ruling class. It has no similarity to the parliamentary cretinism of a General Election where we workers are simply encouraged and beguiled into casting a vote for yet another government to exploit us. It breaks tradition by consulting the mass on a specific question of government instead of the usual attitude of avoiding the people as if they were carriers of bubonic plague. Therefore the working class must put their stamp on this referendum, the membership of the trade unions must weld into a solid, conscious army voting for withdrawal.

Nor should the issue be diminished into just an economic question - we all know the Common Market is bad economically. It is also a matter of politics and this should not be misconstrued, as the loss of parliament's sovereignty. That capitalist talking shop is irrelevant. The Thames could flood and sweep all the MPs into the water and workers would not miss it. Rather the sovereignty in question is the right for the working class of Britain to settle its own affairs with British capitalism without outside interference. If the working class were on the brink of revolution in this country - and the ties to Europe were still in being - would not our ruling class avail itself not only for moral but also material and physical assistance from capitalist Europe to settle our internal conflict under the auspices of European flags. We would face an array of nine capitalist classes instead of one.

To force a withdrawal from the Common Market, the working class would be taking yet another step along the ideological journey towards complete self-reliance, to revolution, as well as inflicting a political defeat on the bourgeoisie of Britain and Europe.

# CAPITALISTS AND THE LIQUIDITY CRISIS

In 1970 the capitalist class, through the CBI, claimed from the Chancellor a massive cut in company tax, blaming such tax for the lack of investment which has been a noticeable factor in the economy for the last 25 years.

However since 1970, industry has received £3000 million extra through government "assistance", workers' money which the State has made available through incomes policies and taxes, through subsidised pricing of the nationalised industries' products and by cuts in spending on education and health. This should have meant a tremendous boost in investment and prosperity, but during this period of 'easy money' investment in manufacturing industry fell. Where British capitalism did invest, it was less effective than its European competitors. Britain thus remains with factories from the last century and methods of production to match.

### Manufacturing investment in UK (At 1970 prices)

1970: £2,130m 1971: £1,986m 1972: £1,802m 1973: £1,920m  
But what happened to all this money if it was not spent in new plant and machines? Since 1970 a large proportion could be accounted for by direct foreign investment by British firms,

which trebled, thousands of millions went in and out of secondary banks, hundreds of millions went into land and property speculation and some to malaria-ridden, tax-free tropical islands or Swiss bank accounts. The banks also cashed in on the fun, making fortunes out of property lending.

What such policies have meant for the working class is the most rapid rate of inflation ever, a miserable level of industrial production, and unemployment.

Now we hear again of cash-flow problems and large financial loss. The cry rises again for a "return to profitability", for reduced company tax. Politicians of every parliamentary persuasion explain where this money will come from: "The great majority of us must accept a cut in living standards over the next couple of years." They wish to see the working class impoverished so that the capitalist class can squander the money over the four corners of the earth.

And still the capitalist state spreads its tentacles, National Enterprise Board and all, attempting to revive the diseased parts of industry. For workers, there can be no solution in living with the opposing class. We cannot accept their lies and shoulder their burdens.

# The unkindest cuts of all

The Government's Inadequate Rate Support Grant for 1975-76 has dictated a cut in local government and related public services if rate increases for the year beginning April 1975 are to average a predicted 30 per cent increase.

Workers in these services are finding themselves in a situation which, if they do not make a stand now, could result in a very real deterioration in their pay and conditions, and in the services they operate.

Nalگو has recently reminded all branches that national policy, agreed at Nalگو's Annual Conference last year, asks all members to fight against cuts that will affect both employees and the public. But, dangerously, some branches are currently allowing local agreements to be made -

insidious agreements that offer no reductions in existing staff in exchange for the ability of the employer to leave vacancies unfilled and to transfer staff to 'comparable' posts should certain services be cut.

Government workers must beware of the carrot 'no reduction in existing staff'. It is said that carrots protect us from blindness. But we must not be blinded by the fact that agreements leading to reduced establishments, to reduced or closed services etc., far from protecting workers, represent a direct attack on our class and should be unceasingly fought against.

Capitalism, whilst attacking the working class on one front through expenditure cuts, will not hesitate to attack it on another by

attempting to use local government workers as scapegoats when rates are increased in April, in an effort to divert our class away from the real source of economic chaos - capitalism itself.

Nalگو members, being under no illusion as to the invidious nature of their employer, the Government, are currently preparing at both national and local level to counter all false accusations that will certainly be waged against them by the capitalist media.

The working class must refuse to be misled by all diversionary tactics that will increasingly, as the capitalist crisis sharpens, be used to set one worker against another. We must support all Government workers, as part of our class, in future struggles that will necessarily be waged to protect their living standards and the standard of public services. Such struggles are part of the whole working class fight against the capitalist system.

# IMPERIAL TYPE - WRITERS

Imperial Typewriters, a firm of 50 years standing set up a factory in Hull in 1954 to supply parts for its Leicester factory. Since then the Hull factory has expanded, and produces machines itself. In 1965 Imperial Typewriters merged with Royal Typewriters, a subsidiary of Litton Industries Inc., a US firm, which has hopped from USA to Holland to Britain in search of lower costs. The fortunes of Imperial Typewriters has waned since then, and when times were bad several hundred workers would be sacked. Since this company has been exporting, mainly to the USA and Canada, it has received much government aid and the Queen's Award to Industry.

Some time in the week leading up to the 19th January, the company told the government they were closing down. This would mean putting 3,200 out of work, 1,800 in Leicester, 1,400 in Hull. Rumours of a closedown were denied by management at the Hull factory until Friday the 19th, when the announcement was made. The managing director said they were giving 5 weeks notice to the workers, but this would be reduced if a strike, occupation or any form of industrial action was taken.

No appeals to the Government or pleas for "nationalisation", "workers co-operatives" and the like are of the slightest use in such cases. It is the policy of the Labour Government which is increasing unemployment. Various schemes of workers' co-operatives have not been devised to help workers in danger of losing their jobs but to head off militant actions the workers were taking themselves in their fight for the right to work.

Capitalism never has, never can and never will guarantee employment. Ultimately we can only secure the right to work when we have swept capitalism aside and established socialism under a workers' state.

Meanwhile the only action workers under threat of closure can take is to go on demanding the right to work and back it by occupations or any other tactics decided on by those involved, drawing on the experience of our class in struggle.



Representatives of London's bus garages deciding on a 24 hour strike on January 29th in protest against the death of a fellow worker attacked on his bus in Lavender Hill. The strike was solid.

# BELLMAN BOOKSHOP 155 FORTRESS ROAD LONDON NW5

History of the Party of Labour of Albania £1

An important series of public meetings beginning on Friday, February 7th, at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, NW5 at 7.30pm will consider various aspects of the situation in Britain today. We have described this situation as revolutionary. Come and hear why this is the case and what it means for the working class and its Party.

February	7th	The Struggle for Wages
"	14th	The Struggle against Anti-Working Class Legislation
"	21st	Is All Class Struggle Revolutionary?
"	28th	Deepening Class Contradictions
March	7th	The Fraud of the Labour Government
"	14th	The Dastardly Role of the Revisionists
"	21st	An Organised Working Class not Terrorism
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