



## ENGINEERS

# GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN FOR WAGES AND SKILLS

LAST week the Engineering Employers Federation claimed that the engineers strikes and overtime ban were costing £400m each week and that production was down 60 per cent. Maybe that is why the Trade Secretary attacked the strikes as 'absurd' as he flew to the US and Australia.

The fact is that the EEF campaign to persuade engineers back to work coupled with the hysterical 'search for strikebreakers' by the press has been an absurd failure.

When workers act without the approval of their executive councils it is labelled 'unofficial' and the employers demand secret ballots. When workers act with the approval of their executive councils it is then official but 'dictatorial' and the employers demand more secret ballots.

The present struggle is the result of nearly two years of rigorous democratic decision by the members of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in particular.

The one day and two day strikes are examples of guerrilla struggle on a national scale and present the workers with many problems as well as many valuable lessons. The strikes are locally organised as well as having national backing, and it is precisely where workers are most clear about union policy that

the strikes have been best organised.

All the talk about the claim of £80 minimum not being enough has given way to a determination to achieve that claim.

Skill in Britain is under attack and skilled workers are fighting to preserve it. The engineering industry has been decimated in an attempt to turn Britain into some sort of desert amid the oil platforms.

Rolls Royce tells us we would all be rich if we would stop fighting for more wages. Leyland could produce so much more if only they could get rid of another 25,000 producers. British Steel would be so competitive if it was all shut down. As they lose £400m a week the EEF declares that we have not yet 'earned' a reduction of the working week or longer holidays.

Engineering workers should

have the attitude to their trade that MPs claim, when they vote to double their wages because 'it attracts the more skilled politician'.

When we read about an extra £450m per month leaving Britain, after the latest treasury relaxation, we should think of where that could be invested in our own country.

The struggle for wages for skill is part and parcel of the struggle that needs to be developed to save industry from the capitalists.

Undoubtedly this is what the employers most fear - that the determination and tenacity of the engineers national struggle will so strengthen the organisation of workers into a defence of jobs, skill and services, that there will be no room for employers in Britain. That the slogan "Let's destroy them before they destroy us" will become a reality.

## Rolls Royce - spearhead for EEF offensive to break engineers' strike

ROLLS ROYCE have placed themselves at the forefront of the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) attempt to organise a lockout in the engineering industry.

They call their decision to shut down completely 'having the guts to bite the bullet.'

Rolls Royce workers have replied with a decision to go back to work on Wednesday following the two day strike and the employers have admitted that they cannot stop them, but say that they will refuse to sell anything the workers produce. They have quaintly announced that they will tell the engineers that it is illegal for them to work.

The management seems to think it is the law, and have made public a question from overseas customers asking "Who the hell's running your

country? Are you, the management, in charge or not?"

If Rolls Royce was really interested in honouring their promised deliveries to customers they only have to agree to the claim for £80 minimum, 39 hour week and two days holiday and the unions would grant them dispensation from the strikes.

The engineers demands that skill be paid for is what hurts the employers most. They do not want to pay for what they are out to destroy.

Engineering workers at Rolls Royce aero engine factory at Bristol on Friday voted to work on Wednesday in an attempt to save the company from its own folly. This way they could ensure that production would be maintained, and recovery after the strike was settled would be easy. The workers

accused the management of being more concerned with its loyalty to the EEF than with the welfare of Rolls Royce.

As the convenor said "We can only come to one conclusion, that Rolls Royce is being used as a spearhead for the employers offensive to break this national engineering strike."

Rolls Royce's resistance to the claim is based on the political strategy of the British capitalists not simply economics. The employers political strategy is to remove from workers in Britain our places of work. Having decided they cannot control us sufficiently when we work, they propose to turn Britain into a wasteland.

In their decline they are degenerating to the clearances and enclosures that first characterised their political power.



## Leyland - jobs attacked again

THE TRADE UNIONS have been given till October 5 by Edwardes to respond to this plan for 'streamlining' British Leyland by cutting 25,000 jobs. This is in addition to the 18,000 jobs cut last year, making nearly 50,000 workers redundant over a two-year period.

A special conference of senior BI shop stewards has been called at Birmingham to consider this massive redundancy resulting from the proposed closure of some twenty work places, including the Park Royal, North London bus plant.

The chairman of the BI Shop Stewards' Combine has described the plan as "disastrous for BI, and for the British motor industry in general"; and the President of the AUEW has demanded that the Government assist BI.

When Edwardes was appointed managing director of BI, back in January 1978, The Worker denounced him and his schemes as a means of dismembering the British motor industry under the guise of saving it. What we said Leyland workers should do then is just as true today... (see page 4).

## The Week

DESPITE the repressive police of the military regime in Brazil, bus crews in Rio de Janeiro have successfully conducted a short, sharp strike, and won a 90 per cent increase. Showing an impressive degree of organisation, they brought total chaos to the streets of the capital. The bus crews were 100 per cent solid, and the victory has brought their wages from £18 to £34. Previously they had been working 6 or 7 days and 8 hours overtime for their £18.

As workers strikes spread all over Brazil, they are receiving overwhelming support from the population, who are fully behind the labour movement's fight against the aggressive military regime.

THE ADVISORY Committee on Asbestos is to recommend that the maximum level of white asbestos to which workers may be exposed should be halved. The present maximum level is 2 million fibres per cubic metre of air. At this level tests have indicated that one in ten employees exposed could be expected to die from asbestos-related diseases.

Britain will remain the only country, however, to set different standards for other types of asbestos, which are considered to be just as dangerous.

THE BRITISH government has declared itself incapable of preventing the tour here of a rugby team from South Africa, although the French government has already bowed to public opinion by doing so. As if the contingent of 8 "whites", 8 "blacks" and 8 "coloureds" were not racially selected. As a result, there may be pressure to have Britain banned from the Moscow Olympics, a prospect the present government appears to find not unattractive. Such are the lengths they will go to in pushing their line for war with the Soviet Union.

THE NURSING levels at the new John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford reached such a crisis low this week that on Friday afternoon the Royal College of Nursing announced that they could no longer provide safe patient care. They have closed the hospital for all admissions over the week-end, (with the exception of paediatrics), and all emergencies are being diverted to other hospitals in the region. This is at a time when there is a three-month freeze on jobs and when management are also preparing for a permanent 2 per cent reduction in staffing costs.

However the RCN are also demanding the recruitment of more nurses, they are showing that protection of their skills and patient care as all part of the same thing. The defence of the NHS. We must all support them.

ISLINGTON Council have recently issued a piece of advice to its elderly council flat tenants: "go to bed with your hat on". The advice is contained in a housing committee report on plans to save oil by reducing heating available in council flats at night. As the Chairman of the Islington branch of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners Associations, said: "I never thought I'd hear a council that claims to be socialist telling its old folks that they will have to wear caps in bed to keep warm."

## Historic Notes

EUROPE at the turn of the century was undergoing rapid change. Old empires were falling, new powers and forces arising. The centuries old Turkish empire was disintegrating fast; the Austro-Hungarian empire torn by internal strife. The new German industrial complexes were challenging the supremacy of 'Great Britain. Secret treaties, diplomatic manoeuvres, dynastic claims for territory, dreams of glory among military castes were all ingredients of the witches brew of inter-imperialist rivalry. Local nationalisms were taken up and exploited for dynastic power struggles. The 'scramble for Africa' was complete - and now the struggle for the redivision of the world, in and outside Europe, was on. The arms race, particularly between Germany and Britain accelerated.

People talked of war easily. Then, as today, the 'balance of power' argument rolled off people's tongues. They did not give much thought to the fact that the whole concept of 'balance' is associated with something which is inherently unstable.

It was in this context that the 2nd International became increasingly alarmed at the prospect of war. Its Congress in August 1907 met in Stuttgart and heard a report on how the labour movements of various countries had acted to try and avert conflicts between France and England at Fashoda, France and Germany over Morocco, Austria and Italy over Albania, between Sweden and Norway, and Russia and Japan. "Wars are part of the very nature of capitalism; they will cease only when the capitalist

## US and Cuba

It is scarcely credible that the US which has established military bases and stationed its troops all over the world and which props up brutal, corrupt puppet governments in many parts of Latin America should have the colossal nerve to fias about Soviet military personnel in Cuba - particularly when the US, in open hostility to the interests of the Cuban people maintained the huge Guantanamo Base on Cuban soil.

But there is no limit to the arrogance of an imperialist power like the US - except that set by a people determined to be free, like the Vietnamese.

Apart from using the Soviet bogey to secure the re-election of some US senators and to distract workers in the US from unemployment and reactionary policies, the issue has been brought up at this time in retaliation against the holding in Cuba of the non-aligned Conference at which voices were raised against the US.

What the peoples of the world, whether represented at the Conference or not, have a right, and indeed the duty, to demand is an end to all foreign bases and the withdrawal of all foreign troops back into the boundaries of their own countries.

We should begin here in Britain by calling for the immediate closure of all US bases and the immediate withdrawal of all American military personnel.

If it is felt that military bases are needed here in Britain for island-defence, they can be manned by the British troops who must be withdrawn immediately from Ireland.

## War and the international working class

economic order is abolished", read their resolution. "... the working class, which provides most of the soldiers and makes most of the material sacrifices, is a natural opponent of war...".

In November 1912, an Extraordinary Congress met at Basle to discuss the threat of war arising from the Balkan crisis, passing what Lenin called "the most exact and complete, the most solemn and formal exposition of socialist views on war and on tactics in relation to war."

"A war between the three great leading civilised peoples because of the Serbo-Austrian dispute over a port would be criminal madness", it said. "The proletarians consider it a crime to

fire at each other for the benefit of the capitalist profits, the ambitions of dynasties, or the greater glory of secret diplomatic treaties. "The proletariat is aware of the fact that at this moment it is the bearer of the entire future of mankind. The proletariat will make use of all its forces to prevent the destruction of the flower of all peoples, threatened with all the horrors of mass murder and starvation".

But as we know too well, the brave and inspiring words remained just that, words. Only a small minority of delegates besides the Bolsheviks from either conference took this message home in a vigorous way. In fact, the passing of such resolu-

tions were more a tribute to the political skills of people like Lenin and Luxemburg than the International itself. A Fabian motion on colonial policy in 1907 that 'The Congress does not in principle and for all time reject colonial policy, which, under a socialist republic, may exercise a civilising influence' was only narrowly defeated (by 127 to 108) as were attempts to justify property qualifications for the right to vote and oppose female suffrage. And even though Lenin's amendment on the anti-militarism pledging the use of all the means of organisation of the proletariat against war, instead of purely parliamentary opposition, was passed unanimously, much of the support was empty.

Vollmar, from Germany, continued to argue that war was a necessary part of capitalist development and there was no point in opposing it. Jaures, from France, continued to support the new alliance between France, Britain and Russia as a 'guarantee for peace'. And Bebel, from Germany, still stood for 'defence of the fatherland', saying in his speech, "All our love for humanity cannot prevent us from being good Germans." The resolutions were not taken home.

Straight after the Stuttgart conference, Lenin wrote: "... in spite of the obvious importance of the question, in spite of the clear, strikingly manifest harmfulness of militarism, it is difficult for the proletariat to find another question on which there is so much vacillation, so much discord among Western Socialists ...". The results of such vacillation remain as a warning:



A Bolshevik demonstration in Moscow against the war. 'Workers of the world unite', 'Down with the war'.

## Famine in Kampuchea as imperialists continue their criminal blockade

A SECRET resolution of the Pol Pot clique dated July 17, 1977 has come to light which calls for armed attacks on Vietnam "not at one but at many places and land must be grabbed wherever attacks are carried out." In August 1977, a map of Kampuchea was published which showed vast areas of Vietnam as part of Kampuchea. So says the Vietnamese report on China's aggressive war against Vietnam, issued on August 25.

These aggressive attacks deep into Vietnam were carried out by the Pol Pot regime with little fear of retaliation because China, whose reactionary rulers were pouring arms into Kampuchea for a protracted war, was poised on Vietnam's northern border ready to invade - as they subsequently did.

The report of the Commission makes it very clear that Vietnam was invaded by the forces operating under the command of the Pol Pot regime many times between 1975 and 1978. This is amply borne out by the evidence of such agents of theirs as an intelligence officer, who said that he was told before being smuggled into Vietnam, that "Kampuchean territory stretches as far as Saigon which we must recover."

Now that it is possible for journalists to visit Kampuchea, much more evidence is coming to light of the first great crime against the people of Kampuchea, or Cambodia as it then was - the massive secret bombing carried out under the orders of Nixon and Kissinger (winner of a Nobel

peace prize). This was a callous act of attempted genocide the equal of anything perpetrated by Hitler and which paved the way for all Kampuchea's future miseries. America's Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, said recently: "We are aware there is a severe famine in Cambodia, caused by past events. But what can we do in the circumstances?" Six years ago the US sent more bombers to Kampuchea than it has ever sent anywhere else. Today it cannot send one relief plane.

Even now at the recent so-called non-aligned Conference at Havana, the US, Britain and others made a ridiculous attempt to have seated the delegate of this discredited Pol Pot regime. Delegates fortunately rejected this US pressure, although they did not have the courage to accept a delegate from present day Kampuchea.

More information has come to light of the crimes against the people of Kampuchea carried out by the Pol Pot regime. One journalist, commenting on the campaign of the imperialist governments of the US and Britain and others to punish and blockade Vietnam for alleged aggression against Kampuchea, had this to say: "Every Cambodian I have met regards this 'aggression' as having saved their nation from slavery and extinction. To condemn it is like condemning the allied invasion of Nazi Germany..."

The Vietnamese Commission states that for decades "Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea were closely

united in their fight against their common enemies, first the French colonialists, then the American imperialists. This militant solidarity binding the three Indo-Chinese peoples together constituted an important factor in the complete victory of the war of national liberation."

This great victory of the spring of 1975 ought to have 'favoured' the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples in the completion of their legitimate desires: overcoming the ravages of war, improving the people's living conditions and further tightening the military solidarity of the two countries to bring the revolutionary cause of each to fruition, thus contributing to safeguarding peace in Southeast Asia and the world."

However, with their reactionary political line and territorial expansionist ambitions, the Pol Pot regime, influenced and armed by a China which had abandoned socialism, betraying the interests of both peoples "waged a war of aggression against Vietnam, perpetrating countless crimes against the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples."

The report concludes with this: "The Vietnamese people pledge their word to help wholeheartedly the brotherly Kampuchean people to implement the appeal of the Front for National Union and Salvation of Kampuchea, led by President Heng Samrin, to defend the gains of the revolution, consolidate the people's power and build a new, happy life in an independent and peaceful fatherland."

WE, THE ORGANISED working class of Britain, are the real conservatives. Never before in our history has so great a responsibility rested on our shoulders for conserving whatever is good from the past.

The cost of keeping Britain capitalist is going up all the time, and we are expected to meet the full bill for maintaining the system that exploits us. Slated for destruction as part of this cost are all working class education, health and culture. The very industrial base of Britain is already being carved up and it will be still further slashed away as the means of undermining the organised working class in its factory strongholds.

Nor is there any hope that this is simply a grim surgical operation to cut away useless, flabby tissue in order to ensure the future health of the body politic. The drastic cuts include any funds for research and development, as well as technical and higher education - the Open University is the latest to fall under the knife. So it is obvious that this Government has no 'better future' in view for the country as a whole. The only prospect we are offered is a slave community of feeble, uneducated helots supporting a select circle of financiers and business men who will continue for a while to enjoy luxury and power.

We must start now to save from capitalist destruction all the culture, all the public services which have enhanced the lives of British people, all the industrial development which once made Britain the greatest centre in the world for making useful things. Now that capitalism in its decline has turned into a terrible force for destruction of all that is valuable, the Conservatives who currently speak in its name should properly be called the Destructive Party. Now that the most radical thing we can do as organised workers is to save our services, save our industry, save our culture, we are the real conservatives.

Since capitalism in decline absolutely cannot afford for these things to be saved, our struggle to conserve them has to become the struggle to overthrow capitalism. And when capitalism has been overthrown and the bourgeoisie turned out of the seats of power, the organised working class will be the most conservative force in the country defending the dictatorship of the proletariat from any restoration of the profit system.

## Abortion - keep it healthy, keep it safe, keep it lawful

YET AGAIN a Bill reflecting the continued opposition of a small and reactionary minority to the right of women to obtain legal and safe abortions has been placed before Parliament. The Corrie Bill, which has been criticised for its bad drafting even by its supporters, proposes the outright restriction of every woman's right to control her own body.

If the Bill as proposed, or even amended, becomes law, the comparative freedom from the fear of unwanted pregnancy brought by the 1967 Abortion Act will be lost. The demand for abortion would not decrease because of legislation: there would be loopholes galore for the rich, but ordinary women who have become accustomed to controlling their own fertility and unwilling to return to compulsory motherhood, would return to the evils of the backstreet abortionist.

For the medical profession, the new legal requirements the Bill proposes would only further complicate decisions

which are already difficult.

The proposed restrictions on the time limit for abortion, from 28 weeks of pregnancy to 20 weeks, would be extremely harmful. All doctors would rather carry out abortions as early as possible in pregnancy, since it is a much safer and simpler procedure. But it is often the most needy cases who present late, unsure of their dates, and certain tests for foetal abnormality can only be carried out after 20 weeks. The Bill would even prevent abortion after 20 weeks if the woman's life was actually at risk.

Other proposals combine to curtail severely the medical profession's ability to take the necessary decisions without the fear of prosecution. As an article in the British Medical Journal noted wryly, "The record of legal vindictiveness amongst the extreme opponents of abortion can leave little doubt that charges might be brought against an NHS obstetrician for a technical offence, despite his

THE POST OFFICE is to be split in two. The postal side will be given a firm shove down the road of steady decay it has already taken. A Monopoly Commission enquiry into the London postal service will be followed by an end to the PO monopoly in this area unless resistance is determined. Breaking the monopoly means no future for a public postal service outside major cities. This in the country that introduced the penny post.

So far we have heard statements condemning such a course and asking government to think again.

But pointing out the consequences will bring no reprieve because the damage is calculated not accidental.

The Post Office unions, and especially the Union of Post Office Workers, relied heavily on the employer being 'reasonable' and on the industrial democracy experiment which proved in practice to be part insidious, part irrevocable. As a reward for this trust in fair play, UPW have received two kicks in the teeth this year; the new proposals and a wage cut.

The other aspect of the split is a vast asset-stripping operation,

by handing the most profitable parts of the telecommunications business to multinational monopolies. The splitting off of telecommunications and the proposed end to PO control over telecommunications equipment are two parts of the same strategy.

It is nonsense to talk of ending a PO monopoly and handing over the business to far bigger monopoly corporations like IBM. IBM controls 60 per cent of the computer market in the world.

The end of the PO's control of telecommunications services would hit workers in the electronics industry generally. Up to now the policy has been to favour British products, which has kept work here. The proposal is to throw the market open to anyone. Thus British capital will have no reason to remain based here. The effect may be a colossal loss of jobs among electronics workers.

The introduction of outside contractors, the involvement of other companies in the profitable equipment market, the accompanying talk of efficiency and streamlining are all part of this strategy. The aim is destruction and the undermining of the Post Office Unions.

These proposals must be vigorously resisted by the Labour Movement. The main effort has to come from PO workers for there to be any chance of success, but the sabotaging of postal services and the asset-stripping of posts and telecommunications are issues for the whole working class. What an absurd position as we go into the 1980's - a wage defensive struggle to keep something so basic. Unless we run things ourselves the future holds nothing else but a continuous series of such battles each one more desperate than the last.

## FREE ENTERPRISE BUTCHERS



## Abortion - keep it healthy, keep it safe, keep it lawful

having acted in what he saw as the best interests of the patient." The grounds for abortion would be altered so that it would be legal only if there was grave risk to the life of the pregnant woman or substantial risk to her or her children's physical or mental health. What juggling with words! How great must the risk be before it can 'safely' be deemed as 'grave' or 'substantial'? Such a distinction is both cynical and vindictive.

One of the most senseless proposals is for curtailing the work of the abortion charities by forbidding a licence to any pregnancy counselling service which has "a financial arrangement or other relevant agreement" with any approved abortion nursing home. The woman would, however, be free to go to any private nursing home, where the counselling service could not guarantee standards. The charitable sector provides just over half the abortions carried out in England and Wales, although in some

parts of the country this proportion may be as high as 75 per cent. The Royal Commission on the National Health Service criticised the failure of the Health Service to provide adequate abortion facilities. Yet the Corrie Bill does nothing to ensure that better NHS early abortion facilities be made available for those women who could no longer turn to the charities for help.

Abortions, or attempted abortions, have been carried out for centuries when unwanted pregnancy occurred. For too many women it involved the horrors of the hot bath, the gin or the knitting needles of the back street abortionist, and afterwards infections, sterility or even death. The present abortion laws are not only humane, in that at least in theory medically safe abortion is available regardless of the woman's ability to pay, but it goes some way towards recognising the most fundamental of women's freedoms, that of controlling her own body. It is a most precious freedom.

## Bands demand basic wage

MUSICIANS, often some of the most badly paid workers, are poised to take action over the payment of support bands in London clubs. The rate of pay is ludicrously low and in a lot of cases it is a question of the bands paying to play, as they spend more money on transport and equipment than they actually earn.

Last year the Musicians Union managed to secure a basic minimum rate at the Marquee but even now it is not being applied in the way intended, with the club often using various mechanisms (involving PA hire, etc) to avoid paying the £9 per man directly to the support bands. Many clubs have got away for too long in not paying a basic minimum rate and apart from the difficulty in organising musicians there is a basic reason for this: the idea that the support bands are playing in their top London clubs for 'prestige or promotional value' and surely they don't need paying as well. Musicians have been held back from struggle for many years by these and other reactionary ideas.

The MU is close to an official dispute with London's Music Machine and Ronnie Scott's Upstairs club and is also going to extend the support band payment campaign into the pubs. This is just the tip of the iceberg, but once these struggles are won musicians all over will take heart and demand a decent wage for a highly skilled profession.

## Poverty not caused by over population but by Imperialism

"IT IS clear that massive disparities in living standards will persist among the nations of the world" says the World Development Report issued by the World Bank. This gloomy analysis by a mouthpiece of international capitalism is based on the estimated growth of the world's population by 50 per cent at the end of the century.

It has long been a method of bourgeois spokesmen to attempt to divert the attention of the working class and the peasantry away from the real cause of their exploitation to some convenient 'problem' such as population.

Malthus first said it in the 18th century and it has been repeated ad nauseam ever since - we are poor

because we there are too many of us. Within a generation of Malthus' theory, the population of Britain had doubled with no resulting increase in poverty, due to the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions.

In our own century there is the undeniable evidence of India and China, two countries whose population increased rapidly after the Second World War. The result was increasing misery in capitalist India and a greatly increased standard of living in the socialist China.

It is worth recalling the words of the Chinese delegate to the UN during a debate on the environment in 1972: "we hold that of all things in the world, people are the most precious. The masses have bound-

less creative power. To develop social production and create social wealth depends on people... the possibility of man's exploitation and utilisation of natural resources is inexhaustible."

How true, so long as a country remains socialist. Instead we see the Chinese Government dragging the Chinese people into war with Vietnam, into the ambit of the World Bank and capitalism's miserable plans for economic 'growth'. All they can suggest is imperialist reaction.

No amount of hypocritical cant about "rich" and "poor" countries or "developed" and "under-developed" countries, and false solutions can disguise the fact that it is cap-

italism locally, and imperialism internationally that is responsible for poverty and underdevelopment, not population growth.

Britain, which is not an integral part of the World Bank report, will remain poor and undeveloped in every sense of the word until we, the British working class seize power for ourselves rather than let the bourgeoisie squander our wealth while they destroy our health and take away our education. That class, the capitalist class is the only section of the population that needs to be controlled and until we can do this, institutions like the World Bank will continue to finance exploitation and produce documents blandly putting the blame elsewhere.

## Leyland dismembered? Leyland exhumed! No to Edwardes!

AT last God's gift to man and industry, Mr Michael Edwardes, to the rescue with a second hand Weinstock wizardry of destruction, of living off and stealing from the private sector of capitalism the little fat juicy bits of Leyland BLMC, leaving the low profit core, the foundation centre to state capitalism for you to pay to sustain till its ultimate erosion and decay.

Beware then, fellow workmates; end then your fratricidal squabbles, your strategyless and tactically inept ventures and close ranks. All unions are required now to unite to prevent this dismembering. All those local 'leaders' so full of declarations, so good at unfulfilled battles begun and waged without root preparation, pack it up and say in one voice:

touch us not!

Yes, go all chauvinist. A British motor manufacturer.

The T&GWU, so deviously quiet now, must cease its incessant and insensate poaching and membership grabbing and, since it claims the largest membership, it can then lead the struggle.

No closures. No redundancies.

At last the member workers there must show some sense in central control - central bargaining and central direction of a strategy which refuses to give a present to Ford's and Vauxhall's by the sapping and weakening of Leyland's on the specious plea of commercial efficiency. From 'bigger is better', the slow liquidation of the many badge names of former British car marques to the great complex of BLMC and

back now to keep your place.

Don't get too big for your britches. Don't believe that humble little Britain could have the gall and temerity to challenge the mighty multinational Yankee General Motors and Ford's. Perish the thought!

So brothers and sisters, bring your mountain stronghold 'leaders' together. Demand they face the responsibility of leadership. No closure of Speke.

Let Longuridge, Oxford and the rest erect the barricades now.

No to Edwardes!



Photo Nick Birch

## Cuts worsen river pollution

All the progress made over the last few years in cleaning up our rivers will be set at risk

by the continuing lack of investment in the Water Industry

CAPITALISM, in its mad rush for profits, never cared about turning our rivers into open sewers. Only indignation of workers forced the process of cleaning up. Now as industry is destroyed steps are being taken away from the standards so far reached - in many places still inadequate. The rate of change of river water quality must, according to a report by the South West Water Authority, be determined by financial resources currently available. But plainly standards are to be relaxed.

Sewage works are failing to comply with the conventional standards set by the Pollution Acts between 1951 and 1961 because they are overloaded. This causes concern to Water Authorities since under part 2 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 it is possible for members of the public to initiate legal proceedings for breaches of these conditions of discharge (however did that slip through?).

The solution, of course, as capitalism sees it, is to lower the standards, since the Water Authority would achieve "rationalisation, harmonisation, liberalisation and economy in the use of resources". And just what do these achievements mean? Apparently changes in standards will mean that rivers will fall in quality but still remain in the same class - so the quality has not fallen at all. Or so we are supposed to believe.

Economies will result from "avoidance of the need to comply with unnecessarily stringent standards of effluent". They really should make up their minds if the reason is lack of resources or "unnecessarily stringent standards" - not that either is acceptable to us. We just want clean rivers.

The attitude of the National Anglers Council is particularly admirable. They say that capital investment for this purpose is essential and all rivers should be as clean as possible. They

are opposed to the proposed changes. When the proposals originally came to light from the National Water Council, Denis Howell was Minister of State at the Department of the Environment (one time Minister of Drought - they never gave him the title of Minister of Pollution in case we thought the intention was to get rid of that too!). His response is interesting in view of the main argument of the Water Authorities being that they have to adjust to a lack of capital. He seemed to think the proposals would "provide a better basis for planning the investment needed to improve river quality". In other words the proposals enable capitalism to adjust its investment in pollution control to adapt to decline.

A great deal of effort has gone into improving the Thames and other rivers, allowing a number of species of fish to breed again in these rivers. Are we going to allow all this work to go to waste?

## NALGO water workers win 17 per cent rise

AGAINST a background of industrial action in several areas and the threat of full scale national action, the water authority employers backed down and conceded Nalگو water group's claim of just over 17 per cent.

The settlement proved the point that action speaks louder than words. It truly exposed all those who had wanted to accept a far lower offer with all sorts of strings attached rather than stand up and be counted.

At the Special Group Meet-

ing on Friday, September 14, which approved the settlement, delegates were able to reflect on the success of the negotiations this year, after four years of "pay restraint" and its consequent wage decline.

But there are many problems facing Nalگو members now the pay deal has been approved. Fighting the cut-backs will be number one priority. This must be tackled with the same determination as the pay battle with the knowledge that using our strength bears fruit.

## Hospital lab staff claim

LABORATORY staff in the Health Service are demanding adequate payment for vital emergency services.

The basic payment for on-call or standby duty is equivalent to 18 pence per hour and the payment for one call which can last up to two hours is £4.55.

This is an insult to the skills of the laboratory technicians and to the responsibility they exercise in providing the service.

Of the 168 hours in a week, 131 fall outside the conditioned hours that laboratory staff work. Yet only 8.4 per cent of the pay bill goes as remuneration for the emergency duty that is worked during these hours.

Patients cannot decide when they are going to be ill or

when they are going to need emergency blood transfusion. The laboratory staff providing the service during these unsocial hours are stretched to their physical limit to do so safely. One mistake could cost a patient's life. The more senior and therefore often more experienced staff have no incentive to take part in the emergency service as the rates of pay are less than can be earned during normal hours. This service is voluntary: the staff can opt out if they so wish.

Union negotiators are asking for 'on-call' and 'standby' payments to be increased to £10 per session and £7.50 for each call. So far £5.80 per call with no increase for 'on-call' or 'standby' has been offered.

## Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortress Road, London NW5  
Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton  
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol  
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds  
Basildon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Market Place  
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays  
Liverpool Bookstall every Thursday Liverpool University

NEW BOOKSHOP

**Clarion Books 5 The Precinct  
Stanford - Le - Hope**

## Public Meetings

Autumn Series of Public Meetings in London

Fri. Sept 28	Tories attack the old, the young and the infirm.	Bellman Bookshop
Fri. Oct 12	Education attacked, from nursery to college.	Conway Hall
Fri. Oct 26	The Party of the British Working Class.	Bellman Bookshop
Fri. Nov 9	Britain in the World Today.	Conway Hall
Fri Nov 23	Britain's Future, solely in the Working Class	Bellman Bookshop
Fri Nov 30	Britain in the 80's, an Industrial Wasteland	Conway Hall

All the above meetings will start at 7.30 pm.

## The Worker

155, FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON, NW5  
6 months £2.50 (inc. postage)  
1 year £5.00 (inc. postage)

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