



# ENGINEERS SPEARHEAD WORKERS' ADVANCE

**A principle fought for - a principle won**

**A 39 hour week**

**Two extra days holiday this year**

**An extra day a year for next 3 years**

**£73 minimum wage**

THAT is the extent of the major victory won by engineering workers in the strike the employers, the Government and the media said the workers could not win. The Engineering Employers Federation, which had started out so confident that it "knew the workers better than their unions" has had to concede what the engineering workers were demanding right down the line, on hours, holidays and pay.

The engineers' breakthrough on hours is the first important advance for the working class on this vital issue. It is the pressing home through industrial action of a policy decision taken by the TUC several years ago which was adopted by the European Trade Union Confederation.

The general secretary of the International Metalworkers Federation, the international body co-ordinating engineering unions, said that the settlement was "one of the most important trade union victories since the war for industrial workers throughout the world."

In Britain the victory over hours, which is reminiscent of the fundamental nine-hour battle of the engineers against the employers a cen-

tury ago, has set the pattern for other struggles on the industrial front. The general secretary of the GMWU said his union would 'capitalise' on the engineering agreement to make effective advances themselves, as did a spokesman for NUPE.

to be fought for and has, in fact, been granted. There were to be dispensations to engineering firms which conceded and 1000 firms, 80 of them members of the EEF, settled on this basis. At the height of the strike the GEC combine threatened to leave the EEF and together with other defections this shook one of the most reactionary and ruthless sections of the ruling class. Nor was the Government, which expressed itself in the most forthright terms as opposed to any shortening of the working week, able to do anything at all in the EEF's defence.

The engineering workers have demonstrated again their ability to fight a large scale, nationally co-ordinated struggle in this most divers-

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tury ago, has set the pattern for other struggles on the industrial front. The general secretary of the GMWU said his union would 'capitalise' on the engineering agreement to make effective advances themselves, as did a spokesman for NUPE.

The AEUW National Committee on June 13 took decisions about how the dispute was to be fought by drawing up four points of battle. The minimum wage of £80, most of which has been won, was fixed to safeguard skills. The hour off the week and the extra holidays to improve the quality of life for workers was

fied of industries, on the sound principle of securing the maximum advantage for the minimum pain. This strike which threw employers and Government into a panic, caused the FT index to wobble and was condemned as suicidal by the press represented just 13 working days lost plus a ban on overtime.

Not only have the engineers won a major struggle over wages and conditions: their battle to defend skills and prevent the drift away from the industry is a major victory in preventing the destruction of British engineering.



Photo: The Worker

## Where are the pickets?

Deserted gates at the GEC Park Royal Factory during the engineers strike. Normally packed at this time of the morning with workers entering for the morning shift, such was the strength and discipline of the members that no pickets were needed. It calls to mind a similar strength during the Ford strike last year.



## Fighting the cuts

ALL OVER BRITAIN people are rallying to defend nurseries, houses, schools, colleges, universities, libraries, hospitals and all other aspects of our basic services against the Government's murderous cuts. Teachers are taking a stand not only in defence of education, but also against the destruction of industries, such as steel, and hospitals which threaten the futures of the children in their care and the survival of the communities of which they are a part.

In response to public protest, Medway Health District has halved the £200,000 cut imposed by the Government in a debt clearing order. Proposed closures are being reconsidered.

Strike action by the Dartford and Gravesend COHSE branch is challenging cuts in that area. Our picture shows a demonstration in Haringey against the cuts. In this issue we report on many of the struggles taking place elsewhere.

## How not to save an industry

THE WORKERS at Leyland, in agreeing to the closure of 13 plants and the cutting of 25,000 jobs, are not helping to save Britain's only motor car industry: they are conniving at its destruction.

The ruling class has worked a perfect dummy on Leyland. Edwardes calls for the loss of 25,000 jobs. The workers protest. The Minister for Industry threatens to wipe out Leyland altogether. The workers agree to the loss of 25,000 jobs and don't even get an assurance of no compulsory redundancy.

It is ironic that the workers at Fords, a foreign firm, are so much better at effective organised struggle which does not destroy an industry but helps to preserve it by making it a place where workers, including skilled craftsmen, are willing to work.

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## The Week

## Historic Notes

The 200th anniversary of the building of the first iron bridge is upon us. It marked the culmination of 70 years work four miles up the valley at Coalbrookdale. The work was done by men denied opportunity for development of their skills elsewhere.

Abraham Darby innovated the process of smelting the iron. He staked his fortunes on the idea to use coke instead of charcoal and set up his iron furnaces on the banks of the Severn in 1709.

The supply of relatively cheap iron was a major technical breakthrough. During the 18th century, iron gradually took over from wood for making ploughs, wheels, machines, pit props, and from stone for certain building purposes. Under the management of Darby's son and grandson, the Coalbrookdale works continued to play a key role. This was no accident, but stemmed from the traditions and beliefs of the Dissenters who made the revolution. Abraham Darby's father was a part-time farmer, part-time nailmaker and locksmith. This was normal in the Black Country — there were said to be 20,000 such smiths within a ten-mile radius of Dudley Castle. The overwhelming majority of these, masters and men alike, were Quakers. In the

cities the power of the trade guilds was still strong, and because the guilds were closely linked to the Church of England, it was practically impossible for a Dissenter to find employment or to start a business in any old-established trade centre. It was Dissenters who pioneered new trades in hitherto rural areas, such as the Black Country. They had made the area into a stalwart of the Parliamentary side in the Civil War. Although Radicalism had lost much of the fire in its belly after the restoration of Charles II and the establishment of the Church of England, the spirit survived. Although business success rapidly divided craftsmen into master and men, nevertheless the master remained outside the constitution. Their children were sent to the Dissenting Academies, the first schools to teach the sciences.

Meanwhile 50 miles away, the rural backwater of Coalbrookdale was being transformed into an industrial centre. In 1711 Newcomen invented a steam engine designed to solve the problem of drainage of mines, which allowed mining of over 20 ft depth to start.

In 1722 the first iron cylinder was cast at Coalbrookdale. Wrought iron was still the main

form of iron, and in 1749 Abraham Darby II used coal successfully in its smelting, but it was still their skill in casting which paved the way. Out of the molten womb of these same furnaces were born improved engines with rotative motion which would coal from company mines, powered forge hammer, rolling mill and cylinder boring machine; James Watt's separate condenser, Heulop's double cylinder winding engine.

From then on their fame derived from their connections with transport, paving the way for locomotives. In 1777 Abraham Darby III turned his back on the profits to be made in casting cannon to be used in the American War of Independence, and instead the original furnace was rebuilt and enlarged to cast the great ribs for the iron bridge. The parts, weighing 378 tons, were brought to the site by water, hoisted by rope, both halves simultaneously, and secured at the crown. This was the inspiration of Telford's bridges, the new length of span and economy over stone being vital to the transport revolution of the time. Although the suspension bridge soon took over (in 1826 the Menai Straits was built with a single span of 580 ft.), it was the use

of iron that was the key.

Whilst not romanticising a picture of an industrial 'Merrie England', remember that these inventions did not derive, on the whole, from dreams of vast profits. Safe profits lay elsewhere. This minority of entrepreneurs believed in themselves, their righteousness, their importance to humanity. The attempts of Mrs Thatcher today to claim their reflected glory in the name of free enterprise, whilst destroying their work, would make these good Quakers turn in their graves.

## Capitalist 'aid' means poverty the world over

IN SPITE of the continuing 'north-south, developed-underdeveloped' dialogue at regular meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in spite of all the 'aid' schemes since the War and the World Bank's International Development Association, the plight of the starving poor in the capitalist world goes from bad to worse.

Each time some study of the problem is produced, like the annual World Bank report which has just been published, there are specific reasons adduced to explain why conditions are getting if anything, worse in the developing countries. The economic slump in the industrialised world and the increase in oil prices are said to account for the deteriorating balance of payments of the non-oil exporting developing countries, the deficit having increased by £15 billion, to over £20 billion since 1973.

The politically-biased nature of all capitalist 'aid' schemes has been shown recently by the vote of the US Congress not to allow World Bank funds to go to Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos, the Central African Empire, Angola or Cuba; and the UN is withholding desperately-needed food supplies from Kampuchea as a way of expressing the resentment of many countries, pre-eminently the US of course, at Vietnam's defeat of US imperialist forces in south east Asia and opposition to the imperialist designs of the US's new ally in the area, China.

At the recent World Conference on Rural Poverty in Rome, the delegates had before them a report from the UN Conference on Trade and Development showing that the terms of trade of 23 of the world's poorest countries, which also contain more than half of the world's population had worsened by up to 30 per cent between 1970 and 1976.

It has often been pointed out in THE WORKER that 'green revolutions' could not solve the problems of developing countries if red revolutions did not put an end to exploitative class relations on the land and the perpetuation of poverty among the people. The introduction of new high-yield strains of crops brought India, for example, to the verge of self-sufficiency in cereals, but malnutrition has remained as serious a problem as ever. As was reported at one of the Conferences: "The granaries are bulging; the people are empty". Self-sufficiency in cereals only means full bellies for all the children in a socialist country like Albania.

THE LABOUR Party always 'moves left' in opposition: it's purely relative. It turned 'leftward' in 1970 following election defeat and all sorts of things went in the party manifesto. "Those who see the election manifesto as a key issue should read again the manifesto of 1974 with which Labour was returned to office. So very 'left' was that manifesto which Wilson and Callaghan acted upon. "We kept by the manifesto... I come here without apology for the record of the last government" said Callaghan last week. There you have it.

MANAGEMENT of Rolls-Royce, Bristol, even though the employers have been defeated, are continuing their disruption of production by continuing their lock-out of engineering workers. They are demanding that the unions forgo their right to discipline members who went against union instructions. A rearguard action as futile as it is pathetic.

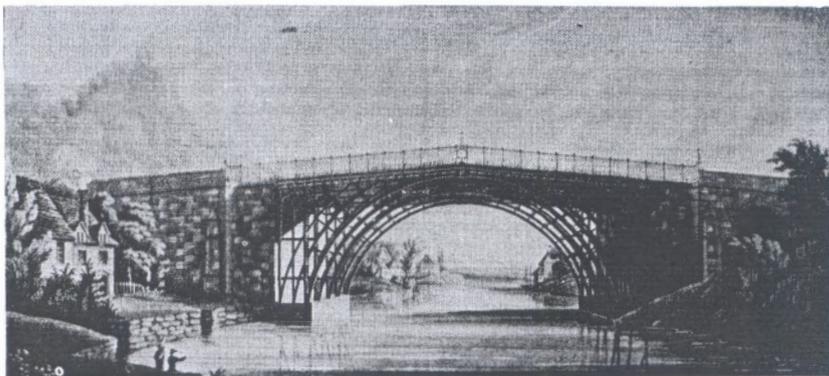
A HIGHRISE block of flats in Brixton was so badly built that it was unfit for human habitation within a few years, and recently blown up. Yet the taxpayers will be paying charges and interests on the loans for its construction until the year 2000.

ACCORDING TO London Transport the cancellation of 250 Titan buses, due to the proposed closure of Leyland at Park Royal, is a "serious blow" at a time of "unsatisfactory service". Orders for buses will have to be placed with Metro-Cammell of Birmingham, whose inability to supply is shown by their outstanding orders of 1300 buses. In order to cope with new orders 500 workers have had to be recruited in the last 15 months and a further 300 now. What clearer evidence of the real economic need for the Park Royal bus works, a fact totally ignored by the government's purely political and destructive action.

WARNING of industrial action this autumn in France was given during the normally quiet summer holidays by union leaders. Workers have been as good as their word, with the main unions, the CGT and the CFDT uniting for action in the Post Office, engineering and clothing industries, and social services. The Renault car plants will be stopping this week, while Air France has also been disrupted.

NOT ONLY will relaxation of exchange controls by the Chancellor of the Exchequer increase the export of capital from Britain, but it will cost the jobs of 180 school leavers and 20 graduates, offered this employment by the Bank of England. They have been sacked before they could even do a day's work.

THE PRODUCTION of television in Britain has suffered setback. I.T.T. consumer products have announced the closure of its Hastings factory, and the ending of production at Kearsley near Bolton. This round-up will mean over nine hundred redundancies.



## Bookshops New Pamphlet

## CPB(M-L) Congress 1979

IN THE theory of Marxism, no true place has been found for organised labour, the trade unions in being, the main force for revolution".

What is the position of the trade unions, the most advanced and the truly effective organisations of the working class? What is the relationship between the class struggle of the trade unions and revolution? How to achieve the revolution: "In fighting, in attacking which demands such sacrifice and thought, then take the final step and the eternal struggle, destroy the enemy in one last great battle." How to make revolution in an industrial country?

These were the central questions discussed by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) at its Congress earlier this year, now published in a new pamphlet, Congress 1979.

The final section, "The Party and the Trade Unions", raises the basic issues for our British Party, the nature of the working class organised, the role of the unions today in the survival of democracy, the stature of the labour movement and how its Party works. The questions are not solved, since no old industrial country has ever made revolution. However the pamphlet begins by stating the urgent need for such

solutions:

"The survival of socialism and the future of communism depend on the proletariat of the advanced industrial countries moving to revolution. The British working class and our Marxist-Leninist Party must accept the responsibility which falls upon them, arising from the particular historical development of our country."

All over the world the working class is taking action. In Europe, great struggles for the defence of basic industries and solidarity across national borders have grown, but the bourgeoisie is well entrenched in the EEC, and more strongly in N.A.T.O.

The pamphlet is clear in its understanding of imperialism:

"We reject the false notion that imperialism is a problem of foreign parts, of oppression elsewhere. That same force - monopoly capitalism - which exploits in the capitalist heartlands does so as well in the colonies and neo-colonies.

"Imperialism is the enemy, no matter what its source: American, Russian, British or Chinese. No particular imperialism is essentially any worse or any better than another.

"For the people of any country the main enemy at any one time is that imperialism which immediately threatens."

Nobody knows this better than the Vietnamese.

Wetred notions such as 'three worlds' and 'social imperialism' are discarded. Proletarian internationalism is seen as an important practical matter, (already a reality embodied in various international bodies of the labour movement), not as a "huddle together for warmth in convivial surroundings."

The responsibility of the people, not only for winning socialism, but also for building it, keeping it, is asserted:

"The ability of a working class to seize power, to make a revolution is not in doubt and has been proven many times - in Russia in 1917, China, Vietnam, Albania. What is still in doubt and has not yet been proven is the capacity of a working class, hating made the revolution successfully to hold on to and build the socialist society. Socialism has not yet assumed a continuous existence."

This pamphlet does not supply all the answers. It does ask many questions which cannot be dodged. It is for the Party and the class to take each its part in creating the solution.

Congress 1979, price 30p, (40p inc. post and packing) available from all Party bookshops.

## Editorial

THERE IS a sense in which Marxism, after Marx's death, made a grand detour and has now returned to Britain, the land of its birth.

Marxism is the science of proletarian revolution which establishes socialist society. In CAPITALISM set forth the contradictions in capitalism which would so weaken it that the working class would be able to overthrow the bourgeoisie and set up a dictatorship of the proletariat. But capitalism was able to prolong its life by monopolisation and imperialism - the very opposite of the free competition and free trade which were supposed to be the hall marks of capitalism.

Lenin applied the principles of Marxism to this new order of problems: In works like IMPERIALISM, THE HIGHEST STAGE OF CAPITALISM, he developed Marx's ideas to deal with questions of nationalism and anti-imperialist struggle. Stalin applied Marxism to the same problems in his work in the National Question. Throughout the period of building socialism in the Soviet Union, Stalin had to be concerned, almost above anything else, with the problem of national defence as, first, the major capitalist powers and then Nazi Germany with the backing of the major capitalist powers tried to overrun the country.

This Marxism-Leninism of the age of imperialism was what Mao Tse-tung further developed in the great revolutionary war that liberated the Chinese people. It was what Ho Chi Minh developed in helping the Vietnamese people score the greatest victory ever against aggressive imperialism. It was what Enver Hoxha developed to meet the conditions of Albania's self-reliant liberation and independent economic development.

### Marxist-Leninist leaders

All of these great leaders, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, Ho Chi Minh, Enver Hoxha, have enriched scientific socialism politically and philosophically. Under their guidance the Soviet Union, China, Vietnam and Albania have all demonstrated the invincibility of people's war and have shown the superiority of the socialist system in terms of economic advance and the quality of life of the working people. They have proved that a foreign policy based on proletarian internationalism is the only guarantee of peace. What has yet to be solved is the problem of preserving the dictatorship of the proletariat once established, of keeping state power in the hands of the working class once placed there.

Now capitalism is in decline everywhere. But nowhere is this more obviously than in Britain, where it began. Marxism has become, as never before, the only possible outlook of the British working class. What we have in Britain today is the classic situation of the COMMUNIST MANIFESTO: a country split into "two hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat". What we see forming in the proletarian movement is "the self-conscious, independent movement of the immense majority in the interest of the immense majority", the working class moving forward in its liberative role of ending the exploitative system of capitalism to establish socialism, finally and permanently.

## Book burning to follow library cuts?

THE PUBLIC library service in Britain is the envy of the world. That may sound unusual these days, when we've become accustomed to rundown and decline in this country, but it is true. For almost 130 years there has been a rate supported public library service in this country. In 1977-78, for example, public libraries issued over 600 million books, indicative of how vital a service the public library represents.

Needless to say the Tory Government is not too happy with this feather-bedded welfare idea and now the talk is of charges for book loans. The rate-borne expenditure for public libraries in 1977-78 was £200 million, very cheap for the service (one sixth

of the amount we give away to the EEC, a sum totalling £1,200 million) but charges would mean the library user being charged 33p for every book borrowed. This is noteworthy when we remember that a quarter of the population are registered readers (though many others use their reference facilities) while one fifth of present users are children.

The Scottish Library Association has pointed out that libraries "are an established part of the educational, cultural and leisure services to every community. In most areas, at least one-third of the population actively use the public library service. Services are provided to all sections of the populace, the young, the old, the infirm, the students, teachers,

industry and local government..." "The public library offers free access to works of knowledge, information and the imagination, which is vital for the maintenance of a civilised and democratic society and the development of initiative by the individual. The public library is a principal agency of education as a continuing and life-long process, encouraging literacy and protecting against illiteracy. The public library is of crucial importance in attracting children to the joys and benefits to be obtained from the world of books. The public library encourages and supports the positive use of leisure."

The benefits of libraries are obvious. Charges as part of a cuts package will mean a drop in use and closed libraries. Results of a Library Association questionnaire show how the rot has set in. Posts have been frozen, hours reduced, mobile routes and book-funds cut. In Moray £10,000 has been added to the bookfund, but it is an exception. In Berkshire, most vacancies are frozen. In Bromley seven new posts have been scrapped, in Cleveland likewise. Gloucestershire is rigidly applying cash limits, while Newcastle upon Tyne planned growth has been postponed. In West Lothian the new library has been halted.

We must defend our libraries, for once they close, the book burning is sure to follow. Socialism or illiteracy?

These trade unionists, pensioners and children lobbied Barnet Borough Council who were meeting on Tuesday to give their final approval to public expenditure cuts in excess of £1 million. The demonstrators were given a short, sharp summary of this Tory council's attitude when the Lady Mayoress arrived in her Rolls Royce and ordered her chauffeur to drive through the demonstrators scattering children and elderly people - just in case anyone thought there was to be any pretence of 'consultation', 'discussion' or 'approval'. Lady Mayoress, in an effort to outshine Maggie Thatcher herself, made her point clear - our services will be grabbed so that their Rolls may be serviced - or indeed new ones bought.



Photo: The Worker

Photo: The Worker

## NUS against closures in teacher training

THE CHANGE in the Teacher Education sector of the National Union of Students stood out at its recent Conference in Birmingham. Many colleges were missing, part of the one hundred or so closed or merged by a policy of drastic reduction in the number of trainee teachers.

Not satisfied, the Department of Education and Science are planning to close even more colleges; four this year in London alone, leaving the City with one-sixth of its original number. Attempting to justify this with a sham argument of falling birth rates, the DES plans to reduce the number of student teacher places from the original figure of 114,000 to only 38,000 - a cut of two-thirds.

There was another most significant change. The delegates to this conference have made a 'significant political alteration' in their attitude.

The reaction of the NUS in the past to the devastation of teacher supply has been to offer little resistance. We accepted arguments that we should campaign for Alternative Uses for former Teacher Education Colleges! So far only a few colleges have been converted - one is now a Police Cadet School!

At the recent conference frustration was expressed about the way that we had failed to fight for the last 3 years - rejecting both talk of 'Alternative Uses' and any other attempt to avoid action.

Delegates would accept nothing less than a real fight to save the whole of education.

This year we can guarantee the government that teacher training students will resist any further attempts at closing our colleges.

## Children's safety at risk: teachers oppose health cuts

TEACHERS in Islington, already faced with a massive attack on their local secondary schools, were forced last week to turn their attention to the latest onslaught on their hospitals - the following motion was passed by the local association of the National Association of Teachers.

"Following the decision of the Area Health Authority last week, the future of the Royal Northern Hospital is now even more uncertain.

The North London Teachers' Association considers that the safety of the children in our schools is put at risk by the decision temporarily to close the casualty department. We feel that no money will be saved by this measure, that the Whittington Hospital will be unable to cope with the additional strain, and the traffic congestion problems on the Archway will seriously jeopardise the lives of emergency cases.

We welcome the campaign called by the consultants, doctors and other staff at the hospital to keep the department open, it will call upon our membership to give their support and collect signatures for the petition."

Clearly the hospital staff are in the front line of this battle, but the safety of all those who live in the borough is at stake, and all must give their support. The

teachers took a little step in the passing of a motion; that little step is a token of the massive power of organised labour, when workers fight, each within his own union, and through each union for the support of all.

### IN BRIEF/Home News

MINISTRY of Defence officials have disclosed that "biological warfare simulants" have been released over Britain to test the possible movement and impact of poisonous chemicals.

Tests show that some microbes are able to survive for some time, in the air, and that a single aircraft flying off the coast can cover a heavily populated region in a few hours. Tests have been carried out over both the east and west coasts as part of a long term programme in co-operation with the USA.

As a result of a similar incident in the USA in the 1950's several people died from a rare form of pneumonia. In 1977 the US Army also admitted that it had conducted open air tests on 239 occasions between 1949 and 1969.

It is bad enough having to tolerate military aircraft falling out of the skies onto our towns and villages, but how much worse to be unwilling participants in these sinister preparations for war.

HYSNI KAPO, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, People's Hero and Hero of Socialist Labour, died on September 23rd.

Born in a peasant family in the Vlora district of Albania in 1915, Hysni Kapo distinguished himself as an anti-fascist fighter from the very beginning of the Italian invasion in 1939. With the creation of the Communist Party in November 1941, he was admitted as a member and appointed political secretary of the

regional committee of Vlora. Throughout the Liberation War he displayed loyalty and courage of the highest order and in the building of socialism in the new Albania he has served the people's state in many important capacities.

He devoted his entire life as a proletarian leader to the cause of the Albanian people and socialism, to the triumph of the revolution and Marxism-Leninism. He will be mourned by socialists everywhere and will continue to be an inspiration to the people of Albania whom he faithfully served.

# Unions nationwide against the cuts

THE WAY forward against cuts is shown by the workers of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority who are expected to be conducting two or three hospital occupations by the end of November.

The massive public support locally and nationally for their stand must have been assisted by the attention focused on their services when their employing body refused to make cuts which, in their

judgement as well as everyone else's, endangered human life and health.

Government Commissioners who were subsequently installed by the state now do the dirty work. The old AHA despite and because of their short, brave stand, were deprived of power. The local health unions must now fight directly with the government's placemen.

A similar situation developed when Lambeth Borough

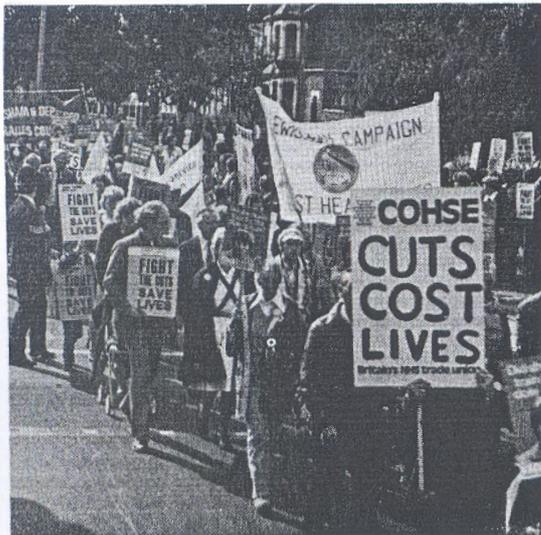
Council were asked to make £3 million cuts before April 1980. The Council voiced its objections, but then proceeded to effect cutbacks in July, which led to immediate resistance, particularly by NALGO, and a demonstration by combining council unions.

Under pressure, the council is now reversing many (not all) cutbacks and supporting the call by both the local trades' council and the combined council unions for a mass demonstration to Parliament on November 7th, which has national proportions.

Demonstrations against cuts have just been held in four major London Boroughs. Faced with such opposition, Lewisham and Haringey councils have declared refusal to implement Tory cuts. The Clwyd Council in Wales is considering legal action against the government for infringing its own 1975 steel legislation in closing down Shotton with 7000 redundancies.

Trade unionists, allying themselves with all sections of the community will continue to press their employers and councils into opposition to the government.

The government is to blame with its callous policy of diverting central funds (our taxes) away from local authority services, into weapons manufacture or the EEC.



## Corby teachers join fight to save steel

THEY PLAN to axe 7000 out of 10,800 people employed in steel at Shotton. This exceeds even the 6000 at Corby and represents the biggest total proposed at any plant anywhere in Britain. Yet it is only a foretaste of things to come.

Only two years ago, Villiers British Steel Chairman, was saying "We shall want Shotton's steel-making for many years to come. This plant is commercial, practical and prudent and it maintains employment in Wales." Thus, as at Corby, the closure is a political act, the destruction of a plant which on the management's own admission is economically necessary.

Shotton workers will be looking at the splendid example of inter-union solidarity shown in the Corby closures. A country without steel cannot survive. The responsibility to save it falls on all our shoulders. The way forward is shown in a pamphlet written by Corby teachers and National Union of Teachers.

The pamphlet underlines the deliberately destructive nature of the closure. Detailed proof is given of the economic desirability, even profitability of the plant. In addition, "the burden borne by the taxpayer from the closure of Corby would far outweigh the saving.

The pamphlet, 'Education for Unemployment?', first describes how between 1928 and 1933, Stewarts and Lloyds set up a steel-making town in the village of Corby: how despite official government policy of the 40s and 50s, that new towns should be self-contained and balanced both soc-

ially and industrially, Corby was allowed to be an exception to this rule. Indeed, other industries were discouraged for fear of competition with steel.

For education directly, the steel closure would mean a loss of morale and motivation which would be transmitted from the community as a whole to its children, appalling job prospects for school leavers, a drop in revenue from the rates to maintain the schools and an exaggerated drop in school rolls, caused by migration.

The national situation and the very threat of closure have already made the teachers' jobs more difficult and endangered their job security and prospects.

Besides, say the teachers, statistics show that Corby already has more than enough social problems.

Attempts to diversify Corby's industry have failed, not least because "since 1967 the average life of factories in Corby has been two years". Nor are the teachers fooled by government pretence of aid, so-called "assisted area status", which neither is forthcoming, nor could in any way begin to save Corby.

The pamphlet concludes with a factual, and therefore bleak summary, and Corby's future certainly looks bleak. The hope is in the very existence of such a pamphlet which documents the concern of one group of workers, organised in their trade union, for the skill and the wellbeing of the whole community. We can all learn from the Corby teachers,

## University clerks strike for pay

CLERICAL, administrative and related staff struck on 1st October at the University of Leeds in support of the national strike and day of action called by NALGO, and were supported by action at Hull, York, Sheffield and Bradford. This was the first national industrial action engaged in by clerical workers within the universities.

The action was to demonstrate the rejection of a pay offer of 8.99 per cent from the employers. The strike marks a significant advance in the consciousness of clerical staffs within universities. The strike at Leeds closed down the university.

Novices in struggle at the beginning of the day were experienced pickets by the end of the morning, and morale was raised when other trade unionists refused to cross the picket line.

With a successful strike now under the members' belt, no longer is discussion about the morals of striking but about when and where and how to win.



NALGO picket closes Leeds University. Photo: The Worker

# Murderer still at large Hunt called off

24 HOURS after the axe killing of PC Desmond Kellam in Trowbridge, Wilts. on October 3rd, a man had been charged with his death. The village was sealed off while the 2000 strong police force searched the country for his killer. No stone was left unturned.

24 weeks after the violent death of schoolteacher Blair Peach, killed leaving the Southall demonstration against the National Front, his killer is still at large. The killer used a cosh so heavy that Blair's skull was crushed without perforating the skin, the pathologist concluded. According to eyewitnesses, other demonstrators that night suffered appalling head injuries at the hands of the police. A search of police Special Patrol Group lockers revealed weighted coshes that were 'not standard police issue'. SPG officers, it was said, were tearing into demonstrators at the spot where the killing occurred.

'Thorough police inquiries' (very different from a public inquiry) have resulted in the Director of Public Prosecution's deciding evidence is 'insufficient to justify any criminal proceedings'. It is an unpalatable fact that a murder trial or a proper inquiry will have to discuss the *raison d'être* of the SPG. Hence the whitewash.

Despite denials that the SPG is a para-military force along the lines of the French CRS, the Dutch Marechaussee and the German Bereitschaftspolizei, its training and objects are remarkably alike. A fully equipped SPG Ford Transit carries 12 policemen plus riot shields, pistols, rifles, sub-machine guns, smoke

grenades, truncheons and visors.

The London SPG was the first to be formed in 1965 under a Labour Home Secretary, its function supposedly being to fight crime. What it was set up to fight, it now seems to perpetrate. The death of Kevin Gately in Red Lion Square, London, in June 1974 resulted in the Scarman inquiry being told by an SPG officer that his unit had cut through demonstrators 'like a knife through butter'. Evidence was 'insufficient to justify criminal proceedings'.

The previous year SPG officers shot dead two teenagers at the Indian High Commission. Both 'criminals' were armed with toy pistols. In 1972 the SPG were used against dockers and building workers' picket lines. A CTT cameraman filming SPG officers attacking picket lines at Grunwick in 1977 were themselves attacked.

What began in London has now spread to 24 of the 52 police forces in the United Kingdom. The RUC, for example, has had its SPG since 1970. Ireland in turn being used by British policemen as an object lesson in Crowd Control.

The behaviour of the Strathclyde Support Unit at a demonstration in May 1975 caused the Scottish TUC to call for a public inquiry. In 1978 the entire TUC called for an inquiry. The TUC attitude has now changed. Now it seeks the disbandment of the SPG.

There have been too many serious injuries and fatalities since the SPG has been formed.

We must insist that the killer of Blair Peach is charged. Trade unionists cannot be killed with impunity.

## 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 Marketplace  
**Hull Bookstall** Old Town Market, Saturdays  
**Liverpool Bookstall** every Thursday Liverpool University  
**Clarion Books** The Precinct, Stanford-le-Hope

## Public Meetings

Public Meetings in London will start at 7.30 pm

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
CROYDON Mon Oct 8	Discussion Group 8 pm	Federation House Elmwood Road

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