

THE WORKER



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DON'T HOLD BACK

In the struggle for wages there must be no restraint

THERE must be no holding back in the battle for wages. Stop the shadow boxing, enter the ring and challenge the Government's imposition of its guidelines.

The battlefield for wages is in the factory, the workshop, dock, mine, office or school. It is where we are strongest. It is not in the rarified atmosphere of the courtroom or the hollow talking-shop at Westminster. Our fight against wage restraint is not based on the fact that it is illegal or unauthorised by Parliament. Given half a chance Parliament would legislate workers' livelihoods away and we would fight wage restraint even if it was an act of Parliament.

It is our action where we are strongest, at the workplace, that will determine the outcome of the coming battles for wages. No empty threats of industrial action to capture the headlines, no lobby of Parliament, no court cases, but actual struggle.

Forming battlelines

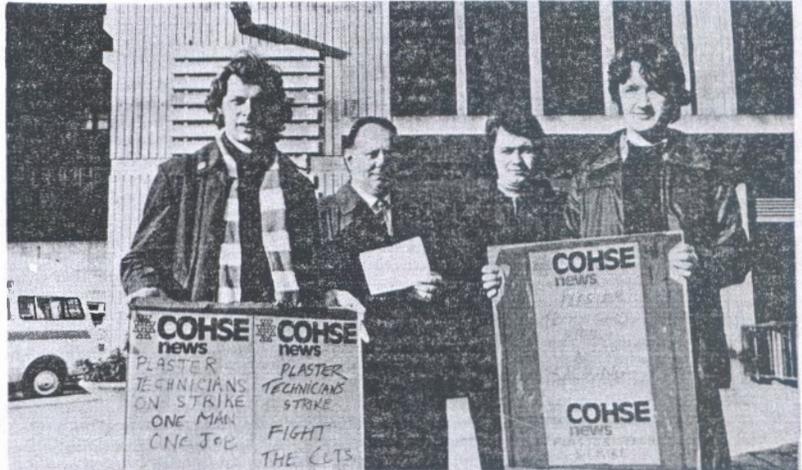
The tanker drivers continue to ban overtime in their struggle for a 30 per cent wage claim. They have refused deliveries entirely to petrol stations' managers who tried to profit from their action. The Government has already indicated its intention to put into operation the emergency measures most recently used in Northern Ireland. British troops, having just finished their task of fighting the strike by the firemen, are ready to commandeer tanker lorries, take over petrol stations and generally scab against the tanker drivers. There was concern by the Government that they might not have sufficient troops to fight the tanker drivers had the firemen's strike not been settled. In such cases they would have called upon troops

from the EEC, for such actions come well within the Treaty of Rome.

Workers in other sectors of road haulage have got increases in excess of the Government guidelines. The TGWU members in Scotland and the northeast of England have obtained rises from the Road Haulage Association of 15 per cent. Two thousand lorry drivers in South Wales have begun a strike for their wage claim.

Both the NUM and the EETPU have rejected offers to the limit of the Government's guidelines. Miners and power men, carrying through an all-out national struggle for wage rises, could make nonsense of the Government's determination to prevent the labour movement from exercising collective bargaining.

The miners have weakened their potential for struggle by local settlements for bonuses



Workers in the Confederation of Health Service Employees are in dispute at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, following the sacking of four plaster technicians. The technicians - who play a vital role in the treatment of fractures - had refused to do portering duties in addition to their own job. COHSE stewards in the area have pledged action to back them, in the form of lightning strikes. Other unions in the hospital have also expressed full support.

Stewards are meeting this week, and THE WORKER will carry a full report next issue.

Immigrant or capitalist Who is the enemy?

SO now Thatcher has thrown down the immigration (more correctly, race) gauntlet, and Rees has eagerly snatched it up. Major speeches are made proclaiming that immigration should not be a general election issue - what hypocrisy. Thatcher's speech and the replies to it are all designed precisely to make it an election issue. No, not an election issue - the election issue.

Any why not? Why not have a smokescreen? To these politicians of capitalism all is equal - race, colour, creed, it's all the same to them

based on productivity deals; but it is the first time in the current pay round that an offer within the Government limits has been rejected flatly so early in the negotiations.

The Electricity Council has added to its 10 per cent offer a productivity deal. But the general secretary of the power men's union has said it was only worth about £3 a week and the whole offer was totally unacceptable - even though industrial action would probably not begin until the end of March when the current agreement expires.

Several unions have simply been asking that they be granted the same concessions as the firemen won in struggle or the same productivity deals other workers have. We don't simply cash in on the struggles of our workmates: we take up the struggle where they left off.

provided the question occupies the minds of the working class. And with a general election in the air, what better way of ensuring it's a farce than with the smokescreen of racialism.

Unemployment, industrial rundown, a crumbling health service, closure of schools, the destruction of Britain - all talk of these is to be blotted out. Immigration is not a problem to Labour and Tory; it's supposed to be a solution. The real problem for them is the working class.

But it's not just any smoke-screen. It's not just an ugly cloud which hovers over a battlefield and then is blown away, leaving everything as it was. It is an ugly, a vic-

ious, a bloody smokescreen.

It is meant to incite and condone violence between workers. Armed bands of fascist thugs will be excused. Beatings, even murder - all this will be made respectable under the guise of some spurious inevitability. And Labour and Tory think they can preside over this mayhem and profit by it.

Workers must not allow themselves to be dragged into this debate, this inhuman swapping of statistics and lies. Immigration is not the problem. It is not the issue. They are not really concerned with who comes in - only with splitting those who are here. We will not descend into barbarism and fight among ourselves while Capital

surveys the arena, nor will we permit attacks from any quarter on fellow workers.

Capitalism is the problem. Capitalism is the issue. Capitalism must be stopped.

ENGINEERS REJECT EMPLOYERS' OFFER

THE talks between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the Engineering Employers' Federation which took place on January 19 resulted in a derisory offer from the employers which would add about 2½ per cent to the wage bill.

The unions submitted a claim for new basic rates of £70 for craftsmen and £55 for the less skilled as against the present rates of £42 and

£33.60 respectively.

On February 3 the EEF was only prepared to increase their offer to £57 and the Confed negotiators said that this was "still totally unacceptable." There is now every likelihood of a collapse of the National Pay Agreement and a return to plant bargaining. However, those who rejected the employers' terms as unacceptable cannot

Continued on page 4

HISTORIC NOTES

February 2nd, 1943.

Brazil party**THE WEEK****Victory at Stalingrad****The battle that saved the world**

HITLER invaded Russia on 22nd June, 1941, almost to the day the anniversary of Napoleon's attempt. He met with the same end, with the difference only that Hitler ruled less long. His Reich foundered at Stalingrad.

Whatever tactical reasons - inability to subdue the British among them - determined Hitler's turn East, anti-Bolshevism had always been at the core of Nazism.

The Russians had to be forced back, step by step, and they even counter-attacked as soon as December 1941 to safeguard Moscow which Stalin refused to abandon.

Yet despite the initial swiftness of the Nazi advance, and the losses they inflicted, the Russians extricated the bulk of their armies from the planned encirclement. The invaders found themselves lured ever deeper into inhospitable terrain and above all into the implacable hatred of the people. So tenacious was their resistance that 1942 saw the Nazi thrust limited to the South.

In August, 1942, they turned East toward Stalingrad. The aim was to capture this vital crossing over the Volga and hit at Moscow

from beneath. In September the Nazis were held, and in spite of intense efforts could not dislodge the Red Army. In mid-November the Red Army counter-attacked and surrounded the Nazis. The besiegers were now besieged.

The German Army at Stalingrad was trapped, their efforts to break out of the blockade unavailing. On 31st January, 1942 von Paulus, commander of the German Sixth Army, surrendered, the first German Field-Marshal ever to surrender - along with scores of generals and some 90 thousand men, all that remained of a once-proud army.

No-one can fail to admire the strategic wisdom of the decision to hold at Stalingrad, the tactical mastery of the counterencirclement, the technical equality not superiority in armament achieved by a country which a few years before had been among the most backward.

But what ultimately decided the outcome was the fighters. "We should get as close to the enemy as possible, so that his air force could not bomb our forward units. Every Nazi soldier must be made to feel that he was living under the muzzle of a Russian gun, always ready to treat him to a fatal dose of lead."

Stalingrad was where modern street fighting was born, where



individuals held key points, houses street corners, grain elevators against whole armies, where the workers of the tank factories climbed into the tanks they had just made and drove them into battle. This indomitable will gave victory to the Russians.

Mao Tsetung hailed the resistance at Stalingrad as a decisive victory in his article A Turning Point in World War II written long before the final capitulation. For ourselves the lesson, as it was for the Chinese, is that the outward ferocity of the aggressor betrays inner weakness.

Resistance itself, which began the moment a Nazi set foot on Soviet soil, was the means to victory, culminating in the unshakeable resistance of Stalingrad. Although ours is not a war of guns, the same spirit and tactics apply in our war of resistance against the destruction of our homeland by an alien bourgeoisie.

'3 worlds'

REGULAR readers of The Worker will know that this paper, in common with the journals of many European communist parties, has directed sharp criticism at the so-called theory of three worlds. This theory places us in a "second world" of capitalist and imperialist powers, and urges us to reject revolution and rely on the "third world", the developing countries, for socialist advance.

But what of communist parties in those developing countries which have supposedly been assigned the key revolutionary road? What do they think?

A recent pamphlet from Albania's "8 Nentori" publishing house answers these questions. Entitled "A New Step In The Struggle Against Opportunism", it is a reprint of an article that appeared in "A Classe Operaria", the central organ of the Communist Party of Brazil.

The Brazilian party, treats the three world theory with withering scorn. "We who are fighting in the dependent and semi-colonial countries," it says, "are aware of the utterly counter-revolutionary essence of this theory. This theory constitutes a grave danger. Whereas the revisionist lackeys of the bourgeoisie want to place the revolutionary movement in the service of the bourgeoisie, and link it with the Soviet social-imperialists, the advocates of the 'theory of three worlds' want to subject the supreme interests of the oppressed peoples to the most regressive elements in their own countries. They are the defenders of the order in power in the 'third world' even when this order is represented by savage fascist military dictatorship."

So much for "Three worlds"! The pamphlet is now available from the Bellman Bookshop, price 15p including postage.

IN West Germany a court has recently extended its country's 'democratic' constitution. This constitution was set up as an anti-communist bulwark by the occupying forces after the Second World War. Under it no-one of Civil Service status (which includes teachers) may have communist sympathies. Apparently this constitution has not been effective enough. A teacher with pacifist beliefs has been refused his application for Civil Service status on the grounds that, although not an enemy of the state, he could not be expected to actively defend the state against the evils of communism. Indifference is not enough!

TEACHERS are preparing to fight for a maximum class size of 25. A motion calling for action on the new figure was voted top priority for discussion at the NUT's Annual Conference in Blackpool at Easter.

SUNDAY newspapers have revealed that a secret Foreign Office department set up after World War Two to distribute anti-communist propaganda abroad also covertly planted its poisonous material in Britain itself.

THE National Coal Board's research and development Chief has stated that by the year 2000 "robots may replace men" as mechanisation reaches the fully automatic stage. All very well, but who will be pushing the buttons?

DID you know that the rubber bullets widely used by the British army in northern Ireland were rejected by Franco's riot police as being 'too lethal'?

THE restoration of capitalism in Poland recently went one stage further with the reintroduction of a private sector in the retail field. The official explanation for this blatant reversion was that the shops in the state sector were so inefficient that many had been forced to close, and the competition would do them good!

Following the announcement, the authorities were swamped with applications for licences from would-be shopkeepers, which, it was admitted, would cause chaos in the centralised planning of the economy. Capitalism, it seems, is in crisis everywhere!

AN 'expert' on unemployment figures has explained that "seasonally adjusted" refers to those who are laid off (by the weather,) from the building industry and to those who work in the 'tourist industry'. If the capitalist masters have their own way and the de-industrialisation of Britain runs its course, we shall all work in the tourist industry as sellers of ice cream and makers of plastic knick-knacks, and then we can all be 'seasonally adjusted'.

Below: A meeting in Stalingrad in February 1943 to celebrate the defeat of the German army and the liberation of the city.

**THE LEVIATHAN OF THE DEEP****Capitalism's greed for profit is threatening the whale with total extinction**

CONSERVATION is a joke under capitalism and extermination a way of life. Man in his greed and stupidity has made extinct many of the earth's creatures; from the great auk to the auroch, from the quagga to the stellars sea cow. Modern capitalism, which enshrines greed and stupidity as a religion, looks set to add to the list of those irretrievably lost.

The whale, leviathan of the deep, is threatened. The whale (order cetacea) includes such marvels as the blue whale, the largest ever living creature weighing as much as 25 elephants and up to 85 feet long, which sieves its food (krill) from the sea; to the toothed sperm whale of complex facial structure and advanced brain which can dive to 1000 metres and stay submerged for over an hour and which battles in the depth of the ocean for its food, the giant squid. Of course many are not threatened with immediate extinction, but all are under pressure.

At the last meeting of the International Whaling Commission, held in December, the Commission disgraced itself. The meeting as though to shroud its perfidy was held in secret.

The Chairman failed to inform observers of its occurrence, its time or place. The 1977 quota for sperm whales in the North Pacific was a total of 7,200 males and females.

At its June 1977 meeting the IWC recommended that the quota for 1978 be a total of 763, a reduction of almost 90 per cent. This decision was taken on the basis of information showing that the previously unrecognised use of ASDIC by the Japanese (for echo-locating whales) had distorted upwards their calculations of sperm whale populations.

Walt! Such a large reduction in the quota would substantially lower profits (even if it might lead to greater profits in the long term)! A rabbit had to be produced from the hat. A special Scientific Committee meeting reviewed these figures and suggested instead a total quota of 8,444, an upward revision of over 800 per cent. Obviously sperm whales had plunged into a reproductive frenzy.

Unbiased science? Small wonder that the chairman desired secrecy. The Committee did however recommend a moratorium on the endangered bowhead whales. This fell however,

due to US desire for bowheads for Alaskan Eskimos who have traditionally hunted them - a tradition which will be difficult to follow when there no bowheads left.

The aim of the IWC is to manage whaling quotas in an equitable manner between countries and on a maximum sustainable yield basis. This is unrealistic under capitalism. It is dog eat dog, and victory to the most conniving and treacherous. In their hunger they must kill the goose today even though it lays golden eggs. Within the IWC countries press for bigger and bigger quotas, and at the same time ignore resolutions and restrictions.

Some whaling countries are not members of the IWC and so do not even pay lip service to maintaining stocks. Currently at least 5 non-member countries are hunting whales and selling their products to Japan. In Chile a company last summer

acquired the use of a Japanese vessel now re-registered with a view to expanding her catch of sperm and sei whales from 60 to 500 a year). It is said that the vessel is leased from the Taiyo company (one of Japan's largest fishing/whaling companies) and that the lease will be paid in whalemeat. In spite of IWC resolutions to the effect that member nations should not trade in whale products nor lease or sell whaling equipment to non-members.

Of course Japanese capitalism is but one thief in a den.

The truth is that capitalism cares nought for man nor beast, only for profit. Are we to say, come back Moby Dick all is forgiven, that the whale was to kind to Jonah; or are we too kind to capitalists? Surely by now they should be extinct and take their rightful place in history alongside the dinosaur and the mastodon.

'The Worker'

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EDITORIAL

FEWER houses were built in Britain in 1977 than in any of the last 26 years, in spite of 52,000 'officially' homeless families and 300,000 building workers on the dole. Some 70,000 fewer houses were built than in 1976, and so desperate were people for a roof over their heads that when the GLC put on the market 200 old council houses turned down by tenants more than 11,000 families applied for them.

So much for 70 years of Labour Party reformism in the field of housing for the people. Indeed, this Labour Government like any capitalist government is moving away from the very concept of providing housing as a public service and is leaving the whole field to private enterprise. This they justify by arguing in the Green Paper that there is no longer a housing problem - only a problem of people who are too poor to afford decent accommodation.

This is the same solution the bourgeoisie and the social reformers were offering back in 1872 when Engels wrote *The Housing Question*. The essence of the problem, they said, was that "the worker should own his own dwelling". Good, but the whole period of capitalist development, with the rush of the population to the big cities and with the soaring of urban property values and rents, has been a period of acute housing shortage when, just as workers were deprived of owning their own means of production, so they were deprived of owning their own homes.

But the answer, Engels pointed out, was not, as Proudhon and the social democrats of the day proposed, to try to solve the housing question, which is a secondary aspect of exploitation on its own, but to tackle the primary question of the exploitation of the worker as worker by the capitalist.

The reformers wanted to go back to a pre-capitalist situation when farm workers at least owned their own huts, but Engels said, "It is precisely modern large-scale industry which has turned the worker, formerly chained to the land, into a completely propertyless proletariat, liberated from all traditional fetters, a free outlaw; it is precisely this economic revolution which has created the sole conditions under which the exploitation of the working class in its final form, in capitalist production, can be overthrown."

Or else the reformists wanted to establish a just system of housing for workers within capitalism. All it amounted to, Engels criticised, was saying that "the practical effects of the economic laws governing present-day society ran contrary to their sense of justice and cherishing the pious wish that the situation might be remedied. And if toads had tails, they would no longer be toads."

When reformists of the time said that "the abolition of rented dwellings is thus one of the most fruitful and magnificent aspirations which has ever sprung from the womb of the revolutionary idea and it must become one of the primary demands of social democracy", they were only stating the hoary Tory illusion of "a property-owning democracy".

A recent movement in the field of housing for workers is the National Tenants Charter which delegates from 750 tenants' associations agreed at a meeting in Manchester in October 1977. The Charter represents demands to be made on Parliament for the continuation and strengthening of the provision of housing as a public service and includes such points as security of tenure, planning of housing and housing estates, equal rights to housing, control over rent increases and the ending of homelessness.

We must take our revolutionary understanding into these struggles. If the representatives of the tenants' associations in their campaign for the Charter do not realise that their struggle for decent housing for everybody has to be part of the struggle against capitalism which can neither afford nor has any intention of acceding to their demands, they are heading for frustration and demoralisation. If they do realise it, then they are following Engels' advice of not being concerned with symptoms only but of tackling the housing problem at its root, the exploitation of workers by capitalism.

Devolution threatens to destroy Wales

HAND in hand with the British bourgeoisie's policy of exporting capital abroad to areas where higher profits can be returned, thus causing the decline in both industry and jobs in Britain - a policy accelerated by entry into the EEC - goes the Labour Government's attempt to underwrite the whole process and forestall workers' opposition, by creating the diversionary and divisive machinery of devolution.

As with the EEC, we are to be asked to give our stamp of approval to the continued existence of capital in this country, through the use of a referendum.

In order to fool us once again the so-called 'left' and nationalists manufacture pseudo-socialist reasons why both devolution and direct elections to the EEC

are beneficial to the interests of the British working class. They argue that the 'real' socialist struggle now exists in the national minorities of Europe - including those in Britain, and that the development of the EEC, particularly its move towards direct elections, is entirely complementary to the aims of the national minorities.

Herein lies the crux of the matter. The EEC, as a club of capitalists, is dedicated to the suppression of class struggle, to the stifling of all working class opposition. It is precisely for this reason that during 1974 127 manufacturing firms, mostly American and Japanese, came to Wales in the hope that such an easing of the class struggle would come about.

Dole queues for Europe's youth

AS the long-prophesied upturn in the economies of the capitalist world stubbornly fail to materialise, the impact on young workers in terms of unemployment and all that that entails, continues to grow.

By the end of 1977, unemployment amongst young people under the age of 25 years in the 25 OECD states stood at over 7 million. More than 2 million of these were to be found in EEC countries. Remember the slogan 'Jobs for the Boys'?

Predictably, the EEC Ministers, meeting in Paris in December, could suggest nothing more than the usual gamut of phoney 'work experience', job creation, and employment subsidy schemes, whereby we pay the employers not to give us work. Anything in fact, but providing jobs and skills.

Sweden, W. Germany, Italy, Denmark, Eire and Holland have all adopted similar policies to those being pursued by Britain's 'Labour' Government. Hardly surprising, considering the success Booth and Co. have achieved in topping the European lists for the greatest number of young people out of work - around 700,000 jobless.

Solutions may have escaped these high-powered leaders, but causes they had in plenty. A spokesman for the EEC was reported as ascribing youth unemployment to the actions of the workers themselves.

"The stand by unions to protect redundancies (sic) and secure jobs is certainly one of the leading factors. So is equal pay. There are more unemployed young women than men in the Nine." And wanting to be paid a living wage evidently doesn't go down too well either - "The young are more expensive to employ now than in the past."

The Secretary-General of the OECD, van Lennep, was nearer the mark when he referred to unemployment as a structural problem, in other words ailing capitalism cannot do without it. Whilst Vredeling of the European Commission waffled on about 'qualitative mutations' and technological advance reducing employment on a permanent basis.

So much for the utopian thesis of gradualism. The future under capitalism is bleak not to say non-existent. Revolution and the construction of a socialist Britain is the only future young and old alike can make.

The policies of the Welsh language societies, far from being in the vanguard of true socialist struggle, threaten not only the Welsh language's existence, but actively assist the Government's attempts to divide and separate parts of Britain.

At the annual meeting of the largest of these groups in October 1977, the senate of Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg called on Wales to be divided into four areas depending on the amount of Welsh spoken in these areas!

The cause of the decline in the Welsh language, and all the other ills, economic and social, which afflict Wales and Britain as a whole, is capitalism. The danger of devolution is not only that it seeks to disguise this fact, but that it intends to strengthen it.

Jim Farrell places flowers on the martyrs' memorial in Albania, where he went as a delegate of the Party.



COMRADE Jim Farrell, a long standing member of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), was killed in an accident in the Snowdonia area on January 28. He had been climbing with another member of the Party when, in very bad weather conditions, he fell through the ice of a snow-covered lake and was drowned.

Comrade Jim Farrell was an active member of the EPTU and within a few weeks of his death had been playing a major role in the strike at the Rolls Royce factory in Willesden where he worked. His reports on this industrial action have appeared regularly in *THE WORKER*. He never feared to tell people what his politics were and to fight for them.

He came to this country from Ireland when he was 16, and having decided to make Britain his home, had always identified himself with the cause of British workers.

He had a host of friends and will be deeply missed by his family and by his comrades. It is a sad loss to the working class which he served so devotedly.

State attacks children

THE £2 per week in tax cuts so generously 'given' to married couples in time for Christmas will effectively disappear from April 1978, when all tax allowances in respect of children are to be withdrawn. This is the oon-trick reality of the much vaunted Child Benefit Scheme, part of the Labour Party's electioneering in 1974. It promised to "... attack family poverty by increasing Family Allowances and extending them to the first child through a new scheme of child credits payable to the mother."

Once elected, the Labour Government shelved the scheme until 1977. During 1976, however, it became clear that family allowances were worth less than under the Conservatives in 1972, and plans were drawn up. It is important to note that at that time the minimum amount payable per child without costing the state anything (since the scheme would be financed by taxation) was to be £2.34.

David Ennals argued for a rate of £2.90 per child to restore

child benefit to its level under the Conservatives; and even the Treasury recommended a benefit of £2.50 per child, with a special premium for one parent families.

We all know what actually happened - from April 1977 a parent of two children could collect £2.50 from the Post Office each week - and this still came out of the family's pay.

The level of child support in Britain is far below that of any European (especially Scandinavian) country excepting the 26 counties of Ireland. The monthly amount payable in 1976 for two children amounted to one third of the average for European countries, and as little as one ninth of the higher rates! Expressed as a percentage of average industrial earnings, the effect of this new scheme is to nullify all the gains made in child welfare by the working class of Britain since the industrial revolution. A decent level of child support is the right of the working class as a whole.

WORKERS LOSE OUT IN EEC NEGOTIATIONS

We are not going to raise a cheer for the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for getting part of what the Labour Government wanted in terms of the exact rate for devaluing the green pound which, at any rate, means higher food prices. Nor are we going to commiserate with him in his failure to win EEC agreement for the Government's fisheries policy of belatedly trying to safeguard Britain's fishing rights in what ought to be her own waters.

These are some of the consequences we predicted in opposing Britain's membership till we have served the interests of workers here and on the Continent by smashing this monopoly capitalist federation.

One of the ironies of the

situation is that the Government's actions to mask massive unemployment (that membership in the European Community was supposed to prevent) are running into difficulties with the EEC authorities. The "temporary employment subsidy" which offers a £20 a week subsidy for each full-time job maintained and now covers some 138,000 workers, is considered to constitute a subsidy on exports and discrimination against imports prohibited by the EEC.

The Employment Secretary is trying to dress up the subsidy and other means of playing down unemployment in Britain in such a way that they will be acceptable to the EEC. We will not raise a cheer for him either.

Haringey teachers and parents win victory

OVERWHELMING and united opposition by teachers and parents has forced the Education Committee of the London Borough of Haringey to withdraw the proposals contained in its Green Paper, "Schools Provision in Haringey in the 1980's and beyond."

The Green Paper was produced last June after consultations with the Department of Education and Science and other local authorities. It forecast a significant decline in the number of children in Haringey in the 1980's, due to a lowering of the birth rate and people leaving the Borough. Basing itself on the norm of 30 children in each class - a maximum it had already pledged by 1981 - it worked out that the number of classes needed in schools would fall drastically. As a solution to this problem, the Green Paper proposed wide spread closure of schools, large reductions in staff, the use of education buildings for other purposes, the axing of sixth forms and other "uneconomically small units". The proposals were a recipe for decimation of the education service in Haringey.

The response of Haringey workers was immediate. At a packed meeting Haringey Teachers' Association (NUT)

rejected the Green Paper totally, and resolved to ensure the proposals could not be carried out. They decided to fight on as many levels as possible both inside and outside schools, uniting as many parents and other workers as they could.

The Association produced its own Green Paper, "Schools Provision in Haringey for the next fifteen years and the improvement of standards." This utterly repudiated the Authority's document and put forward the Union's policy: no school closures, all classes to be reduced to a maximum of 25, the maintenance and improvement of all existing school buildings for school use, no reduction in teaching or non-teaching staff, and that sixth forms should stay in the secondary schools.

In the schools, teachers and parents fought proposals for immediate reductions in staff. In addition, action groups of teachers and parents were formed in those schools specifically named for closure. A demonstration marched on the Civic Centre to petition councillors, and public meetings were held in many schools throughout the Borough during the summer term. In the autumn, the NUT held a large public meeting

at which indignation was expressed from the platform and the floor at the attack which was being waged on the very future of Haringey through its children.

On January 31st this year, the Education Chairman held a press conference to announce that the Authority's Green Paper has now been abandoned. The Labour-controlled Council is "concerned that the Green Paper has had a drastic effect on public opinion". In other words, it has had to back down in the teeth of fierce opposition from the people of Haringey. Those schools threatened are to stay open, and the Authority has set itself the new target of maximum class size of 25 in primary schools and a ratio of one teacher to every 15 pupils in secondary schools by 1984.

Haringey workers have shown what united strength can achieve when they understand that education belongs to them as their right and their future. Now the battle must continue and develop. Soon the Authority's proposals for next year's teacher numbers will be known in the schools. Teachers and parents must be prepared to fight reductions, and any other deterioration in the education service, as they resolved to do last spring. If NUT Conference this Easter passes the first motion on its order paper - that no class shall contain more than 25 children - it will add considerable muscle to that fight in Haringey and throughout Britain.

The state is the enemy - Britains worst employer

ASK any worker "Who is the worst employer in Britain?" and immediately he will reply "My boss." Follow that up with "Next to him?" and this poses a problem. It is not easy to choose. But when all things are considered there can be no worse employer than the state.

So began the latest in the current series of public meetings organised by the CPB(ML). The speaker adeptly went on to expound upon this.

The State is the biggest employer in Britain. 25 per cent of the civilian working population is dependent on the State for its wage packet. State employees are among the most poorly paid and suffer some of the worst conditions of employment of any workers in Britain. This is well illustrated by the situation prevailing in the health service where pay is so low and responsibility so high.

The State is an employer but it is also an executive committee for all employers. It is the executive employer for capitalism.

In recent months we have seen the State operate openly and unashamedly as the chief executive of capitalism. Steel, the car industry, British Rail, farming, shipbuilding have all been offered up for sacrifice.

In its dealings with its employees, particularly the firemen, the ruthless nature of the State has been apparent. Faced with the support the firemen had from fellow workers, the solidarity and discipline of the firemen themselves, no ordinary employer would have held out. The State, however, backed by the might of its armed forces did hold out regardless of the consequences.

And what of the future? We hold that in our hands.

Kent students assert their union's autonomy

OVER the next few weeks, students all over Britain will be considering in their unions resolutions to go before the National Conference in Easter. In that discussion students must hold fast to their principle: to maintain their Union's independence, locally and nationally, to fight for grants, for education. The time to counter attack is now.

An encouraging sign of a resurgence of student militancy has come from Kent University. At their last meeting, Kent University Students Union overwhelmingly rejected the notion that our unions should be shackled by the guidelines of capitalism. In a resolution on Student Union autonomy, they asserted the independence of their organisations, vital if students are to be able to carry out our fundamental task of saving education. At the same meeting they voted to go on to the offensive on the question of grants,

through a campaign against canteen prices.

A student told THE WORKER after the meeting: "Some would argue that Kent students are wrong; they would try to persuade the student movement that if we surrender our autonomy, then the beneficent Labour Government will shower all kinds of benefits on our heads. Supposedly, since the independence of our unions is under attack, if we retreat, the attack will not hit us. But students are workers not privileged beings existing on 'public money'. Some forget the actions students have taken in their colleges over the years for a full and adequate grant and for the preservation of resources. It is because we are workers that capitalism seeks to smash our means of resistance. It is because we have raised the banner for education that they wish to remove our independence, if only we would permit it."



Parents and teachers demonstrating in Haringey last year against planned education cuts.

ENGINEERS REJECT EMPLOYERS' OFFER

Cont'd from p1

just back away and leave it to others to throw this insulting offer back in the employers' face with a demand for an acceptable settlement.

As for guerrilla tactics of factory to factory struggles, we have engaged in them before and will continue to be engaged in them. What is also needed is for the engineering unions in direct opposition to the employers and

the Government, presenting a united front, to go after a claim for all on a national basis. If engineers want money and an improvement in their conditions, they will have to take the employers and the Government on.

The Executive of the AUEW is recalling the National Committee, the policy-making body of the union. It will be for the National Committee to call for all-out industrial action in support of a national claim.

A steak in recognition

WHEN Garners Steak Houses dismissed workers demonstrating outside the head office for union recognition (T & GW), the workers promptly called a strike and are picketing all the steak houses, asking the public not to cross the picket line and to support their strike fund with a small portion of the money saved by not eating a steak.

The present industrial action follows a whole year of attempting to obtain union recognition by negotiation with management and through ACAS. Now workers have taken matters into their own hands.

Books, pamphlets

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

WORKER readers are invited to the CPB(ML)'s new series of London meetings, listed below. The meetings will take place on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, Tufnell Park, London NW5.

- Friday, February 10 Albania Strides Forward Organised by the New Albania Society
- Friday, February 17 EEC & Devolution: Two-pronged Attack on Britain
- Friday, February 24 What is a Marxist-Leninist Party?