

THE WORKER



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WE MADE BRITAIN

WE MUST SAVE IT



Chrysler workers vote for the right to work and against the destruction of industry in Britain.

Chrysler Workers .. Active Defence Of Our Skills

It ill becomes Wilson to accuse the Chrysler management in the Commons of being Luddite and "putting a pistol to our heads" over the threatened shut down of Chrysler's plants in the UK. It was not very long ago that a group of US business men were invited over here at our expense to see what the opportunities for exploiting the British working class were like!

American capitalists act like all the other capitalists. If they do not see an immediate profit, they prepare to depart. We should remember that before the Americans called it "Chrysler's" they bought it off of Sir William Rootes who, with no thought of patriotism but only an attitude of what was good business sense, sold it to the Americans.

It is typical of capitalism that it cannot develop a planned economy. We have become lopsided in the production of the motor car. We have become ineffective in the production of machine tools. We are now so busy exporting our expertise abroad to the rest of the world in building new factories abroad, supplying steel workers to Germany and rendering technical assistance elsewhere, that one wonders if there will be any production left here at all.

Chryslers sucked British workers' brains and came up with a new model. Pratt and Whitney have done a deal with Rolls

Royce Aero Engines for the sole purpose of gaining our expertise. American Companies are desperately anxious to get hold of Ferranti's for the lead they have in aircraft electronics.

When are British workers going to cry halt to the robbery of ideas that is taking place by foreign capitalists and our own capitalists who are only too willing to do anything for a fast buck, Fords, Vauxhalls and Chryslers in this country were built out of the exploitation of the British working class. Rightfully they are ours to be taken over by our workers. They do not belong to anybody else.

At the same time that workers in Vietnam said Down with imperialism! Down with foreign intervention! they also said Away with capitalism! If the worker in this Country wants security, a different way of life, the right to control our own destiny, then he has to fight for it all the way.

Chrysler Linwood

Of Chrysler's 26,000 UK workforce, 7,000 work in the Linwood plant in the West of Scotland.

The workers here are determined to resist any attempt to close it and their plans to occupy the factory in the event of closure are well advanced.

The workers point to a foreboding fact: the new, advanced "Alpine Model" car is the star-vehicle of the current Scottish Motor Show in Glasgow. But was it built in Scotland? No, in France - to where the company's capability for such models is being removed. This is yet another illustration of international capitalism in flight from, and dismembering Britain.

The wife of one worker there said: "I just don't know what the future holds for us". Thousands like this couple who moved to the "new town" of Linwood when car production began in 1962 would face unemployment and the uprooting of their families. Men came from all over the country to work at Linwood. The town grew to a population of 17,000. 2,500 cars used to roll off the assembly lines every week. Now this is down to under a few hundred and many have suffered reductions in wages of over £20 per week. There is little prospect of other jobs in the area, with a 6.8 per cent unemployment rate, tyre factories on a 3 day week and steel jobs in jeopardy.

The only way is to resist, even better, to attack, the capitalism that threatens our lives.

In those countries which have developed on the basis of self-reliance since the war, like China and Albania, there is continuous economic advance, a stable currency, full employment and rising real wages.

In no country where the capitalist class was in a position to bargain away self-reliance and national independence for their own selfish profit, like Britain, has there been anything since the war but a succession of economic crises, rising inflation and unemployment, a disintegrating trading position and falling real wages.

Self-reliance is the way of socialist advance for a country's working people. Under the capitalist way there can be no national independence and no self-reliant development.

The first Labour Government after the war, elected on an upsurge of socialist enthusiasm by those who had fought and defeated fascism, promptly betrayed the electorate by accepting US Marshall dollar aid and collaboration with US imperialism. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Fleet St. Engineers Reject Govt Wage Fixing

The struggle for collective bargaining continues. There can be no collective bargaining with the acceptance of any limit - £6 or any other. The engineering union has rejected the limit at its national committee, and the Fleet Street branch of the AUEW operated that policy. The Daily Express engineers chapel has been putting pressure on the employer to keep to an agreement made earlier this year, making wage improvement of 8 per cent. The employer replied to these pressures by sacking 96 skilled engineers.

With the issuing of notices, the Fleet Street branch of the AUEW immediately called for a mass meeting of engineers employed by London newspapers. Approximately 500 packed tightly into a hall just off Fleet Street and heard reports from the chapel, branch and divisional organiser. The motion put to the meeting was carried unanimously

- a demand for the immediate withdrawal of the notices. Failing this there would be a complete stoppage by engineers in Fleet Street. The result has been seen. No national or evening newspaper appeared on Friday 14th November. No Daily Express on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and only one edition of the Evening Standard on Thursday. The employers agreed late Friday evening to withdraw the notices and take part in talks with the chapel on Monday 17th November. This has been greeted as a victory by AUEW members through their solidarity. Despite the inferences made in some of the national press, Fleet Street engineering workers have spelt out to the employer that he cannot publish without the engineers.

To workers in all industry let the struggle of the Fleet Street engineers be a lesson. We have the power. Let us use it.

**JOIN THE DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT
EUSTON STATION, 1.30p.m.
November 26th**

Students : Learn From The Past

The National Union of Students will be debating the way forward at its Conference from December 5th - 8th.

Students' unions are relatively new to struggle, but the progress they have made can be seen. In 1968 students within their national union decided to hold back on struggle in the interests of the Labour Government then in power. In that year the Labour Government set up an 'independent' body to recommend new grant rates but cut the suggested 12 per cent rises by half - a decision which was eventually accepted by the NUS. Students learnt their lesson. In 1974, 35,000 students marched through London for higher grants. In that year forty colleges and universities were on rent strike and other tactics in use were canoe boycotts, disruption of important research, picketing supplies and occupying buildings vital to the functioning of the colleges, sometimes effective enough to paralyse whole campuses. The result was a 22 per cent increase in the level of the grant although we still have to force the removal of anomalies in the grants system such as the means test, parental and spouses' contributions, discretionary awards, cash grants.

But the battle wasn't over when the award was announced for college authorities immediately tried to recoup as much of it as possible in increased charges for halls of residence and refectory meals. Students are realising that the struggle to protect living standards can never cease in a capitalist system.

GRANTS & EDUCATION CUTBACKS

Our major campaign is still that for higher grants and against the cutbacks in education. The Conference must recognise these cutbacks as part of the strategy of the State to destroy education in Britain. For an illiterate, homeless, unhealthy generation that has grown up and never been in any kind of employment will be the result of succumbing to the present attacks on what has been so hard won by our class.

The NUS must beware of fallacious arguments. We have to reaffirm the demand, first put forward by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) of "full grants for all full-time students". We must not again be diverted into giving priority to the abolition of discretionary awards, for those students on mandatory awards are no better at class struggle than those who are not - they cannot afford to delay their own demands, with the accompanying danger that the section of students on discretionary awards will be left to fight on their own. Neither must we be trapped into collaboration in administering cutbacks through notions of 'workers participation' - representation on college committees. Students' unions must oppose all cuts, in whatever guise, using those tactics most suitable for their local conditions and cooperate with other trade unions on the basis of a common response to a class attack.

DEFEND OUR UNION

We have to fight to develop and maintain democracy in our unions, to continue building them into effective, fighting bodies, independent of college authorities and other external controls. On a national level we must maintain the direct representation of members of the constituent organisations at NUS Conferences. This includes opposition to demands for postal ballots for executive elections and referenda on policy decisions. It is the active involvement of our membership which makes for a strong and effective union.

HOUSING

With the acute shortage of accommodation many students are being forced to accept overcrowding and substandard housing, high hall fees and in many cases squats in derelict buildings. Students must place the responsibility for housing firmly where it belongs - in the hands of government and local authorities. The State needs the labour of skilled workers and so it must provide the facilities for them to train and study in.

We are also being attacked with the notion of home-based students who should go to their nearest college, thus dispensing with the need for student accommodation and requiring 29.6 per cent less grant. We need to find out how to fight this in the colleges with mass action over issues such as the shortage of student accommodation.

SAVE IT !

the preservation of the industry an exercise in industrial archaeology!

The history of Alfred Herbert illustrates vividly this attitude. Herbert's, once the jewel of Coventry's industrial crown, as recently as 1967 employed over 11,000 people. Now it employs only 6800 - 4000 in Coventry. 1200 workers are to be sacked in the latest government attempt to trim down the company still further in a deal including government control and 'workers' participation'.

Herbert's was once the Harrod of the machine tool industry, with a very wide range of products. All this has gone. The prospect now is that only a fraction of Herbert's production will remain - perhaps just a small part of the numerically controlled capstan and turret lathes which make up 40 per cent of its business. Production of drilling, boring and grinding machines will probably cease altogether.

The slow dismemberment of Herbert's has been accompanied

WOMEN'S FIGHT FOR EDUCATION

We have to be very careful not to assist that enemy's tactic of divide and rule. Women are severely discriminated against in course selection, the spouse's contribution to their grant, lack of creche facilities in many colleges and lack of abortion facilities - problems which have been made worse by the present policy of education cuts. But these problems affect men as much as they affect women and we must be united in our campaign on these issues, which entails rejecting the patronising and divisive notions of closed women's groups and positive discrimination. The ideology which doubly exploits women is not the ideology of men but that of the ruling class which in order to rule thrives on division amongst sections of the working class. We cannot allow ourselves to be artificially divided in this way for those specific issues in which the NUS Women's Campaign is rightly interested are matters which face the whole of the student movement and so any suggestion that a Women's Conference be made a Specialist Conference with policy making powers is not only sectarian but fatal to the success of the struggle. A united student movement is a formidable force and it is through acting together that we can learn the lessons of struggle across all fronts.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

An insidious form of cutback has now been proposed under cover of the lie that it will provide more education for British students.

An internal document from the ILEA concerns the 7,500 overseas students in London's colleges and shows the most savage cuts in the further education section to be in provision for them. The argument put forward is to reduce their number, on the grounds that, paying only one third of what it costs to educate them, they are occupying places which British students could have. But in reality, the ILEA intend to close options, courses and colleges.

The ILEA policy is designed to divide student from student so we must be absolutely united in our opposition to the plans.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

The Labour Government is currently attempting to lure the working class into cooperation with a policy of wage freeze, with the constant threat of legislation and massive unemployment should the working class refuse to do so. Students must recognise this attack, a further advance towards the corporate state, as being on the whole of our class. Not only are we not immune from attacks on our organisation, living standards, health, housing, education and employment prospects, but in order to be successful our class must be united in its fight against this attack. A sectional approach, a pretence that these policies have nothing to do with students, weakens our class.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

So also the strategy of entry into the EEC, the Common Market whose aim is the free movement of capital and labour while multi-national firms take European-wide decisions resulting in rationalisations, mergers, closures, depressed regions and an enlarged army of unemployed. The attack is on the unity of the British working class, to dilute the level of trade union organisation and import the worst features of industrial relations current in the EEC, and the deindustrialisation of our country. The EEC is a major cause of the present acute unemployment and worsening inflation and further undermines the ability of the British economy to satisfy even the most basic needs of the people. Only the militancy and revolutionary consciousness of the working class can insure the creation of a prosperous Britain.

THE FIGHT FOR EDUCATION IS REVOLUTIONARY

It must be understood that the destruction of health, housing, education and British resources generally, currently made easier by British membership of the EEC, is part of the conscious, deliberate attack being waged by a capitalist class desperate to maintain its profit against a working class equally determined to maintain its standard of living. Students must prepare to play their full part.

at every stage by a consistently destructive government policy. The firm was subject to 'rationalisation' at the hands of Labour's I RC in 1967. In 1972 when an official receiver was appointed, Herbert's affairs were firmly in government hands. Within a year the new boss had cut the workforce by a third and closed five of the seventeen factories. All but two or three of the firm's premises were to close. Under the guise of saving jobs and 'rescuing' Herbert's, the NEB has taken over where previous managements left off. A report on investment options prepared earlier this year for the Department of Industry proposed either government money or jobs. Prior to the EEC Referendum defeat the equation was set at £17 million, a partial government share and 900 redundancies. Now the stakes have been increased, - £26 million of taxpayers' money total government control and 1200 sackings. This is but the beginning.

The battle for Herbert's centres on the company's premises

at Red Lane Coventry. Before the Referendum a stay of execution for this factory was granted under pressure from workers. Now Red Lane is to close.

Against the background of growing unemployment in Coventry, with 16,000 out of work now, Herbert's workers are opposing closure. What the Nazi Blitz failed to achieve in Coventry is now being achieved at a stroke by capitalism in 1975.

But Coventry is counter-attacking. Mass meetings of stewards have pledged that Coventry shall not lose its industrial identity. A growing campaign is being mounted, involving all workers in the area who are facing redundancy.

Herbert's is not just a battle to save engineering in Coventry - it is part of the struggle to preserve what remains of skill and manufacturing industry in Britain - a revolutionary battle for the future of the country.

NUT Considers Sanctions

The NUT is at present considering sanctions to employ in an effort to challenge heavy cutbacks in education spending and resultant reductions in school staffing.

Inspired by the Labour Government, "economy minded" local authorities have not taken up their full quota of teachers. Even in areas where, supposedly, the full quota is adhered to, many schools have unfilled vacancies and there are insufficient supply teachers to cover for sicknesses. Meanwhile, unemployment is extensive and in London alone there are 2000 teachers without work.

The sanction proposed is "no cover" for absent teachers. Where an unfilled vacancy exists, pupils would be sent home. There would be no cover for staff absences of more than three days.

The application of the "no cover" sanction would evidently be a significant advance in the struggle against education cuts. When masses of pupils are sent home, the Government is placed in a very embarrassing position. Parents will be involved immediately and their employers will feel the pinch. Local authorities will have to declare themselves on the question.

When a similar sanction was employed during the London Allowance dispute parents and pupils demonstrated their opposition to part-time education to both local authorities and the Government. When thousands of pupils and parents are marching towards the Town Hall the whole community will find it hard not to join them.

Even-Handed

Equity

Two thousand members of Equity, the actors' trade union, meeting at the Coliseum in London sensibly rejected a proposal from certain "old guard" members that Equity should be "non-political and non-sectarian". Even to organise to achieve better pay and conditions for actors is political.

They then, equally sensibly, defeated a move by ultra leftists to impose on Equity for their own ends a branch structure totally unsuitable to conditions within the profession.

The scene is now set for the membership to get down to the job of discussing the problems peculiar to their craft: dilution of skill; the appalling conditions in many theatres; the means by which they can use the affection and esteem in which they are held by the public to make managements of stage, television, films and radio respect their abilities and pay them adequately.

Albania's National Day

Friday November 28th, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, near Holborn Station. 7.30 pm.



Reg Birch, Chairman of CPB(ML), on the invitation of the Communist Party of China, took part in comradely talks in Peking. The picture shows him in conversation with Chang Chun-chiao, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC.

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Civil Servants

On Friday November 7 4000 London members of the Civil Service Union held a mass meeting to decide on what action to take against the Government's decision to phase out London allowances from the calculation of shift and overtime pay which would considerably slow down future increases in earnings.

The Civil Service Department has calculated that a museum warden, for example, could lose up to 83p a week in overtime pay next April when the 3 year phasing-out process is to begin.

The meeting overwhelmingly voted to take industrial action, which when put into effect will disrupt not only every government department but also Heathrow Airport, the Port of London, and traffic controls (traffic wardens).

The other Civil Service unions are also opposing the proposal but have yet to decide what action to take.

This situation is merely the first instalment of a long battle to be fought in the Civil Service for the abolition of Pay Research, by means of which Civil Servants' pay is decided upon by comparing it with outside pay rates.

The Civil Servants are learning that only they can determine their own wages and conditions by their own struggle.

Talk Of The Town

The giant Trust Houses Forte group is under fire from the workers at the "Talk of the Town" its money-spinner in the West End. The workers, cashiers, kitchen staff, waiters and cloak-room attendants, members of the TGWU, are on strike because they refuse to work with non-union labour. The workers only recently organised, and with a pay agreement under their belts are being well supported. Already THF have halved the admission prices. In this test case for THF the workers have shown great courage and are determined to win.

Commonwealth Smelters,

Avonmouth

Management at this important zinc smelting plant, subsidiary of RTZ, were recently changed when it was taken over by Australasian A & M Smelting. Since then it has been out to break the union. First they attacked work practices, breaking procedural agreements and contravening manning safety levels agreed in the 1972 Wyndham Report; now they have demanded 150 redundancies, flexibility of job demarcation and an end to shift-working (for which one third of the workforce was specifically engaged).

The response of the 600 Transport and General members was immediate: occupation - and then, since 5th November - to strike. They have shown great determination in standing on the principle of 'no redundancy' now that management have named them, and repudiating the self-destruction implied by 'flexibility'.

As pickets they had the police intervene to allow in Chemical tankers. With the cooperation of drivers and local dockers they are in the process of solving this problem, learning from the successful Saltley flying pickets.

Fighting on the issue of the right to work, their success is important to the whole trade union movement; and they can demand effective support - for no worker can stand idly by without thought for tomorrow. Their victory would strengthen the class-wide battle for the right to work, while within the plant it will force management to reconsider their evident strategy of destroying the union organisation in anticipation of closing the plant and stripping the assets. Losses through 'voluntary' redundancies cannot be recovered by threats of no cover for jobs so lost; the end result if the same: organised strength lost, and a green light for a more vicious onslaught from management.

Because the right to work concerns the whole class, with effective support and their own determination CSL workers can and must win.

Builders For a Living Wage

"Not much to shout about..." was how one site worker described last week's pay settlement involving 90,000 local authority builders

He was wrong, of course. The £6 represented a big out in living standards compared with what was necessary. Furthermore, it was a flat-rate payment, taxed and pruned by increased NI contributions but not taken into account when calculating overtime and bonus, and most important it represents a failure to support collective bargaining by allowing the Government to fix wages. Not much to shout about indeed!

Now, the shouting and fighting must be done by building workers in the 'private' sector as the struggle to destroy the £6 limit takes shape.

In 1972 mass action destroyed the employers' limit which at that time stood at 3p per hour.

Last week the employers refused to consider a union demand for more since this would mean breaking the government's rule about 12 months between settlements. "We would incur severe penalties" said their spokesman, leading through the Labour Government's anti-worker legislation. "But even without penalties we still wouldn't pay up".

More important news is filtering in from the sites. It is clear that site organisation is being strengthened in preparation for a fight against the £6 limit.

In North Wales and Swansea building workers have been in action to stop police breaking up trade union activity.

The lesson of the Shrewsbury pickets has been learned. All sites run by Alcad Homes in North Wales are at a standstill until the police stop interfering with site meetings.

At the Aloca site in Swansea, pickets stopped scab labour being police-escorted through the gate and pressed on with the job of getting 29 electricians reinstated.

PRESS FREEDOM?

A farce is soon to be played out in Parliament over the so-called freedom of the Press. The stage is set for what newspapers claim is the biggest constitutional clash between the Commons and the Lords since 1949. But we must return to earlier events to put this futile comedy in perspective.

There is no denying that the situation has become extremely complicated since the Labour Government introduced the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill almost a year ago. Press proprietors and editors decided the Bill might give journalists the right to form closed shops and launched a virulent campaign suggesting that newspapers were a special case.

The Government, as ever digging its heels into the quicksand of social democracy, was dragged into compromise. Instead of allowing the 29,000-strong National Union of Journalists (NUJ) the same rights as every other trade union in Britain, the Government decided that this union must agree a 'code of practice' with employers. Editors would be exempted from union membership. 'Free access' by non-union writers to the Press would be allowed.

Nice phrase, free access, but it has sinister implications. It is only granted when an editor thinks fit. Journalists on strike, for example, have to watch a non-union editor filling a paper with non-union contributions. Journalists are being made redundant while editors use contributors. But the NUJ did agree a code - after an intense internal struggle which has threatened the union's democratic structure.

The argument since has been whether the infamous code should have legal backing or not. The stars of this debate have been introduced as Lord Goodman - "champion of the freedom of speech" and, coincidentally, chairman of the Press employers' organisation, the Newspaper Publishers Association - and Labour Minister Michael Foot, "the trade unionist's friend". Both are badly cast. Foot has compromised away the rights of the NUJ in order to placate the proprietors. His appeasement has led the Press barons to ask for more concessions. Goodman and his Press peer cronies may hold banners carrying the word 'freedom' but it is a cynical sham. The only 'freedoms' they defend are their own - the freedom to print their own opinions, the freedom to preach the capitalist ethic, and the freedom to make profits.

The central contradiction of the Press owners' argument is being exposed as their empires are shaken by the twin forces of our time - by their economic crisis and by the working class's ever-growing awareness of its strength (in this case, the journalists).

It is no accident that the publicity given to Press freedom should come at a time when newspapers are attempting to replace men with machines. A facile double standard is applied when Press bosses talk of new technology and then of closed shops for journalists. Of the former they say: Newspapers exist to make money, just like any other commercial venture. Therefore to become profitable computers must be installed while workers are made redundant. Whole printing plants must be 'rationalised' out of existence.

However, when the discussion turns to the position of the NUJ the paper tigers howl. Then they say that newspapers are different from other commercial ventures. They do not exist for profit but for the public good. NUJ closed shops are not in the public interest. They speak with two voices, each as hypocritical, to maintain their position as powerful profiteers.

The Press of this country is patently not free. It is not in the hands of the working class and it does not serve the interests of the overwhelming majority of the British people. The NUJ knows this, but the union mistakenly listened too hard to the proprietors and their Parliamentary henchmen by voting to accept a closed shop with an open door.

Doors, however, are built with hinges, and when employers launch attacks in the coming months they will find that having squeezed open the door was a worthless exercise, for the great mass of journalists will simply heave it shut again. Parliament cannot contain the organised strength of the working class. Parliament cannot lay down a law on freedom.

When journalists are confronted with the real reasons behind their employers' trickery - for the only freedom they wish is the freedom to sack workers - they will vote for closed shops by the traditional method. With their feet.

November 26th Demonstration against Unemployment

On November 26th a demonstration organised by the North West region of the TUC will take place protesting against unemployment.

November 1975 finds a Labour government which presides over a million and a half unemployed despite the fact that when in opposition it behaved as though unemployment was the greatest crime since the crucifixion.

There is only one way to save Britain and that is to recognise that the fight against unemployment to be successful must be part of the revolutionary fight against capitalism. Britain's future can be prosperous but it can only be so if there is a revolutionary restructuring of the economy away from production for profit to production for use.

(Contd. From P.1.)

There was thus created a situation in which it was possible for US capitalism to play a role in the destruction of whole British industries like aerospace and prevent the independent development of others like electronics, to penetrate West European economies so that in switching investment from one to another, as in the case of Chrysler, hundreds of thousands of jobs could be lost or won in this place or that.

Thus was established the support for every heinous act of US imperialism by successive British governments in exchange for assistance in propping up British imperialism - as when Wilson announced in the House of Commons in 1964 "we understand US actions in Vietnam and they understand our situation in Malaya".

Labour Governments have always taken the lead in emphasising Britain's special relation with US imperialism. Now when there is growing debate about the present Government's anti-working class policies, Wilson and Heath would preempt the argument about import controls by an IMF loan putting Britain even more firmly under the control of international finance.

We say to them: Britain is not yours to sell out to the multinational financiers to be broken up and disposed of. We the working class created British industry and fought for a decent standard of living for those who man it. Only we who created it can save and develop it - on the basis of self-reliance, on the basis of socialism.

The Billion Pound Mortgage

The very day after the Government received TUC and CBI support for its economic strategy of increasing the profits of the strongest industrial firms at the cost of cutting social services, wages and employment, it announced the intention of borrowing one billion pounds from the International Monetary Fund.

This loan is a flagrant attempt by the Labour Government to preempt any further discussion on its plans for strengthening capitalism at the expense of the British working class. Growing criticism, even inside its own ranks, of the blatant capitalist measures envisaged, is to be answered by placing the whole British economy more firmly than ever in the hands of international finance.

One of the proposals made by the 'left' critics within the Labour Party itself is for import controls to protect certain British industries and the jobs they represent. Whether or not, under conditions of capitalist trade, this would benefit employment as a whole, the conditions of the IMF loan specifically forbid any such "trade restrictions".

Realey has tried to maintain that the Government could resort to import controls if it wanted to, despite the IMF rules, but it just does not want to. But the credibil-

ity of Government ministers is slumping even faster than the pound.

But that is not the only area in which Government is willingly ceding authority to international finance. In exchange for the loan, priority would have to be given to 'improving' Britain's balance of trade position -- which would mean further massive cuts in public expenditure and further cuts in wages and employment to make Britain a more attractive investment possibility for finance capital. In this world countries that are the most attractive to finance capital are those in which the working people are worst off.

The cuts in public expenditure which Realey is already presenting to the Cabinet as part of the conditions for the IMF loan, will come to nearly £4,000 million over the next four years, and, among other things, will practically wipe out altogether the British aircraft and shipbuilding industries. So what the loan really amounts to is financial backing for the Labour Government to destroy British industry, smash organised labour in Britain and make Britain a source of cheap unskilled labour to be exploited by the multinationals. Forcing Britain into EEC was part of the plan for bringing about this destruction of Britain.

many more buildings empty office blocks and empty hotels in London, Paris and Brussels.

In the electronics industry alone 45,000 jobs have been lost in the last two years, while Britain imported nearly 2,000,000 television tubes over the last year and a half. In all these cases, where jobs have been eliminated here, forcing up imports from abroad, the cost to the country is the money paid out in relief, the taxes and insurance money lost, the worth of the goods which would have been produced plus the cost of the goods which have to be brought from overseas. No wonder the country is broke!

But the real cost is the misery and loss of dignity of the working people of Britain - our only real wealth. To hell with a system that squanders people!

Social Democracy-

Class Collaboration

The TUC leaders' statement following their tripartite meeting at Chequers, that they accept the need for "an agreed industrial strategy" means in fact their acceptance of the present levels of unemployment, the cuts in the social services, and also that this money will be used to invest in private industry.

The intentions of the government following these talks are quite clear. The present cuts in the social services and the cutting back of investment in the public sector are but a beginning. When any government, Tory or Labour, and only a Labour Government could get away with it, talks about giving priority to industrial development over consumption or even social objectives, then the trade union movement should beware. The Labour Government talking of industrial reform can only mean a stepping up of the attacks against our class. They talk of overmanning and how this can be cured by the shedding of labour, which can only mean an increase in unemployment. Once again there is of course talk of restrictive practices, and the things they do to industry. They of course hope, pray would be a better word, that these policies will not bring about a 'confrontation' between the unions and the employing class. In other words we must not defend ourselves, but go like lambs to the slaughter.

All the nonsense from these tripartite talks, about being ready when the upsurge in the economy takes place, by training and re-training those men and women,

who because of these policies will be forced to join the dole queue - well, we have most certainly been there before.

When are we going to learn, that social democracy is not the doctors but the disease. We have seen "In Place of Strife", the Selective Employment Tax with its effect, a massive increase in unemployment, The Industrial Relations Act, defeated by our class. And last but not least, the Social Contract, which we as a class have yet to deal with.

The strategic aim of social democracy, and its agent the Labour Government, is the preservation of capitalism at all costs. The main tactic since the end of the Second World War has been the endeavour to involve the trade union movement in running the capitalist system. Corporate unions are what they need, a tame working class has always been the central aim.

The fact that they have never been successful in taming the working class, does not mean they will ever give up trying. Nothing will stand in their way, in their effort to preserve capitalism. The trade union movement created the Labour Party, and to its shame still sustains it financially and physically. Talk about paying one's own executioner! Just think, sections of our class, work for the Labour Party, pay for it through the trade union movement, and then vote for it. And the whole working class at this moment in time are suffering the most vicious attacks ever by a Labour Government.

Where do those who threatened, begged, and implored the working class to vote Labour at the last election stand now? Are we once again going to listen, and perhaps take comfort from their tales of woe, how once more we have been betrayed by leaders who lacked socialist principles? Sold down the river by Labour politicians, who now, they tell us, were never socialist anyway. Have we not as a class listened long enough to these excuses, because that's all they are.

While we as a class continue to believe that it is still possible to live with capitalism, the very need for these myths of 'bad leaders' and 'betrayal' will survive. The fault lies with us, the working class. Capitalism, a system based on profit, and very little else, will continue to survive as long as we as a class allow it, even if it means the destruction of Britain as a leading industrial country. There are many examples in nature and history of a parasite destroying its host.

We have no need to go outside our class for the answer to the problems that face us. We in this country have a record of class struggle second to none. We must now learn from our past mistakes and sweep away this system which can no longer afford us, the working class.

Soviet Grain Scandal

It is a mark of imperialism that the homelands are sacrificed for greater profits abroad. The USSR, now consistently unable to feed its people by its own efforts, is driven to buy grain from the USA. In 1972 Russia bought 440 million bushels of US wheat at 1.63 dollars a bushel. In August 1973 it sold a good part of that for 4.7 dollars per bushel, thereby reaping a tremendous profit.

Yet under Lenin and Stalin the Soviet grain harvest improved on the pre-first world war level by nearly a half by 1937, despite a savage war of intervention by the capitalist countries, and despite the socialist nation standing alone. With such a huge population to feed and vast areas of non-arable land there has always been a great need to nurture and protect arable land.

Agronomists in Stalin's times developed techniques to this end, to prevent the creation of "dust bowls". Trees were planted to provide a wind break and to draw the water nearer the surface. The land was left fallow for a year and then wheat was sown. This patient but successful plan, had it been continued, would have resulted in self-sufficiency in grain production today.

Tragically the story turned out differently. All the work under Stalin was squandered by Khrushchev's reckless policies of capitalist restoration. As with all imperialisms be they Russian, American, European or British it is not people but profits that count.

Health Workers Expose Deficiencies

Mental health workers are refusing to cover up deficiencies in the NHS which the ruling class are attempting to destroy by their cut-backs.

Their determination at the moment is being displayed at three mental hospitals where staff have refused to accept a man found guilty of manslaughter of his wife. Staff at Tone Vale Hospital, Taunton have threatened strike action rather than treat the man: this

follows the example of fellow workers at Glenside Hospital, Bristol and Coney Hill, Gloucester.

A spokesman from COHSE union said "We have no locked wards at Tone Vale and there is no security here. Often untrained staff are in charge of wards at night." This is not a personal attack on a particular man but a demand by workers for proper conditions of work in mental health hospitals and adequate facilities for the care of the mentally ill.

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- November 28 - Celebrating Albania's National Day, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, near Holborn Station. 7.30 pm.

Outside London:

- November 26 - "The Struggle for the Right to Work is Revolutionary" Exeter Library, Exeter. 8.00 pm.
- November 27 - "Retreat to 90s or Offensive for Socialism? - Oppose All Cuts" Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, Bristol. 8.00 pm.

JUMBLE SALE

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Economic Idiocy

Every week a thousand acres of farmland go out of production in Britain. A brand new multi-million pound butter-making factory has just been closed so that more EEC butter can be imported. With Britain's rich soil and the expertise of British farmers we could easily meet all our food requirements and produce enough surplus to trade for things we are not growing here.

Our most important natural resource, indeed the source of all wealth, is not, as the Labour Government seems to think, oil, but a highly skilled, imaginative and enterprising working class. How does capitalism use this resource? It puts a million and a half of them on the dole; it exports some of the most skilled - steel workers to West Germany; it misuses