

Propaganda - THE WORKER.

Several things are acknowledged by all present today - the Worker is the voice of our Party; it is one of the principal means whereby we make contact with our class; it articulates our class line and attitudes to events here and abroad more clearly and with more force than an individual Party member can do.

The Worker should be a weapon against Capitalism and a shield for our class. It should be a respected paper; eagerly bought, sought for, and an aid to recruitment. It should be a source of inspiration to all comrades and to class-conscious workers - promoting ideological understanding and clarity, not merely to the vanguard but to all strata of our class, taking into account and catering for the uneven development of the class.

In essence, the paper is all of these things; in form, very few, virtually none, of them.

WHAT IS WRONG ?

As a 2 weekly paper, the Worker is inadequate. It cannot, taking into account printing deadlines, keep up with changing events. Our aim should be a daily paper, but a first step would be a weekly paper - and not a weekly 4-page paper but a real 'fistful for 3p' (or 5p/6p if necessary). 8 pages can be produced now; then 8 pages once a week and so forward.

However, an 8-page weekly with the same standard of typesetting, layout and visual attractiveness is only a small development.

LAYOUT

is unimaginative, cramped, poor. Typesetting is shoddy, misspelt; mistakes are not deleted after correction, e.g. when justifying columns of type; there is not enough variety of typesizes and typestyles of headings (Letraset).

PICTURES

there are not enough pictures, and those that do appear are cramped, unbordered, fuzzy, improperly captioned.

CONTENT

is sometimes imbalanced over a few weeks: too much foreign news in one issue; too much domestic in another. Why is foreign news confined to China, Albania, Indo-China? Why no European, American news?

Answer is a regularized format: of which more later.

EDITORIAL

is generalized, slogans, often jargon. It does not summarize the events in the paper, provide the political lessons of the news. More often, though ideologically superb, it could be the editorial of one or two issues before. More specifics are needed.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR REFORM/ IMPROVEMENT/ ADVANCE

A date / A sum / a rally from Centre should be given for a weekly 8-page Worker. over.....



The Editorial Board should mould the paper, not be entirely dependent on voluntary contributions on whatever topic takes the fancy of the membership; faults of this system, as we know, are that some issues may be omitted, some may be covered more than once, and that Centre may have to sit down and write articles at the last moment because insufficient material has arrived. This is pathetic and could be remedied with a strong enough call.

There should be set up a network of "Worker reps." in the Branches. Responsible for the collection of articles from his branch, getting them written and sent down in good time.

Articles should be commissioned from Centre on specific issues via rep..

Industrial Bureau, all committees will be instrumental here in compiling list of who does what, knows what, is specially interested in what. This could lead to special correspondents. ( THERE SHOULD STILL BE VOLUNTARY ARTICLES SENT AND CONSIDERED: ' INDUSTRIAL FRONT' DEPENDS ON THIS. )

THERE MUST BE A FULL-TIME EDITOR, responsible for monitoring other media, culling clippings, e.g. Industrial, Out of Own Mouths; responsible for Editorial, for attractive layout, control and command of voluntary labour.

THERE COULD BE NEED FOR ( and probably there is need for) a full-time and able typesetter.

#### LAYOUT SHOULD BE REGULARIZED

Industrial front/ Editorial / directions to the bookshops, publications, public meetings etc should always be on the same page.

Suggested layout: Page 1 Main headline, guide to inside  
 2 Home news, 3 or 4 articles  
 3 Home feature  
 4/5 Centre pages: Editorial, Voice of Revolution (Marx, Mao, Lenin etc)  
 Additional commissioned home news  
 6 Foreign news  
 7 " feature  
 8 Industrial front, guide to shops, meetings publications, radio, periodicals etc.

Headings should retain a consistent logo ( as Industrial Front) for say Voice of Revn., Out of their own mouths, editorial!

THE PAPER SHOULD NEVER WRITE JARGON, be difficult to understand, difficult to read. We are not all literate, not all well-up on recent industrial history.

over.....





## Political Statement — Liverpool

Objectively the present situation in Britain provides better conditions for revolution, for our party than ever before. Inflation, general throughout the Western World has in this country the added stimulus to change of the peculiar economic crisis of Britain's manufacturing industry, and the increasingly obvious inability of the present, capitalist system to heal itself.

Unfortunately despite these objective factors, subjectively the class has shown little or no realisation of the only way out of this crisis — revolution. The Labor Party is still, despite increasing reservations, and no matter how resignedly, the party that can claim allegiance of the bulk of the class.

Our party is still almost totally unknown by name, reputation, or line to the working class, and unfortunately it would appear that unless there are radical and far-reaching changes in the organisation and attitude of the party, there is little likelihood of them discovering it.

Our main tasks are inter-related— to increase membership and influence and to increase both the quality and quantity of our propaganda so that our name and what we stand for should be pushed in all ways possible.

Our party's line is its main strength, its overwhelming weakness is the semi-clandestine timidity with which it is propounded, and the amateurishness of the organisation and use of resources with which it is implemented.

We appear to suffer from a dual, contradictory attitude, like being a spendthrift and a miser at the same time— on the one hand we ascribe to ourselves far more influence and importance than we actually have, and on the other hand, simultaneously to be able to invent "theoretical" justifications for our inactivity and backwardness on issue after issue, on practicality after practicality.

If we take the main sections of the party's work one by one we can see the extent of our failures — an extent that no amount of self-congratulatory back-slapping can obscure.

## —The Industrial Bureau

--task: nothing less than to organise the party's members industrially, to recruit, organise, co-ordinate.

--achievements: zero

## —The Worker

-- The main weapon of the party, the "organiser", the recruiter, the main carrier of our line.

-- circulation miserable, frequency not enough, layout amateurish, size small.

## —Publications Committee

--task, presumably, the national publishing of leaflets, posters, and pamphlets

--results: none on Unemployment, none on Inflation, no connection with the Industrial Bureau, pathetic rehash of a former inadequate pamphlet on Ireland.

Nothing on the General Election.

In fact what we are saying is that the centre has failed to be central to the life of our party, e.g. our successes in Liverpool have in the main been despite rather than because of the centre.

Unless the national leadership, the C.C. and the Secretariat, of the party assumes its proper responsibilities we will be unable to grow in the manner and speed which the situation demands.

Our branch is disturbed at the whispers and rumours which reach us of our "heresy" or "deviation" from the line.

If it is heresy and deviation to say that the party is failing in its task and is not at the moment capable of leading the working class into revolution, if it is heresy and deviation to want our party to be strong, large, well-disciplined then we are heretics, we do deviate. — But only in the same way as the little boy who saw that the emperor had no clothes and shouted his discovery!!



18 October, 1976

TO ALL BRANCHES

For over a year, and especially since Fourth Congress, the Secretariat has had under review the situation in our Liverpool, Birmingham and Nottingham branches. These branches were not functioning or developing as they should, and it became clear that attempts were being made to form factions within them. The branches have now taken the matter in hand and the following individuals have been expelled: I. Williams, D. Ernst and C. Bradley. Others who were involved in the factional activity have been identified and are being disciplined. The branches concerned are already feeling the good effects of these actions and their work is advancing.

An unsigned document, known to emanate from I. Williams, has recently been circulated to many Party members. Entitled "The absolute decline of the CPBML", it consists of lies, smears, the use of people's names, and a rejection (so politically inept it cannot be called a refutation) of every point in our Party's line. It appeals to those who are dissatisfied to leave the Party and form a new one. On this one point we agree absolutely. Let those who want to walk away do so; we never asked you to join and we will do better without you; stay not upon the order of your going but go now!

Williams and his associates have compiled a list of names and addresses of members, perhaps for the police. Comrades must understand that this is not only a betrayal of friendship and hospitality; one day it could be a matter of life and death. (If you were in Thailand now it would be death.) For security reasons the Secretariat need to know the names of all members who have received Williams's or any other such document. Each Branch Secretary must do a survey within the branch and give a written report to the Secretariat (use member numbers).

Comrades, the Party is under attack from the police, the Inland Revenue, the Customs and Excise, the employers, bomb throwers, ersatz black-shirts, White Power, Black Power and juvenile delinquents. A Williams we will take in our stride. We must be disciplined and vigilant. The Party will be the better for this cleansing.

Reg Birch

Chairman.