

THE WORKER



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FIGHT

THE FREEZE & 'FAIR RENTS'



WITH

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

EDITORIAL

After all the shouting by "left" union leaders, the TUC is to carry on the discussions with the Government and the CBI to reach a common economic policy. They are determined to arrive at a "voluntary" wage freeze. The workers will therefore have three laws poised against them: the Industrial Relations Act to be used "as a last resort", the TUC - CBI conciliation machinery and, soon, a wage freeze enforced by the TUC, the Government and the employers.

The aim of the Government is to strangle the sharpening rank and file struggle. The plan is to arrive at a national agreement covering not just one industry but the whole working class with pre-set rules and conditions imposed on the mass of the workers.

No sooner had the Government come out with their "rank and file freeze" than numerous alternatives and amendments began to be spouted out by this or that "leader". The question is not whether the ceiling is to be £2 or £10, but that there should be no ceiling to contain the workers struggle. A package deal of whatever content presumes a qualitative change in working class struggle, namely its absence.

That such a deal will stop inflation is farcical. The CBI has been running its allegedly successful "price restraint" for the last fifteen months with the result that food prices have gone up by 22%.

Neither will the lower paid (women workers constituting the bulk are completely ignored) receive any handouts. Lower paid workers are in that position only because they did not fight for better pay and thus suffered a continuous deterioration. They, like other workers, are offered a limit to improvements which they have to fight for anyway. They are to suffer most from any package.

To ask for control of dividends while the freeze is operating is just a high sounding yet empty demand. The Government will willingly "concede" it. After all it has no effect on profits. They are only ploughed back or invested to be distributed later, meanwhile increasing speculation on the stock exchange.

What is being manufactured at The Chequers and Downing Street meetings is another link in the chain that was started with the Industrial Relations Act, then the TUC - CBI conciliation machinery, now a wage freeze, to be followed with a new law on picketing (worked out together with the TUC presumably).

Vic Feather might have many things in common with the Government and the CBI. He has stated it often enough. We have none. There is nothing between us and the CBI - Government but contradictions and antagonisms. We can have nothing to do with any agreement, be it overt or covert, between the TUC and the CBI - Government. If Vic Feather thinks he is speaking in our name, we must show him otherwise through gross root struggles.

RENTS

-Hit Them Where it Hurts

Merseyside are on the move again. Within a few weeks of the dockers' and builders' strikes, on October 2nd., dockers, builders, housewives and factory workers took part in a one day strike and demonstration against the Housing Act.

All over the area tenants organisations are being formed to organise the rent strike and these associations are involving trade union branches, members and shop stewards in what is one of the most convincing displays of working class disgust and solidarity since the dockers were jailed. Women workers especially have been playing a prominent part in the campaign - some of them indeed participating in the strike against the advice of their stewards.

As an example of the effectiveness of the tactics of industrial action, hitting them where it hurts, is the response of the Birds Eye Frozen Food Co. in Kirby where the shop stewards had their 'employment discontinued'. Twenty five men were suspended for their part in the strike.

Housewives in the area picketed the factory which brought production to a standstill and the managing director to Kirby in his private plane. He had to concede and re-instated the wakers involved.

There is no doubt that the prospect of industrial action against the Rent Act is bringing considerable disquiet to the employing class. If it hurts them, we know we are using the right tactics.

HANOI: Report Back by REG BIRCH Oct. 27th. 7-30 Conway Hall Red Lion Sq.

PACKAGE DEALS

Heath and Wilson are competing to see who can offer the most attractively-wrapped hand-cuffs to be worn by the organised working class. The hand-cuffs are the same in both cases - a severe restriction on the capacity of workers to go on struggling against the employers who exploit them.

The only difference is in the packaging. In exchange for his two pound chains Heath offers the empty promise of a 5% limit on price increases. Wilson, with the greater irresponsibility of being out of office, presents more empty promises for chains a few links looser - bringing rents and rates within the 5% limit and throwing in an excess profits tax on land and property deals and dividend restraint as well.

Not only are the hand-cuffs the same, the two parties have even picked the same salesman to try to close the deal - the TUC. Nothing could show up in a clearer light the nature of the two capitalist parties and the role of the TUC. The Labour Party actually supports the talks the TUC has entered into with the Government and CBI!

The employing class and its Tory and Labour Party spokesmen must be desperate indeed to think that workers, never more militant and class conscious than they are now, will buy such a bill of goods. With the level of industrial action higher than at any time since before the war, with the working class adopting successful, factory-based guerrilla tactics not only over wages and conditions but also on the very right to work, the capitalist class has to mount a counter-offensive - by fraud if possible, by force if necessary.

At the same time that an attempt is being made to whip up popular hostility against the major unions who are said to be 'wrecking the economy with exorbitant wage demands' organised workers are being appealed to in the most cajoling phrases to exercise restraint in the interest of the system that exploits them!

It is not the task of workers to make capitalism work. They are not struggling simply for higher wages but for the control of their future as a class. They have begun the protracted war which will smash the capitalist system altogether. And they will not agree to go into battle with one hand tied behind their backs.



Northern Poly: The Business of Occupations

On Tuesday, 3rd October the Students' Union at the Polytechnic of North London voted to occupy the Camden High Street premises housing the Business Studies Department. The action was taken on the recommendation of the students in the department who are fighting against the arbitrary suspension of the head of the department, W. Jenkins.

In compliance with instructions from the Department of Education and Science, Miller, the director of the Poly intends to run down non-degree courses, many of which are provided by the Department of Business Studies, and it was known that the head of the department was opposed to this policy.

Miller was also un-

happy about the relationship between Jenkins and the students of the department especially the policy of allowing student representation on the various departmental committees. As a result of this suspension, the running of the department has been thrown into chaos - examination results have been withheld and the status of some Diplomas

has been thrown into doubt.

The action of the students is not only aimed at reinstating the head of the Department, but is concerned with the whole policy of the Government which involves cutting down on the amount spent on higher education at a time when capitalism has no need for qualified wage-slaves.

1200 workers at CAV Lucas, at Fazakerley, voted unanimously to take any action necessary to keep the factory open. They allege that this closure is not unconnected with Lucas' acquiring recently another factory making the same product.

This factory is only a short distance from Fishier-Bendix where there was a successful occupation. Workers not only retained their jobs but reduced the working week to 35 hours.

LATE NEWS: Workers have occupied CAV Lucas at Fazakerley.

SWAN HUNTER

Swan Hunter's pay deals are now collapsing all over the place. The 3,800 boilermakers have been on strike since early September over a cost-of-living claim of £4.72 a week, scrapping their three-year deal. 8,000 ancillary and outfitting workers have turned down a £1.50 offer, and now 500 clerical workers in the Tyneside yards are seeking a cost of living rise just three months after settling a 12-month deal. Also on the slipway waiting to be launched is a claim from 700 draughtsmen whose old agreement has just ended.

SOUL BROTHERS

As more and more workers are drawn into the mainstream of organised struggle so unionisation reaches into the most unlikely places. The National Union of Bank Employees has just won recognition at the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, while ASTMS has recently recruited several priests and a rabbi in East Anglia. So, in the unlikely event that any of our readers ever reach the pearly gates, remember - St. Peter won't let you in without a union card.

SINGER

More than 6000 workers at the Singer sewing machine factory at Clydebank walked out on the 4th October for a mass meeting in which they condemned their management's attempt to enforce the Housing Finance Act. Clydebank Town Council and Glasgow Corporation had refused to implement the Unfair Rents Act. Singer responded by refusing to pay a £19,000 rates increase, saying this would not be necessary if the Clydebank Council put up rents high enough. The workers are also concerned at the possibility of redundancies.

SCOTT LITHGOW

750 engineers at the Greenock and Port Glasgow shipyards of the Scott Lithgow group voted by a two-to-one majority to continue their strike, then in its 14th week, on Sept 19. The management is moaning about the strike continuing after the signing of the national agreement in engineering. But the workers simply stuck it out for a better offer.

BRITISH LEYLAND

14 pickets from the sit-in at the B-L transmission works at Basingstoke, protesting against its sale to the American Eaton Corporation, and the ensuing redundancies, successfully stopped demonstration drives for potential buyers at the B-L AEC truck factory in Southall.

RANSOMES DEMAND

About 700 workers at the Ipswich engineering factory of Ransomes and Rapier face redundancy next year according to the plans of the parent company, the Newton Chambers group of Sheffield. At the present, however, the order books are full and the management wanted the workers to work overtime to complete contracts. Not wanting to join the dole queues, and certainly not wanting to run towards them, the workers imposed an overtime ban and a 'policy of non-cooperation' until the management does something about keeping the factory open.

GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Arbitration or not, we stay on strike, was the reply thousands of government industrial workers gave to the government to set up an arbitration team on the 'substantial' claim for the 194,000 workers involved. The latest offer, which has been repeatedly rejected, is 9% or £1.75 on the present basic rates of £17.30 for unskilled men and £22.35 for craftsmen. The centre of resistance to the offer and to arbitration has been the naval dockyards. At Devonport, 8,000 men were on strike, while many other establishments were holding series of one-day strikes. On 19 September 200 workers at the Houses of Parliament staged a one-day strike. It is rumoured that as soon as Parliament reopens, hundreds of MPs will go to sleep as an act of solidarity.

HONEYWELL

The Twelve Week strike by 3000 hourly paid workers at the three Lanarkshire factories of Honeywell Controls ended when a mass meeting of 1500 engineers voted two to one to accept the management's offer of pay rises of £6 to £7 for semi-skilled and skilled workers with new concessions of an ex gratia payment and holiday benefits. The strikers had been asking for an increase of £9 a week.

BRISTOL HOSPITALS

Heath's £2 plan got a quick rebuff from some of the very low-paid workers it claims to be aiding - 1700 ancillary workers at Bristol Hospitals including cooks, drivers, porters and cleaners were so angered by the threat to their £4 claim that a mass meeting overruled a proposal for a three-day protest strike in the following week and instead walked out immediately.

BUILDER DRIVERS

Following the building settlement, many associated sections have been getting comparable deals. But it is not simply a case of 'follow my leader'. Lorry drivers employed by building firms have won similar increases - £6 extra on the present basic of £20 - but significantly, the deal only runs for one year, as opposed to the 26-month builders deal. A big industry may set a pattern - but you can always try to improve on it.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



The Lopsided Scales of Justice

Anatole France once reminded us that 'The law, with majestic impartiality forbids the rich and poor alike to starve to death or to sleep under bridges.'

In our enlightened age it seems difficult to credit that even this picture of impartiality remains.

This month a Lincoln busman was sentenced to nine months gaol for allegedly pocketing sixpence. (It's lucky for him that transportation has been abolished!)

Where was Maudling? Enjoying his dubious thousands. Where was Poulson? Being 'enquired' into.

Fortunately the Lincoln busman recognised the class nature of the 'justice' meted out to their colleague - and came out on strike until he was released.

The Law's magnificent impartiality is now being exposed as the make-up covering a whore who disposes her favours to the highest bidder.

Workers, more and more, are disregarding the 'sacredness' of law, more and more realising it to be an instrument of the bosses' rule, and are now responding in the proper way - by defying the law whenever it goes against their interests.

THE FORD FRAUD

A claim will shortly be presented by the Unions to the Ford Motor Company for higher wages and improved conditions.

There will of course be the usual exchange across the table of figures on wages, from the employers to prove that Ford wages are top of the league and from the Unions presenting a completely different picture.

Figures Can't Lie But...

As we have pointed out before in these columns it is the usual practice for Ford employers to present wage figures which include everything, average overtime, shift premiums, merit payments etc., etc., and compare that with wages elsewhere not comprised of these extraneous elements. This doesn't fool Ford workers but thanks to news and propaganda media it does tend to fool many others.

Some Perspective Needed

It has long been a saying among Ford workers that you can buy a car with your earnings at Fords but the trouble is that you have to work so many bloody hours to buy it you don't get time to drive it. There is more than just an element of truth in this, overtime and shift work combined with what are among the most tiring jobs and arduous of jobs, plus time for travelling leaves precious little time for other than work, food and sleep.

Conditions

Although wages are invariably linked with conditions, wages tend to be always in the foreground. This is natural enough. The constant pressure to erode the real value of wages by all the robbing mechanisms of the system, employed by every operator from land baron to shopkeeper, demands constant struggle to meet the basic requirements of life. Thus conditions tend to be pushed into the background. It is not without significance that whereas it is so often claimed by the ill-informed that a job at Fords is a plum, even in periods of severe unemployment Fords has a big turnover in labour force. In short, the propaganda gets them inside the gates but the harsh reality sends them out again.

Comparability

In this paper which has always championed the cause of the Ford workers we have constantly refused to discard conditions as a factor when assessing wage comparability. What a worker gets has to be related to what he, or she, has to do for those wages.

THE SECRET ARMY

The shooting of a British soldier, bearded and disguised as a laundryman found spying in a Republican area of Belfast has dragged into the light of day more of the dirty secrets behind British colonial rule in Ireland. What is the aim of the undercover squads of plain-clothes troops in unmarked cars? The obvious role is spying and patrolling in areas where the hatred of the people drives out uniformed troops in a hail of stones and bullets. People have been kidnapped by these squads and taken to army posts for interrogation. But does it stop there? What about the 67 people found murdered in the past few months? 'Meaningless sectarian murders' we are told by the press. But few in Ulster believe this. Who else but the British government and its army have a vested interest in creating sectarian hatreds among the population? Who was in charge of Army operations in Belfast until recently? Brigadier Frank Kitson, who wrote in his book on counter-insurgency 'The law can be just another weapon in the government's arsenal, little more than a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public'.

Intemperate failed to cow the Republican and Civil Rights movements into submission. The popular hatred of intemperance means that the Whitelaw administration has to find another way of getting rid of people who could never be found guilty of any crime except opposing British colonial rule.

So enter the killer squads. Enter the 'Black Propaganda' section to commit atrocities that can be blamed on 'enemies of the state' and justify new repression. Enter the Special Air Service - now headquartered in the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast - a specially trained unit that has done just this kind of work in Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus. . . But the Army denies the SAS is in Ulster. When the Army is stretched to its manpower limit is it even conceivable that such a unit would not be used in the very situation it was designed for? One man who admitted to being an SAS member detailed to cause explosions was found soon afterwards with a bullet through his skull.

When Labour sent the troops into Ulster in 1969, to the frenzied applause of the 'peace-loving' social democrats, trotskies and revisionists, our Party condemned this and demanded their withdrawal. The following three years have bloodily proved our point that the troops were not 'to protect the minority' but to suppress and disarm the Republican and Civil Rights movements when the Stormont regime and its B-Specials had obviously failed. (And three years later the Labour Conference returns to the same theme - disarm the people and give the khaki killers free rein). And our Party returns to the same theme - the working class movement must demand that these uniformed and non-uniformed killers of the British Army, who are no doubt practising for the day they will be used in British streets, must be withdrawn.

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND NOW!

Any comparison on this basis takes Fords well down the league table compared with other establishments. For instance, a Dagenham Ford worker's wages do not compare very unfavourably with those of a Dagenham council worker. There isn't much in it, either way, the same applies to other examples in the area. But a comparison between the physical efforts exerted on Fords production lines and the work effort elsewhere, quite apart from the profit extracted from Ford workers as compared with others, shows that in terms of pay for work performed Fords are among the lowest paid anywhere. This is not to say that any worker is overpaid, all are exploited for profits, directly or otherwise.

'Job Satisfaction'

Much lip service is paid to the question of 'job satisfaction'. It arises from the continually increasing process whereby for the greater enrichment of the employer the production worker is fast becoming an appendage of the machine. Nowhere is this more so than in the motor factories and above all, Fords. The effects on workers health, mental and otherwise are only too apparent. The production lines with their soul destroying boredom, tedium and work intensity take an increasing toll. Not before time there fore the Ford workers are putting conditions and hours in the forefront of their current claim. Nobody is going to bring 'job satisfaction' to the production line workers. There is always a running battle to stop the line being speeded up and manning reduced. Now there is the prospect that this question will be fought out at the same time as the claim for a 5 hour reduction in the week and more breaks during the day. Anyone who ever suffered from constant repetition work on a production line will need no convincing that frequent breaks in the day would make a world of difference.

The Ford Shop Stewards' claim is a justified one, never mind what Heath says about £2 or Feather's £3.50. The Ford workers will have a fight on their hands to realise the claims they have made. It is to be hoped that they have learned the lessons of their last magnificent fight - the most solid and united ever - and reject diversions from the quarter who managed on behalf of the workers to snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory. We wish the Ford workers every success and assure them of the support of this paper and our Party.

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ENGINEER!

= or what's
in a name

The escapist thinking of some of our professional workers was amusingly epitomised by an article in the journal of 'UKAPE', the new union, popular among employers, which was formed in anticipation of the Industrial Relations Act. The contributor argued at length that the general public does not have sufficient regard for trades. This lack of status, he argues, would be solved by the use of a new term - professional engineers because they are lumped together in the popular mind with various other 'engineer' (from ingenious). Presumably this would be followed by the employers increasing salaries in sheer awe at such grand titles.

The National Industrial Relations Court, Sir John Donaldson presiding, ordered the AUEW on October 3rd to permit a worker at CAV, Sudbury, to attend branch meetings of the Union as part of his re-instatement as a member.

Peoples Courts or Bosses Courts

During a strike at CAV's in 1967, the man had continued to work while his mates were out. A court of shop stewards representing the workers at the factory tried him on the charge of betrayal and ordered him to pay his earnings during the strike to charity. This he refused to do and allowed his Union membership to lapse.

Last year he tried to rejoin the Union because 'all negotiations in the factory were between the

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

From the speech made by a shop steward at Ford's, Swansea, to the Joint Shop Stewards Committee.

The employing class in Britain have evolved a new word for an old condition, 'Layoff'. Lockout, unemployment, hardships and all the uncertain conditions that go with it.

Layoff means the worker sits at home if he can still keep it and waits for his benevolent employer to send him word he can start work again maybe not a full working week, i.e. (40 hours) maybe only 3 days or 4 days the employer in his benevolence will decide.

The workers in struggle have wrung from the employer certain benefits to ease the financial hardships of layoff, i.e. 66%, 75%, 80% or 85% of full pay for a total of 5, 10 or 21 days per calendar year for days laid-off. But in doing so the workers have given legality to the concept of layoff. They have played the participation game and taken a passive role in layoff. We in Fords found this out to our cost. Fords in 1969 set up a layoff fund with part of our wage increase - our own money. For every week there was no unconstitutional action (strike) by any Ford employee they would put 20p per man into a fund that would be used to pay men 66 2/3% of full pay for a period of 5 and 10 days (on service) in the event of a layoff.

But all these fine words come to nothing, during the miners struggle, with reduced electric power, Fords laid off 850 men at Swansea Plant. They received layoff pay from the fund for two days and then they were told the fund is finished, there is no more money for you. They said we never visualised a layoff affecting all 50,000 Ford workers.

The Ford workers enter into wage negotiations in March, 1973 with a true concept of layoff. It is an act of violence against the workers. We have learned the hard way. No longer will we tolerate short-time and part-time wages at Fords command. We demand the right to work.

FRENCH COMMUNISTS ARRESTED

To be a member of the French Marxist-Leninist Communist Party has been a 'crime' against French capitalism since June 1968 when that Party was declared illegal. The French Communists, understanding how vital it is that workers have their own revolutionary Party, continued to organise underground despite the attacks and arrests by the ruling class.

Now more French Marxist-Leninist Communists have been arrested, Possession of Party leaflets is enough to warrant jail sentences for 'reconstitution' of the illegal Party.

France is also a country where the politics of revisionism (abandoning revolution for the mythical peaceful Parliamentary road to Socialism) are far stronger than in Britain. French workers too are told to forget about smashing capitalism and violent revolution, and to direct their efforts to voting the 'right' party to Parliament.

With its new electoral alliance of Social Democrats and Revisionists, France is being heralded as the next country to 'go

Socialist' in the 1973 elections - as if the French capitalists with the entire state apparatus would stand by and watch real Socialism come to power.

Exactly what perversion of 'Socialism' is being planned is revealed by the joint programme of the 'Left' alliance, in which all vestiges of true Socialism and worker's power have been abandoned. In fact they even state that they will maintain the ban on 'all violent organisations' - on the Communist Party of France Marxist-Leninist.

So within the year we may see great changes in France... Marxist-Leninist Communists will be jailed by a Government of 'Socialists' and revisionist 'communists' instead of by 'Christians' and 'Democrats'!

In France as in Britain it is not Parliament which dictates what goes on - it is the Capitalist class. And in France as in Britain the answer for workers is not to follow the electoral hoax but to fight to overthrow the whole capitalist system.

AUEW and the management and not to be in the Union was a disadvantage'. The members of his branch were not prepared to accept him back as a brother while he remained unrepentant about his crime.

The National Industrial Relations Court referred to the shop stewards who took action against the man as a 'kangaroo court'. It only represented the interests of the workers. The National Industrial Relations Court is a 'scab's court' representing the interests of the employers.

Courts in which workers themselves judge those who have betrayed their class in struggle are genuine people's courts, made necessary by the capitalist character of the official judicial system under which workers can expect no justice.

They are the stirrings of a worker's alternative government within the womb of capitalist society which, with the revolutionary overthrow of the employers' state, will be born into full democratic life as part of a workers' state.

China's Peaceful Co-existence

The latest of China's recent string of diplomatic successes is the recognition by Japan that the Government of the People's Republic is the sole Government of China.

Since the Second World War the Japanese ruling class, which has been virtually in the pocket of the US, has consistently shown a hostile attitude to China. Japan has now agreed to the five principles of co-existence adopted at the Bandung Conference in the mid-fifties, involving the recognition that no single state should dominate Asia.

The new attitude to China comes, of course,

mainly from the growing thirst of the Japanese for markets, and means in practice, ditching Taiwan where Japan has investments to the order of £400m.

It scarcely needs pointing out that this is a further blow to the US administration and its policy of dividing the world on an aggressive bi-polar basis. The Chinese diplomatic offensive has as its strategic aim the dissolution of existing aggressive alliances and the formation of a series of loose (multi-polar) ties. The loosening of the strong US-Japanese formation is an excellent

example. Chinese diplomacy is thus making real strides in the direction of peaceful 'co-existence', each of which is worth a dozen professions of faith from the US.

Inevitably there are those who seek to show that Chinese relations with strong capitalist countries such as Germany, France, Britain and Japan necessarily involves a lessening of the support which the Chinese have unfailingly shown for the movements for liberation by oppressed and exploited peoples throughout the world. This

is absolutely false and arises either from a misconception of Chinese policy, or, in many cases simply wishful thinking.

What the events of the last 6 months have shown is the increasing strength of China. When the working people took power 23 years ago the desire to establish friendly relations with states on the basis of mutual respect and equality was clearly expressed. At that time there was no question of the great powers hurrying to make this wish a reality. Now they are trampling on each other in the rush.



GEC Can be Beaten

GEC workers are entering into the tenth week of their strike at the Arnold Weinstock Factory Estate Complex at North Wembley. At the time of writing, 350 to 400 workers were engaged in this strike at four factories, which began on the 9th August. The foundations of the struggle, however, were laid much earlier.

Watsons (Medical) put in a wage claim in March of this year based on the A.U.E.W. policy of plant bargaining to pursue the National Claim. After protracted negotiation an offer of £1 was made this was rejected and a series of token stoppages took place. At Radio and Television, on the same claim £1.50 was accepted. B.D.A. put in their claim after this but were not prepared to make an offer, and the Management stated that the section was closing in a few weeks. (subsequently proved to be false). Wilton and James meanwhile had battled with the Management on the question of a 4 day week imposed on them by the Management for 20 weeks which was purported to save redundancy, but at the end of that period redundancy did occur. 48 men being involved. At this time the TASS section of our Union, withdrew their labour in support of a wage claim, and during this strike manual workers at Wilton and James were 'laid off' for a period of ten days. The TASS dispute was settled after five weeks with a settlement of £2.75 which was satisfactory to their members. It was the success of this dispute which, although involving only 18 men nearly paralyzed the whole of the estate due to the strength of the picket line, that the members of the four factories decided to call a joint meeting and pass a resolution that if their demands were not met they would withdraw their labour within seven days. The Wilton & James workers although not pressing a wage claim decided to back the strike call on their case of the social injustice meted out to them over the past twelve months, and demanded equality in conditions with staff workers, who had not been effected by any reduction of hours during the period, as the Management put it of 'order famine'.

Once again GEC is living up to its history of redundancies, low wages and high profits. One of the factory convenors points out that 'factories in this complex are paying the lowest wages in the North-West of London'. This policy has led to the £1,000 million electrical colossus of GEC making pre-tax profits of £77 million in the year ending March 1972. GEC can be beaten, as the TASS success shows, but the North Wembley workers are pitted against a vicious international colossus whose claws have left deep wounds on workers in many countries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

27th OCTOBER, FRIDAY. HANOI: a worker's report.

Speaker: REG BIRCH. 7.30 p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, (near Holborn Tube).

3rd NOVEMBER, FRIDAY, ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION, Discussion and film "LENIN IN OCTOBER".

7.30 p.m. at BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5.

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We're not in the Common Market yet but 100 workers from S. Wales can already experience the 'benefits', 'the increased opportunities', 'the challenge'. The Aero Zipp Fastener Co. is cutting manpower at its factory on the Treforest Industrial Estate by 100 as 'streamlining in readiness for Europe'. If Jack the Ripper was about in these hypocritical times no doubt he would call himself 'Jack the Streamliner'.

A SPECIAL CASE?

Conservative Party agents have decided they will not accept a £2 ceiling on pay rises because they say the retail price index has gone up by 25 per cent since their last increase!

Over 100 workers held a rally on September 30 in support of the Palestinian people.

The rally, organised by the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, came at a time when the mass media are conducting a massive campaign against the Palestinian people.

Our support for the Palestinian people stems from the fact that our struggles are common. The fight of the Palestinian people will have to be fought in the land of Palestine itself - just as our struggle in Britain has to be carried out here in Britain. The rally ended with the slogan "Victory to the Fedayeen" as the only solution to the problem of Palestine.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

For those who live in London a report has come out by the Chief Planning Officer for London. It states quite clearly that large areas of working class dis- in London will become distressed areas,

Read 'The Worker'

EUROPE - ALL WAYS AT ONCE

The question is not opposing the Common Market with paper resolutions at the Labour Party Conference, but to oppose it with real struggle whether we are in it or not. The working class does not oppose the Common Market because of any fine point contained in the terms of entry, but because it is a club of capitalists working together to try to increase the exploitation of our class.

The Labour Party after its heroic Common

Market decision at Blackpool has adopted the somewhat dubious posture (albeit its normal one) of facing in all directions at once.

It is perhaps not surprising that the Labour Party Conference should reject the motion opposing the Common Market. This could be interpreted as a precedent, and no one could ever expect the Labour Party to have principles. But perhaps it could be interpreted as a new burst of honesty.

They are no longer acquiring principles wholesale while out of office to sacrifice when in office, but this can hardly be so judging from the rest of the conference.

Objecting merely to the terms the Tories negotiated has its advantages for the Labour Party. For a start it places all the problems that will effect people on entry to the Common Market, at the feet of a toothy egotripping organist. Is this the stuff that history is made

of? No one has to examine the social and economic basis of the Common Market. All one has to do is call Heath and Rippon bad negotiators, then no one has to ask why the British capitalists want to go into Europe, and hey presto! the issue at question is forgotten.

'Renegotiate terms' - what a universal panacea, At General Election time it can mean opposition to the Market in order to gain popular support. In power it means a little verbal

gymnastics - everything is 'renegotiated' - and everything is the same.

Dr. Sicco Mansholt, 'Socialist' President of the Common Market's Executive Commission, has made it quite clear that 'once a member of the Community, there is no question of re-negotiation. Britain has signed a treaty that has been ratified by nine countries. To re-negotiate you have to have the agreement of the other countries. You won't get it.'

This posture on re-negotiation does indeed create a credibility gap somewhat broader than the Grand Canyon, especially when it is remembered that the Labour Party negotiator for Common Market entry said that he would have been pleased to have negotiated such terms. But this credibility gap appears anytime you compare a conference policy and the actions of the last Labour Government.