

THE WORKER



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EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED UNITE FOR REVOLUTION

Labour-the end of the road

On the eve of the Labour Party Conference we can survey the destruction wrought in just 2½ years.

Elected with a commitment to "fundamentally and irreversibly shift the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people" the Labour Government calculatedly set out to do precisely the opposite.

Faced with the deepest world capitalist crisis in forty years, compounded by the long term decline of British industry, this Government has accelerated that decline and used the crisis as an excuse to emasculate the labour movement which first gave the Party life.

In every way this Government, which purports to represent workers, has been the faithful handmaiden of the employers. And yet still the Social Contract holds. To preserve this worthless Government as the only alternative to Toryism, the trade unions, Labour's paymasters, have sold their birthright. Founded in struggle and in defiance of employers, they now eschew their independence.

And for what? So that the Government may posture as more efficient managers of capitalism than the Tories. So that they can maintain the absurd fiction that when profits rise high enough British manufacturing

will be saved. Even the Labour Party-TUC liaison committee doesn't believe that one, since they have written: "On the evidence of its past performance, neither the absence of price controls, nor the ability to earn rates of return in the past in excess of its competitors overseas, has provided the private sector of British industry with the will to invest". Last year £2000m flowed abroad.

How fast the philosophy of corporatism takes hold in the absence of struggle may be seen in the motions to Conference. Only one calls for "free and unfettered collective bargaining", from the AEUW (Foundry Section). The majority of motions on incomes policy look forward to further cooperation between the Government and TUC and an eventual "planned return to free collective bargaining", which means no freedom at all and further steps to the corporate state.

But critical motions abound deploring unemployment and cuts. Demands for import and currency controls, direction of capital, extension of public ownership crowd the preliminary agenda. Yet all is self-deception because all seek administrative solutions.

That there is opposition within the Labour Party to the present policies is true. The

NEC have voted against the new Social Contract. Tribune MPs voted against the cuts. But in finality this is no solution.

There is no "left-wing" alternative within the Parliamentary system. The Labour Party was founded to gain concessions from capital - a more equitable redistribution of capitalism's product - not to abolish it. The Party was disarmed at the very beginning. The reformist road logically leads straight to the Government's door. The bankruptcy of electing a Labour Government "committed to socialist principles" is fully exposed.

Now what is at stake is the survival of Britain as an industrial nation, and the survival of the organised working class. Those who seek the regeneration of Britain must recognise this goal is incompatible with support for a Government which is creating a desert.

Free collective bargaining, the right to work, the fight against cuts, the demand for regeneration of industry are all indissolubly linked. The key is class struggle. The fight for these aims is the fight for socialism. It is a fight which must smash this Labour Party and forge a revolutionary strategy leading to the utter defeat of capitalism. Reformism is dead. Revolution awaits us.

One of the main tasks of the working class is to prevent the use of unemployment to divide them.

The fight for the right to work is the right to work in the factory not in the gutter.

World wide unemployment is a sign of the absolute crisis of capitalism. Just as, in Marx's words, "the ultimate reason for all real crises always remains the poverty and restricted consumption of the masses", so the class expression of crisis always remains mass unemployment.

The capitalist class has claimed that it could solve the problem of mass unemployment by greatly increased government expenditure and inflationary monetary policies; but the present level of unemployment shows that these measures did not affect the basic cause of the crisis of capitalism.

Nothing brings out more clearly the basic contradiction between the working class and the capitalist class than unemployment which reflects the need of the capitalist class, on political grounds, to restrict the very production of surplus value on which it battens.

Nothing brings out more clearly the basic contradiction between socialism and capitalism than the full and complete employment of countries like China and Albania and the massive unemployment of the capitalist countries. That is why we say that there is one world and one enemy, and unemployment is one of the marks by which we recognise those parts of the world where the class enemy is in power.

In Britain the crisis is particularly acute and the sign of it particularly striking. The working class was well enough organised to force on successive governments after the war a commitment to full employment and yet we have reached a point where representatives of the organised working class have had to declare at Brighton that the present level of unemployment, under a Labour Government, higher than at any time since 1939, is 'totally unacceptable'.

If the present level of unemployment is totally unacceptable, there is no basis whatsoever for the class collaboration of the so-called 'social contract'. To be bound by it in word or deed means the servile surrender of accepting the unacceptable. Capitalism has not changed from the days of massive unemployment of the Great Depression. Has the working class?

The working class has not changed if it merely cries 'no return to the thirties' instead of declaring positively: "forward through revolution to full employment under socialism." Marx has said history always repeats itself "the first time as tragedy, the second as farce". The hunger and unemployment marches of the thirties were tragic

Editorial continued on page 2



**The Only Country
in Europe
with -**

**no taxation
no inflation
no unemployment**

see page 2

**Socialism
Surges Forward
in China**

Public meeting organised by CPBML to remember China's national day and commemorate Chairman Mao's living testament to world revolution. Report by recent Party delegation to China. Friday, October 8th, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, W.C.1. Time: 7.30 p.m.

Editorial cont'd

because they never developed the leadership to head them out of the capitalist slough of despair. Attempts to re-stage those marches today are farcical. They expose the pseudo-opponents of the capitalist system as not being against the system at all but merely demanding changes within it - either in an hysterical or a barely audible voice.

When one of the main tasks of the working class is to prevent the use of unemployment to split their ranks, marches and demonstrations of the unemployed on the one hand or purely reformist measures for making unemployment more acceptable on the other are both playing the class enemy's game.

The 'fight for the right to work' is not only revolutionary because it is a right which capitalism will never and can never concede. It is also revolutionary because it demands an end to capitalism's destruction of British industry. It is the right to work in the factory not the gutter. Every worker in Britain knows that he ought to enjoy the right to work. Every worker in Britain must become convinced that a right which means the end of unemployment also means the end of capitalism.

Employed and unemployed must be united in revolution against the employers!

England's green and pleasant land ?

As our sunbats fade and the grass turns greener, the likelihood is that we will not be allowed to forget the drought. Future price rises will be blamed on last summer's weather as will our increased water charges, whilst industry in South Wales is threatened with closure. It is useful, therefore, to look into the background of the water shortage.

On an average day the sun distills approximately 275 kms of water and provides the energy which transports it in a condition suitable for drinking all over the world. England and Wales receive more than 25 times the amount needed by the population. About half this amount could be collected, the rest either evaporating or being absorbed by plants. Since 1968 the rainfall has been decreasing - this year it was half the average. However past records show that this type of shortage occurs every 40 years, so it was foreseeable.

The other, more important resource, huran skill, is also sufficient. The sheer variety and number of works throughout the range of civil engineering has made Britain a veritable school of engineering, continually visited by engineers from overseas. A large proportion of major civil engineering projects abroad have been designed by British consulting engineers.

Yet at home the building of capital works such as reservoirs and pumping stations has not even kept pace with the increase in demand. This increase is in fact slight because of the poor industrial growth. Even maintenance has been inadequate. Recent studies indicate that there is now a huge backlog of vital work on mains and sewers to be carried out.

Another factor damaging the water supply capacity has been the disregard for water as a resource by many industrial firms. Discharge of untreated effluent containing harmful chemicals has put great strains on sewage treatment works. The one at Luton stopped working for three days when cyanide destroyed many of the bacteria which do the purifying. Many divers have reached levels of pollution that make them unsuitable for extraction. At Chingford, for example, the Metropolitan Water Authority has had to stop extraction for long periods because the level of nitrates had exceeded the maximum safe level given by the World Health Organisation. The Cown reservoir in the hills

above Rochdale is expected to remain out of action for a very long time as it became seriously polluted last year by phenol. Possibly one of the most serious emergencies was faced by the Thames Authority when, on January 14th this year, a power station lagoon at Swindon was found to contain chromium which was traced to a local industrial estate. Because of this, abstraction at the Authority's Buscot works 13 miles below Swindon was stopped.

The penalties for pollution are paltry. In a recent case at Willenhall near Wolverhampton Davalov Plating Co. was fined £600 for discharging cyanide into the public sewers. They admitted that their treatment plant was inadequate to deal with the increased quantity of effluent.

If planning and building were inadequate in the past, the situation recently has become critical. The report by the Water Resources Board in 1973 predicted a probable doubling of water consumption by the year 2000. This would require a doubling of capacity for water supply and with it a doubling of capacity for transporting and treating waste water. Also further development of the technology of water treatment is required to open the way to total recycling of water.

The government in contrast must have very different views on the future. The expenditure on sewerage and on water supply for 1976 has been cut to the levels of 1970. With inflation this amounts to 70 per cent of the £500 million spent in 1970. Plans for the next few years are to shrink the amount further.

Opposition to the cuts by the 75,000 workers in the industry has up to now been generally feeble, although apprehension about further centralisation proposed by government is common. Many, understandably, feel that it is more likely to bring tighter financial control than a more 'integrated' approach to the problems of water supply.

Civil engineers, particularly new graduates reading glossy adverts for jobs abroad, may well ponder that while for capital it is irrelevant where they exploit us, we cannot allow Britain to become just a fine monument of industrial archaeology. 'Save it' must take on a new meaning. It must bring to mind to every worker the need to save Britain through revolution.

Capitalism destroys jobs

Unemployment in the United States has recently reached 9.2 per cent or 8.54 million workers out of jobs, and even with the slight uptrend in the economy, which has already flattened off again, the fall in unemployment was only about 1 per cent.

In every major West European country unemployment is well over one million, and in several it is approaching the two million mark. Of course the incidence of unemployment is by no means evenly spread in these countries. For example in West Germany the highest rate of unemployment, 6.7 per cent, is among immigrant workers and the rate among German youth is 10 per cent. In Britain also unemployment is extremely high among youth and there are areas where unemployment among black youth is almost 80 per cent.

The restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union has inevitably been accompanied by unemployment. 'Employment service agencies' have been set up in many places and are kept busy with a flood of job applicants, several million between 1969 and 1974 in the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and Kazakhstan alone. Masses of dismissed workers form the contingent of 'floating labourers' who make up the reserve army of unemployed which is a familiar facet of all capitalist countries.

Moreover the methods used in these capitalist countries to slant figures of unemployment are notorious. The New York Times reported in January that the Labor Department "defines in very narrow terms who is unemployed, and calls many people employed who are not". According to a rough estimate by this paper the number of unemployed in the United States was more like 14.8 million, or nearly twice the official figure. The same juggling takes place in Britain by not counting people unemployed unless they have had jobs and lost them, and in other ways. The figure in Britain is probably much closer to two million than that actually given - but, of course, there is no such thing for us as an acceptable level of unemployment.

One world - One enemy

The refusal of British capitalism to invest in British industry must not mislead us into thinking that there has been a general falling off of British investment. Britain is the second largest overseas investor in the world and by far the largest investor of all in the United States itself - to the sum of between 6 and 7 billion dollars.

One way of looking at this situation is to see the United States as the parent firm of a huge multi-national corporation, on the board of which sit capitalist representatives of subsidiary firms all over the world. If the board decides that one of the subsidiaries, like Britain, is a relatively unprofitable enterprise, it will, in effect, be closed down with the full concurrence of the

Defending Socialism with book and rifle

Albania has taken decisive steps to ensure its defence against enemies of socialism. As the bastion of Marxism-Leninism in Europe, the people of Albania are defending their right to build socialism in their own country, based on the principle of self-reliance.

Military defence has been built up according to the socialist principle of relying on the mass of the people. The regular forces are fully aware of their importance in the defence of revolution. But more important still, the people themselves are armed. Any would-be invader would face a well-armed and well-trained populace.

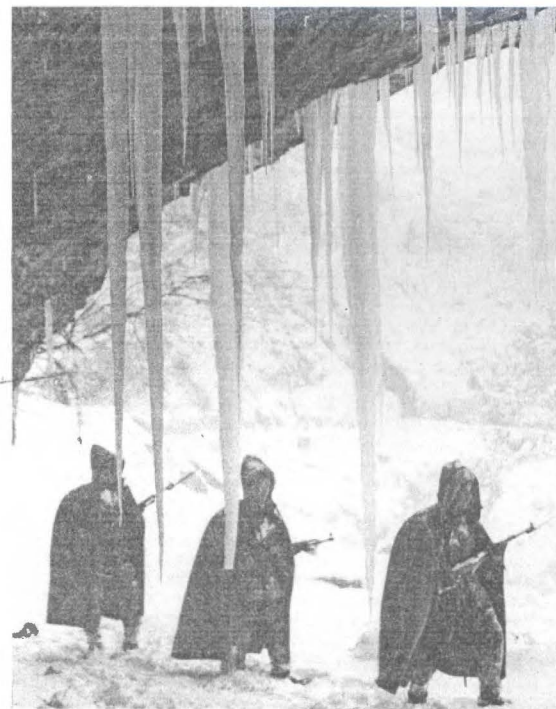
Every Albanian knows that from childhood on, he or she will learn to be a soldier according to the principle of "Two million people - two million soldiers", to defend the achievements of socialism. Within minutes of an alarm signal, workers in a factory can be mobilised into a military defence unit.

The military defence of their country is second nature to a people who have been invaded by imperialists throughout the cen-

turies. But although military weapons are important, they are impotent unless guided by correct ideas, by Marxism-Leninism. Imperialists and revisionists know that it was this ideological weapon which enabled the people of Vietnam to conquer the armed might of the US aggressor.

Albania's enemies know that the corruption of ideology within would lead to its defeat sooner than military attack from without.

The working class - led by the Party of Labour of Albania - will never think that because they have achieved their revolution, they can sit back and relax. Class struggle goes on, because there are still remnants of bourgeois thinking which could, if left alone, pose a threat to the dictatorship of the proletariat. The present campaign to reduce wage differentials, to discourage bureaucracy, and to encourage all workers and peasants to understand Marxism-Leninism and join in discussions are all part of this class struggle. With an ideological understanding of defence, the Albanians are able to steer their socialist economy towards self-reliance with confidence.



Albania's Socialist Successes

A meeting entitled "Albania - the most successful country in Europe" was held in London on Friday, September 24th by the New Albania Society.

The two speakers had recently returned from Albania as part of a delegation from the CPB(ML). Speaking on the themes of self-reliance and education they explained how it was possible for Albania from the backwardness of the past to become what it is today - the only country in Europe with no inflation and no unemployment, where prices go down and real wages go up.

Falling Pound

The collapsing pound is simply capitalism's attack on the British working class, an attack in which the Labour Government joins by carrying out every behest of international finance. Only a self-reliant, socialist Britain will be beyond the destructive reach of international finance capitalism.

Employment in Fleet Street

The British National newspaper industry, known as Fleet Street, has come under scrutiny by the Government. Inquiries into the problems of this industry have

three times in 30 years been the subject of a Royal Commission - 1947, 1961, 1975. In 1945 concern was expressed at the concentration of ownership. In 1961 the trend continued, with the result of these two Commissions being the formation of a Press Council with a lawyer as chairman and the inclusion of lay members.

The third Commission has now made an interim report on factors affecting the independence, diversity and editorial standards of newspapers, and the public's freedom of choice nationally, regionally and locally.

Particular reference is made to management and labour practices and relations in the industry, conditions and security of employment and the economics of publishing and distribution. Recommendations are made to assist the financial position of the industry. The government should make loans available with relief

of interest, with certain conditions, state loans for agreed compensation for redundancy and contribution to meet decasualisation.

They further recommended that no relief be made unless they ensure that policies and guidelines are consistent with the Joint Standing Committee. In addition it is reported that the EEC would contribute about £2 million with similar conditions as required by the Commission.

In July of this year, the TIMES reported that the DAILY MIRROR would be receiving some £12,000 to assist a retraining programme from the EEC.

But the real concern of capitalism is that the planned destruction of industry in Britain would include the newspaper industry, national and provincial, with the contradiction that they have a need to use this medium to oppose our class in its fight to save Britain for the working class.

Despite this misuse our aim must be to save the skills resident in this industry.

Our class must assert its rights in the industry as a whole.

We must fight all attempts to reduce and cut back further. In 1962 nine cities in Britain had more than one evening paper, closures in Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow have left London as the only city with the choice of 2 evening papers.

Financial assistance to the industry really means assistance to run down the newspaper industry with the least amount of reaction from the workers of this industry.

Workers made redundant from a newspaper will be made redundant from the industry. Retired workers will not be replaced. This is the intention. We must oppose the closure of newspapers, oppose any redundancies. The well-established organised workers in print and publishing, with such a historic fighting tradition, should use their well-oiled machine to fight now for the right to work, with the knowledge that this is a fight for revolution and the end of capitalism. Workers will make much better use of Fleet Street.



Workers and cadres at the Changchun No. 1 Motor Vehicle Plant in north east China mourn the death of Mao Tse Tung with concrete deeds. Production is lifted and the workers are more acute in their political activity.

How the Chinese deal with an earthquake

(By a member of a delegation of the CPB(ML) recently returned from China)

Our delegation arrived in Peking on July 29th, the day after the strong earthquake in North East China. The earthquake registered 7.6 points on the Richter scale with its epicentre right in the heart of the populated region of Tangshan-Fengnan.

Peking had been shaken, and as we drove through the streets from the airport, we saw that the people had set up camp outside their houses, away from the danger of falling buildings should there be further quakes.

Everywhere there was a quiet, orderly, relaxed atmosphere.

We were soon whisked away from the earthquake area to Nanking in the South. All China was waging a struggle against the natural disaster, and Nanking was part of its part. The city had sent 200 medical personnel to the stricken area. Nanking had so built up its medical resources that there was little difficulty in making such a contribution.

From Nanking we travelled to Wushih, near the beautiful lake Taihu. Lake Taihu is a famous centre for recuperation where there are many workers' sanatoria.

One day as we drove back into Wushih from a commune visit, thousands upon thousands of people were lining the streets. It transpired that the whole population of the city had turned out to greet workers wounded in the earthquake, who had been brought to Wushih to recover.

In Shanghai we were again told that a contribution of medical personnel had been sent off. It was in Shanghai that we were told of how 10,000 miners escaped the earthquake with barely a casualty. There were stories of heroism. Party members insisted on leaving the underground last. Miners ignored their own homes in ruins and rushed off to help others.

Further south in Kwangchow (Canton) workers in an alarm clock factory told us they were redoubling their efforts, exceeding production aims, in order to help materially. This was a familiar story. Factories all over China are doing the same.

In the stricken areas themselves, the people are trying to learn both scientific and political lessons from the struggle with nature. The struggle is a challenge to their political understanding.

Oxford against the cuts

On September 21st Oxford saw one of the largest demonstrations ever in the city. Over 4000 teachers, ancillary workers and government employees were joined by parents, engineers and other workers to voice their determined opposition to the cuts.

Many of those involved had never demonstrated before, and gained much confidence to continue the fight from the feeling of unity and solidarity which they experienced. At a packed meeting afterwards, several speeches pointed out that the fight for education was the concern of the whole working class, and the teachers reaffirmed their support for the NUT conference policy of opposition to unemployment.

The need for this action still

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Zimbabwe people shatter imperialists' dreams

The people of Zimbabwe have shattered the dreams of the white racists and sent the British and American imperialists into frantic efforts to preserve their African domain.

The Kissinger-Smith agreement on the future of Zimbabwe is imperialist in its very origin and concept. For the very people the plan purports to give a say in the running of their country, the black people of Zimbabwe had no say whatsoever in formulating it.

While the agreement itself is a tribute to the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe it is at the same time an attempt to end that struggle. Smith did not bow to pressure from the US or South Africa. He bowed to the might of the peoples of Zimbabwe and the rest of southern Africa. So did Kissinger, Vorster and all other imperialists.

Whether 'majority rule' is reached within two years or not, the struggle will go on, now on a higher level. For the question is not a system of voting, one man one vote, but national liberation bringing an end to imperialist domination.

Increased armed struggle

The Kissinger proposals, which the Soviet Union has attacked in the furtherance of its own imperialist aims in Africa, have been completely rejected by the Zimbabwe Peoples Army who say that they will go on fighting.

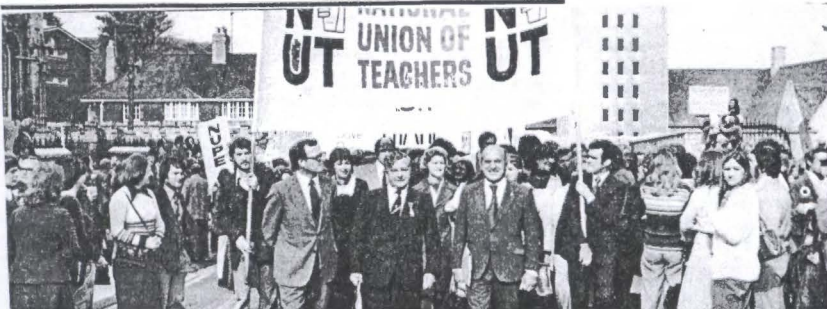
"We don't take orders from Dr. Kissinger and we never will. We are not fighting in order to have a black prime minister, to replace a white Smith with a black Smith, but to destroy the entire structure of exploitation and repression in Zimbabwe. The agreement is a sign of weakness on Smith's part and a time for us to increase our armed struggle."

Avon fights

Teachers in the County of Avon have a good opportunity to fight the threat of redundancy which is planned by the Authority as part of their attempt to chop £2 million from next year's budget.

Up to now education cuts have met with little concerted opposition from teachers in Avon. But now the NUT supported by other unions has said "Enough is enough". The Avon Division Secretary of the NUT in one meeting said the NUT was "no longer prepared to see the destruction of education" and the Avon Federation Secretary of NAS-UWT said "that the education system was in danger of crumbling away and his Association did not intend to assist in that operation".

Extraordinary general meetings of all the NUT local associations will be asking members to take action against the cuts by refusing to cover for staff who are absent for more than one day and by refusing to teach classes over 35 and reception classes of over 30.



Oxford mass meeting against teacher unemployment.

Bristol Polytechnic cuts

The new term at Bristol Polytechnic has immediately brought to light the cuts already made by the administration in non-academic staff.

The Science Department employed ten people, to wash up all equipment used by students during their practicals in the labs. However during the summer holidays these workers were redeployed to other cleaning jobs with the under-

standing that they would be returned to the laboratories at the beginning of the new term. This did not happen; the result is that the Science Department had ten washers-up cut and are faced with the prospect of no new staff being employed.

The administration approached the lab technicians to take on the work; the technicians, members of the Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staffs

have refused, and have taken a stand for a principled fight against the cuts.

Now the administration has resorted to giving lecturers a directive to ask the students themselves to do their own washing up. The students have a responsibility to refuse and to fight for the right to work by forcing the administration to fill these vacancies.

NUR facts challenge Government fiction

A thorough exposure of the Department of the Environment's (DOE) Green Paper on transport policy is contained in a pamphlet recently published by the National Union of Railwaymen. Entitled "A Policy for Transport", its fifteen pages of facts and powerful argument in defence of the public transport system cut through the verbiage and distortion of the government's 'consultative' paper.

The DOE document (which was actually drawn up without any consultation with unions or BR employers) is the latest and potentially most devastating attack upon freight transport, public mobility, the taxpayer, the environment and public safety.

It proposes the final destruction of rail to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the road lobby - that family of capitalists comprising oil companies, road hauliers, motorway builders, motor companies and above all government itself (for whom motor tax represents a lucrative source of revenue).

The principal argument of the Green Paper is a ghastly resurrection of the Beeching philosophy of 'making the railways pay' (by abolishing them). It proposes cuts in rail expenditure, phasing out of passenger and freight subsidies by 1978, the raising of fares and charges - and everywhere a transfer of goods and people from rail to road.

It dismisses the transfer of more freight traffic to rail as 'a pipe-dream' - yet the NUR shows that the increase of the present level of rail freight by only a quarter would reduce bulk road freight by over 40 per cent! Instead, the DOE forecast an 85 per cent increase in lorry mileage on our roads by the year 2010! The NUR, quoting the Road Research Laboratory, estimate a 50 per cent increase in the number of lorries on the road by 2005, and a doubling in their average size from 7.5 tons in 1972 to 15 tons in 2000!

The DOE order that the rail freight deficit, estimated at £66m, be cut by 1978; yet a 32-ton four axle articulated lorry for example, costs the road network about £1,714 per annum more than it contributes in tax. Thus 41,500 lorries in this class get a hidden subsidy totalling £71m which is £5m more than the rail freight loss. Add this to the subsidy enjoyed by all lorries and the road freight subsidy is enormous!

The burden on public expenditure is compounded further by the massive cost of road building averaging, say the NUR, about £3,354,000 per day (£1224.21m p.a.) over the last five years! While on the railways electrification and track improvement programmes for the existing network have been cut back to 1975 levels - a mere £220m compared with £294m approved in 1973 for 1977 by a Conservative Government! Such madness is illustrated by numerous examples. For instance, it would cost only £3.7m to improve the Perth-Inverness link, while the A9 road improvement running along side will cost £150 millions!

While turning rail passenger transport into a luxury and private motoring into an even more expensive necessity, the DOE calmly state that they will close lines which do not pay, but which account for only 6 per cent of rail passenger mileage - the NUR show that this represents 4,210 passenger miles throughout Britain or 37 per cent of the total network! Yet the DOE have the temerity to argue that this will facilitate 'social equality'. Using dubious statistics their Green Paper states that "... subsidies benefit the better off more than the poor". "If this is so", argues the NUR pamphlet, "... it is government financial pressures that have driven the lower income groups away.... The bulk of railway travel is made up of workers going to and from work. They come from all walks of life.... If the government is bent on turning public transport into a luxury by allowing crazy escalation of fares they are already well advanced towards their target, where only the rich can use it".

The final cost to the working class of the DOE's plans will not only be measured in taxation, higher fares and immobility, but human life itself! Twenty people are killed and around 200 injured on the roads every day (this alone costs £850m p.a.). Every year 2000 children under 5 years and 6000 under 10 are either killed or injured, yet the Government predicts a level of car ownership of 45 per 100 persons by the year 2000 which will be 25.2 million vehicles! In 1975 BR operated passenger journeys over 18,800m miles and only five members of the public were killed - compare that with 6,350 on the roads!

Kids' lives -55,000 pounds

One of the more recent moves in the savage public expenditure cuts has been the decision by Somerset County Council to axe all school crossing patrols in the county, thus putting school children's lives directly at risk.

This astonishing idea has been put forward on the premise that the sacking of the 160 patrols who are paid at the rate of 90p an hour will save the paltry sum of £55,000 a year. This figure shows exactly what sort of price capitalism is prepared to put on the lives of our children.

The move has been attacked by parents, who are well aware of the dangers inherent in the decision, especially the dangers

facing children who have to cross roads such as the busy A38 in Taunton. The County Council's only response has been to suggest that the parents organise a rota system to operate crossing patrols of their own - provided of course that they first get the permission of the police to do so! We are now not only required to suffer the attacks of capitalism on our class, but must also get permission to safeguard the lives which are put at risk by the cuts.

Those sacked from the crossing patrols will for the most part not register as unemployed, since they are over the retirement age.

Handicapped Penalised

Kent Social Services are reducing their expenditure this year - by depriving the mentally handicapped of a secure home and skilled care.

The new money-saving scheme is known as 'phased care' and presents a horrifying picture. Until now, mentally handicapped people were cared for in special hostels or hospitals, looked after by skilled nurses or care assistants, if they were beyond the care of relatives. Kent are now reducing the number of places at these institutions. The mentally handicapped will be cared for now in different 'phases', spending some time in an institution, perhaps a further period in lodgings with a landlady or another period at home, according to how seriously handicapped they are.

Kent Social Services have been holding public meetings to explain the exciting new scheme - but parents of the mentally handicapped are not persuaded. They expressed grave anxiety that their children would not be permanently settled when they, the parents, died or were too old to care for them. One mother was given barely a few days' notice that her middle-aged son, having spent a long period in an institution, was returning home to stay. Other patients were boarded out to seaside landladies with no guarantee that these people would be trained to cope with them.

There were reports that the mentally handicapped were wandering the streets. Meanwhile, experienced care assistants are put out of work. Their union, NALGO, are making sure that they are given other jobs, but we all have a responsibility not only for the workers involved but also for the Service itself.

Support for Trico women

Tribute was paid to the historic struggle for equal pay at Trico-Folberth at the September quarterly meeting of Southall District AUEW shop stewards. The District Secretary gave a full account of the struggle so far and the support it was getting from all over Britain.

This support ranges from help on the picket lines to the blacking of Trico's products in the motor industry, at Heathrow, and on the docks. The firm has finally had to give up its long (and expensive) pretence that production was unaffected by the strike, and close down both in London and Northampton.

In fact, all attempts by the employer to deceive, intimidate, "Tribunalise" and starve the women and men on strike have failed. Southall District has a 5p per member levy on factory collections and are continuing to provide a supplement to the £9 strike pay from the union.

The shop stewards passed 2 resolutions, one pledging full support to the strikers and the other commending the Executive Council for their principled support for this courageous struggle.

CPB(M-L) Public Meeting at 7-30pm on Friday Oct 15th in the Bull's Eye Public House, Basildon, Essex Hear Reg Birch and others speak on 'Britain Today And Tomorrow'

For An Industrial Revolution! A new pamphlet published by the CPBML available Bellman Bookshop, price 10p.

Socially useful products ?

The Combine Committee at Lucas Aerospace have developed a Corporate Plan whereby products which serve people's basic needs and improve the quality of everyone's life have been suggested as alternatives for making aircraft which apparently demands an ever decreasing workforce.

How can we defend our right to work when what we produce is socially unsatisfactory, even destructive? How can we produce something like Concorde and yet have old age pensioners dying from the cold?

While praising the integrity and socialist aspirations of such a work study, we must avoid missing the obvious criticisms.

One is that old age pensioners dying from the cold has no direct cause and effect relation whatsoever with the producing of Concorde. Just as no money gained from defence cuts has ever gone or will ever go to the building of a new hospital, so no highly technical skills and knowledge lost through cuts in aerospace will benefit the working class either in the short or long

Capitalism - unacceptable face

Nothing could have brought out more clearly than the Slater Walker scandal what was meant by the argument over capitalism's acceptable and unacceptable face. It is simply a question of who is doing the accepting.

If the summonses relating to contraventions of the Companies Act of 1948 should be proved against Slater Walker Securities, then for mishandling and misappropriating millions and millions of pounds the maximum penalty would be £100 payable by the company and its officers! If, on the other hand, Jim Slater were extradited to Singapore to face charges there he might find himself sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

Callaghan reverts to the old method of making sure that capitalists get scot free - set up a Royal Commission of Enquiry which won't report for five years by which time the whole thing will have been forgotten anyway.

run. Old age pensioners will still die of cold not because all our skills are being directed into Concorde but because this brutish ruling class of ours seeks to profit out of every form and feature of our daily lives - gas, electricity, telephones, post, water.

Secondly, no industry can be a socialist 'island' in a capitalist society no matter how well-intentioned the Lucas Combine Committee is. In the end all industry is linked and all industry must be planned nationally according to socialist principles of meeting the nation's needs. If workers wish to produce socially useful products they will have to do more than fill in a questionnaire. They will have to take political power and throw out the capitalist class.

Only when the working class is in command will we be able to direct our skills usefully. Meanwhile, we must preserve and develop those skills, not for the benefit of capitalism, but for the building of a new, socialist society in Britain. In doing this, we must demand to continue to practise our skills which capitalism is attempting to destroy.

Public Meetings

Unless otherwise stated, meetings will be held at the Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5. (Tufnell Park tube).

- Friday October 1st, 7.30 pm "The sacrifice of the next generation - no future without Marxism".
- Friday October 8th, 7.30 pm "Anniversary of the victory of the Chinese revolution". Speakers from the recent CPBML delegation to China. Note at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn W.C.1.
- Friday October 15th, 7.30 pm "Britain today and tomorrow". Several speakers including Reg Birch, Chairma CPBML. Note at Bull's Eye Public House, Town Centre, Basildon, Essex.
- Friday October 22nd, 7.30 pm "National liberation through Marxism".
- Friday October 29th, 7.30 pm "Has the working class abandoned its trades unions?"

BRISTOL

Series of public meetings entitled NOW TO REVOLUTION to be held at Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, Bristol 2.

- Friday October 1st, 7.30 pm "From workshop of the world to industrial wasteland. The absolute decline of capitalism".
- Friday October 22nd, 7.30 pm "An end to trade unionism?"