

THE WORKER



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MINERS UNITE ON PAY A people's army for socialism's defence

MINERS at their annual conference in Torquay have again rejected any more pay restraint. They voted solidly against governmental interference, social contract, economic contract, phase 4 or whatever other name wage freezes go under. Delegates voted for a £110 a week basic wage, a substantial advance on the present £78. Naturally they brushed aside 'warnings' about pricing themselves out of the market and the desperate argument that collective bargaining is not a 'license to grab'. The conference voted

in favour of a reduction of hours to 30 a week for underground workers.

At this conference the miners have again shown that the fight is still for wages and conditions against the boss and not even the phases of the moon have changed that, let alone the phases of a dying labour government. The resolutions of this conference will go a long way to healing the rifts created by productivity deals and should be seen as policies for uniting around in order to fight and win.

THE Albanian people are preparing to celebrate on July 10 the 35th anniversary of the creation of the National Liberation Army. Its historic mission, carried out with great courage and political understanding, was the liberation of the homeland from the fascist occupiers for the establishment of people's power in Albania.

At the Seventh Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, Enver Hoxha said: "The leadership provided by

the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist Party is the decisive condition for the existence of a people's army and the organisation and direction of the defence of the socialist homeland."

Without this tested leadership the army cannot be a politically conscious and reliable weapon of the dictatorship of the proletariat and will sooner or later degenerate into a force against the people, a blind tool of counter revolution.

It is fitting that at this time a new edition in English of Mehmet Shehu's article "On the experience of the National Liberation War and the Development of our National Army" should be made available.

The report was drawn up at a time when there was a fierce controversy about whether Albania's army after liberation should be the kind of professional army characteristic of the capitalist countries, as Yugoslavia advised, or whether it should be a people's army under the ideological leadership of the Party of Labour, as had developed during the people's war against the Italian and German invaders. Mehmet Shehu's conclusions drawn from the Albanian people's struggle played an important part in resolving this argument in favour of a correct socialist line.

It is interesting to compare this work with the writings on people's war of Ho Chi Minh and Mao Tsetung. They all stress the importance of the morale of people conscious of fighting a just war for the establishment of socialism - "men are more important than weapons".

In 1941 the Central Committee of the Party said "every son and daughter of this country should be a fighter in the National Liberation War ... All Albanians are called upon to take up arms and join the partisans."

On the question of weapons and supplies: "clothing, footwear and weapons should be wrested from the enemy. You must fight in order to take these things from the enemy so that you can fight harder."

"In fighting, both on the plains and in the mountains, man is the decisive factor that determines the fate of the battle, regardless of the development of armaments. A smaller army can defeat a greater army, superior in manpower and means, when this small army wages a just war and when all those comprising it are politically clear about the just nature of the war they are waging, indissolubly united in their determination to achieve victory over the enemy, resolved to the end to shed their blood to the last drop for this purpose; and well trained to overcome all the difficulties of the war. In the field of battle man can replace the weapon, but the weapon can never eliminate the role of man: without man a weapon is nothing but a dead piece of iron, lifeless and powerless."



Meeting of dockers at East Ham Town Hall on June 28th against the closure of London Docks. (Photo The Worker)

Dockers to fight destruction of London's docks

WHEN the Port of London Authority revealed on July 6 that it planned to close the Royal Group of docks, union officials said they would campaign against the closures and support their members in any action they might take.

Angry dockers are saying that they will fight the closures to the bitter end and are prepared to take national strike action. If the dockers do decide to take forceful united action against the shutting down of London docks, people will remember from the massive demonstrations six years ago to get their mates out of jail just what an impact they can make.

The Government is transferring cargo-handling from the Royal Group to the East India and Millwall docks, with a loss of 2000 jobs as a first step toward closing down all the London docks in the interest of going over entirely to containerisation.

Such moves are always presented as being in the interest of progress and greater efficiency and the workers trying to defend their jobs are made to look like some kind of back-to-the-woods primitivists. It is not the case that the capitalist class is bent on progress and that one of the unfortunate consequences is a certain loss of

jobs; the capitalist class is bent only on profits and by destroying jobs and weakening the working class more profits can be made.

Furthermore, the capitalist class never counts social costs, only private costs. It is profitable to switch transport of goods from railways to motorways because we taxpayers maintain the roads and the fact that thousands of our people die under the wheels of juggernauts and cars and that our fine old towns are being shaken to pieces by the traffic is no concern of the capitalist.

That has nothing to do with progress. Progress would be

using all means of transport according to which are the most suitable - waterways, railways and so forth - not just according to which are the most profitable. The same is true of containerisation which is part of the privately profitable and socially unprofitable shift to motor transport.

The working class has everything to gain from the technological progress which results from its own skills and ingenuity, but it must not allow the capitalist class to go on using these very advances in technology to destroy their jobs and livelihood in its pursuit of profit.

Middle East Bastille, Iraq

IT was like any other morning when we left our house at six for a swim in the River Tigris. It was July 14 1958. The cool fresh air was anxiously waiting for the hot sun to climb above the horizon. The man at the boat-house had glee in his eyes as he took the boat into the river. Apart from a few army trucks and jeeps crossing the bridge as the boat floated softly underneath there was nothing to suggest that history was being made. In the almost deserted streets of Baghdad the army was more noticeable. There were soldiers erecting posts at street corners, a tank parked at a strategic roundabout but everything was calm and quiet. We knew that the Iraqi government was preparing to send troops to bolster up the shaky Kingdom of Jordan. But why have they stopped in the Iraqi capital?

The radio broadcast began as usual at 7 o'clock with a reading from the Koran. Few people ever listen to the words, it is the poetry and classical singing that intrigues so many. Immediately after came the announcement. The Monarchy had been

overthrown and the Republic of Iraq had been established. The Bastille had been stormed and the monarchy was immediately dubbed the 'ancien regime'. In less than an hour the streets of Baghdad were packed with people. Banners suddenly appeared, slogans were shouted, crowds were cheering. How the overthrow was achieved was of little interest. It was enough that it had happened.

News spread rapidly through the capital. The King was dead. His uncle, the real power behind the throne had been executed. Other government ministers and their henchmen were arrested. One name was missing... Nuri Al-Said, the obedient servant of British imperialism.

A curfew was declared at 2 in the afternoon which no one seemed to take much notice of including the soldiers who were asking people to go home as soon as possible to ensure the safety of the revolution. By nine in the evening the streets were empty except for army jeeps and motor-bikes rushing from

place to place. The sun has gone down and darkness fell very quickly. Sleeping on the flat roof, as everyone did during the hot nights, we could see the lights flickering all over the capital. Suddenly the calm of the night was interrupted by a loud explosion followed by a big ball of fire from the direction of the oil reservoirs.

Everyone was back to work the day following the revolution. Work was done more efficiently. No bribes were offered and no bribes accepted at government offices. The wretched police, now stripped of their guns, stayed at home. The numerous spies, and every street had one, dared not show their faces. The calmness of the population belied the very serious situation that the young republic was in. The US sixth fleet was anchored off the shores of Lebanon, British troops stationed at bases in Jordan and Cyprus where on alert, the Baghdad pact countries were waiting for an excuse to interfere. Nevertheless messages of support came from all over the world.

UN out of Middle East

THE UN troops in Lebanon, far from reducing war and bloodshed, legitimises the vicious fighting between warlords - Christians, Phalangists, Syrian occupiers, we know not who else. While the shelling of the densest concentrations of buildings and population goes on below, Israeli jets fly threateningly overhead showing utter contempt for Lebanese sovereignty.

Far from supervising an Israeli withdrawal the UN imperialist force has enabled the Zionists to find bourgeois allies within Lebanon who will do their grisly work of suppressing the Palestinian and local people for them. The Syrian army of 30,000 occupies Lebanon and while calling for war against Israel actually kills Lebanese.

What Zionist expansion into Lebanon has meant for the Israeli working class is every form of oppression at home, inflation of 30 to 50 per cent a year. Yet

government autocracy has squashed neither trade unionism nor the growing movement against the Zionist warmongering bourgeoisie. Begin's recent hard line for keeping the gains of war has hardly been universally welcomed. Peace demonstrators were ejected from the parliament. A hunger striker for peace has won much public support.

And now Sadat, instead of appealing to the Israeli people to reject the expansion of their rulers, proposes that the UN should intervene even further in the new "peace" plan. Meanwhile the Sadat regime further limits political freedom in Egypt.

Each bourgeois power invokes imperialist aid to impose oppression on its people at home and is willing to shed their blood in war-like rivalries and tries to cover its actions with references to Judaism, Islam, Christianity or what have you. Warmongers talking peace as ever.

THE AFRICAN PEOPLE SHOULD THROW OUT ALL IMPERIALISTS

WE repudiate our rulers, or would-be rulers, Callaghan or Thatcher, who denounce interventions of other imperialists in Africa only to legitimise their own.

The outcry against the USSR in Africa is used to cover intervention such as that in Zaïre. Never is there critical mention of French intervention in the Sahara, under the UN flag in Lebanon, the stationing of over 1000 troops in Chad, and their boast, no less disgusting for being exaggerated, that they recently annihilated an equal number of insurgents. The imperialists maintain in power their vicious puppets, men like Mobutu or Hassan II of Morocco who send his subjects across the length of a continent to interfere them in war in Katanga.

The British Government has done nothing to prevent such mur-

The most memorable was the message from Cuba where only months previously the dictatorship of Batista had been overthrown. Workers in a Chinese factory decided to work an extra hour with the proceeds going towards the Iraqi revolution.

The final act of the drama came at 2.30 in the afternoon when we heard that Nuri Al-Said had been captured. It is difficult to say how the news reached our home from the other side of town. We listened to the radio for confirmation and it was not long in coming. Nuri Al-Said dressed in women's clothes with a veil over his face had asked the way to a suspicious address. As he walked away his pyjamas were noticed below the black gown women were encouraged to wear by the ancien regime. Snatching the veil from his face the people in the streets carried out the long-standing sentence of the Iraqi people. When the army arrived on the scene the young officer pronouncing him dead emptied his machine gun into the air in jubilation. The people, determined to avenge the murder, torture, arrests and repression dragged the body through the streets of Baghdad.

The Bastille of the Middle East had fallen. Iraq was free. Little did we know that the end of the Monarchy signalled the beginning of an even fiercer struggle.

THE WEEK

THE Government has chosen RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, as the British base for an additional 151CC-135 tanker aircraft. Mr Mulley, defence minister, made it clear that no public outcry would affect the decision. He was referring to a public protest against the United States Air Force being allowed to use the tankers from Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire.

REPORTS this week show that foreign steel now accounts for a record 20 per cent of the market while British Steel's share is down to 55 per cent as against 70 per cent at the time of nationalisation. Independent producers account for around 25 per cent of the business.

IMMEDIATE closure of London's Royal group of docks was included in a plan announced this week by the Port of London Authority. About 2000 jobs would be lost.

AT the next meeting of the EEC Council the West German Government will be pushing even harder for economic and monetary union - called EMU. The emu is a bird that cannot actually get off the ground. We must make this particular EMU as dead as the dodo.

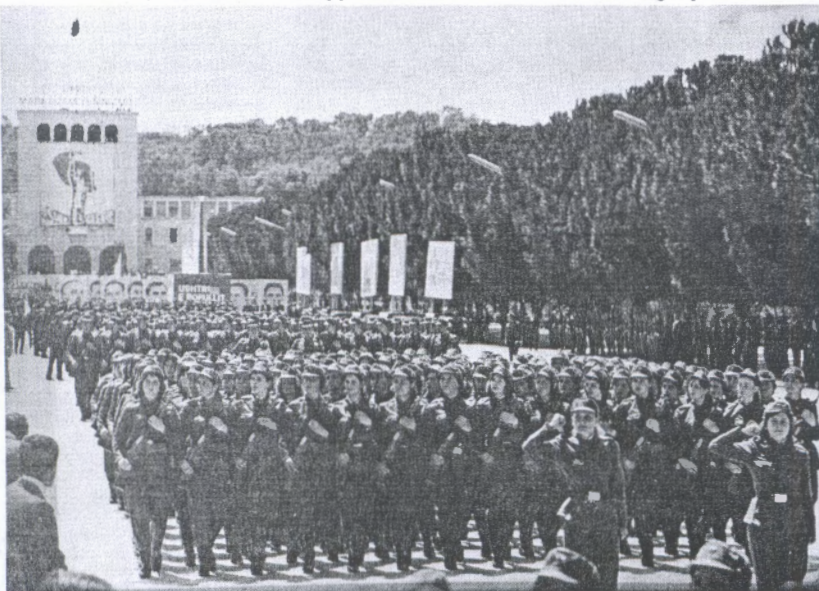
WE read a report by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents that because of the failure of employers to provide a safe system of work, a man was beheaded by a 40 ton counter-weight in a lift shaft. The bosses were fined £200 with £43 cost.

A STOCKTAKING review of Britain's population published this week by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys points to the rapidity of recent changes in the birthrate. It warns that planning for schools, employment, health services and housing should be kept flexible. Births in the first half of this year were about 2 per cent up on the same period last year. The experts are not sure whether this trend will continue. Meanwhile the Government ploughs on with its policy of chopping the public services - and points to the supposed fall in population to justify its evil action.

THE TERM 'natural wastage' is in vogue. How well it expresses capitalism's attitude to workers who are surplus to the requirements of profit-seeking - just so much 'waste'.

THE UNITED STATES Navy staged the first-ever public test firing of its new Tomahawk Cruise missile at White Sands proving ground in New Mexico recently.

The Tomahawk, which can carry a nuclear warhead, was launched from an A-6 Intruder fighter-bomber. The range of the Cruise missile is a secret.



Albania's People's Army march in May Day Celebrations (Photo by Albania News Agency)

EDITORIAL

IF international meetings among the capitalist powers could ensure economic progress and peace, we would be looking to a very bright future indeed. There are meetings for the purpose of harmonising the economic strategies of the major western capitalist powers, like the Bonn Summit next week; and there are meetings about meetings, like the present session of the EEC nine in Bremen to get ready for the session in Bonn.

All that will happen in Bremen is that Britain and the other more economically pressed countries will tell West Germany how West Germany could help them, and West Germany will tell them how West Germany will continue to help itself.

Much the same thing will happen in Bonn, where capitalist USA, Japan and Canada will join the capitalist countries of western Europe to point out how each of them, in turn, intends to help itself in another round of the stale old game of beggar-my-neighbour.

The same kind of meetings take place among the bureaucratic capitalist countries of the East such as the recent Comecon session. The various members of Comecon, like Poland for example, whose standard currency is the black-market dollar, put forward their views on what would help their economies. Then Russia (which, for all its massive armaments, has to get in the bread line for US wheat because its economy is in such a mess) tells the other members what they will do instead because it will help Russia.

In spite of all these meetings capitalism continues its world-wide decline with growing unemployment, stagnation, destruction of industry and trade wars of growing severity.

Only one European country, by its own choice, Albania, does not attend any of these meetings. And socialist Albania is the only country which has no unemployment, no inflation and a steadily rising standard of living for its people. Only Albania has a steadily and rapidly growing economy.

There are also plenty of international meetings on peace, like the recent Belgrade meeting on detente. There are even peace meetings held solely for the purpose of keeping other peace meetings from taking place, such as the Egypt-Israel meeting under the auspices of the US in London to pre-empt any re-convening of the Geneva Conference on the Middle East. There are the endless SALT meetings which prompt the old saying: what shall we do when the salt itself has lost its flavour?

But in spite of all these meetings on peace the dangerous piling up of arms, nuclear and otherwise, and the world trade of the merchants of death goes on and on. In spite of these meetings wars sparked off by, or intervened in by, the major capitalist powers, East and West, continue to break out and the threat of a world conflagration certainly does not recede.

Of all European countries, Albania, socialist Albania, which attends none of these meetings and conferences on peace and disarmament (except in the UN where it raises a lone voice of sanity) is neither a threat to anybody nor is likely to be invaded by anybody. Very little is written about Albania in any of the capitalist countries, East or West, but there is one thing about Albania they all know full well - that any act of aggression would be met by the full force of people's war, every man, woman and child in the country taking up arms till the last invader is hurled ignominiously into the sea.

This security is not achieved by Albania dashing all over the world buying the latest arms from the very capitalist countries that are the greatest threat to peace, nor by inviting defence chiefs from the war-mongering countries to come and advise them on how they should defend themselves.

Albania does not attend all these international meetings, but Albania's is the real internationalism because it is proletarian internationalism. Albania's concern is not about the capitalist governments and the various treaties, pacts and alliances between them; it is with the exploited peoples in those capitalist countries whom it supports in their struggle for revolution and socialism - the only road to peace and plenty.

Technology and the working class

DESPITE 1800 redundancies and the closure of factories at Speke and Kirkley in 1977, Plessey Telecommunications is still intent on bloodletting. On July 6th it was announced that 600 workers at Edge Lane, Liverpool, are to be made redundant, Plesseys blaming reduced demand for traditional telephone equipment and a change to less labour intensive electronic systems. The lucky 600, 260 'white collar' and 340 'blue collar', will join the other 1.5 million workers who are currently enjoying the 'leisure society', capitalist style. If there was a European Cup for imposed redundancies, capitalism in Liverpool would probably win it.

Plessey intends to introduce manufacture of TXE4 electronic telephone exchange equipment at Edge Lane, while manufacture of the digital, all electronic System X telephone equipment for the Post Office will continue in Liverpool. So will new technology guarantee work in the future? Recent analysis of System X development shows that the majority of components used in its production will be imported, in marked contrast to the 80 per cent of parts for exchange equipment currently made here. The SUNDAY TIMES regards this as 'catastrophic' for the balance of payments. But to be fair to Plessey, aren't they short of skilled workers? Well, yes they

are, they've made 2400 redundant since last year!

Not so long ago the discovery of North Sea oil promised job expansion in marine engineering and support industries. What happened? The bulk of work was given to firms in Norway, Denmark, Sweden and the Gulf of Mexico, despite unemployment 'blackspots' like Strathclyde, Tyneside and Teeside, with skills going to waste.

Plessey and the Seven Sisters act as a salutary lesson to optimists who see forthcoming micro-processor or silicon chip technology as the harbinger of millions of new jobs. The working class troubles capitalism for it depends on us for our cooperation in producing its wealth, and yet we cannot be relied on for we act sometimes as if we think we could lead society. The British working class can be very awkward indeed.

What about the fully automated factory? No strikes, no go-slows, no tea breaks. As the President of General Motors said to the American union leader, showing him round GM's first robotic factory, devoid of humans, 'you won't see many potential union members here'. 'No' said the union leader, 'I don't. Mind you I don't see any potential buyers for your cars either!' That is what is known as a contradiction of capitalism, but it is by no means the only one.

Despite a late flurry of Government working parties concerned with the possibilities and pitfalls of microprocessor technology, its future impact under capitalism is not really known. The sorcerer's apprentice comes to mind. In the computer industry there is a need to be at least a year ahead of rivals; British technology is at least eighteen months behind in this field. This is an effect of expenditure cuts in British scientific research by the Labour Government. Low investment by British capitalism in native industries has meant decline and recession, meaning that lack of growth and low productivity, with high unemployment are the worst possible conditions to introduce this technology. Yet British capitalism is now doing so, amidst more redundancies meaning less buyers of commodities produced. It coincides with an upturn in the fight against unemployment by trade unionists in schools, docks, hospitals and manufacturing industry, quite apart from the effects of new technology as capitalism will employ it.

From the point of view of workers anywhere, in Liverpool or Tokyo, there is a need to make capitalism redundant. Technology is the product of the collective innovative skill of the working class; we are the people who have to decide how it shall be used.

The people themselves will unify Korea

SINCE becoming President, Carter has continued to compromise on his 'promise' to withdraw American troops from Korea. Firstly the 'immediate' withdrawal became a 'phased' withdrawal. Later, instead of pulling out 34,000 troops this autumn, only 800 will now go. Then there was the announcement that the strength of the US Air Force will in fact be increased whilst nuclear weapons will not now be removed.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has consistently called for the withdrawal of the foreign troops of occupation and for peaceful re-unification. An

increasing number of countries have come to support this line. Even the US has been embarrassed by the revelations of wholesale bribery of members of Congress by agents of the South Korean ruling class and by the corrupt and and oppressive nature of this regime. Dissent continues to grow among the people in South Korea.

Re-unification will only come through the struggle of the Korean people, north and south, and from the working class and peasant movements throughout the world. In this latter respect, a meeting was held earlier this year in Paris, called the European Conf-

erence in Solidarity with the Re-unification of Korea - aimed at building up support for this in Europe.

Representatives attended from most West European countries and the conference pledged to increase pressure in their own countries to bring about re-unification and the withdrawal of troops.

Although the major force for change must be the people of Korea, all progressive people throughout the world must continue and intensify their efforts to end American imperialism in Korea as a first step towards unifying that divided nation.

Revisionists strongly support Yugoslavia

DESPITE the natural inability of revisionists to agree amongst themselves about anything; all shades of revisionist opinion have always shown a remarkable unanimity in their regard for President Tito of Yugoslavia.

At the recent Congress of the League of Communists of the Federative Socialist Republics of Yugoslavia those present fell over themselves to sing the praises of that pioneer of betrayal of Marxism-Leninism. All

those who make a pilgrimage to this particular oracle, can only be interested in learning one lesson: how to restore capitalism most effectively.

How successfully capitalism has been restored in Yugoslavia can be seen in the unemployed, those forced to sell their land, those driven to seek work as exiles from their family and homeland, the inflation, the loans from the USA and the EEC etc. The great socialist experim-

ent in 'Workers' Self-Administration' so beloved of our own 'workers control' alchemists, has led to the run down of manufacturing industry, the despoilation of agriculture and the creation of enormous differentials in wages and salaries, that has allowed the new bourgeoisie to extract vast amounts of surplus value, to chase profits in the candy-floss, tourist and export industries, and to invest abroad in financial speculation.

British investment in US chemical plants

THE British ruling class has made a great fuss of the 'low productivity' of the workers. At the same time major chemical companies have outbid each other in buying US chemical companies at exorbitant prices. According to US Department of Commerce figures for 1977 more than half of the investment in the chemical industry came from three Western European countries, namely Britain, West Germany and The

Netherlands. British companies' share in the investment was 15.5 per cent.

Unilever has bought National Starch and Chemical for 480 million dollars and British Oxygen paid more than 77 million dollars for only 15 per cent of AIRCO. Beecham purchased Colgan Consumer Products for 77 million dollars and Turner and Newall paid 59 million dollars for Phillip A. Hunt Chemicals.

Most of the chemical plants owned by these companies are situated in the southeastern United States, particularly in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. These States are poorly unionised, only 7-8 per cent of workers are union members, the lowest percentage in the country. In North Carolina the average hourly rate is 3.50 dollars whereas for the US as a whole it is 5 dollars.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION was proposed by Brighton Branch of EEPFU, seconded by Brighton Branch of the NUJ and carried by Brighton Hove and District Trades Union Council.

'This Trades Union Council opposes any Phase 4 of wages policy and opposes all restrictions in any form on collective bargaining by any government.'



CPB(ML) delegate to the Congress of the Albanian Women's Union addresses the meeting. (Photo Albanian News Agency)



COHSE workers on the march to protest against the shortage of staff and the running down of the NHS (Photo The Worker)

OPPOSE CUTS FIGHT FOR WAGES

ON paper what has come out of this year's conference of the Confederation of Health Service Employees is the call to pursue a claim for £80 per week, a rise of nearly 100 per cent, a shorter working week, longer holidays and condemnation of unemployment and present staffing levels.

Despite all the fine words conference is trying to face two ways at once again. It was made perfectly clear by some delegates that to be both against unemployment and for bonus schemes, especially self-financing, is hypocritical. To be against cuts, for collective bargaining and yet support a Labour Government is contradictory.

Conference also allowed itself to be fobbed off with the

idea that this crisis is purely economic. The oil crisis and the IMF impositions being the cause. The truth is that with world capitalism in absolute decline the destruction of the British working class, as the most organised under capitalist conditions, is of particular importance not only to British capitalism but as a testing ground for the rest of the world.

Delegates also came out in favour of worker participation, which can only mean participation in our own destruction. Yet delegates demonstrated clarity with regard to devolution and what it really meant in terms of dividing the national union by throwing out a motion that would have had us doing capitalism's job.

Our attitude to the Labour Government, or any capitalist government, is a question of our understanding what collective bargaining, the right to work, health, education, really mean, and how we are going to defend them. This will be decisive in whether we win our wage claim or not, and we cannot afford to make the mistake that somehow the Labour Government is really for the working class. We have to be entirely reliant on our own strength. Wage claims will only be won through determined struggle in our places of work, with the conviction that only we are for the health service and that fighting for wages is part and parcel of saving the National Health Service.

JUNIOR DOCTORS READY TO FIGHT

THE ANNUAL conference of the Hospital Junior Staff Committee (HJSC), the junior doctors' section of the BMA, on June 24 showed evidence of a growing determination to fight the government over pay. The thinking on the equally important question of unemployment, however, was much less bold and no clear policy emerged.

By a large majority, the conference voted to withdraw from the Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) and seek direct negotiations between the HJSC and the DHSS.

The DDRB is a so-called independent body which pontificates about what doctors ought to earn, along the lines of 'pay research' in the civil service. Having once pronounced, they then faithfully apply the pay policy of the day and reduce the figures accordingly.

The main reason that the employer likes the DDRB is because it discourages doctors from playing an active role in their union. The most important issue of pay is going to be decided from outside, so why participate?

The decision of the HJSC to throw the DDRB off their backs therefore marks a great step forward. The conference was in no doubt that

seeking direct negotiations implied being prepared to back up the HJSC negotiators with a strong and active organisation. Delegates recognised this challenge and welcomed it.

There were many resolutions showing the doctors' awareness of the growing problem of medical unemployment, and there was a motion of censure on the Council of the BMA for not doing enough to tackle the problem. But the HJSC could also have tackled it more forcefully than it did.

Various side-issues were

raised, such as reducing the medical school intake, but the central question of how to force the government to employ more doctors and provide a proper career structure was largely avoided. The clear line of you only get what you fight for, which was present over the question of pay, was lacking in the realm of unemployment.

The next step is to bring all junior doctors into active participation in their organisation, to face the employer collectively. Clarity will then emerge.

Bethnal Green Hospital

A WEEK after doctors, nurses and porters at Bethnal Green Hospital decided to defy the Area Health Authority which wanted to close down the casualty department, the hospital is treating more casualty cases than ever and proving that it is an essential part of the life of the community. The doctor in charge of the emergency unit said: "We are still capable of handling emergency cases and we will carry on till the Authority backs down."

Two of the cases dealt with in one day would have resulted in very serious consequences if the injured could

only have been treated in a hospital a long way off.

On July 4 local people turned up in great numbers to show their support for keeping the hospital open and performing its usual services. They maintained a midnight vigil and then poured out into the streets bearing lighted torches and shouting "Stop the cuts".

On the same day the Social Services Secretary, who is himself in hospital, had the nerve to drink a toast to the National Health Service on its 30th birthday - the NHS which the Labour Government is so rapidly running down.

For education not vouchers

KENT County Council plans to introduce a voucher scheme for education. Under such a system parents would be handed vouchers covering the cost of their child's education, to be used at the school of their choice. They would cover the full cost of state education, or could be used as part payment for private education.

Schools will be forced to concentrate on polishing their public image, whilst running down the standard of education offered by neighbouring establishments with which they will now be in direct competition. No longer will schools be able to plan rationally because they will not know what their financial resources will be. This will result in unused facilities in one school and overcrowding in another. Gone will be the principled fight to reduce class size; in its place will be division amongst teachers and school closure. Alongside this is the neat trick of channeling public funds into private education - yet another way to bleed the working class! However, these plans are

meeting an insuperable obstacle - the teachers and their union. Teachers in the NUT Kent County Division have been overwhelmingly opposed to it since this ridiculous idea was first launched over two years ago. They are quite clear that this is yet another attack on them and the education service, and have already taken up a position of total non-cooperation. The forthcoming meeting of Kent NUT will decide what further measures, in particular what forms of industrial action, should be taken, should the County Council attempt to implement the scheme.

At the same time, teachers are aware of the need to keep this farce in perspective. Kent County Council admits that to put the voucher scheme into operation in just one area of Kent would cost up to £600,000 per year. If this money is available, let it be used to increase the numbers of teachers in Kent, rather than using our children as pawns in a scheme which has failed wherever it has been attempted.

Condemn neutron bomb!

A PUBLIC meeting entitled "The Neutron Bomb" attracted quite a large audience at the Bellman Bookshop recently.

The speaker began by giving plenty of technical details - the scientific processes involved and the horrific effects if the bomb is ever used. Apparently the neutron bomb could have been made in 1950 - the scientific development was capable, but then, there was no Vietnamese war. People within 1 km of a neutron bomb dropped overhead would be exposed to 8000 radiation units and would die immediately. Or at least within 48 hours. This effect spreads over a wider range and over longer periods so that death may not be for months or years. Or leukaemia may result, or deformed babies in the future. It is quite clear that people rather than property will be destroyed. Conquerors would be able to occupy buildings quickly as the neutrons disperse rapidly.

The propaganda about the

bomb being an anti-tank weapon is nonsense. The armed troops can be provided with 3 inch thick, plastic boron coated protective clothing.

At present, the US is delaying production of the bomb, but not the missile that carries it. At the same time contributory technology and weapons are advancing.

The speaker pointed out that the working class does not want war and that the neutron bomb is a class weapon, to be used against the working class. It is the European capitalists' dream weapon to crush a people.

The meeting concluded that as workers must now put our efforts into condemning the neutron bomb - the issue must be taken to all trade union branches. A recent example of workers taking on the warmongerers was the crab fishermen of Dorset. They refused to leave their fishing grounds where a huge demonstration of weapons was to be held.

Bookshops

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon bookstall Tues Fri Sat Marketplace
Liverpool bookstall - every Saturday at Paddies
Market, Great Homer Street, Liverpool

LATEST publications from Albania are "On the Experience of the National Liberation War and the Development of Our National Army" (30p) and "The Work of Our Men of Renaissance Lives on and is Honoured in New Socialist Albania" (5p). Both are written by Mehmet Shehu.

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