

THE WORKER



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WORKERS REJECT GOVT - TUC TALKS

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions representing 3½ million workers has declared its absolute opposition to any form of wage restraint and to any negotiations with the Government on incomes policy.

There will be an empty chair next time the TUC sits down for talks with the Government and the employers on plans for prices and income policy. The National Conference of the AUEW, later reinforced by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, voted against trade union participation in the talks, thus barring Hugh Scanlon, the AUEW President, from taking part.

The importance of this is not that one individual will have to revise his plans for a few days this summer, but that the employers and their government will have to revise all their plans for the future. On behalf of millions of workers at the heart of British industry, the democratic decision was that what the workers want to say to Heath can be most eloquently said by that empty chair. We want no part of any incomes policy, whether it be Phase 3 or Phase 33. The TUC has no right to negotiate about, or to agree to enforce, any such policy aimed against the working class. Such action will be disowned by the workers and their unions. This is what the engineers' decision said.

The decision was bad news for the Government and the employers. The capitalist 'economists' are running around like chickens with their heads out off as none of their theories give a clue about what is going on. In the international economic chaos the Government has clung to one simple fact; if you can keep wages down you can keep profits up. Take away the incomes policy and the whole of the Government's economic policy collapses like a pack of cards. And if the workers refuse to let their 'generals' do a deal on incomes policy the pressure on the wages dam will become intolerable and it will burst - and sooner rather than later.

The decision was bad news for the social democrats. It is no coincidence that while the Government merely 'regretted' the decision, it was left to a Labour Party spokesman, Fred Lee, to say that Scanlon should ignore his union and go anyway. For the rejection of incomes policy talks was aimed every bit as much at a future Labour government as at the present one. In fact the decision was more of a blow for the social democrats (and their pale shadow, the Communist Party of Great Britain revisionists who were quite happy to accept the idea of a 'left' voice at the talks). For the idea of deals with capitalism, of partnership with the government is central to all social democracy. Such people would be quite happy to deny the right of workers to fight capitalism, to struggle for better wages, in return for token concessions as phoney as the present 'price freeze'. Rejection of the talks means a rejection of the disease - social democracy.

The decision is a victory for Marxism-Leninism. It shows the strength and influence of the Marxist-Leninist Party and its line. Only the Marxist-Leninist Party rejects the whole idea of trying to make capitalism work, rejects the social-democratic collaboration with the capitalists and their government. Only with clear leadership can we cut through the sophistry that would be happy to reject talks on a 'wage freeze' in order to leave the door open for talks on 'wage restraint'. Such leadership was given by Reg Birch, chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and member of the executive council of the AUEW. Rejection of the talks implies that the working class must carve out its own future, make its own decisions, beside which the decisions of Parliament and government are powerless. But we must not rest on our laurels after this victory for the working class. We must fight to stop all trade union participation in the talks. Out of the empty chairs we will build a coffin for the wage freeze.

Putting the heat on the freeze

The Perkins dispute began on 1st April when the existing pay agreement expired. The 6000 workers at once slammed in a claim for parity with the Massey-Ferguson plant in Coventry where Perkins engines are put into tractors. Massey-Ferguson of Canada took over the family firm of Perkins in 1959-60 and have treated workers more ruthlessly. The present dispute is the first time the men have really taken on the multinational company.

The Company has other works; Kilmarnock, Manchester, Coventry and Knowsley. Perkins are lowest paid of all except for Manchester, which is only a store, not a fac-

tory. But the turnover is the highest; total for Massey-Ferguson is £108 million; Perkins (engines only) is £56,620,000. The employers' offer of £2 extra a week plus two days' extra holiday, in line with the Government's Wage Freeze, was treated with the contempt it deserved. Parity would give Perkins workers £20 extra a week, because Massey-Ferguson pay rates on a piece-work basis, in contrast with Perkins' measured day rate. A Perkins man has to work 20 hours a week more to get the same pay packet as at Massey-Ferguson.

The Perkins workers decided to adopt guerrilla tactics to win

their claim. Imposing an overtime ban and work to rule on essential maintenance of production line machinery, they hit the firm at its most vulnerable spot. Perkins are the world's biggest makers of high performance diesel engines, with subsidiaries in Australia, South Africa and Brazil. More than 85 per cent of output is exported. To hold its own in a highly competitive overseas market (especially in the EEC) Perkins must meet strict deadlines or jeopardize future orders. The overtime ban on maintenance meant that the employers had to pay normal wages, yet lose up to 70 per cent of normal production.

The management hit back by threatening that three days pay would be lost if the overtime ban were continued over the Easter holidays. The works convenor retorted that the Easter weekend was a statutory holiday. The company, by law, had to pay up. The employers showed what they thought of a law that wasn't in their interest by enforcing their threat. Workers took home as little as £14 at the end of the Easter weekend. The firm promised to make up the money if the overtime ban were stopped. The workers told the management where to go and put the boot in. Production plummeted. By 7th May the employers were losing a quarter of normal output, amounting to £4 million over the six weeks. They then adopted the tactic of laying off an increasing number of men each week. By the end of May, 5000 men had been laid off.

By the middle of June the workers were convinced their method of struggle was correct. On 13th June they voted to continue the overtime ban and repudiated any idea of long-term commitment to a wage level imposed by the Government. The employers retaliated by closing down the factory the next day. It was a first step on the road to defeat. Guerrilla struggle had crippled them.

The closure immediately had a chain reaction on other Midlands industry because Perkins now had to face the wrath of



IRELAND, SHAM ELECTION

The Northern Ireland Assembly elections are sham elections - elections held on British terms and behind 32,000 British guns in an attempt to solve the problems of British imperialism in Ireland.

They are the latest in a long list of manoeuvres aimed at destroying the resistance of the Irish people, manoeuvres which will inevitably go the way of all earlier schemes.

The Irish people will not be intimidated, not by warnings that this is their last chance, not by the threats of disaster and 'blood

baths' should they default. Neither will the world be misled by the slander that those who resist are the sole authors of violence, a slander beloved by imperialism and by the propertied classes and bishops who have always betrayed Ireland. The Irish workers and labouring masses will be defeated neither by bullets nor ballots. Neither will they be defeated by threats and propaganda.

These are sham elections - an expression of the authority claimed by Britain to control Ireland, an authority to which the Irish people have never submitted.

Bringing the boys back home

There are very few lads these days who could be enticed to enlist, even though they may have no chance of getting a steady job at home. The number recruited for the Army has fallen to 652 for last April, compared with 1348 in April 1972 and 1900 in April 1971. In the Royal Marines, 15 were recruited, compared to 97 in April 1972. That any British troops can still be used against our Irish class brothers emphas-

ises the urgency for building the struggle against our real enemy at home.

A particular campaign aimed at securing the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland recently collected 42,000 signatures in four weeks. It was organised mostly by women with relatives stationed there, who naturally want them home in one piece.

Britain has no right to justify her presence in the 'Quisling' pseudo-statelet of Northern Ireland (which she created), by claiming that a majority are in favour of her presence. We ask, where was that morality when in 1921 the Irish people claimed independence - one hundred times more strongly than the Orange Unionist machine today claims its 'right to be loyal'? The wishes of the majority were not respected then. Ireland was placed on the dissecting table and the Carsonite reactionaries were given the knife with which to destroy her ancient and sacred unity. The morality of imperialism is based firmly on its own interests and issues forth from the mouths of guns.

For 800 years the Irish people have been taught the lessons of this morality and have not submitted. They will never submit. They will never desist until they are the masters of their own lives, of their own social and political destinies. Their victory and the ignominious defeat of those who claim to be their masters are equally certain.

Labour Programme - Shuffling the same old pack of cards

Enoch Powell says he would not mind living under a Labour government for the rest of his life. The same Enoch Powell who said 'Whenever I see a rich man I give thanks to God'. Powell is not taken in by the 'left-wing' candyfloss of Labour's 'Programme for Britain'. Nor is the 'Financial Times', which compares the Labour proposals to the powers the Tory government is already taking under the Industry Act and concludes 'there seems to be little to choose between the current Labour and Conservative approach to industry.'

The only people to be taken in are, of course, the so-called 'Left' who have the political clarity of Pavlov's dogs. These dogs were eventually trained to water at the mouth whenever a bell was rung, thinking food had arrived. On some people the word 'nationalisation' has the same effect. Under the impression that socialism has arrived, they start frenziedly barking 'Vote Labour! Vote Labour!'

And what do you get if you vote Labour? For a start you get Harold Wilson, who has made perfectly clear what everybody already knew - that whatever the election manifesto says, a Labour government would never dream of doing anything the capitalists would seriously object to. The usual phrase is that Labour is far too 'responsible' to endanger 'business confidence'. After four Labour governments we should know it by heart.

And what do you get in the Labour programme if the government ever descended to carry it out? Nationalisation, higher taxes for the rich, and better social benefits. But all this within the framework of a capitalist state, which ultimately makes all the changes meaningless - indeed they strengthen capitalism. For a class that can discover a loophole as obscure as the Cayman Islands will have no trouble keeping its loot out of the hands of Labour's tax-collectors. Consider the cost of compensation for the nationalised firms and you run out of money for any reforms. So the proposals boil down to nationalisation of a few more firms. But nationalisation is not socialism. If it was, then Britain would already be a socialist country. The state controls some 62 per cent of British industry. Another large slice is nominally held on behalf of the public by insurance companies, town councils, pension funds, etc. But all this does not add up to socialism. It merely means that public money is being poured into unprofitable but necessary parts of the economy, leaving the capitalists free to invest in the profitable bits. So the Labour party plans to nationalise the docks and the shipyards, just as the Tories have already nationalised Rolls-Royce aero engines. Big deal. Even in that citadel of capitalism, the US, the writing is on the wall. Nixon's top economic advisor for the election campaign, Dr Pierre Rinfret, recently told a Senate committee that 'the free enterprise system is dead'. He predicted that 'within 10 years our entire economic system would be regulated, directly or indirectly, by the government - with major sections nationalised.'

The state - a more powerful adversary.

So Wedgwood Benn's bloodcurdling threats to nationalise 29 major companies are about as 'left-wing' as President Nixon. The capitalists might not like the idea, but no doubt they could soon adapt to it. After all, no more worries about actually producing things and selling them, no more battles with trade unionists. Just leave all that to the government and sit in the Bahamas while the dividends from the compensation payments roll in. Even that 'left-wing' panacea - 'nationalisation under workers control' would not affect the situation. In a capitalist state the first priority for any 'worker-directors' who wanted to avoid legal bankruptcy would be to meet the interest payments - ultimately going to the former owners.

For the workers, nationalisation means they would come directly up against the state as employer - a more powerful adversary. What benefits do hospital workers have to show from having the state as employer?

As a means of fighting capitalism, the Labour programme is about as useful as trying to kill a vampire by drowning it in blood. As a means of strengthening capitalism by strengthening the centrepiece - the capitalist state - and covering up the realities of exploitation it would be pretty good. But unfortunately for the Wilsons and Wedgwoods hardly anybody believes in the Labour Party any more. The old game of Parliament and meaningless elections is getting played out. More and more people see no point in trying to tinker around with the edges of the system. The CPB(M/L) line of building the strength of the working class until it can replace the capitalist system and the capitalist state is gaining ground. Let them shuffle the greasy old pack of cards, include Powell if they like. We are playing a different game.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Chrysler crumples under a tough stand

Complete victory for the Chrysler workers. The US management had decided to get tough and clamp down on the Coventry workers. They provoked a dispute by docking Ryton body shop workers 1½ hrs pay for alleged 'shoddy work' (in fact due to Chrysler using faulty panels to keep the track running). They tried the old trick of threatening to stop investing in Britain. After three weeks of the Ryton strike, faced with the need to

stop all car and van production in Britain unless a settlement was reached, with losses already around £10 million, with the workers not weakened, but strengthened and united by the clear threat to them all, the management capitulated. First they agreed to pay the body builders in full 'as a gesture of good will'. On hearing this, the Ryton strikers burst out laughing.

So the workers return, having

proved that the answer to a tough management stand is an even tougher stand - plus understanding the tactics of the situation. But as we say, 'Today the armistice - tomorrow the war.' And it works both ways. Detroit certainly did not like being humiliated. The plan to kick the British workforce into line still exists. The management was not photographing pickets from inside the gates in order to enter them for a beauty competition.



Pickets turn back trucks from Chrysler's Power Train Plant at Stoke, Coventry

Rolls-Royce Motors

Because of three-year waiting lists for Rolls-Royces (not everybody has their income frozen), the Willesden Coach Building section has expanded onto a new site. To make the transfer easier, unions and management agreed on payment of average piecework earnings during a five-week period during which there would be negotiations on revised payment schemes. In fact there were no serious negotiations, and at the end of the five-week period the management unilaterally imposed their measured day-work system. The workers insisted on a return to the status quo and their action

resulted in a loss of production. The management then laid off the Advance section (24 men) until they worked according to the new system.

Thus, on June 27th, 350 fellow workers from Rolls-Royce, Willesden, marched in support of their locked-out colleagues. The march included manual workers, office girls and draughtsmen. This action by Rolls-Royce management is seen as the thin end of the wedge whereby a precedent is established in Rolls-Royce for 'measured day work'. So at the time of going to press, production of the new Rolls-Royce 'Delta' is held up by the lock-out. The new Rolls-Royce Motors will not increase its

profits at the expense of the workers involved. The locked-out men appreciate this as do their brothers and sisters in support.

Engineering claims

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, representing 3½ million workers, voted for complete defiance of the Government and its wage freeze. Not only did it vote against attendance at the government talks, it called for an increase of £10 in minimum rates, a 35-hour working week, four weeks holiday, and an increase from six to twelve day in statu-

British Leyland

Mass meetings of 8500 workers at British Leyland's bus and truck factories at Leyland, Lancashire, rejected the company's Phase 2 offer of £2.40 a week coupled with a freeze on piecework earnings. The meeting repeated the demand for a £2.49 increase with no restrictions on piecework earnings. The men also rejected the call for an all-out strike in favour of selective action.

Meanwhile at the Ward End transmission plant in Birmingham, 300 tool setters continued their strike for parity with skilled electricians.

Cammell Laird

70 staggers, who erect working platforms, at the Birkenhead yard went on strike after management had refused to recognise three shop stewards. After three days, the company closed the yard, which employs 4500 men, and sacked the 70 staggers.

Swan Hunter

Joiners at Swan Hunter's Tyne-side yards have seriously affected production with their overtime ban in support of their pay claim.

With the continued successes of the Cambodian Liberation forces against US imperialism and the puppet Lon Nol regime, 90 per cent of the country's territory and 80 per cent of the population is now liberated.

As the people's political power has been consolidated in these liberated areas, so great advances have been made in agricultural production and great improvements in the life of the people.

In Koh Kong province on the southwest coast, the National United Front of Cambodia distributed to the peasants land seized from them by traitors. It also helped them set up labour-exchange teams, mutual-aid groups and supply and marketing co-operatives and to surmount difficulties arising from lack of seed, buffalo and farm tools. A campaign for higher rice yields has been launched throughout the province. Thanks to the great efforts of the cadres and the masses, rice yields have gone up season by season. The Liberated zone is more than self-sufficient in grain. Traditional fish products such as salted fish and shrimp and fish sauce have been restored and developed. The area planted with coconut, pineapple, lichee and other fruit trees and

Cambodia - under people's control



People in Cambodia's Stung Treng Province reclaim land. Since its establishment the revolutionary regime in Stung Treng Province has made efforts to develop production. This province is now self-sufficient in foodstuffs with enough surplus to support the front.

vegetables has also been expanded.

Stung Treng Province, in the northeast, was known as an outlying area with poor communications, where the people had to

get their food grain and even vegetables from other places. But the province is not a barren land. Since liberation, the people launched an agricultural production campaign by utilising the

favourable natural conditions and doubled the area planted with food grains. They used water wheels to irrigate the land or built reservoirs to store water. Despite drought, this once grant-

short province reaped a bumper harvest last year and is now self-sufficient in grain.

Craftsmen in the Liberated Zone are using whatever materials are locally available to turn out farm tools and daily necessities to meet the needs of the population. Blacksmiths in Preah Vihear Province have produced many farm tools from local iron. Picks, ploughshares, pots, pails, and other utensils have been made out of wrecked enemy aircraft, which are a great aid to farming. With the development of agriculture and handicrafts, the market in the Liberated Zone is thriving and prices remain steady. All goods are sold at reasonable and stable prices fixed by the local organisations of the National United Front.

The prospering Liberated Zone astonishes visitors who arrive from enemy-controlled areas.

Culture and education in the Liberated Zone are developing rapidly. There are schools or special courses in every village for children and spare-time literacy classes for adults.

Under the people's regime, the labouring people have become their own masters and take an active part in building people's power and in all kinds of social and political activities.

PASS-LAWS IN BRITAIN

The British state is copying the racist practices of South Africa with its own version of the notorious 'pass laws'. The Secretary of State for Social Services is introducing rules which would compel immigrants to produce their passports when applying for National Insurance cards.

The purpose of this procedure would be to implement the retrospective legislation with respect

to those immigrants who have now been declared 'illegal' by the Lords' ruling on the 1971 Immigration Act. That this is the case is proved by the statement of the Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office: 'If examination by a public officer of a passport shows that the holder may be in the country unlawfully, it would be wrong for the officer not to bring the matter to notice.'

The same procedure could be applied to other spheres, with immigrants being forced to produce passports before making use of the National Health Service or even a very simple thing, like asking a policeman for directions. And of course it would mean that anyone who was 'non-white' would be subject to constant challenge to produce a passport or other documentation.

NEW TSAR MEETS OLD TWISTER

The meeting of Brezhnev, whose ambition is to become Tsar Leonid I, with Nixon, who is juggling for the title of comic-opera crook of the century, was hailed in the Russian press as 'the end of the Cold War' and 'an historic turning point'. Both assessments are nearly twenty years out of date.

The Cold War was over by 1956, won by the Soviet Union and its Socialist allies. Their refusal to be cowed by the U.S.A. on issue after issue, from Berlin to Korea to the Chinese off-shore islands, revealed that Dulles's brinkmanship and threats of 'massive retaliation' were so much hot air. The launching of Sputnik in 1957 proved that a Workers' State, the world's first, could overcome all attempts at isolation and outstrip the world in industry and science. Mao Tseung summed it up when he said that imperialism was a paper tiger and the East wind was prevailing over the West wind.

But 1956 was indeed an historic turning point, for at the moment of victory the Soviet Union conceded defeat. In that year, at the twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, that party turned into its opposite and sounded the retreat. The latest get-together of a Soviet leader with a Yankee president is the logical culmination of a backward march that began then. Khrushchev's deals with Eisenhower and Kennedy, Kosygin's with Johnson, mark earlier stages in the rout.

What did they talk about at this time? No doubt, 'stemming the world tide of revolution' was top of their agenda, but this is the last

thing any communique would reveal. We do know that, as a further step to bring Russia into the world Capitalist system, they agreed on a 'joint American-Soviet chamber of commerce' being set up and on ten major American companies opening offices in the Soviet Union. In their role as 'superpowers' they discussed how to keep the Middle East in check while they burn up the world's dwindling oil reserves and how to manipulate the European 'security' conference into a threat to the security of every European country.

As always at such meetings, they banded the words 'peace' and 'disarmament' about, which will not have deceived the Cambodians, the Czechs, the Chileans, the Chinese and all others against whom they are practising or threatening aggression. China's nuclear test on June 27th exploded their dreams of nuclear monopoly and blackmail. China remains the only nuclear power which has guaranteed never to be the first to use a nuclear weapon.

While we don't know everything they talked about we know what they avoided: the parlous situation in their own countries. The Watergate hearings were suspended during their talks, as no doubt would have been an inquiry into the recent agricultural failures in Russia had the meeting been held there.

At one point Brezhnev had the immortal insolence to claim that the Vietnam war was ended through Russian-American collusion. Such lies can gain no credence. The Vietnam war ended with the aggressors withdrawing having lost the flower of their army, most of their air-force, a few hundred thousand million dollars and a war for the first time in their history having suffered dollar devaluations, massive internal conflicts of which Nixon appears to be the latest victim, and a loss of international standing which will certainly never be repaired. No, Brezhnev, the credit for all this cannot go to you or your country --- it must go to the heroic Vietnamese people under the Marxist-Leninist leadership which you abjured twenty years ago. Vietnam has proved that imperialism is still a paper tiger, whether it emanates from Washington or Moscow.

Engineers condemn racism

At their National Conference at Eastbourne the AUEW took a strong line against the ruling class in Britain for its racial policies. The following resolution was carried unanimously:

"This National Conference is fundamentally opposed to all forms of racialism and instructs the National Executive Council to publish sufficient information to combat the erroneous conception that immigration, particularly from Commonwealth countries, is the cause of the present economic situation. We recognise that it is the intention of the British ruling class to divide the working class along ethnic lines and in so doing prolong the capitalist system which itself causes these problems. We further instruct the National Executive Council to press the TUC and Labour Party to work for the complete abolition of the 1971 Immigration Act."

Civil servants defy racist ruling

The decision not to operate the Government's racist scheme was taken by the Department of Health and Social Security of the CPSA representing 50,000 white-collar workers. To put such a scheme into practice would 'deter immigrants from applying for

Communist Party of Britain (ML) has always opposed racist legislation. The picture below shows a demonstration against the Labour Government.



benefit and would increase friction between counter clerks and the public'

The Civil and Public Services Association has said that its members would refuse to demand passports from people seeking National Insurance cards. It would turn social-security clerks into law-enforcement agents, checking on illegal immigrants.

Socialist Radio

Radio Peking:
9.30 pm to 11.30 pm
32, 47, 45 metre bands

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215 metre band

Radio Hanoi:
9 to 9.30 pm
19 metre band

1972 - Bonanza year for British capitalists

Despite the CBI's tantrums over strikers and 'wage inflation', figures recently published suggest that 1972 was a bonanza year for the capitalist class.

Total profits of 115 financial companies (i.e. banks, discount houses, insurance companies, property companies) which dic-

closed their profits between 15th October 1972 and 14th January 1973 amounted to £951 million (Financial Times 25th May 1973). This figure represents a massive increase of 29.4 per cent over the previous year's total of £735 million!

On the other hand, while wages were frozen during Phase

1 of the so-called 'standstill period' between November 1972 and April 1973 the retail price index showed another phenomenal increase of 8 per cent. So much for Heath's dictum that wage increases cause inflation.

These figures make it abundantly clear that inflation provides the oxygen for the life-blood of

capitalism - profits. The present freeze, like Wilson's standstill in 1967, is no more designed to combat inflation than is the Labour Party interested in destroying capitalism. While Heath talks about the need to fight inflation it is quite in order for him to make a handsome profit out of the sale of 'Morning Cl...

LONDON TRANSPORT - NO TO WORKERS, YES TO HYAMS

Representatives of London Transport workers have been recently making claims for higher wages and for holiday entitlements to be brought in line with at least those applying in the engineering industry. The answer was predictably that the government, Phase two restriction would apply, that is £1 plus 4 per cent and nothing on holidays.

The impression given that but for restriction imposed by government this employer would be happy to meet the workers' claims won't fool anybody. The chronic shortage of workers in all departments of London Transport is in no way connected with the present government's policy. Since long before the present controls were imposed LT were imposing its own controls and needed no encouragement from the govern-

ment. LT have spent a fortune on work study and similar exercises, and as part of the exercise to secure acceptance by the workers of these schemes have sought to create the impression that only by such exercises could the workers secure a better wage. It has consequently been very tight on wage increases to induce the workers to go along the path of productivity schemes. With very little success.

Within a few days of saying how little it could increase wages LT showed how high they would increase fares. A further £15 million is called for. This is a little embarrassing for the newly elected GLC which made such a great play of the LT fares issue in its bid to be elected to replace the Tories at County Hall. Advocates of more public ownership

please note.

The LT claim that the only way they can stay viable is by increasing fares. The passengers on the Underground must have other ideas when they see daily the swarms of men dressed like admirals checking tickets everywhere. The comment has been heard to the effect that there will soon be more inspectors of tickets than passengers. Perhaps LT are taking a lesson from the Baghdad bus company.

It would be interesting to know what the cost amounts to for ensuring that all the passengers pay their fare. The story goes that some years ago the Baghdad bus company suspected that many passengers were not paying the fares or that the fares collected were not paid in. They mounted a very effective

exercise which eventually achieved their goal - to ensure that all passengers paid up and all the money went to the company. They put on inspectors to check the conductors. They went further and put on further inspectors to check that the inspectors were not colluding with the conductors. Eventually complete success. But every 3d they got in fares cost them a shilling in cost of ensuring that they got it.

LT has come to the rescue of Harry Hyams. 'Telstar House' which like the notorious Centre Point has been empty for years is now reported to be let by Harry Hyams to LT for a rent in the region of £500,000 per year. Telstar House has been empty because nobody else would pay that kind of rent. So we have the spectacle of a public enterprise

collaborating with one of the most 'unpleasant and unacceptable faces of capitalism' and the workers have to pick up the bill. This deal came about during the same week in which the government was intimating that full rates would soon be levied on empty office blocks.

LT will doubtless hold that needing the offices they must pay the going rate and even over the rate where necessary. LT workers should take special note of this. LT say they need many more workers. The workers should demonstrate that they are as able to strike a bargain as Harry Hyams. It simply means saying the same as Harry - 'if you don't pay you don't get'. After all LT must need the workers as least as much as they need Telstar House.

Putting the heat on the freeze

(Cont. from Page 1)

fellow employers as well as the beating from its own workers. A large number of Perkins men quickly found work (at piece-rates) with Fenland fruit growers, picking gooseberries at £5 a day. The timing could not have been better. The employers were in a desperate plight, with a huge order book and no output, while the workers had suffered hardly any loss of earnings. In fact they can sit out the shutdown till the end of the fruit-picking season in late summer, by which time Perkins will be bankrupt.

The demand at this time is that management agree to the principle of parity and is not specifically a claim for a particular increase in wages. This has forced the management out into the open - it cannot hide behind the Government's Freeze, i.e. the law created in the employers' interests. It has also united the workers completely, since the case for parity is unanswerable.

Since Peterborough wages are £20 below those at Coventry, the employers are putting up a stiff fight against accepting the principle, for it will give the workers an excellent lever for future wage struggles. But here again, they are suffering the effects of the guerrilla approach.

On June 19th the employers took the first step in admitting defeat. They agreed to participate in a joint working party with the unions to discuss pay parity. Previously they had insisted that negotiations on the matter were out of the question.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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This has always been the case, and the only ones to fight such conditions have been the working class themselves, with teachers, organised in the NUT, in the vanguard.

This year's NUT conference saw class size as one of the most immediate problems to tackle. The aim is to reduce all classes to a maximum of thirty. The Union adopted a line, depending on action at the place of work - the school - and in local associations. Action

will be given automatic backing by the executive, provided it is supported by the local association, and taken under the guidance of the national action committee. This places power and initiative firmly where they belong - with the mass of the teachers. If there is overcrowding in a school, the teachers can take a decision to fight, according to their intimate knowledge of the situation, of their strength, and of how best to rally their forces. If they don't want to fight, the consequences lie fairly and squarely on their own shoulders.

This decision comes at an appropriate time. Recently Margaret Thatcher announced a 45 per cent cut-back in teacher-training places by 1981. She claims that the current decrease

in birth rate will continue, thus reducing the need for school places, but who can say that it will? More and more educational places are going to be needed; the raising of the school-leaving age, the growing numbers of children taking sixth-form courses, the promised expansion of nursery education all point to this. And yet some schools admit that they could not hope to cope with the overcrowding problem but for their high rate of truancy.

Teachers estimate that by 1980 there may be a shortage of teachers by as many as 60,000.

The results of the class-size crisis are hideous and obvious. To name but one, literacy is declining in London. You can't teach children to read unless you

A CAPITAL CRIME

The principle that the right to work means the right to work where you live, stressed by the Plessey workers in their occupation at Alexandria, must be fought for by workers in the civil service. If the recommendations of the new Hardman Report on 'dispersal of government work' are put into effect, London, which has lost one-fifth of its industry in the last ten years, will cease to be the centre of government also.

Since 1963 over 30,000 London-based government office workers have been uprooted and dumped in areas of 're-development'. The new report recommends that a further 31,000 get the same treatment. No doubt the remaining 55,000 jobs considered by Hardman will be due to go in the next phase of dispersal.

The relocation amounts to a wage cut for the workers. Not only will they have the domestic and economic problems of moving but, by losing their London weighting, they will end up with some £10-£15 less in their monthly pay. It is also a concealed device for creating unemployment and increasing the workload for those who remain in the civil service, since many of the workers concerned will give up their jobs rather than accept the move.

For the government it will be a bonanza: they reckon to save £5500 for each job moved. Besides trimming their wage bill considerably, they will have available a vast area of unused office space in central London, which can be sold to the speculators.

The property developers, financiers and top government officials

must be drooling at the prospect of the profits, the tax fiddles and the bribes that lie ahead. The capitalist class will have a field day.

As with every government decision, whether Tory or Labour are in office, the losers will be the workers. And this will be true until state power itself is relocated - into the hands of the working class. London has been our capital city since Roman times. Today it is fast becoming an empty shell, crisscrossed with motorways for rapid transit from one suburb to another, with ancient monuments for tourists to gawp at and 'live shows' like the Soho strip clubs and Parliament for those who need titillation. The living heart of the city is being torn out. Now Westminster is going the way of Covent Garden and Canvey Island.

Those civil service workers who engaged in stoppages, non-co-operation and demonstrations against the Freeze this spring may have to gird their loins for battle again. And those who looked the other way, or carp at the militants while the government stole a promised wage increase three months in a row, must decide in their hearts how much further they are willing to be humiliated. Are civil servants to be servile ciphers for ever, or are they to stand and fight and perhaps get a little bloodied in the early stages while learning how to do it? Those who compliantly accept relocation, a wage cut and broken promises from the employer today may find tomorrow that their department has been moved again... to a disused oil rig off the Aberdeen coast, ripe for 're-development'.

POSTGRADS ORGANISE

In September 1972, science post-graduates at Sussex University called off strike action, having won from the University Authorities an offer of an extra 60p per hour on the teaching rates. However, at the start of the new term, the University, seizing the chance offered by Phase 2 legislation, did some arbitrary calculation and arrived at a new figure of 20p per hour: a negligible acceptable increase. After stud-

ent protest, the Authorities ran to the Pay Board who dutifully complied by reducing the increase to a desultory 63p an hour!

At a recent mass meeting, the postgrads, realising that an all out strike so near the end of term would be ineffective, resorted to small-scale harassment. The students have learnt that the University is not an 'Ivory tower' but is part and parcel of the capitalist system; and that the University authorities are hiding behind the laws of that system. In defiance of the Pay Freeze, the science postgraduates are pledged to some form of strike action next term. If the 60p increase is not forthcoming, and are asking AUT and ASTMS members on campus not to do any of this postgrad work.

have time to spend with each other regularly and a reasonable room to do it.

Conference has given teachers a mandate they cannot afford to refuse. Education is a weapon in the hands of our class, the working class. We must strive to keep this weapon sharp.