



REDUNDANCY

THE BATTLE BEGINS

BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL BATTLE FRONT

IN the statement of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), "The British Working Class and Its Party", adopted unanimously at its Second Congress, the following sentence occurs at the beginning of the section on Trade Unions and Class Struggle:

"In every industrial country save Britain there is relative industrial peace".

This observation has raised questions in the minds of some of our readers. The Chairman of our Party, Reg Birch, explains below what is meant by this assertion and its importance to British workers at this stage of their class struggle with monopoly capitalism.

"The actual thought therein is not boastful, nor chauvinistic, nor is it based on any national characteristic of the British working class. On the contrary we sound the alarm, for this original situation inherent in the first working class is rapidly deteriorating and the earlier position is being eroded. The earlier position of basic class consciousness arising from class relationships in Britain as the home of capitalism is being eroded as British capitalism itself is being eroded and increasingly penetrated by U.S. imperialism with the introduction of U.S. capitalist practices.

"In a word then, it is not a boast but a question of dialectics. Throughout Europe and within the U.S.A. the struggles of the labour movement are not perpetual, are not incessant in each and every factory. Each battle is based entirely on the renewal of a contract between employer and worker for the establishment of a bargain between those parties, and in between the periods of relative industrial peace with no action taken. Hence the role of the unions becomes that of policing its member workers to see that they adhere to the contracts made. This applies equally in parts of the Commonwealth—especially Canada, Australia and New Zealand with manifold legislation to back it.

"The table of strikes and days lost by such actions (see below) will show that the second country both per head of the population and overall in days lost is Britain, the first being the U.S.

WORKING DAYS LOST BY STRIKE PER 1000 FOR 1969

U.S. 211.1 (1), U.K. 123.3 (2), France 44.1 (3) Germany 4.3 (9), Holland 1.6 (10), Italy unlisted.

"This you might say could prove that in the U.S. the industrial worker has no peace either, accepts no peace. This is not so. One must remember that with a working industrial population of approximately 65-70 million, ignoring the unemployed, there is chronologically throughout the U.S. a perpetual round of contracts terminating, being renewed and being sought. It is a fact, of course, that at this time both unions and employers gear themselves for long drawn out battles. In the words of Henry Ford II "We can settle with U.A.W." (considered the most militant of U.S. unions) "for we know when they are going to strike".

Continentalers refer to our mode of industrial conduct in Britain as the "English disease". Any real knowledge of the struggle in Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Japan shows that the basic struggles of the workers are still more widely in the reformist manner than directly against the employer.

"In Italy today hourly paid manual workers have been conned by their unions, divided as they are, to go in for monthly salary payments so as not to be less than the white collar worker. They have not sufficient politics to say, "If it be monthly, then let it be advance".

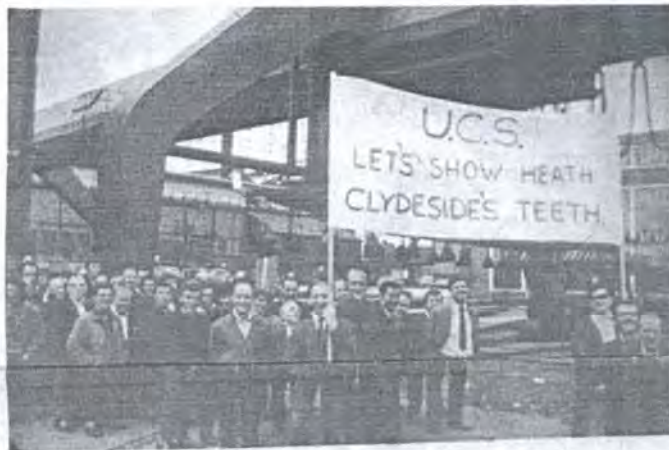
"In France, the three Federations are able and have done, to call for a national strike of 15 minutes. It is as well to remember that immediately after the War the resistance forces in both these countries were able at a moment's notice to call out in the capital cities of Rome or Paris 1 million or 2 million workers for a whole day's demonstration.

"The British worker today is being impoverished and deprived because of this obstinacy, that every agreement is the most temporary of truces, that every agreement must be repudiated the very next day. Capitalists seek to invest in places workers have been indoctrinated or coerced to "honour" so-called agreements.

"The real question now in Britain is that because of this backwardness elsewhere, again and again agreements are being made which are drawn for 1 year with no economic demands in between—or even for 2 or 3 years, completely foreign to the predatory nature of the working class of Britain vis-a-vis the capitalist class. Of course, the working class of other countries are similar in that they re-act also to

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Clydeside workers prepare to dig in to keep the shipyards open. They are not asking for Government hand-outs and they will not tolerate the attempts of Labour Party hacks like Wedgwood Benn to get in on their struggle in order to mislead it. They will have to face the inevitable attempts to get them to avoid real battle and surrender their position yard by yard and job by job. Organised workers all over Britain will support them in their move to occupy the yards in defence of their jobs.



THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL- Phoney war or protracted war

WHEN the AEF called for strikes and took strike action against the industrial Relations Bill it was roundly condemned by the TUC for acting alone and not in concert with the TUC. The special congress of the TUC met at Croydon to decide on the course of action to be taken. They declared war on the Bill, a phoney war.

Apart from a Sunday stroll from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square the main decision centred on the question of registration or as it has become now since the government decided to register all unions, de-registration. It is typical of TUC behaviour that as soon as the decision was taken on registration the very unions who had condemned the AEF in the loudest terms for "going it alone," declared their intention to ignore the decision of the Congress and to register. Since then others have followed suit. It was inevitable that this would happen. It was difficult for the TUC to condemn the AEF whilst declaring unqualified opposition to the Bill without posing some alternative. That alternative was chosen as the lowest common

something even the weakest and most reactionary could carry out. But even that is not working out. The general attitude being developed is that "if nobody else de-registers neither will we," but all are watching each other, working out the financial consequences in terms of taxation and higher level of fines. The AEF was condemned for not acting in accordance with the TUC, the way things are going they may soon find that if refusing to de-register they will be once more in isolation, and having got among the angels will find the angels in full flight.

The registration should not be got out of focus. It was never seriously believed by anyone that this would be a means of halting the progress or the passage of the Bill. It was never more than a device to defeat positive action and has, so far as the TUC is concerned, served its purpose and can now be discarded piecemeal.

But that is not the end of the war against the Bill. The Bill and the Boss are synonymous now. One cannot be fought without the other. Our policy remains to carry on the fight in industry against the

Bill and the Boss "till both are out. Let those who express so much concern for what is to happen to the Union funds make up their minds that the Unions' money is not going for fines and taxes but to sustain workers in struggle.

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UNEMPLOYMENT is the most degrading and demoralising experience that a worker can undergo. To have the energy and skill both to make a contribution to the well-being of society and provide a decent life for one's own family and yet to be denied arbitrarily the opportunity of doing so is the fate of hundreds of thousands of workers in Britain today. It will be the fate of a million or more by this winter. More than 50% of the 12,500 firms registered with the CBI have indicated that they will be laying off workers by the end of the year. This is the ultimate indictment of the waste and inefficiency of the capitalist system. The purpose of creating vast unemployment as a weapon against workers. Capitalism thrives on the exploitation of workers by robbing them of the surplus value they create on the job. It is in capitalism's interest to have as many workers employed as possible.

At the same time capitalism needs a permanent pool of unemployed, a "reserve army" which can be shifted into any sector that is temporarily "understaffed" and which can be portrayed as sniffing hungrily at the jobs that do exist. So capitalism seeks to divide workers by playing off the contradiction between those who are being exploited at work and those who are being exploited on the dole.

But capitalism is an anarchic system rent with internal contradictions. The major contradiction is that while the capitalist class depends absolutely on the working class for its profits, it generates such hostility among workers that it must continuously act against them—even when such action may have an adverse effect on profits. The capitalist class is always involved in the dilemma of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. But workers do not go on being geese.

Massive unemployment, as in Britain today, is the measure of capitalism's weakness and decay. A chronic shortage of work is as characteristic of capitalism in decline as is a shortage of labour in the healthy economies of socialist China and Albania. The only solution to unemployment in finality is to end the capitalist system which creates it. This is a political question of which class has state power—the employers or

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Unions reject Common Market

BRITAIN'S LARGEST UNION, THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL, JOINS THE ENGINEERS AND MINERS IN DENOUNCING BRITAIN'S ENTRY

WHAT is Britain's entry into the European Economic Community really about? It is about you—the workers of Britain who have continued to defy over the years all attempts of British monopoly-capitalism to hamstring your trade unions, to break up your unity and to prevent you from struggling in your own class interest. The move into Europe is a direct attack on the British working class. It is an attempt by collaboration with European monopoly-capitalism to dissipate and contain the organised militancy of British workers which the employing class has found it increasingly difficult to cope with on a purely national basis.

It is true that British monopoly-capitalism wants to extend its scope for mergers, closures and 'rationalisations' to a Europe-wide front and attract capital from the other members of the Community for its investment-starved home industries. But that is only an indirect expression of the fundamental conflict between capital and labour which we have seen at work in the mergers, closures and productivity deals right here in Britain, creating massive unemployment as the most favourable climate for an all-out attack on the unions.

British Trade Unions and the Common Market

The attempt to weaken trade unionism now finds direct expression in the rush for entry into the Common Market. In Britain, the oldest capitalist country, the trade unions were born in illegal struggle, survived the vicious assaults of the ruling class and, in spite of betrayals by those leaders who were bought off and the intrusion into the movement of the bourgeois ideas of social democracy, have remained working class organisations for defensive class struggle. On the Continent, in countries like West Germany, unions have been established with the connivance and even the support of the capitalist class for the purpose of seeing that workers respected the wage bargains struck with employers.

Britain's entry into the Common Market is therefore exactly like merging an organised factory with an unorganised one in order to weaken workers' organisation for militancy.

Going into Europe will, it is hoped, create the conditions in which the attack on the unions embodied in the Industrial Relations Bill can be more easily pressed home. Similarly, the mobility of labour throughout the European Economic Community is intended to enable monopoly-capitalists to break up and disperse working class militancy in any part of Europe—just as in Britain redeployment has been used to try to break up the well-organised workers in the London area. The Immigration Bill is intended to create a pool of black labour, outside the provisions of the European free labour market, to be used here for menial jobs and attempts to weaken working class unity.

The Labour Government and the Common Market

That entry into the Common Market is directed against the working class was inadvertently revealed by Harold Wilson when as Prime Minister he led the attempt to go into Europe in 1967. He denied that "entry into Europe would provide a heaven-sent opportunity for depressing wage standards and workers' conditions in British industry". But at a time when Labour's Incomes Policy was intended to do just that the very phrasing of the 'denial' about the motive for going into Europe shows precisely what was in Wilson's mind.

Labour's position on the Common Market is exactly the same as Labour's line on anti-trade union legislation: to support it when in power and put up a show of opposition when out. Labour and Tory differ not at all in the anti-working class policies undertaken in the interest of monopoly-capitalism; but a phoney display of offering alternatives has to be made to try to preserve the old illusion that general elections give workers some kind of choice.

Because Labour is as faithful a servant of capitalist interests as the Tories and is therefore incapable of real opposition, the Labour Conference on the Common Market was pure knock-about farce, with Wilson and his ex-ministers belabouring each other in a public row which was not about Europe at all but about their relative positions inside the Party. The stand which is emerging from this ludicrous charade is not one of forthright rejection of the Common Market but of unprincipled quibbling about the terms of entry. No wonder our Party's line on the last elections—'Don't Vote: Organise the Defeat Capitalism!' expressed the growing political consciousness of British workers who have seen through the "Two Party-One Policy" Parliamentary fraud.

The U.S. and the Common Market

The fact that joining the Common Market is an attack on the organised working class of Britain also determines the attitude of the United States. Some have tried to make out that the European Economic Community strengthened by Britain's entry is a threat to U.S. economic hegemony. But spokesmen for U.S. monopoly-capitalism have welcomed the move. And why? Because U.S. monopoly-capitalism with its huge investments in Britain and Western Europe also has every interest in seeing the working class in Britain and in Europe deprived of their organised capacity to fight capitalism.

When Henry Ford II was in Britain at the time of the great Ford strike, he complained that British motor car workers, unlike American, did not give fair warning of strike action and therefore did not enable Ford's management to plan how to cope with it. Nothing could suit U.S. bosses better than to have British unions reduced to the same status of bargaining organisations within the bourgeois state apparatus as is increasingly the case with unions in other countries.

Where Do We Go from Here?

Now that the decision to go into Europe has, in effect, been taken in spite of the massive opposition of the working class, the monopoly-capitalists may think they have won a victory. They have not. They have merely begun a protracted war which workers have the courage and unity to fight through to the end. When the Industrial Relations Bill and the Immigration Bill are signed by the Queen and proclaimed the law of the land, it may be thought that workers will make the best of it and knuckle under. They will not. With or without the rignarole of legislative procedure they remain scraps of paper as far as the working class is concerned.

The first shots in the civil war Prime Minister Heath announced in the United Nations as the main danger have been fired. Signatures on Bills and Treaties will not alter the character of the long struggle ahead. The workers of Britain are forging their own strategy of protracted war in which, at this stage, industrial action is the gun and each factory the village base. The association of capitalist countries in the Common Market will be as powerless to stop class war waged by workers as the old League of Nations was to stop aggressive war waged by imperialists.



AUEW SUSPENDED IN EIRE

SUSPENDED from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in Eire on July 7th for refusing to accept a Government wage freeze there, the AUEW was reinstated the very next day. Under the big threat of suspension the AUEW was alleged to have reluctantly accepted the wage freeze. In fact this was merely wishful thinking on the part of the Congress.

Indeed, the decision to suspend the union would be the biggest joke of the year if it was not so ludicrous. The immediate double-take and subsequent reinstatement is even more laughable.

The second thoughts of the Congress no doubt stem from the possible

loss of revenue, for although the AUEW is not the largest affiliate in that Congress, it certainly pays the affiliate fees on time and regularly.

Meanwhile, in Belfast, the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland endeavoured to intervene in the conflict around the Industrial Relations Bill. Engineer members had insisted on joining the two one-day strikes to take place in England, Scotland and Wales and all were to participate 100%.

Never will workers in engineering forget their international solidarity as well as their direct class interests. Long live the Irish workers! Long live the AUEW in Eire!

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

REDUNDANCIES

Rio Tinto-Zinc have announced a cut from 2,300 to 1,400 in the workforce of their Avonmouth zinc smelter complex. ICIFibres are making 1,450 redundant at Doncaster. Pontypool and Harrogate, Reckitt and Colman are paying off 300 vegetable cannery workers at Peterborough, while British Steel continue to chop down their workforce several hundred at a time—which gets far less publicity than the sacking of one highly paid publicity man.

Meanwhile at Newport Pagnell the towns largest employer, Aston Martin, is to get rid of 260 of its 720-strong workforce. This is at the orders of Aston Martins owners, the David Brown tractor group. John Boex, managing director of John Brown declared with breathtaking arrogance that "British industry has been too generous with its manpower and technical staff". If what we have known is generosity then the "slimming down" he calls for sounds more like death from starvation.

BUILDING WORKERS

In Hanley, N. Staffs, building workers held a half-day strike and demonstration on July 6. They marched through the town, calling for a £1 an hour basic rate for a 35-hour week.

MINERS

A few months ago the government had hopes that its protracted war against the working class was getting somewhere and wage claims were being forced down. But Britain's 290,000 miners have wiped the smirk off Heath's face. The miners' conference pressed for wage increases of between 35 and 47% to be backed by industrial action if necessary. The Yorkshire area's resolution, carried unanimously, called £35 a week for surface workers, £28 for other underground workers and £26 for surface workers. Present rates are £26.37, £19 and £18. The claim was called "a modest demand in the light of rocketing costs of living". The conference also revised the ballot majority needed for a national

strike from 2/3 to 55% although as last year's miners' strike and this year's Ford strike prove, it's determination to win that counts, not bits of paper.

MOTORS

Why is the motor industry like a trombone? Because it is in and out, in and out all the time as the car workers fight their protracted war against the employers. For example, in a dispute over backpay from the new job evaluation scheme 100 maintenance fitters at the Austin-Morris plant at Longbridge, Birmingham walked out, returned on July 12, only to walk out again almost immediately, to be followed by the 100 night shift fitters. This cut off all production, 1,500 vehicles a day, valued at about £1½ million.

The following Monday the fitters returned to work pending negotiations, with the threat of further stoppages still hanging over the employer's head. Clerical workers for Austin-Morris at Oxford and Birmingham, objecting to the company version of an agreement reversed an earlier decision to accept an increase of £3 now and further increases of 85p to £1.38. And still bigger trouble is in store for British Leyland as they try to push through their scheme for abolishing piecework.

BLACKLISTING

One of the employers' weapons which becomes even more dangerous as unemployment figures go through the roof is the blacklist. At Avery Hardoll, who make petrol pumps at Havant, Hants, a worker who had been redundant twice before in the last year was declared redundant after only five days on the payroll. The management denied that this was victimisation but this cut no ice with the workers who hit back immediately. 200 men walked out and closed the factory. At a mass meeting it was said "What happened to Johnnie can happen to any of us who speak their mind and play the game by their workmates". The workers voted to stay out until the management agreed to reinstatement.

BULL DOCKS

2,500 Hull dockers, fighting to save dockers' jobs from the threat of containerisation have been holding weekly one-day strikes. They are demanding that cargoes at present loaded into containers at a depot just outside the docks should be handled by dockers on the dock estate.

FISHER-BENDIX

Want to fight the Common Market and its attack on workers? Then forget about the "Great Debate" (Yawn!

in Parliament. Join in the real debate — The class struggle — like workers at Fisher-Bendix. The Thorn group which owns Fisher-Bendix decided to concentrate on heaters and radiators and to transfer all washing-machine production to the Continent, making nearly 500 workers at Kirby, Liverpool redundant. This is Common Market-style economics before the Treaty has been signed. But the washing machine workers who got left out of Heath's vision of a new Europe hit back and all 800 workers went on strike against the redundancy plan.

CLARKE-CHAPMAN

Three months ago pay negotiations for clerical workers at Clarke-Chapman's electronics division on the Team Valley Trading Estate, Gateshead broke down. Guerilla action followed and at the end of June seven men were called out on strike. The management sacked them and in reply 107 other clerical workers joined them outside the gates. The manual workers showed solidarity by refusing to unload lorries coming to the works, then by holding a token strike, and finally all 2,000 of them walked out on 6th July and closed everything down.

ROLLS-ROYCE

Last year Rolls-Royce locked out 950 Coventry draughtsmen who were taking action over a 14% pay claim when Rolls-Royce were only offering 7%. After 13 weeks a settlement was reached giving 12% to the Coventry workers while others only got 7%. The Derby draughtsmen who had fallen over themselves to accept the 7% offer got the capitalist reward for 'loyalty to the firm'—redundancy—6 months later when Rolls-Royce crashed. But even after the government-inspired butchery of Rolls-Royce the management still felt the wound of their Coventry defeat and waited for their chance of revenge. It came at a meeting about pay in the canteen at the Parkside factory when a collection was taken for the Fine Tubes strikers. Two management spies were skulking in a nearby room and reported the worst of all crimes for the employers—solidarity with other workers. The office committee chairman—who had played a leading part in the last year's and this year's negotiations—was suspended for alleged misuse of the canteen. A three-day strike by 300 draughtsmen followed and after three days the management agreed to reinstatement.

INFLATION- A DELIBERATE POLICY

BRITISH Capitalists - always wasteful, extravagant and greedy are showing they can no longer function. The crashing of Rolls Royce, Vehicle and General and the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders has come as a "shock to the nation." Only the working class is not surprised. In its fight against redundancy, unemployment and rising prices it has long experienced the sheer incompetence of their "masters."

Who is to blame? "It is trade union action which through wage-induced price movements has created the basic problem," announces the Fabian, Balogh. Members of the Bow Group Tory M.P.s would like to see established a tax on unacceptable wage settlements. Other Tory and Labour M.P.s would prefer a policy of voluntary restraint on wages and prices, in conjunction with the T.U.C. Foolish workers are pricing themselves out of jobs is the cry. A foreign tycoon threatens to take his factories out of Britain. "The British worker does not produce as much as German or American." Newspapers and television hammer these home every day. Of course capitalism has always had the problem that workers must eat and be sheltered from the weather; they have not been able to reach their ideal, the Giles Cartoon of a robot which does not have a union card.

Let us look at these gigantic wage increases causing inflation, rising prices and the ruin of Britain! The average weekly earnings of men is now £28.11p of women £17. But 700,000 men are estimated to be earning less than £15 gross. In 1954 the Royal Commission on Taxation laid down a clear principle on the level of income at which tax should be levied (the tax threshold). "There should not be income tax levied upon any income which is insufficient to provide its owner with what he required for subsistence; that is an income large enough to equip and sustain a healthy and efficient citizen." But those in poverty pay tax nevertheless.

Poverty level net income at tax threshold

Single person	£8.70p	£6.50p
Married couple	£12.00p	£9.85p
Two child family	£15.60p	£14.30p
Four child family	£19.60p	£18.45p

The effects of income tax and National Insurance means that once its income becomes eligible for tax the amount left over in a two child family is £1.30p below the poverty line. The rapid increases in rents, travel to work offset much of wage increases. An income of £28 would pay £5 contributions. It is estimated that 5 million people are living below the Commissions low poverty level. Employers, humanitarians all, appeal to car workers not to ask for any pay rises or their brothers will get less! This today when 1% of adult wealth holders own one third of personal wealth and the top 10% own nearly 3/4. There are 20,000 people with an average of £400,000 a year each - an amount which it would take the average worker 300 years to earn. The workers have caused inflation - when thousands earn in a week less than the cost of an Ascot hat, when the Standard describes a simple meal for two in a West End Restaurant costing only £12 excluding tip! And the British econ-

omy can be saved by stopping free milk to Junior School children!

We are told there is a crisis of over production. We may well ask of what? There are not enough houses, schools or even clean water. There is a lack of confidence of investors in home industry so leading to the closing of firms. Profit has no homeland: a capitalist may be a true-blue Britisher but he still wants his dividends.

Remembering that 2% - 3% of a wage rise goes back in tax, less than 10% - 11% increase represents a cut in living standards. The Postmen received 8.9% the dustmen 11% the Civil Service 11%. Like Alice, workers have to run very fast to stay in the same place.

It is interesting that while every agent of the employer is attacking trade unions as destroying the economy of Britain by their militancy, so arm chair theoreticians of the 'left' also attack trade unions as "an arm of the bourgeoisie," as corrupting skilled workers who gain at the expense of others. There is chatter of crumbs being thrown to the aristocrats of labour. One would have thought that the myth of Red Unions died in the thirties. A very dusty answer would come from any family man who also happened to be a skilled worker to this cloud cuckoo land reasoning. A corrupt aristocrat of labour, struggling to bring up a family on £30 a week when he knows without "experts" telling him that even from 1962 the cost of living has gone up by half, 95p. in the £ this year! British workers created the Trade Unions of Britain, and in their own good time they will destroy them.

The continued militancy of workers everywhere, the strength shown in frightening the establishment, therefore the Industrial Relations Bill, a sign of weakness not strength of the ruling class. The Unions belong to the members. They stop work when they decide. They do not ask anyone's permission. What is this chatter of officials and unofficial strikes? The Engineers have decided not to register if the Bill comes into force: they have unanimously rejected the idea of joining the Common Market, another ruse to gain markets and profits at the expense of the working class. But it is only the winning of socialism through revolution that will bring order into the chaos of life today in Britain. This antiquated British Capitalism is destroying itself; its wealth and power came from engineering - it is destroying its factories by poor management; it has for long been too greedy to use some of its profits for new machinery. Above all it is destroying its true wealth, the skill of the most highly skilled proletariat in the world, by unemployment. Jarrow yesterday, the Clyde today.

But our job is not to prop up the decaying system. We do not fight to help the employer keep open Rolls Royce or the Clyde Shipyards. We the working class must take them over. Only then can disaster be averted from the people of Britain. It is the task of the Communist Party of Britain (M-L) as part of the working class and learning from them, to repeat this over and over again. The battle is on, the lists are drawn and the two protagonists, the exploited and the exploiter, face each other, the working class and the bourgeoisie.

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the workers. It can only be solved in the workers' favour by revolution.

The Strategy of Protracted War

The immediate problem for the workers of Britain is how to conduct under present conditions an all-out struggle on the issue of the right to work in such a way as to build the revolutionary force which can ultimately smash the capitalist system. That is the basis of our Party's line on protracted war, the strategy of the working class, and on the industrial guerrilla tactics which are a part of that strategy and are to be applied as of now.

The strategy of protracted war must be formulated in full discussion with members of the trade unions which are the broad front of workers in struggle with the employing class. Those who try to mislead workers in this struggle either counselling opportunistic ways of living with the system as for example by selling jobs which are then lost to their class or staging phoney demonstrations and protests which do not hurt the employers or indulging in adventurist calls for a general strike which is premature and can only end in retreat or for pressing a particular course of industrial action to the point where militants are isolated and chopped down - all these forms of failing to wage war at all or of pushing workers, from behind of course, into battles in which they will be defeated must be ruthlessly exposed and combated.

In this struggle we are not begging for jobs. We are demanding them. We must analyse the various kinds of redundancies in order to enforce our demands in the appropriate form for particular situations.

Planning Guerrilla Tactics

Threats of redundancy may come from changes in productive methods - like the running down of the dock labour force as a result of new handling techniques or the 50,000 jobs which will be lost in the electricity supply industry before the end of 1972. These threats will be met by demands for a shorter working week of 35 or even 30 hours, by longer holidays and limitations on overtime, by refusing or blocking productivity deals. But the winning of these demands will not remove the root cause of unemployment or indeed even reduce the overall level of redundancies.

It is no good calling for a ban on overtime in a factory slated for closure. There the question becomes one of taking over the

factory - not on the erroneous assumption that workers' control can ever be a substitute for revolution to establish working class state power, but in the knowledge that occupation, even under present circumstances, can raise the whole level of class struggle and thus steel workers involved in such a level of struggle for further battles to come. Such is the proposed action of Clyde-side shipyard workers. Here the question workers will naturally raise is "Can we win?". "Are we taking on something too big?" But with unemployment still soaring that question is being changed anyway into "Can we afford not to fight?". "What is there for us if we don't fight?" Besides, we can always win in the sense that all struggle fought on sound class lines builds the strength and unity for eventual victory in protracted war.

When to come out on strike and, just as important, when to go back with forces intact and morale high to carry on the struggle inside the factory; when to pull out only key workers, effectively interrupting production, while the rest continue to clock on and receive their pay; when to stage staggered lightning strikes, when to stop out and when to take over and occupy - these are all considerations of guerrilla tactics to be waged from every industrial base. As in any guerrilla struggle the question is always keeping the initiative, massing forces for attack where the enemy is relatively weak, maintaining mobility in order not to be trapped into confrontations which wear down the workers' strength and preserving unity against every attempt to split working class solidarity. By these tactics workers can continue the struggle over the long haul, using every engagement to build their revolutionary movement for the eventual overthrow of capitalism.

The Fight for the Right to Work

Over twenty years ago, at a National Committee meeting of the AEU the Chairman of our Party, Reg Birch, first issued the demand for the right to work. He said quite simply that there must be no redundancies at all, that workers must never agree to a single one of their mates getting the sack. Employers saw this as such a threat to the capitalist economic system that they called him "killer Birch". That is the demand we, the workers of Britain are uncompromisingly making today. We must all become "killers".

TORY BUDGET MAXI STICK - MINI CARROT

AS the Industrial Relations Bill passes through the Lords on its way to becoming the big legal stick with which employers hope to beat down the organised working class, Chancellor Barber produces the tiniest carrot in history to try to lure workers into the trap of voluntary wage-cuts.

That this was the intention of the Tory mini-budget was obvious when pressure was immediately put on the trade unions to exercise restraint in wage demands now that both the Government and Confederation of British Industry "has done their part" in tackling unemployment and inflation.

But what have the Government and the CBI actually done? The cut in purchase tax means that workers who are pushed to make both ends meet or are out of a job altogether will save £4 on a £100 washing machine, £10 on the cost of a colour television set or £40 on a £1000 car. Of course if they buy a new Rolls they will save even more! The removal of H.P. controls simply means that employed and unemployed alike can get deeper in debt while waiting endlessly for the upturn in the economy. They've never never had it so good? The real object of the

mini-budget is not to steady prices. On the contrary, Barber set 5% price increases as the norm to be followed. And who is to keep price rises to 5%? - the employers themselves. The CBI has promised to try to keep price rises to that level by advising their members to that effect. Already scores of excuses are being suggested as to why prices may not keep to a 5% rise, preparing the way for increases of 10% and over. The budget does not touch the cost of basic essentials nor is there any change in the duty on petrol, beer, wine and spirits or tobacco. The CBI's vague promises will not affect the high cost of food, rents and other necessities.

The Government's main purpose is to reduce the real wages of workers. They are hoping to use this so-called price control to blackmail workers into not demanding wage rises above 5%. Apart from the fact that workers have a lot of price rises to catch up with, a 5% increase in wages does not cover a 5% increase in prices. Unless prices of all commodities - raw materials, imported goods, capital goods, services etc - go up by the same amount, an employer giving a 5% wage rise and at the same time increasing his prices

by 5% will pocket the bulk of that price rise as profit for himself. For instance, if the employer sells a commodity at £10 a 5% increase in price will give him 50p. If the worker producing it gets, say £1 a 5% wage increase will give him a meagre .5p. The difference of 45p goes to the employer

Bosses Pleased

Sir John Partridge, President of the CBI, is very happy about the mini-budget. The Labour Party thinks it is good. Even Victor Feather has applauded the Chancellor's "change of heart" and thinks that unemployment may not now rise to a million this winter. The press, radio and TV have praised it as the way to get the economy going again. But if that is all that was needed, why wasn't it done before? The fact is that these new measures will ultimately add fuel to the flames of rising prices and rising unemployment. With the increased demand, the monopoly capitalists are not going to miss the opportunity of raising their prices even more than before. The increase in investment, leading to an increase in production will

as the cycle of distribution works itself out, inevitably create over-production, resulting in the near future in more bankruptcies, mergers, closures and unemployment on an even more extensive scale. The Government's economic policy is determined, as always by the interest of the class it represents - the capitalist class. With record bankruptcies, liquidity problems in all firms and a general lowering of profit margins, the Government had to relieve the situation if only on a short term basis, hoping that the burden could be shifted wholly onto the working class.

But workers will not be taken in by this con game. They can do their own arithmetic on how much they get in their weekly pay packets, if they are lucky enough to be in work, and how much goes out each week to cover essentials. They know the extent of the robbery practised on them in increased council rents, prescription charges and school meals, the reduction in social benefits and the petty theft of their children's school milk. Victor Feather can speak for himself. The workers of Britain will not be tricked into any one-sided bargains with their class enemies in the Government and the CBI.

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NIXON'S JOURNEY

A LITTLE MAHOMET
GOES TO THE MOUNTAIN
OF WISDOM

(IN 1959 Khrushchev went to the United States to see President Eisenhower at Camp David and to propose that the two great nuclear powers could divide the globe between them and keep the world's peoples in order by the threat of their armed might. Today President Nixon is going to China without receiving a single concession from the Chinese in the application of their Marxist-Leninist line to world affairs. These two events mark the changes which have taken place in the twelve years between the Soviet leadership's capitulation to imperialism and China's consolidation of its position as the bastion of socialism and the support of the world's peoples in their anti-imperialist struggles.)

The news organs of the world are agog at Nixon's proposed visit to the Chinese People's Republic and much has been written in conjecture of the implications.

It is well to keep the thing in perspective. The Chinese People's Republic has never severed state relations with the United States of America. They never, in fact, existed by

an act of the U.S. The Chinese People's Republic has always been ready to have state relations with all nations, which must not be confused with friendly relations nor fraternal relations nor, of course, socialist relations. They are just state relations and with nations of the power of China or the U.S. they are inevitable if there is to be any sense at all in the world. If it is believed that there will be any change in the Marxist-Leninist principles of China in exchange, this will be seen not to be so.

There will be no alteration of the one China position by the Chinese People's Republic. There will be no solution through any soft two Chinas settlement. There cannot be anything like full state relations without the U.S. withdrawing military forces from Taiwan and moving the Seventh Fleet from the area.

The olive branch from the U.S. comes in the first place from the stand of the Vietnamese people against aggression and, in the second, from China's insistence on being regarded as a free and independent country. There will be no

compromise on the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam and the unqualified acceptance of China as an independent and equal nation. The predicament of the U.S. in its complete military defeat in Vietnam and all the difficulties external and internal that flow from it has forced the U.S. to face up to these realities.

Of course in gossip circles there is much chatter about the U.S.'s position on China's entry to the United Nations. This too must be kept in size, it by no means follows that China will rush to claim its rightful seat at the benediction of the U.S. After all, because of the role of the U.S. through the years in this arena and the undignified behaviour of so many nations who speak by proxy for the U.S., this body has been rendered relatively ineffective, almost as moribund as the League of Nations. Perhaps it may yet be resuscitated with the kiss of life from China, but it is of no great moment since the world, fortunately goes on in spite of it.

Only so fatuous and egregious a one as Nixon

could utter such a remark on reconciliation as that it is "not directed against other nations. We seek friendly relations with all nations. Any nation can be our friend without being any other nation's enemy." The question is: who wants to be the U.S.'s friend?

Of course the pressures upon Nixon to seek rapport are great - the stagnation of the economy at home, the defeat in Vietnam and the consequent protest in the U.S.A. itself, the coming presidential election next year. At this time Tricky Dick is ready to be 'Little Richard' (and that's no jazz) in order to become King Richard at election time.

He is, of course, an astute politician. Were he a statesman of integrity he would continue his journey to Hanoi and make expiation for the evil he and Johnson and Kennedy before him have done. He should be grateful to the Vietnamese people whose tenacity, stamina and intransigence have created the situation in which he can make this seeming 'liberal' gesture.

So a little Mahomet goes to the 'Mountain of Wis-

dom' - proof of the triumph of Marxism-Leninism.

No doubt such an overture is causing consternation within state circles in the U.S.S.R. who have yet to learn that eschewing Marxist-Leninist principles can never achieve other than short-term returns and who now stand shamed in their colusion with the U.S.A. to divide the world into two power blocs. Undoubtedly there will also be quite a banging of drums in the lunatic fringe of ultra-leftists as to Chinese intentions with suggestions that Communist tenets are being abandoned etc. Rest assured that there will be no desertion by China of the Marxist-Leninist position of supporting national liberation struggles and of continued and fearless support of the just war of the Vietnamese people.

At least the act of Nixon wily politician that he is, has the objective quality, however belated of recognising the realities of the situation. More important, both the Chinese and American peoples will welcome this act. No one in the world can deny that the establishment of state relations between the two nations is better for the whole globe and is nothing but common sense for all the absurd talk

about such an obvious step being a Machiavellian stroke of genius by the U.S. Government.

The change has been brought about by the power of the people. The Chinese people have triumphed and the American people will yet triumph. The lesson is a painful one for Britain and Japan, Big Brother U.S.A. having secured from both nations a slavish "After you, dear Yankee" have left them to learn that only a principled independent stand is respected internationally.

We in Britain suffer as usual from two little and too late. It is not good enough to say we too are in conversations with China now. We should have led the way. Whether under Wilson or Heath a little more dignity, a little more confidence in the nation would have secured for Britain true recognition in the world.

(This article is based on material submitted by the Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), Reg Birch, to Tribune at their request.)

Footnote: By Reg Birch: A personal thought to Nixon - you declined my entry visa to the U.S.A. Chou En-lai welcomes even you, as he did me. Such is the strength of the People's Republic of China which scorns fear.

THE PENTAGON PAPER TIGER

OVER the last few weeks political life in the USA has revolved around the Pentagon Papers - a secret study of US aggression in Vietnam prepared by Pentagon researchers in 1967-68. Some of its 3000 pages were leaked to the New York Times which then won a Supreme Court case for the right to publish them. The papers reveal what many of us have known all along - the long and desperate attempts made by successive American Presidents to smash the growth of socialism in Indochina and in particular to use every means at their disposal to expand US power in Southeast Asia. It was in Truman's time that the US first became involved by backing the French colonialists.

The dating of the revisionists - Kennedy - exposed.

Those of us who knew the war policies of Kennedy were shocked to find the Khrushchev down to our local products of King Street shedding tears at the time of his assassination. Well the Pentagon Papers finally spell out the Special War launched by Kennedy against "insurgency" or people's freedom struggles in Vietnam and Laos. No sooner had he been formally inaugurated in early 1961 than he gave orders

for the American military presence to be raised from 685 "advisers" to some 16,000 "Special Forces" with a corresponding increase in combat activities and plenty of CIA covert warfare against North Vietnam and Laos



Johnson's Election Fraud over Bombing of North Vietnam.

During the 1964 Presidential campaign it appeared as if the loud-mouthed Republican candidate, Barry Goldwater, had gone mad screaming for the bombing of North Vietnam to help stop the steady tide of victory on the part of the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam. As usual social democrats and revisionists proclaimed the importance of a Johnson victory to stop the hawks from bombing

Hanoi. But the Pentagon Papers now reveal that for months before the Presidential campaign the VIPs who decided war strategy had made all the necessary plans for full-scale bombing of the north which began early in 1965.

The Vietnamese liberation war is winning hands down. Every strategem of Nixon's has backfired ending up with the debacle of his invasion of south-east Laos this spring, when South Vietnamese puppet troops and Americans could not even from Highway 9 fast enough. In south Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia every day sees new defeats for Nixon's plans to "Vietnamise," to "pacify" and the various other labels and slogans thought up by the Pentagon. Now he is desperately trying to devise some way of negotiating a settlement which will retain for the USA some hold over Indochina. But the Vietnamese have given their answer. The July 1, "Seven-Point" peace proposals put forward in Paris by Madame Thi Binh Chief Delegate of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, spell it out: the US must end its war of aggression, must set a terminal date for the withdrawal of all its troops and military personnel. As for the kind of government in South Vietnam, that will be for the people of Vietnam to decide.

These things were known then and now. Yet the British Government has consistently supported the US and accepted it all.

Labour no less than Tory. Even today in the midst of his wild gyrations over the Common Market ex-Premier Wilson has not found time to repudiate his fawning loyalty to Johnson and Nixon.

Furthermore what about some revelations from the secret documents of the Foreign Office? The Americans have at least got round to leaking their

PALESTINE

HITLER'S "final solution" to the "Jewish problem" was exterminate the Jews. Today, a generation later, the governments of Jordan and Israel, steered by the oil interests of the great imperialist powers, are applying the same "final solution" to the "Palestine problem."

Only one thing stopped Hitler's "final solution": the Soviet Red Army, which ripped to shreds the Nazi military machine. Only one thing will stop the "final solution" of the Jordan-Israel axis: the courage and determination of the Palestinian people, shown in abundant measure over the last six years of intense and difficult struggle.

IRELAND

WAR ON ALL FRONTS

THE cold blooded murder of two young men by British soldiers in Derry underlines once again the fact that British troops in Ireland are an army of occupation holding down a subject people against their will. The struggle in Ireland is assuming the character of a protracted war with struggles on many different fronts. It is sharpest in those areas of the North which are under attack from British troops and Unionist extremists, but it also involves a struggle against the neo-Unionism of the Fianna Fail regime in the South, as well as industrial battles in factories throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

British troops in Derry are garrisoned in the Essex International factory, which has formerly been owned by Birmingham Sound Reproduction Ltd., before being closed after a lengthy strike. The factory is now surrounded by barbed wire and machine gun posts, and is virtually under constant siege.

Much ballyhoo has been made of the fact that the American-owned DuPont Chemical Works in Derry is to expand, providing some 180 jobs. However the closure of a textile mill in Newry has caused over 300 redundancies while in Belfast the rationalisation of Harland and Wolff's shipyard and other factory closures will leave still more people jobless.

Class struggle is also escalating in the South, particularly in the mining

industry. For many years people believed the lie that Ireland has no mineral resources, but now the truth is out. Ireland has mineral wealth all right and it is all in foreign hands. A strike is currently in progress at a West German-owned silver mine in Co. Tipperary. A young worker has been killed in an explosion at the mine and the I.R.A. have stated that if necessary they will introduce the bomb and the bullet into industrial struggles in which they are involved. When one remembers that strikers in the South of Ireland are often confronted with armed Free State troops and a police force notorious for its brutality it will be realised that this is by no means an adventurist statement.

About 70% of the Irish economy is in foreign hands. Industrial struggles by Irish workers at the point of production are therefore an integral part of the national struggle for a free, united Ireland. A military incomplete victory on an economic victory on the industrial front. As James Connolly said: "If you remove the English Army tomorrow and hoist the green flag over Dublin Castle, unless you set about the Organisation of the Socialist Republic your efforts will have been in vain, England would still rule you. She would rule you through her landlords through her financiers and her capitalists, through the whole army of commercial and industrial institutions she has planted in this country and watered with the blood of our martyrs..."

BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL BATTLE FRONT

Continued from front page

the dialectics of their class relationship. The point here is that British capitalism being first, the British working class was first. It worked out its methods of struggle empirically and pragmatically, whereas in the other countries capitalists learned from the struggle within Britain and these same foreign capitalists and imperialists seek today, as the condition of their investments in British industry, to impose those lessons on the British working class.

"But the real question you, who aspire to assist and guide the workers of Britain, should pre-occupy yourselves with is not whether we are more or less militant than anywhere else, but what is to be done. Otherwise you remind me of comrades who will debate "where the barricade should be" while the workers have already erected it. You must read "What Is To Be Done?" by Lenin. You cannot teach the British working class anything at all about economic struggle. You can assist them, however, in their own ideological development of extending Marxism-Leninism towards revolution."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FILM SHOW: Red Detachment of Women (Revolutionary ballet from China) organised by South-East London Branch (CPBML) Saturday August 7 at 7.30p.m. Place: Lord Bexley public house, near Bexleyheath clock tower.

FILM SHOW: Red Detachment of Women and Folk Music, Friday August 13, at 7.30p.m. Place: Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.

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