

"There is only one war
worth waging, that is
the Class War."



John MacLean, Scotland's
Revolutionary Marxist

RED CLYDESIDER

"TO HELL WITH WESTMINSTER"

Unemployment is not a new experience to the workers in Scotland, but, there can be little wonder at the present spate of anger now being expressed by the workers at the proposal of Heath and Davies to throw a further 6,000 workers, presently employed in the U.C.S., on to the scrapheap to swell still further the unemployed figure which today in Scotland is over 134,000. The consequences of such a policy will have far reaching effects on the employment situation in Scotland for it must immediately, and in a very serious way, affect many related trades and industries with the result that thousands of other workers will become redundant also.

Much has been said and written about the U.C.S. situation by political parties and the trade union bodies, but, their comments have mainly centred around the immediate economic questions regarding the profitability or uneconomic workings of this industry. Of course the economic issues should be debated and the workers informed as to where the money has gone in this industry, but, the political implications should not be allowed to be covered up by such debates.

Unfortunately this is what has happened, so much so that certain shop stewards in the U.C.S., who should know better, have stated that this is not a political question but simply a question of fighting for our jobs!

CAPITALISM = UNEMPLOYERS OF LABOUR

THE WORKERS' PARTY OF SCOTLAND (Marxist-Leninist) maintains that unemployment is a political question which affects not only the U.C.S. worker but the workers of Scotland.

The present crisis affecting this country is part and parcel of the crisis affecting world imperialism. We are living in a period reminiscent of the 20's and the 30's when competition between the Capitalist countries became acute and a struggle for markets and raw materials ensued resulting in two world wars for the redivision of the worlds markets. The position of the world markets is much the same as it was then with the major difference that Asia, Africa and Latin-America which were ready markets for plunder have today through their National Liberation Movements either freed themselves from colonialism and imperialism or are in the process of doing so by armed struggle. During this period of contracting world markets the Capitalists must cut back in production and at the same time produce at cheaper rates to compete on the existing markets. This means UNEMPLOYMENT AND WAGE FREEZES for the working class.

The negotiations started by Wilson and now conducted by Heath for entry into the EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET is an attempt by the capitalist class to overcome their difficult market problems and is directly related to the run down of the Scottish based industries. For Britain to enter the Common Market she must be prepared to sell out certain industries as part of the price of entry. West Germany, a sitting member of the Common Market, is the largest shipbuilding producers in Europe and they are working under difficulties themselves. Obviously pressure has been brought to bear on Heath to cut back on the shipbuilding industry to allow the Common Market and West Germany to compete with Japan which produces 50.2% of the worlds tonnage in ships to-day. Why else would Heath and Co. axe an industry which means so much to the livelihood of thousands of workers and one which even industrialists claim is a viable entity?

PARLIAMENTARY TRICKSTERS

Various solutions to the problem of unemployment are being put to the working class in Scotland. The Labour M.P.s, the Trade Union Movement and the Communist Party of Great Britain along with Trotskyist organisations say the solution lies in the return of a Labour government pledged to Socialism. Have these people really forgotten that every Labour government from Ramsay MacDonald's to Wilson's have pledged themselves to 'socialism' and yet unemployment remained a scourge to the workers during Labours terms of office? Did Mr Wilson refute the 'Cohen Council's' policy of a 3% unemployment figure for Britain? No. Of course not, for he knows too well the value of a "reserve army of labour".

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The shop stewards on the Clyde are attempting to defeat redundancies by taking over the yards. In essence the idea is good in that it counterposes workers control to capitalist control but in practical terms it cannot be put into operation for the simple reason that 'workers control' can only be put into practice when the 'workers hold POWER'. That means that the workers must have the power to control the banks, the transport, the fuel and electrical supplies, communications, the police and the army, etc., and in that way ensure that no interference or sabotage can be carried out by the former owners of industry. This means nothing less than a revolutionary transformation of society from Capitalism to Socialism.

The proposal to take over one industry in Scotland and make it function under 'workers control' while the whole of Scottish industry and agriculture is being deliberately run down is Alice in Wonderland fantasy, and one big piece of bluff. The misery and hardship of the working class in Scotland is being capitalised on for election stunts and prestige by so many political parties. Wedgewood Benn and various other Labour M.P.s have jumped aboard this disaster ship for their own politically motivated ends. Why does Benn and Wilson now support the merits of 'workers control', 'nationalisation' and 'industrial democracy' and not while in office axing 5,000 workers and creating the U.C.S? The answer is simple it is an election gimmick to be used as a trump card in the next general election.

Demand a Future for SCOTLAND



The Scottish people have experienced, time and time again, that during periods of economic expansion, industry is pushed into Scotland, BUT, only to be taken out again immediately there is any contraction in the world markets. Capitalism cannot function without a 'reserve army of labour'. The existence of a large number of unemployed gives the capitalist class a powerful weapon against the working class, for it forces one section of the workers through necessity to compete with other workers for the same job with the result that wages are held down.

While unemployment affects all the workers in Britain, Scotland however always gets the heavy end of the stick. The reason being that Scotland (since it was sold into English bondage by the nobility) has simply been used as an appendage of England to be used as the political and economic needs of Capitalism dictate. Successive Westminster governments have employed the method of 'rationalisation' of Scottish based industries to overcome their economic difficulties, thereby, constantly throwing large numbers of Scottish workers unemployed to rot on the dole until things pick up when they can be used again if necessary.

Scotland is the Lazarus of England - allowed to die only to be brought back to life the moment our services are required!

THE WORKERS' PARTY OF SCOTLAND (M.L.) has consistently pointed out that unemployment is a question concerning the whole of the Scottish working class and not just one area or industry. Not only are the industrial workers in Scotland feeling the effects of 'rationalisation' but the hill farmers, the crofters, the agricultural workers and the fishermen.

The question must be put - Is it not high time that the people of Scotland followed the advice of John MacLean, Scotland's greatest revolutionary leader, and stand up and declare "To hell with Westminster" and set up a Workers Republic of Scotland? If this were done by a declaration of the peoples representatives in Scotland and elections held we would have a Socialist government in Scotland the next day. It would then be the job of the workers to see that such a government carried out a policy to meet the needs of the people.

As a first step towards the formation of a Workers Republic of Scotland a NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE SCOTTISH PEOPLE should be convened forthwith to include all political parties and organisations, trade union bodies, local and county councils, cultural bodies, etc.

An immediate halt to the money amounting to millions of pounds (Scotland's gross national product amounts to around £3,500,000,000 every year) being sent out of Scotland every year to the Westminster treasury thereby allowing us capital for the continued development of Scotland's agriculture and industries including such industries as the Clyde shipyards.

The S.T.U.C., the Labour Party, the Tory Party, the Liberal, nationalist and Communist Party all support, or so they say, some form of assembly in Scotland.

The WORKERS' PARTY OF SCOTLAND therefore calls on the workers of Scotland and to all those interested in keeping Scotland alive to support the convening of a NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE SCOTTISH PEOPLE and to demand that the trade unions, the S.T.U.C., and all political parties support this move.

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