

CLASS STRUGGLE

No.13 June 1977 MONTHLY

FIVE PENCE

GRIMSBY WORKERS OPPOSE LABOUR PARTY

Despite the parliamentary bye-election victory by TV glamour boy Austin Mitchell, the Labour Party in Grimsby is very worried. A growing working class campaign is hitting the Labour Party hard.

Just before Christmas the whole membership of the TGWU of Unispeed Road Haulage, Immingham, went down to the district office and contracted out of the political levy. The unions give nearly all the money raised through this levy to the Labour Party. Many union rule books in fact say the levy can go only to the Labour Party or organisations it supports. This was a direct blow by workers at the Labour Party.

MORE WORKERS 'CONTRACT OUT' OF LEVY

In January, workers' opposition to the social contract and the Labour Party grew stronger when the TGWU branch that covers 2 chemical factories Laporte and Doverstrand decided not to affiliate to the Labour Party. In February, after many requests, the Laporte shop stewards' committee made forms available so that the workers could contract out of the political levy. In the first week, over 50 workers contracted out. The total increased gradually up to the budget. On the first day after the budget 30 more contracted out. So far, about 250 have stopped paying the Labour Party to work for the bosses. The number is increasing at about 10 a week.

In April the GMWU branch at United Biscuit's factory opposed affiliation to the Labour Party. In the same month shop stewards at the Dunlop Hose Division in Grimsby made forms available for the members to contract out of the political levy. Many other unions have reported members contracting out of the levy.

BEST BOSSES' PARTY

The Labour party is the best bosses' party. It is trying, by all its means, to patch up the capitalist crisis, by attacking the working class. It has cut wages, through the social contract, with the con-

nivance of the Labour Party trade union leaders. Unemployment goes up every year. It has cut health, education and social services. It has increased taxes. In the same time, profits have risen in both private and nationalised industry. At the end of May, ICI announced 3-monthly profits of £141 million. Courtauld, also, announced an increased profit of over £80 million, after a year of factory closures.

In reaction to the Grimsby workers' fight-back, the Labour scabs in the TGWU regional leadership have set up a 'political' sub-committee. They plan to bring so-called 'left-wing' TGWU leaders, like the revisionist 'Communist' Party-supported Alex Kitson, to Grimsby to speak on 'unity' between the Labour Party and the trade unions. But even such 'left-wing' cover and 'socialist' words for Labour cannot hide the facts. Working class opposition to the activities of Labour in its support of capitalism, will continue to grow. ■

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**JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST FEDERATION OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)**

NO SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT

In Britain today there are 1,400,000 without work. Yet there's plenty of work that needs doing - we haven't enough hospitals and homes, there's understaffing in many jobs, and most factories could produce much more than they do. Only under capitalism could we have the lunatic situation where there's so much work crying out to be done while there's hundreds of thousands on the dole.

All governments say that they're going to fight unemployment and yet it's always there, and for fifteen years has been going up and up. Today there are four times as many people out of work as there were in 1962. The government can't really fight unemployment because they're determined to prop up the system that causes it - capitalism.

Capitalism causes unemployment because it

can produce only for profit - the biggest possible profit. To increase profits the bosses replace workers with machines and the machines are constantly speeded up in productivity drives to make each worker produce more. This means that less and less workers are needed and so the number out of work goes steadily up.

A further cause of unemployment is that because the workers are exploited by the bosses - part of the wealth they produce goes into the bosses' pocket as profits - they can't consume all the goods they produce. The goods remain unsold, the warehouses and shops are full and the capitalist can't make a profit. The capitalists then sack workers to cut back on production until the surplus of goods is consumed. This is another example of the lunacy of capitalism; there are 'too many' goods and yet the vast majority of the people go

WESTLAND HELICOPTER WORKERS FACE SPEED-UP

Westland Aircraft's after-tax profits in 1976 were over £7½ millions. In March this year they forecast that "the Group's profits, barring unforeseen circumstances, should exceed that of the previous year." Yet a secret provisional redundancy plan has been in existence since October last year.

880 redundancies were announced in the helicopter division before the Easter holidays. These redundancies were brought forward as a diversion to cover up the company's withdrawal of a pay deal among helicopter production workers in Yeovil.

The pay deal was proposed by the company to buy out piecework 'wage drift'. Although it was partly financed by cutting the wages of higher paid workers by up to £40 a week, basic rates were to be raised by £4 per week, making for one of the highest paid aerospace factories in Britain. Despite the strings this was accepted by the works' unions.

Fearing struggles for parity from other workers and within the Westland's Group itself, Westland Aircraft, the parent company, intervened to veto the deal following pressure from the Labour government, the CBI and the Engineering Employers Federation. Redundancy plans for the helicopter division at Yeovil and Weston-Super-Mare were brought forward to enforce discipline. These tactics were shown up by

company forecasts of 9 fewer jobs during the next 12 months to the joint union/company manpower committee meeting shortly before its change of line. One of the directors subsequently admitted that Westland Aircraft had been instructed by the CBI to keep the issue localised in the interests of the Labour government's phase 3 social contract plans.

WORKERS FIGHT BACK

With 15% of jobs threatened, Westland helicopters' workers are in a strong position to fight back. Many mass meetings have been held where workers have witnessed their collective strength, often for the first time. A vigorous non-cooperation campaign has assumed a mass character despite victimisations.

VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

With the company's recent offer of extra money for early retirement, combined with redundancy pay, many workers have volunteered to leave. The TUs have now accepted voluntary redundancies. Many workers are already seeing this means work speed-up unless it is fought. It also means redeployment for the workers from one job to another. The workers' opposition to this is growing. Fighting redeployment and speed-up is a continuation of the fight for the right to work.

UNDER CAPITALISM

without them.

Lastly, the cut-throat competition between capitalists means that factories and industries which don't make a big enough profit for the capitalists are closed down, causing thousands to be thrown on the dole.

All these different causes are throwing worker after worker onto the scrapheap. Lucas Aerospace have sacked over 7,000 workers in 3 years, the car industry has cut its workforce by 15,000 over ten years and now Plesseys announce 4,000 redundancies after 14,000 sackings in 4 years. The misleaders in the Labour and 'Communist' parties try to tell us that nationalisation will save jobs. They should tell that to the railwaymen and steelmen who have lost over 200,000 jobs in ten years. These misleaders praised the Labour government to

the skies for nationalising 4 of the big Aerospace companies in April. The chairman of the new company immediately announced 7,000 redundancies, as part of a programme to rationalise the industry!

Only socialism can end unemployment because only under socialism will production be for use, not profit. Under socialism the workers would be in control of production, not a few capitalists. The workers and their government would decide how much wealth went in wages, how much to develop industry, how much on hospitals and so on. Because there would be no exploitation there couldn't be 'too many' goods being produced. Machines would be used to reduce the burden of work and the number of hours worked, not to increase profits for an idle few. Socialism will end the misery of unemployment for ever!

LUCAS SETBACK

In February this year, workers at the Lucas Aerospace Victor Works factory at Broadgreen, Liverpool were threatened by management with 500 redundancies. The response of the Stewards Committee was to refuse to even discuss this vicious proposal, and their correct, militant stand was supported by the workers in the factory.

Management soon realised that they couldn't succeed against a united workforce fighting for the right to work, and they backed down, claiming more work had been found! But they didn't give up. In an attempt to divide the workers, they came back with a proposal for 300 redundancies, composed of 100 'volunteers' and the remainder by 'natural wastage' over the next 18 months.

The Stewards Committee considered this, and in spite of a significant number who wanted to fight all redundancies, came up with a recommendation of "reluctant acceptance". Why the sudden turnabout? One of the stewards commented: "Lucas management have over the years learnt many lessons in how to deal with its employees! One of the main lessons being that unity amongst the workers presents them with real problems! Terms like 'natural wastage' and 'voluntary redundancy' are meant to con-

fuse and divide us. The Stewards Committee should have exposed the real nature of these terms, rather than assuming that the struggle was doomed to failure from the outset."

The job of a Stewards Committee is to give leadership to the workers in the day-to-day struggle against management. On any issue, it must attempt to find what is in the workers' interest and then try to win conviction amongst the workers for its policy. This will build the militant unity behind correct policies necessary in the struggle against the bosses.

The decision of the Victor Works Stewards Committee was not in the interests of the workers. In a situation where 1½ million workers have already been thrown on the dole by profitmongers like the Lucas bosses, any redundancy, no matter how it is disguised, must be resisted. Instead of trying to win conviction for the correct policy, which it had done in February, the Committee ended up tailing behind the backward ideas of a minority of workers who don't yet see the need to fight all redundancies.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

LONDON SUMMIT : US RETREATS

At the beginning of May, the leaders of seven major Western capitalist countries held their third economic summit conference in eighteen months. At the end of the two days they said "We are determined to respond collectively to the challenges of the future. Our most urgent task is to create more jobs while continuing to reduce inflation."

But the fact is that they were unable to agree on any policies which would achieve these objectives.

COMPETITION

As capitalist countries they are engaged in cut-throat competition, trying to out-sell each other in markets more than ever restricted by the present crisis. Some countries like Britain are producing less than in 1973, the beginning of the current crisis. Others like Japan and West Germany have raised sales and production a little, but also have more than a million unemployed. Overall, the participating countries in the summit, including the smaller states in the Common Market, have fifteen million unemployed - even based on official underestimates.

At the first economic Summit, at Rambouillet in France, in November 1975 the final communique stated "We are confident that our present economic policies are compatible and complementary and that recovery is under way."

But the 'recovery' has still not arrived. The failures of the last eighteen months recently caused the 'New York Times' to comment, "public quarrelling among the leaders of the industrial world, suggest the west is no longer master of its economic destiny."

In general the leading bourgeois commentators are pessimistic about the results of these summits.

UNITED STATES

In the last decade or so US imperialism has suffered defeat after defeat. Neither US troops nor US dollars can now be imposed on most countries. Few countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America now follow the US baton. In fact the main force fighting superpower domination comes from the third world. Second world countries also, like Holland and France, have been unwilling to accept US orders, whether on energy, the Middle East or on commodity prices. The US imperialist leaders have therefore had to compromise with such countries in order not to become totally isolated from its previous subordinates. President Carter has put on a new more 'democratic' image and has been forced to make new concessions to second and third world countries.

SECOND WORLD

Second world countries, particularly through the Common Market, have been prepared to agree more equal trading terms with the third world. They have done this in their own self-interest in response to greater third world unity and pressure to provide an alternative and more stable market than do the two superpowers. In 1965 Tanzania had to sell 17.25 tons of sisal to buy one tractor. By 1972 the same tractor could only be bought by selling 42 tons of sisal.

Most second world countries are more prepared to respond to third world pressure to agree to link the prices of their industrial goods to those of raw materials coming from the third world. Third world countries have for many years made proposals to set up a commodity fund which would help stabilise prices by buying key raw materials when their prices were driven down below certain levels. The US has resisted such moves.

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Printed and published by CFB(ML) c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

US RETREATS

Following the London Summit it is now expected that the US will move from their previous position. The new President, Jimmy Carter, is trying to reestablish a secure western imperialist alliance against its main enemy, the Soviet superpower. But whether it is dealing with its own internal economic problems of inflation and unemployment, or the question of relations with the third world, it cannot control the disorder.

The fightback of third world countries for their independence, and the developing crisis within capitalist countries are part of the same trend. Third world plans which were laughed at a few years ago by 'sophisticated' western leaders and commentators, are now becoming reality. The two hundred mile limit for each country's territorial waters is one of these and the commodities common fund is another. OPEC, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is only the first group of third world countries to effectively combine to stop imperialist countries 'buying cheap and selling dear'.

UNITED FRONT

Faced with this growing united front of third world countries, the minor imperialist countries of the second world like Britain, vacillate between allying with a superpower or lining up with the third world to counter superpower oppression and steal a march on them. The seven major countries at the London summit are in competition with each other, but especially with the US because of its relative political and economic power. While in one way all imperialist countries would like to unite to overcome the deep-seated crisis they face, in reality they are driven to try and save themselves at the expense of the others. Carter's attempt to establish a more 'democratic' alliance of western imperialist states 'responding collectively to the challenges of the future', is bound to fail. ■

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper. Contact the CFB(ML), c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N.4.

Revolution

THEORETICAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CFB(M-L)

Building the revolutionary Communist Party to lead the revolution is the central task for all genuine Marxist-Leninists in Britain today. 'Revolution', the theoretical journal of the CFB(M-L), has been founded to be a sharp weapon in the struggle to build that Party.

Revolution 5 will be published in May. This issue includes:

CALL TO THE BRITISH MARXIST-LENINIST MOVEMENT

At the present time the Marxist-Leninist movement in Britain is small and disunited. But through active ideological struggle these negative features can be overcome. We must mobilize all positive factors for the socialist revolution. This article states the three main steps to be taken now in the struggle for unity. These are: to criticise small group mentality; to criticise the errors of the CPB(M-L) and to struggle to unite to form larger democratic centralist organisations.

FIRMLY GRASP THE MASS LINE IN BUILDING COMMUNIST BASES

The central mass work task for revolutionary Communists is to forge strong links with the working class. This is the way in which the future revolutionary Communist Party will be built as a proletarian vanguard. In building bases in the factories revolutionary Communists must grasp and use the mass line, which is the method for learning from the masses, integrating with them and giving leadership to the struggles of the working class. It is an important weapon in struggling to integrate the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of the British revolution.

Revolution 5 also contains an article on "The Ten Major Relationships" - a speech made by Mao, recently published by the CPC; an article on revisionism in Britain, which criticises the new draft of the British Road to Socialism, and shows how revisionism serves the bourgeoisie; and a Chinese article concerning relations within the family, which contains some important lessons on transforming the family into a fighting unit of the proletariat.

Issues 2,3 & 4 still available. Price 25p.

LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE ADVANCES

The liberation struggles of the peoples of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) are growing in intensity with fresh victories daily. On May 14th Zimbabwe nationalist liberation guerillas attacked a military base camp of the racist regime at Gokwe. In the suburbs of Bulawayo, Rhodesia's largest city, a railway was bombed and a freight train derailed. Several parts of Rhodesia, particularly in the east and northeast are firmly in the hands of the Zimbabwe liberation forces.

REGIME IN CRISIS

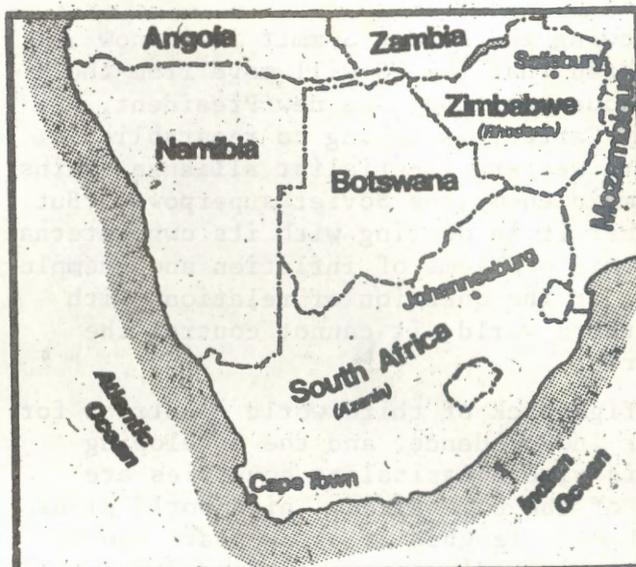
The successes of the armed struggle for independence are leading to increasing crises for the Rhodesian regime. The military call-up by the regime has been extended to 50 year old men. This and direct action by the liberation forces has hit industry. Industrial output is dropping and inflation is shooting up. White Rhodesians who have seen the writing on the wall are emigrating. In the past 12 months net emigration has been 8,700. It would have been much more, but Smith's racist regime has introduced stringent regulations to prevent those that leave taking their wealth with them.

FRONT-LINE STATES NOT INTIMIDATED

In May, Smith's army entered Botswana and attacked a Botswana Defence Force camp, but was beaten back. At the same time he threatened to invade Zambia. A few days later, at an international conference on Zimbabwe and Namibia, held in Maputo, Mozambique, the Zambian foreign minister Siteke G. Mwale refused to be intimidated. "No intimidation, threat or blackmail at any time will change or inhibit Zambia's commitment to the liberation struggle" he stressed.

SUPERPOWERS STAY OUT

The Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, which has already stated that it is not interested in taking part in any conference where the 2 superpowers are present, was represented at the conference by Robert Mugabe. He stressed that "only through the instrument of war is peace possible in Zimbabwe". Pointing out that the liberation of Zimbabwe is a matter for Zimbabweans, he said: "Strangers are barred entry into our home whether by the front door or the back door." This was a clear warning to both superpowers to stop meddling.



PLESSEY WORKERS UNITED

Plessey workers have long been split by the 'divide and rule' tactics of the bosses. Disputes constantly occur but because factories have been divided and unions were divided, effective action to fight the attacks of management, e.g. the recent redundancy proposals, have been impossible.

Recently 150 electronics workers at the Edge Lane factory went on strike because management wanted them to increase productivity in return for a £15 drop in wages. Then 400 workers struck at Huyton because of poor pay and conditions. Their demands were different but both sets of workers saw the need for mutual support. They worked out demands that united both factories and presented them to the bosses - including an acceptable rate for electronics, and no redeployment.

Management tried to split the workers saying that the disputes were separate. The workers refused to negotiate separately and will not return to work unless both factories are satisfied.

The bosses tried redeployment as a means to break the strike so 2,000 EPTU workers downed tools and the failure of negotiations caused all Merseyside Plessey factories to take action. Edge Lane workers struck. Speke and Kirkby occupied. All workers are united against their common enemy - Plessey bosses.

ALLIES OF THE WORKING CLASS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM



*Enver Hoxha (on left of picture):
"When the worker becomes a communist, he knows that he will fight, that he will go on strike, come into conflict with capitalism, and may even be killed, but he has only one enemy and this enemy is an external one, capitalism, while the intellectual must wage a battle on two fronts, against himself, that is, against his petty-bourgeois hangovers and against the external enemy, capitalism."*

In 'Class Struggle' No.12 the article 'Working Class - Only Really Revolutionary Class' showed why revolutionary Communists should concentrate their activities within the industrial proletariat in order to build the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class. It showed that the working class, who produce the wealth, and the ruling class, who own and control the wealth, have totally opposite interests. The daily exploitation of the working class leads inevitably to collective struggle against the bosses. But there are many other sections of the working people who are neither exploiters or exploited. If the working class led by its party is to overthrow the capitalist system and establish working class state power and socialism it must "mobilise all positive factors", as Chairman Mao said, in this struggle. To do this we need a clear understanding of the nature of all classes and sections, in order to win all those that can be won to the side of socialism.

Capitalism has grown from the small workshops of 400 years ago to the monopoly capitalism of today. Today the capitalist system is dominated by giant monopoly and state monopoly combines like ICI, Lucas, British Steel and Leylands. This growth has brought into existence a whole number of servants needed to do the jobs that the capitalists can no longer do themselves. The monopolies need management, clerical and other staff workers.

The needs of the system has also led to a large growth of state personnel: civil servants, teachers, nurses and so on.

NEITHER CAPITALISTS NOR PROLETARIANS

These working people are not capitalists. They don't own and control the wealth. It is not the teacher, the clerk or even the

personnel manager who exploits the working class. On the contrary they also have to sell their ability to work to live. They are themselves oppressed by the system. They also have to fight for their jobs, as teachers are doing, as staff workers, like the shop floor, at Plessey and Lucas are having to do now, as all grades of hospital staff have to fight against the cuts.

Neither are they proletarians. Teachers do not produce wealth by their own labour, to see it go into the pockets of the capitalists. They are not exploited. The conditions of work of civil servants, management and staff workers are usually quite different from those of the working class, like holidays, sick pay and hours. Frequently their work is individual, rather than the collective work of the working class. They can improve their pay and conditions of work through individual promotion, whereas the proletariat can only improve theirs through collective action. All these factors mean that their outlook is in general different from that of the proletariat. They do not see their enemy as clearly as the working class can. They tend to vacillate in the class struggle. They tend to be individualistic, and less disciplined. They tend, even when they come to support socialism to be intellectualist: to want to know everything about everything before they do anything; to be so bogged down in trying to understand all secondary details that they cannot see the wood for the trees and cannot firmly grasp the key to a problem.

THE WORKING CLASS IS THE LEADING FORCE

The middle sections are caught in the middle of the struggle of the two main classes. The choice facing them is either the system of the bourgeoisie, capitalism,

(cont'd on p8&9)

LABOUR PARTY STEPS UP RACIST PROPAGANDA

The Labour government is adding to its record of racism. The Home Secretary, Rees, has proposed a change in the law to make two types of British citizenship. First class citizenship for those with "close ties with this country". Second class citizenship for the majority, who will have no right to enter Britain. The Tories welcomed the plan, and Whitelaw showed what it meant by talking about "the widespread fear of unending millions who might claim entry into this country."

Those 'fears' have been created by Labour and Tory, as well as the fascist parties, to justify racist immigration laws. The whole purpose of this new proposal is to keep up the myth of 'Black invasion', and the division between black and white workers which comes from it.

BLUEPRINT FOR MORE DISCRIMINATION

Rees assures us that "the effect on immigration in the short term will be very small". Dead right! Black workers who live here will still see their families in countries like India or Pakistan harassed by racist British immigration officials, and made to wait endlessly in attempts to join the breadwinner. British citizens in East Africa will still have to wait years to be included in the minute "quota" of entrants. Because Britain has a population problem? No; population is going down, and more people leave than come in. It is because they are black.

A law on 2nd class citizenship will provide more excuses for official attacks on black people in Britain. Recently Rees started another police witch hunt by his campaign against so-called 'marriages of convenience'. This was aimed to spread the slander that most blacks arrange marriages to fiddle the Immigration Acts. Police have started raiding black families and prying into their sexual lives!

BLACK AND WHITE WORKERS UNITE IN FACTORY STRUGGLES

Why do the ruling class need yet more racist propaganda? British imperialist 'Britannia rules the waves' attitudes bred myths that black peoples are 'inferior' to white. Imperialism goes on, so do the wrong ideas. But such junk gets cleared away in the class struggle. When white workers are joined by blacks on the shop floor, they soon see how all workers must join together to fight the bosses, their common enemy. It happens every day in factories like Fords, and in smaller factories like Trico, where black and white men and women fought for equal pay. When workers organise against the boss, being working

class matters; race, colour and creed don't.

LABOUR PARTY RACISM

This is very bad for the bosses, who want a divided workforce, not a united one. Bosses' parties like Labour keep up the racist propaganda to keep up the divisions. They aim to convince workers that their troubles are not due to capitalism, but to blacks. A good example of how they've done it is with the rotten living conditions in big cities. A recent report quoted in the 'Mirror' said that half the white people interviewed in Leicester and Bradford thought "too many immigrants were responsible for their areas going downhill." In fact the areas go downhill for other reasons - like loss of factories which causes house prices to go down. Those who can afford to move out go, leaving those who can't afford to keep their houses in tiptop condition. The bosses close down factories, their government denies money for housebuilding or improvement grants, and workers suffer. The bosses push the blame onto the blacks who have to live in poor areas because they are poorest.

A foul result of this thinking was the high poll for the National Front in the inner London local elections, where they took 118,000 votes. Their path was laid for them by the racism of the big parties.

Labour is the most dangerous peddler of racism. They hide behind a mask of phoney anti-racism, with a few pious Conference resolutions and marches "against racism", and mislead many honest workers. In practice they bring in new racist laws and step up police harassment. Working class unity can grow only in struggle against the bosses, and the best bosses' party - the Labour Party.

ALLIES OF THE WORKING CLASS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM (cont'd from p7)

or the system of the working class, socialism. There is no middle road. The top layers of the middle sections are people who have been promoted as a result of their good service to capitalism, and receive great rewards for it. They will inevitably side with the capitalists in every struggle. The vast majority have no interest in capitalism. Many get paid the same or even less than many factory workers. Under the leadership of the working class, and its vanguard party, they will be an important force for socialism. It is necessary to build greater and greater unity on this basis in order "to mobilise all

A WORKERS' NOTEBOOK

JIMMY YOUNG REDUCES NEARLY EVERYTHING TO a chat-show level but his Moscow programme let something through which the pro-Russian 'Morning Star' somehow printed. Jennifer Louis who has lived in Moscow for twenty years said on the programme, "Everyone here says things are getting more expensive..." We should remember that when the same 'Morning Star' says there's no inflation in the Soviet Union. ■

ERIC MORLEY, WHO HEADS MECCA AND CREATED the debasing Miss World contest, is really suffering.

"I just can't live on my income which is only worth around £12,000 a year after tax," he said to the bosses' 'Financial Times'.

Because his take-home pay of £240 a week is not enough he's had to sell £54,000 of his shares to make ends meet.

In the same week as Morley told all, official figures showed that ordinary people were forced to spend 5% less on food even than six years ago. In fact food prices rose by over 1/3rd last year - almost seven times more than the Labour and TUC wage limits. ■

LAST YEAR COMPANIES IN BRITAIN MADE PROFITS of £10,642 million. But they only paid tax of £1,070 million: barely 10%. The only other tax that was paid was on shareholders' dividends.

The average household in Britain pays 1/3rd of its income in taxes (income tax, national insurance contributions, VAT, all taxes on goods, and rates). The average company only pay 1/10th tax on its profits. The bosses' state protects its own.

THE SIX-MONTH OLD DAUGHTER OF MRS. DOROTHY Reid of Landos Road, Manchester, has died

positive factors" for the socialist revolution.

At this stage of the class struggle, revolutionary Communists concentrate all their work on the working class - the only really revolutionary class - in order to build the party of the working class. In the course of class struggle other working people from the middle sections will come forward. Through criticism and self-criticism, and learning from the working class, many will throw out the bad habits and outlook that they have picked up through their place in society and conditions of work and will become good communists and fighters for socialism and working class state power. ■

of a chest infection after the North West Electricity Board refused to reconnect her power supply. The board was told that the sick baby needed to be kept warm when Mrs. Reid twice went to the board's offices. "Our disconnector was given no good reasons as to why he should not go ahead and disconnect", they said. The baby died. Mrs. Reid herself then reconnected the supply to keep her other children warm and alive. She used £15 worth of electricity. The board prosecuted her.

No skinflint employer living in Manchester 130 years ago when Engels was writing his great 'Conditions of the Working Class in England', could have more clearly murdered a small baby. Yet this is our new shining 'nationalised' concern. Capitalism doesn't change its spots. ■

A BIG CONTROVERSY IS BUILDING UP OVER THE question of a planned power station - Drax B. Two giant firms G.E.C. and C.A. Parsons are fighting for the order - Parsons is fighting for survival. They make the turbine generators which are at the heart of electricity generation.

But general capitalist opinion headed by the Labour government says that two companies in Britain making the same product is one too many. The 16000 workers in this area must be cut to 10000 and the firms merged. In fact they are planning to destroy existing capital (buildings, machinery etc) to make way for new more efficient capital. In any case they say we don't need any more electricity. After all who can afford much electricity after the nationalised CEBG under a Labour government has let prices rip. ■

WHILE THE AUEW WERE DEBATING THEIR CHANGE in policy towards the Social Contract, John Baldwin General Secretary of the construction section made a telling contribution. On a construction site in Scotland he had been trying to get acceptance of a Phase Two settlement when he was attacked by the angry members.

"It is not nice to have your suit ripped and ruined. It is not nice to face open hatred demonstrated to you when you are there to carry out the policy agreed by the trade union movement," he said to the Conference.

He added that "the credibility of the whole national leadership is at stake".

The vote of 50 to 2 against a Phase Three was a result of massive rank-and-file pressure, not because of the 'militancy' of the leadership. ■

HOW CHINA'S WORKERS "SERVE THE PEOPLE"

In 1975 the Yi Li Food Factory in China's capital of Peking, produced 18,600 tons of food. Last year their production of bread, biscuits and sweets was running at 51 tons per day. This big effort by the 1500 workers there was a 10% increase. It was due to their firmer grasp of class struggle. What does this mean?

As you enter the gates of the Yi Li plant there's a huge red poster in Chinese proclaiming "Serve the People". How do the workers there make sure that they do this? Their deputy leader in charge of the factory said they do it by relying on the workers to run the factory themselves.

Take the decision to get rid of piece work. In the early '60s, before the Cultural Revolution, the factory still paid some workers by piece rates. The more he or she produced, the more each earned individually; just like piece work in bosses' factories here in Britain. This put one worker against another. Most of all, the workers started to think only of boosting production to put more money in their pockets. They began to forget why they were producing the more than 500 varieties of goods: for the people, for socialism. Not for profit.

Then some of the workers took the lead in criticising piece work. They said it was nothing but a bosses' tool to turn workers away from socialism. After much debate among the workers, they themselves decided to abolish piece work for good. Now, they said, we boost production to make more and better food available to the people. We work for socialism first, not for money.

Yes, workers at the Yi Li plant said, we have leaders who are in charge of the fac-

tory. But they aren't bosses that lord it over us. Most of them were shop floor workers before going on to the revolutionary committee that is in charge. And even now they all must work alongside us on the shop floor at least 100 days a year. That's one in every three working days. Also, it's we workers who elect the 11 members to the revolutionary committee and who make sure they serve the people's interests.

Take the example of how much sugar goes into their sweets. The workers said they were always cutting down on the amount of sugar that they put in the factory's sweets, because it was bad for people's teeth. This was just one small way that the Yi Li workers were struggling to serve the people, not profit.

Eight out of ten workers at the plant are women. All 1200 get the same wages as men. Even those women workers who were doing lighter work while they were pregnant got equal pay. And then when their baby was born they got 56 days off on full pay. After that time, the women workers would come back to work and put their babies in the factory's own nursery. Even then they could take time off during the day - again without losing any pay - to feed their baby.

The Yi Li Food Factory in Peking is just one of the thousands of factories all across China which serves the people. By keeping the initiative in their own hands the workers stop the bosses from getting a foothold. By struggling against the bosses' ideas, like the idea of putting self first, and against the bosses' policies, like having piece work, China's workers are keeping China on the socialist road.

ANGOLAN PEOPLE CONDEMN CUBAN OCCUPIERS

In the early hours of February 12th in Terra Nova in Luanda, the capital of Angola, queues were forming to get into the 'People's Shop'. (There are shortages of goods that the people need.) A Cuban patrol making its way through the queues 'keeping order' was greeted by the people with shouts of "Cubans go home!" and "Are you now the police of the Angolan people?" The Cubans started arguing with the people, insulting them and then opened fire into the crowd. They shot dead a woman in the queue. The people turned on them furiously and shouted "Cubans go home!" "Assassins!"

"Are you going to take the place of the Portuguese colonial army?" "Are you going to kill us?" "Assassins!"

The 'People's Shop' was closed for 2 days. When it was reopened, it was under Cuban control, with Cuban guards.

Soviet social imperialism, with its Cuban mercenary force, has taken the place of the United States-backed Portuguese colonialists. The Angolan people will throw out the new colonialists, just as they threw out the old.