

THE WORKER



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THEY DON'T LIKE GUERRILLA STRUGGLE

When the Engineers launched a factory-based guerrilla struggle last year against the employers and state, it was argued that they had no right to use so unbeatable a weapon!



Engineers voting to strike against the fines levied by the Industrial Relations Court.

Out of the Frying Pan

Such is the nature of the contradictions of capitalism that an attempted solution of one problem by the capitalist state only aggravates another. The Government tries to do something about stagnation of the economy with over a million workers unemployed and immediately provokes another balance of payments crisis and a plunging pound.

The one thing that remains constant is that, whatever the problem, the main solution every Government seeks is a drastic cut in workers' wages while profits soar. When unemployment reached pre-war depression levels, it was because workers were pricing themselves out of jobs! When inflation rose to unprecedented heights, it was because workers were struggling to hold their own!

Now as bait to try to get the TUC to swallow a voluntary agreement on Phase III of the wage freeze the Government is offering threshold proposals. When the cost of living rises to a certain point, wage rises would be in order. (So much for the Government's earlier argument that it was wage increases themselves that caused the cost of living to rise!)

Editorial

The Workers' Answer

Workers will not be so foolish as to delegate the timing of their struggles to Government statisticians who will tell them when they are entitled to fight their employers for a small increment. That would be like soldiers waiting for the enemy to tell them when to attack and how far they ought to try to advance!

One of the strongest sections of the working class, the engineers, has already shown what they think of the TUC's treacherous role in entering into discussions with the Government at all.

Nor will workers be tricked into giving up their struggle by empty social democratic promises of "fair shares" or "workers' participation" or "workers' control", while their class enemies retain political power.

Guerrilla Struggle

Workers' struggle, as never before, must be guerrilla struggle, bringing the maximum pressure to bear on the employing class with the minimum losses to the working class.

Not only is guerrilla struggle the correct tactics for workers at this present juncture, it is also the only means of mobilising the working class both materially and ideologically for the strategic victory of the capture of state power.

Our Party, the CPB(ML), did not invent guerrilla struggle anymore than Marx invented class struggle. What we have done is to point out that certain tactics spontaneously evolved by workers in struggle - how to bring about maximum pressure to bear at a particular place and time, how to co-ordinate attacks by different sections of the same industry or even different but related industries, when to attack and when to withdraw with forces intact, how to avoid positional confrontation while still keeping the initiative - that these tactics must become the consciously applied methods of struggle for the whole working class at their places of work. These correct tactics must be defended against those who do not want to understand guerrilla struggle - opportunists who try to disquade workers from attacking when they could win and adventurists who try to persuade workers to attack when they could not win.

We have also pointed out that in designating this kind of class

Sir John Donaldson made the following statement last month in a judgement on a dispute at Seaboard World Airlines Inc., London Airport:

"You either strike or you carry out your full duties. I think there has been a genuine misunderstanding on the situation generally. It is not in accordance with the law for the union to press a pay, or any other claim by instituting irregular action short of a strike by employees."

The fact is that there has been no "misunderstanding on the situation generally". Sir John certainly understands that guerrilla struggle, which alone can build up the strength, experience and conviction of our class sufficiently for its eventual seizure of power, is made up of all sorts of action. Guerrilla

struggle means understanding the situation inside out, using tactics calculated to win, setting realistic aims, causing maximum harm to the employer or to the government, minimum to the workers.

Sometimes the best tactic is strike; sometimes you don't need to or you don't have the strength to strike, but do have the will and resources to harass the employer in other ways. It is these other ways that Sir John would like to stifle, together with trying to emasculate strikes by demanding 30 days notice.

What an indignity for his class that a man so astute in his appreciation of our class, of its struggle and its Party can only invoke against us the shreds of a law already trampled under the feet of thousands of workers.

AUEW Defies New Threat

Once again the AUEW is fighting the Industrial Relations Act. Even the Engineering Employers in their secret memorandum to Judge Donaldson (published in 'The Worker') had to admit defeat of the NIRC over the Goad case. Now they are trying a new tack. Last August, at the Hythe plant of International Synthetic Rubber, Mr Hill, a fitter and AUEW member refused to join a strike. For this he was expelled from the Union and union members refused to work with him. An Industrial Tribunal called the trade unionists' action an 'unfair industrial practice' and awarded £2,800 'comp-

ensation'. Just as in the Goad case the AUEW refused to pay and a court will have to try and enforce the decision of the Tribunal. But this time it will not be the discredited NIRC, but a county court.

There is no real difference. It is the same act; the same class enemy. Once again it is the duty of engineers to rally round their union and its decision, and of all workers to fight to ensure that this discredited corpse of an Act does not come back to life. We have beaten them before, we will beat them again.

conflict "guerrilla struggle" workers are recognising its relationship to the protracted war to liberate their whole class which is their strategic mission. Guerrilla struggle cannot be an end in itself. It is the means whereby workers can continue to struggle while their class is still relatively weak and build up their united strength to the point at which, under the correct Marxist-Leninist leadership, they can go over to all out positional war for the final victory over the system that exploits them.

Meanwhile, Back at No.10

The TUC's confabulations with the Government are utterly irrelevant to workers' guerrilla struggle. So is the huckstering among the capitalist political parties as they vye with each other at their forthcoming conferences for the privilege of serving the employing class. Behind all the dust thrown up by these political charades the workers' guerrilla struggle goes on unceasingly - and from strength to strength.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF TROOPS IN IRELAND

This month sees the fourth anniversary of the August uprising in the Bogside, in Belfast and other Northern Ireland communities. This was the culmination of the campaign for Civil Rights which started a year previously. It was the final sign that the Irish people in the north could no longer be held down by the Stormont puppets and their RUC gangs. British troops had to be sent to Belfast to quell the uprising. The British army once again was employed to carry out its prime task, the suppression of colonial peoples. Northern Ireland was once again under direct occupation by Britain.

In spite of the massive propaganda campaign by the press, TV and all would-be leaders, the Irish people whether in the Bogside or Derry did not welcome the troops with cups of tea as the army had to admit after the establishment of the 'no go' areas.

However, what was truly a mass struggle, with every man, woman and child involved, degenerated into a 'Cowboys and Indians' game through terrorism, bearing no relation to the mass whatsoever.

After four years of occupation, internment, torture, murder of the old and the young alike, assassinations in the streets by special squads, after all this the

army still has to be continually reinforced. From behind the bayonets, the British government has conducted what has proved just one big farce, an election. Electoral reforms might have been a demand at the beginning. The tasks today are far in advance of this.

Here in Britain we witnessed the spectacle of social democracy, the pseudo-left of every variety, from the revisionists to the Trotskyites rallying behind the ruling class when the Labour Government decided to send the troops into Belfast. From then on, those pseudo-leftists supported every action the ruling class took to strengthen its hold on its oldest colony. Direct rule from Westminster was their call after the troops had succeeded in creating havoc and misery in the lives of the people. Today, it is the ballot box to solve the problems of the Irish working class.

Ireland has haunted the British ruling class for centuries. Once more the oldest colony refuses to be tamed. The answer has always been to send British troops across the Irish sea. This was never a way out for British imperialism, neither will it be today.

If Ireland has haunted the British ruling class, it has also haunted the working class. For

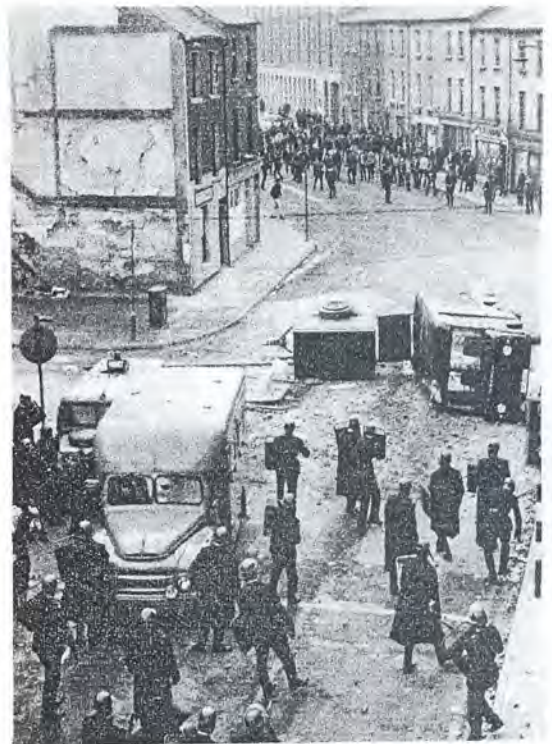
we cannot be free ourselves unless we fight for the freedom of Irish workers as they fight for us.

Today there are over 20,000 British troops holding down the Irish people in the north. Our working class here in Britain has once again failed to stop the British government committing yet another crime to be added to a list going back for centuries; in India and the Caribbean, in the Middle East, Malaya, Cyprus, Aden and in Ireland throughout the centuries.

Our task, the task of the working class remains to demand the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland, to put an end to British rule in Ulster whether directly or through the projected new-look Stormont gang.

British soldiers were sent into Ulster by the Labour Government. Their policy of aggression was endorsed by the Tory Government. They gave the troops the orders 'shoot to kill' and they did.

We as a party repeat what we have said since 1969. Let us end this chapter in the history of British imperialism now. Let the workers of this country say once and for all: get the troops out of Ireland. Let the Irish people decide their own destiny themselves.



The RUC beaten from the streets and discredited in 1969 was replaced with British troops by the Labour Government in order to maintain British imperialism in Ireland.

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Worthing dustmen

Worthing dustmen have downed bins and come out on strike in support of their claim for an extra bonus payment which exceeds the limit set by the Counter-Inflation Act by £1. It is one of the many unpublicised skirmishes that make up the protracted offensive our class is waging against the Freeze.

The basic demand is for parity. The workers can't see any reason why they should be paid less than people who do exactly the same job only a few miles away in Portslade and Southwick. After half the workforce had been on strike for ten days while the other half applied an overtime ban, the council was forced to admit the men deserved more but said they would not break the law and complained it was 'a political strike'.

Following this, the strike was extended to all loaders and drivers and is now affecting 24,000 homes; and businesses. To preserve their fighting strength, most workers have taken on part-time jobs providing them with sufficient money for a prolonged battle with the council. In these days of 'labour shortage' and clampdowns on social security, taking another job during a strike is obviously a growing tactic. But by removing workers from the main scene of struggle, by encouraging long drawn-out wars of attrition instead of more effective action, it can seriously weaken the struggle.

Meanwhile the usual attempts to divide and create confusion such

as contacting the workers individually about the offer, threatening to call in the police, playing up the lone scab in the local paper, have failed and the workers have remained firm and united.

Hull lockout

Last September, when their agreement with Manufacturers' Equipment Ltd (part of the Fenner Group) ran out, the TASS members demanded immediate payment of their fresh pay claim. The firm, aware that the TUC-CBI Government talks meant a wage freeze in the offing, played for time.

With the advent of the freeze, the men changed their claim to a men review. The company retreated behind the umbrella of the law and refused to negotiate. The men therefore applied sanctions - a go-slow and overtime ban from April onwards. The employers hit back by insisting draughtsmen sign the signing-in book, a practice which had been allowed to lapse in all other departments. The workers then refused to sign both the book and their time-sheets. The boss replied that unless the sanctions were dropped the men would be suspended. Clear proof that guerilla tactics were having their effect.

The firm, in an attempt to split the workers, has suspended only 13 of the 18 TASS members. It is also withholding tax rebates which legally belong to the men, which goes to show how the law enthusiastically applied against the working class, but never in favour, whatever the TUC may say about 'reforming' the Indus Relations Act, and negotiating a 'acceptable' wage freeze. Desp the viciousness of the attack, the workers at Manufacturers' Equipment are not discouraged but are determined to stay out till the employer pays up.

No Freeze on Profits

Since the beginning of the freeze in November the bosses have been piling up enormous profits - they recognised that they hadn't had such an opportunity for a long time and might not get one like it again.

All kinds of companies in all sections of the economy have been breaking records with their results for the first half of the year - General Electric have increased profits by 56 per cent to £120m, Boots show an increase of 65 per cent to £57m, Allied Breweries up by a third to £36m, Courtaulds show a rise of 53 per cent to £65m, Rank Organisation up 41 per cent to £34m - the list is endless. (Even British Steel made a profit this year.)

In the food market, while Heath has been blaming mystical world forces for price rises, meat producer J.B. Eastwood have increased profits by a massive 380 per cent to almost £5m, Tesco show an increase of 31 per cent to £22m and Great Universal

Stores have pushed up profits by 28 per cent to £77m - indicating a different story.

In the financial world, the big banks have been rewriting the record books - Barclays profits have increased by 75 per cent to £95m, Lloyds have more than doubled their profits to £60m while Midland, up by 78 per cent to £51m, so disappointed speculators following the Lloyds result that the share price actually fell! National Westminster rounded off a happy week for the banks by announcing an increase of 80 per cent to £92m.

The four major banks have together clocked up nearly £300m profit in six months and it has embarrassed them to show such a large, unpleasant and unacceptable face so publicly. It has prompted them to hunt around for new ways to present their results - perhaps separating their money-lending activities from the charges they make for borrowing our money. One thing it won't do is

persuade them to reduce their interest rates. In the six months to June 1972 the banks' average base rate (some way below their actual lending rate) was 4.6 per cent, in the period to December 1972 it was 6.9 per cent and in the first half of this year 8.9 per cent - in other words they have nearly doubled their prices in just eighteen months.

The banks' taste for monster profits won't allow them to go back to the old rates and as if to underline this, to coincide with the profit announcements, the Bank of England pushed up its Minimum Lending Rate, which governs base rate, from 7.5 per cent to a record 11.5 per cent.

Meanwhile amidst the furious gathering of profits a number of the bosses have been taking time off to talk sternly of the need for an even tougher Phase III - they don't want the bonanza to come to a sudden halt!

TEACHERS FIGHT TO SAVE JOBS

Teachers in various parts of the country have been taking a stand to safeguard their jobs threatened by the reorganisation of secondary modern schools into comprehensive schools.

Too often, reorganisation has meant that the entire staff of some schools were asked to resign en masse and then had to re-apply for the very same jobs. As a result of this ludicrous procedure, many teachers, not reappointed, have had to move from areas where they had decided to settle down to find other jobs elsewhere.

This insecurity of employment is now being resisted. Teachers in several schools in Kent and Sussex have taken a stand on this issue by collectively refusing to resign. Local Authorities have in some cases been forced to back down, since there is no legal way to make the staff of a school resign except if the reorganisation



ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLES' ARMIES

July 10th was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian People's Army and July 31st was the 46th anniversary of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

These armies are very different from the professional, mercenary armies of the United States or Britain, just as people's war is different from aggressive imperialist war. A people's army is composed of men and women drawn from the ranks of the working class and peasantry whose commitment to socialism transcends everything else.

When they were formed in Albania and China, both countries

were under the yoke of occupying forces - Nazi Germany and Italy in the case of Albania and fascist Japan in China. The people's armies, founded by the communist parties of these countries defeated the aggressors and helped to establish socialism. In China the PLA defeated the reactionary forces of the Kuomintang though they were considerably larger and infinitely better equipped. The heart of the difference between the People's armies and imperialist armies is the former's emphasis on people and politics while the latter place all their trust on weapons and military prowess.



Women play an equal role with men in the Albanian People's Army.

Since the establishment of socialism in Albania and China the people's armies of both countries have been in the forefront of building socialism. No greater contrast between them and the military establishments of capitalism is to be found than in the day to day life of the people's armies. The people's armies do all types of work, for example, cultivating crops and looking after cattle, and in every way help the civilian population. The constructive work undertaken by the Chinese army has been of the utmost importance in building socialism. Indeed, without their people's armies the working class of Albania and China would have nothing since the dictatorship of the proletariat is guarded by these armies with whom the entire people are fully integrated.

People's armies are democratic. There are none of the status distinctions between officers and men, nor is their primary attachment to maintaining the sense of an elite corps.

By their very political role the people's armies of socialism are intended to defend socialism, not to invade and aggress. This was shown by the People's Liberation Army of China in 1962 when the Indian Government, backed by all



A Chinese Liberation Army regimental commander in training with fighters

the imperialist powers, including the Soviet Union, tried to take over by force disputed territory along the Sino-Indian border. The Chinese army quickly defeated the Indian mercenary army but instead of marching into Indian territory the victors retreated to their own side of the border and returned the vast quantities of arms and equipment captured from the fleeing Indians - an unheard of action in the annals of military history.

The Soviet Union's imperialist

aggression against Czechoslovakia 5 years ago this August is still fresh in our memories. What a betrayal of the great principles of the magnificent Red Army that saved the world from Fascism. The spirit of Bolshevism which triumphed in Stalingrad and spurred men, women and children to overthrow the Nazis, the epic of Vietnam where people's war humbled the mightiest military state of our times - the USA - these are what people's armies are all about.

VIETNAM PRISONERS

Precisely how many political prisoners are still held in South Vietnam it is impossible to say since one of the principal weapons of the Thieu regime is secrecy. However, the American estimate of 35,000 prisoners is implausible in face of the number of prisoners known to have been in Saigon jails prior to the peace and the tens of thousands arrested shortly after it. In Hue alone between Jan 29th and Feb 24th the Saigon authorities carried out 500 police operations and arrested thousands of people for such minor 'offences' as favouring the peace.

Thieu obviously never had the slightest intention of fulfilling the promises in the treaty concerning the release of political prisoners, as his statement of Jan 28th clearly reveals:

'We are still the bosses... All communists caught inside the governmental zones must be shot on sight... communists are accustomed to every form of treason and crime; don't be so imprudent as to believe in reconciliation and concord.'

Furthermore, on Jan 22nd, only a few days before the signing of the agreement, he published his 'Ten Points' which were to be enforced as soon as the ceasefire came into effect, of which the following is a typical example:

'The police and the military are authorised to shoot on sight all persons who urge the population to demonstrate, who create disturbance, or incite others to follow the communists.'

These Ten Points have been strictly enforced in spite of their flagrant contradiction of the peace treaty.

Ersatz leader

Thieu, who was manufactured into a political leader by his American advisors, governs through organised terror financed by America. Individual police files, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, deportation, torture and assassination are not only aimed at revolutionaries but at all the once legal political opposition. Moreover the repressive apparatus in South Vietnam does not merely arrest members of opposing political organisations but also members of the population whose support or even mere neutrality cannot be assured. Torture which has been part of the logic of the South Vietnamese penal system for decades, is now being refined to an even more horrifying degree. The Tiger cages still exist despite Thieu's 3 year old promise that they would be abolished and US Aid (the civilian branch of the American aid programme) has allocated to the administration of the prison island of Poulo Condore the sum of 400,000 dollars to be used for the construction of more cells. Death or permanent maiming in these prisons is normally a slow process of unremitting torture combined with malnutrition and appalling conditions.

Thieu will continue this barbaric oppression because not only are the political prisoners living proof of his crimes but also they are the potential political leaders of tomorrow's Vietnam, just as the French prisons in Indochina were the training grounds for many leaders of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The fortitude of these prisoners is revealed by the fact that amidst conditions of total human degradation they have managed to continue to struggle against their torturers, both by mutual support and concerted action; for example organised hunger strikes in protest against bad food, or concerted yelling in spite of blows and the increased repression that it brings on. Thus they have shown their torturers that their efforts to dehumanise them have failed. The Americans, who not only condone but organise and control this system with their servants in Saigon, have lost this war as well. The prisoners' invincibility is yet another reflection of the will of the Vietnamese people to withstand the organised might of American imperialism.

On the European Front

Spain

In Spain neither the vicious fascist dictatorship nor the beguiling revisionist call for resignation and a peaceful approach have convinced the Spanish workers that they should live with monopoly capital or the peasants that they should tolerate the big landlords.

The clandestine foundation of the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist) in 1964 and the Revolutionary Anti-fascist and Patriotic Front (FRAP) represented a new stage in the struggle of the Spanish people. A sign of this development was the illegal demonstration by 10,000 workers in Madrid on May Day this year.

Italy

The Government has frozen prices and rents. The Oil companies claim that the price of petrol no longer covers the cost and that in consequence they are no longer able to meet the full demand for petrol in Italy. Petrol pump attendants are suffering as a result of this action and struck this week to back their demand for Government action over petrol distribution.

West Germany

The work to rule by air traffic controllers reported in the last edition of the Worker continues.

The controllers' demand for increases of 500 DM a month has been rejected by the Government as inflationary. An offer of 200 DM has been made (to take effect from next year).

But this dispute is not only about money. The controllers are officially civil servants and accordingly are paid civil service rates. What they are asking,

You Can't Beat the Bourgeoisie with a Ballot Box

President Allende's answer to the attempted coup staged by a section of the army against the 'Popular Unity' government of Chile a few weeks ago, was to invite two members of the opposition Christian Democratic and National parties to take cabinet posts. This is the latest attempt by the uneasy marriage of Revisionist and Socialist parties to patch up their policy - i.e. the introduction of some radical reforms in Chile's semi-feudal and semi-colonial system by winning the support of the traditional conservative parties.

Apologists of the coalition claim that Chile is a 'special case'. Workers and peasants can have Socialism there without smashing the bourgeois state and establishing the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Therefore, is also for recognition of the high degree of skill and responsibility required. In fact they want reclassification as ordinary employees. The twist is that until this is conceded, and so far the Government have not appeared over keen, it is illegal for them to go on strike as a means of justifying their case.

Not that the present action is ineffective! Lufthansa (80 per cent Government owned) have been forced to cancel 50 per cent of their domestic flights and delays are as widespread as Tangier and London. Two years ago a 50 day action of this kind forced the hand of the employer and a commission of enquiry was set up. However, the favourable findings of the commission were rejected by the Cabinet (inflationary). The response was another 41 day go slow; brought to a halt as a gesture of goodwill for the Olympics. Having got these out of the way yet another committee was set up; but this time the controllers were too wise and too frustrated to await the results. They began their present action ironically enough on Ascension Day (May 31st).

Meanwhile the Government seeks compensation from the controllers' association leaders for losses of about 6 million DM a week and the German tour operators are suing the Government.

However, the coalition's impotence has been exposed time after time!

The opposition, backed by the capitalists and landlords has continually undermined Allende's regime. They have completely blocked government measures through parliament and courts of law; impeached ministers, incited the army to a coup, used financial power to disrupt the economy and used armed force in conjunction with local police to suppress peasants.

It is painfully obvious that the ballot of 1970 was no solution to Chile's problems!

But the Chilean people have begun to use their own methods to rectify the situation.

Peasants have turned empty agrarian reform decrees into practice by taking over 'latifundia' - the big estates - and getting armed!

Workers have taken strike action - ignoring revisionist pleas to 'work for the economy' - an economy which remains under capitalist control.

Youth, women and slum-dwellers have organised themselves into grass roots committees, and the class struggle has sharpened greatly.

As US imperialists search for a way of uniting the reactionary forces to defeat the growth of working class action, workers themselves are seeing ever more clearly that their strategy is now the fight for state power!

NATIONAL HEALTH - 25 YEARS

In July, 1948, the National Health Service was launched in Britain, its existence brought about by the hard struggle and fighting of the trade unions, and the Socialist Medical Association.

Working people demanded the right to a health service that would not just be 'For the rich who could afford to be ill'.

The original aim of the NHS was 'to promote the establishment of a comprehensive health service ... to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of the people ... and in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease.' However, private patients are treated in preference to NHS patients, demand for medical aid exceeds supply, money is not available for even essential research, and health workers are exploited as a cheap labour force.

The partial abolition of private practice and the introduction of the NHS as part of the 'Welfare State', brought about some long-delayed generalised medical care to Britain. General Practitioners' advice and treatment, hospital care and drugs, and emergency services were available without fee-paying, thus enabling a greater number of the population to avail itself of these services. Specialists and consultants were placed in the public pool of doctors, although of course they were allowed to continue with their private practices. A capitalist society needs its workers to be at least minimally healthy so that they can be exploited further on the production line.

Bankruptcy of the NHS

The downfall of the NHS, as for any of the State's social welfare ventures, is being brought about by lack of funds (and therefore of equipment, training and skills) made available to the Health Service. The National Budget for the NHS has been decreasing over the years in relation to the Gross National Budget, and the new Royal Free Hospital could have been built more than ten times over for the cost of the Concorde project. The health service is costing the working class more and more: prescription charges on the increase, hearing aids and spectacles are costing more, and dental fees are making it impossible for people to visit their dentists.

Private practices still thrive, and the burden of expensive equipment, hospital accommodation and specialised medical care falls on the NHS. Private patients jump the already month- and year-long queues for operations, and get the best of medical advice and care.

The shortcomings of the NHS are numerous. It is understaffed to the extreme, so that it can never function as an organised machine. Junior hospital doctors, grossly underpaid as are the nurses, technical staff and ancillary workers; bear the brunt of the hospital workload, and work in unsuitable conditions (for the most part in old and under-equipped hospitals) with too many patients for the available bedspace. Hospital beds are scarce so that people wait for months for minor operations. Mental illnesses and complaints account for over one third of the NHS patients, yet these patients are allotted one fifth of the available beds. 'Unpopular' departments of medicine (geriatrics, mental health, casualty) are notoriously understaffed because of lack of modernisation, research facilities, equipment and career prospects. 'Unpopular' areas of Britain, such as the heavily-industrialised Midlands, which have the greatest need for medical services, are the least served and staffed. Thus the 'inverse care law' still exists - the poorest and thus the most unhealthy citizens still receive the worst health care.

Opium of the people

This capitalist Government (like all the rest) is reluctant to spend money on the NHS, it will however invest huge sums supporting the enormous drug companies who reap similarly enormous profits from all aspects of the NHS. Drug firms have shown clearly that money not medicine is their major interest. They do not care what results from the consumption of drugs which are often not thoroughly investigated and researched. Drug companies are now multi-national monopoly concerns, and control, to a large extent, the NHS's knowledge of the drugs that it prescribes: and drug companies' 'reps' will gloss over drug side-effects and complications for a sale. The panacea of pills is given to the public, out of all proportion to therapeutic action, by busy GPs who have neither time nor resources to treat the underlying root of the problems. The drug companies have operated outside the NHS for the last twenty years - this lack of socialisation in an industry essential to health care is a part of the profit-making ideology of capitalism to the detriment of the well-being of the mass of the people.

It is the health workers themselves (casualty officers who call for improved emergency units, hospital doctors who fight for better working conditions, ancillary workers who are fighting for a living wage) who are beginning to fight now as they have never fought before - for the NHS is tottering so badly that it will soon fall. All equally essential workers in the health service - nurses, porters, doctors, technicians, as well as the people who work in the factories making surgical tools - dare fighting so that the people of Britain control their own Health Service for their own health.

FORD WORKERS TAKE INITIATIVE

After the Ford dispute last month, a worker from Dagenham was quoted in an interview in THE WORKER (June 28th) as saying: 'We sometimes have to retreat to assess the situation ... but we have not stopped criticising our actions, and analysing what we can do.'

This month, the foundry workers at Dagenham are continuing the fight for improved pay and conditions.

On No. 2 mould line, where workers are subjected to fumes,

dust, smoke and heat, the demand made to the management for improved ventilation fell on deaf ears.

On 3rd July, the metal pourers imposed an overtime ban. An equally deaf ear was turned to the management's plea for overtime.

By the next day, No. 1 mould line and the opposite shift on both lines had joined the fight, and the demand was extended to include a higher rate of pay and more relief. (At present, one hour's work is followed by a

half-hour break - the demand is for half-hour work and half-hour break.)

As the worker pointed out in the interview of 28th June, a major lesson to be learned is the importance of control from the shop floor, taking the initiative when necessary. 'We realise now that any victory will be won by our own efforts. We have won a new unity.' As proof of this in the present dispute, the No. 4 mould line is joining the struggle and banning overtime from this Monday.

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No Mid-August WORKER

There will be no Mid-August issue of THE WORKER.

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ADDRESS

An ounce of prevention

The Health Service of Britain should be a 'comprehensive Health Service', not a 'wealth service' or a 'disease service' as it is now. All the ills and wounds of capitalism are being patched up, while people are sent back to those very environmental conditions which cause their maladies - bad housing, bad nutrition and bad social relations. A health service should be based on prevention not cure, there should be numerous community medical centres containing every aspect of social health care, and research should be limitless. All this will be possible when the values of the society have changed so that the working class controls the way in which all its people live full and healthy lives.

READ "HEALTH - THE WORKING CLASS FIGHT", CPB(ML)
PAMPHLET, 13p (inc. postage) FROM THE BELLMAN BOOKSHOP.

Trapped in Phnom Penh

The Cambodian people are now on the verge of total victory against US imperialism. Fighting continues to achieve the destruction of the Lon Nol regime, now trapped in the ever-disappearing refuge of Phnom Penh. Over 91% of Cambodia lies under the control of the Liberation forces. All six highways to Phnom Penh are now cut, as well as rail and river access. The airport too has been under attack. The People's Armed Forces of National Liberation are preparing now for the final assault.

While within the Liberated areas the Cambodian people have greatly improved their supplies of food and living conditions, in the Phnom Penh region there has been a rapid deterioration. An acute shortage of rice (the price has soared recently from 2500 to 7000 riels per 100 kg) has resulted in many demonstrations against the Lon Nol regime. For example, in Chba Ampeou, to the south of Phnom Penh, people stormed the District Offices and also broke into a granary where, joined by hungry policemen and soldiers, they seized rice. Meanwhile in Phnom Penh itself, thousands of soldiers marched on the home of In Tam, the prime minister, carrying placards with slogans such as "Traitors! Where is our pay?" and demanded pay and rice. At present the Liberation Army's supply of arms and ammunition comes exclusively from the routed units of Lon Nol's army.

The US now faces a crushing defeat. They have failed to divide Cambodia or to use its puppet regime to bolster its crumbling counterpart in South Vietnam. All of its savage bombing (now known to have begun in 1969) and its devious political manoeuvres have failed to diminish the Cambodian people's struggle. The ruling class of the US stands openly divided as a result of the successes of the people of Indo-China. The promise wrung from Nixon by Congress to stop the bombing of Cambodia by August 15 has plunged Nixon's war plans into further disarray. However the recent revelations of secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969, which have further discredited Nixon in the US (as if that were necessary!) serve as a useful reminder of the duplicity and the barbaric nature of US imperialism. Thus whether the bombing stops or not, the Cambodian people are steeled for the continuation of their fight until final victory.