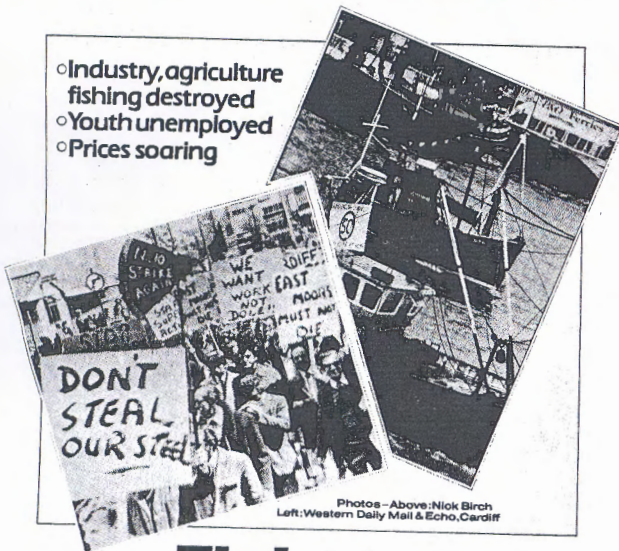




'NO NEED FOR WORKERS'

EEC disaster

- Industry, agriculture fishing destroyed
- Youth unemployed
- Prices soaring



Photos - Above: Nick Birch
Left: Western Daily Mail & Echo, Cardiff

Fight to get Britain out-now!

- THE AXE FALLS

THE WIND and water of the election hustings have given way to detailed policies for public expenditure cuts by the Conservative government. The promised "new dawn" is a proposal for a Dark Age. For those who think that's putting it a bit strong, let them pause and consider.

The government has imposed a three-month ban on Civil Service recruitment, the intention being to cut 22,000 jobs. There are already 11,000 vacancies, which has caused some to explain that with these existing vacancies there will need to be only a cut of another 11,000 jobs to reach the Government's target. If the recent past is any guide, the real result will be 22,000 jobs cut, plus the existing vacancies which will be frozen, making the total 33,000. That is only phase one.

Does anyone believe that on September 1st such recruitment will begin again as normal? The present ban is testing the water. If unchallenged by our unions, the Government will present phases 2 and 3. Given that monthly turnover is 6,000, accounted for largely by secretaries and clerical grades, and we can see that our first woman Prime Minister will be putting mainly women out of work. The CPSA has made clear it will oppose these job cuts.

All the ministries have been instructed to "cut waste", but no ministry has been told to cut waste by preparing to withdraw from the EEC, which is an enormous waste of public expenditure (see page 2). There is to be increased weapons expenditure (that's not waste?) but reductions in services such as health and education. The Tories have threatened teachers that their salary increase will be matched with redundancies. Local authority manual workers may have their recent pay agreement torn up.

For, quite apart from cuts in Civil Service jobs in all Government departments, the Minister for the Environment has called on local authorities to cut spending by freezing recruitment for three months, reducing direct labour, and matching salary increases with redundancies. The Tories wish to cut the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement which government passes on to local authority rates to provide essential services. Essential services like health, education, libraries, local maintenance and construction must be pruned as "waste". It is a Dark Age.

The proposed cuts in Government spending for 1979-80 amount to £1 Billion. It is a recipe for further rundown. Unemployment is 5.4 per cent, price inflation is going up, the Budget in June will see VAT rise from the present 8 to 12 per cent, a move guaranteed to push prices up. And if we fight back we are threatened with more unemployment, although we cannot live on what we are paid.

The mild-mannered General Secretary of the GMWU, last year's TUC Chairman, on hearing of Government intentions on swingeing cuts and laws on unions, said "the action of the Government sounds like a declaration of war", they are "acting in the spirit of dictatorship", they will "get a rough ride". Dictatorship makes militants of us all.

Euro-Elections: Don't Vote, Destroy the EEC

JUNE 7 sees the elections for the European Parliament. For some of us this will be the third time we've been expected to haul ourselves out to vote... over devolution, the general election and now Europe. Farical it may be, significant it is. For each of these jamborees has been the vehicle of political attack on the working class arising from the growing weakness and lack of confidence of our ruling class. The first, an attempt to divide us into phoney "nations" failed. The second, an attempt to de-rail the burgeoning struggle for wages will fail too. And now the third, a desperate attempt to revive the flagging image of the EEC, will also fail.

This election has nothing to do with which party wins most seats. The EEC, the European Parliament has done without any elections, any pretence at democracy for the last 22 years - why

bother to change now? Precisely because of the growing resentment against the EEC in all countries, especially Britain.

The election is a device, an attempt to use our resentment and a promise of reform to suck us back into co-operation with the very thing we oppose. As if the introduction of an election could in anyway justify the existence of policies of this combination of capitalists.

It is symptomatic of the dishonesty of the whole charade that the very term "European Parliament" is misleading. The Council of Ministers passes the laws, and the European Commission frames and enforces them - and nobody elected either of them. The European Parliament is only there to give "opinions" to "keep an eye" on the others. Its control of the budget is limited to those areas not central to

the aims of the Treaty of Rome. It is purely a cosmetic sop to democracy. It is an insult.

The whole purpose of such elections is not to give the people an opportunity to choose between different parties and policies, but precisely to restrict their choice. To tell us we can only have one thing or the other - either the EEC (and all that means)... or the EEC.

But we don't want any EEC, "elected" or not. It is an enemy of the people of Europe.

Already the authorities are worried that their "election" trick may boomerang because of low turnout. Massive abstention would be a real vote, a vote of No Confidence in them or their EEC. Let it boomerang right back in their faces. We don't want their Monster no matter how it is dressed. Don't Vote - destroy the EEC.

NATO's 30th Birthday was celebrated with all the top brass marching into Westminster Cathedral. Demonstrators outside told the truth: 'NATO - one half of the arms race.' And more than half if they had their way. The Chief of Air Staff recently announced 'We have stopped running down and have entered a new period of expansion.' For example, 800 Tornado jets are to be jointly produced for the British, German and Italian Air Forces, with planes from the last two countries based in Britain, just as British units will be based abroad.

CHELSEA COLLEGE, having agreed to pay the Tory Greater London Council £1.8 million for the site of the old St Martin and St John's, in order to continue to use it for education, have been gazumped. The GLC is considering accepting higher bids from, it is believed, a construction consortium, and BUPA, the private medical insurance company so favoured by the Conservative government.

PRAISE for the Soviet Union exhibition at Earls Court (All human life was there. It was well worth £1.20*) from none other than the anti-Soviet and pro-armament Daily Telegraph. This rich exhibition is a proof that the arts of peace are dearer to people everywhere, Russian or British, than the war effort of the NATO leaders and their counterparts. As well as curiosities such as the 40,000 year old preserved baby mammoth, visitors can see the sword presented by King George VI to the people of Stalingrad in gratitude for their victory over fascism.

EEC ENTRY will be the disaster for Portugal it has been for Britain. They are at present trying to redraft the progressive labour legislation established in 1975 with the overthrow of fascism and bring it into line with the EEC so that workers can be sacked easier. The difficulties the EEC as a whole is faced with, however, are illustrated by the walk-out of the European Trade Union Confederation, representing 32 m workers, over the employers' refusal to consider a 36 hour week. Meanwhile in Spain, the Workers' Commission (one of the two most powerful trade union bodies) is dislocating the entire Spanish car industry in solidarity action for the reinstatement of 13 trade unionists sacked by Ford:

THE DAILY MIRROR has dropped its plans fully to computerise production, so proving the point of the Times workers who are opposed to the way the new technology is being introduced. A 'Mirror' page which under the old system took 45 minutes to produce now takes two or more hours. At Pilkingtons glass, on the other hand, the GMWU is in favour of new production methods - but on its own terms. The company must agree to a substantial reduction in hours worked.



Daladier signs the Munich pact for France in 1938...

FORTY YEARS AGO, the socialist Soviet Union stood in mortal danger of attack from a combination of imperialist powers. In May 1939 Japanese forces invaded the Mongolian Peoples' Republic, threatening the eastern borders of the USSR. On May 22 the governments of Germany and Italy, flushed with their victories in Spain, concluded the "Pact of Steel", a blatantly predatory military alliance.

The invasion of Prague in March 1939 had been the direct consequence of the Anglo-French appeasers' attempts to divert the German threat at the Munich Conference in September 1938.

The fascist governments of Poland and Hungary had joined Germany in the carve-up of Czechoslovakia. Finland and Rumania stood poised to join the

counter-revolutionary onslaught on socialism.

The British and French governments dispatched a military mission to Moscow with orders to procrastinate and not tie themselves down to any detailed commitments. The western imperialists had no interest in concluding an alliance with the USSR, only in appearing to do so in response to their own peoples' desire for peace, and in order to put diplomatic pressure on Germany.

The world held its breath. The Soviet Union was isolated. It was vital to take advantage of the contradictions between the Imperialist powers.

The German-Soviet non-aggression pact signed in August 1939 has ever since brought forth hysterical condemnation from the enemies of socialism,

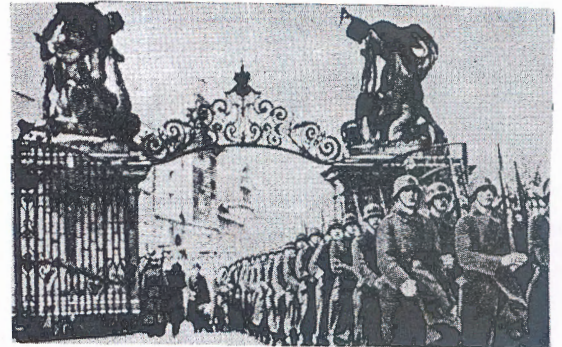
being thwarted in their desire for a Nazi-Soviet conflict to achieve the "elimination of Bolshevism" and the sapping of Germany's military strength.

Those who applauded wildly at the Anglo-French betrayal of Czechoslovakia now viciously assailed the USSR for "stabbing Poland in the back", ignoring the fact that the territories occupied by the Soviet Army had been seized by Poland in the early 1920s egged on by the Anglo-French Entente. Regardless of the national composition of the actual population, it had been justified only by the property deeds of absentee Polish landowners.

The events of the summer of 1939 should serve as an exposé of the blatant hypocrisy of the British and French bourgeoisie.

Serious only in their enthusiasm to see the forces of socialism crushed, they had no real desire to challenge the rising imperialism of Germany and Italy, only to divert it elsewhere, to find a temporary accommodation with the Axis powers.

There are some who make facile comparisons between 1939 and the present situation in the world, casting the Russian Imperialists in the role of the German Nazis. We reject utterly such simplistic theories. We know that our major enemy now is our own British Imperialism, linked with its Common Market partners in a New Order. It may no longer be a lion among empires, but who could possibly claim that a pack of scavenging jackals is a progressive force in world history?



... and soon after Nazi troops march into the castle in Prague.

THE IDEA of a Common Market has been cherished by capitalism since the end of the 2nd world war. Churchill gave a warning to the world: "Time may be short... there is a breathing space. The canons have ceased firing. The fighting has stopped. If we are to form the United States of Europe or whatever name or form it may take, we must begin now." He was warning of the likelihood of revolution. The workers held the Soviet Union in high regard and it was imperative to develop a European defence system to prevent revolution spreading. The American government felt the same way. Bolster up Europe and prevent a European conflagration to destroy capitalism. Join with the Nazis to smash the proletariat. As far back as 1948 such organisations as "The American Committee on United Europe" under the leadership of Dulles (then head of the CIA) promoted the European Movement, organised through social democrats in Europe. Thus NATO and the EEC were formed. That the EEC is separate from NATO no longer has any credibility. In 1975 The Worker reported: "NATO's current role in Europe has recently been outlined by Gaston Thorn, premier of Luxembourg. In the April issue of NATO Review, he points out that the nine states may in the future work towards a common military policy, including responsibility for nuclear defence, conventional defence, and standardised production of armaments..."

The EEC is destroying Britain. We are not to have a fishing industry, an agriculture, a steel industry or anything else we can call our own. This partnership of the economic and the military is a preparation for war. We must know this and put a stop to it.

El Salvador strikes despite murder

WHILE the Nicaraguan people continue their fight to oust the American-installed puppet Somoza, President Romero in nearby El Salvador has apparently yielded to President Carter's "human rights" pressure in repudiating the notorious Public Order Law (created to control "insurgency") last February.

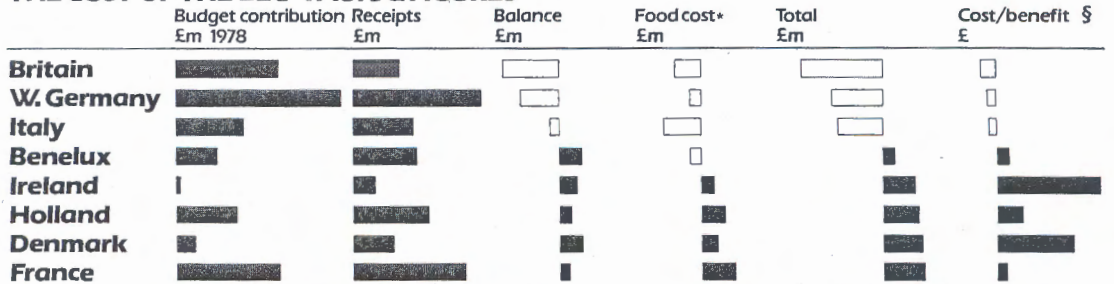
Yet the National Guard still manages to murder peasants and suppress strikes. In February 44 people were killed; in March, 50; in April, over 80. Why advertise with an unnecessary law if the effect can be achieved anyway?

Typical of the strikes was that at La Constanca brewery, which makes profits of £6m and the workers get 150p a day. What the workers wanted was transport at the end of the shift at 2 am and

among other things, the right to go to the lavatory without permission. To force management even to negotiate the workers had to lock themselves in the plant and threaten to blow it up; all the while with the National Guard outside plotting to evict them.

The government doesn't particularly like strikes - all but three since 1945 have been declared illegal. This wasn't the fourth. Instead, four days later, troops opened fire killing eight and wounding 20. The dead were all local residents on their way home from other factories. Support soon spread to other factories and eventually, after the capital was deprived of power and water, a settlement was reached.

THE COST OF THE EEC - FACTS & FIGURES



UNEMPLOYMENT

Official figures as percentage of the working population

Editorial

IN BRITAIN there are two classes: the working class who live by work, and the capitalist class who exist to exploit their labour for profit. These two classes represent two great forces, one for progress, the other for destruction.

For the past two hundred years capitalism has been forced to yield, not always on its own terms, but always within its own rule, to the demands of the Trade Union Movement, so that this century has seen massive reforms in working conditions, education, health and social services. But no reform within capitalism can ever change that basic class relation.

Capitalism is in insoluble crisis, in absolute decline. In the face of an organised working class capital is fleeing abroad, and there have been massive closures in every section of industry. Already the industrial base is severely damaged. Unemployment is not abated by phoney schemes. The decline is mirrored exactly in cuts in education, the Health Service and other social provision.

One of the most tragic victims of capitalism is youth. It is callous enough to dash the hopes of young people in search of their first job. Its implications for the future are terrifying; if you do not plant your seedcorn you cannot get a harvest.

People who care for a decent life, for dignity, skill, health and learning cannot go on working for a system which allows these things only so long as they serve profit. We saw a great upsurge this spring, but it will be followed by a lull, and meanwhile the destruction continues. The momentum of a defensive struggle cannot be kept up.

Only the working class cares about the future. Only in the working class reside the skill, the knowledge, the industriousness to create a future. The entire responsibility for the future rests upon our shoulders, but we must see beyond the defensive struggle and take the whole thing over. If the will were there we could do it tomorrow.

Disband Special Patrol Group

BRITISH POLICE are developing the Special Patrol Group into a French style riot police. It is distrusted in the Trade Union movement.

The General Secretary of the TUC in voicing these views to police cadets at Hendon, was speaking for the whole Trade Union movement, although some unions (the NUJ, for example) have rightly demanded the SPG's total disbandment.

The Police reaction has been to spring to the SPG's defense. According to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, the SPG, so brutally in evidence at Southall and Grunwick, and thought by many to be responsible for a young teacher's death, bears "no similarity" to the French CRS, and is "basically a crime fighting unit". Presumably peaceful assembly of demonstrators in Southall against the National Front is a crime.

Certainly, the police in "fighting crime" depend on weapons of violence to an unprecedented degree. Three men have been shot dead by the police this year. The day before TUC fears were voiced at Hendon, at an inquest in Harwich the police were justifying their decision to kill their most recent victim.

It was reported that the use of drugged food or gas to overcome the man was rejected, and a

police spokesman was quoted as saying that "our policy is not to shoot to maim or to wing. It must be the ultimate thing if the trigger is going to be pulled."

After this last shooting a police representative said that the police now had to play the role of both judge and executioner when it came to the use of firearms.

The police have full government support. Pay increases are brought forward for the police and armed forces, but for no one else. Many policemen, however, are for good reasons opposed to the changes the government is trying to introduce.

The working class has no means of information, let alone control over the use of arms by men who are in theory our servants. At the recent inquest, the policeman who did the shooting was not physically present, but merely submitted a written statement.

Policemen who have killed are in the first instance referred not to a court of law, but to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who may pursue the matter or not, at his discretion. No public enquiry has been set up yet after the recent death of a member of the National Union of Teachers at Southall. It seems as if the police, whom many suspect of involvement in the death, are not really concerned in allaying public fears about the degree of their responsibility.

Biennial Delegate Conference in Blackpool, when on leaving the conference hall, after speaking on the need for more democracy, I was met with chants that I was one of Chapple's puppets.

Many other delegates were also annoyed at this, as we had all listened carefully to the debates and voted according to our own understanding of them.

The General Secretary attained his position of prominence after the ballot-rigging in 1961, and he puts himself across as the champion of democracy.

So the debate must be about what kind of democracy we want. Chapple was elected to his post in the biggest vote by which any union leader ever got elected. The method of election was a secret ballot where the majority of

EGA reprieve - has the iron lady gone soft?

The truth is different

THE STRUGGLE to keep the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital in London open has been marked by outstanding support from all sections of the working class. Doctors, nurses, ancillary staff, patients, local residents, trade unionists and trades councils have mounted a 24 hour picket and developed a "telephone liaison" to facilitate their own liaison.

They have been determined to keep their hospital open and have done so for four years.

They now have to face yet another attack, this time in the guise of a reprieve.

According to her own supporters Thatcher waved her wand and became the fairy godmother. A miraculous £2 million was found and closure was apparently a thing of the past.

No one, of course could possibly believe that Thatcher is a "fairy godmother" and the workers at the EGA don't believe in magic.

The £2 million turned out to be for a 40-bed gynaecology unit only. General medical and surgical our patients were excluded.

To add insult to injury the public was to be invited

to raise funds for a further 18 day-care beds. But more was to come. Within the last few days the Camden and Islington Area Health Authority ordered the transfer of all patients from the present site so that the existing site can be improved. It is apparently a danger to patients' lives. The workers don't believe that evacuation would mean improvement. They have stepped up their action and have called on other workers for assistance.

Perhaps the patients will be captured in the middle of the night, like they were at Hounslow.

The workers at the EGA have had an arduous task and the campaign goes on. It is 'as we were'.

The struggle has to be continued so long as there is a chance for some gain for the working class. But it has to continue with the increasing realisation that no one battle can save a hospital.

The EGA is only one example, but it is an example of resistance to every other hospital, and that is what worries the government more than economic considerations.

The Government must be similarly worried by the determination of hospital workers in S. Wales. The Labour Government failed to close Aberdare General Hospital Cardiff, St. Davids and the Prince of Wales orthopaedic hospital. Frustrated it had proposed a cut of £1.2 million in the budget for South Glamorgan Area Health Authority, a threat which the Tories will have no qualms about implementing.

After the bid to close the Prince of Wales a feasibility study ordered by the Labour Government concluded that the hospital had a "viable future for the next 20 years", and that the facilities it provided could not be replaced elsewhere.

Two years later the hospital workers are now fighting a new threat of closure.

Prince of Wales are pockets of resistance that can be strangled and smashed. The best defence of hospitals under obvious attack must be the fight for every hospital against the dismantlement of the Health Service. There is no hospital in Britain which is not already under attack.

IN BRIEF/Home News

Energy shortage is result of capitalist economic madness

AVAILABLE energy supplies will not be sufficient to support even moderate economic growth. So said the International Energy Agency, representing 20 capitalist nations at its meeting last week in agreeing to reduce oil output by 2m barrels a day, or 5 per cent.

That there should be a shortage of energy at all is an indictment of capitalism. Coal and natural gas deposits are known to exist all over the world, yet are not exploited. The great United States, which sits on a vast oil lake, but imports cheaper oil from the Gulf States, shows that the shortage has everything to do with capitalist economic madness and nothing to do with the economic reality. By the same token, Britain is now nearly self-sufficient in oil from the North Sea. Yet we are being told that there is insufficient fuel for our

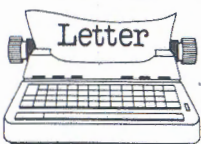
domestic and industrial needs.

As prices rise, enormous profits are made by the oil companies and by the capitalist rulers of the reactionary Gulf States. The oil money finances the attempt by Thomson to destroy The Times and the National Graphical Association.

The principal, and to capitalism most welcome, result of the oil price explosion is to raise prices of all commodities and create an atmosphere of panic. The Financial Times writes that it does not know how far the five per cent limits on consumption will work, but that the time is right 'since the public is anxious' to impose all manner of further restrictions on peoples' freedom of action. Already we see put forward reducing the consumption of fuel in schools and hospitals as the means to economic salvation. What will come next?

SHATTERING the beauty of the Essex countryside will be the outcome of the government's proposals for a third London airport. Designating a number of hamlets as alternatives to Stansted (and frightening the villagers silly) only points to the choice of that airport. The existing M-11 motorway has already cut a great swathe of destruction through the Epping Forest and areas of agricultural land. Danger to birdlife is the apparent reason for not choosing the safer Maplin site, with its takeoff over the sea. The real reason is the Ministry of Defence Installations in the Thames Estuary. Exactly who is a third airport for when the cost of air travel will be so astronomical?

ASSAULTS by policemen on the public were the cause of 2,483 complaints to the police last year. In only 8 cases were charges preferred, according to the Police Complaints Board.



Dear Editor,

It was with some unease that I read parts of the article on the EETPU and the struggle for democracy within it in The Worker Issue 18. It is not a simple matter of the mass against Chapple or the executive.

The question of democracy is one constantly being raised within our unions. It was also raised incorrectly by groups of young people who came to heckle delegates as they went in and out of the conference. I personally felt very insulted at the previous

the membership voted from the fireside, many of them never having gone to a union meeting at all, never having taken part in any debate within the unions.

The fight must be waged within our structures, to bring back the kind of democracy which involves the membership directly and in a collective manner. We are not helped in this by the apathy which affects the membership. It was a conference which took the decision to destroy some of our democracy, and only a conference can take the decisions to bring it back.

In the Rules Revision Conference in Blackpool two years ago, an attempt was made to lift the ban on members of the Communist Party of Great Britain holding office: it failed, but there

was a substantial minority voting in favour.

This year's was not a Rules Revision Conference (the next is in 1983), yet there were some notable changes made through resolutions to it on the way in which the EETPU operates. Motions were passed against the recommendation of the executive calling for all branches to be managed by elected, not appointed officials, and criticising the wholesale policy of branch closures and compulsory amalgamation implemented by the Executive Council in 1978.

The fact that these were passed against the EC's urging is significant, not that such things are good in themselves, but in that they expose the myth that there is no democracy at all in the EETPU and

that all decisions are railroaded by the executive.

There are some important changes taking place in the structure of the unions in the EETPU which we, as members, should be debating: is the move to 'industrialise' the unions a good or bad development? Will shop steward representations at conferences eventually replace branch representation?

One thing must be got right, and there should be no excuse for getting it wrong: in the final analysis the question of democracy, like the question of policy, is one for the members themselves to decide. No amount of cajoling from the outside will change anything.

Yours fraternally,
a member of the EETPU.

Unity of teachers forces concessions from employers

THE TEACHERS of England and Wales, who have taken on two Governments in the course of a month-long battle, have reached provisional agreement in the Burnham Committee on increases in salaries from April 1, 1979.

The agreement provides for a 9 per cent increase plus £6 a month for all teachers, extra money to deal with pay structure anomalies, and a reference of their 36 per cent claim to the pompously entitled Standing Commission on Pay Comparability.

Any increase proposed by the Standing Commission, and approved by Burnham, will be introduced in two stages: January 1, 1980 and September 1, 1980.

The teachers can claim a considerable success. The first, unspoken, offer from the employers was 5 per cent, minus a bit. After the 5 per cent policy had been pushed aside by other workers, the employers made their first actual offer of 8 per cent, minus a bit.

It was in the face of such brusqueness, inspired by the Government, that the leading body of the teaching profession, the National Union of Teachers Annual Conference, called on teachers to implement sanctions in their schools.

The sanctions were immediately stepped up when the Labour Government blatantly disrupted the negotiations. They were carried on during the General Election period, and continued despite the arrival of a new Government.

Such was the tenacity of the teachers, the sharp effect and little effort which characterised their guerrilla action, and the political challenge which their disaffection presented to the new Thatcher Government, that the employers were forced to concede a fair settlement.

There are dangers. The reference to the Standing Commission was not welcomed by the teachers and reluctantly conceded. The teachers sought as short a period of phasing as possible and managed to whittle it down to a year and five months from April 10.

The need to refer the claim to a body outside the negotiating machinery reflects a weakness which teachers will eventually have to overcome. The acceptance of phasing, however reluctantly, also represents a weakness.

The problem is that the responsibility which teachers possess in formulating and pursuing their wage claim will be eased away from them. There will be hesitancy as the findings of the Standing Commission are awaited. There will be the pretence of respect for the august Commission. And there will be hesitancy and confusion over the making of a fresh claim.

Teachers will have to deal with these problems. But their current success cannot be denied. They responded to a call for action with unity and high morale. They can settle now in good order and with new wisdom.

A Special Conference of the NUT will meet on June 16th to ratify the settlement. Let the delegates pay tribute to a successful struggle.

Fight for work faces the textile workers

THE PRINCIPAL areas for concern for the 200 strong delegate conference of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers at Southport last week were wages and the fight for work. This is hardly surprising when one considers that the woollen textile industry has some of the lowest wage rates in the country and that Britain's textile and clothing industries lost 245,000 jobs between them from 1969 to 1976.

The 60,000 members of the Union are now to go for a £60 a week minimum, as proposed by the Aberdeen branch. The General Secretary pointed out that many of members would be better off financially if they were on the dole. It remains to be seen whether the Union has the clarity of thinking to make the £60 demand a positive one or whether the comparability element in its formulation will become a form of self-imposed wage restraint.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Union allowed jobs to disappear from its traditional West Yorks base. Some of the work, backed by State aid, was despatched to the even cheaper less well-organised North East. Now even those workers are not cheap enough for the likes of the

multi-nationals such as Courtaulds, who plan to close their Spennymoor worsted spinning plant with the loss of 1600 jobs.

Delegates were bitter in their condemnation of these knights of British business. One steward from Co. Durham called for the deportation of Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of Courtaulds and his 'bunch of gangsters'. He went on to say that, 'All alternative proposals (to closure) from the Union had landed in the waste bin which added to the belief that the company was either going out of worsted spinning or taking the work out of the UK.'

The President pledged the Union to take action over Spennymoor. The conference also called for an enquiry into Courtaulds and its use of public money and to set up a working party to investigate those holding companies who were making people redundant whilst claiming Government grants and aid, yet still making vast profits - a nifty capitalist ploy described in 'The Worker' No 11. It is to be hoped that the NUDBTW has reached a turning point after years of submission and that resistance to the destruction of our textile industry doesn't stop at inquiries, however useful. The signs are there.

Labour soft pedals

IN "OPPOSITION", the Labour Party is all set to revamp its image as champion of the working class.

In the debate of the Queen's Speech the other Wednesday, new Education Secretary Carlisle announced Tory plans to dismantle the state education system and comprehensive schools by reintroducing selection. Labour - who have been set on the same task of destruction for years without announcing it so boldly - launched their bid to become the defenders of comprehensive state education with the amazing statement that the creation of a fully comprehensive system was one of their finest achievements in office.

It's like the Pharaohs saying they built the pyramids. Did anyone notice MP's teaching in the classrooms, preparing school meals, supervising children in the playground?

But even more to the point, what about the teachers transferred from school to school in the attempt to reduce jobs, those sacked outright, money for buildings, books, and training denied, reductions in ancillary staff, schools and colleges closed? And what about those workers who fought for education by demanding decent living standards in the form of wage rises, denied to the last by the Labour Government?

Next, Labour will be claiming for themselves the achievement of wage rises for tanker drivers, civil servants, hospital and local government workers, and all those who struggled so heroically in the last year against the employer.

Now, Callaghan has warned the trade unions not to use industrial action to thwart a democratically elected Parliament, and that if they do they won't get his backing. In other words, lie down and take it, leave your defence in the hands of the Labour Party.

This winter, we asserted our dignity, and destroyed Labour's 5 per cent policy - their claim that the employer can freely decide that his workers shall receive wage cuts.

In comparison with the present Government's openly fascist policy to create a "free", "property - owning democracy" (no prizes for guessing who owns the property), the party of social democracy defeated and on the retreat only a few months ago, can breathe again.

We must not allow them to slip so easily under the net we set for them.

IN BRIEF Education

THE EDUCATION OFFICER for the Inner London Education Authority has published proposals which call for the closure (under the euphemism 'amalgamation') of 4 of Islington's 10 county secondary schools. Already the proposals have been treated with scorn by teachers, parents and pupils.

Fundamental issues faced by Post Office Engineers

THE MAIN ISSUES facing the forthcoming Post Office Engineering Union Conference this year are bound to have far reaching consequences. These are the problems on pay/restructuring and the approach towards modernisation/job security agreement.

They cannot really be separated. The PO is offering us different agreements that are all united by a common thread, that of flexibility, redeployment, increased productivity and all other ideas designed to get more for as little as possible. In the face of their clear thinking the Conference has to seriously consider the direction the union will go in the future, to make firm decisions which can be acted upon and which do not allow for confusion.

Over the question of pay, the highlight most years, if sometimes a damp squib, any consideration of the 9 per cent on offer would be a retrograde step after the decision last year to move away from any form of government restriction. The fact that this year it is being offered together with an, as yet, unseen restructuring scheme, makes for further consideration. And the suggestion of a productivity payment should just be laughed out of court. In the past we have accepted the loss of jobs for a few miserable pence and for which no one will thank us.

The "one whole day" devoted to modernisation this year will also be of prime importance. The issue in question is one of jobs, our jobs, which for all the talk are under almost immediate threat. Why should an industry which uses Plessey goods be immune from the massive redundancies that have hit the supplying company? Are we to end up fighting with workers in other unions for the spoils?

But if we assume, for one minute, that all the promises are genuine, why then is there the need for a "job security agreement" that includes a redundancy clause? The question of redeployment is left very unclear, in such a way so as to leave the only "guarantee" of a job being one somewhere in the PO somewhere in the country and this only if we agree to be more flexible in all spheres, which brings us back to the beginning of the circle.

The whole crux of the question of modernisation is who controls it? At what price will it be introduced? Modern techniques can be of advantage and benefit not only to ourselves but to the working class generally, but only if we fight to achieve this.

It would be criminal if in our contribution to this battle we only thought of our own sectional interests and looked no further than the bounds of the union membership, however much it might be expanded. Neither must we be rushed into making unconsidered and rash decisions because of the threats to the monopoly position of the PO or the introduction of methods to circumvent the traditional land-based network.

If we demand a fair price for the areas in which we decide we shall work, we must also remember that we will not be successful without a fight. Our limited experience of last year in the fight for the 35-hour week shows we have the strength and the will to force our demands. We stopped short in 1978 but it nonetheless gives us the guide for the future.

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Brighton Workers Bookshop 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton
Main Trend Books 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol
Northern Star Bookshop 18A Leighton Street, Leeds
Basildon Bookstall Tues, Fri, Sat Marketplace
Hull Bookstall Old Town Market, Saturdays
Liverpool Bookstall every Thursday Liverpool University

Public Meetings

READING	"Social-democracy: the road to destruction" Thursday May 31st, 8:00pm AUEW Committee Rooms, Oxford Rd., Reading.
CAMBRIDGE	"No to EEC" Monday, June 4th, 8pm, at The International Centre, Gwydir st. Cambridge
CROYDON	"European elections: Don't Vote Get Britain out of EEC" Monday, June 4th, 8pm at Central Library (jnr) Katherine St. Croydon

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 1 year £5.00 (including postage)

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